



## FEBRUARY 2023



From the Pastor:

The season of Lent will be here soon and I wanted to give you a bit of information on how we will be recognizing it this year.

The Lenten season stretches over the 40 days (not counting Sundays) between Ash Wednesday (February 22 this year) and Easter (April 9 this year). We will mark the season with worship services on each of the three holy days in Lent—Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And for the first time in probably quite a while, each of these services will be held right here at First Church. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services will be at 6:00 p.m. and the Good Friday service will be at 1:30 p.m.

Also, in what I have been told is the start of a new tradition, we will be hosting a soup and bread supper on each Wednesday of the season from March 1st through March 29th. The soup will be provided by anyone who would like to make it—hopefully 2 or 3 different kinds each week along with a couple of different kinds of bread. As is fitting for the Lenten season—traditionally a time for introspection and repentance, all deserts will be banned from the table :-)) between Fat Tuesday (February 21st ) and Easter morning and we will maintain a very simple fare for our meals together.

Following each Wednesday meal we will take an hour or so for conversation on topics that have not been decided yet—and this is where you can have some say. When I've done these Lenten series in the past we have often chosen topics that are a bit more challenging than we might tackle on a typical Sunday morning. We could choose an issue or problem before us—racism in society and the church, for example, or the church and the LGBTQ community. Or we might tackle something less challenging but no less important like—How do we build the loving community in our congregation that finds new ways to welcome people who maybe think they have no use for church. Or how about this: How do we read the 4<sup>th</sup> century Apostles' Creed, in our 21<sup>st</sup> century?

The possibilities are many and, in my experience at least, the value of these conversations is considerable.

So I'm opening the floor for suggestions. If there's something you've always wanted to talk about, but didn't think you could do it in church, this is your once in the year chance. Let me know what you're thinking about and I'll do my best to create space for a really interesting conversation.

Lent is a season for a deep exploration of our faith and a close experience of the Holy. I'm looking forward to spending this time with you.

And as always, call me if you have any questions or concerns (about this or anything else) and I'll meet you for a cup of coffee somewhere and we can talk.

Looking forward in hope to the blessings of this season,

Brad Brookins,

Interim Pastor



## First United Church of Christ

### Season of Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday—February 22, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 1st 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 8th 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 15th 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 22nd 5:30pm

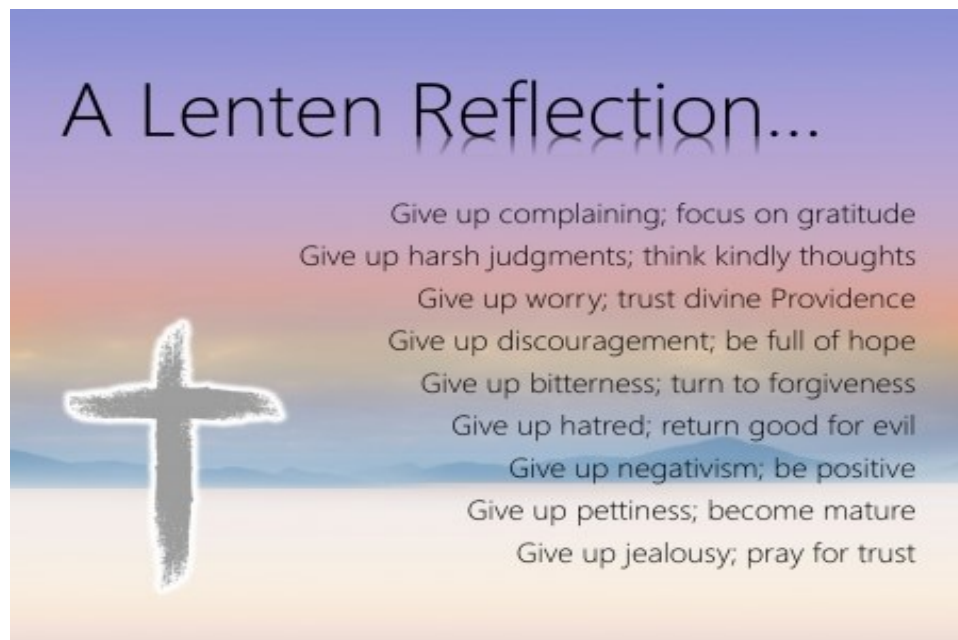
Wednesday, March 29th 5:30pm

We will provide a simple meal of soup and bread at 5:30pm, followed by conversations on topics to be determined, in our church basement for the five Wednesdays in March.

All are Welcome, please join us on this Lenten journey.

Maundy Thursday—April 6, 6:00 pm

Good Friday—April 7, 1:30 pm



**Consistory Minutes**  
***First United Church of Christ***  
*Thursday, January 26, 2023*

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

Absent: Barb Sprecher, Stacey Noltner

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Pastor Brad's Words

See February Scoop

Committee Reports and Updates:

See Minutes in February Scoop:

Building & Maintenance

Christian Fellowship

Finance

Members in Ministry

Sunday School/Church Youth Program

Stewardship

Open & Affirming

Search Committee

New Business Issues

Reviewing Church Constitution

Rough draft complete

Confidentiality in Church Connect

Dean Dahnert and Scott Kinnamon are the Administrators

General congregation only has access to their own record unless individuals chose to make their information available for other members to see. This replaces the church directory.

Photos can be sent to Cathleen at the church office to be uploaded

Reducing hours for paid staff; including Pastor

We are currently following conference guidelines for a large church

Carrie Finley made a motion to adjourn, Suzanne Litscher seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

Next Consistory Meeting: February 16, 2023



# Christian Education News

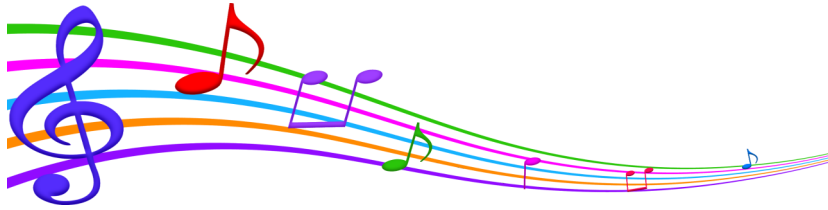


## Coming up

- **February 5th** we will be having our Church wide activity again. We need help **collecting: Cake Mixes, frosting, balloons, birthday candles, oil and applesauce.**
- During the months of **January and February** we will be collecting books for Hope House of Sauk County. Sam Logterman, a member of our church, is looking for help from our church for as his National Honor Society (NHS) project. **Bring in new and gently used books for young adults and under** to He is also challenging a few other churches in our area to try to see who can raise the most number of books. Look for the collection area across from the elevator in the entrance to the church.
- **Feb 12th wear your pajamas to church day.** Youth and any adult that would like to participate
- We will have Youth Group on **February 15th from 5:30-6:30.** Bring a flashlight to the church because we are going to be playing flashlight hide and seek in the church with the lights off! Bring a friend!
- **March 5th** we will be decorating St Patrick's Day decorations for others between church and the annual meeting.

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

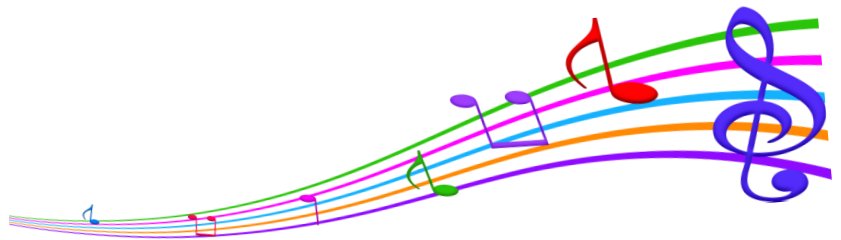
**Christian Education Questions or Ideas please send to:**  
[firstuccsaukce@gmail.com](mailto:firstuccsaukce@gmail.com)



## Music At First Church!

As we move into a new year, let us continue to work to make music a positive component of our worship. As we, as a congregation, explore solutions to our challenges and move into 2023 let us continue to use music to inspire and motivate! Continue to sing with exuberance as we worship! Finally, we welcome new members to First Choir and will continue to seek opportunities to honor the past while also exploring new and exciting music! Choir rehearsal is on Wednesday evening from 6:45 until “we’re sung out!” (Usually about 7:45!) Hope to see you there!

Dennis Kahn - Music Director



### **SAUK PRAIRIE STOCK THE SCHOOLS**

**Sauk Prairie School District Stock the Schools appreciates all the donations that are contributed each month for the students in the district.**

**The month of February suggested donations are :**

***Food items: Individual fruit cups or similar***

***Personal items: hair brushes, combs, any hair type items***

**Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by everyone.**

Please drop your donations off in the red tote outside the educational doors during office hours (Mon-Fri 8am –Noon) or inside during Sunday worship

# Stewardship

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**SAUK CITY**

**40 ACTS OF KINDNESS**

**LENTEN PROJECT**

**40 DAY CHALLENGE**

**On the following page you will find a checklist of “kind acts” for the Lenten season. This is our second year of the 40 Acts of Kindness. Often people give something up for lent but the Stewardship Committee has decided it would be more meaningful to try and do 40 acts of kindness for the 40 days of lent. The first day of lent is Ash Wednesday which is February 22nd this year. It continues for the next 40 days but does not include Sundays.**

**We encourage you to post the checklist on your refrigerator or bulletin board and try to check off one act of kindness every day of lent.**

**If you are unable to complete certain acts, simply duplicate one that you already did or substitute with an idea of your own. Households can make this a family effort or it can be run off so that each family member has their checklist.**

**“40 Days, 40 ACTS, 40 WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”**

**“Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage-to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous.” 1 Timothy 6:18**



1. Send a thank you to someone who is under appreciated
2. Contact a close friend and tell them how much you appreciate them
3. Bring coffee or a treat for a co-worker
4. Return a grocery cart
5. Support a local business
6. Hold the door for someone else
7. Call an old friend and catch up
8. Donate blood
9. Compliment a stranger, family member or a friend
10. Babysit for free
11. Pray for someone you would not consider a friend
12. Volunteer at your local charity or food pantry
13. Clean out a closet and donate items
14. Thank your local health care workers
15. Write a letter to a grandparent/ grand-child/ college student
16. Write a thank you note to the mailman or delivery person
17. Give someone a ride to church
18. Start a thankfulness or kindness journal
19. Invite a guest to First UCC's Sunday service
20. Tell your boss or co-worker that they are doing a great job
21. Have flowers delivered to a nursing home
22. Leave an extra tip for waitstaff
23. Buy 2 items and give one away
24. Pay a child's hot lunch account at your local school
25. Bring a cup of coffee or a treat to a crossing guard
26. Let others go in front of you. All day!
27. Keep food/water in your car for the homeless
28. Tell a clerk to "keep the change."
29. Help a neighbor or someone in need
30. Offer to "shop" for someone who is not able to get out on their own
31. Donate an item to "Stock the Schools"
32. Donate a package of toilet paper to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry
33. Pay it forward when going through the drive up window
34. Pick up some trash in a park or on a side walk
35. Visit or call someone at a nursing home or assisted living
36. Take a moment to just listen to someone
37. Thank a retail service worker or trades person
38. Thank your local educational and support staff
39. Donate to your local animal shelter or veterinary clinic to animals in need
40. Smile at a stranger and say "hello"



**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 January and February  
Radio Sponsors:**

**January 1st: Brad & Lorna Brookins**

**In appreciation for the kindness and generosity  
of this congregation**

**January 15th: Rod & Carol Hehenberger**

**In loving memory of Carol's mother,  
Luella Jensen**

**January 29th: Sherri Roberts**

**In honor of Evan and Sam's February birthday's**

**February 5th: Marcy & Steve Thurwatcher**

**In memory of Marcy's parents' wedding  
anniversary on February 7th  
(Merton & Shirley Moely)**

**February 12th: Sharal Steuber**

**In appreciation of Dennis Kahn, Kristy Statz,  
and the First Church Choir for their music and  
inspiration each week through music**

**February 19th: Jamie & Karen Wittwer**

**In memory of Carl & Jane Simonson**



**Clyde & Ethel Pellett  
celebrate 35 years of  
marriage  
February 6th**

**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!**

**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 \$90***

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





# FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Sam Roberts Chris Garcia	2	3 Pamela Alwin Jason Miller	4 Donna Kaufman
5	6	7	8	9 Kiana Litscher	10	11 Thomas Gasner
12 Jan Van Keuren Evelyn Accola	13	14 Dave Bongard Evan Roberts	15	16	17	18
19 Char Monette Rhonda Pierick	20	21 Lois Pieper	22	23 Iazbel Brickl Alton Accola	24 Nettie Gander	25 Dorothy Kuhnau
26 Carrie Finley	27	28 Carol Hehen-berger				

**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, left in the offering box, 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)



**Our new church software can generate a Picture Directory on demand if you enter a picture to be**

**included in your profile.**

**A photo directory of our church members would be very helpful to our new members and to the Pastor (who has a hard time putting names and faces together)**



**We will take them in any digital file or any other form.**

**As a reminder, only First UCC members can access personal information like addresses, phone numbers and pictures in the On-Line Directory.**

**Thanks! Let's do this to help  
Welcome New Members!**



## **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!**



## **HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!**

Please let us know if your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed or will change 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.



# God Loves



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

merciful  
 strength  
 compassionate  
 perfect  
 forever  
 son  
 grace  
 forgiver

blessed  
 refuge  
 protective  
 jesus  
 promises  
 christ  
 savior  
 creator

redeemer  
 worshiped  
 powerful  
 loving  
 faithful  
 won the battle  
 lord  
 almighty

comforter  
 victorious  
 holy  
 caring  
 trinity  
 overcomer  
 father  
 everlasting

peace  
 healer  
 righteous  
 patient  
 holy spirit  
 worthy of praise  
 king

