

William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The cold and snowy Wisconsin weather is starting to wear on me just a bit. I have a serious case of cabin fever and need to get outside working in my yard again. I am grateful for a little winter, but now ready to turn the corner and get to some milder temperatures. Luckily, spring in the Northern Hemisphere will begin on Saturday, March 20.

When I think spring, I think new life. Rejuvenation. Trees budding. Flowers blooming. Seeds starting to take root. I experience a boost in the springtime that often coincides with the celebration of Easter. My spirit sings as I listen to the birds chirping and I offer praise for the Risen Lord! I am looking forward to a time of increased activity outside in my backyard when I can experience God's love in creation. I will enjoy it with a garden shovel in hand and flowers to plant.

Spring is a wonderful time for God's Word to take root in our lives. I am reminded of the parable of the sower:

"A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots. Some other seeds fell where thornbushes grew up and choked the plants. But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as was scattered." (Mt 13:3b-8)

Our joy will be full and abundant if we are able to plant and cultivate God's Word during this spring season. Just a little bit of God's inspiring Word can grow into something truly amazing. The only way to get this done is by digging into the Bible and transplanting the stories of God's abundant love into our hearts. There are so many varieties of Bible stories to choose from, both from the Old and from the New Testament. So many examples and teachings that can produce a positive benefit for our lives.

There are always challenges in getting God's Word to take hold. Too many distractions and worries in our lives which can cause the message of God's love to get choked out or stomped on. I encourage you to clear some space in your heart for God's Word to take root this spring.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill*

REMINDER



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The First United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

March 7, 2021 at 10:15 am

Consistory members will meet immediately following the Annual meeting.

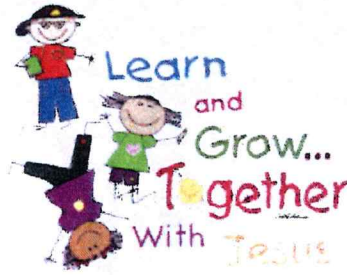
Sponsor a Radio Broadcast OR
a Monthly Church newsletter ~



If you would like to remember or honor a family member or friend by sponsoring a Sunday morning worship service radio broadcast or our monthly newsletter, please call the Church office for available dates. The cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast is \$80.00, and the cost of sponsoring a monthly *SCOOP* is \$50 (cost of paper and postage).

Help Stock our Schools

We will be collecting Pudding Cups and Liquid Body Wash during the month of March. Donations should be placed in the box outside of the Educational Building door. Thank you for your support in providing for our Schools.



Sunday School News

* Each year during Lent, our Sunday School supports a worthy project. Instead of giving something up for Lent, we reach out to help people during this time. This year we will again be collecting donations for the Mexican Children's Refuge/ Mabel's Building Mission. This is our 21st year supporting this project. In the past 20 years, we have collected donations that have been used to build approximately 23 homes! Our goal is to raise \$1,500 so our Sunday School can, again, build a home for a family in need. Donations can be mailed to church at 504 Washington Avenue by May 23. Please make checks payable to; Mabel's Building Mission.

* We currently have between 2 to 5 students accessing the virtual Sunday School Live Class. We would love for you to join in!

* Many thanks to those who made or bought valentines to share with our senior members. We appreciate your participation in this Act Of Kindness! ❤️

* As the schools slowly reopen for all students to participate in-person, we will keep you updated on the plans to reopen the church for activities and education.

From: Margaret McFarlane & Brigitta Brickl



Open & Affirming Subcommittee

- No Meeting for February
- Next meeting will be March 4th
- "Raising Ryland" a two part virtual book study was well attended on February 21st and February 25th
- Movie night is in the works for Spring

the most common of the late 19th century and is the most common of the late 19th century.

[illegible]

There is a special street for us to prepare for Jesus by fasting and giving out the most fitting food for our dogs and ourselves. It is a "spring cleaning" of our lives spiritually.

40 Days

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Don't prepare your heart and mind for Easter

All About LENT

Praying Hands

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...the

SPECIAL OFFERING

100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Thank you Jesus for saving me!

thank you

Thanks to Dean Dahnert for his tireless work in the church sanctuary.

Dean has provided audio enhancement and clarity to our radio broadcasts and has now added a visual component to the worship experience at First UCC. He, along with other generous donors, has blessed the church with new video equipment and Dean is getting it all put together.

He has imagined a YouTube opportunity for worship where we can post a link to a video recording of each worship service, complete with graphics and multiple camera angles. We are grateful to Dean for his time spent at church and for the blessings of this new technology as First UCC moves into the modern era.



Special thanks to the O&A Committee for the book review on "Raising Ryan". What an extraordinary book! It is worth the read and I encourage anyone to read about this everyday Family's journey: the twists and turns of their life, the obstacles, rewards, and the unconditional love of God and their family.

Rose

Dear Consistory,

I am incredibly grateful for your commitment to the life of our faith community. These are challenging times, as the level of pandemic fatigue mounts. Stresses. Fears. Isolation. Impatience. Your efforts on behalf of the church are much appreciated.

I am inspired by a passage in Philippians 4:6-7 which tells us, *"Be not anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Despite our worry and COVID frustration, the ministry of Christ continues at First UCC. Let us pray and ask that God be with us each step. Let us be kind to one another and to ourselves in 2021. We can give our worries and anxieties over to God and let God help us to bear them. We can focus not on our struggles of today but on the promise of tomorrow. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

In terms of my report:

- 1.) The March 7 First UCC Annual Meeting is on track to be held virtually on Google Meet at 10:15am. Members have a choice of accessing the meeting virtually on their computer, tablet or smartphone or to call in. Thanks to Cindy Baker, Tammie Huerth and Rose Kleinert for their efforts in getting the Annual Report compiled and sent out. There is an orange cover letter included with the Annual Report which explains how to access the meeting - complete with instructions, phone number and pin number.
- 2.) I sent the consistory an email on February 10 entitled *Returning to Church – Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC)*. In the email is a link to a resource written by the WCC that First UCC can use when considering reopening to public worship. The resource ties in vaccination rates, COVID cases per 100,000 and percentage of positive tests. The WCC safer threshold for public worship is when cases are less than 5 per 100,000 population and positive tests less than 10%. Safest would be even lower.
- 3.) The Wisconsin Conference UCC adopted the UCC's *Kairos Call to Action* at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The name "kairos" comes from the New Testament Greek word for "the right time". The Kairos Call to action is a ten-year action plan to inspire and guide faithful action in response to global climate change. The Conference is encouraging local congregations to take the next step and share their commitment to the *Kairos Call to Action* by creating a Covenant of Creation Care and sharing it with the Conference. The Wisconsin Conference UCC hopes to have at least 100 congregations joining in this call by the end of 2021.
- 4.) The season of Lent begins Wednesday February 17 and will last 40 days (not including Sundays). Due to the pandemic, we do not have our normal ecumenical worship rotation and Wednesday evening public worship services. I will be focusing my Church Facebook Messages on the Lenten season until Easter arrives April 4.

With the Greatest of Hope,

Pastor Bill

Consistory Minutes
First United Church of Christ

Thursday February 18, 2020

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

Absent: Don Larsen

✦ **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bill

✦ **Pastor Bill's Report**

- **See Report in March scoop**

✦ **Committee Reports and Updates:**

- **Building & Maintenance**
 - **Nothing new to report**
- **Christian Fellowship**
 - **No meeting in February**
- **Finance**
 - **Nothing new to report**
- **Members in Ministry**
 - **Calls are still being made**
- **Sunday School/Church Youth Program**
 - **See report in March scoop**
- **Stewardship**
 - **See report in March scoop**
- **Open & Affirming**
 - **Next meeting will be March 4th**

✦ **Ongoing Business Update**

No ongoing business

✦ **New Business Issues**

- **No new business to report**
- **Thank you to our out-going Consistory members: Mark Pierick, Don Larsen, and Kurt Schultz**

Tammie Huerth made a motion to adjourn, Kurt Schultz seconded. Meeting Adjourned

✦ **Closing Prayer:** Pastor Bill

✦ **Next Consistory Meeting:** March 18, 2021

Christian Fellowship

There was no Christian fellowship meeting in February.

- Due to the pandemic, in-person events are still postponed until further notice. Here is hoping April will bring warmer weather to meet in our beautiful Church park.



Not everything is cancelled....Sun is not cancelled, Spring is not cancelled, Love is not cancelled, Reading is not cancelled, Devotion is not cancelled, Imagination is not cancelled, Kindness is not cancelled, Conversations are not cancelled, Hope is not cancelled and God's love for His people is *never* cancelled!

Please feel free to attend any of our meetings; we would love seeing your faces.

Our next meeting is **April 13th at 6:00 pm** (Church Park or Virtually)

First UCC Christian Fellowship Committee



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

The stewardship committee met on Thursday, February 11 virtually with all members in attendance. Pastor Bill gave the committee a brief overview of the 2020 finances and the committee was pleased to hear that First UCC ended the year in the "black". Our congregation has been extremely generous and loyal through the many challenges that we faced this past year.

Marcy reported that she had already recorded a message from the committee which would be included in the February 14 service. Sherri volunteered to take March with Barb on deck for April. Pastor Bill reiterated how much he appreciates the messages from the stewardship committee.

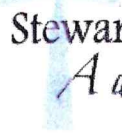
Occasionally, we have had messages also included in the Scoop. These include reminders and suggestions for stewardship within the church and our communities. Marcy will take the lead on this with Sherri helping as her time allows.

Pastor Bill shared that it is not too early to start thinking about the fall campaign and that he has materials available from the conference for the committee to review. Marcy asked if it would be possible for the conference to announce their "theme" earlier so that it can be incorporated as the committee plans the fall campaign. Pastor Bill will be in contact with the conference office.

Lastly, committee members were asked for any other ideas that they would like to see implemented. Linda suggested that we have a food drive during the summer as the local food pantry will continue to be in need. Pastor Bill also reminded everyone that we can help with mobile meals and volunteer to distribute food at the food pantry. Marcy will speak with our contact at the middle school about students' needs over the course of the summer.

Committee members were reminded to submit their email addresses to the church office for access to the Annual Meeting link. It is important for all members to participate. It was decided not to meet in March but to reconvene in April. Meeting adjourned.

First UCC Stewardship Committee



Stewardship
A way of living

This month, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, our focus is on SERVICE.

Mark 10:45: *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

Keying on Service, we see this theme many times as quoted below:

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Muhammad Ali

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King

"You have two hands. One to help yourself, the second to help others."

Audrey Hepburn

"The highest of distinctions is service to others."

King George VI

"The end of all knowledge should be service to others."

Cesar Chavez

"The most important service to others is service to those who are not like yourself."

J. Irwin Miller

"If you light a lamp for someone else it will also brighten your path."

Buddha

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu

"What a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality."

Daniel Webster

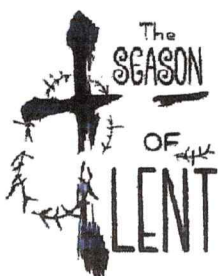
"Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living."

Albert Einstein

"Give your hands to serve, and your hearts to love."

Mother Teresa

During this Lenten season, think of ways you can serve your Lord and your community.



Memorials Report

Memorials were received in January
in loving memory of:

Radio Ministry

We thank the sponsors of our 9:00 a.m.
Sunday worship service radio broad-
casts in February:

Steve & Marcy Thurwachter,
celebrating Merton & Shirley
Moely's 79th Wedding

Anniversary on February 7th

Emily Fuchs & Rose Kleinert
remembering special valentines:

Lyle and David Kleinert and Bill
Fuchs

Jamie & Karen Witwer in memory
of Ludwig Madison

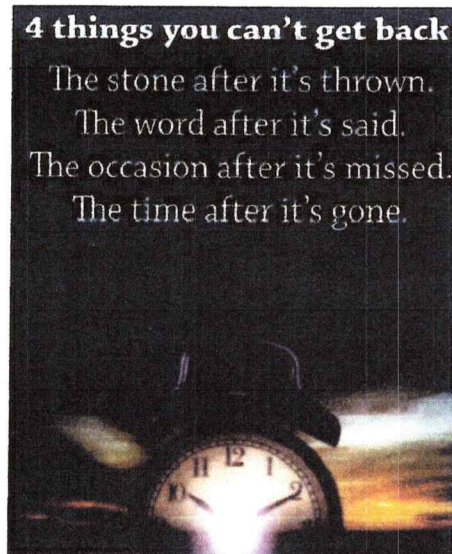
"Happy Anniversary"

Celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on March 23rd *Tim & Sue Herbrand*
Congratulations!

Please let the Church office know if we missed yours.

4 things you can't get back:

The stone after it's thrown.
The word after it's said.
The occasion after it's missed.
The time after it's gone.



Rev. Bill Kapp
Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon;
Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment
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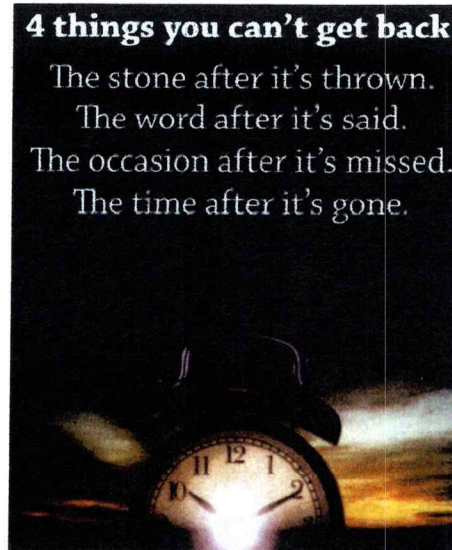
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March 2021

- 4 O&A Committee meeting 5:00 p.m.
- 7 **Annual Congregational meeting 10:15 am**
- 7 Consistory to meet immediately following Annual meeting
- 17 "Happy St. Patrick's Day"
- 18 Consistory: 6:30 p.m.



VIRTUAL

Sunday Worship:	9:00 A.M. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 & FM99.7)
Sunday School:	10:00 a.m. for ages 3 and older
Confirmation:	10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study:	10:30 a.m.

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