

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP

FEBRUARY 2024

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com • For the Youtube channel type: “ [First UCC Sauk City Youtube](#) ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor
and solve the world's problems over a
cup of coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the
first cup.

Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)

This Month at First Church...

February 11 th	Coffee Fellowship
February 14 th	ASH Wednesday Service 6pm
February 15 th	Consistory 6pm
February 21 st	Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm
February 28 th	Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387

Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org
Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926
Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org

February 2024

From the Interim Pastor...

The season of Lent begins again in a couple weeks. This is not a favorite season for many of us. It can feel a little gloomy and intrusive; asking us to be too introspective, to take an account (again!) of our faults and weaknesses and to resolve to do better in the future. Gloomy indeed.

If you're feeling about Lent is anything like this, let me respectfully suggest that this would be a good attitude to "give up" for Lent. Instead of putting energy into looking at yourself and fixing yourself, find some time and quiet space to sit—and to let God look at you. That's a Lenten practice that will bear some good fruit.

And if you do, you may find yourself feeling what Edwina lately describes in this poem:

Let Your God Love You

Edwina Gateley

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God—
Love you.

In hope always,

Brad



Annual Meeting - Sunday, March 3rd

(immediately following the 9am worship service)

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options. And we'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live YouTube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services can also be seen on our YouTube channel. Type "First UCC Sauk City YouTube" into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone.

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.

CONSISTORY

Consistory Meeting Minutes from **Thursday, January 18, 2024**

Present: Pastor Brad, Tim Henning, Barb Sprecher, Heather Miller, Peggy Ganser, and Rose Kleinert. Carrie Finley (via phone) – **Absent:** Tammy Young

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Annual Meeting Approvals:

- a) Finance Committees proposed 2024 budget.
- b) 2024 Revised constitution approval from consistory for the congregation's approval at the annual meeting.
- Motion to approve Peggy Ganser, second by Heather Miller (this will be put in the Narthex along with the Annual Meeting report by February 11th). Members with questions, concerns, or suggestions, should bring to a consistory member as soon as possible to be researched and answered/changed prior to the meeting. Final approval at the Annual Meeting.

Committee Updates:

Christian Fellowship:

- No meeting in January.
- Craft and Bake sales in December were successful (roughly \$500 was raised and put in the church general fund). Special thanks to everyone who participated.
- Meetings will be determined on a month-to-month basis (due to a few of our members reside in the South during colder weather).

Financing:

Approve 2024 budget for annual meeting.

- Motion to approve by Tim Henning, second by Barb Sprecher, motion carried.

Maintenance: To be discussed at the annual meeting:

- church doors on Madison Street entrance to be replaced or try to fix original doors(?), painting around outside church windows, and resealing of church parking lot.

Members In Ministry: Continue to make visits, added Bob Cruze to visitation (Maplewood).

Love Thy Neighbor: Meeting scheduled for January 23rd.

New Sign: Sign will be presented at the annual meeting for congregation approval.

Sunday School: Attached

New Business

- Pastor Brad will be moving the communion time earlier in the service, to provide communion opportunity to Sunday School Staff and students.
- Consideration to the Finance committee that Memorial funds be used to cover the cost of the new church sign (approximately \$3000) and to use Memorial Funds for unsponsored radio broadcasts (using the name of the person whose memorial it came from (i.e. in memory of Dorothy Kundert).
 - Motion to approve Heather Miller, seconded by Peggy Ganser, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn: motion made by Peggy Ganser, seconded by Barb Sprecher; motion carried.

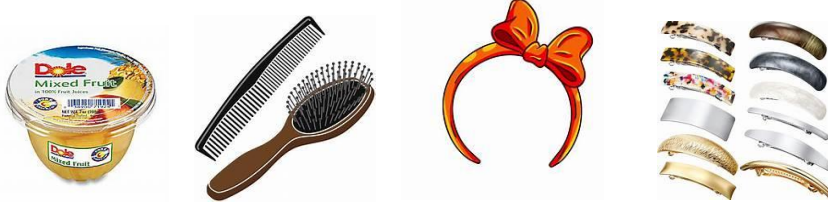
Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There were no meetings in the month of January. We will be discussing a wintertime event in the coming weeks; Christian Fellowship meetings will be on a short hiatus while some of our members become snowbirds until Easter! We will be in touch via email.

STOCK THE SCHOOLS for February

Fruit cups, brushes, combs, headbands, and barrettes



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry continue to make visits to members in nursing homes and homebound. Call the church office at 608.643.8387 or Debbie Tschudy at 608.963.4873 Thank you.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- Starting Sunday, January 21, communion is offered earlier in the service to allow for our students and staff to participate before they leave for class. Thank you to Pastor Brad for this important change.
- Our Annual Bowling Bash was held on Sunday, January 21, at the Riviera Bowl. We had 9 bowlers and 8 spectators. Thank you to those who joined us! It was great to have you there!
- We have been collecting donations of cake mixes, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, balloons, and birthday candles during the month of January. On February 4, during the Sunday School period, the students will put together Birthday Bags for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry to distribute to recipients. Thank you for the wonderful donations we have received so far.
- On March 3, there will be no Sunday School Activity Day or Confirmation classes. The annual meeting will be held after the 9:00 a.m. service.
- Our Sunday School Staff have been working on plans for the next four months. We will communicate our calendar as soon as we finalize things.

Margaret McFarlane

OPEN & AFFIRMING (Love Thy Neighbor)

A meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2024; due to weather conditions; the meeting was cancelled, a new meeting date is to be determined.



Lent begins on February 14th (ASH WEDNESDAY)

Please plan on joining us for service at 6:00pm - The imposition of Ashes will be given as a symbol of the beginning of our Lenten journey.

In lieu of service we welcome you to gather with us for the next five Wednesdays, in our church basement for soup, bread, and a short time of fellowship after our meal.

Wednesday, February 21st (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, February 28th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 5th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 13th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 20th (5:30-6:30pm)

What does Lent mean to you?



What is Lent Today?


Today, Lent is observed during the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. It is a time to set aside our wants and needs to come humbly and meek before God, recognizing our need for a Savior above all. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, reminds us that we are from dust and return to dust. ([Genesis 3:17-19](#)). Ash Wednesday serves as a reminder that we will die and face the consequences of sin. The meaning and purpose of Lent are to reflect on our sinful nature and praise God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to serve, live, and die for our sins. Lent ends on the glorious day of Easter when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We are no longer cursed to the grave, but our sins are forgiven.


Lent continues into the Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday events. Maundy Thursday commemorates the day Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples, washed their feet, and retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer. During the Passover Meal, Jesus institutes the act of Communion and remembering His sacrifice.

Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified. It is called "good" because of the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. Without this "good" day, we would not have the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life in heaven.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors for January

First UCC is so grateful and blessed by the many that sponsor our Sunday morning radio broadcasts.

January 7th  Sponsored by Dianna Woerpel in loving memory of *Duane Woerpel's* birthday on 12/29

January 14th  Sponsored by Rod & Carol Hehenberger in loving memory of Carol's Moms' birthday *Luella Jensen* on January 13th

IN LOVING 
Memory

Memorials were given in memory of

Dorothy Kundert

Ted Larson



Calling Adults...if you would like some lively, enthusiastic, fresh discussion and entertainment on how to understand the bible (now that we have grown), join us for a cup of coffee in the church basement Fireside room at 10am Sunday mornings...*hosted by Pastor Brad* and anyone who wants to jump in.

WE
appreciate
YOU

There are a lot of components that keep our church going each week:

Our *custodian* keeps us shiny and clean, our *choir* and the *musicians* that lead them fill us with song and joy, our *radio broadcast technicians* that keep the gospel going on air, the *Sunday school and confirmation staff*. Our *committees* that keep us on track, our *finance people* that pay our bills, the *maintenance crew* keep us warm and cool. The *Preacher* for showing up ☺ and most importantly, *every single one of you* ~ our dedicated *congregation*!

Thank you, Lord Jesus,

