



# December 2022



## Thoughts for Advent, 2022

Brad Brookins  
Interim Pastor

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you...' Luke 1:26-28

This is how Luke begins his Gospel—with the unlikeliest of stories.

*Good news, Mary (Gabriel says). You are going to have a son before you even get married! Almost no one will believe you. The stigma of his birth will haunt you all your life. And your son will grow up only to be executed by the Romans as a criminal and a traitor. Your heart will be ripped out and stomped into the ground; probably more than once.*

*Nevertheless, the child you bear will be called the Son of the Most High and he will redeem your people Israel and in him and through him all the promises of God will be fulfilled.*

*What do you say, Mary? Are you up for this?*

If you wanted to tell the story of God coming to live among us—as one of us, no less, could you find a less likely leading lady than Mary? Almost certainly a poor girl. Probably very young—13 or 14 maybe. Likely illiterate. About to become Joseph's wife in a marriage arranged by her parents.

Gabriel brings her to the edge of a future she could never have imagined. How could she possibly be ready? How could she possibly say yes?

Sometimes congregations find themselves on the edge of a new and perhaps unwelcome future. And we feel uncertain, helpless even, not knowing the destination or the way to get there.

Remember Mary when you look over that edge. Listen like she did. Ponder. Listen some more. Eventually you will hear what she heard—"Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you."

The First Church path forward will have its curves and potholes, hilltops and valleys. In this world, how could it be otherwise. So the angel says, to us as to Mary, "Don't be afraid, you have found favor with God." This is "angel speak" you know, for "Don't worry. Everything will be OK."

Advent brings us, every year, to the edge of a new future. Who can know what's coming.

The Lord is with us.

*What do you say, church? Are you up for this?*



# Christian Education News



If you have any Christian Education Questions or Ideas please reach out to us

at : [firstuccsaukce@gmail.com](mailto:firstuccsaukce@gmail.com) .

## What Has Been Happening:

The Sauk Prairie Against Hunger Pack Event at Grand Avenue Elementary School was a success and Church team of 20 did an amazing job!

- November 6th Our Church members decorated Veterans cards. The turnout was low but the Veterans that we were able to get cards to did appreciate the gesture. We had an amazing turn out for the Thanksgiving Food Pantry table. The Youth Art Sale was able to raise \$330 for the Church. The remaining 7 pieces of art will hopefully be sold at the craft fair in December. Thank you for all your support with these wonderful activities
- Wednesday November 16th we had our Youth Group Movie Night at the church and watched Disney's "Rise". The next Youth Group event will occur **February 15th**. We are looking at Flashlight Hide and Seek at the Church. Watch for more information.
- Adult Education has been meeting consistently in the basement of the church reviewing stories of the Old testament. Pastor Brad has been leading these discussions. Please reach out to us for questions or if you want to know how to get involved.
- **December 4th ALL CHURCH EVENT!!!** We will be having a GIFT Drive for H.E.L.P. where our youth will be brining in new toys/ products. We also will be Creating Holiday Cards for residents at both Maplewood and The Pines. Currently, we are waiting if we can go caroling at these two locations.



- We are getting ready for our Building Christmas Youth Program on **December 11th** during the church service.

• Happy Birthday Jesus will occur on December 20th for Sunday School and Confirmation.

**\*Check out Youth Group and Education Class Photos on our Church Connect Site**



## BOOK DRIVE

Sam Logterman, a member of our church, is looking for help from our church to collect books for Hope House of Sauk County as his personal National Honor Society (NHS) project. We would help support this mission by collecting new and gently used books for young adults and under to donate during the months of **January and February**. He is also challenging a few other churches in our area to try to see who can raise the most books and increase the interest in this mission. Look for the collection area across from the elevator in the entrance to the church.



Christian Education is interested in someone to create a mural on the North Wall of the Community Kitchen. We are looking to give the Education Wing top floor a facelift. If you are interested please submit a proposal to Consistory or Mrs. Brickl so they can be voted on by consistory to choose an artist.

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## HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE.

Please let us know if your mailing address, phone number or email address changes so we do not miss you in any church mailings.

We can send The Scoop and other informational mailings through the Post Office or by email. But using email saves a considerable amount of money for the church by using less paper, postage and secretarial time. Please let us know if you are willing and able to be on our email list for future mailings. If you want to receive paper copies through the US Mail we are happy to accommodate you on that, too.

Consistory Minutes  
First United Church of Christ  
Thursday, November 17, 2022

**Those Present:** Rose Kleinert, Pastor Brad, Barb Sprecher, Carrie Finley, Suzanne Litscher, Stacey Noltner, Tammy Young, Peggy Ganser, Dean Dahnert, Heather Miller

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Brad

**Book Conversation:** What we talk about when we talk about God

**Pastor Brad's Words:** See December Scoop

**Committee Reports and Updates:**

**Building & Maintenance :** Nothing new to report

Continuing to add new data to Church Connect

**Christian Fellowship:** Craft and bake sale Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Looking for cookies for shut-ins/nursing homes to be delivered the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>

Contacted Advent readers

**Finance:** No Meeting in October

**Members in Ministry:** Last Meeting November 13<sup>th</sup>

Re-organized visitation schedule

**Sunday School/Church Youth Program:** See report in December Scoop

Dean Dahnert made a motion that we support Sam Logterman's request for collecting books for Hope House of Sauk County.

Barb Sprecher second; motion passed.

**Stewardship:** No meeting in October

**Open & Affirming:** No meeting in October

**Search Committee:** Reviewing survey Response

Next meeting November 21<sup>st</sup>

**Church Update:** Hymn Sing will be our church service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Church will be closed on Christmas Day, services will resume on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Tammy Young made a motion that we do not pay for the Radio slot this year for Christmas Eve.

Dean Dahnert seconded; motion passed.

**New Business Issues:** Pastor Brad is going to make a card for congregational visitor

Stacey Noltner made a motion to adjourn, Tammy Young seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Brad

**Next Consistory Meeting:** January 19, 2023

# FIRST UCC HOLIDAY CRAFT & BAKE SALE



DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

8:30 - 9:00 AM AND 10:00 - 11:00 AM

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE GOING  
TO THE CHURCH



*First UCC of Sauk City  
strives to be the hands, the heart  
and the face of Jesus.*



If you love to bake, we need you!

Please consider sharing a dozen cookies to be added to our plates for our shut-ins and nursing home residents.

Please sign up in the church narthex or  
contact Rose @ 370.1300  
...all cookies need to be at church by Sunday  
12/11/2022  
for delivery the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*First UCC Hymn Sing*

COME & JOIN US AT OUR 9 AM SERVICE

WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TIME OF THE YEAR WITH US! INSTEAD OF OUR NORMAL SERVICE COME AND SING YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY HYMNS AND HELP US BRING THE JOY AND PEACE OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC IN OUR SANCTUARY!

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
504 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
SAUK CITY, WI 53583  
[HTTP://WWW.UCC-SAUKCITY.ORG](http://www.UCC-SAUKCITY.ORG)





There will be NO SERVICE on Christmas Day

First United Church of Christ  
wishes you and your family  
a joyous and memorable  
Christmas Day.

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

<http://www.ucc-saukcity.org>

NEW YEARS DAY  
SERVICE 9am

May 2023 be filled  
with health, happiness,  
hope and love



## **Christian Fellowship November 8<sup>th</sup> Agenda**



- *Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> — — — Coffee Fellowship*
- ***Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> — — — Craft & Bake Sale***
- *Bake cookies/bars to deliver to our shut-ins and nursing home residents (delivery date to be determined)*
- *Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex*



**In lieu of a meeting in December, we will meet on Tuesday, one evening to help Margaret clean toys for the H.E.L.P. Project.**

*Our next meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm in the ED Building.*

**Thank you for all your help this year. Looking forward to 2023 .....**

### **STEWARDSHIP**

As we enter the season of Advent, we are filled with the excitement of the coming of our Lord Jesus and the hope of the season. But there are those, right here in our Sauk Prairie communities that have only a glimmer of that hope. What can we do to grow that glimmer into a mighty flame?

Share your time, talents, and treasures. There are countless opportunities; volunteer for H.E.L.P. Project, take a tag from the Caring Tree, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, or donate to any number of our community charities.

**“Tis the season”.**

**Yes, the season of HOPE!**

### **CARING TREE**

There are still tags available from our Caring Tree. These include tags with items from children, tags requesting gift cards for gas or food, and envelopes for cash donations.

The deadline to return the fulfilled tags is December 11.



**Radio broadcast sponsorship reservations** are being accepted for 2023!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast



for a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office via email, U.S. mail, phone call or check out the newest feature on our CHURCH

CONNECT link on the First United Church of Christ website and reserve your date through the Church Connect link. There are many open dates to reserve. Sponsorship payments may be sent to the church office, dropped in the offering box, the U.S. mail, dropped off at the office during office hours or in the mailbox at the Education doors. (don't forget to add "radio sponsorship" to your memo line)



### **Calling All Members with Smart Phones!**

Help us get our New Church Software System in as many member's hands as possible.

Scan the QR code on the

right. Install the **ChurchTrac Connect** application and create a log-in for yourself. Be sure to use a great password only you will know. You will get a text message back when your account is granted. Many wonderful features; Bulletins, News, Church Calendars, online sign-ups for events, etc. will be coming your way on **Connect!**



### **H.E.L.P. Project**

#### **This Holiday Season!**

We are still collecting gently used toys and items for teens to distribute to those in need within our school district. Our collection date goes through December 12. New items and monetary donations are also accepted. We need "elves" to help wash, repair, and organize items. Your support is greatly appreciated in making this mission a success again this holiday season!



#### **December Cleaning Schedule:**

**Friday, Dec. 2, 10am-Noon**

**Monday, Dec. 5, 1-3pm**

**Thursday, Dec 8, 6:30-8pm**

**Friday, Dec 9, 10am-Noon**

**Monday, Dec 12, 1-3pm**

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30-8pm**



**Thursday, Dec. 15, 10am-Noon**

**Friday, Dec. 16, 10am-Noon**

- \* **Pick one or join us for as many as you are able.**
- \* **Please park across the street or in the church parking lot. The buses pull up in front of the Education building during school hours.**

## Members in Ministry – Outreach Ministry

Exciting news to share! There are some changes happening within this group of people who are dedicated to keeping our members connected to the church when they are unable to attend services in person. Liz Bongard has decided, after many years of faithful service, to pass along the torch of leadership. We are so grateful to Liz for keeping things running smoothly all these years and don't worry, she is not going to stop visiting you – thank you to Liz from the bottom of our hearts! Debbie Tschudy has graciously stepped up to the task to lead the important work carried out by our Members in Ministry. This group ministers, or attends to the needs of others by visiting, making phone calls, or sending a note to those folks who may not be able to get here on a Sunday morning. They are also able to provide communion for spiritual support. Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in ministering to our members. It is fulfilling to reach out and serve others with a warm and loving heart as Jesus taught us to love one another as ourselves.

### Current Members in Ministry are:

Debbie Tschudy, Sherri Roberts, Liz Bongard, Peggy Ganser, Carol and Rod Hehenberger, Emily Fuchs, and Marcy Thurwachter

### Attention – Announcement from Members in Ministry

We have a request of all church members - if you know of any other members, or yourself, who are in need of a contact, whether it be permanent or temporary, to please notify the church office at (608) 643-8387. There are many reasons a person can become disconnected from our faith community. Perhaps temporarily such as an illness, sudden injury, or a hospital stay or it may be more of a permanent change to an assisted living residence or nursing home. These are situations where relationships are so important for sustaining a sense of security and well-being. We want to make sure no one is left unattended or disconnected from the support and love and faith our church provides.

### Office hours

<b>Interim Pastor</b> <b>Brad Brookins</b>	<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>9am-Noon Tuesday through Friday</b>
	<b>Cell phone</b>	<b>608-669-2926</b>
	<b>Office phone:</b>	<b>608-643-8387</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Brad_Brookins@ucc-saukcity.org">Brad_Brookins@ucc-saukcity.org</a>
<b>First UCC office :</b> <b>Cathy Wilkinson</b>	<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>8am-Noon-Monday through Friday</b>
	<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Office phone: 608-643-8387</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org">office@ucc-saukcity.org</a>



## End of Year Giving Reminder!

If you are 70 1/2 years old and are taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account, you can make a contribution directly to your church and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution.

Check with your tax adviser!

## Help Needed ...

We have room for more people to ring bells for the Salvation Army collection this year. The money we raise will stay in this community so this is an opportunity to do a little good for your neighbors near at hand. If you can help, contact Pastor Brad at the church office or by email - [brad\\_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org)



### 2 Locations:

Piggly Wiggly—Sauk City  
Hanson's IGA-Prairie du Sac

Ringin shifts available at both locations

### Dates available:

Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17, 22 & 23

Call the church office for details  
608-643-8387

**Sauk Prairie**

## STOCK THE SCHOOLS

*Stock the Schools program suggested donations for December:*

*Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly, granola bars and protein bars are always in need*

*Personal items: full size bottle of Shampoo and Conditioner*

Thank you for your support with our program. Items may be dropped off during Sunday worship on the bench across from the elevator or outside in the red bin located outside the educational doors during office hours.





**Frank & Georgia  
Selden**

**Married 60 years**

**December 8th**

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**Lyle & Dorothy  
Kuhnau**

**Married 61 years**

**December 28th**

**Congratulations on your many  
years together!**

**God has blessed you with a very  
special companion for your  
journey. May this anniversary  
mark another year for God to  
light your path.**

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Radio  
Ministry**



**Sunday 9 am Worship Broadcast**

**WRPQ Radio, AM 740, FM 99.7 or Live  
Stream Audio from the WRPQ.com website**

**Special Thanks to our December  
Radio Sponsors:**

***December 4th***

***Emily Fuchs & Rose Kleinert***

***In memory of Lyle & David Kleinert and  
Ellen Henning***

***December 11th***

***Lois Pieper***

***In memory of Susan Joy Pieper's birth-  
day on December 11th***

***December 25th***

***Marcy & Steve Thurwatcher***


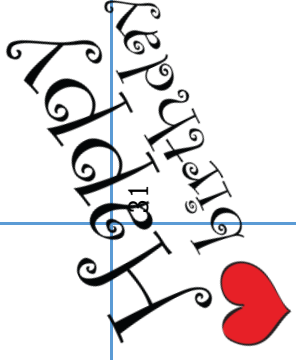
***In memory of Marcy's Dad, Merton  
Moely's birthday on December 28th***

**If you would like to remember or honor a family member, group or friend by sponsoring a  
Sunday morning worship service radio broadcast or our monthly newsletter,  
please contact the Church office for available dates.**

***The cost of a radio broadcast sponsorship is \$85.***

***Scoop sponsorship is \$50***

# December 2022

MON		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Dustin Sliter Bill Steckelberg	2	3 Brenna Diehl
	4 Dan Ambort Jim Becker Bev Feierabend	5 Dennis Kahn	6 Tim Luchsinger	7 Jodi Kleist	8 Janice Lawton Russell Pieper	9 10
	11	12	13	14	15 Gary Dickerson Jane Schara	16 17 Kloee Granger
	18	19 Margaret McFarlane	20 Calista Brickl Cameron Brickl	21	22 Rose Kleinert	23 24
	25	26	27	28 Clara Shuck	29 Samantha Huerth	30 31 



# WINTER WORD SEARCH

## FIND THE WORDS!



A	Y	G	X	D	V	Q	O	S	O	O	L	H	R	R	S	C	A	R	F
Q	L	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	X	J	O	Y	R	M	R	T	G	D	T
X	D	X	J	Q	X	G	M	S	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	U	Q
E	I	W	T	G	Q	I	N	B	T	G	J	C	Y	C	G	T	T	I	M
G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	I	T	O	R	L	H	Y	K	A	W	S	W
V	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	I	Z	O	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G
N	P	A	Q	Q	H	S	T	L	P	K	I	B	L	U	D	Q	Z	C	B
T	C	J	K	S	K	N	Y	V	T	A	S	H	O	V	E	L	T	V	E
J	L	S	K	G	D	O	J	P	Q	A	N	R	F	D	G	O	A	Q	N
D	M	N	B	D	M	W	V	R	X	A	O	R	W	R	Y	T	Y	F	W
J	C	O	L	D	S	M	U	N	P	Y	W	C	E	Q	O	Z	C	V	M
W	G	W	O	E	R	A	B	V	S	M	B	X	M	B	B	S	Q	W	A
B	I	A	G	V	L	N	M	S	E	W	A	K	F	F	M	O	T	F	A
I	M	N	D	V	U	C	V	T	M	A	L	G	L	O	V	E	S	W	I
E	I	G	T	C	V	P	Q	J	S	I	L	X	B	M	B	G	C	Y	B
U	G	E	N	E	N	S	F	K	U	I	S	H	L	G	V	P	P	E	X
I	O	L	B	B	R	U	C	U	G	R	R	T	N	W	L	Z	T	O	D
K	Q	N	C	V	P	E	I	U	N	C	O	H	G	X	F	D	A	U	I
M	Q	K	T	Y	I	W	O	K	U	U	N	Z	C	S	V	V	H	Q	Z
A	F	R	H	X	X	X	J	A	U	R	K	W	F	Q	L	P	S	V	C

BOOTS  
COLD  
FREEZING  
HAT  
SCARF  
SLEDDING  
SNOWFLAKE

CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER  
FROST  
ICE  
SHOVEL  
SNOWANGEL  
SNOWMAN

COAT  
FEBRUARY  
GLOVES  
JANUARY  
SKIING  
SNOWBALLS  
WINTER

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## December 2022

2 **H.E.L.P. Project** 10am-Noon

4 **-Coffee Fellowship**

**-All Youth church event**

**Gift drive for H.E.L.P. Project**

**-Holiday cards for nursing home residents**

5 **-H.E.L.P. Project** 1-3pm

8 **-H.E.L.P. Project** 6:30-8:00 pm

9 **-H.E.L.P. Project** 10am-Noon

**-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-8pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

10 **-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-6pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

11 **-Building Christmas Youth Program**

**-Caring Tree** fulfilled gift tags dead line

**-Craft & Bake Sale** 8:30-9:00 & 10-11am.

12 **-Cookies for shut-ins/nursing homes**

13 **-H.E.L.P. Project** 6:30-8 pm

15 **-H.E.L.P. Project** 10am-Noon

16 **-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-8pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

**H.E.L.P. Project** 10am-Noon

17 **-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-6pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

**H.E.L.P. Project** distribution of gifts 8-10am

18 **-First UCC Hymn Sing** 9a.m.

**-Happy Birthday Jesus** for Sunday School and Confirmation

22 **-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-6pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

23 **-Salvation Army** bell ringing 9am-6pm (Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA)

24 **-Christmas Eve Service** 7pm

25 **-Merry Christmas** No church

**January 1** -resume regular service