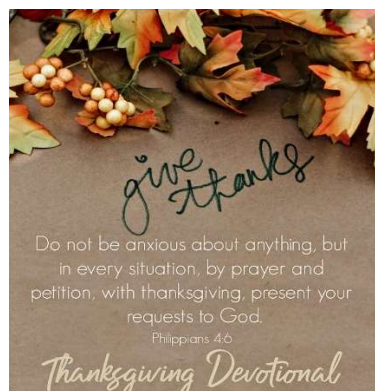


First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Ave.
Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP NOVEMBER 2023

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com
- For the Youtube channel type:
“ *First UCC Sauk City Youtube* ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

*Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor
and solve the world's problems over a cup of
coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the first cup.
Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)*

This Month at First...

November 7th	Christian Fellowship 9:30 am
November 12 th	Coffee Fellowship
November 16 th	Consistory 6:00 pm
November 23 rd	Happy Thanksgiving
November 26 th	Advent Starts

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Office phone: 608-643-8387

Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926

Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org



Pathways

Brad Brookins (2017)

There is a stumbling stone path to a red granite ledge overlooking my favorite lake. Her rock-hewn stairway, irregular in rise and tread, taunts lungs and legs, teasing you—"You'll never get there!" she says. But when you do get there and look down hundreds of feet into the other sky, deep in its own blueness, framed with pine, birch and sandy beach, you almost forget the weariness in your limbs.

The down path is another story.

Fewer stairs but more turns, an unreliable incline.

And if you aren't careful, if you don't hold your little girls' hand tightly enough, she will slip away.

Her knee will find the painful edge where blood will flow and a cry arise, "Daddy let go of my hand!" And once again you will have disrupted the universe. By letting go.

Fail to hold secure what you love and what you love will slip from your grasp.

I know this is true. I don't know always what a prayer is, either in the speaking or the hearing. But I would pray to hold on; to never too soon or too easily let go. I would pray for a clasp of hands and hearts that life will smile on, and death respect. I would pray That we never walk the path alone.

Hold on to the people you love. Let those who would love you hold you close. Treasure your friendships. Be grateful for all that brings meaning and beauty into your life. This is the candle we hold against the present darkness. This is the light we are called to be. Samwise Gamgee got it right. Even in the shadow of violence and war where we are living today, "There is still some good in this world...and it's worth fighting for."

It's worth fighting for, and the only weapon we have is love. The only tools we have are kindness, generosity, and grace. And in the end, this is all we need.

Always in hope,

Pastor Brad

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options. And we'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live Youtube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services, can also be seen on our Youtube channel. Type “*First UCC Sauk City Youtube*” into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone.

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.



To the Congregation:

We regret to inform you, on September 28th Brigitta Brickl tendered her services as First United Church of Christ Sunday School Superintendent. We would like to thank Brigitta for her invaluable services in overseeing our children these past few years and we wish her joy and happiness in her future endeavors.

Margaret McFarlane has volunteered her services to temporarily take on Sunday School and Confirmation until a new minister is hired; at that time, we will review and decide what part the minister's role will be.

If you have any questions, please refer to a consistory member.

With the greatest of hope and love,

2023-2024 Consistory Board

Rose Kleinert, Carrie Finley, Tammy Young, Peggy Ganser, Heather Miller, Barb Sprecher and Tim Henning.

Consistory Minutes

In lieu of a meeting this month, consistory members helped support the 6:8 Food Pack Event on Thursday, October 26th.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **November 16th at 6pm** in the ED building kitchen.

▪ *Christian Fellowship Meeting Minutes*

Thank you to the Office Angels for cleaning the church and making it ready for the holiday season.

- November 12th Coffee Fellowship
 - ✓ potluck breakfast will be held in the church basement (watch for signup sheet in the Narthex)
- December 10th Holiday Bake Sale (watch for sign-up sheet in Narthex)

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 7th at 9:30 am / coffee and donuts at church**

YOU CAN H.E.L.P. (Help Excite Little People)

From now until mid-December, we will be collecting gently used toys and items for 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.

Our cleaning sessions will take place in the Sanctuary basement. Please park across the street or in the church parking lot, as the buses pull up in front of the Education Building during school hours for the 4K Class.

Our November work sessions will be:

- Wednesday, November 1st 10:00 am-Noon
- Monday, November 6th 10:00 am-Noon
- Tuesday, November 14th 10:00 am-Noon
- Friday, November 24th 10:00 am-Noon
- Monday, November 27th 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 29th 10:00 am-Noon

Ways that 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 sleigh by the elevator on Sundays, or in the bins outside of the Education Building at any time.



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 items. We will meet in the Sanctuary basement. Pick one date or join us for as many as you are able. If you prefer, you 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 upon request. Call or email Margaret.



Watch for the December schedule in next month's *SCOOP*, *Facebook*, and the *Church Connect Website*.

If you have any questions, please contact: Margaret at 643-6327 or mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com

- ***Love Thy Neighbor*** (An Umbrella of Opening & Affirming)

Minutes from October 10th meeting:

- ❖ Reviewed the presentation of the Mama Bear movie.
 - It was well attended at the George Culver Library. John Brennan co-sponsored the cost of the movie.
- ❖ Discussed ways to expand on our church covenant. Planning on presenting a questionnaire to the congregation of various social issues in our home area. This could include future guest speakers in this area, a book study, etc.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 4:30 in the ED building library.

All are welcome to join.

- ***Stock the Schools***

For the month of **November**, we will be collecting Ritz type crackers, pads, tampons, and panty liners. Thank you for all your generous support to this project.

-
- ***Members in Ministry*** ~ We continue to make visits. If you know someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call, or would like to receive communion in their home, please let Debbie Tschudy know or call her at 608-963-4873 or the church office 608-643-8387. We will be having a meeting in November – date to be determined.
-

▪ **MUSIC @ FIRST CHURCH**

Here we are in November already and Advent/Christmas is just around the corner. First Choir is preparing selections for the Holiday Season and looking forward to the new year. Last week, Fred Kamps shared the following with us a rehearsal and it is certainly poignant and relevant.

TRAVIS L BOYD writes....

"Things have changed. There aren't as many people participating in church choirs these days. Some have gone on to sing in the heavenly choir. Some of the voices have weakened a bit. Some have lost a portion of their vocal range. The traditional ways of doing things are disappearing. Many choirs do not sing in robes anymore. The instrumentation has changed. The piano and organ are supplemented with other instruments, including drums and guitars. Things definitely have changed, and change is inevitable (and sometimes very healthy!).

However, choral singing is still beautiful. Dynamics are still breathtaking. Articulations and phrasing are still painting vivid pictures of the text. Good breath support is still creating notes that are on pitch and carry with them great depth of sound. Choir members are still dedicated to working hard each week to bless the Lord and His people.

What has not changed is the fact that choir is still one of the most beautiful and engaging ministries in the local church. It provides a powerful expression of praise and worship that a soloist, a band, or the congregation cannot do.

So make sure your choir (if you are still fortunate to have one) is affirmed and appreciated regularly. Don't take the choir for granted. It takes a lot of commitment to create and maintain a church choir. Pray for your choir members regularly. Let them know how much you are inspired by their ministry.

Hurray for all those church choir members and their leaders! May God continue to use you powerfully in a world that desperately needs to hear your message.

The message is the mission!"

Dennis J. Kahn

IN LOVING ♥
Memory

Memorials were received in October for:

Robert Kahn

John Lawton

Marian Marie Drake

Sunday School & CONFIRMATION

In the past, Sunday School and Confirmation classes were not held on the first Sunday of the month. An activity took place in the Narthex after the church service. We are now offering an activity for SS students during the church hour on the first Sunday. Students can go to church and then be excused at 9:20, like other Sundays. Instead of going to their individual classes, they will be going to the kitchen on the 3rd floor of the Education Building. I will be leading a large group activity/activities.

Instead of the students returning to the Sanctuary after their class time, we will have a short gathering with the students in the Education Building, 3rd floor kitchen. We will dismiss at 10:10.

Our Harvest Home Table will be set up starting November 5 thru November 26. We are collecting non-perishable items for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. We are asking the congregation to join us in supporting this mission.

We welcome *Nadene Litscher*, who will be leading the Confirmation class, along with *Jackie Ballweg*.

- Confirmation will now be meeting 10:00-11:00 on Sunday morning.
- Confirmation students are welcome to join the SS during the first Sunday of the month activities (they will receive points for this).
- Sunday, November 5, Family Event; Mission Activity College and Military Outreach has been cancelled. We did not receive any requests for care packages or donations. If you made a request and it was missed, please let us know.

Margaret McFarlane



Harvest Home Table

During the month of November, the Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable items; besides food, items such as toilet paper, soap, paper towels,...are always needed. There will be a table in the Narthex set up for your donations. We will collect items from now thru November 26. Thank you for supporting this special mission!

Our Radio Broadcast Sponsors for the month of November are:

- November 5th** Larry & Kathy Johnson, in honor of Kathy's Mom, ***Dorothy Molene*** whose 99th birthday was October 1st.
- November 12th** Cliff & Jan Lawton, in memory of son ***Jason Berry***.
- November 19th** Sharal Steuber, in recognition of ***Members in Ministry***
- November 26th** Jamie & Karen Wittwer, in memory of Jamie's grandparent's anniversary, ***Earnest and Alice***

Thank you to the many people that sponsor our weekly Radio Broadcast, the radio sends the Word of God to all who cannot be in person.

If anyone would like to donate to the scoop the cost is \$50

An Interesting Article from UCC in Arizona

AZCENTRAL.COM | MIDWEEK, 09.27.23 | Z8 9

United Church of Christ helps promote unity



Faith Matters
Rev. Rock Fremont
Guest columnist

The task set before us seemed promising, if not a little daunting; host an Afghan refugee family, making sure they had everything they needed to acclimate to life in America. I am so proud to serve as Senior Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills, a United Church of Christ (UCC) Congregation in the heart of Phoenix in Arcadia. Ecumenism, that is, the work of promoting unity among the world's Christians, is foundational to my work in the church.

If you were to Google the UCC, you would quickly discover that we are a United and Uniting Church, which blends five streams of Christian tradition to form our denomination. What you may not be able to discern as quickly, without getting to know us in person,

is why this matters so much and is so foundational to everything we do; bringing people together is our "thing." Knowing that we couldn't take on this hosting alone and shouldn't attempt to do so — my church reached out to communities of faith in the Arcadia area to see how we could share in the good work to be done.

We contacted our friends at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Community of Christ and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

This consortium of Arcadia Communities of Faith worked hand in hand with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest to take on hosting a family of ten Afghan refugees: Mom, Dad and eight children. Our communities worked together to assist this Afghan family with everything from securing their monthly rent and finding work, to administering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, riding the bus, and helping connect to after-school programs for the kids. We journeyed alongside this Af-

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ghan refugee family for over a year before they connected with family in another city and relocated to seek new opportunities. We wish them every success as they seek to achieve their dreams and have since begun hosting another Afghan refugee family of four, helping them acclimate to life in America.

The Faith Communities involved learned a lot during our journey alongside this family, but one lesson that is reinforced every time we come together to do good work is that from our faith to

our traditions, to the values which we hold dear, we have so much more in common than that which separates us, first and foremost being our deep concern and care for those who have been pushed into the margins of our society. We look around, see a need, and address it. This is the way that we do church; by being church.

Many are familiar with "The Golden Rule," a perennial truth across many faith traditions: "Treat others as you would like others to treat you." This ethos informs our life and ministry. We hear so much about separation and divisiveness, and though we know deep down that we are stronger together than we are apart, if we aren't in relationship with others, we rarely get to put that into practice. One of my favorite spiritual leaders is Mister Rogers, who, when advising children how to deal with scary news, said, "Look for the Helpers." If you're feeling disconnected in your life, I would urge you to look around, see who is doing good work, and join in.

November – 2023

Happy Birthday to you

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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 Niederklopper	15	16	17 Kevin Hardtke	18 Carissa Herbrand
19	20 Isaac Pape	21 Emilia Pape	22	23 	24	25
26 Tim Henning	27 Van Ambort	28	29 Isaac Homar	30 Dwane Kuhnu		



Happy Anniversary

Richard & Donna Kaufman 55 years on 11/4
Randy & Barb Kuhnau 29 years on 11/5
Harland & Lorraine Hartmann 69 years on 11/6
Ken & Robin Meier 43 years on 11/15
Cliff & Jan Lawton 37 years on 11/20





Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and phone calls that I received during my recent health challenges and knee surgery. I know that I can always count on my friends and family of First UCC to help me through difficult times in life.



God Bless,
Rhonda Pierick



THANK YOU: MOBILE MEALS DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS!

A special thanks to **Dianna Woerpel, Shirlee Lendved, Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, Debbie Tschudy, Peggy Ganser, Tammie Huerth, Tamara Straub, Jan Lawton, Sherri Roberts, Peggy Ganser, Pastor Brad and Rose Kleinert.**



Thank you to our members for representing First UCC at this years Food Pack Event: Tim, Katie, and Henry Homar, Brandon, Carrie and Bennett Finley, Tim and Sue Herbrand, Tim Henning, Heather Miller, Scott Kinnamon, Dianna Woerpel, Rose Kleinert, Shirlee Lendved, Fred Kamps, Steve and Marcy Thurwachter, Shirley Kelter, Mark Pierick, Pastor Brad Brookins and Sherri & Sam Roberts.

Thank you to the congregation for helping Kathy Johnson and Emily Fuchs celebrate their



joint birthday by eating all that cake!

If you would like to offer a word of appreciation to anyone, please reach out to the church office.

