



William E. Kapp
Pastor

First United Church of Christ Inc.

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NOVEMBER 2015

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Have you ever heard the story of blind Bartimaeus? He was a man, by any account, who had very little going for him. Mark's gospel (10:46-52) tells us that Bartimaeus (or "Bart" for short) was stranded on the outskirts of Jericho. He may have even lived on the streets. Bart was poor and had to depend on others because of his condition. All Bart could do was sit along the roadside, begging, hoping kindhearted travelers would spare him a few coins.

Now, in all honesty, we would have to say that Bart's future looked gloomy. His life seemed hopeless and all he could do was survive. No enjoyment. No happiness. No success. No peace. No joy. Bart's major concern in life was simple survival. That is, until the day a special passerby, Jesus, came along. Bart asked Jesus for healing and his eyesight was restored. It was a gift that would change Bart's life forever and help him to not just survive, but to thrive!

What can we learn from Bart's story? What can we glean from him that will help us get plugged in to the plan that God has for our life? How can we move beyond merely surviving and start to thrive? I want to share with you three ways:

- 1.) Capitalize on the opportunities God provides for us.
- 2.) Minimize the negative voices that clatter around us.
- 3.) Exercise the faith available to us.

Once Bart discovered that Jesus was close to him, he shouted out, "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**" What do you think triggered that request? Was he simply begging as he had always done? How did he know of Jesus' miraculous powers? I don't know for sure, but however Bart knew about Jesus, he sensed that he had an opportunity to get help and he acted upon the opportunity. Bart pleaded with Jesus and he was healed. Bart capitalized on the opportunity placed before him by God. God may offer and offer something to us but if we refuse to accept it, the opportunity will be missed.

Notice the crowd's reaction when Bart cried out for help. They rebuked Bart and told him to be quiet. But he didn't listen. Bart didn't cater to the negative words being said to him and that is a helpful lesson for us to learn as well. We must never try to please those who criticize us because we will never make them happy. Bart was not going to let a bunch of negative, critical, heckling bystanders rob him of his dream of sight.

Bart's boldness got him recognized. It got Jesus' attention and opened the door for his healing. But make no mistake, the reason that Jesus healed Bart was not because of his boldness, but because of his faith. It was Bart's faith that triggered Jesus' healing power. Jesus said to him, "**Go, your faith has healed you.**" And Bart followed Jesus on the way.

I can only imagine what Bart's powerful testimony must have been like as he followed Jesus. Genuine faith is contagious, it cannot wait to tell others. Beloved, stop settling for less! Don't just survive, thrive! Thrive through Jesus Christ and your faith in him. Bart did and we can too!

With the Greatest of Hope!
Pastor Bill

Trust in the Promise

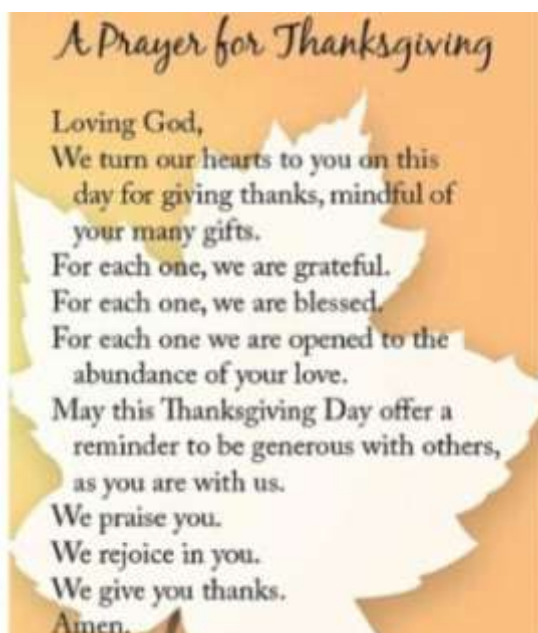
“For surely I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

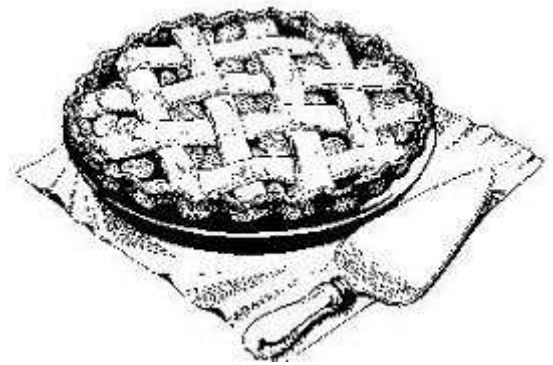
This fall our congregation will be focusing on the stewardship theme **“Trust in the Promise.”** You will be hearing more about this theme through sermons and personal stories shared by members of our church.

The culmination of this emphasis will be **“Celebration Sunday”** on November 15. On that date, we want to have every resident member and friend of our church present for worship. We will, also, celebrate this theme during our 5:30 p.m. contemporary service on November 11.

Please be looking ahead and make a special effort to be with us on that week.



Our Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in Prairie du Sac on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. You are asked to bring canned or dry goods to the service to donate to our area food pantries. Join our community in giving thanks to God for His many blessings!



Pie Makers Needed

First UCC has been asked to provide pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Please use disposable pans and bake a pie (or two) that doesn't need to be refrigerated. The pie sign-up sheet will be in the back of church shortly. Please bring your pies to Church by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25th. There will be tables for the pies in the Education Building entryway. Thank you for sharing your gift of baking with others!

Sunday School News

By Margaret McFarlane

✿ If you haven't sent back the Time & Talent sheets, please take an opportunity to do this.

✿ On Sunday, November 1st, students in second grade and our new students in Grades 3-6 will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service.

✿ The Sunday School choir will sing at the 10:30 service on November 15th.

✿ UNICEF boxes were sent home for those who would like to collect for this worthy cause. Money is due back by November 8th.

✿ Our HARVEST HOME TABLE will be set up from November 1st-29th in the narthex (by the ushers' counter) to collect food for the Food Pantry. Students can bring non-perishable food, cleaning, and personal care items to class or they can put it on the table.

✿ 4th, 5th, & 6th graders are invited to paint the windows for Christmas on Sunday, November 29th, at 1:00 p.m.

✿ The Sunday School hour will be extended until 10:20 on November 22nd, November 29th, December 6th, and December 7th. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.

✿ The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 13th, at the 10:30 service.

✿ We will have program practice on Saturday, December 5th and 12th, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the program need to be present for both practices.

Please let me know if this is a problem. Pre-K, K, and 1st grade students will be dismissed at 10:15 after they practice.

Grades 2-6 will dismiss at 11:30. (To reach Mrs. McFarlane: phone: 643-6327; e-mail: mmcfarlane1219 @gmail.com)

You can H.E.L.P.
(Help Excite Little People!)

The red sleigh is out in the Education Building entryway, and it is again time to think of our holiday toy collection. From now until mid-December, we'll be collecting good, used toys and items for teens to distribute to less fortunate children and youth in our community. You can participate by:

- 📦 Spreading the word that we're collecting toys.
- 📦 Bringing toys to put in the sleigh. If you have time to clean your donations, please mark the bag/box as "clean toys."
- 📦 Making monetary donations if you don't have any toys to "recycle."
- 📦 Volunteering to be an "elf." Elves wash and organize the toys. We meet in the Sanctuary basement. Our November toy washing sessions will be:

Thursday, November 12th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday, November 17th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday, November 20th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday, November 24th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon

- 📦 Pick one or join us for as many as you are able.
- 📦 Watch for the December schedule in next month's SCOOP!

**If you have questions, please contact:
Margaret McFarlane at 643-6327.**



MUSIC @ FIRST CHURCH

Even though it is only November, the holidays are just around the corner. In a departure from the Christmas Music Festival, First Choir is excited to be presenting concerts that celebrate the season at both the 8:00 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. service on December 6th. These concerts will feature a wide variety of Advent and Christmas selections.

Additionally, special music will be provided at all services during Advent when First Choir is not scheduled to sing. Any and all who would like to share their gifts of music should contact Denny Kahn at either 370-6000 or 963-4915. Both vocal and instrumental selections are welcome.

Music, as always, is such a special part of the Christmas season. In addition to the First Choir Concerts on December 6th, First Choir will be singing throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve. While the holidays are busy, perhaps coming on board with First Choir would be a way for you to experience the joys of Christmas music. Please consider coming to choir on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. to join our "festive group!"

Finally, as Thanksgiving approaches, I am pleased to share that an Ecumenical Choir will participate in the Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 25th. While music hasn't been selected as I write this, it should be available by the time you read this. I encourage members of First Church to join us

for the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Music is available at First Choir rehearsals. The Ecumenical Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, November 18th, at 8:00 p.m., and then again right before the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Sunday, November 29th – 8:00 a.m. – Special Music / 10:30 a.m. – First Choir

Sunday, December 6th – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – First Choir Concert

Sunday, December 13th – 8:00 a.m. – Special Music / 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School Program

Sunday, December 20th – 8:00 a.m. – First Choir / 10:30 a.m. – Special Music

Wednesday, December 23th – Choir Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service – First Choir

Sunday, December 27th – Choir off both services

Wednesday, December 30th – No Choir

Sunday, January 3rd – First Choir @ 10:30



Sunday School Fundraiser Do you eat at Culver's? Why not purchase a Culver's gift card to use on yourself or they, also, make great gifts! Our Sunday School earns 10% of each sale. Order forms are in the library or purchase them from the Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of each month, before and after the 10:30 worship service.



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Calling all members!!! Do you enjoy helping with fun fellowship events and like to come up with some new great ideas for family events? Then we want you for our Christian Fellowship Committee. We meet monthly – always the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 – usually short meeting - ½ to one hour. If you are interested in joining, contact Cindy at the office or Debbie Tschudy at 608-643-8697. Come have some FUN! There is no full time commitment – we would really like to get some other members on our enjoyable committee! We are, also, looking for a new Chair for our committee. Contact the office if you would love to try it out – there is no commitment.



Harvest Home Table

Our Sunday School is, again, sponsoring the Harvest Home Table from November 1st-29th. You can bring non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries to place on the table in the Narthex. All items will be donated to our local Food Pantry. (Baking items and mixes, baby food, formula, bar soap, laundry and dish detergent, cleaning products, diapers, and personal care items are especially appreciated.) The Food Pantry likes to use their financial sources to purchase protein foods, which are essential for good nutrition but difficult and expensive to donate.



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Have you heard about our new worship service on Wednesday evenings? It is a casual, contemporary service at 5:30 that is fun, come-as-you-are and lasts 30-40 minutes. We are looking for people to help with the music. If you play an instrument or sing and like contemporary Christian music, come be a part of the team! We would love to put together a praise team or band—commitment level is your choice. Sign up for one service or many, solos or groups. Or just let us know you are interested!

Don't have time for dinner before coming to the service? A light supper is served in the church dining room from 5:00-5:30. No need to bring anything, just show up for fun fellowship and good food before the service.

For more info, contact:

Kristy at KristeenLitscher@outlook.com or 643-6199, Theresa Grimes, Pastor Bill or the church office.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

*May our home be full of joy,
May our hearts be knit with love,
As we give our grateful thanks
For Thy blessings from above.*



Come Help Decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas

On Saturday, November 28, at 9:00 a.m., the women of the Christian Fellowship Committee will have the decorations out and anyone who is interested in helping decorate can come to church at that time. There will, also, be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for anyone interested in helping, coming soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Tammie Huerth at 608-693-4311 or Kathy Johnson at 643-4147.

There will be a chili luncheon after we are done decorating for all helpers.



Christmas Poinsettias

We invite you to donate towards poinsettias and greenery in memory or honor of a family member or friend. All donations will be acknowledged in the January *SCOOP*. You may put your donation in the offering plate or take it to the church office.



It's Time To Start Making Your Wonderful Crafts For Our Church Christmas Craft & Bake Sale on December 13

As you begin to make your Christmas cut-outs and those family-favorite cookies, breads, fudge, and peanut brittle, set aside some for our December Baked Goodies and Craft Sale. If you are crafty and make Christmas decorations, these items are welcomed as well. Let's create an ambiance of joy and love at our December table.

Please note: Those who bring crafts should have them pre-priced with your name on them. Thank you!

Start making those wonderful crafts!! What a joy that we have so much talent in our church – those that are excellent bakers and crafters and so willing to donate their time and talent to help our church!

All donations will go toward church weekly/monthly expenses.

*Give
Thanks
In everything*

Thessalonians 5:18



From The Heart

From Molly Shuck, Grandma Sheryl Pinnow, and Great Grandma Jan Lawton
We would like to thank Margaret McFarlane, Pastor Bill, Cindy Baker, and our Church family for helping make it possible for us to attend Pilgrim Center Camp this past August. We had three generations attending "Grandparent and Me" camp.

Thank You



for your Kindness

To my dear friends at First UCC,

Thanks so much for all of your good thoughts, prayers and well-wishes. I am doing very well after my recent surgery and so appreciate all of you. Special thanks to Pastor Bill for his visits and prayers both prior to surgery and after. We are so blessed to have you as our spiritual leader.

Cecy Haines

GRATITUDE

*turns what we have
into enough.*

*A Pat on the Back and
A Great Big Thank You*

From Christian Fellowship

Thank you to **all the helpers** for cleaning the church on October 9 and 10. A Special thank you to **Rose Kleinert, Tammie Huerth, and Dianna Woerpel** for all your work and time cleaning, also to **Sherry Pieper** for cleaning our refrigerator and very dirty ovens in the church kitchen, dirty work and everything looks and smells so much cleaner. We really appreciate the time you spend helping our church! We have a large church and education building with many nooks and crannies, and besides all of the work **Chris Garcia** does every week, this extra cleaning helps and saves us money from hiring professional cleaners.

Special thank you to **Charmaine Carter, Rose Kleinert, and Sherry Pieper** for hosting our coffee fellowship on Sunday, October 18. Thank you for all the delicious treats you brought in, everyone really enjoyed them! Blessings to you!

Thank you to **Don Larsen and Tim Herbrand** for removing the shrubs in front of the Education Building.



CONSISTORY MEETING
First United Church of Christ
October 15, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Rose Kleinert (president), Pastor Bill, Theresa Grimes, Debbie Tschudy, Lyle Kuhnau, Mark Pierick, and Don Larsen

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Bill

PASTOR BILL'S REPORT: (a) Boundary training: Friday, October 23, at the DeForest Conference office. (b) Weekly Wednesday Fellowship Night: Dinner 5:00, Worship 5:30. (c) Visits to Maplewood and the Pines - and worship service there October 29. (d) Our church allows Pastor Sabbatical every 5 years, and Pastor Bill would like to take one next summer - possibly leave July 11 and return September 6 - the conference can help schedule someone to fill in at our church.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None -approved what was emailed to Consistory, by Theresa and seconded by Mark.

FINANCIALS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE:

(a) Discussed water issue in basement women's restroom. (b) 4 year old Kindergarten replacing Sauk Prairie Nursery School sign in front of Education Building-tomorrow. Building Committee will remove the shrubs Saturday. (c) Mark mentioned park light needs to be adjusted for dusk/dawn - he will work with Tim on that.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: (a) December 13: Christmas craft and bake sale. (b) Coffee Fellowship: November 8 – McCaulley/Kapp family and December 6.

FINANCE: None

MEMBERS-IN-MINISTRY: (a) Members are actively making visits to homes, nursing homes, and hospitals. Group is looking for new individuals to make visits to members. Please contact Liz Bongard if you're willing to make visits. (b) Coffee Appreciation on October 21 at 10:00 a.m. at church.

STEWARDSHIP: November 15 is Stewardship Sunday – letters will be mailed and we have envelopes, posters, and pledge cards; theme is "Trust in the Promise."

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHURCH YOUTH PROGRAM:

(a) 15 kids attended the church picnic. (b) 50 attended the hayride on Saturday, September 19. (c) We have nursery open third Sunday of the month. (d) Kids are collecting for UNICEF. (e) Collecting toilet paper for food pantry. (f) Feed My Starving Children: Thursday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. (g) Sunday, October 25: Serving dinner at UW Crossing. (h) October 18: Staff commissioned. (i) November 1, Second Graders and new students in grades 3-6 will receive Bibles – total of 10 recipients. (j) Youth meet first Wednesday of the month: November 4 will be movie night.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: (a) Women's restroom repair – ongoing. (b) The contemporary Wednesday service is going great – fabulous music and great leader, Theresa Grimes – we need some more promotion.

NEW BUSINESS: (a) Get bids for electric room upgrade, approved by Mark, seconded by Don. (b) Tim took care of spraying for wasps and bat issue. (c) Need AED sign in church, we need training for use and CPR; and we need to purchase new pads for AED.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Bill.

NEXT CONSISTORY MEETING:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
at 6:30 p.m.

Christian Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance: Pastor Bill, Sherry Pieper, Debbie Tschudy and Dianna Woerpel

Old Business

September 13 – 10:30 church service in the park – great day for it

September 20 – annual church picnic after 10:30 service – many thanks to our Chair Dianna Woerpel and Galen Alwin – another great meal

October 9 and 10 – fall church cleaning days – starting at 9:00 each day

New Business

Advent candle lighters schedule – Sherry will call members to schedule the 8:00 services, Dianna and Rita will call members to schedule the 10:30 services, and Debbie will schedule the Christmas Eve service

New chair for 2016 – put something in the SCOOP

Coffee Fellowship:

Nov. 8 – McCaulley/Kapp family hosting

Dec. 6 – First Choir Concert

Dec. 13 – Christmas craft and bake sale

Any other new business?

Basketweavers' baskets – uses – Dianna will take a look at these

No December meeting – we will help with the H.E.L.P. toy washing

We voted to purchase a new serving cart to replace the one that is missing from the church kitchen

Next Meeting – November 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. – (always the 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Misc. church items or dates



Not what we say about our

BLESSINGS

but how we use them,

is the true measure of our

THANKSGIVING!

Memorials Report

Memorials were received in September in loving memory of:

Lorene Sprecher



Radio Ministry

We thank the October sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service Radio Broadcasts:

Frank & Georgia Selden, In loving memory of their mothers, Valitha Sprecher and Marjorie Selden.

The Family of Lucinda Gruber, In honor and celebration of Lucinda's 96th birthday.

Donna Seitz and her Family, In loving memory of Art Seitz and Art & Donna's wedding anniversary.

♥ November Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Ed & Rita Larsen, 40 years on November 8

Lorraine & Harland Hartmann, 61 years on November 6

Ken & Robin Meier, 35 years on November 15

Ardis & John Trueb, 69 years on November 27

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in November!

Ushers

8:00	November	10:30	8:00	December	10:30
Larry & Kathy Johnson		Tim & Katie Homar Tom Litscher	Cecy Haines Tina Wilkinson		David & Gloria Ramsey
Kurt & Wendy Schultz					

Communion Servers

November 1		December 6		December 24: Christmas Eve
8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	
Barb Brock	Tim Homar	Liz Bongard	Sharon Diehl	Rick Breining
Daryl Matzke	Don Larsen	Barb Brock	Larry Johnson	Emily Fuchs
Mark Pierick	Ed Larsen	Nadene Litscher	Rita Larsen	Carol Hehenberger
Terry Steuber	Todd Pieper	Daryl Matzke	Dianna Woerpel	Rose Kleinert
				Rita Larsen
				Tom Litscher

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 and FM99.7) and 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: 9:10-10:10 a.m.

Confirmation: 9:10-10:20 a.m.; **Sunday School:** 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 years/older

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon; Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249; E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

NOVEMBER

SCOOP



This month's SCOOP is sponsored by Herm & Debbie Tschudy in loving memory of their family members, Emil & Martha Tschudy, Dale & Anna Mae Dennis, and Peter & Dominic Giacomino.

Harvest Home Table: November 1-29

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 4 Youth Night: Movie & Popcorn at Church - beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Coffee Fellowship between worship services: Hosted by the McCaulley/Kapp Family
- 10 Happy 3rd Anniversary, Pastor Bill & Laura!
- 10 Christian Fellowship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 12 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 15 "A Celebration Sunday": Stewardship Sunday
Sunday School Choir sings @ 10:30 Worship Service
- 17 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 19 Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 20 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 24 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 25 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at St. John's Lutheran Church in
Prairie du Sac: 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!
- 28 Decorate church for Advent and Christmas: 9:00 a.m.; thank-you luncheon to follow
- 29 1st Sunday in Advent
4th, 5th, and 6th graders paint Church windows for Christmas: 1:00 p.m.

