



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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JULY 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Matthew's gospel has a series of parables of Jesus. The first two use the images of mustard seed and yeast. Both describe how, from small, almost invisible beginnings, great things will come. The smallest faith, the smallest seed of God, the tiny bit of the yeast of righteousness can transform itself and those things in contact with it—and so change the world. Think of it. Just a little seed, from which can come a mighty bush. Just a little yeast, and we can change the entire loaf. God takes a seed, God plants it, and slowly, but surely growth comes, until suddenly everyone notices it, we notice it and other people notice it in us. The mustard seed is the word of the kingdom of God—the word of truth—the word that points the way to the living reality of God in Christ. And the yeast is the word that grows within us—the faith that rises up because that is the nature that God gave it—that rises up and makes new—that brings to life and revives.

In the second group of parables we see God's realm being described as a treasure hidden in a field, something that brings about life-changing joy when discovered. We see the kingdom of God described as being like a pearl of great price, a thing of great beauty. The merchant will give up all other pearls so he or she may purchase it. Jesus calls us to treasure the message we have discovered in the field of life, to do everything to hold onto the wonder working seed and the miraculous yeast that we find. There have been many a pastor and many a faithful Christian in the pew who have let go of the treasure. When a person finds something of great value he or she has a decision to make - to obtain the treasure no matter the cost or to be content with the treasure that they already have. Often what we do is obtain the treasure and then let it go. We exchange it for lesser things, things that seem important at the time or maybe we just allow events to overwhelm us so that the great treasure is once again buried in the field of our life.

The final parable in this set describes the kingdom of God as being like a great net which catches all kinds of fish, which are then sorted. Some will be kept safe for the use of the Master. Finally, Jesus tells his disciples how to respond to the Good news that he has just proclaimed. He tells them that those who are students of the scriptures, those who study them diligently and become disciples of the kingdom of God, will bring out treasures both old and new from the storeroom of heaven.

What are we to make of all of this? For me, these parables speak strongly about the nature of faith and what it does, and about the nature of God and what God does. The value of what God has given to us is beyond everything. So, hold on to the seeds cast your way, let them germinate, and nurture them. Take the yeast out of its container and risk losing it all by putting all of it into the dough of your life. Sell everything and buy the whole field, get the pearl, and watch what happens. There is a great mercy spoken of in these parables. A great love. It is worth everything when embraced and they lead to everything of importance in this world and in the next.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill



Sunday School News

From Margaret McFarlane

★ We need volunteers to run the Brat Stand at Piggly Wiggly on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18. If you can help us out, please see the sign-up sheet as you come into church or call Chris Logterman at 279-1231.

★ Many thanks for the donations for our Camp Fund. We have 3 campers!

★ Our wishes for great camp adventures at Pilgrim Center go to:

Ben Kapp	July 26
Jacob Kapp	July 26
Molly Shuck	August 2



Sunday School Fundraiser: Do you eat at Culvers? Why not purchase a Culver's gift card to use on yourself. Our Sunday School earns 10% of each sale. Of course, they also make great gifts. Order forms are in the library or purchase from the Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of each month, before and after the 10:30 worship service.



Vacation Bible School

From Margaret McFarlane

It was an exciting week here June 15-19, when 15 students participated in V.B.S. Our theme was **"Everest-Conquering Challenges With God's Mighty Power!"** Each day, students rotated from opening to crafts, recess, Bible storytime, snacks, and closing.

Our daily focus included:

God Has The Power To:

Provide

Comfort

Heal

Forgive

Love Us Forever

For our special project, we collected items for the Food Pantry.

On Friday, we ended with a special V.B.S. celebration. Families and guests joined us for a closing program and then enjoyed pizza.

My sincere thanks to those who participated in this special week of ministry: *Pastor Bill, *Jenny Brickl, *Donna, *Mickenzie, & *Micki Cruse, *Cathy Brewer, *Carol Hehenberger, *Charmaine Carter, *Rita Larsen, *Rose Kleinert, *Emily Fuchs, *Amanda McFarlane, *Jacob Kapp, *Missy Brickl, *Jake McCaulley, *Peggy Ganser, *Pat Shelby, and *Jason Logterman.



From The Heart

From Bailey Breininger

Dear Pastor Bill and First U.C.C., I am writing to thank you for your generous scholarship. I was extremely appreciative and happy to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship! I will be attending U.W. Oshkosh in the fall and pursuing a career in Elementary Education. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to my goal. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to my community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

From Austin Perry

I would like to thank First United Church of Christ and the late James & Lorna McFarlane for choosing me as the recipient of the 2015 McFarlane Technical Education Scholarship. I am continuing my education at Madison College starting in the fall in their two-year program to become a Diesel Technician.



A Pat on the Back and a Great Big Thank You to:

Special thank you to **Emily Fuchs, Peggy Ganser, Rose Kleinert** and **Fritz Wyttenbach** for hosting and bringing all those

delicious treats for coffee fellowship on June 21. We appreciate the time and help of all members who are willing to bring in treats for our monthly coffee fellowship. Blessings to you!

A big round of applause to our wonderful Christian Education Superintendent, **Margaret McFarlane!** This summer's Vacation Bible School was filled with great (and yummy) crafts, fun outdoor recesses, delicious snacks, and wonderful story lessons. Thank you, Mrs. McFarlane, for creating an awesome "winter time at Mount Everest" (in 80+ degree weather) ☺ for our Vacation Bible School children!

The Queen of Garage Sales, Sue Herbrand, has done it again! A huge thank you to Sue for organizing this year's basement sale. She put countless hours into sorting, pricing, displaying all of the donated items, and boxing up the leftovers.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our mission work. The collection and donation of your items so they may find new homes. The time and commitment to this fundraising event is always appreciated. This year we raised \$1,162.00 for the **2016 Mission Trip**. A big thank you to Donna Cruse, Micki Cruse, Jennifer Cruse, Brooke Cruse, Mick Cruse, Cathy Brewer, Doug Larson, Carrissa Herbrand, Susan Herbrand, Peggy Ganser, and Pastor Bill.

Thank you to **Liz Bongard** and **Dianna Woerpel** for helping at the funeral luncheon on Saturday, June 20th. Your gifts of time and kindness were truly appreciated.



CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ
June 18, 2015

Present: Rose Kleinert (president), Pastor Bill, Amanda McFarlane, Debbie Tschudy, Tom Litscher, Tim Herbrand, Lyle Kuhnau, and Don Larsen

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Bill

PASTOR BILL'S REPORT: (1) Attended the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting. (2) Vacation Bible School: June 15-19.

SECRETARIES REPORT: Motion to approve by Tom, second by Don, motion carried.

Financial Statements and Invoices: Motion to approve by Debbie, second by Tim, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE: (1) Discussed water issue in basement women's restroom. (2) Asbestos Removal: Tuesday, June 23rd.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: (1) June 21 is coffee fellowship. (2) No meeting in June. (3) No Ice Cream Social this year. (4) August 9th is Men's Sunday.

FINANCE: Meeting yet to be determined.

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING:
Consistory discussed survey results.

MEMBERS IN MINISTRY: Members are actively making visits to homes, nursing homes, and hospitals.

STEWARDSHIP: Discussion on possible Fall Stewardship ideas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHURCH YOUTH PROGRAM:
(1) 15 students at Vacation Bible School June

15-19. (2) Looking for volunteers for Brat Stand - July 17 and 18. Chris Logterman, Coordinating. (3) Camp donations - \$315.00; 3 Campers. (4) Mexican Children's Refuge collection - \$1,200.00. (4) Selling Culver's cards - 3rd Sunday of each month.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Discussion of Long Range Strategic Planning suggestions.

New Business: Campital Campaign.

NEXT CONSISTORY MEETING: **THURSDAY, JULY 16**, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Bill.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ
June 7, 2015

Call to order by Rose Kleinert, Consistory President.

Opening prayer given by Pastor Bill.

Declaration of quorum – 58 members present.

This congregational meeting was requested by Consistory for the approval of carpet, tile, and mastic removal from 3 rooms in the Education Building (Library, Pre-K, and Kindergarten). This process is to remove disturbed asbestos.

The proposal cost is \$5,960.

Motion to approve by Mark Pierick, second by Emily Fuchs, motion carried.

Consistory, also, requested approval for any further flooring removal that involves asbestos (within the next few years).

Motion to approve by Peggy Ganser, second by Harry Mann, motion carried

Meeting adjourned.

Closing prayer given by Pastor Bill.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

JULY 2015 SCOOP



- 4 **Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!**
- 14 **Christian Fellowship Committee** – The meeting will be at Debbie Tschudy's home beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be a short meeting followed by desserts and refreshments. We need new committee members! Everyone is welcome - men and women of the church!! Bring ideas for fellowship activities you would like to help with! Watch for further reminders in Church bulletin!
- 16 **Consistory** – 6:30 p.m.
- 17 **Sunday School & Youth Group Brat Stand** @ Piggly Wiggly– Stop by and enjoy a brat (or two)! ☺
- 18 **Sunday School & Youth Group Brat Stand** @ Piggly Wiggly–Treat someone to lunch! ☺
- 19 **Coffee Fellowship** between worship services

Pastor Bill Kapp

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00–Noon; Saturday: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., and by appointment

Office phone: 643–8387; Home phone: 370–2249

E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Cindy Baker

Church Secretary

Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.–Noon

Office phone: 643–8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Sunday Worship:

8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 & FM99.7) and 10:30 a.m.



Have a wonderful summer!

Memorials Report

Gifts were received in May in loving memory of:

Margery Cruse
Rene Gasner
Reta Lysensko
Lilah Sprecher

Radio Ministry

We thank the June sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship broadcasts:

Ruby McFarlane and her Family,
In loving memory of their beloved family members, Chuck McFarlane and Joan (McFarlane) Hanson

Nancy Genz, In loving memory of her beloved parents, Norman E. and Lela L. Genz

♥ July Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Bart and Margaret Mauch, 45 years on July 18
Tom and Audrey Zimmermann, 51 years on July 18
Maurice and Cleo Schaefer, 67 years on July 24

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in July!
We acknowledge 1st anniversaries; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50 years.
Please let us know if we missed your birthday or anniversary!

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Tim, Sue, & Carrissa Herbrand	Ben & Trina Ruyle & Family	Scott Frosch Emily Fuchs Rose Kleinert Todd Pieper	Todd & Kim Baier & Family		



Celebrate Freedom This Fourth of July!



100Schools

Christian Fellowship Committee July Meeting

The July 14th Christian Fellowship meeting will be at Debbie Tschudy's house at 6:30 p.m. – short meeting and enjoy desserts and refreshments – we need new committee members – everyone is welcome – men and women of the church!!! Bring ideas for fellowship activities you would like to help with!! **WATCH FOR FURTHER REMINDERS IN CHURCH BULLETIN!**



** Summer Office Hours **

The Church facilities will be locked at Noon through Labor Day, September 7th. Please make arrangements with the Church Office if you need to get in the building in the afternoon.

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 and FM99.7)

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: Resumes September 13

Confirmation: Resumes September 13



Dear First UCC Friends:

Fire on The River is just around the corner. There are volunteer opportunities still available for individuals and teams. Please consider giving some of your time to support this community event.

Go to fireontheriver.org and sign up!
Thank you!

AGING IN GOD'S GRACE Series began June 3. All seniors are welcome to this series on the joys and struggles of aging. Reflections and discussions will be led by Shirley Kelter, director of Honoring Our Elders (a ministry of 6:8) and held on the first Wednesdays of the month, June through December, 1:00-2:30 p.m., at Pine Glen Senior Apartments in Prairie du Sac (lower level meeting room, elevator available). Topics include: memories, wisdom, dependence and independence, loss, love and relationships, humor and hope. You may come to any or all of the seven sessions. Free! And refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Shirley at (608)370-3565 or sakelter@mac.com. Please invite friends!