

January 2014

SCOOP

First United Church of Christ

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Luke's telling of the birth of Jesus is a story of mystery, romance, pilgrimage, and angelic messengers singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favors!"

The power brokers of the day were not looking for a savior. They didn't know they needed to be saved from anything. Meanwhile, ordinary people longed for a time not corrupted by greed. They were trying to live in peace, raise a family, and make a living. They dreamed of a time when the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are filled with good things, and the days are blessed with rejoicing.

One such ordinary person was Mary of Nazareth. Mary was a young peasant girl engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. Although he was of the lineage of the great King David, who promised a time of lasting liberation and peace, Joseph too was of humble means.

So Jesus—God's holy Son, Messiah and Savior—was born of peasant parents, away from home, during a politically and religiously charged time, in the little town of Bethlehem. Seemingly, these were not the best of times or the best of circumstances for the world to receive a Savior. But the time for a Savior proved to be right. People heard his word, received his grace, and followed him, proclaiming that God's new age had begun.

Ours is the best of times for a Savior. God rights our wrongs, not with the power of the rushing wind, nor with the fury of the pelting rain, nor with the fire of lightning. The Creator does not stretch out a hand to rend and twist and tear God's will from a submissive earth; God simply creates a child and waits.

With the Greatest of Hope.

Blessings, Pastor Bill

Annual Meeting Preview

As stipulated by our Constitution, we are to gather as a congregation on the first Sunday in February -- this year the 2nd -- for an Annual Meeting. Business to be conducted includes a review of 2013, plans for our future, adoption of the 2014 budget, and election of Finance Committee and Consistory members. The February 2nd 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.



Our Turn At The Food Pantry

The Sauk Prairie area churches and service organizations take turns helping at the Food Pantry. On Saturday, January 18, we need eight volunteers to help with distribution. Volunteers need to arrive at 9:00 a.m. and will be finished about 11:15 a.m. Volunteers should be at least 12 years old. Volunteers help with setup; assist patrons as they “shop” for items; help with loading and carryout; and do a little restocking of shelves. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.

2014 Annual Report

Copies of the 2014 Annual Report will be available in the back of Church beginning Sunday, January 19. If you would like a copy of the report mailed to you, please call the Church office.



☞ Attention Ushers, Communion Servers, and New Members:

If you want to be added or deleted from the 2014 schedules, please contact the Church office by January 10th.

Undecorating Party

All are invited to help with our annual “undecorating” party at church on Saturday, January 4th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Tammie Huerth at (608)963-4311.



Music At First Church

from Dennis Kahn, Music Director

Happy New Year to all! Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas have come gone. In addition to all the music for Christmas and Advent, some members of First Choir participated in the ecumenical choir for the Thanksgiving Eve service. We had a wonderful turnout for the Music Festival, and music played an important part of our celebration of Christmas. However, we must remember that Christmas signifies a start and much more celebrating is to come! With that in mind, please consider becoming involved in music at First Church as we continue to celebrate Christmas, approach Lent and look towards the Easter season.

I want to say how much I appreciate everyone who has contributed their efforts and talents to music at First Church. Whether you have been at it for years or just recently joined our efforts, your willingness to help us glorify God is greatly appreciated.

As you consider resolutions for the New Year, perhaps one could be “bringing your voice” to our music ministry. Please call me at 370-6000 if you would like to discuss joining us!

First Choir rehearses Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



****Members-In-Ministry****

Do you have 1 to 2 hours a month available for visits to home shut-ins and nursing home residents of our “Church family?” We would welcome any new team members. If interested, please contact Pastor Bill or the Church office.

Membership

Liz Bongard, Chair, 643-6391
Emily Fuchs, 643-8085
Larry & Nettie Gander, 643-3625
Rod & Carol Hehenberger, 643-4946
Donna Kaufman, 643-8401
Evelyn Koenig, 643-0242
Verda McFarlane, 643-3046
Donna Seitz, 643-6341
Sharal Steuber, 643-3943

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE **YTD Through November 2013**

Actual Expenses: \$191,431.67
Actual Income: \$155,104.91
Net Ordinary Income: - \$36,326.76

Thank You

FROM THE HE ♥ RT

From Ruth Hehenberger

I would like to extend my thanks to all who sent best wishes by cards or phone calls for my 95th birthday. All was appreciated.



With Appreciation

From Christian Fellowship:

A special thank you to **Emily Fuchs**, **Rose Kleinert** and **Fritz Wytenbach** for the wonderful treats and refreshments for coffee fellowship Sunday, December 8. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you for hosting.

A special thank-you to everyone who brought crafts and Christmas baked goodies to sell on Sunday, December 15. Thank you to **Tina Wilkinson** for the beautiful afghans, **Rhonda Pierick** for the beautiful Christmas centerpiece, **Larry Johnson** for the fishing jigs, **Dorothy Kundert** for the pretty Christmas balls, **Kathy Johnson** for the cross-stitch pictures, and others I may have missed. All the wonderful baked goods were absolutely wonderful! Through all your talents and work, we made \$292.50 that will go toward the purchase of some new church directories. Our wonderful members always come through for us! Blessings to you all!

An Anonymous Appreciation

Wasn't it amazing the beautiful transformation of our Advent season at church! The Advent table, angels, banners, the nativity crafted by the Maenche's, poinsettias, trees and wreaths, and lights brought to us an atmosphere of pure celebration. Thank you to all who brought their touch of creativity for us to enjoy. God's love was shining bright!

"Hark the herald!" the angels sang.

Thank you to **Dennis Kahn**, **Kristy Litscher**, **Sherri Roberts**, **First Choir**, and the **Sunday School Choir** who shared their gifts of music this holiday season. *It was outstanding!* All appreciated your musical message of peace and joy!

"Enjoy the little things in life.... for one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things."

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

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SCOOP

JANUARY 2014



**This month's SCOOP is sponsored by
Renee and Scott Byers, In loving
memory of Walter & Dorothy Wendt
and Lynn Wendt**

- 1 ***"Happy 2014"**
- 4 *Undecorate the church: beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 9 *Stewardship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
*Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 14 *Christian Fellowship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 18 *First U.C.C. helping at the Food Pantry: 9:00-11:15 a.m.
- 19 *Coffee Fellowship between worship services
*Sunday School Choir sings: 10:30 worship service
*Sunday School Bowling at Riviera Bowl: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ 740AM and 99.7FM)
and 10:30 a.m. (childcare provided)

Confirmation: 9:00-10:20 a.m.

Sunday School 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 and older

***Perhaps they are not stars in the sky,
but rather openings where our loved ones
shine down to let us know they are happy.***

Sunday School News

from Margaret McFarlane

📣 Classes will resume on January 5th at 9:10 a.m. We will celebrate January birthdays.

📣 Thank you to Dana Gee and family for painting the outlines for windows that we decorate for the Christmas season. Thanks to the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students who helped paint them. They look wonderful!

📣 We had a total of 58 carolers on December 1st! Thanks to all the students, parents, and staff who helped brighten the holidays for those at Maplewood Village and The Pines.

📣 Thanks to all who contributed to our Harvest Home Table! We appreciate the wonderful donations!

📣 The students did a wonderful job on the Christmas program. They deserve lots of praise for their hard work! Thanks to the staff, parents, and Pastor Bill for helping make the program a reality.

📣 The Sunday School choir will sing on January 19th at the 10:30 service.

📣 We are planning a bowling party on Sunday, January 19th, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., at the Riviera Bowl. The

price is \$2.00 per bowler (spectators are free). The Sunday School will pay the balance.

📣 Looking ahead: there will be no Sunday School on February 2nd, due to the Annual Meeting.



Check It Out ...

The following books have been added to the Sunday School Library by Margaret McFarlane:

"The ABC Bible Verse Book"
"Thank You, God, For Puppies"
"And So You Were Born"

In loving memory of
Joan McFarlane Hansen

"The Sparkle Box"
"I Couldn't Love You More"

In loving memory of Shirley Mitchell

In honor of our new Sunday School Staff
for 2013-2014:

"Nora's Ark"
In honor of Andrea Gavol

"The Christmas Sweater"
In honor of Chris Logterman

"God Gave Us You"
In honor of Kari Larsen

"A Child's Book of Prayers"
In honor of Brookelyn Cruse

***A pat on the back, a tip of the hat,
and a great big THANK YOU to:***

Those who assisted with H.E.L.P.

The H.E.L.P. (Help Excite Little People) project was, again, a great success! The toys and teen items were made available to approximately 74 adults. Many thanks for all the wonderful donations. We had a nice variety of good, used toys, and many brand new things. As always, the monetary donations were appreciated and were used to buy batteries and items for teens. My sincere thanks to all the “elves” who helped with publicity, cleaned toys, repaired items, or helped during the distribution:

Carol Hehenberger	Rita Larsen	Pastor Bill
Amanda McFarlane	Cathy Brewer	Ben & Jacob Kapp
Dianna Woerpel	Donna & Micki Cruse	Jake McCaulley
Sherry Pieper	Kathy & Larry Johnson	Cindy Baker
Debbie Tschudy	Shirley Moely Lucinda Gruber, & Friends at Maplewood Village	
Sandy & Gary Schlender	Dorothy Kundert	Chris Garcia
Marlene Larsen	Charmaine Carter	Shirlee Lendved
Millie Larsen		
Sharal Steuber		

Thank you all for making the holidays brighter for our Sauk Prairie children!

Margaret McFarlane,
H.E.L.P. Coordinator

Those who helped make it Christmas at First U.C.C.

Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, and First Choir; all guest musicians and vocalists; all who helped with decorating the Church; Margaret McFarlane for planning and directing the Sunday School program and for her work as coordinator of our H.E.L.P. project; our Sunday School teachers and assistants; ushers and communion servers; Advent candle lighters; our snow shoveling “elves”, and last but not least, Chris, our custodian. Your time, talents, and efforts during this season are **GREATLY APPRECIATED!**