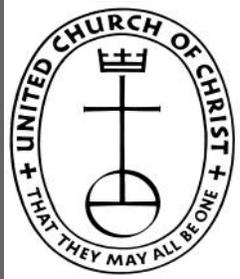


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

April 2016



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Denise Griebler
denisegriebler1stucc@
gmail.com

CELL: 630-297-1740

OFFICE: 586-727-3155

FAX: 586-727-8341

E-mail: firstunitedcc@outlook.com

Website:

www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 AM - 12 NOON

FRIDAY, 9 AM - 3 PM

Afternoons by appointment

Pastor Denise is in Richmond on
Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday

*We are
a Christian
community
called to
love God,
love neighbor,
love self,
as Jesus taught.*

Dear Ones,

Blessed Easter to You!

Did you ever notice how most of the gospel accounts of post-resurrection sightings of the risen Christ involve food? It's true. First, there are the disciples who are walking home after the terror of the cross and then the confusion of the empty tomb. They're on their way back to their village, Emmaus. They meet a stranger who hadn't heard the news. So they tell him all about what happened. And then the stranger starts talking to them about the scriptures. They hang on his every word as they walk together. It's already late when they finally reach Emmaus. They invite the stranger to stay the night with them. And then at supper, the stranger blesses the bread and the cup and they realize it's Jesus - they recognize him in the breaking of the bread! And then he's gone. But their hearts are so full and they have to share the news: Jesus is alive!

Then there's the fish fry on the beach. The disciples are out fishing, they've all gone back to their old lives. Somebody from the shore yells: "Throw your nets over on the other side of your boat and you'll catch so many fish you won't know what to do with them all!" Peter recognizes Jesus, jumps in the water and makes a bee-line for the shore. The other disciples bring in the boat and nets and fish. Jesus has a little campfire going and he's cooking up some fish. And then Jesus tells Peter to feed his sheep: the last, the least and the lost. They cannot contain their joy: he's alive!

Something happens when we eat together. Time slows. We relax. We laugh. We ask questions. We listen. We tell stories. We get to know each other. In a way that we never could if all we do together is worship. Some of you know each other beyond church. But I suspect that most of us haven't shared a meal in each other's homes.

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A couple of weeks ago in worship, I suggested that we organize some opportunities for our members to share meals and conversation in the hospitality of one another's homes – to spend some time together. Lots of members said they liked the idea and were eager to try it out. So far we have one member (Tim Franklin!) who is willing to help organize dinner groups and two members who have volunteered to host a meal (Terri Houston and yours truly!). Tim and I will organize mystery dinner groups!

If anybody else wants to help with the organizing, let Tim or me know. (Tim: 586-277-5399); Pastor Denise: 630-297-1740)

If you would like to host a dinner group (7 or 8 people), please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

If you would like to be in a dinner group, put your name on the sign-up sheet under that category. We're aiming to have dinner together throughout Eastertide (through Mid-May).

Who knows, we just may recognize that Jesus really is with us when we break bread together. Perhaps we will glimpse something of his Spirit in each other. It's all pretty mysterious, if you ask me. But I know it's true.

Anybody hungry? Joyous Easter!

Love to all,

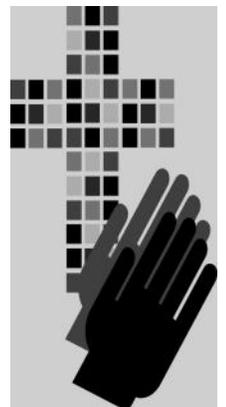
Pastor Denise

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



**In
Our
Prayers**

<u>April 3 - 9</u> William, Andra, Brianna & Liam Jones Sandy Knoell Diane Kulman	<u>April 10 - 16</u> Carol Kulman Don & Pat Lawrence Stephen & Linda Livingston
<u>April 17 - 23</u> Doug & Suzie Maska Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan & Mayella Maska Lucia Marshall	<u>April 24 - 30</u> Kimberly McCardell Sally McNinch George & Sue Millbrand



Help us Keep our Church Lawn Beautiful

A lawn-mowing/snow shoveling schedule is on the table in the narthex. Thanks to Rich Weinert, Aaron Miller and Glen Porrett who volunteered to clear the snow from our walkways this winter.

need to maintain our church lawn. If you can lend a hand, please write your name on the schedule on the arrowed line for the week or weeks that you would like to mow the lawn.



We hope we have seen the last of the snow, but now we

Thank you.

The Bulletin Board

Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, April 10 for our Sunday Potluck and Song Circle. Bring a friend!

Potluck: 5:30 pm: Bring a dish to pass
Community singing: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

If you like to eat, tell stories and sing old and new songs . . . this is for you!

Euchre Party...

Saturday, April 16 @ 6pm
Tickets: \$10.

Snacks, cold drinks and coffee will be provided. Raffles and 50-50 will add to the fun. Bring a friend!

Any questions, call Ruth at 586-201-4508

Food for Thought...

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything with what they have.

—Unknown

Newsletter
DEADLINE April 18

Happy
EASTER!

A sincere "thank you" to the following members and friends who purchased lilies to decorate our chancel for Easter:

Al & Mary Alice Busch – in memory of our parents, our sisters & Bertha Teska
Terry & Kathi Miller – in memory of Lori McKinney & Duane Essenburg
Hope & Tim Fair – in memory of Lois Hasselbach & Grandpa Henry Schroeder II
Glen & Diane Porrett – in memory of our parents
Rich & Sue Weinert – in memory of our parents
Darrel & Sharlene Haws – in memory of our parents
William R. Wagner – in memory of Josephine
Jim & Joyce Townsend – in memory of our parents
Terri Houston – in honor of our choir
The Northam Family
Ray & Paulette Trombley – in memory of Rick Trombley
Sandy Knoell – in memory of my parents and brother
Mary Lou Volkenant – in memory of Jim Volkenant
Shelley Champion – in memory of Thelma & Debbie and Roy & Shirley Champion
Pastor Denise Griebler – in memory of Curt Koehler & Jeanie Wylie-Kellermann



Use Your Practical Skills to Help Neighbors in Need!

Volunteers are greatly needed to help frail, older and disabled adults in our community with MINOR HOME REPAIRS, INDOOR/OUTDOOR CHORES & BASIC HOUSEKEEPING



For a frail older adult or a person with disabilities, simple

tasks like dusting & vacuuming, changing light bulbs or raking leaves can be impossible. Many minor home repairs are often well beyond their abilities and far too expensive for them to purchase professionally.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program helps our older and disabled neighbors

with such tasks so they can remain safe and independent in their own homes. If you can help weekly, monthly or even just a couple times a year, please call us today. The time you give will make a real difference in someone's life.

Call 586-757-5551. [Learn more about our work at www.ivcinfo.org]

Our church now offers to “Text” or “Call” UCC members and friends who may not have email to receive important news from our church.

We are working on a new way to keep all our members and friends informed about important news such as the death of someone in our church family. We can continue to communicate such news by email, or we can call or send a text message to your phone.

If you would like to receive text messages regarding church news, please fill out the form below, cut it out and place it on the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Be sure to include the name of your cell phone service provider (Att, Verizon, Sprint, etc.). If you would rather get an old fashioned phone call, fill in your home phone number and we will relay church announcements with a phone call.

Name:

Mobile Phone Number (10 digit # & your service provider):

Home Phone Number:

Name:

Mobile Phone Number (10 digit # & your service provider):

Home Phone Number:

If we do not have your email address, and you would like to receive our church announcements, please fill out the form below, cut and place it on the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Name:

Email Address:

MISSION CALENDAR 2016

February	Health Kit items due in church on or before February 21
March	*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on March 6
April	Shoe Drive for Grace Center of Hope, Pontiac—April 30
May	Shoe Drive continues—May 7 *Blanket Sunday Offering on May 8 McRest, Armada—cakes needed
June	*Strengthen the Church Offering on June 5 Baby Kit items due in church on or before June 19
August	School Kit items due in church on or before August 31
October	*Neighbors In Need Offering on October 2 Bread for the World Bread Sale on October 16
November	Shoebox Christmas Gift Collection for KIDS due in church on or before Dec. 4
December	*Christmas Fund Offering on Dec. 18

*Envelopes will be provided

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 UPC labels for Crossroads Child Services & coins for the Holy Joe's Café Coffee for the Troops.



Our church shipped 36 hygiene kits to Church World Service!!!! Thank you to everyone for the donation of items to put in the kits. The cost of this project was \$72 for processing fees and \$25.60 shipping costs. The Mission Committee continues

to use memorial money designated for these fees to pay the cost. Again, many thanks to all!

The annual shoe drive for Grace Center of Hope in Pontiac will be held from 10 am to 2 pm on **Saturday April 30** and **Saturday, May 7**. Grace Center of Hope was established in 1942. It has since grown and evolved into the largest and oldest faith-based outreach to homeless and disadvantaged individuals and families. Grace Center of Hope provides a full recovery and rehabilitation campus for homeless men, women, and children who have been abused or addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. Our church helps them by collecting your unwanted shoes and boots. The Center will give away, sell or recycle the footwear. This is a great way to spring-clean your closets and get rid of the unwanted shoes.

The Mission Committee continues to collect box tops for education and Campbell soup UPC code labels for Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne Indiana. Campbell Soup Company no longer accepts the whole label. Please only send in the UPC code. Crossroad Child & Family Services is a member of the Council for Health & Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Their mission is to help troubled children and families.

The Armada United Church of Christ has asked us to supply cakes for the McRest program, Starting on Sunday, May 8 through Saturday, May 14, they need two cakes delivered to their church everyday. Also, if anyone is willing to help do laundry, they would appreciate it. Please talk to Kathi Miller or email her at gogreen26@comcast.net to let her know what you can do.

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

Kathi Miller
(586-727-1726)

Buildings and Grounds

Matthew Ball
(586-531-7966)

Worship

Terri Houston
(586-727-7034)

Vitality

Joe Burkhart
(330-431-3663)

Christian Education

Dave Hartwell
(586-727-8083)

Finance

Rich Weinert
(586-727-1139)

Stewardship

Veronica Chrostowski
(586-727-9904)

Memorial

Karen Eltringham
(586-291-0615)

Personnel

Terri Houston
Karen Eltringham
Kim McCardell 586-623-9833

Servers Rotation Schedule—2016

April 3

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett
Ushers.....Sharlene Haws & Ray Trombley
Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
Communion Preparer.....Sally McNinch
Communion Servers.....Al & Mary Alice Busch

April 10

Greeters.....Ron & Kim Schrote.
Ushers.....Karen Eltringham & Joe Burkhart
Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
Altar Flowers...Sue Weinert

April 17

Greeters.....Joyce Townsend & Pam Green.
Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett
Lay Reader.....Pam Green
Altar Flowers....Need Volunteer

April 24

Greeters.....Rich & Sue Weinert
Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote
Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
Altar Flowers.....Sharlene Haws

May 1

Greeters.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
Ushers.....Bob & Veronica Chrostowski
Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
Communion Preparer.....Paulette & Ray T.
Communion Servers:.....Glen & Diane Porrett

May 8

Greeters.....Bob & Veronica Chrostowski
Ushers.....Rob & Amy Follebout
Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
Altar Flowers...Jim & Joyce Townsend

Prayers coming your way...

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 Denise or call the office at 586-727-3155. Please add the following concerns to your personal prayer time:

We pray for those from our family of faith who are homebound, dealing with illness, caregiving or grief:

Christine & Tom Hebel....Emily & Josh Houston....Shelley Champion....Lucille Trombley....Donna & Frank Bartell....Marjorie Pentzien....Bob Reindel....Paulette & Ray Trombley....Chuck & Mary Alice Busch....Leona Conner....for our Richmond schools – students, teachers, administrators and staff....for clean affordable water in Michigan....for the state government’s full transparency and the taking responsibility for the Flint water crisis...for the people of Brussels; for all who have suffered attacks....for all who feel afraid...for the people and communities who have suffered terrible storms....for Syrian refugees and for a willingness to welcome them...for detained immigrants and all prisoners...for people suffering from addictions....for justice, mercy and peace for all.

If you are aware of someone who should be included in our prayers, please call the church office or speak with Pastor Denise.

Pastor Denise’s Office Hours and Pastoral Care

I plan my week to be in Richmond on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. It’s possible that the days may move a bit as I respond to various needs that arise, but for the most part, that’s when I’ll be in town. If possible, please plan for committees to meet on one of those days or evenings.

Thanks so much! If there are situations that arise in which you’d like pastoral care, please call to let me know. 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.

You can reach me directly by calling my cell phone – 630-297-1740 or call the church office and leave a message with Helen or on the answering machine. I’m always happy to receive your calls.

Pastor Denise



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
Matthew Ball	Council Member	2018
Joe Burkhart	Council Member	2018
Veronica Chrostowski	Council Member	2016
Mark Davis	Treasurer	2017
Karen Eltringham	Council Member	2017
Denise Griebler	Pastor	N/A
Dave Hartwell	Council Member	2017
Terri Houston	Council Member	2016
Kim McCardell	President	2018
Kathi Miller	Secretary	2016
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	2017
Rich Weinert	Vice President	2017

First UCC Prayer Chain



Pastor Denise	630-297-1740
Sue Weinert	586-206-1719
Diane Porrett	586-727-1374
Jennifer Northam	586-727-5176
Sally McNinch	586-727-1000
Mary Alice Busch	586-727-7009
Paulette Trombley	586-784-5726
Karen Eltringham	586-291-0615
Joyce Townsend	586-727-9735
Shelley Champion	586-255-0387
Christine Hensch	810-385-4391
Traci Bartell	586-557-2264

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) Pick 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.

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for April

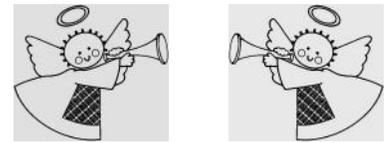
- April 03** **Second Sunday of Easter**
Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
- April 10** **Third Sunday of Easter**
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
- April 17** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
- April 24** **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

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.



Call to Care Team

Mary Alice Busch
586-727-7009

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

Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9 am till 12 noon and Friday 9 am till 3 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.

We wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members who are celebrating their birthday in April:



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 - Bob Chrostowski | 07 - Michael Grzanka |
| 02 - Hope Fair | 11 - Patricia Lawrence |
| 03 - Jennifer Northam | 26 - Lynn Dunsmore |
| 04 - David Hunger | 28 - Steve Livingston |
| 05 - John Pollock Sr. | |

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

- 01 - Hanna Plucinski
- 02 - Matthew Santo
- 18 - Nathan Reindel



Weekly Offerings:

March 20	\$1,584.00
March 13	\$1,277.00
Adopt-A-Bill	\$ 50.00
March 06	\$2,501.00
February 28	\$1,565.00
Adopt-A-Bill	\$ 185.08



ATTENDANCE

March 20.....	61
March 13.....	47
March 06.....	45
February 28.....	54

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Worship 11 am Potluck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Quilt Guild 10 am</i>
10 <i>Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship & SS 11 am</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Euchre Party 6 pm</i>
17 <i>Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship w/choir & SS 11 am Confirmation class 4-6 pm</i>	18	19 <i>Finance cmte. meets 7 pm</i>	20	21 <i>Church Council meets 7 pm</i>	22	23 <i>Road Cleanup 9 am</i>
24 <i>Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship w/choir & SS 11 am</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Shoe Drive 10 am - 2 pm Yard Clean-up 10 am</i>



Return address requested

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
68651 SOUTH FOREST
RICHMOND, MI 48062

No Matter Who You Are
Or Where You Are On Life's Journey...
You Are Welcome Here!

First United Church of Christ • Rev. Denise Griebler • dgriebler@sbcglobal.net
cell: 630-297-1740 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: firstunitedcc@outlook.com