



William E. Kapp  
Pastor

## *First United Church of Christ Inc.*

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### **December 2018**

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

It's beginning to look (and sound) a lot like Christmas! Advent festivities are in full swing at the church. The Cantata. Help Excite Little People. Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Painting of the windows. The Sunday school Christmas program. Music Sunday. How exciting!

Christmas preparations fill our time with decorating, purchasing, wrapping, traveling, and celebrating. Christmas parties, special events, and gatherings help us experience the joy and good cheer of the season, but also make a full schedule even fuller. Sometimes we might wonder if we will have the time to get everything ready before December 25th. We may even start looking past Christmas, yearning for Christmas to be over so we can finally rest and relax.

Those of us who follow Jesus want to make sure that all the Christmas celebrations and preparations don't crowd out the true reason for the season; Jesus. In our pursuit to celebrate Christmas, Jesus sometimes gets left out.

With all the hustle and bustle, we have to be intentional to keep Jesus at the center of our celebration. If we don't pay attention, Jesus can slip out of focus and we might not even notice.

There were many who looked past Jesus the faithful morning of his birth. People were busy going about their day and living their lives. They weren't concerned about Christmas trees or making Eggnog, but they had other tasks keeping them busy.

Only a few discovered what God was doing in that feeding trough in Bethlehem. The shepherds heard the Good News of Jesus' birth from angels and went to see God's gift of love, then went back praising God and sharing the Good News of great joy with all. The Magi were far away following a star when Jesus was born. They were actively seeking the true King, but would arrive about two years after Jesus' birth.

Those who encountered Jesus would never be the same. The world would never be the same. God loved the world so much that God gave God's only son. While celebrating the miracle of Jesus' birth may we not miss the reality of his life.

May you keep Jesus at the center of your Christmas celebration and may he bring you hope, love, joy, and peace.

With the Greatest of Hope!  
Pastor Bill

**Advent & Christmas 2018**  
**Worship and Celebration Opportunities**



**Sunday, December 2**

**First Sunday of Advent**

✱ Lighting of Advent Candle  
✱ Caroling during the Sunday School hour

**Saturday, December 8**

✱ Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 9**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

✱ Lighting of Advent Candles  
✱ Christmas Music Festival  
✱ Coffee Fellowship  
✱ Birthday Party for Jesus - during the Sunday School hour  
✱ Sunday School White Gifts for H.E.L.P. ~ 10:30 Worship Service

**Saturday, December 15**

✱ H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.  
✱ Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 16**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

✱ Lighting of Advent Candles  
✱ Christmas Craft & Bake Sale  
✱ Sunday School Christmas Program: 10:30 worship service

**Sunday, December 23**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

✱ Lighting of Advent Candles

**Sunday, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**

✱ Candlelight Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 p.m.

# Sunday School News

By Margaret McFarlane



in the hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 9:30.



The Sunday School choir will sing on December 9 for the Christmas Music Festival at the 10:30 service.



The Sunday School hour has been extended until 10:20 through December 16. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.



We will have program practice on Saturday, December 8 and 15, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the Christmas Program need to be present. Please let me know if your child/ children aren't participating in the program. Pre-K, K, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and choir only students; will be dismissed immediately after they practice, at approximately 10:15. Practice will run until 11:30 for grades 2-6.



White Gift Sunday will be December 9. Students are asked to bring a gift (new or gently-used item) wrapped in white tissue for our H.E.L.P. project. They can bring the gift to the 10:30 service or to their Sunday School classroom.



The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 16, at the 10:30 service.



There will be no Sunday School on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>.



Thanks to all who sang on November 18. It was a great Sunday!



We raised \$300 for UNICEF. Thank you for helping with this worthy project! We beat our past collections!



Thank you for the wonderful donations on our Harvest Home Table.



Students will be scheduled to light candles before worship from now until the end of the Sunday School year. Please let me know if your child would like to do this but has not signed up.



We will be Christmas caroling at Maplewood Village and The Pines on Sunday, December 2, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone in the family is welcome to join in! We will have a short class period before our departure. Meet



## Help Excite Little People This Holiday Season!

The H.E.L.P. project will be collecting good, used toys and items for teens through December 10. Donated items may be placed in the red sleigh, located inside the Washington Avenue entrance. If you have time to wash your donations, please mark your bags/boxes "clean" toys. Monetary donations are, also, welcome. We need "elves" to wash, repair, and organize the toys for distribution. **Please** consider helping with this all-church project on one or more of the following days:

- 🌿 Tuesday, December 4, 10am-Noon
- 🌿 Friday, December 7, 10am-Noon
- 🌿 Tuesday, December 11, 10am-Noon
- 🌿 Thurs, December 13, 6:30-8:30pm
- 🌿 Friday, December 14, 10am-Noon



## Intergenerational Activity

Thank you to all who participated in the Intergenerational Activity on October 28. The Sunday School appreciates your support. We now have approximately 78 people matched with prayer partners.



This month's Open Mic Night is December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring an instrument, song to try, poem or story to read or just come to support others. We know it is over the supper hour so feel free to bring in your own supper or mug and k cup (we will have a maker to use). We will have the sound equipment set up in the basement. **Hope to see you!**



# 2018

## Charitable Giving Deadline

Please remember that gifts to the Church must be received by Noon on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to get credit for that donation in 2018. Thank you.



# Consistory Minutes

## *First United Church of Christ*

*Thursday, November 15, 2018*

Attendance: Pastor Bill, Mark Pierick, Don Larsen, Kurt Schultz, Shirlee Lendved, Peggy Ganser, Theresa Grimes, Marcy Thurwachter, Dean Dahnert, and Chris Logterman

### ✚ Opening Prayer:

### ✚ Pastor Bill's Report

- See report in December Scoop
- Salvation Army bell ringing sign up will be in the back of church for December 14 & 15
- Youth registered for the Youth Retreat in January
  - Fundraiser will be held to raise the remaining amount due

### ✚ Committee Reports and Updates:

- Building & Maintenance
  - No known maintenance needs
  - Shed will be placed soon
  - Waiting on TDS cable installation
  - Need to research how to handle cistern situation
  - Leaves in park need to be taken care of this fall
- Christian Fellowship
  - See December Scoop
  - Christmas decorating of church will be adjusted around the Cantata
  - Discussed fellowship opportunities
  - Soup and Chili supper in March
- Finance
  - Finance meeting
    - Meeting rescheduled – No report
  - Approve financial statements
    - Review October statements
    - Question about flooring donations and recording in special projects – Robin Meier will need to answer
    - Theresa move to approve, Dean 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes
    - We will start thinking about projects for next year to plan our 2019 budget

- Members in Ministry
  - Visits are being made
  - New members welcome
- Sunday School/Church Youth Program
  - See Sunday School report in December Scoop
  - Youth Program
    - Youth Retreat is January 18-20, 2019 in Wisconsin Dells. Cost is \$95/person + \$430/hotel room.
- Stewardship
  - See report in December Scoop
  - Stewardship Sunday on November 18
  - Open and Affirming packet reviewed
  - Discussed adding new members to the committee
  - Discussed Time, Talent & Treasures – how to volunteer your time for/with the church and the community
  - December 8-9 & 15 from 9:00-4:00 PM there is a craft and vendor show in old Harley Davidson building. Discussed having a table to provide information and promote First UCC. All proceeds go to Sauk Prairie Food Pantry.

#### ✚ Ongoing Business Update

- None

#### ✚ New Business Issues

- Picture directory – discussion for future meeting

✚ Theresa move to adjourn, Don 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes.

✚ Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Next Consistory Meeting: December 20<sup>th</sup>

Dear Consistory,

There is much to be thankful for. We have been blessed richly by a loving God. Home. Health. Family. Meaningful work. These are just some of the many blessings we have received throughout our lives. The best blessing of all is that of Jesus. Through Him, we are forgiven, redeemed and made new. We don't need to feel anxious about tomorrow, because Christ has secured our future in heaven. We are free to live a life of generosity, grateful for the earthly and eternal blessings bestowed upon us by God.

As we are come up on the Thanksgiving holiday, let us reflect on all the good God has made possible in our lives and in the life of First United Church of Christ. I often reflect and give thanks for your involvement in the life of this faith community. I am grateful for you.

In terms of my report:

\*I have 12 youth (5 girls/7 boys) interested in the January 18-20, 2019 youth retreat. We will need two other adult chaperones (1 male and 1 female) besides myself, for a group total of 15. We will need three hotel rooms (\$430 each) to accommodate our group. The youth have turned in their participation fees and they will have to host a fund raising project to raise the \$1290 for the hotel rooms and the cost of the registration fees for the 3 adult chaperones.

\*I registered online for Credo (week long pastor conference in Richmond, VA May 14-20, 2019) but didn't hear back by their November 10 announcement deadline of who got in. Guessing my registration didn't go through. I will keep you informed if I hear back from the UCC.

\*Stewardship Sunday on November 18. As of now, 36 pledges have been returned to the church. "What Can We Bring" is the theme.

\*I mentioned last month that the Wisconsin Conference UCC is recommending that our church consider participating in the *5 Practices* program offered by the Conference. If we agree to participate, the next steps would be for us to speak with the facilitator about the process and our priorities. We'd need to set a date to visit with the *5 Practices* team for a Saturday meeting (about 4.5 hours). We'd discuss vision, change management, do a Bible study, and give us a chance to set up a plan with our facilitator. Also at the first meeting we'd clarify our purpose and expectations for doing *5 Practices*. This will need to be a group effort and I can't be the primary leader for our church on this endeavor.

\*I am the coordinator of the Sauk Prairie Salvation Army bell ringing campaign. We have churches, SPHS National Honor Society, and other individuals/groups participating in the weeks before Christmas.

\*I attended the Periodic Clergy Vocational Support retreat at Pilgrim Center Monday 11/12 and Tuesday 11/13. I'm thankful for the opportunity to engage with ministerial colleagues and the program was excellent. I'm appreciative of the many ways the Wisconsin Conference UCC has supported me throughout my ministry. The retreat is mandatory, and clergy need to attend at least once every 5 years, but I will probably opt to participate more, as I find these retreats energizing and life giving.

With the greatest of hope

# Christian Fellowship Minutes

November 13th @ 6:30 pm

Attending: Pastor Bill, Deb Tschudy, Peggy Ganser, Tammie Huerth, Dianna Woerpel, Carol Hehenberger, Sandy Schlender, Dorothy Kundert, Sherry Pieper, Charmaine Carter, Rita Larsen and Rose Kleinert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill



*Reviewed upcoming events:*

- *November Toy washing days*
  - ❖ *Wednesday, November 14, 10am-Noon*
  - ❖ *Friday, November 16, 10am-Noon*
  - ❖ *Tuesday, November 27, 10am-Noon*
  - ❖ *Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm*
- *Christian fellowship will help with toy washing on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> (6:30-8:30 pm)*
  
- *Christmas church decorating to happen around the Holiday Cantata; Tammie and Kathy would appreciate Christian fellowships help from those that are available on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00am (questions, contact Tammie or Kathy). Thank you, Tammie & Kathy, for your time and effort in always making our church look warm and inviting*



- *Holiday Cantata* Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> (4:00 pm)



✚ Peggy & Rose to help where needed

➤ Rita to contact families to read for Advent Sundays



- December 9<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Fellowship/Christmas Music Festival both services
- December 16<sup>th</sup> - Craft and bake sale



*Christian fellowship would like to wish all of you a very joyous, peaceful and loving holiday season ~ see you next year.*

*Our Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th @ 6:30. The meeting will be held at Diana Woerpel's home located at 711 8<sup>th</sup> Street.*

➤ *Ideas for fellowship events for 2019*

*Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill*

*In loving memory of our beloved family & friends  
who we are thinking about this holiday season.*



*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below;  
With tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting in the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear;  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear;  
But the sound of music can't compare with the  
Christmas choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you of the joy their voices bring;  
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart;  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place;  
Can you just imagine Christmas with our Savior face to face.*

*I'll ask him to lift your spirit as I tell him of your love;  
So then pray for one another as you lift your eyes above.*

*Please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing;  
For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven and I'm walking with The King!*





# *Christmas Bake & Craft Sale*

*Sunday, December 16, at First U.C.C.  
(Before and after Church Services)*

We will hold our Annual Christmas Bake & Craft Sale on Sunday, December 16, before and after the worship services. What a joy that we have so much talent in our church – those that are excellent bakers and crafters and so willing to donate their time and talent to help our church! Please pre-price your crafts and baked goods and put your name on them. Please make sure your baked goods and crafts are here before the 8:00 a.m. worship service. The proceeds from this sale will go to the local schools to pay for lunches/breakfast for those students in need.



*God bless your hearts and hands in your  
cooking, baking, and crafting!*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Shop

First Church will have a table at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Shop to Benefit the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. The Holiday Shop will be held at 836 Phillips Blvd (the old Harley Davidson building), Sauk City on Saturday, December 8, Sunday, December 9, and Sunday, December 15 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The purpose of the table is to engage and inform people who are looking for a spiritual home. We believe First Church offers unique opportunities for involvement in a welcoming environment.

We will need people to staff the table, working 2 hour shifts. You will have brochures to hand out along with other items (TBA). At this time, we will not have a table on December 15 due to the conflict with the Salvation Army bell ringing. You can sign up at the back of the church. This is a great opportunity for our church, let's pull together to make this a success!

Questions can be directed to Marcy Thurwachter at (715) 701-3036.



The Family of Ruby McFarlane would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of support. We appreciate all the prayers, cards, love, and warm memories shared when Ruby's earthly journey ended.

Special thanks to Pastor Bill for his guidance and support. Ruby loved First United Church of Christ. Thank you for loving Ruby!

Feeling blessed,

Tom McFarlane, Jean Bachhuber, Jim Hanson and Families



## BLESSINGS & THANKS FROM THE HE♥RT!

★ Thank you to **Tom & Margaret McFarlane** and **Amanda Moseman** for delivering the pies to St. Al's for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

★ Thank you to all the **"bakers"** who made pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Dianna Woerpel, Em Fuchs, Peggy Ganser, Marcy Thurwachter, Fritz Wyttenbach, Shirlee Lendved, Carol Hehenberger, Jan Lawton, Sherry Pieper, and Jenny Brickl.





★ Thank you to **everyone** who helped decorate the church so beautifully for Advent and Christmas.

★ On Sunday, November 11, we honored and celebrated our Veterans. Thank you to **Debbie Tschudy, Rita Larsen,** and **Fritz Wytttenbach** for hosting the Coffee Fellowship that day.

**And, as 2018 comes to a close, thank-you's, also, go out to:**

★ **Tammie Huerth** for sharing her time and talents decorating the Church bulletin board.

★ **Tammie Huerth** and **Larry & Kathy Johnson** for their time and artistry in decorating the Sanctuary and entrance throughout the year.

★ **Our members** who served as Liturgists, Ushers, Communion Servers, and on Church Committees in 2018.

★ **Our members** who delivered Mobile Meals to those in need in our community.

★ **Tom Litscher** and **Herm Tschudy** for sharing their time and talents with us while sitting in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings.

★ **Our Radio Broadcast sponsors** who make it possible for us to reach our many

shut-ins in the community on Sunday morning.

★ **Our Christian Education Superintendent Margaret McFarlane & our Sunday School & Confirmation staff** who create a fun and loving atmosphere for our children to learn about Jesus.

★ **Laura Breunig** who hosted the First U.C.C. web site, once again, in 2018.

★ **Chris Garcia**, our Custodian, who keeps our Church and Education Building spic 'n span.

★ **Donna & Micki Cruse** for helping with the *SCOOP* each month.

★ **Our members who shared their "gifts of music"** with us throughout the year.

★ **Everyone who served as hostesses** for the funeral luncheons - helping meet and greet the family/friends, serving food, and cleaning up.

★ **Tim Herbrand** and **Chris Garcia** for mowing the church properties.

★ **Debbie Tschudy** who took care of the outside plants and raked the leaves around the church and parsonage.

★ **Everyone** who brought items throughout the year for "Stock The Schools".





CHRISTMAS EVE



Communion Servers

*Rick Breininger  
Peggy Ganser  
Rose Kleinert*

*Emily Fuchs  
Tim Herbrand  
Mark Pierick*

January 2019

Communion Schedule

8:00                      January 6                      10:30

*Barb Brock  
Herman & Debbie Tschudy*

*Tom McFarlane  
Amanda Moseman  
Bill Steckelberg*



*“No Room! No Room!” the innkeeper cried, only a stable for the holy Christ Child. I ponder this thought as Christmas draws near, “Is there room in my heart for this Savior so dear?” OH, I send bulging boxes to people in need, bake cookies for shut-ins and do other good deeds. I sing Christmas carols as I decorate the tree and wrap pretty presents for friends and family. But deep in MY heart where no one can see, I hear Jesus whisper, “Is there room for me?” Louise Tucker Jones*

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

## DECEMBER 2018



*"She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

### 2 \*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

\*Sunday School Caroling ~ during Sunday School hour

3 \* Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.

4 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

5 \*Stewardship Committee ~ 5:00 p.m.

6 \*Open Mic Night ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.

7 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

8 \*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

### 9 \*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

\*Christmas Music Festival ~ both worship services

\*Coffee Fellowship

\*Sunday School White Gifts ~ at the 10:30 worship service

\*Birthday Party for Jesus ~ during Sunday School hour

11 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

13 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m. Christian Fellowship will help clean toy.

14 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon

15 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.

\*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

### 16 \*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

\*Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 worship service

\*Christmas Bake & Craft Sale

20 \*Consistory ~ 6:30 p.m.

### 23 \*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

24 \*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion ~ 7:00 p.m.

## October Memorials

No Memorials were received in November.



## Radio Broadcasts

We thank the November sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

In honor of Harland & Lorraine Hartmann's 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Jamie & Karen Wittwer, in loving memory of Jamie's grandparents', Ernest & Alice Wittwer, wedding anniversary.

Jan Pierce, in honor and loving memory of her husband, Lt. Colonel Donald R. Pierce.



## December Anniversaries In Our Church Family



Frank & Georgia Selden, 56 years on December 8

Bev & Herb Feierabend, 65 years on December 19

Edward & Marlene Larsen, Sr., 66 years on December 20

Dorothy & Lyle Kuhnu, 57 years on December 28

Ron & Roberta Lipka, 55 years on December 28

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December!

We acknowledge 1<sup>st</sup> anniversaries; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50.

Please let us know if we missed you on the December birthday calendar!!

## Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>January 2019</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Dave & Shirlee Lendved		Tim & Sue Herbrand	Nadene Litscher		Bill Steckelberg
Tina Wilkinson		Rita Larsen	Mark & Rhonda Pierick		Jamie & Karen Wittwer

**Rev. Bill Kapp**

Pastor

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**Cindy Baker**

Secretary

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