

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Well, here we are in a brand new year. Thank goodness. I don't know about you, but I am so ready to turn the page.

There were a few ups (but mostly downs) in 2020. The social distancing brought about by the coronavirus was anxiety producing. It forced us to change how we interact with those around us, and for many of our church members, that meant forced isolation.

The impact of COVID-19 on our church life was significant. We were forced to cancel public worship and Christian education. Church committees couldn't meet the way they were used to meeting. Our mission and outreach was adversely affected for a period of time. The pastor was not able to make his customary communion visits and hospital calls.

Many churches decided to shut down and cease operations until things got better. At First UCC, however, we took the challenges of 2020 as an opportunity to try doing our ministry in different ways. Our radio broadcast was enhanced with an all new digital format. Our Sunday school and committees went virtual - using the Internet as a way to connect. When we were able to get back in the sanctuary, the consistory made significant changes to the worship format to mitigate the spread of the virus. Our mission and outreach continued but in a different way. The pastor even tried doing outside visits with the "Pastor on the Patio" initiative.

There were many changes in 2020. Change can be difficult, especially in the life of the church. And yet, we did so successfully!

As I look forward to 2021, I feel a sense of hope and joyful expectation. There is much ministry to be done. We will still have to deal with Covid in 2021, and yet, I am filled with optimism.

The reason for my optimism is simple - it's because of the members and friends of First UCC. You have made our ministry possible and will continue to do so moving forward.

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 7th -- for an Annual Meeting. Business to be conducted includes a review of 2020, plans for our future, adoption of the 2021 budget, and election of Finance Committee and/or Consistory members.



2021 Annual Report

Copies of the **2021 Annual Report** will be available beginning Sunday, February 21. Please call the Church Office if you would like a copy mailed to you.
Church Secretary



STOCK THE SCHOOLS! SAUK PRAIRIE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEED

Three boxes of peanut butter & jelly and shampoo & conditioner were delivered to SP Middle School on December 17. January's items are granola bars and mechanical pencils, markers, and colored pencils. Place your donations in the red bin. Thank you!



Church Secretary

Our church secretary will be having surgery in January and will be out of the office beginning January 21st.



We really want to thank our Church family at U.C.C. for making so many calls since I fell and injured my knee. Also thanks to Emily, Rose, and Peggy who left so many goodies for us this holiday season. **God's Blessings and Prayers, Larry & Nettie Gander**

Dear Pastor Kapp & First U.C.C. Members: Thank you so much for your continued donations to the "Stock the Schools" program. In our current pandemic times, so many parents are finding it hard to meet the needs of their families. Your donations of shampoo & conditioner and peanut butter & jelly will be put to **very good** use! Please all of you, stay safe and healthy over the holidays!! **Sincerely, Susan Baumann Duren, SPSD Social Worker**

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

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SCOOP
JANUARY 2021



This month's SCOOP is sponsored by Rod Lysenko, in loving memory of his mother and long-time member of First U.C.C., Reta Lysenko.

January

- 1 ✨ Happy New Year!
- 12 ✨ Christian Fellowship: 6:00 p.m. - Virtual
- 21 ✨ Consistory: 6:30 p.m.

ALL VIRTUAL

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m. - broadcast over WRPQ 740AM and 99.7FM

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation: 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00
Pastor a.m. and by appointment; Office phone: 643-8387;
E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org; Cell phone: 370-2249

MEMORIALS REPORT

Memorials were received in December in loving memory of:

Florence Markgraf
Verna Von Behren

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

We thank the December sponsors of our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Dianna Woerpel, in loving memory of her beloved husband, Duane Woerpel, and their 61st Wedding Anniversary on January 9th.

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

Lois Pieper, in gratitude to our church members who decorated the church for Christmas.

♥ JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY ♥

George & Julie Perry, 53 years on January 6
Thomas & Marilyn O'Donnell, 59 years on January 27

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

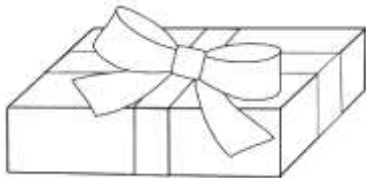




Margaret McFarlane & Brigitta Brickl
Co-Superintendents



* The Sauk Prairie Food Pantry was grateful for our donations from the Harvest Home Table. We also collected \$125 in monetary donations.



* On Sunday, December 13, we had a drive-up/drop off of white gifts. We have been unable to have many of our traditional events this year, however we wanted to offer an opportunity for our students to reach out to those in need in our community. Both Sunday School and Confirmation families were invited to drop off white gifts for H.E.L.P. They also received their annual Christmas goodie bags. It was great to see so many smiling faces!



* The Sunday School will continue selling Culver's Cards.



* Many thanks to the students that participated in the Sunday School Christmas Program Movie. Special thanks to Brigitta Brickl and Dean Dahnert for all their hard work! If you have not watched the movie, you can find the link on FB or through the Bitmoji Classroom, on the church webpage.

Winter Break



* We will **NOT** have Sunday School virtual lessons or Confirmation Google Meet classes on Sunday, December 27 and January 5. These are the dates for the scheduled Sunday School Winter Break.



Thank You For Making H.E.L.P. A Success!

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

The H.E.L.P. (Help Excite Little People) Project was again a great success! Due to Covid 19, everything was very different this year. Families filled out wish lists and we fulfilled their wishes as best as we were able with the gently used toys and items for teens that we collected from our church and the community. We had a wonderful variety of good, used toys, and many brand new things. As in the past, the monetary donations were appreciated and were used to buy batteries, and items for teens. On the day of the distribution we provided 33 families with Christmas gifts to give their child/children. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our Sauk Prairie children and youth!

Special thanks to.....

- * Church staff who helped carry in the donated items from the collection bins
- * The “elves” who diligently washed and repaired items at church or picked up boxes to clean at home
- * Members and friends in the community for all the wonderful donations
- * Those who read our list on FB of items needed and went out to purchase or order them
- * The Sunday School for sharing their donations of white gifts
- * Members that generously gave monetary donations, so we could fulfill wishes
- * Individuals and families that helped carry all the organized boxes and bags upstairs, the day before the distribution
- * Those who helped carry out the items to the parents and grandparents who came to pick up their gifts

♥♥ Heartfelt thanks for making the holidays brighter for our Sauk Prairie children and youth!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The stewardship committee did not meet in December. Sherri Roberts delivered a stewardship message during the December 13 service. Linda Lehan will provide a message on behalf of the committee in January. The committee will be writing thank-you notes to those who returned their pledge cards. At this time 53 pledge cards have been returned.

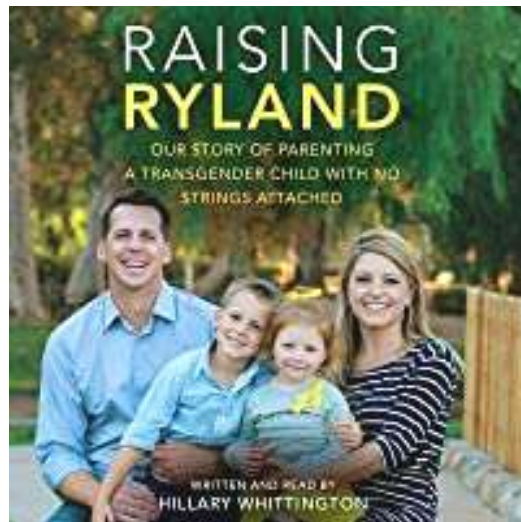


STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

As we enter a new year, we look back at 2020 and our stewardship theme; **“Our Attitude is Gratitude”**. With all the challenges facing First United Church of Christ, our communities, state, and nation, your generosity allowed us to accomplish many important missions. Here are some of the items you have enabled:

- *\$18,000 pledged to Our Church’s Wider Mission.
- *2 casitas built with funds donated to Mabel’s Mission
- *Monthly supplies collected for Stock for Schools
- *100s of pounds of food donated to SP Food Pantry
- *HELP toy drive served 33 families
- *School supply drive for SP Middle School
- *Members in Ministry, Christian Fellowship, Sunday School and others continue to serve and engage our members and children.

It is apparent that our congregation at First United Church of Christ has taken our stewardship theme, “Our Attitude is Gratitude” to heart. Despite all the challenges of 2020, YOU have made a difference in the lives of so many! Let’s build on this great start as we look forward to 2021.



O & A Book Study

Are you interested in learning more about LGBTQ+ stories? The O & A Committee is organizing a book study around Raising Ryland, the real-life story of a young transgender boy and his family.

We will be having Zoom discussions on February 21, 2021 at 2:00pm and February 25, 2021 at 5pm. You could also check it out from the library.

A short video on YouTube gives you an overview of Ryland's story. If you need a copy of the book, please contact the church office at 643-8387 by January 17. Also, please give the email address you want the Zoom invitation to go to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcD5NOIaIQo>

Consistory Minutes

First United Church of Christ

Thursday December 17, 2020

Those Present: Pastor Bill, Dean Dahnert, Don Larsen, Peggy Ganser, Heather Miller, Marcy Thurwachter, Tammy Young, Mark Pierick, Kurt Schultz, Tammie Huerth

✚ Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Pastor Bill's Report

- See Report in January scoop

✚ Committee Reports and Updates:

- Building & Maintenance
 - Nothing new to report
- Christian Fellowship
 - Next virtual meeting will be in January 2021
- Finance
 - Next virtual meeting will be in January 2021
- Members in Ministry
 - Peggy delivered slices of pie to a few members
 - Some Christmas cards have been delivered to our Assisted Living members
 - Calls are still being made
- Sunday School/Church Youth Program
 - See report in January SCOOP
- Stewardship
 - Next virtual meeting will be in January 2021
- Open & Affirming
 - Next virtual meeting will be in January 2021

✚ Ongoing Business Update

- No ongoing business

✚ New Business Issues

- Pastor Bill would like to take a sabbatical from May 23, 2021 until Monday, August 16, 2021
- Tammie Huerth made a motion to approve Pastor Bill's three month sabbatical, Kurt Schultz seconded. Motion passed

Don Larsen made a motion to adjourn, Mark Pierick seconded. Meeting Adjourned

✚ Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Next Consistory Meeting: January 21, 2021

Dear Consistory,

I'm so appreciative of the leadership you have displayed in this year of supreme challenge. COVID-19 has forced us to make difficult changes.

It started this past March when you had to make the decision to suspend in-person worship and Christian education for three months. That decision was made out of an abundance of caution and concern for the well-being of our church members and for the entire Sauk Prairie community. It was the right move to make.

Since then, you have developed/applied procedures for our church to use so that we could reopen & have in-person worship from July to mid-November. These were incredibly effective procedures and, as a result, we negotiated Covid during the warmer months. I'm sure all of the people who were able to attend in-person worship these last few months are grateful.

Most recently, you decided to suspend in-person worship for Christmas Eve & also suspend Sunday morning in-person worship and Christian education until the COVID-19 curve starts to fall.

These have not been easy or comfortable decisions to make. Thank you for the time & diligence you have put in to making sure that our church is the best that it can be.

In terms of my report:

- 1.) I participated in a clergy development group meeting on December 4 and presented a case study. It was a most helpful discussion. I'm grateful for the advice and guidance my ministerial colleagues gave me during this meeting.
- 2.) I lead two virtual Bible studies on Zoom (12/8 & 12/10) that were sponsored by our church O&A subcommittee. I thought they went well. I will try Google Meet as the virtual platform for future studies.
- 3.) I have two funerals this week: Janet Clemens on Wednesday at 1 PM and Duane Bryant on Thursday at 11 AM. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve these families during a most challenging time.
- 4.) I am recommending that we have a Plan B at the ready for our Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 7. I am suggesting we try the virtual realm if we cannot attend an in-person meeting by then. I don't see why we couldn't get a quorum by encouraging members to go online to join us for this meeting. We already have the choir, Sunday school, confirmation, adult Sunday school and a number of our committees meeting virtually. This will be another way in which we can overcome the challenges presented by Covid. Perhaps someone from the consistory would be willing to take the lead on this?
- 5.) I am suggesting we compile an email database (list serve) of our church membership so we can send out timely emails when we need to communicate with our membership on short notice.

Snail mail takes too long. Perhaps someone from the Consistory would be willing to take the lead on developing an email list of all of our members?

6.) I am planning to take a sabbatical in the summer of 2021. My plan is to have my last Sunday leading worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. I will be back in the office on Tuesday, August 17.

Shalom,
Pastor Bill

Christian Fellowship - 2021



We made it through a year that many, if not all, have ever experienced. Christian fellowship is more than ready to start planning some events for the church, but realistically it may not be until late Spring early Summer before we can safely gather again; as soon as we know, you will know. Until then we are thinking of everyone.

If anyone would like to come to one of our meetings please reach out, we love hearing new ideas and seeing new faces.

We look forward to seeing you on **January 12th @ 6:00pm via Zoom or outlook meet.**

Rose Kleinert, Chair (608) 370-1306 text or phone / email:
rosemarie@ramaker.com