

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Over the last year we have discovered a new way to be the church. It was born out of necessity as the pandemic limited our opportunities for indoor activities such as worship, Sunday school, church dinners, choir practice, meetings, etc. The lack of social interaction has been a challenge, especially for a faith community that thrives on handshakes, hugs and breaking bread together.

And yet, our ministry has continued to move forward in a positive way during this most uncertain time.

One of the biggest changes we have had to make is to offer virtual meetings and Christian education. Our choir meets weekly on zoom. Our consistory convenes on Google Meet. Our finance committee gathers on GoToMeeting. Our Sunday school gathers in the Bitmoji Classroom. The biggest change of all was the 2021 Annual Meeting, which was held virtually for the very first time. We found a way to overcome the challenges of the pandemic and to keep First UCC moving forward by meeting virtually.

The church website [ucc-saukcity.org](http://ucc-saukcity.org) has really turned into a hub of activity over the past year. It has been a valuable tool for our church as people can access us and find all kinds of helpful information.

As the reliance upon our radio broadcasts grew during the pandemic, the quality of our radio broadcasts improved as well. New music was discovered with Mr. Kahn selecting the hymns. The church audio system was upgraded with new components in the sound booth. The clarity of our Sunday morning worship radio broadcasts were greatly enhanced by running it through the internet as opposed to the phone line. Members of the congregation signed up to be liturgists and to offer special music during a time when we could not sing in the sanctuary. We adapted to the challenge presented by the pandemic and found a way to greatly improve our radio outreach.

New video equipment is now being incorporated into our worship experience at First UCC. A large TV screen has been mounted on the wall in the sanctuary and cameras have been set in place so that a visual component can be offered, such as a YouTube link to our worship services. People at home will be able to follow along on their computer as the liturgy, scripture readings and song lyrics will scroll on the screen. The possibilities are exciting to think about as our church tries to find ways to utilize video technology for our own advantage as we move into the modern age and try to stay connected in this time of social distancing.

The ministry of First UCC will not look the same coming out of this pandemic. We will emerge as a new creation with skills and sensibilities developed in faithful response to an extraordinary challenge. Like a phoenix rising out of the ashes, we will come out of this memorable experience changed forever.

May God bless our ministry as we embrace today's challenges and tomorrow's promise.

Pastor Bill



***First United Church of Christ*** is excited to announce our  
church sanctuary re-opening on

**APRIL 11<sup>th</sup>**

**We will be observing the protocol from our last reopening:**

- ❖ **MASKS are MANDATORY.**
- ❖ **Social distancing is recommended.**
- ❖ **If you are feeling ill, please stay home.**
- ❖ **Even if you are fully vaccinated, you are still required to wear a mask, for your safety and for your fellow worshippers who may not yet be vaccinated.**
- ❖ **If someone tests positive after attending service, please notify the church as soon as possible so we can begin contract tracing.**

**Only the sanctuary will be open for service to the general public, respectively, all other parts of the building will be restricted until further notice.**

**We thank you for hanging in there during this time of unfamiliar waters.**

Thank  
you

*Thank you to all my friends at First Church who remembered us with cards at the passing of my Mom, Lorraine Esser. Also, thanks to Pastor Bill for the kind words and the announcement on the radio.*

*Russel & Sherry Pieper*

Special Thanks to **Don Larsen** and **Evan Roberts** who graciously staffed the radio broadcast room during Dean's absence. We could not have had a broadcast without You!



**Its not too early to start thinking about our flowers around the church. If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund, please send or drop off your donation at the church office. Flowers will be planted around the church sign, the church park sign, and the terra cotta planters. Thank-you!**

Calling all Radio listeners ~  
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 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 individual Packages of pretzels or Cheese-It in April. Donations should be placed in the box outside of the Educational Building door. Thank you for your support, our schools need us.

Dear Consistory,

*I am grateful for your willingness to serve on our church's leadership board. The time and energy that you expend on behalf of our congregation is greatly appreciated by many in our faith community and will definitely strengthen our ministry moving forward.*

*One of the unique elements of our denomination is that we do not have a top-down structure. We do not have a Bishop or a Synod governing how we run our church in Sauk City. Our conference, the Wisconsin Conference UCC, is in covenant with us and serves as a resource for us, but we are truly in charge of our own destiny. Our unique way of governing is from the bottom up. The local church has sole autonomy over itself and the direction that its particular ministry takes.*

*In terms of my report:*

- 1.) The Southwest Association Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on Saturday, May 8. The Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place virtually May 11-16. I plan to attend both meetings.*
- 2.) I will be attempting to schedule pastoral care visits at the hospitals, assisted living, senior apartments, nursing homes and home visits once I receive the COVID vaccine and receive clearance to visit.*
- 3.) There has been some confusion amongst the congregation regarding my sabbatical leave. The plan is that it will run from Monday, May 24 until Tuesday, August 17. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. In terms of worship programming, I will be absent May 30, the Sundays in June and July, and August 1, 8 and 15th. I will coordinate with families any postponed funerals or memorial services to make sure that those are addressed before I take my leave.*


*Sincerely,*


*Pastor Bill*

**Consistory Minutes**  
***First United Church of Christ***  
*Thursday March 18, 2021*

Those Present: Pastor Bill, Dean Dahnert, Peggy Ganser, Heather Miller, Marcy Thurwachter, Tammy Young, Tammie Huerth, Rosemarie Kleinert, Linda Lehan, Barbara Sprecher


 Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

 Pastor Bill's Report  
○ See report in April Scoop

 Committee Reports and Updates:


- Building & Maintenance
  - Things have been quiet this past winter
  - Video production equipment installation is almost complete
  - Mark Pierick has volunteered to help Dean on this committee
- Christian Fellowship
  - No meeting in March, hoping to meet in April as long as the weather is nice
  - Looking to do a couple of Women's Sundays to fill in while Pastor Bill is on Sabbatical
- Finance
  - No meeting in March
- Members in Ministry
  - Making phone calls
  - Pastor Bill is looking forward to start meeting people after his second vaccination
- Sunday School/Church Youth Program
  - See report in April Scoop
  - Confirmation participation has been going well
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup> is proposed Confirmation Sunday
- Stewardship
  - No meeting in March
- Open & Affirming
  - Met March 4<sup>th</sup> next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Looking to have a concert in the park this summer
  - Planning another book discussion
  - April 28<sup>th</sup> Pastor Bill will be doing a sermon on this topic

 Ongoing Business Update  
○ All PPP paperwork forgiveness paperwork has been submitted, still waiting to hear back on it

 New Business Issues

- Need a church re-opening team
  - Tammy Young, Peggy Ganser, Dean Dahnert, Tammie Huerth, Rose Kleinert will be the committee
- Discussion of Cow Chip Chicken Dinner and Leader
  - Marcy Thurwachter and Rose Kleinert will look into what the Cow Chip event may look like this year and whether the dinner will be done differently
- Make sure worship resources are in place for Pastor Bill's Sabatical
- Parsonage porch – Dean Dahnert and Mark Pierick will be taking a look at the condition in the next month and see what options and contractors may be available to repair it

Tammie Huerth made a motion to adjourn, Rose Kleinert seconded. Meeting Adjourned

 Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

 Next Consistory Meeting: **April 15, 2021**

## Consistory Organizational Meeting March 7, 2021

In attendance: Dean Dahnert, Tammie Huerth, Tammy Young, Rose Kleinert, Linda Lehan, Peggy Ganser, Barb Sprecher, Heather Miller, Marcy Thurwachter & Pastor Bill

Meeting Called to order: - Dean Dahnert

Motion made by Tammy Young for Dean Dahnert to be President

- Voting = Yay - 9 Nay - 0

Motion made by Tammy Young for Tammie Huerth to be Vice President

- Voting = Yay - 9 Nay - 0

Tammy Young volunteered to be Secretary.

Linda Lehan volunteered to be Treasurer.

Tammie Huerth made a motion to adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcy Thurwachter motion carried

### Stewardship Message

Greetings from your stewardship committee. Our "Attitude is Gratitude" and we are grateful for everyone who has been so generous -giving and contributing to the ministry of our church. We have many opportunities for giving. The 'One Great Hour of Sharing' continues and your monetary contributions help 'Let Love Flow' to provide safe, clean water for people in other parts of the world. Our Sunday School is still collecting donations for 'Mabel's Building Mission' until May 23<sup>rd</sup>. And as always, we look to 'Stock the Schools' – the need is even greater as we continue to struggle from the effects of COVID-19. We are a strong church. But we are only strong together. Thank you to each and every one of you for reaching out, contributing, and making a difference for our combined Humanity and Health of our Faith Community. We can all be very grateful to be a part of this greater good.



"When each separate part works as it should,  
the whole body grows, and builds itself up through love." Ephesians 4:16



### Christian Fellowship

There was no Christian fellowship meeting in March.

We look forward to springtime and hoping April will bring warmer weather to meet in our beautiful Church park.



**New Business Discussion:**  
Christian Fellowship will provide two (2) Women's Sunday services while Pastor Bill is on Sabbatical this summer; the dates will be

- ❖ July 25<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ August 15<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting is

**April 13th at 6:00 pm**

**(Church Park, weather permitting)**

**All are welcome to join us, please feel free to attend any of our meetings; we love seeing new faces.**

## Sunday School is Cool



### Sunday School News

Each year during Lent, our Sunday School supports a worthy cause. This year we will again be collecting donations for the Mexican Children's Refuge/ Mabel's Building Mission (See separate article).

We received information from United Church Camp Inc., they are excited to welcome guests back to all their sites in 2021. Camps and retreats will be different than in the past; including reduced capacity, wearing of face coverings, doing health screenings, enhanced cleaning, safe check-ins,.....

Our virtual lessons have been going well! We get a few different students every week. We've been having a great time keeping this avenue of Sunday School going and look forward to it being a permanent feature of our programming.

Margaret and Brigitta

JESUS ♥ YOU! JESUS ♥ YOU! JESUS ♥ YOU!

### CAN YOU HELP US BUILD A HOUSE?

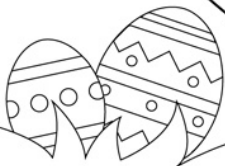
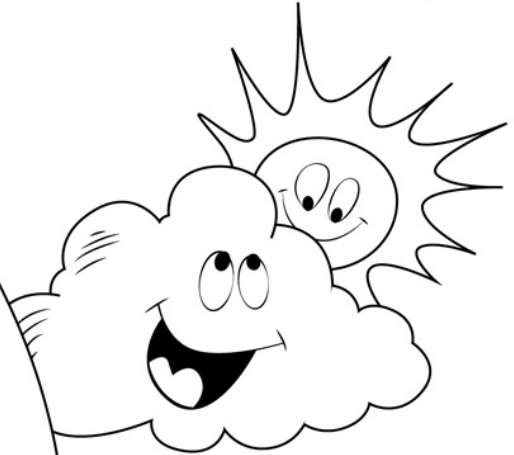
Our Sunday School is again collecting donations for the Mexican Children's Refuge/ Mabel's Building Mission, and we are asking the congregation to help us. This is our 21st year supporting this project. In the past 20 years, we have collected donations that have been used to build approximately 23 homes. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 so we can build a home for a family in need. We are including envelopes in the April Scoop for you to return donations to church. Your contributions can be mailed to church at 504 Washington Avenue. We request that you turn in your donations by May 23. Checks can be made payable to Mabel's Building Mission. Our monetary gifts will be sent as a memorial for Pastor Herb Feierabend. Pastor Herb along with his wife Bev, from our church family, were involved in the leadership of the building projects for many years in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. It has been an honor to partner with them and make their mission, our mission!





# Easter Word Search

w b s i n  
 b t u k u i i  
 l a i n c u n h d  
 o s b n i z r d l  
 g y k b y h n u n a x  
 e d e a m c c o h m y  
 c n t r t k i o o b l  
 c a s n l t l e s y q  
 b c u i a i q p l v a  
 v h n c d k r x o p j  
 g a a n i n s r c  
 v y s n p g i f t  
 i g p g l h s  
 e i f



eggs  
 bunny  
 rabbit  
 chick

spring  
 April  
 Sunday  
 basket

hunt  
 candy  
 vacation  
 lamb

gift  
 sun  
 duckling  
 holiday



## ***Open & Affirming Sub-Committee Meeting March 4, 2021***

In Attendance: Shirlee Lendved, Pastor Bill Kapp, Tammie Huerth, Barb Sprecher, Dean Sprecher & Christy Kinnamon

### **Recap book Study “Raising Ryland”**

- Met on February 21<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Well received. Had several members of the church attend that are not members of the sub-committee
- The book was very informative
- We reviewed letters sent from parishioners who attended the book study
- Discussed the First UCC church in Mazomanie and their sign of “All Are Welcome Here”.
- One on one meetings with members
- A letter to the congregation
- Additional items to add to the D.I.S.H.”
- Movie night – possibly in the Spring. Shirlee still reviewing material
- Educate through music and the First Choir
- Sermon – Pastor looking at using this topic for a sermon in late April.

### **A New Book Study**

- Will review the book “Be An Inclusive Ally: ABCs of the LGBTQ+” for another possible book study.

### **Music Group “Common Chord”**

- Shirlee still in touch with this group. Still looking at having them play a concert in our park in the summer.



# April Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Jennifer Pape
4 Amy Bachhuber	5 Sharon Diehl Verda McFarlane	6 Frank Kirchstein	7 Brookelyn Cruse	8 Jane Litscher	9	10
11	12 Larry Gander Matt Moseman	13	14 Ken Meier	15	16	17
18	19 Audrey Brickl Cecy Haines Sherry Pieper	20	21	22 Roger Heidenreich Donna Seitz	23	24 Alesha Martin
25 Reagan Noltner	26	27 Kim Baier	28 Austin Perry Scott Kinnamon Derek Sliter David Young	29	30 Haden Haas Katie Huerth	



“Spring shows what God can do with a drab world.”

### Radio Ministry

We thank the sponsors of our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts during the month of March:

Anonymous: in memory of those that lost their life to eVid19

Rod & Carol Hehenberger in memory of Susan and David Pieper.

Anonymous: Thankful for all that Pastor Bill does for his congregation.

Sally Phelps in honor of a very special birthday today for Pastor Bill Kapp for his exceptional love of life and people.

### Memorials Report

Memorials were received in March for: Lorraine Esser, Sherry Pieper's Mother.



**"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY"**



ON APRIL 26TH *Jay & Sandy Jensen* WILL BE CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.  
CONGRATULATIONS!

If we missed yours, please let the Church office know.



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; Home phone: 370-2249  
E-mail: bill\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Website: [www.ucc-saukcity.org](http://www.ucc-saukcity.org)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID

PRAIRIE DU SAC WI  
PERMIT NO 30

# Scoop



April 2021

- 4<sup>th</sup> *Happy Easter!*  
8<sup>th</sup> Open & Affirming Subcommittee  
13<sup>th</sup> Christian Fellowship 6:00 pm (church park/weather permitting)  
15<sup>th</sup> 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.