

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

The season of Lent has begun. The Lenten season is the forty days beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on the day before Easter. Sundays are excluded from the calculation because Sabbath Day worship has always had the principal purpose of commemorating the first Easter.

Observed by the church from the earliest times, Lent is devoted to fasting and penitence. Christians prepare themselves spiritually and emotionally for Easter Sunday's triumphant celebration of Christ's resurrection. The Sundays in Lent are often used, therefore, to set the agenda for focused meditation during each week

Christians have a long history of giving up something during Lent. In previous generations, and even today, "Fat Tuesday" was the day where all the household sweets and all the good food and drink were consumed in a festive celebration. Perhaps there was even some singing and dancing. Then, from Ash Wednesday until Easter, it was to be a somber time of self-denial and penitence. During Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. This is known as one's Lenten sacrifice. Many people give up eating meat during Lent, or sweets, or just about anything that they really enjoy.

I have had limited success in giving stuff up. I often fail at those Lenten challenges, and then as a result, end up feeling worse about my spiritual well-being than before. I now try to add a spiritual discipline to my life during the Lenten season, such as reading a daily devotional or making an intentional time for meditation or prayer. I try to incorporate disciplines that aid in my self-care and connection with God.

As always, the Sauk Prairie Area Community of Churches will host ecumenical community Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Participating congregations in the Lenten rotation include; St. John's Lutheran Prairie du Sac, Concordia United Methodist Church, St. John's Lutheran Leland, Bethlehem United Methodist Church-Blackhawk and First UCC. Our congregation will host two community services during Lent: March 4 (Theme: Wounds-violating Sabbath with preacher Rev. Erich Hartenberger) and on March 25 (Theme: Wounds-adultery with preacher Rev. Claire Douglass).

I've been told that penitence should happen all year round and that we ought to be preparing ourselves every day for Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. This is true. Our daily walk is just that, daily, not just during certain times of the year. But I have appreciated the season of Lent since I was a child. It has been memorable and special for me and I have many wonderful memories from my childhood that continue to influence me today.

Please join me as we walk with Jesus to the cross. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Pastor Bill



## **First Choir News!** From Dennis Kahn

As you read this, Lent is underway, spring is just around the corner and Easter will be here shortly! As we travel through the Lenten season, First Choir continues to enjoy making music to the “glory of God!”

In addition to our regular schedule, please plan on attending our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual First Choir Concert on May 3<sup>rd</sup>! 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.

As the Ecumenical Lenten Services begin Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., First Choir will not rehearse on Wednesdays during Lent, but will resume Wednesday rehearsals in April. This will allow members to be able to get to the Lenten services. Starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, we will move back to Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. First Choir will be singing at the Lenten Service at First Church on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals during Lent will be on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.

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



## **Mobile Meals**

**Our Turn for Mobile Meals:** Churches and service organizations in the Sauk Prairie community take turns delivering these meals to the home-bound. First United Church of Christ is responsible for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>. Two people (a driver and a “runner”) are needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of Church along with instruction packets. Thank you for volunteering to help deliver SPMHC mobile meals!



## **Stock The Schools!!!** **Sauk Prairie School** **Students In Need**

This month's items are pudding cups and liquid body wash. There is a box as you come into church to put your purchases in. Thank you to all who

continue to bring in items for the students!

Theme: "Wounds-Stealing"  
Preacher: Pending



## 2020 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.

**April 5: Palm Sunday**  
First U.C.C.  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



### **April 9: Maundy Thursday**

Tenebrae Service  
First U.C.C.  
7:00 p.m.

Theme: "Wounds-Violating Sabbath"  
Preacher: Rev. Erich Hartenberger



**April 10: Good Friday**  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**March 11**  
St. John's Lutheran-Leland  
Theme: "Wounds-Dishonor Authority"  
Preacher: Rev. Kendall Schlittler

First U.C.C.  
7:00 p.m.

**March 18**  
Concordia U.M.C.  
Theme: "Wounds-Murder"  
Preacher: Rev. Bill Kapp

### **April 12: Easter Sunday**

**March 25**  
First U.C.C.  
Theme: "Wounds-Adultery"  
Preacher: Rev. Claire Douglass

"JESUS  
IS  
RISEN!"

**April 1**  
Black Hawk UMC

**Sunrise Worship Service:** 6:30 a.m.  
**Easter Breakfast:** 7:30-9:00 a.m.  
**No Sunday School, Confirmation,**

and Bible Study classes today.

**Worship Service:** 10:30 a.m.



### **“Invest in Futures”**

In Thailand, a 13-year-old girl arrives at the New Life Center, seeking relief from the cruel conditions that have brought her here. Her life up to this point has been mostly about survival. Here, she meets others like her.

*What will the future be like when she is empowered to share her gifts with her community and the world?*

At the New Life Center, she is met with the investment of time, support, and resources. And she is loved. She is allowed to imagine a new future. Finishing school. Learning a trade. Even going to a University to earn a degree.

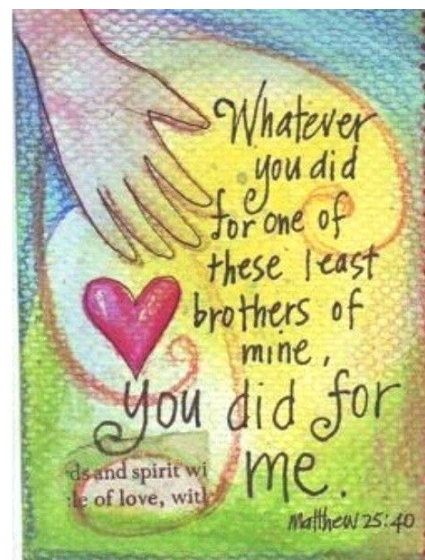
In 1 Corinthians 3.9, Paul writes that we are all co-workers together in God’s service. Some of us plant. Some of us water. But God gives the growth. Paul reminds us that we are all called into the service of God, who cares for each and every one of us. What could the future be like when we work to plant and water together, and trust God to give the growth?

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the futures of these girls and countless others like them. Your gifts go to provide education, vocational training, basic necessities and much-needed community support. When we share the love of Christ in this way, we see lives transformed. Not just their lives, but ours as well.

As we invest in futures and serve as co-workers with God, the future becomes one of endless possibility and opportunity. What a great return on our investment!

*“For we are co-workers in God’s service;  
You are God’s field, God’s building”*

1 Corinthians 3:9



## Memorials

Memorials were received in February in loving memory of:

Ron Richmond

## Radio Ministry

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

Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, in loving memory of Merton & Shirley Moely's wedding anniversary on February 7.

Jamie & Karen Wittwer, in loving memory of their friend, Orville Arnold.

David & Gloria Ramsey, in honor of Larry & Tina Wilkinson's Wedding Anniversary on February 14.

## ♥ March Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Mark & Rhonda Pierick, 15 years on March 19

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in March!

## Ushers

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>10:30</u>
March 1 <sup>st</sup> : 9 a.m. Worship Service:	Open		
March 8	Open		Open
March 15	Open		Open
March 22	Open		Logterman Family
March 29	Open		Logterman Family

## Communion Servers

### 9:00: March 1 – Annual Meeting

Tammie Huerth, Larry Johnson and Gary Schlender

## Wednesday Night Fellowship

Dinner: 5:30 p.m.

Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 p.m.

## Thursday Night During Lent

First Choir: 6:45 p.m.

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sauk City, WI 53583

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# SCOOP

March 2020



- 1**      **9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**Coffee/Donuts** (before Annual Meeting)  
**Annual Meeting**  
**No Sunday School, Bible Study & Confirmation Classes**
- 4**      **Chili-Soup Supper – 4:00-6:15 p.m.**  
**Lenten Service at First United Church of Christ – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship and Refreshments**
- 11**      **Lenten Service at St. John-Leland – 6:30 p.m.**
- 15**      **Sunday School Family Sunday**  
    • **Sunday School Choir sings at 10:30 worship service**  
    • **Movie Day:** around 11:30 a.m.
- 18**      **Lenten Service at Concordia U.M.C. – 6:30 p.m.**
- 19**      **Stewardship Committee – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Consistory. – 6:30 p.m.**
- 25**      **Lenten Service at First U.C.C. – 6:30 p.m.**
- 29**      **Old Testament Bible Study – Time to be announced**

### Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 and FM 99.7) and 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study

9:10-10:10 a.m.

**Rev. Bill Kapp**  
Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m.;  
and by appointment; Office phone: 643-8387; Cell phone: 370-2249;  
E-mail: bill\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

## Sunday School News

From Margaret McFarlane  
& Brigitta Brickl



There is no class on Sunday, March 1, due to the Annual Meeting. During the meeting, there will be a nursery and movie available.



During Lent, the Sunday School is collecting donations for the “**Mexican Children’s Refuge**”/“**Mabel’s Building Mission**”. Pastor Herb and Bev Feiera-bend formally from our Church have been 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 19. Check out the countdown poster each week to see how we are doing.



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 student choir participation on February 16. The Sunday School choir will sing, again, on March 15. Students in Grades 3, 4, & 5 and Grade 6 will have a special part to share.



Looking ahead... We will be having a Palm Procession at the 10:30 service on April 5. Our Easter Party will be Saturday, April 11. There will be no classes on Easter, April 12.



Movie Day: Sunday, March 15, after Family Sunday (at about 11:30). Bring a blanket and a pillow to get comfortable while watching a movie. We will be having walking tacos and sundaes. Located in the Fireside room. The movie is to be decided by the Sunday School students in the next couple of weeks.

### **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](http://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 \$1,500 to build another home in Nuevo Progresso, Mexico. All donations can be dropped off at the church office, put in the collection plates, or delivered to Sunday School.

Consistory Minutes  
*First United Church of Christ*

*Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>*

Attendance: Pastor Bill, Chris Logterman, Peggy Ganser, Kurt Schultz, Dean Dahnert, Don Larsen, Heather Miller, Tammie Huerth, and Mark Pierick

Absent: Marcy Thurwachter

✚ Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Pastor Bill's Report

- See report in the March Scoop
- Tammie move to approve Pastor Bill's vacation request, Peggy second, motion passed.

✚ Committee Reports and Updates:

- Building & Maintenance
  - Sauk City Utilities inspected our water system. We passed.
  - Reported on our lateral connections for DNR.
  - New laptop and docking station acquired for Pastor Bill. Working on setting up the programs, files, etc.
  - Received bid on signage option. Will collect more for review.
- Christian Fellowship
  - See report in March Scoop
- Finance
  - January financial statement reviewed
    - Don move to approve January financials, Peggy second, motion passed.
  - Finance Committee met February 18.
    - Discussed effects of transfer from Morgan Stanley to Trust Point
    - Discussed moving to quarterly meetings unless additional meetings are needed
    - Worked on end of year financials and next year's budget
      - Questions about the "\$ Over Budget" numbers – do not appear to be consistent in what is reflected
  - Discussed Pastor Bill's salary
    - Don move to give our pastor a raise, Kurt second, motion passed.
  - Chris move to approve budget for Congregation review at the annual meeting, Tammie second, motion passed.
- Members in Ministry
  - Actively making visits
  - New members welcome
    - Additional members would allow for more frequent visits
- Sunday School/Church Youth Program
  - See report in the March Scoop
  - Youth Group



- Youth Retreat February 14–16
  - Youth Exchange in 2020 and 2021
  - Mission trip June 2020
  - Confirmation will be May 31 at 10:30 service
- Stewardship
  - No meeting in February
- Open & Affirming
  - See report in March Scoop
    - Meet and Greet with subcommittee on January 19 was well attended
    - Discussion opportunity on February 23 at 3:00PM with Laura McCloud
    - Bible studies set for March 29, Old Testament, and April 19, New Testament
    - No meeting in March

#### ✚ Ongoing Business

- Annual meeting is March 1 – We will hold an organizational meeting after the meeting
- Mark Pierick will come up for approval to serve on the Pastor Parish Committee

#### ✚ New Business

- Discussed possible funding ideas for sound equipment
  - Dean requested Consistory's approval for radio room remodel/improvements project.
    - Mark move to approve Dean's request, Kurt second, motion passed.
- Discussed needing to have building projects more frequently to do both upkeep and improvements

#### ✚ Adjourn

- Dean move to adjourn the meeting, Don second, motion passed

✚ Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Next Consistory Meeting: March 19<sup>th</sup>

# **Christian Fellowship Minutes (February 11th)**

Attending: Pastor Bill, Sherry Pieper, Peggy Ganser, Rita Larsen, Sandy Schlender and Rose Kleinert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

- February 9<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Fellowship
- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Christian fellowship meeting

## **MARCH**

**is a busy month in the life of our church**

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting (9:00am service only)**

- Light coffee fellowship between service & meeting (coffee, donut holes)

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our first Lenten service which will be our annual soup supper from 4:00 -6:15 pm Chaired by Emily Fuchs and Shirlee Lendved.**

- Coffee fellowship after service.

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> we are hosting our second Lenten service**

- Coffee fellowship after service



- Church spring cleaning will be on Friday & Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 - noon

## Christian fellowship ideas for 2020

Discussed ideas for church events

- Summer picnic
- Service in the park (bring your tractor to church day)
- Mother family dinner
- Tea party
- Music in the park (Sauk City) Sub sandwich supper
- Mallards game
- Craft night in the fall

*Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill*

**Next meeting is Tuesday, April 14th @ 6:30 pm**

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Coffee fellowship just wouldn't happen without the help of our congregation!

Thank you Fritz for helping me on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January for our pulpit exchange, Fritz and Linda Lehan helped me on February 9<sup>th</sup> by supplying beautiful and yummy heart cookies along with heart cheese and sausage.



WE L♥VE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Special thanks to Dianna Woerpel and Peggy Ganser for hosting the funeral on February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Your time is valuable and most appreciated.**

## **Open & Affirming Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes February 6, 2020**

Members present: Pastor Bill, Shirlee Lendved, Dennis Kahn, Tammie Huerth, Barb Sprecher, Dean Sprecher, Christy Kinnamon.

Absent: Chris Logterman

\*Pastor Bill opened with a prayer

\*Discussed bringing the music group - The Common Chords- to First UCC. Agreed date of April 26<sup>th</sup>. Shirlee will check with the group to see if they would want to sing at both services. A coffee fellowship was discussed between services for that day.

\*Shirlee read a recap of our 2019 meetings. This report will be available at the Annual Meeting in March.

\*Preparation for the Panel Discussion on February 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:00 p.m. was discussed.

\*Bible Study dates for March were set for March 29<sup>th</sup> for the Old Testament. Time still to be determined. April Bible Study for the New Testament will be April 19<sup>th</sup>. Again, time to be determined.

\*Review of the Meet & Greet meeting held on January 19, 2020

\*No meeting scheduled for March

\*Next meeting set for April 2, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Stewardship Committee**

There was no meeting in January.

Dear Consistory,

We are winding down the liturgical season of Epiphany. Over the past six weeks the scripture readings, liturgy and worship themes at First UCC have focused on the theme of light. The light of the star that guided the Magi. The light of the world, Jesus Christ. As Jesus' followers, we have been called to be salt and light.

I am grateful for your leadership and commitment to the life of First UCC. You have let your light shine through the sharing of your spiritual gifts: education, music, generosity, mission, technology, decorating, etc. Thank you for being that light that guides our way.

In terms of my report:

\* I am presenting a case study at my ministerial development group on Friday, February 21. I often receive helpful feedback.

\* We will receive new members on Sunday, February 23 at both worship services.

\* There will be an organizational meeting for this summer's trip to Back Bay mission on February 23 after the 10:30am worship service.

\* The Open and Affirming panel discussion is scheduled for 3 PM Sunday, February 23. We do not have a panel, but Rev. Laura McLeod from the Wisconsin conference O & A committee will be leading a question and answer session for people who attend.

\* I'm leading an Ash Wednesday Service at The Pines (3pm) and Pine Villa (3:30pm). I will also participate in the community services (1pm & 6:30pm) at St. John's.

\* We host community Lenten worship services March 4 and 25th. I preach March 18 at Concordia United Methodist Church and on April 1 at the Blackhawk United Methodist Church. Lenten worship services begin at 6:30.

\* I'm requesting a week of vacation in April. My plan is to lead worship on April 19 with an O&A Bible study after the 10:30am worship service. I will be back in the office Tuesday, April 28. We will need pulpit supply on Sunday April 26.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Bill



## CHURCH CHANGE CHALLENGE

Fill an empty jar with your loose change.

When it is full, cash it in at the bank and donate your treasure to UCC Youth!!

This fundraiser will continue through the end of the school year!!

(All proceeds will go to help our Sponsor child from Compassion International, Dian)

