



First United Church of Christ Inc.

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Pastor

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Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

I am encouraged about our ministry as we enter the second month of 2021. Committees are continuing their excellent work, Sunday school and confirmation classes are meeting virtually, technological upgrades are still happening in the sanctuary and we have faithfully offered mission outreach in the Sauk Prairie community.

Despite not having people in the pews, our worship has been an enjoyable collaboration of music, technology and church members willing to pre-record the liturgy and song selections. It has worked out beautifully! Our radio broadcast on WRPQ (99.7 FM, 740 AM) and live audio stream (wrpq.com) has been a saving grace as we have found a way to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ directly into people's homes. First UCC has been able to put out a live worship every Sunday at 9am (and for the first time on Christmas Eve 2020) during a time when many congregations are struggling to connect with their membership. Many thanks and much appreciation to Dennis Kahn for his service as Director of Music and to Dean Dahnert for his commitment to modernizing our audio set up and recording everyone's contributions for the worship services.

There are two solid at-home ministry opportunities to explore in the month of February. The first one is called the **No Regrets Men's Conference**, and it will happen virtually on Saturday, February 6. You can participate from home this year with the Individual Streaming Option for just \$20. All you have to do is type out the link to register: <https://www.noregretsconference.org/individual-streaming/>. Another at-home option is a book study hosted by the First UCC Open and Affirming sub-committee. The book is called, "**Raising Ryland**" and we have copies at the church. We will have an on-line book discussion on Sunday, February 21 at 2pm and another on-line book discussion on Thursday, February 25 at 5pm.

One of the silver linings of this strange and wondrous time is that we are finding new ways to be the church. We are developing a confidence that some of our cherished traditions will continue, albeit in a different form. I am interested to see how the Sunday school will go about sending Valentine's Day cards to shut-in members of the congregation, thinking of how we can have a Chili and Soup Supper when we must limit the number of people in the church dining room and anticipating how we can continue to meet the needs of people serviced by the food pantry or mobile meals.

I would like to keep our ministry focused on what we **can** do instead of worrying about what we can't.

None of what we do would be possible without you – the members and friends of First UCC. Your commitment. Your generosity. Your time. These elements are especially important in the life of our faith community. The work of the church is flourishing despite the challenges of living in this modern era. Well done, good and faithful servants.

*Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bill*

Annual Meeting Preview

As stipulated by our Constitution, we are to gather as a congregation on the first Sunday in March -- this year the 7th -- for an Annual Meeting. Business to be conducted includes a review of 2020, plans for our future, adoption of the 2021 budget, and election of Finance Committee and/or Consistory members.

2021 Annual Report

A copy of the **2021 Annual Report** will be mailed to every First U.C.C. member.



How About Sponsoring A Radio Broadcast or Our Newsletter?

If you would like to remember or honor a family member or friend by sponsoring a Sunday morning worship service radio broadcast or our monthly newsletter, please call the Church office for available dates. The cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast is \$80.00, and the cost of sponsoring a monthly *SCOOP* is \$50 (cost of paper and postage).

In Memory of Frances Thundercloud Wentz

Frances Thundercloud Wentz died Sunday, December 6, 2020. She was born May 25, 1931 at home at the Indian Mission, Black River Falls.

Frances was an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and part of the Wakaja Clan. She was baptized and confirmed at the Ho-Chunk United Church of Christ. She was a lifetime member of the Ho-Chunk United Church of Christ. Frances spent her childhood on the family's farm on the Indian Mission.

While at Mission House College, Frances met the love of her life, Roger Wentz. They were married December 30, 1955, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2005. Rev. Wentz served as Pastor at First U.C.C.-Sauk City from 1969-1987. As a minister's wife, Frances took her role seriously and was gracious, kind, friendly, and empathetic with her spiritual gifting to her church community.

In life, she loved and was loved by many. Frances and Roger lived quietly in retirement. She was an excellent seamstress and sewed Roger's suits for work. She had a green thumb and grew many plants. She loved to play ping-pong.

A private family funeral was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020.



The First United Church of Christ Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2021. It will be held virtually on Google Meet at 10:15am. We would like for you, the members of First UCC, to attend the Annual Meeting and have your voice be heard. It is a simple process:

- Download Google Meet on your device (computer or smart phone) if you do not have it already.
- Send the church office your email address so we can email you a meeting invite and link.
- At the appointed time and date just click the link and you will be directed to the meeting.

For those church members who do not have access to this technology, you can use your landline telephone to call in and participate by conference call. Just let us know in the church office and we will give you a phone number and a pin number so you can gain access. We want your voice to be heard!

Our church bylaws stipulate we will need a quorum of 10% of the congregation present in order to hold a meeting. At 325 members, we will need a 33-person minimum in order to conduct a meeting. We encourage you to be present on March 7 and help us to celebrate the mission and ministry of First UCC.

A Most



THANKS!

Dear Pastor Bill and my First Church family: My heartfelt thanks to my Pastor and the many willing workers at First Church for making our Advent and Christmas Season such a memorable and beautiful time for all to enjoy. I marveled at the Children's Christmas Program, the H.E.L.P. annual toy distribution, and yes, the Christmas Eve service broadcast on the radio this year. My Christmas Eve was very special because of all of you. I loved hearing First Choir and their Christmas carols. How beautiful and peaceful to hear in these difficult times for all. Thanks also to the soloists and liturgists for each of the services. I would be remiss if I didn't say many thanks for the tin of Christmas cookies left at my door. They are delicious! Wishing everyone a more promising New Year, one where we can gather together with family and friends and return to a normal way of life again.

Sharal Steuber

First United Church of Christ: Thank you so much for continuing to collect and donate food to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry during a pandemic! We are so grateful for the 581 pounds of food that were donated in 2020. Without organizations like you, this pantry would not be able to provide the service we do to so many who are food insecure in our school district.

Gratefully, Kris and the rest of the SPA Food Pantry Family

Blessings to all,

To our kind and loving 1st UCC friends and family: We would like to thank all of you that remembered us with a prayer, thoughts, cards and telephone visits when we lost our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. It made the burden and challenge of dealing with her loss so much easier. Prayers and Godspeed to all of you.

The family of Verna Von Behren



Thank you to **Nadine Litscher, Kari & Morgan Larsen, Rose Kleinert, Tim & Sue Herbrand, and Pastor Bill** for helping at the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry on Saturday, January 16.

Thank you to **Chris Garcia** for snow blowing/shoveling the snow at the Church and parsonage.

Thank you to **Tammie Huerth and Rose Kleinert** for organizing the monthly SCOOPs and the 2021 Annual Report while Cindy is gone.

Thank you to **Donna Cruse and Micki Cruse** for mailing the monthly SCOOP while Cindy is gone.



Sunday School News

Margaret McFarlane
& Brigitta Brickl

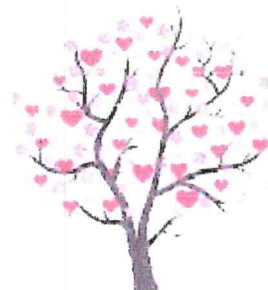
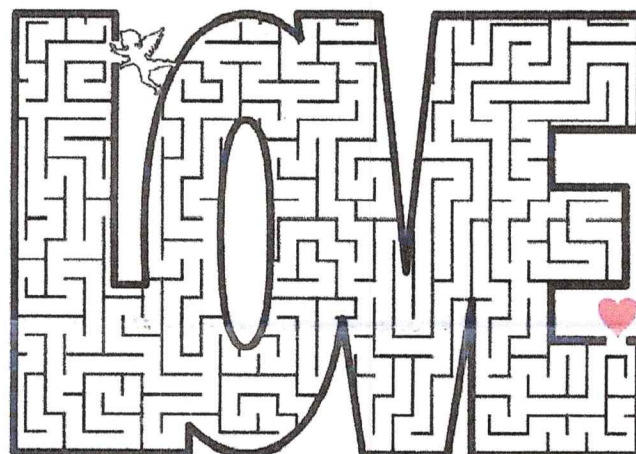
January Sunday School Report

* We are continuing to sell Culver's cards. Sales were great at the end of November through the beginning of December, but very few sales after that.

* The live lesson for our virtual Sunday School has added 2-3 additional students.

* We are going to ask our Sunday School and Confirmation students to make or buy valentines for Maplewood Village, Maplewood, The Pines, Pine Villa, and Pine Vista. We will have a tote with a cover outside the Education Building (where the H.E.L.P. bins were). The valentines can be dropped off any time until February 10. We will get them distributed to the facilities. Adult Church members can participate by making or buying valentines, too!

Margaret and Brigitta



it takes a
BiG
heart
to help shape
Little
minds.

Dear Consistory,

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your leadership. In these last months you have been asked to go over and above the call of duty in terms of extra meetings and responsibilities. Your time, energy and presence are so important in the life of our church. Thank you!

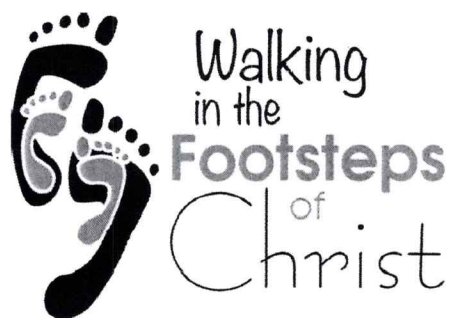
In terms of my report: A family would like to baptize their son. He was born last year before COVID happened and were not able to get him baptized. They are asking to have him baptized 1/31 at the church. They have family considerations (out of town family will be here) in terms of how they have chosen that date. They are proposing 8 adults and the infant be present. Do I schedule this or put it off until a time we are open to the public again? Perhaps I can do this baptism off site?

The 2020 First UCC Annual Report will be mailed out this year on 2/15 due to people not being able to come into the building and pick up. I am thinking stamps will be used for the postage as opposed to bulk mailing rate to ensure quicker delivery. The First UCC Church bylaws stipulate the Annual Report be made available 2 weeks before the March 7 Annual Meeting (Feb 21), so hopefully the mail will arrive in time.

Prairie Plumbing and Heating is once again helping with snow removal. They send us an invoice, but it is always at \$0 no charge. I am grateful for their attentiveness.

Confirmation is proceeding nicely. The virtual format on Google Meet is working well and most of our confirmands are participating. We average 10 students per week and are through 16 chapters. We will be studying the story of our congregation, First UCC Sauk City, on Jan. 24. Confirmation Sunday will occur on May 23, 2021 either "in person" or virtual.

Regards, Pastor Bill



Consistory Minutes *First United Church of Christ*

Thursday January 21, 2020

Those Present: Pastor Bill, Dean Dahnert, Don Larsen, Peggy Ganser, Heather Miller, Marcy Thurwachter, Tammy Young, Mark Pierick, Kurt Schultz, Tammie Huerth

- Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill
- Pastor Bill's Report
 - Baptism request for January 31st in our sanctuary - Pastor Bill will offer off site Baptism or offer the sanctuary at a later date as our Church is closed to all public activities.
- Committee Reports and Updates:
 - Building & Maintenance
 - Nothing new to report
 - Christian Fellowship
 - No meeting in January
 - Finance
 - Next virtual meeting will be in February 2021
 - PPP Loan Forgiveness paperwork has been completed and signed off on by Pastor Bill
 - Members in Ministry
 - Calls are still being made
 - Sunday School/Church Youth Program
 - See report in February scoop
 - Stewardship
 - Next virtual meeting will be in February 2021
 - Thank you notes were sent to those that returned pledge cards
 - On-Air messages are being broadcast once a month during our Sunday service
 - Open & Affirming
 - Met January 7th
 - Virtual Book studies will be held on February 21st at 2:00 pm and February 25th at 5:00 pm based on the book Raising Ryland
- Ongoing Business Update
 - No ongoing business
- New Business Issues
 - Kurt Schultz would like to resign from consistory as of the annual meeting as he will be spending more time in Kentucky. He has one more year to complete his term
 - Annual meeting is Sunday, March 7th

- Google Meets allow up to 100 people to meet at one time. The best place to launch this would be from the church as Dean will be presenting the meeting from the church given the great internet speed
- It would be great if members could get together in family groups to join the meeting via Google Meets
- Dean is looking for a team to continue researching Covid numbers so we know when it is time to open the church back up.
- We are in need of four members to fill positions on Consistory. Two people will be one-year terms, two people would serve three-year terms.

Tammy Young made a motion to adjourn, Tammie Huerth seconded. Meeting Adjourned

- Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill
- Next Consistory Meeting: February 18, 2021

Christian Fellowship

There was no Christian fellowship meeting in January.

- On Tuesday, February 9th we will have a brief Zoom/Outlook meeting at 6:00 pm just to catch-up 😊
- Due to the pandemic, in-person events are not an option at this time, we will keep you posted,



If anyone would like to chime in on one of our meetings please reach out, we would love seeing your faces. Our next meeting is April 13th at 6:00 pm

Christian Fellowship Committee

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee did not formally meet in the month of January. The committee members did write personal thank-you notes to members who returned their pledge cards. Also, Linda Lehan provided a message during the January 17th service on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. The committee will meet virtually at a yet determined date in February.



**Open & Affirming Sub-Committee
Meeting
January 7, 2021**

In Attendance: Pastor Bill, Dennis Kahn, Shirlee Lendved, Christy Kinnamon, Barb Sprecher, Dean Sprecher & Tammie Huerth

1. Bible Study

- a. Felt more time was needed for the Bible Study
- b. Will use Google Meets for future Bible Studies
- c. Next Bible Study will be in March or April
- d. Looking at video recording Bible Study and posting it on our web page for all to view

2. O&A Movies

- a. Shirlee has ordered and received two movies "The Times of Harvey Milk" and "For The Bible Tells Me So"
- b. She is reviewing them and will be setting up a movie night in the spring

3. Book Study

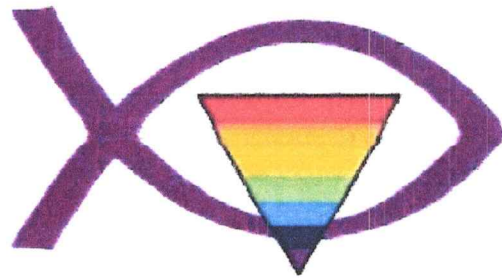
- a. A book study is planned for February 21 at 2:00 p.m. & February 25th at 5:00 p.m. regarding the book "Raising Ryland"
- b. The book study will be on Google Meets
- c. If interested, leave you e-mail address with the church office and you will receive an invite to participate in the meeting
- d. Shirlee still ordering books for those who want to participate

4. The D.I.S.H.

- a. 2nd edition of the D.I.S.H. will be out in the February Scope
- b. Looking for articles and information for the next edition

5. Next meeting

- a. No meeting in February, 2021
- b. Next meeting March 4, 2021



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“The D.I.S.H.”

Developing Inclusivity and Selfless Hospitality

Volume #2, February 2021

What are some good resources for learning about LGBTQ+ persons, issues they face, concerns of their community? I want to learn more.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning youth. There is a great resource section on their website.

<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm>

Positive environments are important to help all youth thrive. However, the health needs of LGBT Youth can differ from their heterosexual peers. On this page, find resources from the CDC, other government agencies, and community organizations for LGBT Youth, their friends, educators, parents, and family members to support positive environments.

<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/explore/topic/lgbtq>

Links to books (fiction & nonfiction), films, blogs, podcasts. A very extensive site to explore.

Recommended Read:
We've Been Here All Along
R. Richard Wagner (2019)

This has been read by a few of the O & A Committee members and is highly recommended.

Wisconsin papers first covered the Oscar Wilde trials in London in 1895. This set the stage for Wisconsinites' views on homosexuality.

In the following years, many cases of sodomy were brought before the courts in Wisconsin. Senator Howard Teasdale, Republican from Sparta, became the chairman of the Wisconsin Vice Committee.

Homosexuals who ended up in Waupun were usually convicted at a bench trial with no defense attorney and before only a judge.

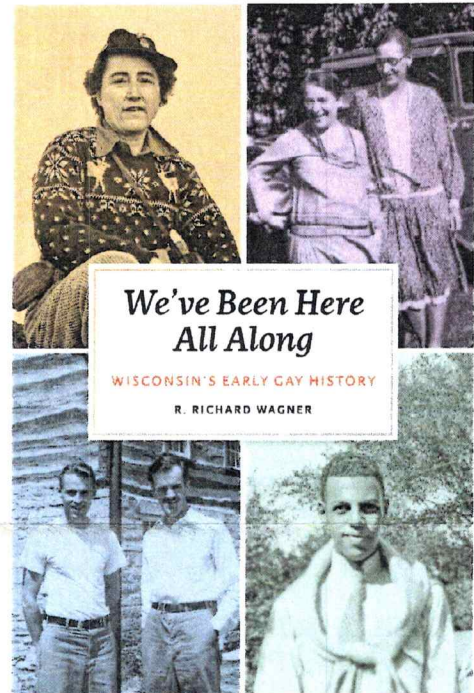
Many homosexual men found ways to blend into society. For instance, Edgar Hellum and Bob Neal founded Pendarvis in Mineral Point. Chester Hollway was a journalist and publisher.

But of course not all went easily with the rise of Senator Joe McCarthy's involvement in the Lavender Scare and his report of "Removal of Sexual Perverts from Government Employment". Most tragically it influenced the 1962 Gay Purge at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Realizing their participation in seeking a "cure" was not benefitting the students, the UW's strong tradition of faculty governance ultimately helped shut it down.

In this book the author draws on historical research from his own archives to uncover the hidden stories of gay Wisconsinites before the Gay Rights era. This book honors their legacy and confirms their part in the development of the state in its earliest days.

I learned so much from this book. Parts made me very proud to be a Wisconsinite and others made me very sad.

Barb Sprecher



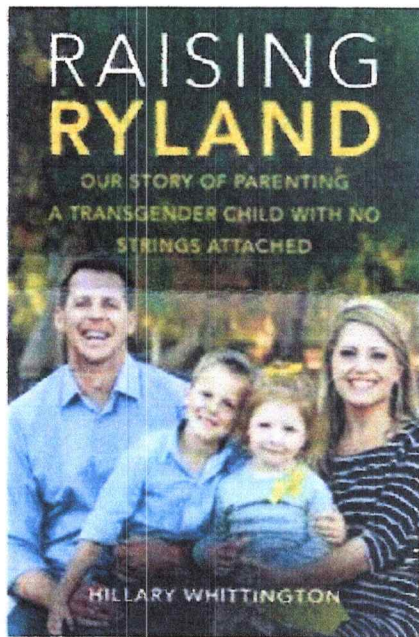
O & A Book Study:

If you have been reading or have read, Raising Ryland, we will be having Zoom discussions on **February 21, 2021 at 2:00pm and February 25, 2021 at 5pm.**

If you have not already contacted the church office with your email address, please do so as soon as possible so that links for the Zoom discussions can be sent out to you.

Deadline for getting added to one of the Zoom discussions is February 17, 2021.

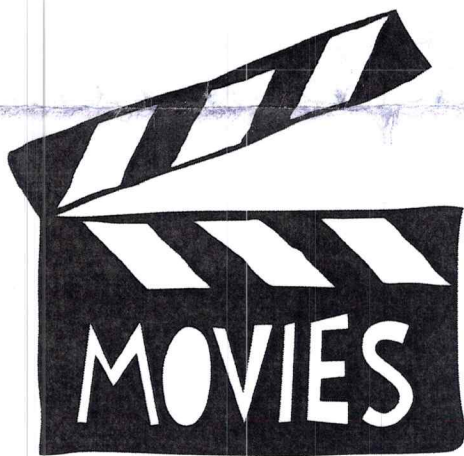
A short video on YouTube gives you an overview of Ryland's story.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcD5NOlalQo>

Thank You

Thank you to those that participated in the Zoom Bible Studies that Pastor Bill conducted on the "clobber" scriptures. If you were not able to participate, you will have another chance this spring. Stay tuned to the Scoop or the DISH for updates on dates and times.



Looking for a movie with an O & A theme?

The O & A Committee has a couple of copies of the movie, "The Times of Harvey Milk" (DVD), available to lend out. If you are interested in borrowing the movie, please contact the church.

MOVIE INFO

Operating from his camera store in San Francisco's Castro district, charismatic Harvey Milk is defeated three times before being elected to the city's Board of Supervisors, making him California's first openly gay public official. On the job he meets fellow supervisor Dan White, a homophobic ex-fireman with whom Milk develops a troubled working relationship. White grows increasingly disgruntled, resigns from his position and subsequently assassinates both Milk and Mayor George Moscone.

Genre:

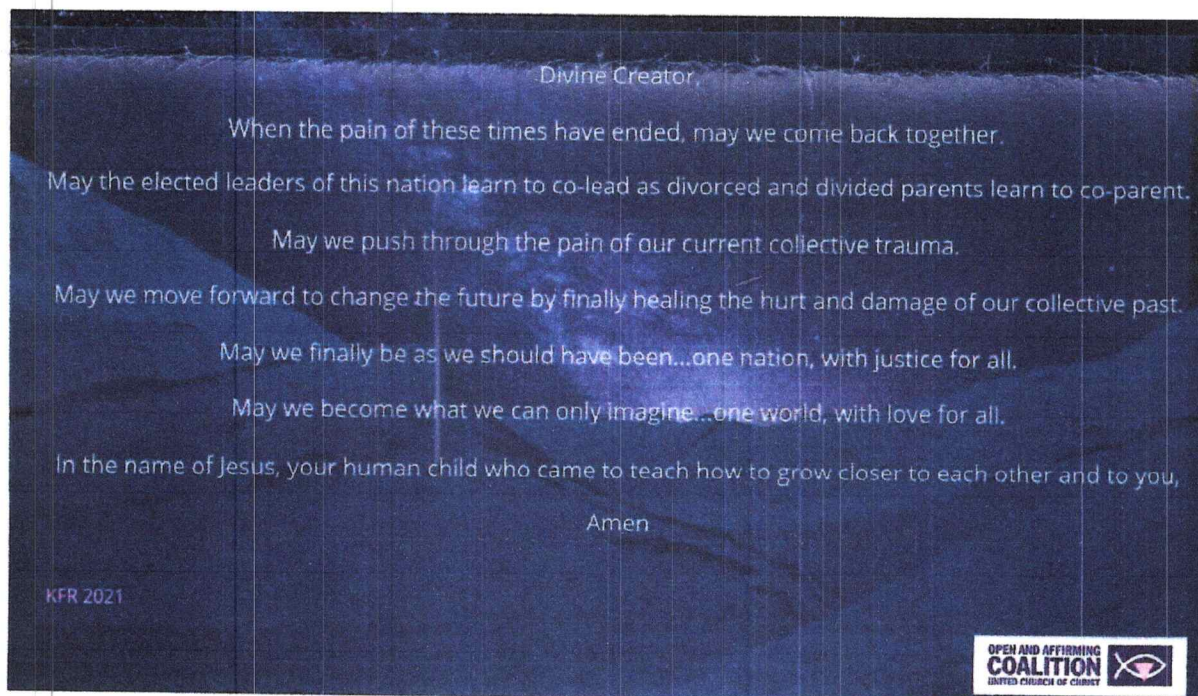
Documentary

A learning opportunity:

The Opening & Affirming Coalition UCC is presenting an Online Event on March 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm on Facebook titled, "Gender and the Bible". If you are interested in joining, you can go to their post on Facebook and follow directions to join in.

Did you know?...

More and more UCC congregations have voted to become O & A churches; currently, there are 1634 congregations in the country.



Memorials Report

Memorials were received in January
in loving memory of:

Caroline Steuber
Verna Von Behren

Radio Ministry

We thank the sponsors of our 9:00 a.m.
Sunday worship service radio broad-
casts in January:

Tim Henning, in honor of our nation's
farmers.

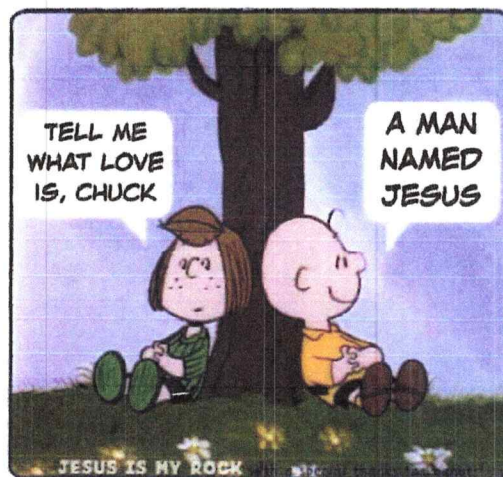
Scott & Christy Kinnamon, in honor
of their parents, Barb & Dean
Sprecher and Joyce & Lloyd
Kinnamon.

Rod & Carol Hehenberger, in loving
memory of Carol's Mother,
Luella Jensen

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries in February.

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays & anniversaries in February!
Please let the Church office know if we missed yours.



Rev. Bill Kapp
Pastor

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon;
Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

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NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID

PRAIRIE DU SAC WI
PERMIT NO 30

Scoop

Jesus
is
me

February 2021

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- 14 † "Happy Valentine's Day"
- 17 † Ash Wednesday
- 18 † Consistory: 6:30 p.m.



VIRTUAL

Sunday Worship:	9:00 A.M. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 & FM99.7)
Sunday School:	10:00 a.m. for ages 3 and older
Confirmation:	10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study:	10:30 a.m.