

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP JANUARY 2024

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com • For the Youtube channel type:
“ [First UCC Sauk City Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor and solve the world's problems over a cup of coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the first cup.
Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)

This Month at First Church...

January 14 th	Coffee Fellowship
January 16 th	Finance Meeting
January 18 th	Consistory 6pm
January 20 th	Food Pantry

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387
Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org
Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926
Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org

Somebody, please, tell me how we got to 2024 already.

And somebody tell me, please, (if I can borrow from the poet Mary Oliver) what are we to do with “this one wild and precious” year.

New Year’s Day is not a holiday the church calendar recognizes, of course, but for me it has long been a day infused with deep, spiritual feeling. I think this is because this day, like our baptism or like Jesus’ call to his disciples to stand up and follow him or his call to the lame man to stand up and walk or to the blind man to open his eyes and see, holds in it the promise of a new beginning; the promise of a changed world where we can live as changed people.

Jesus heard the summons of John the Baptist to walk into the Jordan River to be baptized. He responded to that summons and the world has never been the same. Now, at the beginning of another new year, Jesus summons us to a new baptism of the Holy Spirit to empower us to live well and to follow him faithfully in the year ahead. He says to us something like the angel Gabriel said to Mary (and this is a very loose paraphrase), “Hey Mary—Ya’ wanna change the world?”

How about it, First Churchers? Ya’ wanna change the world?

I guess we’ll see, as what is likely to be a very challenging year unfolds around us.

We will be guided in our worship services, over the months between now and Easter, by the stories and teachings of Jesus as we have them in the Gospel of Mark. I’m challenging each of you to prepare for this season by opening the book and read that gospel for yourself—start to finish. If you find anything in it you’d like to explore let me know. I’ll be happy to by you a cup of coffee, or some other suitable beverage, and we can explore it together.

The Lenten season begins this year on February 15 with an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary (assuming I don’t get Covid this year, like I did last year, just in time to cancel that service). And then, for the next 5 Wednesday evenings we will again gather in the Fireside Room for a light supper of tasty soup and good bread, followed by a spirited conversation on a topic yet to be determined. I’m open to ideas if you have suggestions for what we might consider.

We will move toward the conclusion of Lent with a contemplative Maundy Thursday service on March 28th and solemn Good Friday gathering the next evening. And then we’ll set the rafters to ring when we gather to celebrate another new beginning on Easter Morning.

I love this season of the church year. And I am very much looking forward to walking with you through these dim winter days toward that bright morning.

In hope, always,

Brad Brookins



If you can't be with us in person, you have other options. And we'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live YouTube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services can also be seen on our YouTube channel. Type “First UCC Sauk City YouTube” into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone.

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.

CONSISTORY

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 18th at 6:00 pm.**

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There was no meeting in the month of December, members volunteered their time to wash toys for the H.E.L.P. project. Christian Fellowship will be on a short hiatus while some of our members become snowbirds until Easter! We will be in touch via email.



STOCK THE SCHOOLS for January



Granola Bars, Markers, Folders & Glue Sticks.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry delivered Christmas cookies to Maplewood and Pines nursing homes and to members in the nursing homes and shut-in members. We continue to make calls and visits. If you or someone you know would like a visit please contact Debbie at 608-963-4873.

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 to 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 @ 6:30 p.m.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

There was no meeting in the month of December, new meeting date to be determined.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- * Students helped clean items for the H.E.L.P. Project on December 3. Thank you to all who participated.
- * **BRAVO** to our students that participated in the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 10! They did a wonderful job of performing, *In The Spirit Of Love*. Many thanks to the students; parents; Sunday School and Confirmation staff- Nadene, Kari, Stacey, Katie, Morgan, Sam, Jeanann, Sharon; Music-Denny, Sherri; Costumes-Nadene and SS staff; Sound and Tech-Scott, Dean, and Evan; Details and office support-Pastor Brad; Sunday School alumni- Evan, Sam, Morgan, Ella, Madilyn; and the Gray family for sharing Georgia, playing the part of Baby Jesus.
- * Many thanks to all the families for their donations for H.E.L.P. on December 10.
- * Our classes had a Birthday Party for Jesus on December 17. Many thanks to Kari Larsen for making a wonderful birthday cake! Thanks to Morgan and Gavin for delivering and serving the cake.
- * January 7 is an activity Sunday. Students can exit with me to the kitchen on the 3rd floor. We will be focusing on the new year.
- * Starting Sunday, January 14, communion will be offered earlier in the service to allow for our students and staff to participate before they leave for class.
- * Our Annual Bowling Bash will be held on Sunday, January 21, at 1:00 at the Riviera Bowl. The price is \$2.00 per bowler (the Sunday School will pay the balance). All are welcome to join us! Please let me know if you are coming, so we have enough lanes. See phone and email below.
- * We need donations of cake mixes, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, balloons, and birthday candles during the month of January. On February 4, during the Sunday School period, the students will put together Birthday Bags for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry to distribute to recipients. Please look for the table in the church entrance (by the bulletin board) to place your donations.

Margaret McFarlane

Text me at 608-963-2879 or email mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com

IN LOVING ♥
Memory

Memorials were given in memory of

Dorothy Kundert

Help Excite Little People (H.E.L.P.)

From Margaret McFarlane

The H.E.L.P. Project was a success again 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, monetary donations were appreciated and used to buy batteries and items for teens. On the day of the distribution, we provided 58 families (approximately 154 children and teens) with Christmas gifts! Heartfelt thanks for making the holidays brighter for our Sauk Prairie families!

Special thanks to...

- * Church and 4K staff who helped carry in the donated items from the collection bins
- * The office staff for typing, taking phone messages, etc....
- * Pastor Brad for all his support
- * Kris Ballweg and the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry for distributing wish lists
- * Prairie Sampler Quilt Club for the beautiful, quilted blankets
- * Churches, schools, and organizations that collected items; First U.C.C. Sunday School, St. John's Lutheran Church of Prairie du Sac, SPNC 4K, SP Earthlings 4-H Club, and students at Grand Avenue School
- * Generous support from area businesses and organizations; J Sliter Buildings, By Leaps and Bounds, Tools Of Marketing, McFarlanes' Retail Center, Bank Of Prairie du Sac, Sauk Prairie Lions Club, Mission Possible
- * Those who read our list of needed items on Facebook and searched for gently used items or went shopping to purchase them; Stephanie Sprecher and Megan Sutton, Sue Herbrand, Marcy Thurwachter, Tammie Huerth, Tamara Straub, Sharon Diehl, Fred Kamps, Dianna Woerpel, Misty Schmidt, Kari Larsen, and the many people who dropped things off anonymously
- * Members that gave monetary donations, so we could fulfill wishes
- * The "elves" who diligently washed, repaired, or organized items; Marcy and Steve Thurwachter, Gary and Sandy Schlender, Shirlee Lendved and Vicky, Jeanann Breining, Rod Hehenberger, Fred Kamps, Jack and Judy Accola, Nadene Litscher, Dianna Woerpel, Dale Kowalski, Debbie Tschudy, Rose Kleinert, Carrie Finley, Tamara Straub, Nicki and Audyn Herfel, Marcia Nachreiner, Jean Bachhuber, Lynn Wipperfurth, the Doug Larsen family, Amy Bachhuber and volunteers from Quartz Insurance, Amanda Moseman, Misty Schmidt, Sharon Diehl, Dawn Olson, Tammie Huerth, Larry and Kathy Johnson, Jenny and Carley Brickl, Peggy Ganser, Gavin Sprecher, Tom McFarlane, and the SPNC 4K Program
- * Those who helped on the day of the distribution, Sandy Schlender, Jenny and Jesse Brickl, Rose Kleinert, Amanda Moseman, Misty Schmidt, Kathy Johnson, Sharon Diehl, Nadene Litscher, Tammie Huerth, and the Doug Larsen Family



Lent begins on February 14th (ASH WEDNESDAY)

Please plan on joining us for service at 6:00pm - The imposition of Ashes will be given as a symbol of the beginning of our Lenten journey.

In lieu of service we welcome you to gather with us for the next five Wednesdays, in the Fireside Room for a light supper of soup, bread, and spirited conversation after our meal.

Wednesday, February 21st (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, February 28th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 5th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 13th (5:30-6:30pm)

Wednesday, March 20th (5:30-6:30pm)

Radio Broadcast Sponsors for January

January 7th Dianna Woerpel in memory of *Duane Woerpel's* birthday (12/29) and their wedding anniversary



PO Box 652
Sauk City, WI 53583
www.spfoodpantry.org

First UCC is scheduled to help at the Food Pantry (behind 6:8) on Saturday, January 20th.

Distribution is from 9:30-10:30am. Volunteers should arrive by 9am and are usually done by 10:45 after putting things away. If you would like to join us, please sign up in the Narthex.



2024 RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP

Your Name

Requested broadcast date: _____

Broadcast is in: _____ memory of _____ honor of

Name(s)

___ I/We are not willing to share this date.

The cost of a radio broadcast is \$90 (if you would like to share, the cost is \$45. Please return to the church office by January 15th.

For Office Use: Check#: _____ Cash: _____ Date: _____



Terry & Cindy Stueber celebrate 42 years of marriage on January 2nd

George & Julie Perry celebrate 56 years of marriage on January 6th



Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods and crafts to our sale on December 10th! It was a great turnout ~ all proceeds went to First UCC general fund, so whether you baked, crafted, or bought, we are grateful for your generosity.



Sauk Prairie School District

440 13th Street - Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578

Phone: 608-643-5990 | Fax: 608-643-6216

November 28, 2023

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Ave.
Sauk City, WI 53583

John Joseph Coffee
112 Van Buren St.
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Sauk Prairie School Board, I would like to thank you for the generous \$1,725.04 donation which was officially and gratefully accepted at the regular meeting of the School Board on November 27, 2023.

It is my understanding that these funds will be used by the Sauk Prairie High School GSA Club to fund a future presenter. We are most grateful for your sponsorship through the fundraiser held to support our students.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Wright".

Jeff Wright
Superintendent

JW:dle

cc: Chad Harnisch

Dear Pastor Brookins and everyone
at the First United Church of Christ,

For all you are
For all you do
Thank You

Love,
Katie & John Wayne

A very special thanks to the many who helped coordinate our beautiful *Christmas Eve* service.

May they light of Jesus be in our hearts throughout 2024.



First United Church of Christ would like to wish everyone a peaceful, happy, health, and safe New Year!

Offering
Envelopes



****Your offering envelopes will be in the Narthex starting December 31st please pick them up.

January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Ron Polacek Logan Diehl Brandon Krzyanowski	2 Todd Litscher	3	4 George Perry Gillian Luchsinger	5 Lynn Luchsinger	6 Dianna Woerpel Dean Dahnert
7 Jason Rasmussen	8	9	10	11 Andrea Gavol Morgan Larsen	12	13 Georgia Selden
14 Suzanne Litscher	15	16 Macee Gulden	17	18	19	20 Mary O'Donnell Henry Homar
21	22	23	24	25 Robin Meier Kelly Riley	26	27
28	29	30 Doug Larsen	31	1	2	3