



William E. Kapp  
Pastor

## *First United Church of Christ Inc.*

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### **FEBRUARY 2017**

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Living in community is never easy. This is especially true when it comes to the Church of Jesus Christ. An incorrect assumption is often made that members of the Church should always get along in perfect harmony, because after all, it is a Christian community. But the fact of the matter is that the people of the Church are a blend of varying histories, traditions, outlooks and understandings. Disagreements can sometimes arise due to these differences.

Disagreements in the life of the Church are nothing out of the ordinary. Conflict has been a part of Church life since the earliest days of the Christian Church. Paul wrote his letter to the Romans partly because of conflict that had arisen there. The Church in Rome was a mixture of Jewish and Gentile believers. At that point in time they were experiencing significant tensions between these two groups.

In the fourth chapter of Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul urged two women in that Church "to be of the same mind in the Lord". Paul wrote the epistle partly because he heard of quarrels which had broken out in the life of the Church. One quarrel in particular had grieved him, since the two women involved were both very dear to him. He wanted Euodia and Syntyche to consider their dispute in a Christian spirit and to come to some sort of an agreement. The two women were among the most active workers in the Church, and had been so from the beginning.

Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians because of conflict that had arisen there. It seems that Church was coming under the influence of false teachings. Various traditions from different religions were blended to come up with something new. Greek philosophy, cultic practices, Christianity and Jewish speculation were blended together to offer a "fuller" type of spiritual experience. In this letter, Paul presented Jesus as the true Lord of the universe and highlighted love, thankfulness, and forgiveness as the marks of true spirituality.

When conflict happens within the Church, it must be dealt with in a positive Christian way. Jesus taught us in Matthew 18 that when conflict arises, we are to immediately go to that person in the spirit of Christian reconciliation. We are to point out the concern privately. If that approach doesn't work, then perhaps we ask 1 or 2 members to help mediate. The purpose is not to humiliate or condemn, but to regain a brother or sister in Christ. In addition to dealing with disagreement proactively, we ought to be willing to forgive. After all, we are forgiven sinners. We are called to offer that same forgiveness to our brother or sister in Christ.

I am excited to still be a part of First UCC in Sauk City, WI. We have challenges like everyone else, but overall we address our issues in a healthy and productive way. Let us deal with our disagreements by looking to Jesus Christ for guidance and inspiration.

With the Greatest of Hope!  
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 5<sup>th</sup> -- for an Annual Meeting. Business to be conducted includes a review of 2016, plans for our future, adoption of the 2017 budget, and election of Finance Committee and/or Consistory members. The March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will begin immediately following our 9 a.m. worship service. Our 8 a.m. WRPQ-740AM and 99.7FM radio broadcasts will be pre-recorded.

## 2017 Annual Report

Copies of the **2017 Annual Report** will be available in the back of Church beginning Sunday, February 19.



Our casual, contemporary service on Wednesday nights at 6:00 is fun, come-as-you-are, and lasts 30-40 minutes. Everyone is invited to join us! We are looking for people to help with the music. If you play an instrument or sing and like contemporary Christian music, come be a part of the team! We would love to put together a praise team or band—commitment level is your choice. Sign up for one service or many, solos or

groups. Or just let us know you are interested!

A big thank you to **Kristy Litscher** and **Theresa Grimes** for coordinating this wonderful service and leading us in worship every Wednesday. Your dedication to this contemporary service is truly appreciated by many!

Don't have time for dinner before coming to the service? A light supper is served in the church dining room from 5:30-6:00. No need to bring anything, just show up for fun fellowship and good food before the service.



*Rejoice with me;  
I have found my lost sheep.*

## 2017 WI Dells Youth Quake

The Wisconsin Dells Youth Quake is scheduled for February 10-12 at The Wilderness. We have 18 youth and 4 adults attending this year. These retreats focus on faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for this year's event is "Found" based on Luke 15:6b. Gabe Kasper will be the featured speaker, and "Swen & Dean" 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). Confirmands can also earn 10 sermon notes by participating.



organizations responding to health, education and agricultural development needs; refugee initiatives; and both international and domestic disaster response.

When we give, as the United Church of Christ – individuals, groups and congregations – it means that the church can stand strong in the midst of need whether it is nearby or far away. When God’s love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God’s family.

Thank you for your support, whether you are a new supporter, or long-time supporter, every gift matters. Every gift allows us to say, **“You are here.”**

*One Great Hour of Sharing* enables the United Church of Christ to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement or poverty. We provide assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes.

The 2017 theme for the offering is **“You are here”** which could easily be the response to a question provoked by tragedy, fear or suffering: “Where are you, God?” Psalm 145:18 echoes the refrain throughout scripture that God is nearby. As soon as a person calls on God, God is here.

**“You are here”** shows the church uniting to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. Our support is given through partner



Your *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering envelope is enclosed.





## **Sunday School News**

From Margaret McFarlane

♥ Our "Bowling Bash" was a success! Thirty-three people (24 bowlers, 9 spectators) joined us for the fun!

♥ A new schedule of candlelighters will be sent home with the February letter. 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 15. We will be singing again on Sunday, February 19, at the 10:30 service. Students in Pre-K/K and Grades 1 & 2 will do something special before the choir sings.

♥ Looking ahead:

♥ Sunday School classes will not be held on Sunday, March 5, due to the Annual Meeting. There will be a nursery and a movie available for students during 9:00 Church and the meeting.

♥ Palm Procession: Sunday, April 9, at the 10:30 worship service.

♥ Annual Easter Party: Saturday, April 15, at 1:00 pm.

♥ Watch for future details!

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



As a fundraiser, the Sunday School will continue to sell **Culver's gift cards**. The cards make great gifts for Valentine's Day, birthdays, or to say "thank-you". Our Sunday School earns 15% of each sale. There are order forms in the library or e-mail your order to:

**[mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com](mailto:mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com)**

It takes a big  
**heart**  
to help shape  
**little**  
**minds.**



## **CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES**

First United Church of Christ  
January 19, 2017

**Present:** Tom Litscher, Theresa Grimes (Secretary), Rose Kleinert (President), Debbie Tschudy (Vice President), Mark Pierick, Don Larsen, Shirlee Lendved, Pastor Bill, Chris Logterman

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bill

**Pastor Bill's Report:** (1) Pulpit exchange 1/22. Reverend John Smith III to lead worship, Pastor Bill will go to Concordia Methodist. (2) Officiating a wedding on Friday, 2/3, in Long Beach, CA - will be gone two days. (3) Lenten service planned for March 15 at 6:30 p.m. (4) Youth Retreat 2/10-2/12 at the Wilderness. (5) Confirmation class to provide meal at The Crossings Sunday evening 2/12. (6) Pastor on vacation after Lent - 3/27- 4/3.

**Approval of Financial Reports and invoices:** Reviewed financial statements. Finance Committee met Tuesday to prepare for Annual Meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Building & Maintenance:** (1) To plan a meeting soon. (2) Have one bid for kitchen wall repair so far, needing two more. (3) Flooring in Ed building and main dining hall – discussed as future project. (4) Lights in church - discussed lowering; however, if lowered would block view for those who sit in balcony. PK Lighting to provide estimate for cost to replace bulbs with LED bulbs. (5) Balcony stained glass windows to be installed next week.

**Christian Fellowship:** (1) Considering dates for Women's Sunday. (2) Coffee fellowship this Sunday 1/22. (3) March 5 – coffee and treats for before annual meeting. (4) Soup and Chili Supper – discussed options. (5) No meeting next month.

**Finance:** Met this Tuesday. Preparing for annual meeting.

**Members in Ministry:** (1) Actively making visits and taking communion to shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly. (2) Always seeking volunteers to join. (3) Began discussion regarding the need to visit those who are able to drive and technically not “shut ins”.

**Stewardship:** Needing to reinstate committee. What does the Stewardship Committee do? Focuses on congregational support in way of time, talents, and treasure; educates congregation on what our church needs financially to sustain itself and move into the future; fundraising efforts...to name a few. If interested, please see a member of the Consistory.

### **Sunday School/Confirmation/Youth:**

(1) Thank you to those who helped with the Christmas pageant. (2) 33 people participated in bowling last Sunday. (3) No Sunday school 3/5 due to annual meeting – nursery provided. (4) Confirmation – reinforced importance of attendance and participation in worship.

**Ongoing Business:** (1) Main kitchen water leakage/wall repair project. (2) Stain glass window update.

**New Business:** (1) Began preparations for annual meeting. (2) Rose and Deb have fulfilled their terms on Consistory. Discussed possible nominees. (3) Theresa has fulfilled her 3-year term on Consistory. Nominate for another 3-year term. Mark made a motion to approve nominees, Don second, motion passed.

(4) Consistory members to take care of depositing offerings. (5) Cow Chip chicken dinner – Carol willing to oversee, however needing someone else to be “park director” and coordinate. (6) Ministerial Discernment Committee for Carolyn Kennedy – Deb to chair committee.

**Next Consistory Meeting:** Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to **adjourn** by Chris, second by Deb, motion carried.

**Closing Prayer/Lord’s Prayer** – Pastor Bill.



**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
January 17, 2017 Minutes  
From Dianna Woerpel

### **Opening Prayer**

**Old Business:** (1) Advent candle lighting arranged by Sandy Schlender and Rita Larson. Thanks to all the families who participated. (2) The Craft & Bake Sale in December netted \$453.25, which will go toward the General Fund. (3) Church decorating for Christmas was organized by Tammie Huerth and Kathy Johnson and helped by several. Emily Fuchs provided a chili lunch. (4) Undecorating took place on January 7<sup>th</sup>, with Epiphany decorations

added. (5) Donations to local organizations. Decision was to donate this year to the Youth Retreat. Costs have gone up and more youth applying. Amount donated \$700.00. (6) Coffee Fellowship: Kapp Family hosted for December, and Charmaine Carter, Fritz Wyttenbach, Rita Larsen, and Debbie Larsen for January 22<sup>nd</sup>. (7) No regular meeting was held in December, but members helped with toy washing.

**New Business:** (1) Pulpit Exchange on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Coffee Fellowship that day. (2) Women’s Sunday: Discussed. Will probably plan for April or May. Several ideas mentioned. Will finalize later. Volunteers will be needed. (3) Annual Meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. There will be a sign-up sheet for Coffee Fellowship. (4) Church Secretary’s surgery delayed. Everyone’s support will be needed when she is recuperating.

**Next Meeting:** Decision to not have a meeting in February. **The next meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

Meeting closed with prayer.





**Blessings and Love, From Lois Price & Family:** Thanks to Pastor Bill for his wonderful service for Jim's funeral, also for the visits and comfort. Thanks to the Prayer Circle and Church letter, for your memorials and cards, prayers and thoughts, and offers of help if we need it. The wonderful friends in our Church family have been such a blessing. You are all very special!



### From Christian Fellowship

Thank you to **Tammie Huerth, Kathy & Larry Johnson, Sherry Pieper, and Cecy Haines** for taking time out of their busy schedule to help undecorate the church and decorate for Epiphany. *"You always do a beautiful job of decorating, and the church always looks so nice!"*

A special thank you to **Fritz Wytenbach, Debbie Tschudy, Rita Larsen, and Charmaine Carter** for hosting our coffee fellowship on Pulpit Exchange Sunday, January 22. Everyone enjoyed all the wonderful treats you brought.


Thank you to **Pastor Bill, Ed & Rita Larsen, Peggy Ganser, Sue Herbrand, Missy & Izabel Brickl, Marcia & Linnea Nachreiner, Tom Litscher,** and **Sandy Schlender** for helping at the Food Pantry on Saturday, January 21.



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. **\$11,141.07** was collected in December by our many volunteers. 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). 

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue  
Sauk City, WI 53583



*Jesus loves me! This I know!*

## February 2017

- 6 † Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
- 10-12 † WI Dells Youth Quake Retreat
- 14 † **"Happy Valentine's Day"**
- † Christian Fellowship: 6:30 p.m.
- 16 † Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 19 † Sunday School sings at 10:30 Worship Service



**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.;  
**Adult Bible Study:** 9:10-10:15 a.m.



## **Memorials Report**

Memorials were received in December in loving memory of:

Ruth Hehenberger  
Charlie Ritchie  
Doris Steuber  
Jim Price

## **Radio Ministry**

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

Evelyn Koenig, In loving memory of her beloved husband, Harold Koenig.

## **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.



## **February Ushers**

**8:00**

Laura Kapp  
Jacob McCaulley  
Lois Price

**10:30**

Jacob & Ben Kapp  
Dave & Shirlee Lendved

## **Attention Ushers and New Members**

★ ★ ★ If you want to be added or deleted from the 2017 schedules, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible. ★ ★ ★

## **Wednesday Fellowship Night at First U.C.C.**

\*Casual Dinner in Dining Room: 5:30 p.m.

\*Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 p.m.

\*First Choir: 6:45 p.m.

**Pastor Bill Kapp**

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

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

E-mail: [bill\\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org)

**Cindy Baker**

Church Secretary

**Website:**

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.–Noon

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