



First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City WI 53583
608-643-8387

Pastor Bill's February 2022 Message

Special points of interest:

- *No Regrets Men's Conference*
- *Mobile Meals*
- *Capital Campaign*

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

I have recently been reading the Epistles of Paul. It's remarkable how timeless these words of scripture are. Paul's words for the early church are just as relevant today as they were back in his time. He tells us in Colossians 3:

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you."

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This passage always strikes me as a prescription for living the good Christian life. Paul is keen to helping the letter's intended recipients navigate their day-to-day lives with as much positivity as he can. The aim is not simply laying down a set of rigid rules that must be followed no matter what. Rather, the aim is steady, gentle encouragement through reminders of whose children we are, and how God's children ideally act at every possible moment.

Impossible to do? Perhaps for us. But as we're told in the Gospel according to Luke, "Nothing will be impossible with God." God has a way of doing the impossible. We often forget, ignore, or refuse to believe that. The Bible is full of examples, but so are our day-to-day lives. Our life can become so much better when we step out of our own way, get out of God's way, and let the Almighty guide us into the future.

We can help by working to accomplish what the writer of Colossians prescribes. With hearts, minds, and actions steeped in, "compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," with lives filled with tolerance, acceptance, and forgiveness, with intentional efforts to concentrate on Christ's harmony, peace, and word, we can live lives that will change the world in every good and potential-filled way.

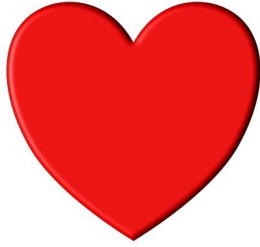
Does that, too, seem impossible? Add to the mix a posture of love, unending worship, praise and thankfulness, and there is no end to the wonders that God will guide us into. Imagine the world that could be!

We can start the way we start most good things, by beginning these practices in our own lives, our own homes, our own workspaces, with our own families, and our own friends. Even in our own place of worship, with our own sisters and brothers in faith. Anywhere. Anytime. Everywhere.

We can exist with friction and dissension in any area of life, or we can thrive in impossible grace and the bounteous life that comes along with it. The choice is ours. Each one. Each day.

With the greatest of hope!

Pastor Bill



Christian Education February News



On February 6th, we will be making Birthday Bags for the food pantry and making Valentines. We will continue to take donations of Cake mixes, frosting containers, balloons, and birthday candles until the 5th of February. We will continue monitor the situation if this event can happen in person as a whole church otherwise the Brickl/Dahnert family will put these together and deliver them to the local food pantry and assisted living locations.

Youth Group (grades 7-12) will be meeting hopefully again on Wednesday, February 16h. We will however monitor the number of Covid cases and discuss with church leadership if this activity will be able to move forward closer to the date.

At this time we will NOT be doing Culver's Gift Cards. Due to changes in contacts and time commitments we do not feel it is possible this year.

Reminders

Let us know if you still need to enroll for Sunday School and/ or Confirmation.

Our Sunday School follows the lead of Sauk Prairie School District for our masking policy and calendar. This plan gets updated weekly at: https://www.saukprairieschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=498855&type=d

Pastor Bill and Mrs. Brickl will closely follow the decisions being made by the district.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party from December



The Adult Sunday School Class will be continuing their video series The Chosen. (season 2). This can be viewed with the group on Sunday mornings at 10:20am in the Fireside Room when they meet in person or stream online at:

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch>

January 2022 Consistory Minutes

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Thursday, January 20, 2022

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

Those Absent: Barb Sprecher

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill's Report

See report in February Scoop

Committee Reports and Updates:

Building & Maintenance

Working on making minor repairs at the parsonage

Christian Fellowship

See report in February Scoop

Finance

Tammy Young made a motion that we accept Pastor Bill and Tim Homar as authorized check signers. Tammie Huerth seconded; motion passed.

Tammie Huerth made a motion that Cathy be trained on preparing the payroll timesheet, Pastor Bill to review and approve. Peggy Ganser seconded; motion passed.

Rose Kleinert made a motion to have Cathy reconcile in Quickbooks, print the detailed report, send the report and bank statement to Consistory Treasurer officer (that is not a check signer) to review and approve. Heather Miller seconded; motion passed.

Heather Miller made a motion that regularly occurring expenses (utilities, etc) will be paid electronically in lieu of writing checks every month. Tammie Huerth seconded; motion passed.

Members in Ministry

Continuing to make visits to nursing homes, etc when they are open for visitors

Others are reaching out via phone

Sunday School/Church Youth Program

See report in February Scoop

Stewardship

See report in February Scoop

Open & Affirming

Copy of the covenant will be sent out for members to review in the February Scoop.

Ongoing Business Update

Church will be virtual only until the end of January. We will be reviewing this as we get closer to February.

New Business Issues

Dean received two estimates for painting the interior of the parsonage. Tammy Young made a motion that we accept Dave Bongard's bid for painting the parsonage. Tammie Huerth seconded; motion passed.

Tammie Huerth made a motion to adjourn, Tammy Young seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

Next Consistory Meeting: February 17, 2022



Volume #6 February 2022

“The D.I.S.H.”

Developing Inclusivity and Selfless Hospitality

Dear Members of The First United Church of Christ-Sauk City Congregation,

The Open & Affirming Sub-Committee, consisting of Pastor Bill, Shirlee Lendved, Tammie Huerth, Dennis Kahn, Christy Kinnamon, Barb Sprecher & Dean Sprecher has been working for almost three years on an Open & Affirming initiative for First UCC-Sauk City.

We have hosted a Panel Discussion with Laura McLeod, Chair of the UCC Conference ONA Committee; a Meet & Greet with members of our Sub-Committee; Bible Studies on both the Old and New Testaments, led by Pastor Bill; a film in the Sanctuary “For the Bible Tells Me So”; a book study on the book “Raising Ryland”; a book talk on “The Gay History of Wisconsin” by author Dick Wagner; and music during our October 10 service by Common Chords.

In addition, we have sent out an initial Congregational Assessment, an ONA questionnaire, and a survey; and a quarterly edition of the D.I.S.H., a newsletter to share information and resources with you, the Congregation of First UCC.

The ONA Sub-Committee has worked openly and diligently to inform all members of our church of the reasons for moving toward an Open & Affirming designation for First UCC. Based on the results of the survey taken last fall, we feel that our congregation is ready to vote.

The vote will be based on a Covenant that we have drafted, which states that we wish to send a clear message to the LGBTQ+ community, as well as all people regardless of race, nationality, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, faith background, family structure, or education, that they have a home in the United Church of Christ – Sauk City. Before we vote, however, we want to engage the members of First UCC on the wording of the draft; we will then consider comments and suggestions, and tweak the statement as needed. Remember, this is not only a policy, statement, or declaration, but a **covenant**—which is a binding promise to “walk together in all God’s ways”.

The vote will take place at our Annual Meeting on March 6. The percentage of votes needed to pass this resolution will be 75% of those present at the meeting (in person or virtually).

Please prayerfully review this draft of the First UCC Open & Affirming Covenant, and **send any comments or questions to the ONA Sub-committee by February 15.** Thank you!

Draft of the First UCC-Sauk City ONA Covenant:

“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”(Romans 15:7)

In order to embrace the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, First United Church of Christ - Sauk City, WI, seeks to be an expression of God’s love in the world. We value and welcome a diverse congregation, inviting all to worship with us—regardless of race, nationality, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, faith background, family structure, or education.

First UCC strives to foster loving and caring relations in our church, community and world by becoming an Open & Affirming church, and issuing a public welcome to send a clear message to the LGBTQ+ community—and all people regardless of race, nationality, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, faith background, family structure, or education—that they have a home in the United Church of Christ – Sauk City. It is about embracing the diversity of human nature and celebrating the inherent uniqueness, potential and contributions of all persons. Many voices, many hands, and shared wisdom from varied perspectives and life experiences make us stronger and richer in thought, creativity, and growth. This is a journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect, showing our unity in Christ. It is also a commitment to social justice, and opens us up to other issues that beg for our attention.

All are invited to fully share and participate in the leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here in this First United Church of Christ - Sauk City.

Important Dates in the LGBTQ+ Community

International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV), March 31, is a day to show your support for the Trans community. It brings attention to the accomplishments of Trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia by spreading knowledge of the trans community.

Day of Silence, April 8, 2022 (day varies from year to year...2nd Friday in April) is a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem

of ant-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBT students and those perceived to be LGBT.

Lesbian Visibility Day, April 26.





JANUARY 2022 MINUTES

The Stewardship Committee met virtually on January 13. All members were present with the exception of Tom Litscher who had a conflict.

Marcy Thurwachter updated the committee on the status of the Capital Campaign. 2021 ended with several donations which have raised the current total to \$20,674. There will be continued messages, Facebook posts, and Scoop articles designed to keep the First UCC members engaged in the campaign. Marcy asked if there was a plan in the event the goal is not met. Linda Lehan is the consistory's representative to the finance committee and shared that finance has begun discussions related to this issue.

Pastor Bill reported that a total of \$286.17 was collected from the Salvation Army kettle campaign. Pastor Bill will get a cashier's check to forward to the Salvation Army. No other churches participated this year.

The committee reviewed the assignments for stewardship messages which are given once a month during the church service. Tom Litscher has January, Sherri Roberts will be in February, and Marcy will have March.

Marcy shared that the December Stock the Schools drive was very successful. Due to an abundance of PB & J in the school district, those items were taken to the SP Area Food Pantry. Shampoo and conditioner were delivered to the middle school. Pastor Bill will take over delivery during January, February, and March, in Marcy's absence. Cathy, the church secretary, will be asked to put the bin out and bring it in daily.

Marcy reminded the committee that last year they had talked about a Lenten program called 40 Acts of Kindness. Committee members had received an email explaining the program. Marcy would try to find the original email and resend it. After review, the committee will decide whether to promote the program.

The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting date was left as TBD.



Christian Fellowship January

There was no Christian Fellowship meeting in January

AS WE MOVE THROUGH THESE FIRST THREE *COLD* MONTHS OF 2022 AND WITH SOME OF OUR MEMBERS LIVING IN WARMER CLIMATES, WE WILL *NOT* HAVE ANY MEETINGS. OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 6:00 PM IN THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING BASEMENT,

Looking ahead:

THERE WILL BE NO CHILI SOUP SUPPER THIS FEBRUARY (STILL DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS)

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 2ND

IF WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES TAKE PLACE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY CHURCHES, PER THE PASTOR 'S RECOMMENDATION, WE WILL DETERMINE IF WE OFFER FELLOWSHIP AFTER SERVICE AT OUR CHURCH

DECIDE A SATURDAY MORNING FOR CHURCH SPRING CLEANING PRIOR TO EASTER CELEBRATION

IN THE MEANTIME, LET 'S HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT!





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In Loving Memory

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart-not reluctantly or under compulsion-for God loves a cheerful giver." -2 Corinthians 9:7

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the following for their contributions to the Capital Campaign:

Peggy Ganser

Teresa & Scott Grimes

Cecy Haines

Harland & Lorraine Hartmann

Rod & Carol Hehenberger

Dennis Kahn

Tom & Joan Kaul, in memory of Edsel and Caroline Steuber

Lois Price

Sherri Roberts

We continue to encourage you to contribute as the repairs to the bell tower and parsonage porch will take place this spring. Our current total is \$21,925 which leaves us in need of an additional \$35,075 to reach our goal of \$57,000. Send or drop off your check at the church office. Make sure to indicate "Capital Campaign" in the memo line. Thank-you!

(For continued updates, check in often with our Facebook page, monthly Scoop newsletters and the First United Church of Christ website.)

Of Ron Lipka
who passed away on

January 6, 2022



No February Anniversaries



Help Excite Little People

By Margaret McFarlane

"This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you." John 15:12 ♡

As we finish cleaning up from H.E.L.P. and store items for next year, it is a perfect time to reflect upon the work that happens here at First U.C.C. We take God's love and find ways to bring that love and goodwill into our community.

Here are a few Thank You's that we received this year from recipients of the toys and items for teens.....

** What you do for the community is amazing! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate everything you do for us. These gifts put a huge smile on our kids' faces Christmas morning.*

** Thank you! Other years have been tough but this year has not only been tough but also very scary. Thank you!*

** Thank you so much! You guys are amazing! It's because of you, Christmas is a success for many families.*

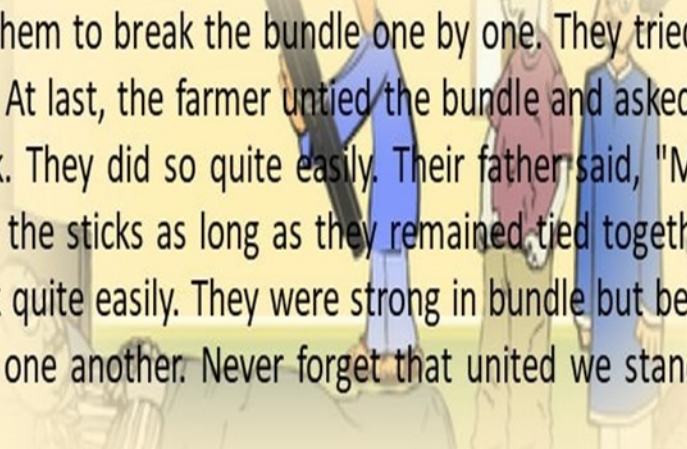
** Thank you so much for helping my son and granddaughter. We are so grateful.*



A Farmer And His Son

ENGDIC.ORG

Once a farmer had three grown-up sons. They always quarreled among themselves. Their father advised them to live in peace but it had no effect on them. He was worried about their future. One day the farmer fell seriously ill. He sent for his sons. He asked them to collect a handful of sticks which they did at once. He tied the sticks into a bundle.



Now, he asked them to break the bundle one by one. They tried hard to break it but none could. At last, the farmer untied the bundle and asked each of them to break each stick. They did so quite easily. Their father said, "My dear sons, you could not break the sticks as long as they remained tied together but you broke each single stick quite easily. They were strong in bundle but became weak when separated from one another. Never forget that united we stand and divided we fall."

This had a deep effect on the farmer's sons. They gave up quarrelling and began to live in peace.

Moral: United we Stand and divided we fall.

2022 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01 Chris Garcia Diana Roberts	02	03 Jason Miller	04 Donna Kaufman	05
06	07	08	09 Kiana Litscher	10	11 Thomas Gasner	12 Evie Accola Jan Van Keuren
13 Dave Bongard Evan Roberts	14	15	16	17	18	19 Corrine Jonas Charlotte Monette Rhonda Pierick Maurice Schaefer
20 Lois Pieper	21	22	23 Alton Accola Izabel Brickl	24 Nettie Gander	25	26
27 Carol Hehenberger	28	01				
06	07	08				

***Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in February!
Please let us know if we have missed your special day
(We acknowledge 1st anniversaries and anniversaries ending in 0 or 5 and all anniversaries over 50)***



February 2022

Consistory meeting:

February 17, 2022

Finance Committee:

April 20, 2022 @ 7pm

Stewardship Committee: TBD

Christian Fellowship Committee:

March 8, 2022 @ 6pm

Sunday School Activities:

(virtual)

Sauk Prairie Stock the Schools



Individual fruit cups and men's and women's socks are requested for the month of February. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by all in need. Please drop your donations off in the red tote outside the church educational doors during office hours (Mon-Fri 8am-Noon) or inside during church worship hours.

Due to the rise in Covid-19 Omicron as of late, No Regrets Men's Conference is February 5, 2022 and will be held virtual.



Men's Fellowship

You are invited to attend the 2022 No Regrets Men's Conference is coming up fast!

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Heavenward in Christ Jesus."

These days are challenging! We need men who can purposefully **PRESS ON**. The No Regrets Men's Conference will ignite your spiritual passion for Christ and lay the foundation for you to press on with world-class speakers and thought leaders, inspiring worship and compelling discussions.

Join us on **February 5, 2022** virtually from your home.

For additional information including details about the speakers, please visit this web site: [https://](https://www.noregretsconference.org)

www.noregretsconference.org

**Radio
Ministry**



Special thanks to our February radio sponsors of our 9am worship service:

Steve & Marcy Thurwachter: In memory of Marcy's parents, Merton & Shirley Moely's wedding anniversary February 7th

Sharal Steuber: In honor and appreciation of past and present Consistory members who keep the life of First United Church so active during the pandemic

Jamie & Karen Wittwer: In memory of Frank & Helen Kirchstein

**Sunday 9 am Worship is Broadcast on WRPQ Radio, AM 740, FM 99.7 or Live Stream
Audio from the WRPQ.com website**

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reverend William Kapp

Pastor Bill	Office hours:	Tuesday through Friday 9am – Noon Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am and by appointment
	Office phone:	608-643-8387
	Email:	bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org
	Home phone:	608-370-2249
First UCC office	Office hours:	8am to Noon Monday through Friday
	Office phone:	608-643-8387
	Email:	office@ucc-saukcity.org

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Sauk City, WI 53583
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PERMIT 30



February 2022

*During the month of February, we ask that all who enter the church to **please wear a face mask or face covering** to help with the spread of Covid-19. We appreciate your continued patience and cooperation while we work through the challenges of Covid-19 and variants. Thank you.*

PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES ON OUR WEB PAGE OR BY CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE.

The church remains closed to in person Sunday worship until further notice. Please tune in to our Radio broadcast, or watch live on you tube.

LOVE IS PATIENT AND
KIND; DOES NOT ENVY
OR BOAST; IT IS NOT
ARROGANT OR RUDE.
IT DOES NOT INSIST ON
ITS OWN WAY; IT IS
NOT IRRITABLE OR
RESENTFUL; IT DOES
NOT REJOICE AT
WRONG DOING, BUT
REJOICES WITH THE
TRUTH. LOVE BEARS
ALL THINGS, BELIEVES
ALL THINGS, HOPES
ALL THINGS, ENDURES
ALL THINGS. LOVE
NEVER ENDS.
1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8 ESV



If it isn't common to all, it isn't common sense. Please read 1 Corinthians 5, 6, Psalm 1, Colossians 3: 16, 1 Peter 2: 2, 2 Peter 3: 14-18. thoughts.com/dabeyn