

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# THE SCOOP

## *July 2024*

Find us:

- [www.ucc-saukcity.org](http://www.ucc-saukcity.org)
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### **This Month at First Church...**

July 7<sup>th</sup>      Welcome Pastor Jennifer  
July 18<sup>th</sup>     Consistory 6pm  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>     Finance Meeting

Pastor: *Reverand Jennifer Seach*  
Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
Office phone: 608-643-8387

Office email: [office@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org)

July 2024

From the *Interim* Pastor

**A Farewell (for now)**

As I'm sure you know, my tenure as your Interim Pastor will be over after the end of the worship service on June 30. Rev. Jennifer Seach begins her time as your new settled pastor on July 1st. I am hoping to see many of you in church this Sunday, but if you're unable to be present then I want to offer both my farewell and my sincerest gratitude. It has been a delight (almost 😊 ) every day of the past two years to serve as your interim. I have learned a lot, laughed a lot, and so often been the beneficiary of your generosity and kindness. So thank you, sincerely, for these gifts, and many more, you have given to me.

You are entering now a whole new period in your life as the First United Church of Christ in Sauk City. As I've said often over the last two years, your future will not be like your past. Many things remain uncertain. Sometimes it will seem hard. But with the ongoing guidance of the ever present Spirit of God, your future will also be good. The fruits of that Spirit, as St Paul described them—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control have already been given to you in abundance and are yours to practice and share.

With Pastor Jennifer's leadership you will, I don't doubt, be finding new ways to love each other more deeply and to serve Sauk Prairie even more faithfully than you have over the last 160 some years. So above all, and as Jesus so often said, "Do not be afraid." God will be with you always. You will never be alone. I will miss working with the staff and the Consistory of First Church. I will miss being with you on Sunday mornings in worship and study. And I hope, after an appropriate time has passed, to visit you again. Until then, be at peace—with yourselves, with your church family, and with your Gracious Creator.

In hope always,

*Brad Brookins*

## People are our First Priority...

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options.

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***

Consistory Meeting Minutes **Thursday, June 20, 2024**

Present: Carrie Finley, Heather Miller, Barb Sprecher, Tim Henning, Sharon Diehl, Pastor Brad, and Rose Kleinert.

Absent: Tammy Young

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Brad

Discussion with Mark Pierick (Maintenance), moving forward on replacement of the church doors on Madison St. Motion to approve by Heather, seconded by Tim, motion carried. \*Monies for this task and painting the outside windows were donated by Mission Possible at the annual meeting.

Re-sealing of the parking lot to happen in July.

## **Committee Updates:**

Christian Fellowship: Met on Tuesday, June 18th


Finance: Review financial statements – motion to approve by Sharon, seconded by Barb.

Members In Ministry: Continue to make visits.

O and A (Love Thy Neighbor): See Scoop

New Sign: Carrie update: waiting for village approval.

Sunday School: See scoop

 Request to discontinue Sunday School student fees; motion to approve by Heather, seconded by Carrie.

## **New Business:**

Exit Interview and separation ethics: Pastor Brad.

Technical upgrades for Minister and secretary offices: motion to approve by Sharon, seconded by Heather.

Discussion to discontinue the Church Trac application: due to lack of participation and upkeep on this program, a motion was made to discontinue services. Motion to approve by Sharon, seconded by Carrie.

Canon Copier: reach out to Gordon Flesh for cost of cleaning; motion to approve by Tim, seconded by Barb.

Pastor Jennifer Seach will start on July 1, 2024 (she will be living in the parsonage upon availability in August).

**Motion to adjourn:** motion to approve by Heather, seconded by Sharon.

Many thanks **Pastor Brad**, you will be missed!

Next Meeting is for ***Thursday, July 18th at 6 pm***

*Search Committee Update*  
*First UCC Congregational Meeting*  
*June 16, 2024*

**Call meeting to order**

- Tammie Huerth and search committee members  
Count members to constitute a quorum  
46 members present, quorum met

**Opening Prayer**

- Search committee chaplain – Scott Kinnamon

**Appoint a Head Teller**

- Rose Kleinert, head teller
- Deb Tschudy, secondary teller

Motion has been made to call Pastor Jennifer Seich to our ministry

- Mark Pierick made the motion, Denny Kahn seconded

Tammie Huerth presented a summary of the search process

- No questions to the search committee regarding the search process

Tim Homar presented the compensation agreement/terms of the Call Agreement

- Pastor Jennifer will want to live in the parsonage
- Total compensation: \$77,564
- Slides presented all terms of the agreement: Vacation, moving expenses, etc.

No questions to Tim regarding the compensation agreement/terms of the Call Agreement

Prayer, a time to reflect - Scott Kinnamon

Call for a ballot vote

- Rose and Deb handed out ballots
- Votes counted and announced
- 2/3's of members present need to vote "yes" to proceed
- 44 yes votes, 2 no votes; motion passed

Christie Kinnamon made a motion to adjourn, Barb Sprecher seconded

Pastor Jennifer addressed the congregation!

*Message from the Search Committee*

If you have not yet heard, we have a new Pastor! Pastor Jennifer Seich was voted in on June 16<sup>th</sup> during a congregational meeting immediately following the service. Her first day here is July 1, 2024. Jennifer will have regular office hours posted so please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself. She is excited to get to know everyone.

The Search Committee thanks you for your patience during these past 2 years.

In Appreciation,

The Search Committee

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS***

The Sunday School purchased Culver's gift cards for the oldest and youngest fathers on Father's Day. Congratulations to our winners; Cliff Lawton and Tim Homar!

Mabel's Building Mission Update: Our collection of donations ended, and we received a total of \$600. Mission Possible recently donated \$1,400 to help us meet our goal of \$2,000! A heartfelt thank you to Mission Possible (Tim and Sue) and all our donators! We will again, be able to build another home for a family in need in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico!

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes will resume on Sunday, September 8. Watch for further details!

Happy Summer!

*Margaret McFarlane*  
*Sunday School Superintendent*

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## ***CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP***

Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> discussion on future coffee fellowships and/or upcoming events.

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## ***STOCK THE SCHOOLS for July***

*Backpacks (sturdy with working zippers) small for elementary students, larger for middle & high school students and pencil pouches*



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## ***MEMBERS IN MINISTRY***

We continue to make visits; as previously discussed Members in Ministry, along with Christian Fellowship will be making bars and cookies to distribute to our shut-ins and nursing homes the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Christmas in July!

## ***LOVE THY NEIGHBOR (an umbrella of Opening & Affirming)***

Meeting was held on May 30<sup>th</sup>

Present: Pastor Brad, Denny Kahn, Tamara Straub, Shirlee Lendved, Christy Kinnamon, Dean & Barb Sprecher.

Our church banner was unrolled for all to see. WE are all very proud of the sign and would again like to thank the generous person who paid for the whole cost. The banner was used in the Mt. Horeb FROLIC parade on June 9<sup>th</sup>. WE had an even larger group this year to walk with and was great to see familiar friendly faces again. Christy, Scott, Pastor Brad, and Rose Brookins were in attendance.

WE will ask consistory for permission to hang the banner in church when it is not needed for parades.

No sign-up yet for the Cow Chip parade.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Pastor Brad has asked a person from the conference to church to talk about ways to promote social justice issues. Following the service there will be a light snack served by the committee with a discussion downstairs.

Our next meeting is to be determined.

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### ***Radio Broadcast Sponsors for June and July***

***June 2<sup>nd</sup> -***

***June 9<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored by Graig & Laurie Kerl in memory of Laurie’s Mom, Linda LeMoine***

***June 16<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored by Cliff & Jan Lawton in memory of their Father’s Clifford Lawton, Sr. and Clarence Skogen & son John***

***June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sponsored by Debbie Tschudy and Rose Kleinert in honor of our Search Committee; thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the First UCC***

***June 30<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored by Pastor Brad in gratitude for the kindness and generosity of this congregation over the 24 months of my tenure here at First UCC – Sauck City.***

***July 7<sup>th</sup> –***

***July 14<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored by Jamie & Karen Wittwer in memory of Jamie’s Mom Margaret Wittwer***

***July 21<sup>st</sup> – Sponsored by Emily Fuchs in memory of the Bill Kleinert family***

***July 28<sup>th</sup> – Sponsored by Tammie Huerth in memory of her sister, Kimberly Burkee’s birthday on July 31<sup>st</sup>***

***First UCC is so grateful and blessed by our Sunday Morning radio broadcast Sponsors...***

# Happy Birthday

★ July 1<sup>st</sup> -

*Doreen Stoffels*

★ July 7<sup>th</sup> -

*Joe Steuber*

★ July 8<sup>th</sup> -

*Pat Shelby*  
*Charlie Bachhuber*  
*Hannah Niederkloper*

★ July 9<sup>th</sup> -

*Owen Diehl*  
*Evonne Kundert*

★ July 11<sup>th</sup> -

*Natilee Granger*

★ July 12<sup>th</sup> -

*Pieper Finley*

★ July 13<sup>th</sup> -

*Jaxon Luchsinger*

★ July 14<sup>th</sup> -

*Kelsey Diehl*

★ July 16<sup>th</sup> -

*Kim Peters*  
*Madilyn Noltner*

★ July 17<sup>th</sup> -

*Judy Malone*

★ July 19<sup>th</sup> -

*Ethel Pellett*

★ July 23<sup>rd</sup> -

*Barb Brock*

★ July 25<sup>th</sup> -

*Rick Breininger*  
*Gracelyn Kleist*  
*London Kleist*

★ July 27<sup>th</sup> -

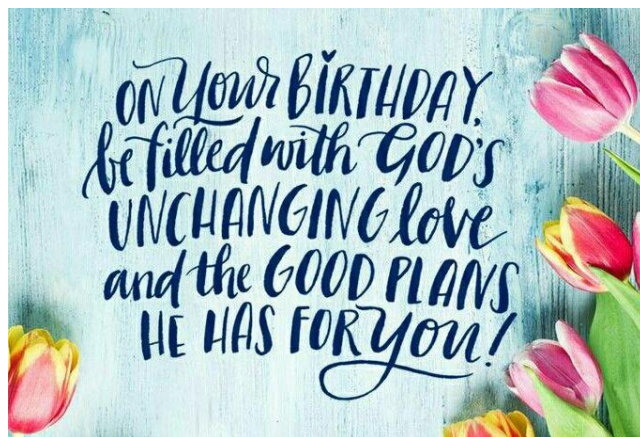
*Adam Baier*  
*Heather Miller*

★ July 29<sup>th</sup> -

*Kimberly Hardtke*  
*Frank Seldon*

★ July 30<sup>th</sup> -

*Rod Hehenberger*







Thank you for the extraordinary members of our Search Committee, *Tammie Huerth, Herm Tschudy, Marcy Thuruwachter, Tim Komar, Mary Breuing, Brigitta Brückl, and Scott Kinnamon!* *1 Peter 4:10* on Stewardship... "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another". Words cannot express our gratitude to these wonderful people; time is precious and can never be given back. Your priceless gift of hours spent away from your homes and families putting a church profile together, reviewing applications and interviews, to find a minister for our congregation, was no easy task. It shines through that you are all *the heart and hands of Jesus*.

*Thank-you all so much!*

*2024-2025 Consistory*

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Amid our Celebration of Life for *Nettie Gander*; the storms from heaven were passing through with an abundance of Rain; as we started the luncheon, flooding waters began to seep under the door. *Thank You* to our amazing members that jumped in without hesitation, to clean up water that was coming in on both sides of the building: *Marcy Thuruwachter, Sherry Pieper, Steve Statz, Deb Tschudy, Peggy Ganser, Robin Meier, Chris Garcia, and Mark Pierick!* I am so grateful for our church people, their quick action and take-charge attitude saved what could have been a disaster. I am very thankful for the understanding of the Gander family. (I'm certain Nettie had something to do with this) ☺

Yet, again, *the heart and hands of Jesus* were in motion.

*Rose Kleinert*

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Pastor Brad,

*On a final note, how to say farewell to someone who walked into our church and thought, what the heck...retirement can wait, again. You took the bait, hook, line, and sinker! Slowly you became familiar with our church family, and you started to lead us in the direction of survival. Not the buildings survival, but we needed to be reminded that Christ still breaths in us, no matter what our outcome may be, no matter the heartaches or trials the church endured; how we think or feel, whether we are right or wrong, Jesus will always love us.*

*We shared hills and valleys these past two years, and reluctantly, you managed to stick with us until a new pastor was found, we are grateful, especially that we did not have to do all those Sunday services 😊*

*Thank you for your kind heart, for your occasional out-of-the-box thinking, for caring enough to lead us, your unconditional transparency, your passion to be honest and truthful.*

*Thank you for being the heart, the hands, the feet, and the words of Jesus. May God watch over you in your next chapter....you will be missed. Happy retirement.*

***“This I declare about the Lord...for He will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.” Psalm 91: 2-4***

The other *Rose*