

Dear Members and Friends of First United Church of Christ,

I am so incredibly grateful for my church home. Our faith community is comprised of loving and caring people who are passionate about living out the gospel through education, fellowship, music & mission.

The gospel means “good news” and we have been sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in the Sauk Prairie community for over 161 years. Our congregation has been blessed with strong lay leadership and an exceptional church staff. We have enjoyed a sense of continuity and collegiality amongst our leadership and staff that is not found in many churches. I would suggest that we have been greatly blessed at First UCC and that our vitality and health is as strong as ever!

The services the church provides – worship, weddings, funerals, pastoral care, education, music, fellowship, visitation, mission and outreach helps us to stay rooted in God’s love. We are thankful for those moments of spiritual enrichment and nurture.

We are fortunate to have the support of the faith community, the people of the church, during the good times and the challenging ones. To receive well wishes and congratulations when life is going great or to receive prayers and cards when the chips are down has been a constant in our lives. The church has always been there for us.

None of this would happen without the amazing support of the congregation. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure is what allows the ministry and mission of First UCC to flourish. This has been especially apparent in the year 2020! Your generous offerings amid a world pandemic has kept our ministry afloat and moving forward in a positive direction. Thank you!

Despite the challenges of this current year, we look forward to what 2021 will bring. New opportunities for mission, ministry and spiritual growth. Perhaps even new opportunities for you to participate in the life of First UCC.

The First UCC stewardship committee is in the process of preparing for **Stewardship Sunday on November 15**. An all-church mailing has been sent out to each household which includes a pledge card which can be filled out and returned to the church office. You can also expect to hear a series of stewardship announcements presented by the stewardship committee and a few stewardship themed sermons presented by the pastor over the next few weeks.

We have been blessed in so many wonderful ways. Our attitude is one of gratitude.

With the greatest of hope!

Pastor Bill



Vespers Service

"Christmas Eve is coming soon!"

In the life of the church, planning for the next Holiday is always underway. In this unique year of the 2020 pandemic, we still have many Holiday issues to resolve, but I want to share with you that your Consistory has secured a radio time slot for the Christmas Eve service.

Mark your calendars for December 24th, Christmas Eve, at 7 p.m. First UCC will broadcast for an hour on WRPQ radio. We will be on AM 740, FM 99.7 and Live Streaming on the WRPQ website, www.WRPQ.com.

I wanted to get this word out to the congregation as soon as possible as families start to make plans for their Christmas gatherings. Our continuing goal is to keep everyone as safe as we reasonably can and give our members as many options as practical.

Stay Well,

Dean Dahnert
Consistory

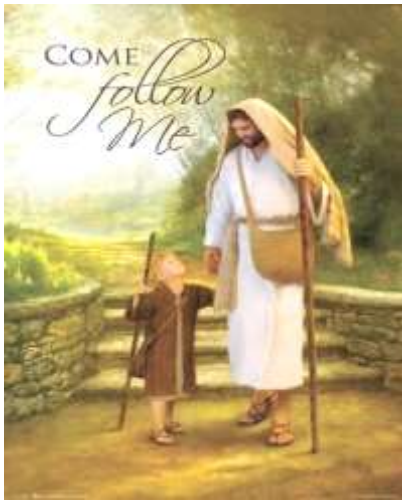
Please join us for a Vespers Service on Saturday, November 14, at 4:00 pm in the church park.

What is Vespers? Traditionally a dusk or evening service of praise and music.

Our service's theme is GRATITUDE and will involve readings and music lasting about 30 minutes.

We plan to have portable firepits and serve hot chocolate. Masks are recommended and attendees will social distance around the firepits. Please bring your own chairs.

To help determine the number of firepits needed, we are asking that you contact the church office to indicate the number of people attending at (608) 643-8387.



Sunday School News

Margaret McFarlane & Brigitta Brickl
Co-Superintendents

* A reminder..... We have a Bitmoji set up at:

<http://www.ucc-saukcity.org/sunday-school.html>

Each Sunday, as part of our classroom, we have a live lesson through google meet at 10:10 a.m. There are also videos, worksheets, and activities to complete.

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

* The Commissioning of Sunday School staff is set for Sunday, November 1, after class in the church park or sanctuary, depending on the weather. It will be recorded and put on the Church FB page.

* Our annual presentation of Bibles to our second graders will be November 8, after Sunday School. We have three students that are receiving Bibles. We are asking families to park in the angled parking spots in front of the Ed. Building for our "Drive-In Bible Presentation."



* Our HARVEST HOME TABLE will be set up from November 8-29, as we follow the Stewardship Committee's lead in collecting donations for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. Students can bring in non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, or personal care items and place them on the table as you enter the Education Building.

* We are starting to gather volunteers for the Sunday School Christmas Movie.

* The Sunday School will continue selling Culver's Cards. Please see the order form included in the Scoop. We will contact those who order cards in regards to pick up and payment. Orders can also be emailed to:

mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com





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

It is again time to think of our holiday toy collection. From now until mid-December, we will be collecting gently used toys and items for teens to distribute to children and youth in need in our community. Due to Covid-19, our procedures will be different this year. We will be having families that are Food Pantry recipients and families referred by the schools fill out wish lists. We will try to fill their wishes with our donations. On the day of the distribution, they will pick up their gifts outside the Education Building.

This is how YOU can participate in this project.....

🎁 Spread the word that we're collecting toys and items for teens.

🎁 Bring donations to church. It would be great if you could clean your items. Please mark your bags/boxes, "CLEAN." The items can be left in or near the bins outside of the Education Building (to the right of the mailbox).

🎁 Make monetary donations if you don't have items to recycle. Checks can be made out to: Help Excite Little People and delivered to church.

🎁 Volunteer to be an "elf" wash, fix, and organize toys. We will meet in the Sanctuary basement. We will clean at various stations to provide social distancing. If the "elves" prefer, they can come on the scheduled days and pick up a box or bag to clean at home instead of here at church. Items to be cleaned could also be picked up on Sundays upon request. Call or email Margaret.

Our November toy washing sessions will be:

* Thursday, November 12, 10 am-Noon

* Tuesday, November 17, 10 am-Noon

* Friday, November 20, 10 am-Noon

* Monday, November 23, 10 am-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 any questions, please contact: Margaret at 643-6327 or mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com



Thank you from the  ...

Dear Pastor Kapp and Parish Members,
Thank you again for remembering our students with "Stock the Schools." I really appreciate your generosity to our students. Thank you for snacks, school supplies, coats, and personal care items. I hope everyone is safe and healthy in the parish. On behalf of SPDS students and families, thank you! **Susan Baumann-Duren, SPDS**

Thank you to **everyone** who donated items for the Harvest Table. Your generosity is very appreciated!

Hello Friends,

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, kind words, and cards that we received in the passing of Mark's beloved Mom, Betty Pierick. Betty was fortunate enough to attend concerts and Mother daughter banquets at our church over the last few years and was always welcomed with open arms. Thank you again for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, as this has been a difficult time.

Mark and Rhonda Pierick and Family



A big shout-out to **Debbie Tschudy, Sandy Bruckert; Rose Kleinert, Marcy & Steve Thurwachter, Shirlee & Dave Lendved, and Ed & Linda Lehan** for delivering Mobile Meals. You not only bring their meal but share your friendly, kind faces to brighten their day.



Stock The Schools!

Collections of items monthly will be delivered to the Sauk Prairie Middle School for students in need. In November, we are collecting cracker sticks with cheese and pads, tampons, and panty liners. Drop your donations in the bin just inside the north side church doors on Sundays or during the week in the bin outside the Education Building doors. Thank-you for your support!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER

SCOOP

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PRAIRIE DU SAC WI
PERMIT 30



Sunday School Home Harvest Table: November 8th–29th

- 5 **O & A Subcommittee:** 5:00 p.m. at Shirlee Lendved's home – weather permitting
- 11 **We honor and thank all of our Veterans for your service!**
- 12 **H.E.L.P. Toy Washing:** 10 a.m.-Noon
- 14 **Vespers Service:** 4:00 p.m. in the Church Park
- 15 **Stewardship Celebration Sunday: "Our Attitude of Gratitude"**
- 17 **H.E.L.P. Toy Washing:** 10 a.m.-Noon
- 19 **Consistory:** 6:30 p.m.
- 20 **H.E.L.P. Toy Washing:** 10 a.m.-Noon
- 23 **H.E.L.P. Toy Washing:** 10 a.m.-Noon
- 26 **Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!**

Rev. Bill Kapp
Pastor

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249; E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Memorials Report

Memorials were received in October in loving memory of:

Rev. Herb Feierabend
Betty Pierick

Special Donation

Emily Fuchs made a donation toward the Projector Project, in loving memory of dearly departed Kleinert-Fuchs household members.

Radio Ministry

We thank the October sponsors of our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship service Radio Broadcasts:

Rod & Carol Hehenberger, in loving memory of Rod's parents, Don & Ruth Hehenberger.

The Family of Lucinda Gruber, in loving memory of their mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

Herm & Debbie Tschudy, in loving memory of family members, Emil & Martha Tschudy, Dale & Anna Mae Dennis, Alvin Tschudy and Peter & Dominic Giacomino.

Dean Dahnert, in honor and celebration of his daughter and son-in-law's, Brigitta & Nathan Brickl, 11th Wedding Anniversary.



November Anniversaries In Our Church Family



Dick & Donna Kaufman, 52 years on November 4
Lorraine & Harland Hartmann, 66 years on November 6
Ed & Rita Larsen, 45 years on November 8
Ken & Robin Meier, 40 years on November 15

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in November!



Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 and FM99.7)

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.; **Confirmation:** 10:10 a.m.; **Adult Bible Study:** 10:30 a.m.

Consistory

First United Church of Christ

Thursday October 15, 2020

✚ Opening Prayer: Mark Pierick

✚ Pastor Bill's Report

- Bill was on vacation no report this month

✚ Committee Reports and Updates:

- Building & Maintenance
 - Early this Spring we contracted for another 2yr service but was delayed until this September when the trees were treated.
 - There was a \$325 emergency repair to the church lawn mower on 10.15.20
- Christian Fellowship
 - Meet in the church park on 10.13.20 to brain storm ideas
 - Marcy and Christian Fellowship looking into an idea of having a Vesper and Evensong on a Saturday late afternoon in Nov and Dec.
- Finance
 - Approve financial statements
 - Marcy and Tammie H. made and second the motion to approve financial statements
 - All approved
 - Meeting schedule October 20th, 2020
 - 12 Month CD coming due will be discussed at the October meeting
- Members in Ministry
 - Continue making calls

- Sunday School/Church Youth Program
 - See Scoop
 - Adult bible study going to try and do short studies and they are looking at topics so if you have a topic please let Mark Pierick know. Continue meeting at 10:30 on Sunday mornings virtually.
- Stewardship
 - Met on September 23rd
 - Notes please see scoop
 - Next meeting is 10.21.20
 - Looking at setting up an Amazon smile account
- Open & Affirming
 - Meeting minutes from meeting on 10.8.20 will be in the scoop

Ongoing Business Update

- Discuss Covid-19 response to date, update policies as needed.

New Business Issues

- Looking at Christmas Eve service on how to have the service either in person or just a radio broadcast or both
- Making a motion to secure the radio spot for the Christmas Eve service for \$200 at 7pm
 - Tammie and Mark made the motion
 - All Approved
- HELP Program
 - Motion to use Margaret's process outlined for modifications due to COVID
 - Mark and Peggy made the motion
 - All Approved
- Don and Tammy make a motion to close our meeting

Closing Prayer: Mark Pierick

Next Consistory Meeting: November 19, 2020

Open & Affirming Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2020

In attendance: Pastor Bill, Shirlee Lendved, Barb Sprecher, Christy Kinnamon, Dennis Kahn, Tammie Huerth

Absent: Dean Sprecher

- Opening Prayer – Pastor Bill
- Bible Study – presented on September 6th by Pastor Bill
 - Well received and plans are being made to hold one or two more bible studies
 - Plans to record Bible study and have it available on You Tube and other social media sites.
 - Also a live stream on Facebook of the Bible study is being looked in to.
- Movie Night – Was scheduled for September 18th in the park but was postponed due to weather and lack of promotion.
 - Discussion about rescheduling the movie in the Spring or if numbers of infections of Covid-19 come down then it could be held indoors
 - Looking at showing “The Times of Harvey Milk”
 - Discussion on the possibility of purchasing the movie and then lending it out and then scheduling a discussion on the movie.
- Common Chords men’s Chorus
 - Shirlee to stay in touch with this group. Plans for the group to play during a worship service in the park in the spring are still on going.
- Newsletter
 - Barb & Christy have been putting a newsletter together that will be put in the Scoop every quarter starting in November.
 - The name of the newsletter is “The D.I.S.H.” Developing Inclusivity and Selfless Hospitality
 - Newsletter will also be found on our church website
 - O&A Sub-Committee on the church website and the answer will be posted in the newsletter
 - Parts of Pastor Bills Bible Study will be included in the newsletter
 - Notes from the movie discussion will be included
 - Recommendation of the book “Raising Ryland” to be and then a book study group to be set up to discuss
 - Interesting articles to be added as well
- Next meeting is November 5, 2020 – at the Lendved home, weather permitting

Stewardship Committee

Minutes of September 23

The Stewardship Committee met on September 23 in the church park. Pastor Bill, Barb Brock, Linda Lehan, Sherri Roberts, and Marcy Thurwachter attended. Tom Litscher was absent.

Barb was willing to take “Our attitude is gratitude” painted rocks to members who are residents of both the Maplewood and Pines complexes. Marcy will work with Pastor Bill on delivering rocks to other members who are not currently attending church services.

Barb also agreed to read a message regarding stewardship on October 4. The committee discussed the upcoming stewardship campaign. Readings will be provided by the committee members based on the materials Pastor Bill received from the conference. Marcy will read on October 25, Tom on November 1, Sherri November 8, and November 15 is TBA. Pastor Bill has access to video messages from the conference that can be posted on the Facebook page to supplement the stewardship campaign.

The next committee meeting will be October 21.

Minutes of October 21

The Stewardship Committee met on October 21. Barb Brock, Pastor Bill, Linda Lehan, Tom Litscher, Sherri Roberts, and Marcy Thurwachter attended.

The reading assignments for the upcoming Fall Stewardship campaign were reviewed:

October 25	Marcy
November 1	Tom
November 8	Sherri
November 15	Barb

Marcy is posting video messages created by the conference on the church’s Facebook page each Wednesday. These messages compliment the Sunday readings. Pastor Bill shared that a letter and pledge card will be going out to each church member. The committee agreed that they will once again write a personal thank-you

to those who return their pledge cards.

Marcy explained that she has been investigating using AmazonSmile as a fundraiser for the church. If a church member is shopping on Amazon, they would use the Smile site which is exactly the same as the regular Amazon site. They then select First UCC as their charity and .5% of their purchase total is donated back to the church. There is no additional cost to the shopper. The committee recognizes the need to support our local businesses but that on-line shopping may be necessary for certain items during the holiday season. Marcy will work with Pastor Bill in setting up the account. Details on using AmazonSmile will be included in the December Scoop.

The committee's next meeting will be on an as needed basis, perhaps a virtual meeting.



Adult Bible Study Questionnaire

First UCC adult bible study initially started out as an assignment for those involved with the lay academy and just continued; we enjoy the time spent together and learning the thoughts and ideas of others.

While our Bible study is always open to anyone, we are expanding our horizons to smaller and diverse subjects, so others do not feel committed to a six month series. And although we currently cannot meet with a cup of coffee or a treat we can still gather through Google. We limit our time to one hour, if there is a subject interest to you, please feel free to jump on, listen in, disconnect, or connect, it is all up to you. We have made it simple to jump on straight from our First UCC web page.

If you would like to see what we are all about, please do so. We need to stay healthy and socially connected to each other during this pandemic, we hope you will consider testing us out. Fill out the form below and send to the church office or email: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Are you interested in Adult Bible Study, if so, what areas of interest do you have?

- ☐ Bible scripture
 - ☐ Dealing with self or family illness
 - ☐ Community
 - ☐ Other
-

If you have suggestions, please let us know so we can meet the needs of our congregation.

What is the best way to contact you?

- ☐ Email

- ☐ Phone

Does Sunday at 10:30 work into your schedule for adult Sunday school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other option

Christian Fellowship – Meeting Minutes (October 13th)

As previously mentioned due to the pandemic, Christian fellowship has been unable to provide any of our normal activities; we are hopeful things will resume in 2021.

A skit of sorts is on our agenda in light of a typical Women's Sunday (the date is yet to be determined). With that said, our next meeting is scheduled for January 12th at 6pm and this will be done virtually.

To all the members of First United Church of Christ, we want you to know that you are each thought of and prayed for during this pandemic, being shut out from our normal day to day activities. We have greatly missed our time of coffee fellowship, seeing your faces, chatting, eating and most importantly, hugging one another~

When this is all behind us, and it will be, a plan for a HUGE celebration of church family and friends will definitely be in order; we patiently await the day. Until then please know Christian fellowship is still here and thinking of you!

With love,

Your Christian fellowship committee

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 11:11

Christian Fellowship – Meeting Minutes (October 13th)



Volume #1, November 2020

“The D.I.S.H.”

So, what is the “D.I.S.H.”? **D**eveloping **I**nclusivity and **S**elfless **H**ospitality. We want to share our church, selflessly, and with extreme hospitality to **all** persons, but especially those that have been all too often been made to feel unwelcome or outright told they were not welcome, the LGBTQ+ community.

As we, First UCC, move forward with our Open and Affirming work, the O & A Committee wants to share information and resources with you to inform and inspire that inclusive hospitality we want to share out loud and clear with our community at large. The “D.I.S.H.” will come to you, quarterly, in your copy of the Scoop. Welcome to our first edition!

But, our church is a very friendly and welcoming church already. Isn't that enough? Why the O&A process?

The following comes from the United Church of Christ's Open and Affirming Coalition website:

‘All Are Welcome’ isn't enough

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of faith often experience emotional and spiritual injury in churches that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. Because they've learned that “All Are Welcome” usually doesn't apply to them, they can't assume that any church will be safe for them and their families.

A public welcome by an Open and Affirming (ONA) church sends a clear message to LGBT seekers that they have a home in the United Church of Christ. A congregation's affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life-changing and life-saving experience—especially for LGBT youth. A public welcome to LGBT seekers helps churches grow. When new ONA churches attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families: they identify with the values ONA represents, and want their children to learn the faith in a welcoming church. By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)

I have questions about Open & Affirming. Where can I go to do some research?

-Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ:

<http://openandaffirming.org/>

-United Church of Christ/ONA: http://www.ucc.org/lgbt_ona

What is First UCC doing to inform the congregation?

-Some things that are "in the works"...We are planning for book studies (virtual groups), Bible Studies (in person, recorded, possibly virtually), selecting a movie and making it available to "checkout" for small group viewing, Common Chords coming to sing in the spring, a question/comment box that you can ask for more information from the O & A Committee.

Has "Homosexual" always been in the Bible?

The word *arsenokoitai* shows up in two different verses in the Bible, but it was not translated to mean *homosexual* until 1946.

We got to sit down with Ed Oxford at his home in Long Beach, California and talk about this question.

You have been part of a research team that is seeking to understand how the decision was made to put the word *homosexual* in the Bible. is that true?

Ed: Yes. It first showed up in the RSV translation. So before figuring out why they decided to use that word in the RSV translation (which is outlined in my upcoming book with Kathy Baldock, *Forging a Sacred Weapon: How the Bible Became Anti-Gay*) I wanted to see how other cultures and translations treated the same verses when they were translated during the Reformation 500 years ago. So I started collecting old Bibles in French, German, Irish, Gaelic, Czechoslovakian, Polish... you name it. Now I've got most European major languages that I've collected over time. Anyway, I had a German friend come back to town and I asked if he could help me with some passages in one of my German Bibles from the 1800s. So we went to Leviticus 18:22 and he's translating it for me word for word. In the English where it says "Man shall not lie with man, for it is an abomination," the German version says "Man shall not lie with young boys as he does with a woman, for it is an abomination." I said, "What?! Are you sure?" He said, "Yes!" Then we went to Leviticus 20:13— same thing, "Young boys." So we went to 1 Corinthians to see how they translated *arsenokoitai* (original Greek word) and instead of homosexuals it said, "Boy molesters will not inherit the kingdom of God."

I then grabbed my facsimile copy of Martin Luther's original German translation from 1534. My friend is reading through it for me and he says, "Ed, this says the same thing!" They use the word *knabenschander*. *Knaben* is boy, *schander* is molester. This word "boy molesters" for the most part carried through the next several centuries of German Bible translations. *Knabenschander* is also in 1 Timothy 1:10. So the interesting thing is, I asked if they ever changed the word *arsenokoitai* to *homosexual* in modern translations. So my friend found it and told me, "The first time *homosexual* appears in a German translation is 1983." To me that was a little suspect because of what was happening in culture in the 1970s. Also because the Germans were the ones who created the word *homosexual* in 1862, they had all the history, research, and understanding to change it if they saw fit; however, they did not change it until 1983. If anyone was going to put the word *homosexual* in the Bible, the Germans should have been the first to do it!

As I was talking with my friend I said, "I wonder why not until 1983? Was their influence from America?" So we had our German connection look into it again and it turns out that the company, Biblica, who owns the NIV version, paid for this 1983 German version. Thus it was Americans who paid for it! In 1983 Germany didn't have enough of a Christian population to warrant the cost of a new Bible translation, because it's not cheap. So an American company paid for it and influenced the decision, resulting in the word *homosexual* entering the German Bible for the first time in history. So, I say, I think there is a "gay agenda" after all!

I also have a 1674 Swedish translation and an 1830 Norwegian translation of the Bible. I asked one of my friends, who was attending Fuller seminary and is fluent in both Swedish and Norwegian, to look at these verses for me. So we met at a coffee shop in Pasadena with my old Bibles. (She didn't really know why I was asking.) Just like reading an old English Bible, it's not easy to read. The letters are a little bit funky, the spelling is a little bit different. So she's going through it carefully, and then her face comes up, "Do you know what this says?!" and I said, "No! That's why you are here!" She said, "It says boy abusers, boy molesters." It turns out that the ancient world condoned and encouraged a system whereby young boys (8-12 years old) were coupled by older men. Ancient Greek documents show us how even parents utilized this abusive system to help their sons advance in society. So for most of history, most translations thought these verses were obviously referring the *pederasty*, not homosexuality!

So then I started thinking that of 4 of the 6 clobber passages, all these nations and translations were referring to pederasty, and not what we would call homosexuality today.

Q:HOW DID THE TRANSLATION TEAMS WORK?

Well, they didn't operate out of a vacuum when they translated something. They used data available to them from very old libraries. Last week at the Huntington Library I found a Lexicon from 1483. I looked

up *arsenokoitai* and it gave the Latin equivalent, *paedico* and *praedico*. If you look those up they means pederasty, or *knabenschander*, (boy molester, in German.) 1483 is the year Martin Luther was born, so when he was running for his life translating the Bible and carrying his books, he would have used such a Lexicon. It was the Lexicon of his time. This Lexicon would have used information from the previous 1000+ years, including data passed down from the Church Fathers.

SO THERE IS HISTORICAL TRADITION TO SHOW THAT THESE VERSES AREN'T RELATING TO HOMOSEXUALITY?

Absolutely! Sometimes I'm frustrated when speak with pastors who say, "Well I believe the historical tradition surrounding these verses," and then proceed with a condemnation of LGBTQ individuals. I challenge them to see what was actually traditionally taught. For most of history, most European Bibles taught the tradition that these 4 verses were dealing with pederasty, not homosexuality. I am saddened when I see pastors and theologians cast aside the previous 2000 years of history. This is why I collect very old Bibles, lexicons, theological books and commentaries - most modern biblical commentaries adjusted to accommodate this mistranslation. It's time for the truth to come out!

YES! my brother, who is a pastor, also told me the same thing: that Every sector of the church has seen same-sex relationships as sinful for 2,000 years. BUT The more I read and study though, the more I just don't see this being true.

WHAT WAS USED BEFORE HOMOSEXUAL SHOWED UP IN THE RSV VERSION?

King James Version triumphed the land and they used the phrase, "Abusers of themselves with mankind" for *arsenokoitai*. If you asked people during that time no one really wanted to tackle it. So that's why I'm collecting Bibles, Biblical commentaries and lexicons, in order to show how theologians dealt with these passages.

Q: In your opinion, how would the church be different if the RSV didn't change *arsenokoitai* and *malakoi* to homosexual in 1946 ?

In my opinion, if the RSV did not use the word homosexual in first Corinthians 6:9, and instead would have spent years in proper research to understand homosexuality and to really dig into the historical contextualization, I think translators would have ended up with a more accurate translation of the abusive nature intended by this word. I think we could have avoided the horrible damage that was done from pulpits all across America, and ultimately other parts of the world. But let's don't throw out the baby with the bathwater - the RSV team did a great job on most everything else. It was an honest mistake.

Q: AND DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE WOULD HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY AS A RESULT?

Yes, absolutely! I think my life would have been starkly different if the translation would have been translated with the accurate historical contextualization - especially within my own family, since they rely so heavily on the English translation and put a lot of faith in the translators for the final product in English. Since most people haven't studied Greek or Hebrew, they have no concept of challenging a translation, and any potential errors that may have occurred during translation. Therefore, many people are unable to consider the implications of the text beyond the English translation in front of them.

Q: Based on your research, what advice would you have for LGBTQ Christians today?

My advice to LGBTQ Christians today would be three things:

- 1.) As difficult as it may be, try to extend grace and patience to the Church. The vast majority of pastors in America have not done their due diligence on this topic, so we can't expect them to be any further along than they are currently. In the same way that God has extended grace and patience with us when we sin, we need to extend grace and patience toward others regarding their error on this topic. Bitterness will only manage to create further damage.
- 2.) Seek out other LGBTQ Christians who have already done their due diligence on this topic and reached a point of peace between their sexuality and God. We can learn a lot from others who are a little further up the trail.
- 3.) Often remind yourself that this mess is not caused by God, but instead is the result of people who have been entrusted with free will.