



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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JANUARY 2016

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The year was 1809. The world was in an upheaval. Napoleon was sweeping through Austria and soldiers from many countries were dying on the battlefield. The fate of entire kingdoms and nations hung in the balance and the world seemed on the very edge of collapse.

It was 1809, and in that same year several significant people were born. Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Not far away in Boston, Edgar Allen Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic life. It was also in that same year the wife of a physician named Darwin gave birth to their child and named him Charles Robert. And that same year produced the cries of a newborn infant in a rugged cabin in Kentucky. The baby's name? Abraham Lincoln.

If there had been a news broadcast back in 1809 these words would have been heard: "The destiny of the world is being shaped on an Austrian battlefield today." But history was actually being shaped in the cradles of America and around the world.

Every age has its dangers. Every nation faces difficulties and threats that will make them believe that the destiny of the world is being shaped by that day's events. And they will see their future as bleak, dark, and hopeless. And yet, in every age, the birth of a child can make a significant impact on their destiny.

Back in the days of the prophet Isaiah, the world looked dark, and bleak, and hopeless. The nation of Israel had turned their back on God and God, in return, had turned God's back on them. To punish Israel, God was bringing a nation from the north (named Assyria) that that nation was going to sweep down upon them like a flood. Isaiah tried to get the people of Israel to turn back to God, and he issued stern warnings of what would happen if they didn't. But unfortunately no one would listen. It was going to be a time of darkness. A time of hopelessness.

But, Isaiah also said there would be a time of hope and light – hope and light brought forth by the birth of a child. *"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (9:6) Isaiah was telling the people of Israel that they were walking in darkness, in the shadow of death, because they had stopped listening to God. But at the same time, he was also saying "REJOICE" because a child would be born and that child would bring salvation, peace, and justice.

In spite of the challenges of today's world, we can take heart in knowing that God has not left us to our own devices. The birth of the baby Jesus is the best news we could ever hear.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill



Pulpit Exchange

On Sunday, January 24, we will celebrate the *Week of Prayer for Christians* with a pulpit exchange. Pastor Kendall Schlittler, Blackhawk U.M.C., will be here at First U.C.C., and Pastor Bill will be at Blackhawk U.M.C.



Undecorating Party

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

*Learn from yesterday,
Live for today,
Hope for tomorrow.
Happy New Year!*



Our casual, contemporary service on Wednesday nights at 5:30 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 5:00-5:30. No need to bring anything, just show up for fun fellowship and good food before the service.

For more info, contact:

Kristy at KristeenLitscher@outlook.com or 643-6199; Theresa Grimes, Pastor Bill or the church office.



Music At First Church

From Dennis Kahn, Music Director

Happy New Year to all! Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas have come and gone. I want to thank everyone who contributes and/or supports music at First Church! This year, we departed from the Christmas Music Festival and celebrated “the season” with a First Choir concert. We would welcome any feedback on this change as we look to the future. However, we must remember that Christmas signifies the start of the church calendar and much more celebrating is to come! With that in mind, First Choir continues to celebrate Christmas, prepares for Lent and looks 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 @ 6:30 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 Liz Bongard or the Church office.

Membership

Liz Bongard, Chair, 643-6391
Emily Fuchs, 643-8085
Larry & Nettie Gander, 643-3625
Peggy Ganser, (608)831-4059
Rod & Carol Hehenberger, 643-4946
Donna Kaufman, 643-8401
Evelyn Koenig, 643-0242
Donna Seitz, 643-6341
Sharal Steuber, 643-3943

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE **YTD Through November 2015**

Actual Expenses: \$186,613.74
Actual Income: \$165,154.03
Net Ordinary Income: - \$21,459.71

***“Enjoy the little things in life –
for one day you’ll look back and
realize they were the big things.”***



With Appreciation

From Christian Fellowship:

Special thank you to **Charmaine Carter, Rose Kleinert, Dorothy Kundert and Fritz Wyttenbach** for hosting our Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 6. Thank you for all the delicious treats you brought in, everyone really enjoyed them! Blessings to you!

On Sunday, December 13th, when there was a wonderful, wonderful Sunday School Christmas program, Christian Fellowship sponsored a Craft & Bake Sale. Thanks to everyone who donated delicious treats and beautiful crafts! We were able to raise \$585.50 that will go towards the church's general fund to help pay weekly and monthly expenses. Aren't we fortunate to have so many supportive members?! Blessings to all.

 Thank you to **Vance & Colleen Anderson; Jaiyah Moehlenbuich; Cathy, Allison & Ashley Richard; Ed & Rita Larsen; & Haley Baker** for ringing the Salvation Army Bell on December 12 at Piggly Wiggly.

 **Attention Ushers, Communion Servers, and New Members:** If you want to be added or deleted from the 2016 schedules, please contact the Church office by January 8th.

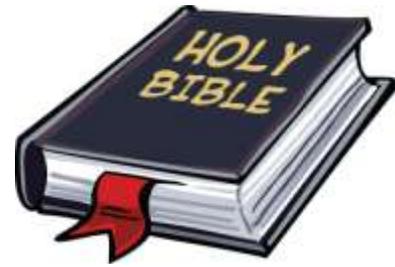
 We acknowledge 1st **anniversaries;** anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50. Please let us know if we missed your **birthday** on the birthday calendar or your **wedding anniversary!**

 **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).



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

Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, and First Choir; Theresa Grimes; all guest 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!**



TOP 10 PREDICTIONS FOR 2016

That you can depend on to come true!

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!!

We have an opportunity from Lifetouch Church Directories & Portraits! They are willing to come back to our church for a photo session for any new members and families or members who were not able to have their picture taken at our previous sessions.

We need **15 members, new members, or friends** to commit to have their picture taken to schedule a new session at our church.

Please let our church office know if you are interested.

DEADLINE for notification is MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29.



Smile!!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

JANUARY 2016



Wednesday Fellowship Night @ First UCC

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

*Contemporary Worship Service: 5:30 p.m.

*First Choir: 6:30 p.m.

*1st Wednesday of the month: Youth Night

- 1 **Happy New Year 2016*
- 3 *Sunday School & Confirmation Classes resume: 9:10 a.m.
- 9 *“Undecorate” the Church: beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 12 *Christian Fellowship: 6:30 p.m.
- 17 *Sunday School Choir sings: 10:30 worship service
- *Sunday School Bowling at Riviera Bowl: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 21 *Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 24 *Pulpit Exchange Sunday
- *Coffee Fellowship

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

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

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

Adult Bible Study 9:10-10:20 a.m.

The first SCOOP of 2016 is sponsored
by Ted & Millie Larsen.

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

MEMORIALS REPORT

No Memorials were received in November.



RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

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

Mark & Rhonda Pierick and Krystal & Kyle Carlson, In loving memory of Diane Richards
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter,
In loving memory of Merton Moely.
Peggy Ganser.
Emily Fuchs and Rose Kleinert,
In loving memory of Lyle Kleinert, Dave Kleinert, Harvey Schoen, and Marianna Reiger.

♥ January Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Duane & Dianna Woerpel, 56 years on January 9
John & Pat Shelby, 51 years on January 16
Thomas & Marilyn O'Donnell, 54 years on January 27

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in January!
Please let us know if we missed your special day!

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Nadene Litscher	Bill Steckelberg		Laura Kapp	Ben Kapp	
Mark & Rhonda Pierick	Jamie & Karen Wittwer		Jake McCaulley	Jacob Kapp	
			Diane Bensenberg	Dave & Shirlee Lendved	

January 3, 2016 Communion Servers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Galen Alwin	Tim Homar
Pam Alwin	Amanda McFarlane
Debbie Tschudy	Tom McFarlane
Herman Tschudy	Bill Steckelberg

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon; Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and by appointment; E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org
Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249

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

Sunday School News

From Margaret McFarlane



Classes will resume on January 3rd at 9:10 a.m. We will celebrate January birthdays.

Thank you to Dana Gee for painting the outlines on the 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 60 carolers on November 29th! 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 17th at the 10:30 service.

We are planning a bowling party on Sunday, January 17, 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 March 6th, due to the Annual Meeting

As a fundraiser, the Sunday School will continue to sell Culver's gift cards. There are order forms in the library or e-mail your order to:

mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com

We continue to **collect new and gently-used clothes and diapers** for children ages newborn through 5 years. Please place your items in the bassinette in the back of church. Our donations have been very appreciated by the families who have received them!!



***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 60 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:

Rod & Carol Hehenberger
Debbie Tschudy
Tom & Amanda McFarlane
Dianna Woerpel
Gary & Sandy Schlender & Friends
Sharal Steuber
Liz Bongard
Millie Larsen
Marlene Larsen
Felix Giboney
Kathy Johnson & Vera
Tom Ward
Pastor Bill

Kari Larsen
Rita Larsen
Charmaine Carter & Ward
Micki Cruse
Marcia Nachreiner
Shirlee Lendved
Dorene Stoffels
Sherry Pieper
Brian Kerr
Beth Huerth
Myra Ballweg
Sherry Bongard
Chris Garcia

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

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

