

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP JULY 2023

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com
- For the Youtube channel type:
“ [First UCC Sauk City Youtube](#) ” 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...

July 4th Happy Independence Day!
July 16th Coffee Fellowship ONA
July 20th 6:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
July 23rd Coffee Fellowship

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

July, 2023

From the Interim Pastor...

From the Interim Pastor

It's hard for me to express how grateful I am to be able to work with the courageous and compassionate people who make up the First UCC Open and Affirming Committee. I have family members and many very close friends who identify, in one way or another, as LGBTQ people. Their safety, happiness and flourishing is as important to me as is my own. My concern for them has only grown over the last few years as attacks on the people I love—and millions I will never know, have grown more vicious and often violent. So the support of my First Church friends means a lot.

I know there are other things we could—and should concern ourselves with as a church. The wildfires 2000 miles away that sometimes make it dangerous for us to breathe, for one. Or the continuing deadly effect of racism on our Black and brown and Jewish and Muslim neighbors, for another. But we aren't a large church with unlimited resources. We will need to focus on the tasks where we can have the greatest impact.

Right now, focusing on protecting the lives of our queer kin, being neighbors and family to them and making space for them here at First Church—something no other church in Sauk Prairie is attempting and many churches are actively resisting, seems a worthy and faithful goal. This is why I am so grateful to, and very proud of, the great majority of First Church folks who have committed themselves to building a truly and deeply welcoming community here in Sauk City. Your commitment to meeting and understanding your LGBTQ neighbors has not gone unnoticed. My friends who have visited here, and even spoken in our pulpit, have told me over and over how welcome and safe they have felt here.

On their behalf, as well as mine—Thank You!

So out of this I am excited to announce our next learning opportunity. On July 16 we will host a special guest in the Fireside Room for an after church conversation about their family's experience raising a transgender child. I'm not going to tell you the name of this person or their child or even where they live. Previous presentations like this one that were done more publicly than ours will be have resulted in a flood of hate mail and threats. We want to honor their courage to speak by offering all the protection we can.

But I am strongly encouraging you to be there if you possibly can. The event will not be recorded so the only way you can hear it is to be present in person. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to develop a deeper welcome toward people you may think you just can't understand.

We often refer to the words of the prophet Micah when we imagine what it will mean for us to be the church in the future. This is what God asks of us—*“to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with the Lord.”* (Micah 6:8) Sometimes we need to step into a place that is unfamiliar and uncomfortable for us because those are often the very places where kindness is most desperately needed.

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.

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.

We can send The Scoop and other informational mailings through the Post Office or by email. Email saves time and money for the church by using less paper, postage and administrative time. Please let us know if you are able and willing to be on our email list for future mailings. If you prefer paper copies delivered by mail, we can do that, too.

*Consistory Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2023*

Consistory Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 15, 2023

Attendees: Pastor Brad, Carrie Finley, Barb Sprecher, Heather Miller, Tim Henning, Peggy Ganser and Rose Kleinert – Absent: Tammy Young

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Discussion:

Reviewed bids:

Roof bid(s) for repair on flat roof for leakage by the elevator

- Option 1 - repair rubber pulling away near Washington Street entrance - \$6,897.00*
 - Option 2 – repair & remove rubber, install new edging etc. - \$17, 267.00.*
- These options will bandage the fix for approximately 5 years.*
- Waiting for the bid to replace entire roof.*

Sign committee in progress (see the July scoop for details).

Committee Update:

- ✚ Special guest speaker (Parent of a transgender child) after church on July 16th – motion to approve Barb, second Tim.*
- ✚ All committee “news” In the July scoop.*

Upcoming:

- ❖ During our July 20th consistory meeting Andrew Warner from the conference will be joining us to present a fund-raising proposal.*

New Business – None

Motion to adjourn: Tim, Carrie seconded.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

*The Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 20th at 6:00pm** - Church basement.*



Christian Education News

What Has Been Happening

- On Friday May 19th we had Confirmation Supper for 2nd year students at Eagle Inn prior to Confirmation Sunday. It was a beautiful service where 2 students were confirmed. Please continue to help keep these two members involved in the church. Reach out to them if you can help them get involved.
- We had Graduation Sunday on June 4th. We will recognize Seniors graduating and those that have volunteered in the church. The three individuals that were recognized have done so much for our church and please reach out if you see them and say thank you.

Upcoming events

- We hope to have some impromptu activities planned with families and members of the church. They will be announced via Facebook.
- Start of the new program year begins September 10th.

Youth Group and Education Class Photos on our Church Connect Site
Christian Education Questions or Ideas please sent to: firstuccsaukce@gmail.com

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!



Evan, Carley, and Carly

Christian Fellowship Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13th

Attendees: Sandy Schlender, Deb Tschudy, Dianna Woerpel, Rose Kleinert and Tamara Straub

Brief discussions, with further discussions planned, ensued on the following topics:

1. Article, shared by Pastor Brad, on how God is calling a group of people to fellowship in this day and age.
2. What did Christian fellowship at the 1st United Church of Christ mean in the past. What do we want it to mean in the future?
3. What does the Christian fellowship committee want to keep from our past and what do we want to add to our future.
4. The group decided to do coffee fellowship after church once a month through the summer and resume twice a month from September through May.
5. Christian fellowship committee will again be requesting donations for Sauk County Child Protective Services; see below a list of items frequently needed:

Household safety devices

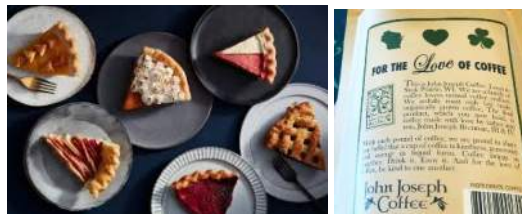
- Baby gates
- Door/Window Alarms
- Cabinet Locks
- Outlet Covers
- Corner Protectors
- Baby Monitors

Diapering Supplies

- Diapers (sizes 2 & 3)
- Pull-Ups (sizes 4 & 5)
- Baby Wipes

Convertible Car Seats

6. Coffee Fellowship on July 23rd
 - Its PIE time



Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 8th at 6 pm** all are welcome!

Church Sign Committee Meeting Minutes from June 13th

Members: Carrie Finley, Tim Henning, Pastor Brad, Barb Sprecher, Kari Larsen

Advisors: Mark Pierick, Rose Kleinert (not in attendance)

Committee Aim: To explore and determine the cost of replacing the sign that currently resides in front of the church.

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 11th at 6 pm**



Members in Ministry A simple visit can change a day! We continue to make visits, make phone calls, and deliver communion to those in nursing homes or home bound.

If you know of anyone who is at home and would like a visit, phone call and/or communion contact Debbie at 608-963-4873. We will be taking pictures of our members when we make visits for our updated ChurchTrac directory.

Stock the Schools



For the month of July, we will be collecting individual applesauce cups and sturdy backpacks.

Our Radio Broadcast Sponsors for the month of July are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| July 2nd | Cliff & Jan Lawton – in memory of their loving son
<i>Russell Lawton</i> |
| July 9th | James and Karen Wittwer – in loving memory of Jamie's
Mother, <i>Margaret's</i> birthday on July 11 th |
| July 30th | Tamara Straub - in memory of <i>Timothy Straub</i> |



Open & Affirming Committee Report

Meeting on June 7th

1. Will start selling our PRIDE coffee at Meyer Oak Grove Farmer's Market June 10.
 - If anyone would like to join in and help at the market, we have dates available. Contact anyone on the O&A Committee for details.
2. Discussed participation in FROLIC parade June 11.
3. The WELCOME sign was hung on brick wall and was paid for by the O&A committee.



4. Will host a fellowship time July 16 when we have a quest speaker for an after-church conversation in the Fireside Room. This person is a friend of Pastor Brad's and is the parent of a transgender child. She will be telling her family's story and answering any questions we might have about their experience.

Appreciation Corner



Special thanks to Pastor Brad and our _____ your help during the week makes things run much smoother! Thank you also for watering our beautiful outside plants.

*Thank you so much for
your thoughtfulness
and expression of sympathy.
Your kindness has helped
bring comfort and means
more than you know.*

*Sincere thanks,
Tom Gemmerman
+ Family*

THANK YOU

Sauk Prairie
**Dollars for
SCHOLARS**
A Program of Scholarship America
arstorscholars@gmail.com



Rev. Brad Brookins
First United
Church of
Christ 504
Washington
Avenue Sauk
City, WI 53583



June 14, 2023

Dear Rev. Brad:

On behalf of the Sauk Prairie Dollars for Scholars board, I thank you for your support of our 2023 Dollars for Scholars awards program. Because of your generosity, we were able to award 92 seniors over \$190,000 toward their continuing education, at a minimum of \$750 each.

If you would like to see a picture from your scholarship awarded in May, please send me an email.

Also please keep an eye out for a mailing in October to review and renew your scholarship for next year's Class of 2024!

A list of recipients and the awards booklet can be downloaded from our website:

Thank you again for your support and dedication to this important cause!

Sincerely,



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING



We give thanks to all the people that help keep our church looking beautiful, doing repairs, cutting the lawn, etc., but rarely do we mention those behind the scenes that keep our finances straight and our doors open. Thank you to *Robin Meier, Tim Homar, Herm Tschudy, and Galen Alwin.* God gave you a purpose and we are blessed He sent you to us. Thank you, Thank you, Thank You!



Our radio broadcast is one of the most valuable things we offer for our members, thank you thank you thank you to those who run the radio room.

"Always be rejoicing. Give thanks for everything." 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18. Gratitude refers to the ability to show thanks for the things you have and the things you're grateful for. It helps you get closer to God by recognizing all the blessings in your life and makes it easier to focus on the positive.

If you would like to offer a word of appreciation to anyone, please reach out to the church office; there are many people behind the scenes that do so much for the church – we applaud you.