



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The story of Christ's birth is wonderful news! Our redeemer has come, the Son of God, who takes away the sin of the world. The choir sang with joy on Christmas Eve the lyric, "*...did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King, with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring? Did you see how they bowed, as they praised Him aloud at His birth?*"

Jesus was the promised Messiah to those in the Jewish faith tradition, and yet, the Christ child was also recognized as God incarnate by those outside the faith.

Epiphany happens this year on Sunday January 6. It is observed twelve days after Christmas and is one of the oldest Christian feasts. Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when Epiphany is celebrated.

Who were these Magi? They were astrologers and scientists, a learned class in ancient Persia, not part of the Jewish tradition. Scripture refers to them as wise men or kings. They were distinguished foreigners traveling from the region of modern day Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Why did they come to Bethlehem? Scripture indicates the Magi were following a star. They came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." The Magi believed that a star could be a Fravashi (angel) of a great man.

It was important for the Magi to make that journey to Bethlehem because they wanted to honor the child king. They followed His star until it stopped over the place where the child was staying. Scripture indicates they were overjoyed, and upon entering the house, they knelt down and opened their treasure chests.

What gifts did the Magi bring? Gold, brought by Caspar, represents our gifts of substance. Frankincense, brought by Melchior, represents our inner treasure of thought and influence. And the gift of myrrh, brought by Balthazar, was precious and therefore a gift fit for a king. Myrrh was often used in embalming and stands for our sorrow and suffering (perhaps a foreshadowing of Christ's crucifixion).

The birth of Jesus was good news for many and changed the world forever. He was the promised savior the Hebrew prophets spoke of. His birth was first revealed to lowly shepherds who were considered ritually unclean and unwelcome in the synagogue. Christ's birth was even recognized by those outside of the Jewish faith. What good news of great joy! May the light of Christ guide you in 2019.

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 3rd -- for an Annual Meeting. Business to be conducted includes a review of 2018, plans for our future, adoption of the 2019 budget, and election of Finance Committee and/or Consistory members. The March 3rd 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.



2019 Annual Report

Copies of the **2019 Annual Report** will be available in the back of Church beginning Sunday, February 17th.



First U.C.C. Website

Thank you to Laura Breunig for her contributions to updating the Church's website over the last few years. We will be transitioning in 2019 with someone else.



The Sauk Prairie area churches and service organizations take turns helping at the Food Pantry. On Saturday, January 19, 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 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.



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. We collected \$11,411.23. Congratulations!!!!!!





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.

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.



Our Wednesday evening worship service 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 to Pastor Bill for leading us in worship every Wednesday.

For more info, contact:

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

Dear Consistory,

Our congregation has been bustling throughout the Advent season. It has been a total joy to observe and engage in the different activities that have happened around the church over the past few weeks.

I have most enjoyed watching the members of our faith community blossom and flourish in their respective ministries. Whether it is cleaning a toy, visiting a homebound member with communion, getting a costume ready for the Sunday school Christmas program, singing, ringing the bell on behalf of the Salvation Army or donating to our local school and food pantry. We are making a positive difference in Sauk Prairie.

I appreciate those of you on consistory who have given countless hours to the ministry of First UCC. You are leaders in our church and I can't thank you enough for all that you do. In terms of my report:

First UCC will host the Imhoff-Smith/Bebeau wedding rehearsal at church 12/28 and a wedding on 12/29. The couple has paid their church rental fees and I will be the hospitality coordinator for this event.

Two more youth have signed on for the January 18-20, 2019 retreat at the Wilderness. That means our group will need to get one more hotel room and one more adult chaperone to accommodate our numbers. We will now need to raise \$2,125 to cover the cost of four hotel rooms and four chaperones. Our total number for the retreat will be 18 people (14 youth and 4 adults). One fundraiser has already been held and another will be on the way early in 2019. As a friendly reminder, I will be at the retreat on that Sunday so Kurt Schultz will lead worship.

I mentioned last month that I had not heard back from Credo by the November 10 reporting date. Credo is a weeklong pastor's enrichment program funded by the United Church of Christ that concentrates on four interrelated dimensions of clergy wellness: Spiritual, Vocational, Physical/Psychological Health and Financial. This year the program will be held May 14-20, 2019 at the Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn outside of Richmond, Virginia. I assumed my registration did not go through and maybe I would try to register again next year. But then, I heard back from the United Church of Christ a few days after our November consistory meeting and they indicated I had been put on a waiting list. A week later, I received an email that indicated a participant had cancelled out and there was one available spot. I got that last spot.

Stewardship Sunday follow up letter was sent out to the congregation in late November. Hopefully a couple more pledge cards will be turned in over the next couple of weeks. As of now, 53 pledges have been made totaling \$112,964.

First UCC will once again participate in the ecumenical Week for Christian Unity, which leads up to a pulpit exchange scheduled for Sunday January 27, 2019. I plan to participate, which means we will have a rotating pastor leading worship at First UCC and I will preach somewhere else in the community on that day.

With the greatest of Hope!

Regards,
Pastor Bill

December 26, 2018

What was that awful noise??

Some of you may have been in church this last year when our overhead Loud Speakers have blasted out a burst of uncomfortable noise. Sometimes it sounds like a garbled conversation, sometimes a hard rock song. Fortunately it happens only for a few seconds at a time and rather infrequently. It is however always at peak volume and has made for some unfortunate moments during both church and funeral services. We have made every effort to add filters and track down this issue so I thought I would share what our status is.

You may have noticed some of the new donated sound equipment we have been working with this past year, since summer. It consists of a small modern sound mixing panel, all new microphones and recently a set of four handheld wireless microphones for special events. This has greatly improved the sound of our church choirs (both large and small) over the radio and improved the sound for Contemporary Worship and special events such as Sunday school programs and the Winter Cantata. None of this new equipment has been the source of our outburst issue. As some of you may know we are upgrading our church phone system in early 2019 and adding high speed internet connectivity into the church. This will allow for an upgraded phone system and also many possible uses of high speed internet for both our church programming and that of the 4K program. It will also allow us to transmit our church service audio to the radio station with much better fidelity. To accomplish this improvement we need to rework the audio equipment in our radio sound room. This equipment was lovingly hand built in the 1970s and has performed admirably. Unfortunately, much of the broadcast spectrum in this country has been removed from the uses of the 1990s and given over to cell phone providers for our insatiable demand for high-speed cellular phone services. This is subjecting our audio room equipment to outside interference it was never designed to reject and that is what is allowing the loud outbursts of noise in the church.

The reason I share this rather technical report with all of you is that we are making great strides to upgrade some of the older systems of the church that have not been upgraded since the 70s. The possibilities of what we can do with all this modern connectivity is limited more by our imagination than the technology. If any of you have ideas how we can improve our church and the appeal of our services to more people, I would love to hear from you. Of course if you are interested in donating funds to boost the level of equipment we will be installing, the church would love to hear from you also. Finally as always, if any of you have ideas or concerns about the church buildings and property I would encourage you to contact me so that we may discuss.

Sincerely,

Dean Dahnert

Building & Maintenance

Personal Email: dbdahnert@gmail.com

Christian Fellowship Minutes
No Meeting in December

Christian fellowship would like to wish all of you a very joyous, peaceful, healthy and happy New Year!



Our Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th, @ 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Dianna Woerpel's home, located at 711 8th Street.

- *Ideas for fellowship events for 2019*



FROM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talent to First United Church of Christ's annual Craft & Bake Sale. Things made with our hands, come straight from the heart.

Thank you also to the many who purchased items from our table! We earned \$427.00, we are grateful & blessed to have a loving and supportive congregation.

Thank you to the ladies of Christian Fellowship who are always willing to help with Coffee Fellowship time. Special thanks to Deb Tschudy, Dianna Woerpel, and Charmaine Carter for baking and manning in December.



PULPIT EXCHANGE SUNDAY

First UCC will once again participate in the Ecumenical Week for Christian Unity, which leads up to a pulpit exchange scheduled for Sunday, January 27. Pastor Bill will preach somewhere in the community, and we will have a rotating pastor leading worship at First U.C.C.

STOCK THE SCHOOLS! SAUK PRAIRIE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEED

January's items are granola bars and mechanical pencils, markers, and colored pencils. Thank you!



COMMUNITY DINNER

6:8 Community Meal is held every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Time: 5-7pm. Address: 821 Industry Dr., Sauk City. **FREE FOR ALL**. Childcare available.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SCOOP

JANUARY 2019



Wednesday Fellowship Night

- *Casual Dinner in Dining Room: 5:30 p.m.
- *Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 p.m.
- *12 Step Bible Study: 6:45 p.m.
- *First Choir: 6:45 p.m.

- 1 *Happy New Year 2019!
- 6 *Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study Classes resume: 9:10 a.m.
- 8 *Christian Fellowship: 6:30 p.m.
- 15 *Finance Committee: 7:00 p.m.
- 17 *Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 19 *First U.C.C. helping at the Food Pantry: 9:00-11:15 a.m.
- 20 *Sunday School Family Sunday:
 - *Sunday School Choir Sings: 10:30 worship service
 - *Sunday School Bowling at the Riviera Bowl: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 27 *Pulpit Exchange Sunday

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

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

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

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

Rev. Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment; Office phone: 643-8387;

Pastor E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org; Cell 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

Website: www.ucc-saukcity.org

MEMORIALS REPORT

Memorials were received in
December in memory of:

Marlys Yurowski

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

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

Mark & Rhonda Pierick, Krystal & Tyler Martin,
Kyle & Aria Carlson, and Geena Sumner-
Moore, in loving memory of Diane Richards.

Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, in loving memory
of Merton Moely.

Emily Fuchs, in loving memory of Lyle Kleinert.

Rose Kleinert, in loving memory of Dave Klei-
nert.

♥ January Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

George & Julie Perry, 51 years on January 6

Duane & Dianna Woerpel, 59 years on January 9

Thomas & Marilyn O'Donnell, 57 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	Lois Price	Rick & Jeanann		
Mark & Rhonda	Jamie & Karen		Breining		
Pierick	Wittwer				

January 6 Communion Servers

8:00	10:30
Barb Brock	Tom McFarlane Amanda Moseman Bill Steckelberg



From Margaret McFarlane

Classes will resume on January 6th 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 and Confirmation students who helped paint them. They look wonderful!

We had a total of 59 carolers on December 2nd! 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 Sunday School and Confirmation students did a wonderful job on the Christmas program. They deserve lots of praise for their hard work! Thanks to the staff, parents, Theresa Grimes, Nadene & Sydney Litscher, Denny Kahn, Marcia Nachreiner, Heather Miller, Pastor Bill, and Cindy Baker for helping make the program a reality.

The Sunday School choir will sing on January 20th at the 10:30 service.

We are planning a bowling party on Sunday, January 20th, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., at the Riviera Bowl. The price is \$3.00 per bowler (spectators are free). The Sunday School will pay the balance.

Looking ahead: There will be no Sunday School on March 3rd, 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 a percentage of each sale. If you don't catch us on the third Sunday, e-mail your order to:

mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com



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 75 adults. Many thanks for all the wonderful donations. We had a wonderful 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:

Ed & Marlene Larsen
Carol Hehenberger
Debbie Tschudy
Tom McFarlane
Dianna Woerpel
Gary & Sandy Schlender
Amanda Moseman
Charmaine Carter
Pastor Bill
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter
Ed Lehan

Sherry Pieper
Kari & Morgan Larsen
Micki Cruse
Shirlee Lendved
Chris Garcia
Rose Kleinert
Dale Kowalski
Marcia Nachreiner
Deb & Lynn Laufenberg
The 32 volunteers from
Quartz Insurance

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

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