

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP

March 2024

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 Church...

March 3rd **ANNUAL Meeting**
March 6th Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm
March 13th Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm
March 20th Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm
March 21st Consistory 6pm
March 24th Coffee Fellowship/Palm Sunday
March 28th ***Maundy Thursday*** Service 6pm
March 29th ***Good Friday*** Service 6pm

March 31st **EASTER SUNDAY**

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

March 2024

From the Interim Pastor...

Here's a poem/prayer written by the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, that I have often kept taped above the desk in my study.

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself.
And the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
And you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.*

The interim period—when what is past is gone and what is coming is not yet clear, can be a trying time for a congregation. I feel like I have repeated this several times during my tenure here in Sauk City. But I know I tend to repeat things I believe are very important.

The search for a new settled pastor can feel like you're sailing on the proverbial "slow boat to China." This can feel true even when it's not. Given the situation in the larger church and your Search Committee's firm intention to do the best job and make the best decision possible, your search is, in fact, proceeding as quickly as is reasonably possible.

We "do not see the road ahead," and we "cannot know for certain where it will end." And so it will, at times, feel like the roller coaster ride you never wanted to be on. There will be surprising twists and turns; there will be disappointments and there will be joy.

I believe Merton was right. The desire to please God does, in fact, please God. And as you follow that desire in all you do as a congregation you can trust that you are being led by the right road. You may not know where you are going but, trusting in God's all surrounding grace, you are going to get there.

And when you do, and even if you arrive finally at a place that is entirely novel and looks nothing like what you expected, you will realize just how gently you have been held within the Divine presence.

We sang a hymn last Sunday that included this faithful sentiment: "*Only be still and wait God's pleasure in cheerful hope, with heart content; trusting that grace which knows no measure will by Unbounded Love be sent.*"

Carry this hope together, and you will soon enough find yourself right where you are supposed to be.

Always in this hope,

Brad

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.



Clocks jump ahead one hour on March 10th

CONSISTORY

Consistory Meeting Minutes from Thursday, February 15, 2024

Present: Rose Kleinert, Tim Henning, Heather Miller, Peggy Ganser, Carrie Finley, Barb Sprecher, Tammy Young, Pastor Brad

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Committee Updates:

Christian Fellowship:

- No meeting in February.
- Meetings will be determined on a month-to-month basis (due to a few our members reside in the South during colder weather).

Maintenance: To be discussed at the annual meeting:

- church doors on Madison Street entrance to be replaced or try to fix original doors(?), painting around outside church windows, and resealing of church parking lot.

Members In Ministry: Continue to make visits, added Bob Cruze to visitation (Baraboo).

O and A (Love Thy Neighbor): Meeting February 20th

New Sign: Three outdoor sign drafts (least \$, in-between \$, and high end \$) consistory thoughts)? If ready, a presentation (Carrie) at the annual meeting for congregation approval (we will then move forward with this project). If the cost is high we have members that would donate toward the cost.

Sunday School: See scoop article **New Business:**

Recommend training back-ups for offering counting, consider one consistory member(?)

Heather made a motion to create a committee of five to create a procedure for use of Memorial Funds. Once procedures are in place, have a Memorial Funds Committee of three moving forward. Barb seconded; motion passed.

Motion to adjourn: Tammy made a motion to adjourn, Carrie seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There were no meetings in the month of February. Christian Fellowship meetings will be on a short hiatus while some of our members are snowbirds until Easter! We will be having Coffee Fellowship on ***Sunday, March 24th***

STOCK THE SCHOOLS for MARCH

Ritz-type crackers, Soap, Women & Men's Deodorant



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry continue to make visits to members in nursing homes and homebound. Call the church office at 608.643.8387 or Debbie Tschudy at 608.963.4873 Thank you.

OPEN & AFFIRMING (Love Thy Neighbor)

A meeting was held on February 20th at church. The agenda topic was "where do we want to go in 2024" scheduled for January 23, 2024?" As a committee we would like to not only take action but to promote an attitude also. Several ideas are in the works. Shirlee will be conducting the service on February 25th, there will be a discussion following the service in the fireside room. The next meeting is to be determined.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- On March 3, there will not be Sunday School Activity Day or Confirmation class. The annual meeting will be held after the 9:00 a.m. service.
- Our students have been busy:
- We put together **60 birthday bags** for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. We are grateful for the many donations from our SS families and the congregation.

Students made valentines and colored placemats for residents at The Pines.

- We will have the annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 17. The Confirmation class will hide the eggs and the Sunday School students will hunt after Sunday School classes.
- Students will participate in a Palm Procession at the beginning of the service on Palm Sunday, March 24.
- The SS will be collecting monetary donations for “Mabel’s Building Mission” (formerly The Mexican Children’s Refuge). Please see separate article. *Margaret McFarlane*

Birthday Bags

The Sunday School would like to thank all of you that shared items for our birthday bags. We had a wonderful collection of cake mixes, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, balloons, and candles. We were able to put together **60** bags for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry to distribute to recipients! We appreciate your participation in this act of kindness!

Mabel’s Building Mission

For many years during the season of Lent, our Sunday School would support a worthy project. Instead of giving something up for Lent, we would reach out to help people during this time. This year we will be collecting donations for “*Mabel’s Building Mission*” (formerly called the “*Mexican Children’s Refuge*”). This is our 21st year supporting this project. In the past, we have collected donations that have been used to build approximately 23 homes!

“Mabel’s Building Mission” was founded for the purpose of helping the poor in the town of Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Homes are built for families that are employed but earn approximately \$20 per week and can’t afford a home. Pastor Herb and Bev Feierabend from our church family were involved in the leadership of the building projects for many years. Most of the workers are a group of retirees residing at Canyon Lake RV Park in Mission, Texas.



Through the efforts of the dedicated retirees, they have replaced flour sack and cardboard structures that were used for homes. The new 12’ X 16’ homes cost approximately \$2,000 to construct. The group builds about 15-20 homes each winter.

We are asking those who are interested in helping to:

1. Pray for these volunteers and the families they help.
2. Tell others about this project.
3. Collect coins, currency, or write a check payable to: *Mabel’s Building Mission*

Our goal is to raise \$2,000 so our church can again, build a home for a family. There is a display as you enter church (by the bulletin board). You can use one of the envelopes that are on the table.

Please put it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the church office.

Donations should be turned in by May 12.



Badger Gas and Steam, Swap Meet Food Stand

Friday, May 4th / 6am - 6pm

Saturday, May 5th / 6am - 6pm

Sunday, May 6th / 6am - 3pm

(Volunteers can sign-up for 2 hour increments, earn money towards a non-profit of your choice)

“*First United Church of Christ*” of Sauk City has been traveling to the UCC Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS since 2008; this year a mission trip is scheduled for June 17th – thru June 21st we will traveling to Back Bay Mssion on the 15th and returning on the 23rd . We have slots available for 17 people, from age 14 on up ~ if you are interested in joining us or questions regarding the food stand or the trip, please fee free to contact *Tim at 608.963.8734* or *Sue at 608.370.4686*.

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Radio Broadcast Sponsors for February & March.....



February 4th ~ sponsored by Steve & Marcy Thurwachter

In memory of Marcy's parents ***Merton & Shirley Moely's*** anniversary 2/7

February 11th ~ sponsored by Jane Litscher

In memory of Janes parents' anniversary ***Lloyd & Lucinda Gruber***

February 18th ~ sponsored by Lois Pieper

Celebrating February Birthdays

February 25th ~ sponsored by Jamie & Karen Wittwer

In memory of ***Joe & Ella Stronke***

March 3rd ~ sponsored by Sharal Steuber

In honor of our dedicated custodian ***Chris Garcia***

March 10th ~ sponsored by Steve & Marcy Thurwachter / Sharon, Kelsey & Owen Diehl

In honor of ***Sharal Steuber's*** birthday / In memory of ***Greg Diehl's*** birthday

March 17th ~ sponsored by Graig & Laurie Kerl

In memory of Laurie's Dad ***Rich LeMoine***

March 24th ~ sponsored by Chris Garcia

In gratitude of our ***Veterans***

March 31st ~ sponsored by Rod & Carol Hehenberger

In memory of Carol's Dad ***Ray Jenson's*** birthday

First UCC is so grateful and blessed by the many that sponsor our Sunday morning radio broadcasts.

WE
appreciate
YOU

Thank you to all the radio sponsors that keep our ministry alive and welcome for all to listen.



Thank you, Jesus,

March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1 Sebastian Gaval	2
3	4 Jay Kerl Warren Lori	5	6	7	8 Don Kleist	9
10 John Bachhuber Harrison Haas	11	12	13 Sharal Steuber	14	15	16 Nick Finley Molly Shuck
17	18 Samantha Dyrud Lois Price	19 Kenzi Kleist	20 Sydney Sprecher	21	22	23
24 Jennifer Klingenmeyer Palm Sunday	25 	26 David Kolb Marcy Thurwachter	27 Kevin Klingenmeyer Kerstin Perry	28	29 	30
31  HAPPY EASTER	1					