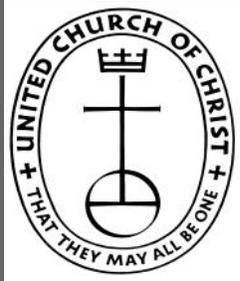


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

June 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.*

Summer Musings

Ok, Memorial Day has come and gone and summer is officially here! Hooray! I write with an invitation to the season. Relax. Slow down. Enjoy spending time with your family and friends. Enjoy some time all alone. Read a poem. Or write one! Enjoy watching the birds at the feeder. Or sit outside or take a walk in the early morning or just before sundown and listen to them sing and sing! See nature through the eyes of a child, even if the only eyes you have are yours and they are old. See for the first time. Remember a time when you first heard . . . or saw . . . or smelled . . . or tasted . . . or touched . . . the goodness of God. Now go listen, look, smell, taste and touch summer again and give thanks to God!

Blessed Summer,

Pastor Denise

Poem by Mary Oliver called *Invitation*, from her book, *RedBird*

Oh do you have time
To linger
For just a little while
Out of your busy

And very important day
For the goldfinches
That have gathered
In a field of thistles

For a musical battle,
To see who can sing
The highest note,
Or the lowest,

Or the most expressive of mirth,
Or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
Drink the air

As they strive
Melodiously
Not for your sake
And not for mine

And not for the sake of winning
But for the sheer delight and
gratitude -
Believe us, they say,
It is a serious thing

Just to be alive
On this fresh morning
In a broken world.
I beg of you,

Do not walk by
Without pausing
To attend to this
Rather ridiculous performance

It could mean something
It could mean everything.
It could mean what Rilke meant,
when he wrote:
You must change your life.

Tri-Church Vacation Bible School

in Beebe Park, evenings August 8 - 11 **NEW DATES!**

Calling all kids, pre-school through 5th grade! This year we're trying something a little different and super fun! We're taking VBS to the park! Beebe Park, that is. We hope to welcome kids and families who may not be a part of any church. So come . . . and invite your friends. Sign up today!

1st UCC, Trinity Lutheran & 1st United Methodist are working together to present this program. We're using a great program, Group's "Cave Quest." Everything will happen in the park, with family dinner time from 5 - 6pm and VBS from 6 - 8pm. The children will explore the caves (tents!) in which the Vacation Bible School adventure unfolds with Bible stories, drama, games, crafts and snacks. On Sunday, August 14th, the Tri-Churches will worship together at Trinity along with the VBS children and families and we'll all celebrated VBS leaning, fun and friendships.

We need help with this program! We will need storytellers, craft helpers, game helpers, and volunteers to help serve the evening meal each night. **Talk with Pastor Denise if you can help with this program! The children in our community need you & it will be a blast!**

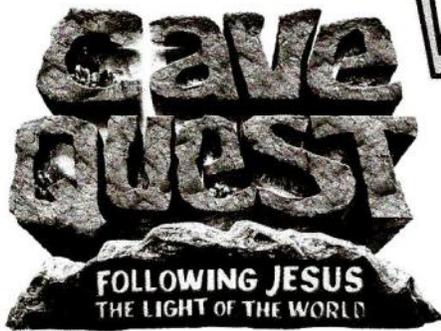
First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for June

"Clip and Keep Reminders"



**In
Our
Prayers**

<u>June 5 - 11</u> Ron & Kim Schrote Jim & Joyce Townsend Dawn Marie Trombley & Garrett Esper	<u>June 12 - 18</u> Lucille Trombley Ray & Paulette Trombley Terri Verlinde
<u>June 19 - 25</u> Mary Lou Volkenant William Wagner Jackie Waszkiewicz	<u>June 26 - July 2</u> Fred Weeks Jr. James & Rose Weeks Tarah Weeks



Vacation Bible School 2016

August 8-11

5PM—Dinner Served

6PM—8PM—Fun and Learning

At the Beebe Street Park Pavilion

Sponsored by Richmond Churches: Trinity Lutheran, First United Church of Christ and First United Methodist Church

Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/caregiver's phones: (____) _____ (____) _____

Phone numbers are for if we need to reach you during VBS, or prior to VBS beginning

Home email address: _____

Home Church: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: (____) _____

Please list all people who are authorized to pick your child up from VBS:

Financial donations to support VBS are appreciated, but not required.

Help the Little Ones

The Mission Committee has decided to have a Baby Shower for Kids in Distress (KIDS) in St. Clair. We will collect new items: diapers, wipes, blankets, sleepers, sweaters, or any new baby

clothing you would like to donate. This "Baby Shower" is in place of collecting items for the Church World Service baby kits. Church World Service notified us that they are no longer needing baby kits,

but the Mission Committee still wants to continue our church's tradition of helping the little ones. Please have your items to church on or before **Sunday, June 19.**

Support Keith's Riding Fund



Our friend Keith benefits from horseback riding therapy... but it's expensive! Each session costs \$35.

First UCC will sponsor therapy sessions for Keith twice a month. If you would like to help, please put a donation in the horse-box

on the table at the back of the sanctuary! Or send a check to the church office.

Thank you.

Congregations to our Confirmands!

Shane Northam, Matt and Adam Santo, Jake and Andrew Ball, and Nate and Drew Reindel. We are delighted that you are part of our family of faith!

.....
Special thanks to all who helped with the Confirmation Breakfast & Reception! To all who donated, especially Rich & Sue Weinert, Mark and Vicky Davis, Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham and Mary Alice & Al Busch. And to Karen & Joe for their quest for Confirmation Bibles that took them all the way to Lansing!

.....
Thanks to Traci Bartell and our choir for a year full of beautiful and meaningful music!

.....
Thanks to our Sunday School Teachers for teaching and caring for the children of the congregation. You are helping to form their faith! Do you realize how important and awesome that is? We at First UCC are so grateful.

These are the teachers who taught our children each month:
Ron & Kim Schrote, Ruth & Dave Hartwell, Rose Crowley & Jen Northam

To everything there is a season...

The Community Garden crew had no idea if the dream of meeting neighbors and new friends at our garden would actually come true. When you send a hope out with the Holy Spirit, it's hard to have faith. On May 15th, we could declare "Praise God! It worked!" We welcome Bob, and Catherine and Dave, Joyce, and Bob D. Watch for their patches of our garden to grow with green nourishment.



There are other new items in our back yard these days...

- We have hung up gardening tools along the back side of our outdoor shed. These are community tools. Those who come and garden use what they need and put them back once they are finished.
- Notice that we have purchased and installed a rain barrel at the end of one of our down spouts. We are trying to be earth friendly with our gardening practices and hope that rain drops will provide a way for the plants to receive a drink. This practice will minimize relying on the hose and purchased water quite so heavily. Pray for rain!
- We will be growing rich soil this season with the addition of a compost barrel. These are a great science experiment! If you wish to join us in this effort, start collecting vegetable and fruit scraps, crushed egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, dry grass clippings, weeds and broken down leaves. These will magically turn into fertilizer for the earth. Please do not put meat, bones, fish, fats, dairy products or cooking oil in the bin. There is a sign on the bin itself to help you remember.

The Community Garden crew is very excited to meet our neighbors and welcome them into our community. Each gardener is filled with excitement at the chance to grow. The crew has planted carrots for the Christmas Day dinner, onions and rutabaga for the pasties, and tomatoes and beans for the Food Bank. It's a busy backyard filled with hope and sharing!

We will be hosting a mid-season gathering in the back yard come July or August. We'll share a meal with our gardening friends and some conversation about how the growing is going. Look for details to follow. You come too! Meet our neighbors and give them a First UCC welcome!

If you remember last summer's story we shared, *Seed Folks*, we find ourselves in a similar place as Kim the one who began it all. Scattering seeds with welcome and wonder can result in something astounding. Holy Spirit till the soil, spread the seeds, water the earth. Creator, Gardener God always grows amazing things! Praise and Thanks Be!

Church Notes

Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, June 5 for our Sunday Potluck and Song Circle. This week will be Taco Potluck. Bring a friend!

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

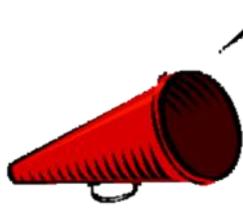
If you like to eat, tell stories and sing old and new songs . . . this is for you!



Summer Worship Schedule

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

Our summer worship schedule begins on May 29 and ends on the 2nd Sunday after Labor Day (September 18).



Calling all Sunday School Children...

Sunday, June 5th we will plant the Butterfly Garden after service. Please have children wear play clothes so we can plant flowers. We are in need of flower donations. Lunch will be served after the planting fun.

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/>

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. Take a look and think about sending your kids to camp this summer!

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

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

June 20

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	No Shoe Drive this year
May	*Blanket Sunday Offering on May 8 McRest, Armada—cakes needed week of May 8 - 14
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.



On Sunday June 5th we will receive the United Church of Christ Strengthen the Church offering. This special mission offering re-imagines and builds the future of the United Church of Christ.

The money collected

will invest in leadership development, new church starts and UCC Conference initiatives as we work with our ecumenical partners.

A recent Strengthen the Church project was when the leaders of the UCC and the United Church of Canada came together in worship and celebration of the historic agreement of full communion. Meaning that our two denominations recognize each other's sacraments and the ordination of ministers. What a wonderful event to continue a strong future for both us and our Canadian Church friends!!

Please invest in the vision and give as much as you can on **Sunday, June 5**. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin.

Thank you to everyone that gave to our One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March. **We collected \$340.00!** This money will be sent to the Conference to help refugees re-settle from areas of war, famine and natural disasters.

The ladies at the First Congregational UCC Church in Armada were once again very pleased with our cakes for the McRest Program. Thank you to Shelley, Terri, Chris, Karen, Doris, Veronica and Kathi for baking and delivering!!

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

June 5

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett
Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote
Lay Reader.....Pam Green
Communion Preparer.....Sally McNinch
Communion Servers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch

June 12

Greeters.....Karen E. & Joe B.
Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett
Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
Altar Flowers...Diane Porrett

June 19

Greeters.....Doris Essenburg & Mary Lou V.
Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert
Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
Altar Flowers....Al & Mary Alice Busch

June 26

Greeters.....Sally McNinch & Lucia Marshall
Ushers.....Don & Donna Cockerill
Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
Altar Flowers.....Sharlene Haws

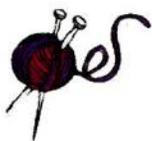
July 3

Greeters.....Ron & Kim Schrote
Ushers.....Karen E. & Joe B.
Lay Reader.....Traci Bartell
Communion Preparer....Mary Alice Busch
Communion Servers.....Bob & Veronica C.

July 10

Greeters.....Joyce Townsend & Pam Green
Ushers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
Altar Flowers.....Donna Cockerill

The beginning of it...



*When she was younger, after her morning tea, she was poking around, hunting for something when she peered into the shadows and got the shock of her life! Staring back at her was... **THE STASH!!** Years later, **THE STASH** was still there, though it migrated to different places; it was found lurking in plastic bags, cloth bags, felted specifically-to-hold-a-project-bags, sometimes even two projects could be found snuggling together in baskets... **The STASH**, is known to breed in secluded nooks, covered with a mixture of partial skeins left over from finished projects, hasty purchases and odd balls acquired at prices that were just too ridiculously low to resist...(a paraphrase from "It itches" - A stash of knitting cartoons)*



*The Stitching Group of FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC OF ROMEO would like to extend an invitation to an Open House - to go through the well-fed, well-kept **STASH** of yarn of Sherry Schacht*

WHEN: Saturday, June 4, 2016

WHERE: 227 Prospect Street, Romeo - the Schacht residence

TIME: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

RSVP: 586-752-3661 - to let us know if you are able to attend

because...

WHAT ELSE: There will be tea and lovely things to munch on while perusing this collection of beautiful yarn - bring a bag to take home some of this yarn for your own projects



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:

Leona Conner (who is in Mt. Clemens regional hospital) Sharlene Haws (who is recovering from surgery and doing really well!) the family of Doug Pentzein who crossed over to God on May 26 Helen Stein Kristie & Jesse Hollick Emily & Josh Houston....Lucille Trombley....Donna & Frank Bartell....Marjorie Pentzien Bob Reindel....Paulette & Ray Trombley....Chuck & Mary Alice Busch....for our Richmond schools and public schools throughout our state – students, teachers, administrators and staff... for access to clean, affordable water in Detroit and Flint for the people who are suffering because of warfor Syrian refugees and for a willingness to welcome them...for detained immigrants and all prisoners...for people suffering from addictions for all who suffer from depression for peace in our hearts, homes, community and world.

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	586-506-5002
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 June

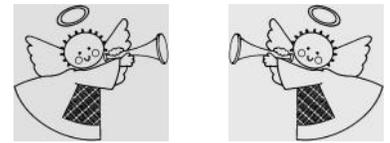
- June 05** **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24); Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
- June 12** **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3
- June 19** **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Psalm 42 & 43; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
- June 26** **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

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

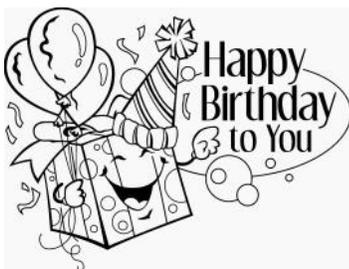
Mary Alice Busch
586-727-7009

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 June:



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 03 - Joshua Kohn | 18 - Carmen Breese |
| 06 - Doris Essenburg | 18 - Warren Burmann |
| 09 - Diane Porrett | 27 - Doug Maska |
| 14 - Joshua Fair | 27 - Kerri Green |

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 18 - Avery Ball | 27 - Katherine Chrostowski |
| 22 - Katherine Davis | 28 - Liam Jones |

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



- 01 - Douglas & Suzie Maska
- 06 - Joshua & Emily Houston
- 09 - David & Terri Hunger
- 15 - Ryan & Niki Schrote
- 21 - Al & Mary Alice Busch
- 30 - Mark & Vicky Davis

**BEST
WISHES
TO YOU!**

Weekly Offerings:

May 22	\$2,377.50
May 15	\$ 988.00
May 08	\$1,163.00
May 01	\$1,680.78



ATTENDANCE

May 22.....	88
May 15.....	31
May 08.....	39
May 01.....	32

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<i>Pastor Denise away June 12 thru June 18</i>						
5 <i>Worship 10 am Plant Butterfly Garden Pot luck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Quilt Guild 10 am</i>
12 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	13	14 <i>Finance coms. meets 7 pm</i>	15	16 <i>Church Council 7 pm</i>	17	18
19 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	27	28	29	30		



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