News from the Search Committee

After over a year of searching, the committee has narrowed our list of candidates down to one. After a Neutral Pulpit service, we offered her our position of half-time pastor and she accepted. We are currently negotiating the terms of our Call Agreement with her.

When the negotiations are complete and approved by Council, we can schedule a Call Service so that everyone can meet her; then the congregation will vote to accept her as our new pastor. The long road to finding a new pastor has an end in sight.

The Search Committee
Dear Friends in Christ,

The following is a litany written by Tarris Rossell, a colleague I work with at Central Seminary. I think these words speak powerfully about our time together at First UCC.

Transition

A Litany

From Then to Now
From Now to Then
Again and again
Transition happens

Change or process
Moving on the
Shifting sands
Of time and being

Not itself the
Then or Then
Though maybe Now
If in-between
What was and will be

Transition happens
In the middle
Liminal space
The interim of this or that
It happens then
And will again

If we notice
Pay attention to
The in-between
And all that happens
Post-departure
Pre-arrival

Transition is
Synonymous
With Life.

I pray our Interim time together has been one filled with the Spirit to bring us to new places of Life.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Julie

Thanks to everyone who continues to support small farm justice by purchasing Equal Exchange fair trade items: coffee, tea, chocolate, fruits, nuts and olive oil.

Our supply is still in the church basement and our coffee hour Fellowship Decaf is a hit for the after worship crowd. If you haven’t checked it out yet, do it soon!

If you have questions about any of the products or purchase prices, speak with Traci Bartell.

Congratulations to Liz and Tim Franklin at the birth of baby Noah Arthur Franklin on February 7, 2014.

He weighed in at 6 lbs 13 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Big sister Faith (age 3) is very proud!
Scripture Readings for March

March 02  Last Sunday after Epiphany
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

March 09  First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 16  Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 23  Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 30  Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Office Hours
The secretary is in the office from 9 am till 12 noon, Monday thru Friday. If you need additional assistance other times, please send Helen an email note at firstucc@comcast.net or leave a message at the church office: 586-727-3155. Thank you.

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.

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.

Called to Care Team
Mary Alice Busch
586-727-7009

Bob Chrostowski
586-727-9904 (H)
586-855-1823 (C)

Reb & Sally McNinch
586-727-1000
Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

We welcome the new members to what is going to be an exciting and eventful year.

During the congregational meeting on January 12, four council members were elected:

Kim Grewe  
(for 2 years to fill out a term)

Kathi Miller

Veronica Chrostowski

Terri Houston

In the January council meeting, the following council officers were elected:

President—Ron Schrote
Vice President—Zack Joppich
Recording Secretary—Dean Handrow

We also want to thank Kathi Miller who stepped in to complete a vacant term, and thanks to Ryan Schrote and Sue Weinert, the people going off council this year, for their dedication and efforts in keeping the church running smoothly over the past three years.

We look forward to serving our church in the current year.

Peace,

Ron Schrote

First UCC

Prayer Chain

Pastor Julie Kilmer 517-803-9685

Sue Weinert 586-206-1719

Diane Porrett 586-727-1374

Jennifer Northam 586-727-5176

Reb & Sally McNinch 586-727-1000

Mary Alice Busch 586-727-7009

Paulette Trombley 586-784-5726

Karen Eltringham 586-727-5855

Joyce Townsend 586-727-9735

Shelley Champion 248-804-6915

James 5.16

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

If anyone would like to be added to our prayer chain, please call the church office at 586-727-3155.

Thank you.
Give Me a Break!

Many 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 just sit with an older or disabled adult, your gift of time will make a huge difference for these families. No hands-on care or nursing experience is needed.

For more information, call the Interfaith Caregivers at 586-757-5551. Learn more about our work at www.ivcinfo.org

The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society will host a Historic Tea on Saturday, March 22 at Maniaci’s Banquet Hall from 2-4 p.m.

A light lunch of scones and clotted cream, tea sandwiches, and homemade cookies and cakes will be served.

Actresses from the Community Theatre will portray these early Richmond area women: Ella Cudworth Kirkham, Lucy Vogt Weeks, Mary Jane Stephens Claggett, Mary Jane Liscomb Ward, Ella Rix, and Belle Weter Fanning. The women will have tea with us and then they will tell stories about themselves and what life was like in Richmond in the nineteenth century. They will also show us photos of their homes and their families. A table of lovely items will be available for a specialty auction, and there will be a hat contest!

Tickets are $25 and may be purchased at Sew Together, Time on Main, Richmond Flower Shop, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, the Community Center, and at the Historic Museum on Thursday mornings or by calling Christine at 586-727-7773.

Old-Fashioned German Dinner at First United Methodist Church 69495 Main Street, Richmond

Tuesday, March 4—4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Adults: $10; Children: (5-12yrs.) $5; 4 years & under: free

For more information call 586-727-2622
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 various committees and liaisons are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Liaison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Kathi Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and Grounds</td>
<td>Zack Joppich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Sue Weinert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitality</td>
<td>Ruth Hartwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Ryan Schrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Bill Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Education</td>
<td>Dean Handrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
<td>Lynn Dunsmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>Ron Schrote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The various committees and liaisons are as follows:

The many committees that make sure things run smoothly are made up of volunteers, and each committee is represented by a church council member.

 Servers Rotation Schedule—2014

**March 2**
- Greeters..............Rich & Sue Weinert
- Ushers...............David & Ruth Hartwell
- Lay Reader..........Traci Bartell
- Communion Preparer.....Mary Alice Busch
- Communion Servers.......Ray & Paulette Trombley

**March 9**
- Greeters..............Kirk & Lucia Marshall
- Ushers...............Glen & Diane Porrett
- Lay Reader..........Sue Weinert
- Altar Flowers....Mary Alice Busch

**March 16**
- Greeters..............Darrell & Sharlene Haws
- Ushers...............Rich & Sue Weinert
- Lay Reader........Lucia Marshall
- Altar Flowers...Kathi Miller

**March 23**
- Greeters...............Ray & Paulette Trombley
- Ushers...............Bob & Veronica Chrostowski
- Lay Reader..........Mary Alice Busch
- Altar Flowers......Need Volunteer

**March 30**
- Greeters...............Lantz & Jennifer Northam
- Ushers...............Ray & Paulette Trombley
- Lay Reader..........Joyce Townsend
- Altar Flowers......Paulette Trombley

**April 6**
- Greeters...............Reb & Sally McNinch
- Ushers...............Al & Mary Alice Busch
- Lay Reader..........Jennifer Northam
- Communion Preparer....Paulette Trombley
- Communion Servers.......Glen & Diane Porrett
The national church setting is calling for us to join a one-day initiative with the focus being on simple acts of justice work to “give God the elbow grease.” Member churches all over the country will be working and joining forces with members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Participants choose how to advocate to improve the lives of people in the community, the nation, or the world.

The First UCC Vitality committee is heading up our participation and our focus will be continued work on ending hunger locally and throughout the south eastern Michigan region. During worship on Sunday, March 2, we will begin our advocacy efforts by asking members and friends to sign letters that will go to our representatives in Lansing and Washington, DC. These letters will help remind those who make important decisions on our behalf that cutting budgets on the backs of those who are hungry does not match the gospel message of Jesus that is at the root of our faith story.

Additionally, on Tuesday, March 4, we will be hosting a fundraiser for the Gleaners, our local food bank and our community garden. “Pull in for Paczkis” will run from 6 am – 9 am. Since March 4th is “Fat” Tuesday, we will have authentic, yummy paczkis from the Polish Cultural Center for sale for $2 each, $15 a dozen, or a donation to help the cause. People will not even need to get out of their cars! We will offer a “drive through” service! Look for informational signs in the church yard on that Tuesday to help make our community more aware about hunger.

Wear blue that day and turn your Facebook page blue with the “March Forth” logo. (go to ucc.org for more information). There will be many ways for all members of the congregation to join in and March Forth. Look for sign-up sheets and listen during announcement time in worship. As always, if you cannot be a part of what takes place at the church, your prayers on March 4th and every day that focus on those who have less and who struggle to have food on their plates is real help that really works.

“We are called to see the big picture in which people are struggling to live with dignity. Our faith challenges us to understand our lives are interconnected with theirs.”


We will March Forth on March 4th!

Calling All Gardeners: Spring is Coming!

All those who are interested in planning the 2014 season of our Community Garden are asked to please contact Traci Bartell at 586-557-2264.

If you have a vegetable garden at home…we need your expertise! If you like getting your hands dirty…we need your energy! If you are amazed that a large harvest can come from one little seed…we need your wonder! If you have never gardened before…we need your fresh eyes and mind!

We need to have a gathering of the gardeners in March so that we can reflect on year one, plan for this year’s beds and hopefully add more, develop a time-line for planting and a system of harvesting. Be a part of hopeful Spring thinking! Come to the garden!
Join us for Sunday school...
Sunday, March 9 at 9:45 am
Worship w/choir 11:00 am
Noisy Offering
Join us for Sunday school. We meet at 9:45 am and practice the books of the Bible, rap with music and have lots of fun. Our Noisy offering benefits the animal shelter.
The next two Sunday school classes are scheduled for April 13 and May 11.
All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Service...
March 5 at 7:00 pm
The church council has decided to suspend the Lenten Study Potlucks for this year.

Notes of Appreciation/Thanks to Pastor Julie...
The time is approaching when we will say goodbye to Pastor Julie. If you would like to write her a note of appreciation/thanks, there will be note cards and envelopes on the back table of the church for you to use. Also, feel free to use something from home and bring it to church.
Please deposit your notes/cards in the box that is also on the back table. We will present these to Pastor Julie on the day of her last service. Thank You!

Colonial Woods Missionary Church Ladies Day Away...
Presents author: Liz Curtis Higgs
Saturday, March 22, 2014
Ticket sales begin Feb. 1
Information brochure is on the table at the back of the church.

Camp Talahi
Retreat & Nature Center...
Summer 2014
Young Adult Camp/May 23—May 26
CIT Camp/June 22—June 27
Mini Camp/June 29—July 2
Adventure Camp/July 6—July 11
Junior Camp/July 13—July 18
Senior High Camp/July 18—July 25
MADD Camp/July 27—August 1
GAS Camp/July 27—August 1
Family Camp/August 1—August 3

Our Website is up and running...
Come take a look! Here’s the address: www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com

Please submit your articles or announcements for the next issue of Sharing the Word no later than March 21.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MISSION CALENDAR</strong></th>
<th><strong>ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday, March 30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Kit items due in church on or before February 23</td>
<td>For almost seven decades, One Great Hour of Sharing has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, leveraging funds and serving through partnership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on March 30</td>
<td>Gifts through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care and shelter after devastating storms. Each time a gift is given, a connection is made that builds a bridge or tears down walls. Each resource shared answers God’s call to love our neighbor, because in Christ Jesus, we are one.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoe Drive for Grace Center of Hope, Pontiac—April 26</td>
<td>Christ’s work in the world healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought hope to communities burdened by challenges. Give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Sunday, March 30. Give generously, for as long as a sister or a brother is in need, we are all in need. Giving envelopes will be provided in the bulletins.</td>
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<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<td>Shoe Drive continues—May 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Blanket Sunday Offering on May 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>McRest @ Armada UCC Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>*Strengthen the Church Offering on June 8</td>
<td>Read these facts from Bread for the World and then bring in items for the Richmond Food Pantry......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Kit items due in church on or before June 22</td>
<td>Here in the United States, 600,000 women and children have lost their food assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Kit items due in church on or before August 24</td>
<td><strong>Four million</strong> fewer meals are being served to seniors by programs like Meals on Wheels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*Neighbors In Need Offering on October 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bread for the World Bread Sale on October 19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoebox Christmas Gift Collection for KIDS due in church on or before Dec. 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Christmas Fund Offering on Dec. 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Envelopes will be provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check the Mission bulletin board at the back of the church for the detailed list for the baby, health, and school kits plus any other Mission updates. Look for canisters for the ongoing collection of Box Tops for Education, Campbell’s labels, & coins for the Holy Joe’s Café Coffee for the Troops.
This page in our newsletter shares prayer concerns and prayer opportunities within the life
of our family of faith. By actively praying for the concerns presented, we strengthen our
congregation, our brother and sister churches, our association and our conference.

If you have prayer concerns you would like to see added to this page, please contact Pastor
Julie or call the office at 586-727-3155. Please add the following concerns to your personal
prayer time:

Those from our family of faith who are distant,
homebound or dealing with illness:

Bertha Teska…..Donna Bartell…..Carl Kulman…..
Joyce Trudgeon…..Beamus Bentley…..Leona Conner…..
Lucille Trombley…..Marjorie Pentzien…..Bob Reindel…..
Paulette Trombley….Nancy Rewalt….Chuck Busch….Chuck
Bob Chrostowski….Darrel Haws

“The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all
who call upon Him in truth.” —Psalm 145:18

FIRST UCC’S WEEKLY PRAYER DISCIPLINE FOR MARCH
“CLIP AND KEEP REMINDERS”

March 2 - 8
Robert, Melissa, Blake, Spencer & Elizabeth Majchrzak
Doug & Suzanne Manska
Kirk & Lucia Marshall

March 9 - 15
Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan & Mayella Manska
Kimberly McCardell
Valerie, David & Julia McEachin

March 16 - 22
Reb & Sally McNinch
George & Sue Millbrand
Amelia Miller

March 23 - 29
Terry, Kathi & Aaron Miller
Lantz, Jennifer, Shane & Logan Northam
Marjorie Pentzien

March 30 - April 5
Christopher, Krista & Hanna Plucinski
John & Nancy Pollock
Gary & Lynda Porrett
We wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members who are celebrating their birthday in March:

03 - David Hartwell
06 - Krista Plucinski
06 - Andra Jones
07 - Joyce Dubay
07 - Terry Hunger
07 - Jennifer Palmer
09 - Alford Busch
09 - Zachary Joppich
15 - Fred Weeks Jr.
16 - Kit Buczynski
18 - Cristina May
18 - Sarah Ballach
25 - Nick Burmann
25 - Terry Miller
28 - Josephine Wagner
31 - Raymond Trombley

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

01 - Elizabeth Wojiechowski
04 - Hannah Kulman
10 - Maya Joppich
22 - Garrett Esper
24 - Drew Reindel

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

19 - Ron & Kim Schrote
19 - Frank & Donna Bartell
25 - Zachary & Heidi Joppich

**B E S T W I S H E S T O Y O U !**

**Weekly Offerings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>$1,777.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-A-Bill</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Y-T-D Adopt-A-Bill)</td>
<td>$3,827.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>$885.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-A-Bill</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>$2,301.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noisy offering</td>
<td>$32.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-A-Bill</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>$718.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance:**

- February 23.................39 (snow)
- February 16.................32 (snow)
- February 9.................37 (snow)
- February 2.................29 (snow storm)
No Matter Who You Are
Or Where You Are On Life’s Journey...
You Are Welcome Here!