



November 2022



**Here's some exciting news for the congregation of First UCC—Sauk City.**

One of our members, Sherri Roberts, has recently been accepted into the Extended Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship program at Gundersen Health System in LaCrosse. Sherri describes this six month course, running through April 2023, like this: *Clinical Pastoral Education is education to teach spiritual care to clergy and lay persons. Participants develop skills and understanding to serve people at life's crossroads and prepares students for ministry in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, congregations and other specialized settings.*

She will engage with her CPE colleagues, both online and in person, in small group education and reflection sessions. She will also cover shifts at Gunderson Hospital as a Chaplain Intern. Most important to the First Church congregation, however, will be the time she spends meeting part of her clinical hours working on behalf of her home congregation. For starters, Sherri will be engaged in some intensive visitation of our home-bound members and those living in nursing homes.

I will have the great privilege over these six months of serving as Sherri's preceptor for the CPE program. My job will be to help her plan and carry out her work for us, and then to help her review and reflect on the experience. Sherri has told me she is excited for the opportunity to formalize her ministry work here at First Church. And I am excited for the benefit her ministry among us will bring to many of our members.

Last Sunday (October 30<sup>th</sup>) we conducted a commissioning service during the morning worship service to offer our affirmation and blessing to Sherri as she begins this important personal journey. When you see her, let her know she is being held in your prayers.

See you in church.

Brad Brookins  
Interim Pastor



# Christian Education News



Sunday School and Confirmation have started the year off strong! Let us know if you still need to enroll. (608) 643-8387 or email at [firstuccsawke@gmail.com](mailto:firstuccsawke@gmail.com).

## What Has Been Happening

- Wednesday, September 21 5:30-6:30 Youth Group grades 7-12th had Pizza at the Riv. We had 7 participants.
- We had 2 receive Bibles on Oct 2nd.
- The Fall Celebration and Tailgate occurred Oct 2nd right after church. We decorated pumpkins for the nursing homes and had pumpkins for others to take home.
- Wednesday, October 19 the Youth Group visited Treinen Farm and we had 11 participants
- We have started a Puzzle Exchange in the back of the church to give members a chance to share puzzles with each other especially during the winter months.

## Upcoming events

- November 6th Whole Church event of Youth Art Fair, Food Pantry Collection and Veteran's cards. Each piece of artwork will be \$10.
- November 11-13th looking to get a group together to see the Sauk Prairie HS drama *The Laramie Project*. See additional ideas from O&A committee
- Wednesday November 16th 5:30-6:30 Youth Group Grades 7-12th movie night at the church
- We are starting to prep for the Student Christmas Program on December 11th.



Thank you!

To everyone that volunteered their time and efforts to make Mobile Meals and Sauk Prairie Against Hunger Pack Event a huge success!

**Mobile Meals** had 12 volunteers to pick up, drive and deliver meals to many individuals in their homes.

**Sauk Prairie Against Hunger Pack Event** had 22 volunteers.

Together they packed 33 boxes, a total of 7,128 meals! This is a new record for our church performing at the 2 hour Pack event. The \$1,000 donation our church made to secure a packing table provide over 7,100 life saving meals at a cost to us of about \$0.25 each. Money well spent!

(Check out Church Connect to read more about how our community helped in this event)

### 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!**



***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 special 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 offerings box, through the U.S. mail or may be dropped off at the office during office hours or dropped in the mailbox at the Education doors.

(don't forget to add "radio sponsorship" to your memo line)

# STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 13 we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday. The two Sundays prior to the 13th we'll have messages related to this year's theme;

**“From bread and cup to faith and giving.”**



When we accept Jesus' invitation to the communion table, other invitations are extended as well. Jesus invites us to share our time, talents, and treasures. Some ways we can share our time and talents include HELP, Meals on Wheels, and the Caring Tree. We share our treasures when we make a financial commitment to First United Church of Christ to insure that our ministry programs can continue.

We look forward to our upcoming Stewardship program as we accept Jesus' invitations. (Remember there will not be pledge cards this year).

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## FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



In the coming weeks, there will be messages each Sunday leading to our November Stewardship Sunday. This year we will not be using the Stewardship pledge cards. In conversations with the Finance Committee, it was decided that the cards were not serving as much of a useful purpose as had been

hoped for. This does not mean however that we have lessened the value of our Fall Stewardship Campaign. Your support, both through your volunteer actions and financial contributions, are needed more than ever.

The need is real...take time to reflect and pray on how you can best support First United Church of Christ-Sauk City.



# Y o u C a n H. E. L. P.

## *(Help Excite Little People)*

From now until mid-December, we will be collecting gently used toys and items for younger children and teens to distribute to children/youth in need in our community. 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 as many of their wishes as we can with our donations.

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

- \* Spread the word that we are collecting toys and items for younger children and 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/near the red sleigh by the elevator, in/or near the bins outside of the Education Bldg.
- \* Make monetary donations if you don't have items to recycle. Checks can be made out to: Help Excite Little People and delivered to the church or mailed to the church.
- \* Volunteer to be an "ELF"...wash, fix, and organize toys. We will meet in the Sanctuary basement. If the "Elves" prefer, they can come on the scheduled days and pick up a box or bag to clean at home.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Margaret @ 608-643-6327 or  
mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com



### **November "Elves" sessions will be:**

- \* Friday, November 11th  
10am—Noon
  - \* Wednesday, November 16th  
10am—Noon
  - \* Friday, November 18th  
10am—Noon
  - \* Monday, November 21st  
10am—Noon
  - \* Monday, November 28th, 1pm—3pm
- 
- ♦ 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.
  - ♦ Watch for the December schedule in next month's SCOOP!

## H.E.L.P. History by: Margaret McFarlane

The Help Excite Little People Project was started in 1984 by the Mary/Martha Circle at First United Church of Christ. This church circle included (according to a list I found) the following current church members; Sandy Schlender, Jan Van Keuren, Barb Brock, Peggy Ganser, Margaret Mauch, Julie Perry, Peggy Heidenreich, Corrine Jonas and Diana Woerpel. This group of very caring women, pioneered a way to recycle toys and make the holidays happier for those less fortunate in our community! They collected gently used toys, cleaned, repaired, and organized them. They distributed the items in conjunction with the S. P. Food Pantry, on the third Saturday of December, as that was the one day per month that the food pantry dispersed food. At that time, the food pantry was located at the S.P. Community Center, so the items were boxed up, transported to the community center and displayed on table in the gym.

The Mary/Martha Circle stopped meeting as an organized group, when many of their members' schedules became busy with work and their families. Help Excite Little People then became an all church project. Sandy Schlender, the coordinator passed the baton over to me in 1991. It was a perfect fit, as it was a church project that my 3 year old and I could do together.

H.E.L.P. promoted our need for donations by contacting the local schools and churches, putting posters up throughout the community, and advertising in the local papers. We expanded our need for donations by asking for items for teens. We continued to distribute the items on the 3rd Saturday of December but moved the distribution to our church. Since the volume of items increased, it was no longer feasible to transport everything to the community center. Our volunteers that we refer to as "elves" worked out of the sanctuary basement. The table of the basement were organized by categories such as toddler toys, dolls, sports etc...Our local food pantry, the schools and area churches referred families to come pick out gifts for their children/youth. Families did not need to apply, as being a church, our program was/is run on the honor system. We encouraged parents not to bring their children along on the day of the distribution, so the items could be

given as surprises. The average number of families we provided items for was 50-75.

Over the years, H.E.L.P. has grown to be a community-wide project. Organization, schools, churches, businesses and individuals promote our program and/or donate items. Our "elves" are not only our adult church member but have included our; Sunday School and Confirmation students, scout, and 4-H groups, friends and family members from other churches and the community. The Culver Franchising System and Quartz Health Insurance have sent employees over during work hours to promote community service and lend us some needed hands. Besides recycled items, new items are also donated, along with monetary gifts, which we often use to buy batteries and to purchase items to supplement our supply. Besides the numerous individual donations...Grand Avenue School, Sauk Prairie Nursery Center, the Sunday School programs from our church and St. John's Lutheran, local scout and 4-H programs; are a few of the local groups that collect donations for us each year.

In 2020, COVID -19 caused us to reevaluate and revamp our program. Many of our "elves" came to work wearing masks and used social distancing, while others took boxes of items home to clean. Since we were unable to allow families inside our church to pick out gifts, we had the food pantry distribute wish lists for recipients to fill out, listing what their children would like for the holidays. Using the wish lists, our volunteers packed boxes for each family, selecting things from our collection of items. We found however, that we had many wishes for teens and not enough teen donations. "Mission Possible" and church members came to our rescue by purchasing many of the needed items.

As we begin our 38th year, we remain optimistic that this program will have continued success! To serve God is to serve others! Heartfelt thanks to ALL who continue to support this mission!

□ **"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35** □

# CARING TREE

First United Church of Christ will be joining the Sauk Prairie community wide program called the **Caring Tree**. Beginning November 9th we will have a Christmas tree located on the first floor landing of the Educational Building, near the church and Pastor Brad's offices. The Caring Tree will have tags with a gift listed and the gender and age of a child. Please take as many tags as you'd like, shop, and then return your purchased gift (with the tag attached to the gift) and place it under the tree.

The Caring Tree may provide gifts to some of the same children as Help Excite Little People but these are separate charities. H.E.L.P. will continue its wonderful mission of providing toys, books, and games. Let's all join together to make this Christmas a merry one for the children in our community! **Please Support both the Caring Tree and HELP. if you are able.**



## Sauk Prairie STOCK THE SCHOOLS

*Stock the Schools program suggested donations for October:*

- Crackers & cheese pkgs (any nutritional items are always appreciated)
- Personal items: Pads, tampons, pantyliners
- Waterproof mittens/gloves, warm clothing, snowpants and boots. New or gently used items are always appreciated.

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.





**The O & A Committee** would like to invite you to join us, as a church, in attending “The Laramie Project” on Sunday, November 13th at 2pm. We have two of our church members that are performing in the production.

At noon, we will meet at No. 1 Kitchen for lunch (on your own). From there, we will head over to the River Arts Center for the play. Tickets are \$10 (on your own) in advance or at the door.

If you would like to join the lunch before, please call or email the church office by November 9th so we can make a reservation. We hope you can join us for this performance.

The ADRC along with Sauk Prairie Community Education are partnering with Climb Theatre to bring a live play, called Grandpa & Lucy to Grand Avenue Elementary on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. This is an intergenerational opportunity for kids and older adults to come together to learn about dementia and how grandpa is still there, but might be a little different. The play is based on a book, written by a high school student. We would love if you could help us spread the word to get a great crowd there. We would hope for 150 participants, young and old alike!



We also have a Facebook event with all the details ([Grandpa and Lucy | Facebook](#)). Please let me know if you have any questions! We appreciate your support.



# BE THANKFUL



I am thankful for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Thanksgiving Word Search


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

cook  
corn  
dinner  
fall  
family  
feast  
food  
gravy  
harvest

maize  
pilgrims  
pumpkin  
relatives  
settlers  
squash  
stuffing  
thanks  
turkey



# November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>Happy Birthday</div>		1	2	3 Jacob Kapp Connie Harrison Mike Warren	4 Cody Brickl	5 Richard Kaufman Bart Mauch
6	7	8 Tom Zimmerman	9	10	11 Morgan Cook	12
13	14 Rick Niederklöpper	15	16	17 Kevin Hardtke	18 Carissa Herbrand	19
20 Isaac Pape	21 Emilia Pape	22	23	24 	25	26 Tim Henning
27 Vann Ambort	28	29 Isaac Homar Audrey Zimmerman	30 Dwane Kuhnau			



**Richard & Donna Kaufman**

54 years on 11/4

**Randy & Barb Kuhnau**

28 years on 11/5

**Harland & Lorraine Hartmann**

68 years on 11/6

**Ken & Robin Meier**

42 years on 11/15

**Cliff & Jan Lawton**

36 years on 11/20

**Congratulations on your  
many years together!**



**This month's Scoop is  
Sponsored by:**

**Harland & Lorraine Hartmann  
in honor of their 68th wedding  
anniversary**

**Radio  
Ministry**



**Sunday 9 am Worship is Broadcast  
on**

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

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

**November 6th: Verda McFarlane**

*In memory of: Robert McFarlane 103 years*

**November 20th: Evelyn Accola**

*In memory of: Roy & La Vera Accola, An-  
drew & Anna Accola*

**November 27th: James & Karen  
Wittwer**

*In memory of: James' grandparents  
(Ernest & Alice Wittwer Sr.) wedding  
anniversary on November 29th.*

***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***



**First United Church of Christ  
504 Washington Avenue  
Sauk City, WI 53583  
RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



**Consistory:** TBD

**Christian Ed:** See report in Scoop

**Search Committee:** November 3rd

**Stewardship/Fellowship:** See  
report in Scoop

**O&A:** See "The Laramie Project"  
article in Scoop

**H.E.L.P. "Elf" sessions:**

**November 11— 10am-Noon  
16— 10am-Noon  
18— 10am-Noon  
21— 10am-Noon  
28 — 1pm—3pm**

<b>Pastor : (Interim)</b>	<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>9am-Noon Tuesday through Friday</b>
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<b>Brad Brookins</b>	<b>Cell phone</b>	<b>608-669-2926</b>
	<b>Office phone:</b>	<b>608-643-8387</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org">office@ucc-saukcity.org</a></b>

<b>First UCC office :</b>	<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>8am-Noon-Monday through Friday</b>
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<b>Cathy Wilkinson</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Office phone: 608-643-8387</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org">office@ucc-saukcity.org</a></b>