

March 2014



First United Church of Christ

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

It has been one of those winters---long and cold. For those of you statistic buffs, we have had 39 measurable snowfalls at the church this winter. The worst part of it all has been the cold. It has been so frigid outside that the service lateral which brings water into the church from the outside has frozen. We've been told it will be April before the water will flow freely into the church once again. We received a taste of sunshine and 40 degree temperatures last week. How nice it was to feel the warmth of the sun on our faces and to see some of the snow outside start to melt. But then, heavy rain and freezing temperatures froze all of that standing water, resulting in sheets of ice wherever we go.

During a winter like this, we rely on the good people of the church to help with snow removal and sidewalk maintenance. I can think of at least ten people whom I have seen over the last couple of months working diligently on the sidewalks. These members from our congregation have spent countless hours using the snow blower and shoveling around the church and the church park. Sore backs and muscles are the result. Please know that your time and effort is much appreciated! Thanks to McFarlanes, who donates many of the supplies we need around the church such as our snow blower, salt, paper products, cleaning supplies, etc.

Often, the work of our snow removers goes unnoticed. It has always been done nicely and that is our expectation. It is only when the sidewalks are not groomed (usually after a mid-morning snow when people are at work and the snow is not shoveled right away) that people have feedback for the church. It was suggested at our recent Annual Meeting that perhaps we hire out the duties of snow removal for next winter. The problem is, at approximately \$300 per snow removal for hired help, the bill from this winter alone would add up to around \$11,700. We do not have the resources available in our budget at this time.

The alternative is to redouble our efforts to coordinate snow removal amongst our own membership. Perhaps, as we look to next winter, we can have members sign up to remove snow during a certain week of the winter. If everyone took a turn to help out, our snow removal issues would be greatly alleviated. It is too big a job for one or two people to handle by themselves.

Special thanks to Prairie Plumbing & Heating for all the work they have done on behalf of First UCC. For the past number of years, Prairie Plumbing & Heating has plowed the snow in the church parking lot and along the sidewalks. This work has been donated to the church, and we couldn't be more thankful for their generosity and support. Prairie Plumbing & Heating has also been busy in the last weeks running a water line from our education building over to the church so we can have running water until the spring thaw. They also have spent countless hours maintaining our furnace, fixing leaks, and taking care of whatever else we need around the church. They have been a wonderful help to the church.

With the Greatest of Hope, Pastor Bill

2014 Cooperative Lenten Worship Calendar

This sharing of Lenten worship with our brothers and sisters in faith is a cherished tradition of our Church. Services start at 6:30 p.m.; except on Ash Wednesday, there will be two services: 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Lenten offering supports Habitat for Humanity, 6:8, and the Good Neighbor Clinic.



March 5: Ash Wednesday

(Holy Communion/Imposition of Ashes)

St. John's Lutheran-Prairie du Sac

1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Theme: Broken Hearts
Preacher: Pastor Bill Kapp

March 12

Black Hawk U.M.C.

Theme: Broken Vessel
Preacher: Pastor Doris Simpson

March 19

St. John's Lutheran Church-Leland

Theme: Broken Trust
Preacher: Pastor Kendall Schlittler

March 26

First United Church of Christ

Theme: Broken Bread
Preacher: Pastor John Smith III

April 2

First Presbyterian Church

Theme: Broken Promises
Preacher: Pastor Erich Hartenberger

April 9

Concordia United Methodist Church

Theme: Broken Justice
Preacher: Pastor Bill Kapp



April 13: Palm Sunday

First U.C.C.

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



April 17: Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service

First U.C.C.

7:00 p.m.

April 18: Good Friday

St. John's Lutheran Church

1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

First U.C.C.

7:00 p.m.



One Great Hour of Sharing: “We Are One”

Each year, One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ produces an Annual Mission report. We highlight a glimpse of mission made possible because of the support of our churches and friends. Your support is deeply appreciated by all whose lives are touched.

In 2014, the One Great Hour of Sharing theme is “**We Are One**”. The focus is on sharing with our brothers and sisters in need around the world because we are connected with them through Christ Jesus.

It suggests that as long as anyone has an unmet need, we all have unmet needs. This idea is easy to understand when the person in need is a family member or neighbor in our community. It is not as easy when the person in need is someone we don't know, who lives far away.

Yet, we are called to care for those near and far, alike. From disaster relief, to training programs, to boots, and

healthcare, your gift is making a major impact in the lives of real people.

For almost seven decades, *One Great Hour Of Sharing* has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, leveraging funds, and serving through partnership. Together we are showing the world God's love and compassion through acts of kindness, making the United Church of Christ a vehicle through which lives are transformed.

Christ's work in the world healed the sick, fed the hungry, and brought hope to communities burdened by challenges. The Legacy lives on.

Give generously to this great connector of our churches and our shared faith, work, and witness in the world.

With your generous support, these vital ministries of life can continue.

Thank you!

Generous God, bless these gifts that we return to you, and bless the hearts that give. Unite our hearts with those hearts that will be strengthened, helped, and healed through these gifts. May this money be used faithfully and purposefully, furthering your reign of compassion and justice around the world. Amen

Memorials

No Memorials were received in January

Radio Ministry

We thank the February sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Nancy Genz, In loving memory of her Mom, Lela Genz.

Steve & Marcia Thurwachter, In honor of Marcia's parents', Walter & Shirley Moely, wedding anniversary.

Randy & Barb Kuhnau, In loving memory of Randy's grandparents, Alfred & Mabel Kuhnau.

♥ March Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Kelly and Cathy Riley, 30 years on March 17 ☺

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in March!

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Jackie Sliter		Tom, Margaret, and	Liz Bongard		Jason & Chris
Dustin Sliter		Amanda McFarlane	Phil Bongard		Logterman and
Tammy Young			Dave Bongard		Ella
Megan & David Young			Peggy Ganser		Sam

Communion Servers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>March 2</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>April 20</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Galen & Pam Alwin		Rick Breininger	Emily Fuchs		Larry Johnson,
Barb Brock		Nadene Litscher	Rose Kleinert		Chair
Gary Schlender		Tom McFarlane	Deb Tschudy		Bill Steckelberg
		Todd Pieper, Chair			Duane & Dianna
					Woerpel

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 and FM 99.7) and 10:30 (childcare provided at 10:30 service)

Sunday School: 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 and older

Confirmation: 9:00-10:15 a.m.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

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SCOOP

March 2014

- 5 Ash Wednesday Services at St. John's Lutheran Church: 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Stewardship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Don't forget to "spring" forward 1 hour before you go to bed ☺
- 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11 Christian Fellowship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Lenten Service at Blackhawk United Methodist Church: 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Sunday School "Fun, Float, and Fellowship": 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Sunday School Choir sings at the 10:30 Worship Service
- 19 Lenten Service at St. John's Lutheran-Leland: 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 21-23 Youth Retreat in Wisconsin Dells
- 23 Coffee Fellowship between Worship Services
- 26 Chili & Soup Supper: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
We Host Ecumenical Lenten Service: 6:30 p.m.
Coffee & dessert following Lenten Service

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 School News

from Margaret McFarlane



During Lent, the Sunday School is collecting donations for the “**Mexican Children’s Refuge**”/“**Mabel’s Building Mission**”. Pastor Herb and Bev Feierabend formally from our Church are involved in the leadership of this home building project. Donations can be sent to Sunday School or put in the offering plate. Donations should be turned in by April 27.



March is Church camp month! Students in grades K-6 will hear about camp; and we will, again, collect donations to help students with the cost. (See separate article.)



Thanks for the great choir participation on February 16. The Sunday School choir will sing, again, on March 16. Students in Grades 5-6 will have a special part to share.



A new candlelighting schedule will be made for April and May. If your child would like to participate, please let me know (643-6327).



Our annual swimming party will be Saturday, March 15, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. This is a free event! We hope you can join us!

Church Camp Is For All Ages!

Campers gather in the community of creation to share meals, songs, campfires, star-gazing, worship, water sports, and more. Church camp really is a wonderful way to relax, have fun, learn, and enjoy fellowship. There are camps for young children all the way up to senior citizens. You can find out about the many camp opportunities and register by going to Pilgrim Center’s website:

ucci.org/pilgrim-center

Let the Church office or Margaret know if you will be attending.

Help Us Collect Donations For “The Mexican Children’s Refuge”/“Mabel’s Building Mission”

The Sunday School would love for you to participate in our challenge to collect \$1,000 to build another home in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Pick up a “Count Your Blessings” Activity and envelope in the office or on the ledge as you leave church. All donations are very much appreciated!

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.**
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

Chili & Soup Dinner

The Christian Fellowship Committee is hosting a Chili and Soup Dinner on Wednesday, March 26. Dinner will be served from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Home-made chili and soups will be available along with breads, beverages, and desserts. Cost: free-will donation. Coffee and desserts will be served following the Ecumenical Lenten service, which we are hosting this evening. There are sign-up sheets in the back of church to bake desserts and breads; to help during the supper; and to help clean up afterwards. Emily Fuchs is Chair of this event (643-8085) and Shirlee Lendved is Co-Chair (592-4810). *Everyone in the community is invited!*

Looking ahead.....

Spring cleaning days at church will be Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day.

“Pastry, Pantry, and Produce” Table will be set up on April 13.

Women’s Sunday will be Sunday, April 27.

Our annual **Mother-Child Banquet** will be held on Thursday, May 8, starting at 5:30 p.m., supper will be served at 6:30 p.m.



Greetings From Your Music Director.....Dennis Kahn

It's hard to believe we are already two months past Christmas! This winter has proven more challenging weather-wise than last, but First Choir continues to enjoy making music to the “glory of God!” ☺

As March unfolds, we are preparing music for Lent, our Sunday worship services, Holy Week, and our 2nd Annual First Choir Concert in May! I would like to extend an invitation to any and all to come and join us to help make our worship as musically fulfilling as possible.

Since the Ecumenical Lenten Services begin at 6:30 p.m., we will be moving First Choir rehearsals to Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. starting on March 6th and continuing through April 10th. Thereafter, we will move back to Wednesdays. This will allow members to be able to get to the Lenten services. First Choir will be singing at the Lenten Service at First Church on Wednesday, March 26th.

I would like to thank everyone for his or her continuing support of our music ministry here at First Church.



FROM THE HEART

From Marlene Larsen

I want to thank everyone at First U.C.C. for the get-well wishes. It means a lot to read the names. Thank you, Pastor Bill, for your support; and my family for all of your love and care.

From Pat Boehmer

A big "Thank You" to everyone who remembered me with cards, the lovely gift basket, and prayers during my surgery and recovery. A special thank you to Pastor Bill for his visits and prayers. To my balcony buddies: I WILL BE BACK! God Bless You All!



THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HALO TO

Thank you to **Dorothy Kundert**, **Sherry Pieper**, and **Dianna Woerpel** for preparing coffee and bringing in the wonderful treats to enjoy before our annual meeting. It was greatly appreciated! Blessings to you all!

Thank you to **Rita Larsen** and **Rose Kleinert** for hosting the coffee fellowship on Sunday, February 23. You two are hostesses with the mostest!

Thank you to the **Stewardship Committee** for organizing our special music – Southern Gospel Quartet **Journey Bound** – on Sunday, February 23, and for preparing and serving the delicious luncheon after the worship service. It was a wonderful morning of praising God with music and a fantastic meal!

A special thank you to **Forrest Hartmann, Larry & Kathy Johnson, Tom & Margaret McFarlane, Lois Pieper, Todd Pieper, Herman & Debbie Tschudy, Lois Polacek, and Fritz Wyttenbach** for donating toward the cost of our Southern Gospel Quartet, Journey Bound. What an inspirational morning of worship!

An Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do;

May your purse always hold a coin or two;

May the sun always shine on your window pane;

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;

May the hand of a friend always be near you; and

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you!



CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ
February 20, 2014

Present: Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher, President, Amanda McFarlane, Tim Homar, Tim Herbrand, Theresa Grimes, and Rose Kleinert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Secretaries Report: Motion to approve by Tim Homar, second by Tim Herbrand, motion carried.

Pastors Report: (1) Lent begins on March 5th; Wednesday night services will start at **6:30 p.m.** (2) Ash Wednesday service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church where Pastor Bill will be offering up the sermon, as well as the service on March 9th. (3) First UCC will host Lenten Service on March 26th. Prior to the service, our annual Soup and Chili Supper will be served from 4:00-6:00 p.m.; coffee fellowship will immediately follow the service.

(4) **Choir rehearsal will be on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. throughout the Lenten season.** (5) There will be a sunrise service held in the First UCC church park on Easter Sunday (April 20th) at 6:30 a.m., Easter breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

(6) First UCC is participating in a mission trip to Mississippi this summer (June 8th through June 14th).

Committee Reports:

Sunday School/Church Youth Program:

(1) March is camp month; registration is on line this year. (2) Help us fill our "sparkle box" that is located at the back of church. (3) The youth served a lasagna dinner at The University of Wisconsin Madison Campus (The Crossings) on February 16th; 13 youth were in attendance – THANK YOU!!

(4) Sunday School swimming party is March 15th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

(5) Youth retreat is scheduled for March 21-23, 2014, reservations have been made. (6) The confirmands will be hosting a "bake-off" on April 27th – get your taste buds prepared.

Members in Ministry are very actively making visits to the shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly. If anyone is interested in spending a little time with a nursing home resident or shut-in, please contact Liz Bongard or the church office. All are welcome to join!

Christian Fellowship: (1) March 26th: Soup and Chili fundraiser; chair: Emily Fuchs, co-chair: Shirlee Lendved.

(2) Christian Fellowship will be helping with the Easter breakfast; anyone is welcome to help join in the fun.

(3) Spring cleaning days are Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12; start time 9:00 a.m. (4) Pastry, Pantry, and Produce will be held on April 13th.

(5) April 27th is Women's Sunday.

(6) Mother/Child banquet is scheduled for May 8th starting at 5:30 p.m.

Finance: Finance Committee will be meeting in March or April, date to be determined.

Stewardship: Reviewed annual meeting; sunrise service and breakfast for Easter Sunday, April 20.

Building & Maintenance: (1) Cracked window in Pre-K classroom (second floor). (2) Radiator leaking is lifting floor tiles on third floor. (3) Sign-up sheet for defibrillator and CPR training.

Bills and Financials: Year-end financials; motion to approve by Tim Herbrand, second by Rose, motion carried.

Ongoing Business: (1) Soffit and fascia upgrades to the church sanctuary and educational building from annual meeting, final bid to be determined at the next Consistory meeting.

(2) Strategic goal planning had its first meeting and are underway, mission statement is being developed; meetings will be held the first Monday of each month. (3) The church directory should be arriving shortly and will be distributed upon arrival.

New Business: (1) Water supply – frozen laterals, Prairie Plumbing and Heating to thaw on February 21st.

(2). Maintenance of grounds – four seasons – from annual meeting, discussed options for snow and leaf removal procedures for the church and park grounds. (3) Remodeling of the Men's restroom, second floor, Education Building; remodel being donated by the Sauk Prairie Nursery Center. A world of thanks for **ALL** they do!

(4) Summer worship – one service – from the annual meeting; it has been decided by Consistory that for the summer of 2014 we will have one service; we will review the pros and cons in September. Starting Sunday, June 8, through Sunday, August 31, there will be one service at 8:00 a.m. The decision to keep the time at 8:00 a.m. is to maintain and keep our radio broadcast time slot. (5) It was requested by church member Amy Bachhuber to use the church park for Earth Day recognition on April 26; it will include children's activities, food stands, and a movie; donations will go to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. The time will be from Noon until 11:00 p.m. Motion to approve by Rose, second by Amanda, motion carried. (6) Two trees for the church park were donated by Slater Diederich Tree Trimming

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Herbrand, second by Theresa, motion carried.

Next Consistory meeting: Third Thursday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

*Those who walk with
God, always reach their
destination.*



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

First United Church of Christ
February 2, 2014

- ❖ Call to order by Tom Litscher, Consistory President
- ❖ Opening prayer given by Pastor Bill
- ❖ Declaration of quorum – 65 members present
- ❖ Parliamentarian: Tim Homar; Head Teller and Tellers: Herm Tschudy, Rita Larsen and Emily Fuchs.
- ❖ Approval of minutes from the 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting of February 3, 2013: motion to approve by Tammie Huerth, second by Fritz Wyttenbach, motion carried.
- ❖ Approval of Committee Reports as presented in the Annual Report; motion to approve by Herm Tschudy, second by Liz Bongard, motion carried.
- ❖ Proposed Capital Improvements for 2014: Soffit and Fascia Upgrade for Church Sanctuary and Educational Building, bids presented by Tim Herbrand. Consistory to decide winning bid at the next Consistory meeting on February 20th. Motion to authorize spending up to \$18,500 for soffit and fascia upgrade project by Marcia Nachreiner, second by Ed Larsen; motion carried.

❖ Approval of Financial Reports and Proposed Budget for 2014; motion to approve by Deb Tschudy, second by Emily Fuchs; motion carried.

❖ Approval to Amend First UCC Constitution **ARTICLE V. MEMBER-SHIP; Section 5. Membership Status; c.** “Inactive Member. Any member who has been absent from the life of the church for a period of one year and has not communicated with the church shall be contacted by the church regarding their intent” to:

“Inactive member. Any member who **has not had contact with the church through either: (1) Attendance, (2) Communion, and/or (3) Offering** for a period of one year shall **have their name(s) removed from the roll, with the allowance to be re-instated by request at a later date**”

Motion to approve by Fritz Wyttenbach, second by Emily Fuchs, motion carried.

❖ Consistory elections: No nominations from floor, Amanda McFarlane, Deb Tschudy, and Rose Kleinert agreed to accept second three-year term and were elected.

❖ Introduction of Consistory members: Tom Litscher, Tim Homar, Todd Pieper, Theresa Grimes, Tim Herbrand, Lyle Kuhnau, Deb Tschudy, Amanda McFarlane, and Rose Kleinert.

❖ Report from Pastor Bill: Thank you to Consistory and *all* committee members for their willingness to serve. Special thank you to the entire staff for going above and beyond. Thanks to committees and members who helped

complete the bell tower and get the website up and running.

❖ Items from the congregation:

a) Motion made by Lois Pieper that First UCC maintains the leaves in the park; motion withdrawn. Motion made by Kathy Johnson that First UCC delegate individual(s) to maintain all “seasonal” clean-ups in the Church park, and Church grounds (i.e. sidewalk snow removal/salt, shoveling, raking leaves, etc.); second by Lois Pieper, motion carried. Tom McFarlane volunteered to donate necessary equipment for clean up.

b) Motion made by Fritz Wyttenbach, recommendation to have one service in the summer (9:00 a.m.), motion amended by Fritz Wyttenbach to have one service during the months of June, July, and August at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m.; second by Rod Hehenberger; motion carried (two Nay). Motion will be reviewed by Consistory at the next Consistory meeting (February 20th) to discuss any ramifications in regards to the 8:00 a.m. radio broadcast; final decision to be made by Consistory.

❖ Motion to adjourn by Tim Herbrand, second by Doug Larsen.

❖ Closing prayer given by Reverend William Kapp, Pastor

❖ Immediately following the Annual meeting, the 2014 Consistory members met for a brief meeting to elect officers:

Tom Litscher, President
Amanda McFarlane, Vice-President
Deb Tschudy, Treasurer
Rose Kleinert, Secretary



New Church Directories from Church Directory Committee

We are happy to announce the new church directories have arrived!! 😊

Members who came in for a photo session get a free directory, and they can be picked up in a box in the back of the church starting on Sunday, March 9. Check for your name on the directory; one per family.

Other members who would like a directory: We will have a table in the back of church on Sunday, March 9, and Sunday, March 16 (and other dates if needed) or contact the church office for a copy. A \$5.00 donation would be greatly appreciated to cover the cost of the purchase of the additional directories.

The Christian Fellowship Committee paid for the additional directories which cost \$5.00 each and 100 additional directories were ordered. We thank them for their generosity.

Blessings to you!

Christian Fellowship
Minutes of February 11, 2014
from Debbie Tschudy

In attendance – Pastor Bill, Lois Pieper, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Debbie Tschudy, Fritz Wyttenbach

Old Business

Debbie put together an updated draft list for a SCOOP insert on what our committee works on and descriptions – any comments on draft? Debbie will make some changes and bring back to next meeting to discuss

January 19 – coffee fellowship - pulpit exchange

Cindy will get check sent to “My Neighbors in Need” for \$100 – as approved for Sauk Prairie area only

New Business

Coffee Fellowship dates

February 23 – Gospel group – Journey Bound singing

March 23 – Pastor Bill at youth retreat – visiting Pastor

March 26 – Soup/chili fundraiser – Chair and co-chair – Em Fuchs and Shirlee Lendved – new start time for Wednesday advent services – 6:30 p.m.

April 11 and 12 – Spring cleaning days starting at 9:00 each day

April 13 – “Pastry, Pantry, & Produce” table – funds to go toward Youth

April 27 – Women’s Sunday

May 8 – Mother/Child Banquet date – Thursday – Start 5:30 p.m. and eat at 6:30 p.m.

Lois had an idea for a theme – “Spread the Love” – she will check and see if we could get Pastor Sally Mitchell to come speak – we still need a Chair for this event

Any other new business?

We voted to take \$1,000 out of our committee fund to go toward the youth retreat expenses – Debbie will contact Cindy to take care of this

Misc. church items or dates

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 20 – Easter

May 11 – Mother’s Day

Stewardship fellowship Easter breakfast - Fritz

Biloxi group – garage sale at church – date TBD

Next Meetings – March 11 at 6:30 p.m. and April 8 at 6:30 p.m.