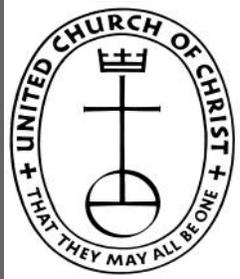


# SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

May 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](http://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.*

## Join us for Confirmation Sunday, May 22

It's been a while since we've had a Confirmation at 1st UCC. Five or six years at least. Last summer I talked with members and looked through old Sunday school rosters and baptismal records. It seemed to me that we had the makings of a Confirmation class. A few phone calls, texts, e-mail and snail mail letters sent and seven boys showed up for the first class back in September. Since then, we've been meeting once a month to learn about the Bible, Jesus, what Christians believe and why and how we are Christ's body, the Church, a bit about the United Church of Christ.

Here's our group: Shane Northam, Matt and Adam Santo, Jake and Andrew Ball, and Nate and Drew Reindel. They range from 6th grade through 10th grade. They all play baseball. So if we just add two more young people, we could have a 1st UCC baseball team! Which might actually be a lot of fun!

But back to Confirmation. I've always met with Confirmation classes on a weekly basis for one or two years. As a part-time pastor who lives 50 miles away, and a group of boys with a big age span who participate in every single sport throughout the year, I had to come up with a different plan! So we settled on a once-a-month 2-hour meeting time, from September through May. The boys showed up ready to learn and willing to come to a decision.

The decision that's at stake is whether or not they want to confirm the promises that were made on their behalf at their baptisms. Or, in the case of those not yet baptized, to be baptized now. Either way, this means answering six questions that, in truth, each one of us who are members of the Body of Christ are called to always be answering with our own lives as well. Confirmation is an opportunity for all of us to remember our promises.

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Here are the six questions:

1. Do you desire to affirm your baptism/be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
2. Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?
3. Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
4. Do you promise, by the grace of God to be Christ's disciple,  
to follow in the way of our Savior,  
to resist oppression and evil,  
to show love and justice,  
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as you are able?
5. Do you promise, according to the grace given you,  
to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ,  
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?
6. Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing  
regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this  
community and the world?

From beginning to end, Confirmation is really an invitation. It's about sharing who is at the heart of our faith and tradition: Jesus Christ. It's about inviting young people to be followers of Jesus. And not just on their own as individuals, but as part of a community that is 2,000 years old. First UCC is part of that community and we are overjoyed that these young people are finding meaning, faith, courage and community here.

With every invitation comes the freedom to respond. Sometimes the answer is, a whole-hearted "Yes! Count me in." Sometimes it's "No thank you." The confirmands know they are free to decide for themselves. I'm looking forward to individual conversations with each of them, to hear what's on their minds and hearts as they each make their own decision.

On May 22nd we'll confirm those who have decided to say yes. With them we will confirm our own faith and commitment to be followers of Jesus who calls us into life with God, ourselves, each other and our neighbors. It's going to be a great celebration!

It does make me wonder about organizing a baseball game this summer. Anyone interested? Talk to each other about that. Let's see if we can't get something like that organized! If we are serious about keeping these boys engaged in the life of our church, this would be a great way to do it. We could challenge other churches to a game . . .

Blessings and prayers for Spring's unfolding, for gardens being planted, for a community garden coming to be, for a happy Mother's Day, and for these confirmation boys in their deciding.

Much love to all,

Pastor Denise

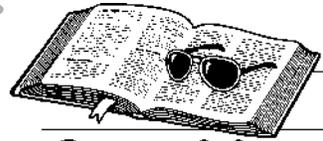
# Church Notes

## Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, May 1 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!



## Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer months, our worship service will begin at 10:00 am.

Our summer worship schedule begins on May 29 and ends on September 18.

## Euchre Party...

Saturday, May 21 @ 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.

## Tri-Church Vacation Bible School...

in Beebe Park, evenings August 1 - 4

This year we've decided to try something a little different. We're taking the VBS program to the park, with hopes of reaching kids and families who may not be a part of any church. **Right now we need help organizing the program. Come to a meeting on Thursday, May 12, 7 pm at First United Methodist Church.**

We need storytellers, craft helpers, game helpers, and volunteers to help cook and serve the evening meal each night. Talk with Pastor Denise if you'd like to volunteer!

## Authentic Polish Dinner...

Tuesday, May 3 from 4 - 7 pm

First United Methodist Church  
69495 N. Main (next to fire Hall),  
Richmond

Adults: \$10

Children 6-12 yrs.: \$6

Children 5 yrs. & under: Free  
Carry-outs available

MENU: Stuffed Cabbage, Sauerkraut, Fresh Handmade Kielbasa, Handmade Pierogis, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Dill Pickle Soup, Cucumbers in Sour Cream, Rye Bread, Relish Tray, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Milk

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE** May 23

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## Help Us Keep our Church Lawn Beautiful

A lawn-mowing/snow shoveling schedule is on the table in the narthex. If you can help us maintain the lawn around the church during the next several months, please

write your name on the schedule on the arrowed line for the week or weeks that you would like to mow the lawn.

Thank you.



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## Come and Help Plan the First UCC Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser This Year!

The Finance Committee and the Council have supported the idea of doing a Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser this coming Christmas season. Mark your calendars for May 24 at

7 pm for a quick planning meeting. We will need some volunteers to help sell the trees during a few hours when we get the schedule finalized.

Looking forward to seeing you. Let's put FUN back into FUNdraiser! Thank you.

Rich Weinert  
Finance Committee President

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## Leadership Opportunities!



The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVC) program matches caring volunteers with older and disabled adults who need just a little extra help to get by at home. Volunteers provide essential services such as: transportation, friendly visits, help with housekeeping, yard-work and repairs, relief breaks for full-time family caregivers and more. In 23 years of service the program has recruited thousands of volunteers from across the area and is now serving nearly 700 older and

disabled adults each year generating over 20,000 hours of volunteer service.

The need for our program grows every day, and we are working hard to keep pace with that need. **We are looking for additional Board and Committee members who can help plan, implement and oversee our mission as we continue our growth.**

Our Board meets every other month, and special project/event committees meet for just a few months at a time to focus on a specific goal. Persons with a wide variety of experiences, such as in business management, finance, social work, human services, health care, advertising, sales,

fundraising, grant-writing, event planning or volunteer management all have talents that we need.

Our various committees need **many** dedicated workers to carry out plans. We are looking for people who enjoy working with others on special projects and events and have a strong desire to make sure that their older and disabled neighbors can get the help they need in our community. We will hold a Leadership Open House in May for anyone interested in learning more. Please call Carmen Mitchel at 586-757-5551 for information on these special opportunities as well as direct service work.

## MISSION CALENDAR 2016

<b>February</b>	Health Kit items due in church on or before February 21
<b>March</b>	*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on March 6
<b>April</b>	No Shoe Drive this year
<b>May</b>	*Blanket Sunday Offering on May 8 McRest, Armada—cakes needed week of May 8 - 14
<b>June</b>	*Strengthen the Church Offering on June 5 Baby Kit items due in church on or before June 19
<b>August</b>	School Kit items due in church on or before August 31
<b>October</b>	*Neighbors In Need Offering on October 2 Bread for the World Bread Sale on October 16
<b>November</b>	Shoebox Christmas Gift Collection for KIDS due in church on or before Dec. 4
<b>December</b>	*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.



### Church World Service Blanket Sunday, May 8

Contributions to our Church World Service Blanket collection mean CWS will be ready to help families around the world re-

cover from disasters and displacement. Church World Service is an interdenominational organization formed 70 years ago to help people who have been displaced from their homes by violence to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice. Ten dollars will purchase one blanket. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin. Please remember that when we help people in need, our hearts get bigger, we feel better, and we feel more connected to the rest of the world. Thank you for your donation.

### McRest Help Wanted – Sunday, May 8 thru Saturday, May 14

The Armada Congregational Church needs two cakes delivered each day. The men enjoy these cakes for their dessert and bedtime snack. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church on the Mission table, or you can contact Kathi Miller at [gogreen26@comcast.net](mailto:gogreen26@comcast.net). Thank you!

### Shoe Drive Cancelled

When Grace Center of Hope was contacted about our shoe drive, they said, due to our help in the past they have lots & lots of shoes and cannot accept any more. We apologize if you have collected a bag or two of shoes, but at this time we do not need them. The Mission Committee was told the Emmett Catholic Church may be collecting shoes, but it has not been confirmed. Watch for an email or announcement if we receive further information.

## 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:

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

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Home Phone Number:

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Name:

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

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Home Phone Number:

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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:

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# 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 Burkhardt  
(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

### 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

### May 15

Greeters.....Amy & Rob Follebout.  
Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert  
Lay Reader.....Traci Bartell  
Altar Flowers....Doris Essenburg

### May 22

Greeters.....Need Volunteers  
Ushers.....Al & Mary Alice Busch  
Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall  
Altar Flowers.....Christine Hensch

### May 29

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett  
Ushers.....Ray Trombley & Volunteer  
Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch  
Altar Flowers.....Terri Houston

### June 5

Greeters.....Don & Donna Cockerill  
Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote  
Lay Reader.....Pam Green  
Communion Preparer....Sally McNinch  
Communion Servers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch

*The late, great theologian Erma Bombeck once wrote a parable entitled  
"When God Created Mothers."*

The good Lord was creating mothers and was into the sixth day of overtime when the angel of the Lord appeared and said, "You are sure doing a lot of fiddling around on this one." And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this model? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 190 moveable parts that don't wear out, has to run on black coffee and leftovers. She has to have a lap soft enough for a kid, but which disappears when she stands up. She needs a kiss that can cure anything and spit that can remove paint. And she has to have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly. "Six pairs of hands? No way!"

"Oh," said the Lord, "It's not the hands I'm having trouble with; it's the three sets of eyes mothers need."

"That's on the standard model?"

The Lord nodded. "With one pair she needs to see through closed doors so when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there,' she will already know. Another set is for her to see what she shouldn't see but needs to know; and of course the pair in the front so she can look at a child when they goof up and say, 'I understand and I love you,' without having to utter a word."

"Lord," said the angel "Go to bed. You're exhausted."

"I can't," said the Almighty, "this model is as close to me as anything I'll ever make. She is so strong, yet so soft."

The angel walked all the way around the model. "You've tried to put too much in her," she said. Running a finger over the mother's cheek the angel said, "Look, there is a leak."

"It's not a leak," said the Almighty. "It's a tear. It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

"God, you are a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked serious a moment and then said quietly, "I didn't put it there."



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# 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:

**Sharlene Haws....Kristie & Jesse Hollick....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 and public schools throughout our state – students, teachers, administrators and staff....for access to clean affordable water in Michigan....for the people who are suffering because of war....for Syrian refugees and for a willingness to welcome them...for detained immigrants and all prisoners...for people suffering from addictions....for peace in our hearts, homes, community and world.**

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

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## 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

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## 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
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 May*

- May 01**     **Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29
- May 08**     **Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
- May 15**     **Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27)
- May 22**     **Trinity Sunday**  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
- May 29**     **Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39; Psalm 96; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

**Thanks to all** who helped with road clean-up on April 30! This is an important way that we pitch in to help our community.

**Camp Talahi** – Camp is a great opportunity for your children to connect with other children for a few days of fun in nature, building friendships and community and deepening faith. I encourage you to take a look and think about sending your kids to camp this summer!  
- *Pastor Denise*

**Here's a link to learn more about our Michigan Conference UCC camp opportunities for this summer:**  
<http://camptalahi.org/sessions/>

**The good news** is that Sharlene Haws came through her surgery with flying colors. she's recovering at home. Her recovery time is expected to be about eight weeks. During this time 1st UCC will bring a meal to Sharlene & Darrel once a week. there's a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you'd like to bring a meal to them.

### 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](mailto: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 May:



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 - Amelia Miller    | 19 - Joshua Houston    |
| 02 - Leona Conner     | 21 - Kristie Hollick   |
| 03 - Tarah Weeks      | 22 - Vance Green       |
| 07 - Jeff Chrostowski | 23 - Frank Bartell     |
| 11 - Ginnean Kohn     | 23 - Bob Reindel       |
| 13 - Jacob Marlow     | 23 - Paulette Trombley |
| 18 - Ellen Germain    | 31 - Nicole Fair       |
| 19 - Ryan Schrote     |                        |

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

- 09 - Logan Northam
- 27 - Evan Grewe

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



- 03 - Jim & Joyce Townsend
- 18 - George & Sue Millbrand
- 29 - Andra & William Jones

**BEST  
WISHES  
TO YOU!**

**Weekly Offerings:**

<b>April 24</b>	<b>\$1,804.25</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>\$1,529.00</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>\$1,493.00</b>
<b>April 03</b>	<b>\$2,094.00</b>



**ATTENDANCE**

<b>April 24.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>April 17.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>April 10.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>April 03.....</b>	<b>37</b>

# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship 11 am Potluck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm	2	3 Building & Grounds cmgs meets 7 pm	4	5	6	7
8 Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship w/choir & SS 11 am Blanket Sunday offering	9	10	11	12	13	14 Quilt Guild 10 am
15 Choir rehearsal 9:30 am Worship w/choir & SS 11 am Garden Club meets 2 pm Confirmation Class 4-6 pm	16	17 Ministry cmgs. meets 10:30 am	18	19 Church Council meets 7 pm	20	21 Wedding Shower 9 am - 3 pm Euchre Party 6 pm
22 Worship w/SS 11 am Confirmation Breakfast 10 am	23	24 Christmas tree sale planning 7 pm	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10 am	30 MEMORIAL DAY 	31				



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](mailto:dgriebler@sbcglobal.net)  
cell: 630-297-1740 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: [firstunitedcc@outlook.com](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com)