

**February 2014**

# SCOOP

## **First United Church of Christ**

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Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Are you afraid of change, or do you look for it? Sometimes, we can be so set in our ways that we miss seeing how things could be better. During Jesus' time, even then, people longed for change. For years, they had been living under severe Roman oppression. The desire to be free from this tyranny ran strong. They were living under spiritual leaders that either compromised their heritage to get along with Rome or under spiritual leaders that were so strict that the enjoyment of life was taken away. It was all so oppressive. But Jesus came to offer something better.

When Jesus came on the scene, he offered hope by saying that, "Things can be different. Something good is here, something better, something available...now." And in offering this hope, Jesus cast a vision of a better Kingdom, now and in the future. Jesus spoke a message of repentance. Repentance means that we have a necessary change of mind. Our views change. Our values and goals change. To repent means that we turn away from sin and turn to God. But as with anything, to wrestle something out of its accustomed course is often a painful process.

Jesus' message was also about hope. There is hope in God's Kingdom. It is a Kingdom where the poor matter to God as much as the rich, where those who mourn will be comforted, where the meek win, where those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled, where mercy is the order of the day, where the pure in heart will see God, where peacemakers are the heroes.

Jesus gave a vision for something different than what they were living. He offered change and the revolution began. Those listeners became followers. What about us? What are the small ways in which we can change to enhance our walk with Christ? Here are a few thoughts:

- 1.) Keep your priorities straight. Set time aside each day to talk with God and study God's word.
- 2.) Identify something in the community, whether it be your neighborhood or school, nursing home or the hospital, and begin to pray for God's blessing upon them.
- 3.) Affirm people and be an encouragement to others. Practice it so much that it becomes a habit.
- 4.) Do simple acts of kindness. Serve that community which you have identified in your prayers. Be humble and Christ like.

Friends, we are called to live out the Kingdom of God here and now. It can be challenging no doubt, especially if there are changes that are needed. But in the end, we can demonstrate that we live under God's gracious rule, for it is the way to peace and fulfillment.

With the Greatest of Hope,  
Pastor Bill

## ANNUAL MEETING

February 2, 2014,  
approx. 10:15 a.m.,  
following 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Coffee will be served  
before the meeting.



## **Chili & Soup Dinner**

The Christian Fellowship Committee is hosting a Chili and Soup Dinner on Wednesday, March 26. Dinner will be served from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Homemade chili and soups will be available along with bread, beverage, and dessert. Cost: free-will donation. Coffee and desserts will be served following the Ecumenical Lenten service, which we are hosting this evening. There will be sign-up sheets in the back of Church soon for anyone who would like to make a soup or chili; donate a dessert, bread or rolls; or help with set-up or clean-up. All in the community are invited for wonderful food and fellowship!

## **Gospel Music Sunday**

**If the winter blahs are getting you down, come lift your spirits and join us Sunday, February 23, for some great Gospel music by "Journey Bound."** The quartet has been bringing southern gospel music to audiences for nearly 20 years. Their ministry in music has been used by God to bring the message of salvation to the lost and to bring encouragement, hope, and inspiration to thousands of Christians who love the Lord and desire to live more fully to His glory. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the group, it can be put in the offering plate or brought to the office. Please mark your donation "Journey Bound". A luncheon will be provided by the Stewardship committee immediately following the 10:30 service. **We hope to see you there for some swinging and swaying!**

## **A Special Valentine For You**

John 3:16

*"For God so Lo**V**ed the world,  
That he g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
Begott**E**n  
So**N**  
**T**hat whosoever  
Believeth **I**n Him  
Should **N**ot perish,  
But have **E**verlasting life."*



## CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ  
January 9, 2014

**Present:** Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher, President, Deb Tschudy, Amanda McFarlane, Tim Homar, Tim Herbrand, Todd Pieper, Theresa Grimes, and Rose Kleinert

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bill

**Opening Devotion:** Theresa

**Secretaries Report:** Motion to approve by Amanda, second by Theresa, motion carried.

**Pastors Report:** (a) The Salvation Army kettle campaign raised \$5,500; First UCC bell ringers collected \$1,450.00 - thank you to our bell ringers. (b) January 19<sup>th</sup> is Pulpit Exchange Sunday; Pastor Bill will be preaching at First Presbyterian church, Rev. Sally Williams from St. John's Lutheran church will be leading us in worship that day. (c) If the winter blahs are getting you down, come lift your spirits and join us *Sunday, February 23*, for some great Gospel music by "Journey Bound"; they will be performing at both services. A lunch will be provided by the Stewardship committee immediately following the 10:30 service. We hope to see you there for some swinging and swaying. (d) Youth Ambassadors will welcome students from Germany July 7<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>; their theme is "Poverty" - they will be

involved with an urban project in Milwaukee and Chicago. (e) A 16 year old youth from Germany, Malte Lucke, will be visiting us in August; many thanks to Liz Bongard, Tim & Sue Herbrand, and Dave & Shirlee Lendved who are graciously opening their home to him during his stay.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Sunday School/Church Youth Program:**

(a) Sunday School students sing on January 19<sup>th</sup> followed by an afternoon bowling bash from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

(b) Help us fill our "Sparkle Box" that is located at the back of the church.

(c) The youth will be serving supper at The University of Wisconsin Madison Campus (The Crossings) on February 16. (d) Youth retreat is scheduled for March 21-23; reservations have been made.

**Members in Ministry:** Are very actively making visits to the shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly. If anyone is interested in spending a little time with a nursing home resident or shut-in, contact Liz Bongard or the church office. All are welcome to join!

**Christian Fellowship:** (a) In lieu of December's meeting, Christian Fellowship extended their hands to clean toys for H.E.L.P. (b) Thanks to everyone who helped un-decorate the church Saturday, January 4. (c) Upcoming coffee fellowship between services is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Finance: Finance committee met on November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss 2014 budget and review of endowment fund. Preparing for February's annual meeting.

Stewardship: No meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, upcoming meeting scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Building & Maintenance: (a) New vacuum was purchased for the church custodian. (b) Park trees were trimmed. (c) Defibrillator was installed in the Washington Street entryway. If you are trained for CPR/AED or are interested in training, please contact the church office.

**Bills and Financials**: Waiting to receive all statements and year end financials.

**Ongoing Business**: (a) Strategic goal planning is set and ready to move forward, Todd to contact members. (b) The church directory was finalized and submitted to print, copies should be available in late February.

**New Business**: (a) Snow removal procedures. (b) Preparations for annual congregational meeting on February 2.

**Next Consistory meeting**: Third Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

***“I've learned that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.”***

## **Christian Fellowship January 21, 2014 Minutes (rescheduled due to weather) from Debbie Tschudy**

In attendance : Pastor Bill, Carol Hehenberger, Dorothy Kundert, Rita Larsen, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Debbie Tschudy, Dianna Woerpel

### **Old Business**

Bell Tower repair/remodel – shelves purchased

Debbie put together an updated draft list for a SCOOP insert on what our committee works on and descriptions – it may help new members who might be interested in helping – committee is reviewing another version – and they should provide changes/comments back to Debbie

December 8 -- Coffee fellowship

December 15 – Christmas goodies/treats bake sale and craft sale (Sunday School program) – great turn out – we made \$292.50 – the vote was for this money to go toward the purchase of new church directories – we also voted to take money from our committee fund to pay for the rest of the new church directories – which was a total of \$500 for 100 directories. Members that came in for a photo session will get a free directory.

January 4 undecorated church – and redecorated – Tammie Huerth was Chair

January 19 – coffee fellowship – pulpit exchange – kids sang

### **New Business**

#### Coffee Fellowship dates

February 23

March 23

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March 26 – Soup/chili fundraiser

April 13 – Pastry, Pantry, Produce table

April 27 – Women’s Sunday

### **Any other new business?**

Voted to make a \$100 donation to Neighbors in Need – stipulate that it should go toward Sauk Prairie area only

### **Misc. church issues**

February 23 – Gospel group – Journey Bound – singing

March 26 – our church hosts Lenten service

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 20 – Easter

**Next Meeting – February 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

Attention all you Mississippi goers: there will be a brief meeting on **Sunday, February 9**, immediately **following the 10:30 worship service** to go over deposit monies, fund raisers, and review travel options. Five months to hot, humid, blood, sweat and tears.....

### **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. The cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast is \$75.00, and the cost of sponsoring a monthly *SCOOP* is \$50 (cost of paper and postage).



Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak but He is strong.

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

504 Washington Avenue  
Sauk City, WI 53583

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# SCOOP

## **February 2014**

- 2 † 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- † Coffee (before Annual Meeting)
- † Annual Meeting
- † No Sunday School and Confirmation Classes
- 3 † Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 9 † Short meeting for "Mississippi Goers" right after the 10:30 worship service
- 11 † Christian Fellowship Committee ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 14 † ***"Happy Valentine's Day"***
- 16 † Sunday School sings at 10:30 worship service
- 20 † Consistory ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 23 † Coffee Fellowship between worship services
- † Gospel music worship services with "Journey Bound"; followed by lunch served in the dining room and hosted by the Stewardship Committee

***"I've learned that being kind is more important than being right."***

**Sunday Worship:** 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 & FM99.7) & 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 and older; **Confirmation:** 9:10-10:15 a.m.

## Memorials Report

Memorials were received in December  
in loving memory of:

Lela Gentz

## Radio Ministry

We thank the sponsors of our 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday worship service radio broad-  
casts in January:

John and Pat Shelby, In honor and  
celebration of their 49<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary

Ted & Millie Larson, In loving memory  
of Tom Larsen and Millie's dearest  
friend, Valerie LaMar

Rod and Carol Hehenberger,  
In loving memory of Luella Jensen

## ♥ February Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

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

## February Ushers

**8:00**

Laura Kapp  
Jacob McCaulley  
Russ & Sherry Pieper

**10:30**

Jacob & Ben Kapp  
Dave & Shirlee Lendved

## Attention Ushers, Communion Servers, and New Members

★★★ If you want to be added or deleted from the 2014 schedules, please  
contact the Church Office as soon as possible. ★★★

Pastor Bill Kapp

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon;  
Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and by  
appointment

Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249

E-mail: bill\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Cindy Baker  
Church Secretary

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.–Noon  
Office phone: 643-8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org

# Sunday School News

from Margaret McFarlane

♥ Our "Bowling Bash" was a success! Forty-three people (33 bowlers, 10 spectators) joined us at Riviera Bowl to either bowl or spectate.

♥ SUNDAY SCHOOL classes will not be held on Sunday, February 2, due to the Annual Meeting. During the 9 a.m. service and 10 a.m. meeting, there will be a nursery available and a movie for school age students.

♥ A new schedule of candlelighters was sent home with the February letter on January 26. Please call me at 643-6327 if your child would like to light candles at a Sunday service but did not sign up.

♥ Students who volunteered to "Greet" on their Time and Talent sheets have been assigned to the third Sunday of the month.

♥ The Sunday School Choir sounded great on January 19. We will be singing again on Sunday, February 16, at the 10:30 service. Students in Grades 2, 3, & 4 will do something special before the choir sings.

♥ Looking ahead:

♥ Palm Processional: Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 service

♥ Annual Easter Party, Saturday, April 19

♥ Watch for future details!

♥ March will be Church camp month. We will start our donation fund for summer campers.

## **First U.C.C. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**The Wisconsin Dells Youth Quake is scheduled for March 21-23, 2014 at the Wilderness.** First UCC youth grades 5-9 are invited and encouraged to attend. These retreats focus on faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for this year's event is "*Yours*" based on 1 Chronicles 29:11. Bill Yonker will be the featured speaker and Peder Eide and Captive Free will provide the music. Our group will participate in the Youth Encounter program (celebrations & workshops) as well as do our own thing (water park fun). Spots are still available, and the church will cover ½ the cost! Confirmands can also earn 10 sermon notes by participating. A \$50 deposit due February 16<sup>th</sup> will reserve you a spot.





## Salvation Army Christmas Kettles

The Salvation Army helps the less fortunate in so many ways: with fuel and electric bills, with health care supplements, with food and shelter, and with disaster relief. Our thanks to everyone from First UCC and the Sauk-Prairie community who helped in this year's kettle drive. \$5,500.00 was collected. Congratulations and thank you!



## With Appreciation To

### From Christian Fellowship

Thank you to **everyone** who took time out of their busy schedule to help undecorate the church and decorate for Epiphany. These members always do a beautiful job of decorating, and the church always looks so nice.

Thank you to **Sherry Pieper, Jane Litscher, and Debbie Tschudy** for hosting coffee fellowship on Sunday, January 19.

Thank you to **Dianna Woerpel; Sami & Kati Huerth; Robin, Ashley, & Jason Franck; Jennifer Cruse; Heather Miller; and Chris Logterman** for helping at the Food Pantry on Saturday, January 18.



## FROM THE HEART

*A very special thank you to my church family for the prayers, cards, gifts, and flowers that you showered upon me during my recent stay at the hospital. Words will never express how grateful and blessed I am to be part of such a loving congregation. Thanks PB for the encouraging and calming words before I was wheeled off to la-la-land!*

*Love and hugs, Rose Kleinert*

*...the hearts you touch,  
...the wisdom you share,  
...the love you show,*

*All of these reveal the ways the Lord Jesus is at work in you, shaping and forming your heart, so that it conforms more closely to the contours of His own.*

From **Thank You For Serving With  
A Heart Like Jesus** by Dr. Jan L. Fryar