

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

December 2019



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor Katie Dailey

OFFICE: 586-727-3155

E-mail: firstunitedcc@outlook.com

Website:

www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY—THURSDAY

8:30 AM - 12 NOON

FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 1 PM

*We are
a Christian community
called to love
God and our neighbors
as much as we
love ourselves.*

*No matter who.
No matter what.*

*You are
welcome here.*

Christmas Music



Music is a wonderful part of the Christmas and Advent seasons. Some songs we know and others are less familiar. Most important, however, is what motivated the writer of the lyrics and melody and why a particular song is your favorite.

There's something peaceful about Christmas. That can be hard to remember in the bustle of our preparations. Days of shopping, baking, and traffic can become more stressful than peaceful. Yet in the midst of all we are doing, we sense that things should be quieter and slower.

We try to hold onto glimpses of stillness: a moment in front of the tree while decorating, the solitude of the drive home from the evening Christmas Eve service, or a quiet cup of coffee after the kids have opened their gifts early Christmas morning.

Peace, however, is elusive – not just at Christmas, but all through the year. Weary from discord in our nations, communities, relationships, we welcome the words of the angels as they announce Jesus' birth. "Glory to God in heaven," they say to the shepherds, "and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (Luke 2:14 CEB)

PEACE BEGINS IN OUR HEARTS

We think peace is outside of our control. We long for our national leaders to work toward world peace. We hope bosses will be good at managing conflict. We pray for those in power to treat us and others, fairly. When we surrender control of our lives and allow the love of Christ to rule in our hearts, peace is born in us.

Peace isn't in the hands of the authorities, nor can we attain it through a purchase, promotion, or change in relationship status. When we allow "The Prince and author of peace" to set up his "quiet and peaceable reign" in our hearts and lives, we will find peace.

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As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, may the peace of Christ be born in us, and may we share it with all the world.

Here in Richmond, we welcome the Tree Lighting and Santa Parade (Saturday, December 7), the Hanging of the Greens, our Advent Sundays and Christmas Eve Worship when so many gather once again to remember times past and get a vision of those yet to come. As a church, we are on the move and expect great things this holiday season and into the New Year.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor KatieD

Are You Ready for Advent?



So tell me again, what is Advent? This liturgical season, a most important one, has an identity problem. A big part of this identity problem lies in the fact that it's much larger sibling, Christmas, overshadows it. Advent, and the celebration of this season, just gets in the way of the Christmas machine. In fact, Christmas simply runs over and crushes Advent before it has a chance to get moving.

So, Advent, when it was first celebrated, was a period of preparation for Jesus' second arrival. In time, however, the

remembrance of his first arrival, his birth, began to take precedence over the approaching second coming. And now, we just spend the better part of two months "getting ready for Christmas" while wearing ourselves out and into a frenzy. How can we, as a church and as a people, reclaim Advent? How can we allow it to speak to and calm our weary and frantic souls, rather than being just one more thing we "have to do?" A careful, prayerful and intentional Advent season tends to have a significant impact on our celebration of Christmas. When we observe Advent, some pre-Christmas activities are often seen in a different light becoming less important and even nonessential. Advent can help us slow down and pace ourselves. A slower pace makes us more aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit, opening our eyes to that which is Holy around us.

In the early church, and to this day in the Orthodox Church, Advent begins 40 days before Christmas. This season was much like Lent, a season of dedication to prayer and repentance in which Christians prepared themselves for Christ's Second Coming. In an interesting twist, the days of Advent were marked as beginning at sundown rather than with the rising of the sun.? As we wind down from a hectic and busy day, laying our heads down on the pillow, pray for the grace to slow down, to pay attention, and listen to Christ in the world and in your heart. Pray for God to speak to you in your dreams granting you vision and discernment of the holy in your midst. Pray to see Christ being born in and around you. Pray for a Holy Advent. May it be so with you and yours.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor KatieD

Thanks for Supporting our Holiday Gift Auction

The Holiday Gift Auction this year was another success. We made \$2,190 for our General fund!

We don't know how to say "Thank You" enough for how you support this fundraiser every year. We ask for donations and finger foods and you never let us down. You ARE the reason we do this every year! Besides,



where else can you start, do, or finish your Christmas shopping in one afternoon?

This year we want to make sure to say "THANK YOU" to Glen, who makes the auction fun; and to Carissa, Shane & Logan for being our runners. GREAT JOB EVERYBODY!!!

Sue Weinert & Kim Schrote

Free Christmas Day Dinner



Christmas Dinner

Yes, we will present a meal on Christmas Day as we have for the past 25 years. This year, however, it will be different. We decided to simplify. We will serve the meal at 1:00 pm. The menu will be Spaghetti, Sauce, Meatballs, Salad, and Garlic Bread. And then we will finish it off with **all your wonderful desserts!**

If you would like to help, we have a job to match your skill. We need helpers for the days and weeks leading up to the dinner and on Christmas Day. We appreciate all who volunteer to help and we never turn anyone away. Sign up to help by writing your name on our sign-up sheet on the back table.

Family Table Prayer

*O God of wonder,
you sent your Son, Jesus,
as a blessing upon all who dwell upon the earth.
Send your blessing upon the food we are about to share,
on those who provided it for us,
and upon those who prepared it.
As we enjoy this meal,
keep us mindful of those who have nothing to eat.
May the sharing of this meal
renew our efforts to bring the good news to the poor.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*"The root of Jesse will come ...
in him will the Gentiles*

Hope
© Romans 15:12, ESV



Church Notes



Thanksgiving Ecumenical service...

Wednesday,
Nov. 27 at First
United Methodist
6:00 pm

Hanging of the Greens... December 8

Come help us decorate the sanctuary during the service as we recall the meaning of these preparations.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service...

Tuesday evening,
December 24
at 9 pm.



Looking for someone to lead us in song...

Maybe you or someone you know would like to participate in our worship service and lead song just for a couple weeks? It is understood that long term commitments are difficult with busy schedules, but maybe, just maybe you or someone you know can fit a couple Sunday's and Christmas Eve into your schedule. Price Smith

Tis the Season to Clear the Snow

Cold weather is here and that means cold temps and falling snow. If you can help keep our church grounds safe by shoveling the walkways around the church when the snow flies, please look at the schedule that is on the back table in the narthex. Write your name on the week/weeks that you would like to shovel the snow. Thank you.



Hello everyone. Here is a new list of things needed for the food pantry:

macaroni and cheese
stuffing mix
canned fruit
spaghetti sauce
rice (1 lb. bags)
Jell-O/pudding
boxed potatoes
Manwich

We appreciate anything you can do to help us out.

Thank you from Michele at the
Richmond Community Food Pantry.

Christmas Gifts for Kids in Distress



This coming Holiday Season how about providing a Christmas gift for a child at Kids In Distress?

The Mission Committee would like you to pick a child's age between infant and 18 years old and fill a Christmas gift bag with items that you want to give. Total value of the items needs to be between \$25 – \$30. Items in the bag could be small games, hat, mittens, underwear, age appropriate hygiene products, clothing, books, wallet, socks, gift card. Please, no candy or religious items.

Kids In Distress is located in St. Clair and services families in St. Clair County and northern Macomb County. This charity provides free clothing, shoes, and household products to families who are underprivileged and displaced.

All gifts need to be at church on or before **December 8**. Be generous and do for others this Holiday Season.

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross & the Emergency Fund

On December 22, our congregation will receive the Christmas Fund offering. This is the offering that funds direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners. The

funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. The recipients of your gifts are people who have faithfully served the church for many years. And now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them.

Please join thousands of UCC members and congregations who will support this year's appeal and give as generously as you can. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin.

The Gift of Time



Too many of our older and disabled neighbors are lonely and isolated. They long for

just a brief visit now and then from someone who will take the time to sit and chat. And other families in our community are struggling to take care of a loved one at home. For these full-time caregivers, a break to run errands, go to their own doctor appointments, or just relax for an hour is often impossible because their parent or spouse cannot be left alone.

If you have a few hours, once or twice a month, to visit or just sit with an older or disabled adult, your gift of time will make a huge difference for our lonely and struggling neighbors. No hands-on-care or nursing experience is needed.

For more information, call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers at 586-757-5551.

2019

MISSION & OUTREACH CALENDAR

February 03.....Super Sunday Salsa & Chip Sale

February 24.....Hygiene Kit items due in church on or before February 24

March 05.....Paczkis for Possibilities

March 31.....*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

May 12.....*Blanket Sunday Offering

May.....McRest, Armada—cakes needed

June 09.....*Strengthen the Church Offering

June 24.....Baby shower for Kids in Distress (KIDS) St. Clair

July/Aug.....School Kit items due in church on or before August 25

October 06.....*Neighbors In Need Offering

November.....Shoebox Christmas Gift Collection for KIDS

Boxes due in church on or before December 8

December 22.....*Christmas Fund Offering

December 25.....Christmas Day Dinner 1 pm

*Envelopes will be provided

Check the Mission bulletin board at the back of the church for the detailed list for the Hygiene and School Kits plus any other Mission updates. Look for canisters for the ongoing collection of Box Tops for Education, Crossroads Child Services, Coins for the Holy Joe's Café Coffee for the Troops, and Keith's Horseback Riding Therapy.

The Richmond Food Pantry is always in need of food. Watch the newsletter for the items that are needed each month.

Our congregation gives \$600.00 annually to support the Richmond Good Samaritan Fund. Cash donations are always needed and welcomed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Servers Rotation Schedule—2019



November 24 (Nov. counter: Ron S.)

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
 Altar Flowers....Terri Houston

December 15

Greeters.....Karen Eltringham & Joe Burkhart
 Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett
 Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell
 Altar Flowers....Need Volunteer

December 1 (Dec. counter: Rich Weinert)

Greeters.....Terry & Kathi Miller
 Ushers.....Sharlene Haws & Glen Porrett
 Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
 Communion Preparer:....Sharlene Haws
 Communion Servers.....Karen E. & Joe B.

December 22

Greeters.....Sharlene & Darrel Haws
 Ushers.....Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
 Altar Flowers...Darlene F.& Shannon V.

December 8

Greeters.....Doris Essenburg & Sally McNinch
 Ushers.....Don & Donna Cockerill
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
 Altar Flowers...Jennifer Northam

December 29

Greeters.....Joyce Townsend & Pam Green
 Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote
 Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
 Altar Flowers....Merle Davies



First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for December "Clip and Keep Reminders"

December 1 - 7

Christopher, Krista, Hanna &
 Robbie
 John & Nancy Pollock
 Gary Porrett

December 8 - 14

Glen & Diane Porrett
 Robert, Wendy, Drew &
 Nathan Reindel
 Robert & Yvonne Reindel



December 15 - 21

Charles Rocker
 Amy, Adam & Matthew Santo
 Henry III & Jackie Schroeder

December 22 - 28

Adam & Michelle Schrote
 Ron & Kim Schrote
 Ryan, Niki & Blake Schrote

December 29 - January 4

Joyce Townsend
 Dawn Marie Trombley &
 Garrett Esper
 Lucille Trombley

What's Going on at First UCC?

If you would like to be an active participant in any of the goings on at First UCC or have any questions concerning what our committees

do, feel free to reach out to the committee liaison.

The many committees that make sure things run

smoothly are made up of volunteers, and each committee is represented by a church council member.

The various committees and liaisons are as follows:



Mission

Sharlene Haws (586-727-9912)

Buildings and Grounds

Terry Miller (586-709-3906)

Worship

Terri Houston (810-650-5612)

Christian Education

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

Finance

Ron Schrote (586-925-8801)

Stewardship

Ron Schrote (586-925-8801)

Memorial

Sue Weinert (586-206-1719)

Personnel

Terri Houston (810-650-5612)

Sue Weinert (586-206-1719)

Terry Miller (586-709-3906)

Pastor Katie's Office Hours and Pastoral Care

Pastor Katie will be in her office at the church on Wednesdays & Thursdays. If there are situations that arise in which you need pastoral care on a day that Pastor Katie is not in the of-

office, please call 586-727-3155 and leave a message with Helen or on the answering machine. You can also give Pastor Katie a call:
Cell number: 586-202-8644
Home phone: 586-716-9543

In the old days, hospitals and rehab/nursing facilities used to inform pastors when one of their flock was admitted. That doesn't happen anymore. Pastor Katie is always happy to receive your calls.

Wider Church Connections...you just may be interested in:

Daily Devotional, emailed to you:

<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>

Weekly E-Zine with featured items, resources, worship materials, and justice-action items: <http://www.ucc.org/news/keeping-you-eposted/>

Information and resources of all kinds from the United Church of Christ:

<http://www.ucc.org/>

Your Church Council

Listed below are your church council members. Please contact any one of them with any questions, comments or concerns.

Name	Position	Term Ends
Steve Furtaw	Council Member	2021
Mark Davis	Treasurer	2020
Ron Schrote	Vice President	2019
Katie Dailey	Pastor	—
Sharlene Haws	Council Member	2020
Terri Houston	Secretary	2021
Terry Miller	Council Member	2019
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	2020
Sue Weinert	Council President	2020

First UCC Prayer Chain



Pastor Katie	586-716-9543
Sue Weinert	586-206-1719
Diane Porrett	586-727-1374
Mary Alice Busch	586-727-7009
Paulette Trombley	586-506-5002
Karen Eltringham	586-291-0615
Shelley Champion	586-255-0387
Christine Hensch	810-385-4391
Traci Bartell	586-557-2264
Kim McCardell	586-623-9833
Joyce Townsend	586-727-9735

Want to join our prayer chain? Please call the church office at 586-727-3155.

Adopt-A-Bill Here's How it Works:

- 1) Take an Adopt-A-Bill envelope from the display board in the narthex.
- 2) Choose a bill from the board.
- 3) Place your check (made out to First United Church of Christ) or cash along with the bill in the envelope.
- 4) Place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

Every contribution is greatly appreciated and helps to support our church.

We wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members and friends who are celebrating their December birthdays:



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 - Scott Grzanka | 18 - Doug Manska |
| 08 - Terri Houston | 18 - Shannon Vivona |
| 11 - Jackie Waszkiewicz | 22 - Bill Wagner |
| 13 - Joyce Townsend | 24 - Carol Kulman |
| 16 - Gary Porrett | 25 - Robert Reindel |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the children of our church who celebrate a birthday this month:

- 19 - Lucy Zoma
31 - Makenna Handrow

We also wish a **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** to the following members and friends whose wedding anniversary is in December:



- 06 - Lantz & Jennifer Northam
09 - Doug & Joselyn Manska
23 - Henry III & Jackie Schroeder

**BEST
WISHES
TO YOU!**

Call to Care Team:

Shelley Champion...586-255-0387



Attendance

November 17.....29
November 10.....45
November 03.....44
October 27.....45

Offerings

November 17.....\$ 713.00
November 10.....\$1,942.00
November 03.....\$2,434.00
October 27.....\$1,933.00

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE
December 17**

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for December

December 01 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122 • Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44

December 08 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10 • Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 • Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 • Psalm 146:5-10 • James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • Romans 1:1-7 • Matthew 1:18-25

December 29 First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 • Psalm 148 • Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 8:30 am till 12 noon and Friday 8:30 am till 1 pm. If you need additional assistance at other times, please send Helen an email at firstunitedcc@outlook.com or leave a phone message at the church office: 586-727-3155. Thank you.

Mission Statement:

We are traveling life's road: created by God, guided by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit and grounded in scripture. We strive to be individuals on a spiritual journey and a community sharing God's love with all.

Vision Statement:

The purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church universal; to render loving service toward humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 11 am	2	3	4	5	6	7 Richmond parade – church open for warming center
8 Worship 11 am Hanging the Greens Heidi Riggs will use church after 2 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14 Quilt Guild 10 am
15 Worship 11 am	16	17	18	19 Church Council meets 7 pm	20	21
22 Worship 11 am w/Annette Johnston Christmas Fund offering	23	24  9 pm	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29 Worship 11 am	30	31  New Year's Eve				



Return address requested

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68651 SOUTH FOREST
RICHMOND, MI 48062

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Or Where You Are On Life's Journey...
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cell: 586-202-8644 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: firstunitedcc@outlook.com