



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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JANUARY 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th and runs until Ash Wednesday on March 1st. Epiphany is the season of the church year that celebrates the coming of the Magi as the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles.

Historically, the celebration of the Epiphany is older than Christmas. Christmas originated in the Western church during the fourth century. The festival of the Epiphany can be traced to the late second century in Egypt. On this day, the appearance of God was told through three stories: the visit of the Magi and the presence of God known in the blazing star; the baptism of Christ and the appearance of God in the form of a dove; and the miracle at Cana with God's presence coming to light by turning water into wine.

All three spoke to the physical presence of God in and through creation. All of these events are chapters in the story of how a helpless infant born in a Bethlehem stable brought salvation to the world. Epiphany is the extension of the Christmas story. The Holy Child in the manger was also the God who created the universe.

The three Magi, representing the races of humanity, paid homage to the newborn Savior with gifts. One brought gold, a royal gift celebrating Christ's role as sovereign of the people of the Jewish faith and his dominion in this world. Another brought frankincense, a fragrance that heralded the child's role as high priest. And yet another brought myrrh, a symbol of the healing the Savior would bring to the world and the sorrows he would take on.

The Magi were a group of priestly scholars who devoted themselves not only to the study of religion but to the natural sciences, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and astrology. They devoted their lives to seeking wisdom.

The message of the Magi is further enacted with a house blessing, traditionally shared on January 6th. Family members ask a minister to come to their home and bless it for the coming year. Blessings of good health, humility, and goodness are pronounced.

During Epiphany we celebrate the world receiving the light in the faces of the Magi. We listen to the story of humankind recognizing its need for God, and turning from the dimness of human knowledge to journey toward the light of Christ.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill



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! 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 @ 6:45 p.m.



Contemporary Worship Service

Have you attended our worship service on Wednesday evenings? It is a casual, contemporary service at 6:00 that is fun, come-as-you-are and lasts 30-40 minutes. 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!

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.

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!

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

Sunday School News

From Margaret McFarlane



📢 Classes will resume on January 8th 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 75 carolers on December 4! 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! Our total was 225 pounds.

📢 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 15 at the 10:30 service.

📢 We are planning a bowling party on Sunday, January 15, 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 5th, due to the Annual Meeting



As a fundraiser, The Sunday School will continue to sell Culver's gift cards. Why not buy a card for yourself and they, also, make great gifts! Our Sunday School earns 15% of each sale. There are order forms in the library or e-mail your order to:

mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com



If you use **Facebook**, please think about being "our friend" at First United Church of Christ-Sauk City.

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 50 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
Marlene Larsen
Kathy Johnson & Vera
Pastor Bill
Patsy Hering
Tim & Katie Homar
Jenny & Carley Brickl
Chris Logterman
Peggy Ganser
Sue Willett
Stephanie Seiler
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter

Doug, Kari & Gavin Larsen
Rita Larsen
Micki & Donna Cruse
Sherry Pieper
Sami Huerth
Myra Ballweg
Sherry Bongard
Chris Garcia
Jeff Englebretson &
Cathy Brewer
Mari Mitchell
Laurie Kerl
Vern Young
Jessie Corning
Shelly Hemesath
Cindy Baker

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

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



**CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 15, 2016**

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill's Report: (1) Bell ringing for Salvation Army. St. John's Lutheran, Concordia, and National Honor Society yet to ring. (2) Youth retreat: 23 youth and guides attending February 10-12, 2017, grades 6-12. (3) Stewardship Campaign: "Go and Do The Same" - received 46 pledges for 2017. (4) Back Bay Mission - placed request for June 2018. E-mail list of congregation members to aid in communication.

Approval of Financial Reports and Invoices:
No financial reports or invoices submitted.

Committee Reports:

Building & Maintenance: (1) Elevator carpet replaced/ramp painted – looks nice! (2) Crack in sidewalk – cannot caulk until weather is warmer. (3) Badger Basement Systems to look at water in main kitchen – possible sump pump needed. (4) Waiting on bid for wall in main kitchen. (5) To adjust weight/balance on new downstairs bathroom door (heavy). (6) Stain glass window/outside – new clips needed? (7) Church lights – very high. Looking to possibly lower some of the lights 3 feet to make changing bulbs easier, replace with LEDs. Motion to move forward made by Mark, second made by Kurt, motion passed. (8) Building & Maintenance meeting to be scheduled in January, 2017.

Christian Fellowship: (1) HELP toy washing – approximately 15 people helped wash on Tuesday night, December 13th. (2) Craft & Bake sale on Christmas Music Festival Sunday. (3) Coffee Fellowship this Sunday, 12/18/16.

Finance: Meeting to be scheduled to prepare for annual meeting.

Members In Ministry: Actively making visits and taking communion to shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly. Always seeking volunteers to join.

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) Collected 225 pounds of donations for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. (2) Went caroling at Maplewood Village and The Pines. (3) Selling special ornaments this Sunday. (4) Continuing to sell Culver's gift cards. (5) Sunday School Christmas Program this Sunday. (6) Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Bible Study will not meet 12/25/16 or 1/1/17. All classes will resume 1/8/17.

Ongoing Business: (1) Church kitchen door - a work in progress. (2) Carolyn Kennedy Ordination: To meet with the Associate Conference Minister on January 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (3) Church phone system – line cannot be repaired. Rose will contact Frontier to discuss options. (4) Campital Campaign – fundraising sign being made.

New Business: (1) Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 5th, following a 9:00 a.m. service. There will be no Sunday School that Sunday. (2) Discussed potential building projects for 2017 – kitchen and dining hall floor discussed. (3) Discussed potential nominees for Consistory. Two spots available as Rose and Debby's terms will be fulfilled. Thank you both for all you have done! (4) 2017 Communion and Usher schedules – if unable to serve on your assigned day, please let Rose or Mark know, or find a replacement.

Next Consistory Meeting: January 19, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Mark, second by Shirlee, motion carried.

Closing/Lord's Prayer: 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 5th -- 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 5th 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.



Pulpit Exchange

In January, we will celebrate the *Week of Prayer for Christians* with a pulpit exchange on Sunday, January 22. Rev. John Smith, First Presbyterian Church, will be leading us in worship. Pastor Bill will be at Concordia United Methodist Church.



Our church secretary will be on medical leave beginning January 16. If you would like to see Pastor Bill, please call him at 370-2249 to make an appointment. Pastor Bill will be checking the answering machine routinely. There will be **no** newsletters in February, March, and April.



Undecorating Party

All are invited to help with our annual "undecorating" party at church on Saturday, January 7, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Tammie Huerth at (608)963-4311.



Attention Communion Servers: If you aren't able to serve Communion on an assigned Sunday, please contact Rose Kleinert at 370-1306 or Mark Pierick at 643-8107.



BLESSINGS & THANKS

FROM THE HEART!

To our most loving, caring and understanding Pastor Bill ~ for his abundant love and thanks for leading the way to our great shepherd. Your faith, prayers, and knowledge to guide me to a full recovery can never be repaid. For all the members who kept me in their prayers and hearts with cards, flowers, and loving words of kindness ~ a mere thank you could never repay for the strength and courage you sent my way during recovery. With the greatest love and hope, **Love Rose Kleinert**



With Appreciation

As we entered our church on November 27, we were welcomed by the transformation of "Christmas Everywhere." I sincerely want to thank **Tammie Huerth** and **Kathy Johnson**, who once again brought us light, love, and faith as they wove their talents for all of us to enjoy. Thanks, also, for the many hands who came and put in place their creativity


in helping decorate. Thank you to **Emily Fuchs** for preparing her delicious chili luncheon that was enjoyed by all!! What a group effort! **Bless you all, Lois Pieper**

From Christian Fellowship

A special thank you to all our Church "elves" that helped decorate for Advent & Christmas on November 26: **Tammie Huerth; Kathy & Larry Johnson; Ed & Rita Larsen; Morgan Larsen; Don, Sandy, Everett, & Lindzi Larsen; Dianna Woerpel; Sherry Pieper; Carol Hehenberger; Donna Kaufman; and Cecy Haines.**

A special thank you to **Charmaine Carter, Emily Fuchs, Rose Kleinert, and Fritz Wyttenbach** for hosting our Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 18. Thank you for all the delicious treats you brought in, everyone really enjoyed them! Blessings to you!

On Sunday, December 11th, at our 2016 Christmas Music Festival, Christian Fellowship sponsored a Bake & Craft Sale. Thanks to everyone who donated delicious treats and beautiful crafts! We were able to raise \$453.25 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 **Liz Bongard; Barb Brock; Kari & Morgan Larsen; Don, Sandy, Everett, & Lindzi Larsen; Chris Logterman; Cliff Lawton; and Cindy & Haley Baker** for ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Piggly Wiggly and Sentry on December 10th.



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

Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, and First Choir; 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. toy drive; our Sunday School teachers and assistants; ushers and communion servers; Advent candlelighters; our snow shoveling "elves"; and, last but not least, Chris, our custodian. Your time, talents, and efforts during this season are **GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

Financial Information through November 2016

Total Income	\$162,321.89
Total Expenses	\$201,441.18
Net	(-) \$ 39,119.29



FOOD PANTRY

The Sauk Prairie area churches and service organizations take turns helping at the Food Pantry. On Saturday, January 21, we need seven to 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. 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.



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.

*Christmas 2016 Greenery
& Poinsettia Dedications*



*"To my family and friends,
Please be thankful today;
I'm still close beside you,
In a new special way.
I love you all dearly,
Try not to shed a tear;
Cause I'm spending my Christmas
with Jesus this year."*

*Lois Pieper,
The evergreen wreaths at the entrance on
Washington Avenue are in honor of our
two talented musicians, Dennis Kahn &
Kristy Litscher, who have once again
provided our Christmas Season and
Church year with a reason to rejoice
always!*

*Russ & Sherry Pieper,
In loving memory of their parents*

*Tom Gasner,
In loving memory of his father,
Rene Gasner*

*Cecy Haines,
In loving memory of
her husband, Pete Haines
and her father, Alan Von Behren, Sr.*

*Sharal Steuber,
In loving memory of her husband,
Theron Steuber*

*Katie Smith,
In loving memory of
Bill Hegerfeld & Douglas Smith*

*Rod & Carol Hehenberger,
In loving memory of their parents
Donald & Ruth Hehenberger
Ray & Luella Jensen*

*Dorothy Kundert,
In loving memory of her
husband, Duane Kundert &
daughter, Dr. Kristine Krummenauer*

*Cathy Brewer & Cindy Baker,
In loving memory of their Sister Sue*

*The Bongard Children, Grandchildren, &
Great Grandchildren,
In loving memory of Vic Bongard
& In honor & celebration of Liz Bongard*

*The Dickerson Family,
In loving memory of
Mary Krueger, Carol Dickerson,
& Terry Dickerson;
Gaige & Zona Dickerson; &
Glenn & Vera Dickerson*

*Larry, Nettie, Rhonda,
Gayle, Andrea & Jacob Gander,
In loving memory of their
son, brother, & uncle,
Larry Dean Gander*

*Buford Wicklund,
In loving memory of his dear wife,
Dorothea Wicklund*

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

JANUARY 2017

"Come, Let Us Adore Him!"



Wednesday Fellowship Night @ First UCC

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

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

*First Choir: 6:45 p.m.

- 1 ***Happy New Year 2017!**
- *Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. with Communion
- 7 *“Undecorate” the Church: beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 8 *Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study Classes resume: 9:10 a.m.
- 10 *Christian Fellowship: 6:30 p.m.
- 15 *Sunday School Choir sings: 10:30 worship service
- *Sunday School Bowling at Riviera Bowl: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 19 *Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 21 *First U.C.C. helping at the Food Pantry
- 22 *Pulpit Exchange Sunday

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



MEMORIALS REPORT

Memorials were received in November in memory of:

Ruth Hehenberger
Lewis Peterson
Yvonne Richmond



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 their mother and grandmother, Diane Richards.

Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, In loving memory of Marcy's father, Merton Moely.

January Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Terry & Cindy Steuber, 35 years on January 2
Duane & Dianna Woerpel, 57 years on January 9
John & Pat Shelby, 52 years on January 16
Thomas & Marilyn O'Donnell, 55 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

8:00	January	10:30	8:00	February	10:30
Nadene Litscher	Bill Steckelberg		Laura Kapp	Ben Kapp	
Mark & Rhonda Pierick	Jamie & Karen Wittwer		Jake McCaulley	Jacob Kapp	
			Lois Price	Dave & Shirlee Lendved	

January 1, 2017 Communion Servers

8:00	10:30
Herm & Debbie Tschudy	Tim Homar Tom McFarlane Amanda Moseman Bill Steckelberg

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00 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