



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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February 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

When my kids were little and were repeatedly defiant, I would give them a time-out. Our rule of thumb was one minute for every year of their age. Sometimes the boys “got a double” if their infraction was particularly egregious. And while it didn’t always change their attitude, it sometimes encouraged corrected behavior. Well, Jonah sure got a time-out that no child would envy, spending three days in the belly of a big fish! And when he had been released from it, he got another chance to follow through on the marching orders God had given. Which he did, rather grudgingly.

Why was Jonah on a time-out in the first place? The story starts: “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, ‘Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.’” God says, “Go at once.” Right now. Right away. Immediately! And Jonah went, alright – as far as he could go in the other direction. Then, the adventure ensues – a storm at sea; being pitched overboard by pagan sailors more willing to do the will of Jonah’s God than was Jonah; being swallowed by a big fish, but not consumed, just stuck there to think about what he “Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda” done. After being spewed out on dry land and given his second chance, Jonah finally does what God requires of him. The Ninevites respond by repenting in a rather grand fashion, and God relents from punishing.

Jonah got really, really annoyed with God for forgiving such a degenerate community. I can just hear Jonah saying, “I knew it! Your forgiving nature is exactly why I didn’t want to come here. These people, even in repentance, don’t deserve your forgiveness and should be wiped off the face of the earth. I am going to just sit here, pout, and hope to die. So there!”

But what if we are more like Jonah – raised in the faith, around people who look and act just like us, and believe that God can only love those such as we? What if we insist that we only take the message of God’s love to those we deem “worthy” of it? What if we long for God, not to forgive but to punish all those who have harmed us, who think differently than we do, whose lives are in such an opposite place to us that we cringe in their company? What if we declare, “God welcomes all...but when you get here, you need to become more like us.”

Which then leads me to ask, who are our Ninevites? Who are those people we don’t want to forgive? People of a different religion or language? Persons of dramatically different politics? Someone whose point of view is different than ours? Do we even want God to change their hearts? Or would we rather be vindicated in our own self-righteousness? It is appropriate to search our hearts in these matters. And it would be better if we didn’t need to end up in the belly of a big fish to do so.

The good news is that whether we are like the pagans in this story, or like the prophet of the Lord, God’s love and mercy are the same. Ultimately, God invites all to the heavenly banquet. And far from being bouncers and gatekeepers, we are privileged to carry the invitations.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill

ANNUAL MEETING

February 1, 2015,
approx. 10:15 a.m.,
following 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service

Coffee & treats will be served
before the meeting.

BRING YOUR ANNUAL REPORT



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. **\$6,492.53** was collected. Congratulations and thank you!

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).



Save the Date! Chili & Soup Dinner

The Christian Fellowship Committee is hosting a Chili and Soup Dinner on Wednesday, March 11. Dinner will be served from 4:00-6:15 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!

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.”*



2015 Cooperative Lenten Worship Calendar

This sharing of **Lenten** worship with our brothers and sisters in faith is a cherished tradition of our Church. Services start at 6:30 p.m.; except on Ash Wednesday, there will be two services: 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Lenten offering supports the Salvation Army, Neighbor in Need, 6:8 Ministry, and the Good Neighbor Clinic.



February 18: Ash Wednesday
(Holy Communion/Imposition of Ashes)
St. John's Lutheran-Prairie du Sac
1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Theme: *A Time for Learning*
Preacher: Pastor Shirley Kelter

February 25
First Presbyterian Church

Theme: *A Time of Challenge*
Preacher: Pastor Doris Simpson

March 4
Concordia U.M.C.

Theme: *A Time of Dependence*
Preacher: Pastor Bill Kapp

March 11
First U.C.C.-Sauk City

Theme: *A Time of Doubt*
Preacher: Pastor Erich Hartenberger

March 18
St. John's Lutheran Church-Leland

Theme: *A Time of Comfort*
Preacher: Pastor Kendall Schlitter

March 25
Black Hawk U.M.C.

Theme: *A Time of New Beginnings*
Preacher: Pastor John Smith



March 29: Palm Sunday
First U.C.C.
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



April 2: Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Service
First U.C.C.
7:00 p.m.



April 3: Good Friday
St. John's Lutheran Church
1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

First U.C.C.
7:00 p.m.

Sunday School News

From Margaret McFarlane

♥ Our "Bowling Bash" was a success! Forty-three people (25 bowlers, 15 spectators) joined us for the fun! Many thanks to Tim Herbrand for his generous donation to this event!

♥ SUNDAY SCHOOL classes will not be held on Sunday, February 1, due to the Annual Meeting. During the 10 a.m. meeting, there will be a nursery available and a movie for school age students.

♥ We welcome Vann Ambort to our Sunday School "family".

♥ A new schedule of candlelighters was sent home with the February letter on January 25. 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 18. We will be singing again on Sunday, February 15, at the 10:30 service. Students in Grade 4 will do something special before the choir sings.

♥ Looking ahead:

♥ Palm Processional: Sunday, March 29, at 10:30 service.

♥ Annual Easter Party, Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m.

♥ Watch for future details!

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



First U.C.C. 5th-8th Graders

The Wisconsin Dells Youth Quake is scheduled for March 20-22, 2015 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 16th will reserve you a spot.



CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ
January 8, 2015

Present: *Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher (president), Deb Tschudy, Tim Homar (late arrival), Amanda McFarlane, Theresa Grimes and Rose Kleinert*

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill's Report: (1) \$675.54 was raised for Salvation Army bell ringing. (2) Pulpit exchange will be Sunday, January 18th, Pastor Bill will be preaching in Leland and Westfield. (3) Registration for 2016 Back Bay Mission (June 5-11).

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

Approval of Financial Reports and Invoices: November and December financial statements were reviewed, motion to approve by Deb, second by Rose, motion carried. Proposed 2015 budget reviewed, motion to approve by Amanda, second by Theresa, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School/Church Youth Program:

(1) Sunday School choir sings on January 18th. (2) Sunday School bowling is scheduled for January 18th from 1:00-2:30 p.m. (\$2.00 per bowler, spectators free). (3) No Sunday School class on February 1st due to the annual meeting (nursery/daycare and movie will be available during the meeting). (4) Sunday School fundraiser - Culvers gift cards are available. (5) Registration for the upcoming Youth retreat at the Wilderness (March 20-22) have been made.

(6) Confirmation fund raisers, Rock-a-thon and Bake-off are tentatively set for February and March.

Members in Ministry: Weekly visits and communion are being made to shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals.

Christian Fellowship: (1) Coffee Fellowship scheduled for January 18th (Pulpit Exchange) and February 22nd (Journey Bound Gospel Band). (2) Looking ahead to the Chili/Soup Supper (tentatively scheduled for March 11th).

Stewardship: (1) No meeting in January. (2) Gospel singers, Journey Bound, will be performing on Sunday, February 22nd.

Finance: Meeting to be held January 13th.

Building & Maintenance: (1) 3rd floor water issue. (2) Furnace parts need replacing.

Long Range Strategic Planning:

(1) Church Surveys continue to come in and are in review.

On-Going Business: (1) 2015 Annual Meeting preparations.

New Business: *Campital Campaign* is underway for Pilgrim Center & Moon Beach – more details will be provided in February/March.

There will be a brief meeting after the Annual Meeting on February 1st in the kitchen of the Education Building.

Next Consistory Meeting: Third Thursday, February 19th, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Rose, seconded by Tim Homar, motion carried.

Closing prayer from Pastor Bill – Lord's Prayer

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

January 13, 2015 Minutes
From Debbie Tschudy

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

Old Business

We made about \$550 at our craft and bake sale – wonderful to have so many members willing to donate their special items for the church

Coffee Fellowship dates

January 18 (pulpit exchange)
February 22 (Journey Bound Gospel band at church)

New Business

February 1 – annual meeting – committee to have coffee and treats after the 9:00 service – before our annual meeting

March 11 – Soup/Chili supper and coffee and desserts after –First UCC to host Lenten service

March 22 – coffee fellowship – Pastor Bill gone to youth retreat

Any other new business?

Women's Sunday Service – maybe have April 26 or later May or June or on a Sunday when Pastor Bill is gone??

Spring cleaning will be in April – no date set yet

Discussed our committee donating funds for the youth retreat – tabled until our next meeting to see how much they might need yet

Next Meeting – February 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous church items or dates

March 20-22 – Youth Retreat – WI Dells
March 29 – Palm Sunday
April 5 – Easter – sunrise service 6:30 am – Stewardship breakfast
May 7 – Mother/Child banquet – have the men do a meal
May 10 – Mother's Day
May 17 – Sundae Sunday- Sunday school
May 31 – Confirmation

Joyful Gifts

“Jesus loves the little children;
red and yellow; black and white;
they are precious in His sight.”

We invite you to fill the bassinette in the back of church with new and gently-used clothing for children ages Newborn to 5 years old. We continue to collect: sleepers, pajamas, socks, onesies, underwear, and diapers. This project is in conjunction with Sauk County Human Services. The clothes will go to children who are being placed outside of their homes.



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.

A special thank you to **Charmaine Carter, Kathy Johnson, Lois Pieper and Sherry Pieper** for chairing our coffee fellowship on Sunday, January 18. Everyone enjoyed all the wonderful treats you brought. It was so nice of four of you to sign up – I don't think we have ever had four members willing to help with coffee fellowship at the same time. We hope we will see more members, including any new members who would like to help and/or just bring treats in to share. Blessings to all these wonderful ladies for donating their time and goodies for this!!!

Thank you to **Dianna Woerpel, Emily Fuchs, Cecy Haines, and Debbie Tschudy** for hostessing Alma Krenz's and Harley Lichtenwalner's funeral luncheons.

Thank you to **Jeanann, Bailey, & Taylor Breininger; Vance & Colleen Anderson; Sherri Roberts; Mark Pierick; Heather Miller; and Kati Huerth & friend** for helping at the Food Pantry on Saturday, January 18.



FROM THE HE♥RT

From Rene & Lucile Gasner

A special thank you to Pastor Bill, Rod & Carol Hehenberger, Liz Bongard, and Donna Seitz for visiting Rene at Maplewood. I am grateful to Pastor Bill who prayed with me at the hospital; the congregation wishing me well with thoughts and prayers; and the Prayer Circle for their prayers.

The Larsen's: Ed & Rita

**Don, Sandy & family
Doug, Kari & family
Kevin & Serena**

We would like to thank our church family for the cards, thoughts and prayers with the passing of our brother and uncle, Eddie Wagner. Saying goodbye is never easy; but with wonderful memories and the support of family and friends, it is made easier.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SCOOP



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



This month's SCOOP is sponsored by Leon & Peggy Ganser in honor and celebration of their brother's, David Bongard, 60th birthday on February 14 and their great niece's, Izabel Rose Brickl, 3rd birthday on February 23.

February 2015

- 1 † 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- † Coffee/Treats (before Annual Meeting)
- † Annual Meeting
- † No Sunday School and Confirmation Classes
- 9 † Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
- 10 † Christian Fellowship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 14 † ***"Happy Valentine's Day"***
- 15 † Sunday School sings at 10:30 Worship Service
- 18 † Ash Wednesday Service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Prairie du Sac:
1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- 19 † Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 22 † Coffee Fellowship between worship services
- † Southern Gospel Music Worship Services with "Journey Bound"; followed by lunch served in the dining room, hosted by the Stewardship Committee
- 25 † Ecumenical Lenten Service at First Presbyterian Church in Prairie du Sac:
6:30 p.m.



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.