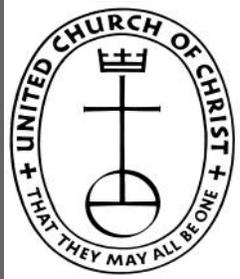


# SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

December 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.*



*On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring  
Praising Christ, heaven's King  
Born on earth to save us;  
Peace and love He gave us.  
Ideooo, Ideooo,  
Ideo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
—16th Century hymn*

**A**dvent couldn't have come sooner this year. And this from someone who is perpetually running late and always wishing for just a little more time! It's not that I'm ready. Who is? But a change of seasons couldn't be more welcome.

It was a difficult election season. No matter which side you were on. It will take some time for us to sort out and understand the deep divisions that were revealed along race, class and gender lines. I wonder what healing could look like? I wonder what path we can forge that will bring healing to our nation and world? In my family we often declare in difficult moments: "Not triumphantly, but somehow . . ." As Christians we believe that Somehow is Jesus and his Way. Let this be our way forward.

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We are ready for a new season! Advent prepares the Way of the Lord. The preparations are not particularly triumphal. They include watchful waiting and lighting candles; remembering the story; hoping and noticing; beating swords into plowshares; deciding to accept God's sketchy invitations and letting it be; receiving unlikely news from unlikely messengers; a baby born out back in a barn and a guiding star. We reflect and celebrate the ways we prepare our hearts and homes and world to receive the Good News that God comes to be with us human beings. God loves all of us and wants to save all of us!

Save us from what? Save us for what? Ah, these are really good questions for this season.

Advent is God's love letter to humankind. God says: "Prepare your hearts! Prepare your homes! Prepare your local community and the nation! Prepare the whole world! I'm so happy to be coming to you human beings, my long-lost Loves! Soon!"

The Guest is coming! So, how shall we make this world a place where Christ would be pleased to dwell? This is the heart of Advent. There aren't easy answers in this complicated world. There never have been. But the work of the Church and Christian people, today as from the beginning, is to keep looking to Jesus and his Way to guide us. Which may sound simple (perhaps even simple-minded!), but really, this is the gift the Church has to offer in these days. So in this holy season, be bold to share the Hope of Christ, the Peace of Christ, the Joy of Christ and Love of Christ wherever fear threatens to divide one from another. Start within yourself. Like a stone dropped into the deep, follow the ripples out from there. Prepare a place for God-With-Us.



## *Holiday Event Schedule*

**At 1st UCC we'll kick off the first Sunday in Advent by celebrating the Way of Hope. Come join us in lighting the Hope Candle in the Advent wreath as we sing our deepest hope: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel!* On December 4th we'll celebrate and hang the greens during worship. **BRING AN ORNAMENT FROM HOME TO ADD TO THE CHRISTMAS TREE.** On December 18th we will have a do-it-yourself Christmas pageant. Come and don a costume and be a part of the joy of telling the story of Jesus' birth. This will be a service that will be fun for young and old and in-between - please come and bring the little ones! **The Christmas Eve service is at 8 pm this year.** Christmas morning we will gather for 11 am worship service followed by our Community Christmas Dinner to which all are welcome!**

Every seven years it happens that Christmas and New Year fall on a Sunday - which is really special - so don't sleep in just when we ought to be **AWAKE!**

**COME CELEBRATE GOD-WITH-US!**

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So come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell among us. Come vulnerable as a baby born in a barn with humble creatures all around. Come and remind us that we were made for Love. Help us believe that you are always with us whenever and wherever we are bold to pray, think, speak, and act in the Way of love. Maybe not triumphantly, but Somehow.

Love to all,

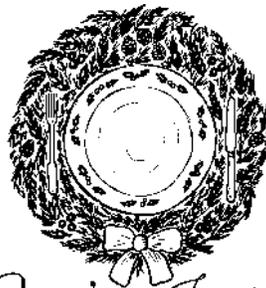
*Pastor Denise*

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## Free Christmas Dinner

**December 25, 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.**

If you and your family would like to take the stress out of Christmas dinner, or if you would just like to try something different this year, we would love to have you join us for dinner on Christmas Day.



*You're Invited*

We need a team of people to help us prepare for the dinner

on Christmas morning around 9 am. We also need servers to

help serve the dinner and a clean-up crew. If you can help, please contact Dave or Ruth Hartwell.

Home phone: 586-727-8083

Ruth's cell #: 586-201-4508

Dave's cell #: 586-201-4665

Email:

hartwell.ruth@yahoo.com

OR, call the church office at 586-727-3155.

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## What's Going on at First UCC?

**The various committees and liaisons are as follows:**

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.

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



## First UCC Christmas Tree Fundraiser Sale

Get into the holiday spirit with a real, fresh Christmas tree. Tell your friends and family. We have a nice variety of trees to choose from that includes Scotch Pine, Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce and Fraser Fir. Prices range from \$25 to \$50.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with our sale, add your name to the sign-up board in the back of the church, sign up on line at [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ea8ae2fa6fa7-first](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ea8ae2fa6fa7-first) or call Rich Weinert at 586-484-1643. Hope you can join in the fun!

**Located at Main and South Forest next to the church parking lot.**

### FIRST UCC CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER SALE SCHEDULE:

- Sale dates/hours: Nov. 25, 26 & 27 Hours: 1 pm to 8 pm
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 2, 3 & 4 Hours: 1 pm to 8 pm
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 9, 10 & 11 Hours: 1 pm to 8 pm
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 16, 17 & 18 (if needed) Hours: 1 pm to 8 pm

## Welcoming Task Force Report

We thought we should let everyone know what is happening with this awesome committee in our church. The committee is made up of the following people: Shelly Champion, Sue Weinert, Jackie Waszkiewicz, Traci Bartell, Joe Burkhart and Karen Eltringham.

We are in the process of meeting one-on-one with members to get to know each other better. We are also looking for ideas to make our church more "welcoming!" It has

been a wonderful experience so far, really getting to know each other's interests, hobbies, upbringing and life, and ideas. As a task force, we will also be asking about your opinion of LGBTQT issues and your feelings on our church becoming open and affirming. This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and for us to explain why this is important to First UCC.

Thank you for being so open and loving and caring during these visits. If we have not

gotten to you yet, please know you are on the list to be visited.

We will be compiling all ideas of making us a more welcoming church and we will help bring forth needed changes to make us "Great Again!" (A little humor is always good.)

In Christ we ask your blessings,

The Welcoming Task Force Committee

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## We Need to Fill Three Seats on Our Church Council

Three members of our church council are at the end of their term. We need three people to replace them and serve a three-year term. Current

council members will ask people if they can serve. Council meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Please give this opportunity serious thought. We need you to serve.

First UCC Church Council

# Church Notes

## Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, Dec. 11 for our Sunday Potluck and Song Circle. Bring a friend!

This month we'll gather on the 2nd Sunday.

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!

## First UCC Annual Meeting Coming Up January 15, 2017...

Please plan on attending. All committees should submit their annual reports by Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

Also, please submit your Time and Talent Sheets to the church office for 2017 if you haven't already done so.

**HO, HO, HO,  
You're invited to  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual First UCC Men's  
Holiday Beverage Exchange!**



**Friday, December 16**

7 pm at Rich Weinert's House  
70007 North Main Street (across from  
Madison) 586-727-1139 or  
586-484-1643 (Rich's cell)  
richweinert@comcast.net

We'll be working on an amazing secret craft project again this year. Bring a special holiday item to add to the craft project if you like. Also we'll be playing cards and enjoying good fellowship. Bring a snack and a beverage to share.

## 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/>

## Due to a parishioner allergy:

First United Church of Christ is now a pineapple free zone. Please refrain from lotions, gums, fruit snacks, fruit juices perfumes, air fresheners and any other scent or flavoring with pineapple in it.



## 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.



**Our Community Garden is all cleaned up...** tools put away, rain barrel rinsed and stored for the winter; and the harvest was taken to the Food Pantry back in September.

Three families from the community planted and harvested crops. The harvest we sent to the Food Pantry was 16 pounds of frozen green beans, 18 cups of frozen shredded zucchini, 3 loaves of zucchini bread and 8 pounds of frozen tomatoes. The Food Pantry was very happy to receive our veggies and their clients were even happier.

Thank you to Shelley Champion for acting as "garden manager" and to Terri Houston for growing extra vegetables in her garden for this project.

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### Crossroad Child & Family Services

Thanks to everyone who has sent in Box Tops for Education and Campbell soup UPC labels. We were able to send to Crossroad, \$31.60 worth of box tops and 33 labels. This family service agency is a part of the Council for Health & Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Crossroad creates promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education, and family support services.

Campbell's Soup Company has **changed** their soup label program. The label is the area around the UPC code and is only on certain Campbell's cans and bottles. There is a sign near the collection box at the back of the church to let you know what label to look for.

Thank you for supporting this simple outreach program to help children and their families.

## Shoebox Gifts

Christmas shoebox gifts for Kids In Distress Services are due in the church on or before Sunday, December 4th. The gifts are for infants through 18 years old, and the content should have a total value of

\$25.00 (no candy or religious items). Place the items in shoe boxes or Christmas gift bags.

KIDS provide Christmas gifts for over 120 children in St. Clair County & northern

Macomb County who would not have a Christmas at all.

Lovingly and willfully please fill at least one box for a child much less fortunate than us.

## Christmas Fund Offering, December 18

For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In 2015, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,528,481.00 to the Offering. This enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift checks to individuals and families in need.

The 2016 goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these minis-

tries of love and care. In the spirit of love, we invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting this year's appeal. The Christmas Fund Offering will be collected on **December 18**. Envelopes will be provided in the bulletin.

*"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other."*

– John 13:34

## Kids Against Hunger

November 19<sup>th</sup> was a cold blustery Saturday morning. A perfect morning to stay inside and be a part of an exceptional program preparing **14,798 meals** for Kids Against Hunger!!! Pastor Denise and six members of our congregation were gathered with 71 other people at Trinity Lutheran Church to pack these meals. We worked in an assembly line process pouring rice, processed soy, dried veggies, and vitamin powder in a medium size plastic bag. Each bag had to weigh exactly 390 grams, needed to be sealed and then placed in a box. It was an

AMAZING and FUN morning and all were overwhelmed with joy to think our hands prepared food bags that would be feeding people in Port Huron, in our country and all over the world.

Also, 840 pairs of shoes were donated. Each pair had to be rubber banded together and placed in bags. These shoes then are given to the Kiwanis Club Walk In My Shoes and Save Lives program. The Kiwanis will sell the shoes and that money is sent on to UNICEF to vaccinate babies or they send the shoes down to

Haiti and Guatemala to be given away.

Thank you to the church school kids for the \$116.32 Noisy Offering money given to this program. Thank you for buying a sticky bun--\$269.00 was raised from that sale. A huge thank you to Pastor Denise, Chris, Jackie, Jennifer, Shane, Logan and Kathi for spending time packaging meals.

*Generous hands are blessed hands because they give bread to the poor.* – Proverbs 22:9 from The Message

2525 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805-5407  
www.crossroad-fwch.org  
260.484.2337 or 888.814.4521 fax  
260.484.4153 or 800.976.2306 phone



## CROSSROAD

August 16, 2016

First United Church of Christ  
68651 S Forest Ave  
Richmond, Michigan 48062-1365

Dear First United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your continuing support of Crossroad's education program with your Campbell's Labels and Box Top's. As a result of your generous donations 2015-2016, we processed 20,410 Box Tops and 32,632 Campbell Labels which enabled us to purchase supplies for our education program. For each Box Top we receive 10¢ and with the Campbell's Labels we purchase educational supplies from their catalog.

**Effective immediately Campbell's will only accept labels as shown below, imprinted with the Labels for Education logo and their UPC .**



Please continue to send us your Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education and remember us while shopping at AmazonSmile, Kroger and Target. Register on their websites and select Crossroad Child & Family Services. Then each time you shop we will receive a percentage of your purchase as a donation. For additional information contact Zenovia Pearson, Donor Specialist, by phone at 260.484.4153 x2002 or 800.976.2306 x2002 or email [zpearson@crossroad-fwch.org](mailto:zpearson@crossroad-fwch.org).

Thank you for your support of Crossroad. Without you we could not continue to **"Create promising futures for troubled children and families."**

Sincerely,

*Zenovia Pearson*

Zenovia Pearson  
Donor Specialist  
260-484-4153 x2002  
[zpearson@crossroad-fwch.org](mailto:zpearson@crossroad-fwch.org)  
[www.crossroad-fwch.org](http://www.crossroad-fwch.org)

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## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Because of each of you, the 2016 Annual Gift Auction was a huge success!!!!

Each year with your help this fund raiser brings in more money for our general fund. This year we made over \$2700, how can we say anything but THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

We couldn't do this auction without the people who step up every year and help us: Glen Porrett our church famous auctioneer, Sharlene Haws and Niki Schrote our bid takers and Darrel Haws our bid watcher. Our runners this year: Ryan Schrote, Logan Northam and Kevin and Kyle Ensley. Terry and Kathi Miller who cleaned up the kitchen.

Sue and I must say a special Thank You to our wonderful husbands, Rich and Ron who support us each year by just saying, "yes dear, whatever you need done."

Again we say Thank You and see you next year!

Sue Weinert  
Kim Schrote

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## POINSETTIA MONEY FOR FOOD

Mary Alice Busch has recommended to council that instead of buying Poinsettias for the church this Christmas let's donate the money we'd spend on the flowers to help feed local school families in need this year.

Backpack Blessings from the Community originally started as a community partnership between Richmond Community Schools and the Methodist Church in Richmond. Since its inception, many other organizations have assisted in this partnership through monetary and food donations as well as offering volunteers.



Each week, volunteers stuff the backpacks full of food to feed families on the weekend. The backpacks are filled according to the number of people and ages in the household and include enough food for breakfast, lunch and dinner on the weekends.

Please put your money in an envelope marked POINSETTIA MONEY FOR FOOD on the offering plate or send it to the office.

If you would like more information, go to <http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us/> or please call the District's Community Liaison & Public Relations Secretary at (586) 727-3565, ext. 6011.

Thank you!

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## Help Keep our Church Grounds Clear From Snow



Our snow shovel is standing by. So, 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 placed on the table in the narthex. Write your name on the arrowed line for the week or weeks that you would like to shovel the snow. Thank you.

**SongCircle Concert  
December 4th 7:30 pm**

Tickets are \$20 and are available on line at:  
<http://www.theark.org/shows-events/2016/dec/04/carrie-newcomer>.

Here's what the Ark says about Carrie:

Carrie Newcomer weaves her life and her art together, with music, community activism, and personal concerns all playing a role. She's one of those people who exudes a spirituality that's all her own, and she has to be seen in concert to be truly appreciated. Says novelist Barbara Kingsolver: "She's a poet, storyteller, snake-charmer, good neighbor, friend and lover, minister of the wide-eyed gospel of hope and grace." And you can forget all that and just luxuriate in her incredibly rich alto voice! Recently Carrie traveled to India and performed as a U.S. cultural ambassador, and local religion journalist David Crumm, writing on the ReadTheSpirit website, recently named her to his list of "10 Spiritual Sages to Watch."

## The Greatest Gift You Can Give



Many of our older and disabled neighbors are quite isolated with no family or friends nearby. A special

friend who can drop by every week or two to chat, read mail, go out for coffee, or just let them know that someone cares, becomes a wonderful blessing in their lives.

If you have just a few hours each month that you can give to someone who has no one, you can make a real difference in the life of a frail or home-

bound neighbor. And your special "holiday gift" may turn into a very special blessing for you as well!

For more information, call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers at 586-757-5551. Learn more about our work at [www.ivcinfo.org](http://www.ivcinfo.org)

Merry  
★  
Christmas

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## Standing Rock Report

During the first week in November a call was issued for pastors to come to Standing Rock, North Dakota. Along with 523 other pastors I traveled to North Dakota to witness and pray along with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their allies (including more than 200 tribes throughout the Americas). Since August, Native American people, environmentalists and their allies have been staring down the Dakota Access Pipeline which would bring fracked crude oil down from the northwest corner of North Dakota to refineries near Peoria, Illinois. Unarmed Native American water protectors and climate change activists have been met with dogs, water cannons, rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, concussion grenades and sophisticated and not-so-sophisticated surveillance. It was like a war-zone. Really.

The pastors came from the United Church of Christ (we had 60 clergy present! From Michigan there were 3 UCC pastors - Deb Conrad, Leah McCullough and myself - and lay member, Jay Cummings, facilitator of our Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team, Jay Cummings from Michigan!), the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Unitarians, the Mennonites, the Church of the Brethren, the Episcopalians, the Baptists. There were bishops and conference ministers. We gathered in a community gymnasium to hear from tribal leaders and the local Episcopal pastor who had extended the invitation to all of us. We heard from college professors and students from Sitting Bull College. We heard from the Lakota Elders and Lakota women who are charged with caring for the water according to their tradition.

They say that what's at stake is the water of the Missouri River and connected waterways, both above ground and below, respect for their burial grounds and important cultural sites, and the earth itself. Since around 2009, energy companies have been extruding oil from between layers of shale, using a controversial practice called fracking. Everyone agrees that fracking is a dangerous process. Explosions and leaks occur. And we're not yet able to know for sure the long-term consequences of the practice, though according to the US Survey of Geologists, we do know that earthquakes are one consequence of fracking. Oklahoma now suffers more earthquakes than California.

The Standing Rock Tribe is asking why the people of Bismark could protest the pipeline being brought near their community for fear it might contaminate their drinking water. Is it acceptable to contaminate the water they depend on? Is it acceptable for the pipeline to cross through sacred burial grounds and cultural sites? When is it time to say enough pipelines, enough fracking, enough dependancy on fosil fuels? The Standing Rock Tribal Council decided that they would say enough. For themselves, for all of us, for the water and for the earth.

None of this easy.

Imagine if another waste management company wanted to develop another garbage dump on the edge of Richmond. Say in Columbus Township this time. The company and township leaders argue that we have great clay soil, perfect for another dump. They promise it won't compromise our ground water. And, anyway, there's already one garbage dump. What's one more?

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Does a local community have a right to say no to a project like that? And what if the people say no, but the project is imposed upon them anyway? This is the question that is being asked all over the world. When local communities stand up to these big energy and mining projects they often are met with the same kind of violence we are seeing at Standing Rock.

Since September when dogs were used against the water protectors and their allies, the situation has escalated to what has become a war-zone. Really. One side is armed. The other, while unarmed and committed to active non-violence, is militant in their resistance and will not give up their ground. I went hoping to dissuade violence. And in support of local people and indigenous people who are asserting their voices about their own community and culture and on behalf of the water and the earth.

We slept on church floors - I slept in little Lutheran church's sanctuary. While I hunkered down into my sleeping bag the Chicago Cubs won the World Series. In the morning we gathered at the community gym and then gathered around the sacred fire in the resistance camp where before Tribal Elders, we presented our denominations' repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery which for 524 years has been used for 524 years to theologially and morally justify white, Christian, European claims to the land and resources in the Americas. Then we were smudged with sage smoke and prayerfully walked to the bridge where the stand-off has been going on for months now. We prayed. We sang. We offered one another signs of peace. Some of the bishops and conference ministers crossed the bridge to talk with the riot-ready security officers who were stretched across the bridge to block ND Highway 1806, the main road from Bismarck to Standing Rock. It's desolate country (beautiful, but desolate) with very few roads. Faith leaders spoke with the security officers asking them to pledge to use restraint and to de-escalate the violence being used to thwart the non-violent, unarmed water protectors and protesters. We prayed some more. And we ate sack lunches with Tribal leaders on the hill that so often figures as the backdrop to news reports about Standing Rock.

We should pray for a peaceful resolution at Standing Rock. Even act, before more people are injured or someone dies. You might consider contacting the governor of North Dakota to ask him to assure a peaceful resolution and to listen to the concerns of the local people, the Standing Rock Tribe. If you call, you'll probably get a recording and will have the opportunity to leave a message. Here's his name, address and phone number:

**The Honorable Jack Dalrymple**  
**Office of Governor**  
**State of North Dakota**  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0100  
701.328.2200: phone

# Servers Rotation Schedule—2016 - '17

## December 04

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett  
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert  
 Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch  
 Communion Preparer.....Mary Alice Busch  
 Communion Servers.....Bob & Veronica C.

## December 11

Greeters.....Ray & Paulette Trombley  
 Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett  
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall  
 Altar Flowers...Jennifer Northam

## December 18

Greeters.....Don & Donna Cockerill  
 Ushers.....Ray Trombley & Sharlene Haws  
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch  
 Altar Flowers...Jennifer Northam

## December 25

Greeters.....Need Volunteers  
 Ushers.....Need Volunteers  
 Lay Reader.....Need Volunteer

## January 01

Greeters.....Lucia Marshall & Mary Lou V.  
 Ushers.....Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham  
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall  
 Communion Preparer.....Paulette & Ray T.  
 Communion Servers.....Ron & Kim Schrote

## January 08

Greeters.....Bob & Veronica Chrostowski  
 Ushers.....Rob & Amy Follebout  
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch  
 Altar Flowers...



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



<p><u>December 4 - 10</u></p> <p>Don &amp; Pat Lawrence</p> <p>Stephen &amp; Linda Livingston</p> <p>Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan &amp; Mayella Maska</p>	<p><u>December 11 - 17</u></p> <p>Doug &amp; Suzie Maska</p> <p>Lucia Marshall</p> <p>Kimberly McCardell</p>
<p><u>December 18 - 24</u></p> <p>Sally McNinch</p> <p>George &amp; Sue Millbrand</p> <p>Aaron Miller</p>	<p><u>December 25 - 31</u></p> <p>Amelia Miller</p> <p>Terry &amp; Kathi Miller</p> <p>Lantz, Jennifer, Shane &amp; Logan Northam</p>

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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:

## The prayers of our hearts:

Kim Schrotte (keep healing!)...Donna & Frank Bartell...Lucile Trombley...Paulette & Ray Trombley...Leona Conner...Chuck & Mary Alice Busch...Joanne & Bud Griebler (Pastor Denise's mom & dad) ...Marjorie Pentzien...Bob Reindel... for a new Music & Choir Director for 1st UCC .... for our care of the gifts of earth, sky and water .... for our Richmond schools – students, teachers, administrators and staff ...for post-election wisdom and healing .... for servant leaders . ....a lowering of tensions and violent response to the Native American people and their allies gathered to pray and act on behalf of the water and sacred burial sites at Standing Rock in North Dakota ....for an end to the war in Syria and Iraq ....for refugees and for a willingness for nations to welcome them ....for all who are in harm's way in the service of justice and peace and freedom ....for detained immigrants and all prisoners, for people being released from jail, especially those who have served long sentences ....for people suffering from addictions....all who have a difficult time during the holidays because of grief or loneliness, poverty or broken relationships .... for hope, peace, joy and love for all.

And prayers of gratitude for Sunday school teachers and kids; for all who helped pack 15,000 meals for Kid's Against Hunger; for all who contributed to, attended or worked at the auction (especially for Glen, our auctioneer - who says he's not a pro?). Wow! November was a great month at 1st UCC!

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

## 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
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

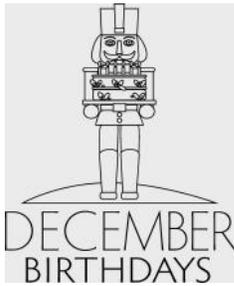
Want to join our prayer chain? Please call the church office at 586-727-3155.

## 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.

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

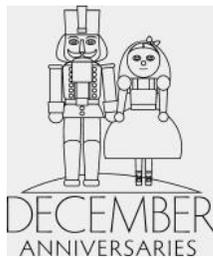


- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 - Scott Grzanka      | 18 - Doug Maska     |
| 08 - Terri Houston      | 22 - Bill Wagner    |
| 11 - Jackie Waszkiewicz | 24 - Carol Kulman   |
| 13 - Joyce Townsend     | 25 - Robert Reindel |
| 16 - Gary Porrett       | 29 - Norma Werth    |

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

- 31 - Makenna Handrow

We also wish a **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** to the following members and friends who have December wedding anniversaries:



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

**BEST  
 WISHES  
 TO YOU!**

**Call to Care Team:**

**Mary Alice Busch...586-727-7009**

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



<b>Attendance and Offerings:</b>	November 20.....46	Nov. 20.....\$1,264.00
	November 13.....36	Nov. 13.....\$1,528.00
	November 06.....44	Nov. 06.....\$2,176.00
	October 30.....38	October 30....\$ 998.00



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# Sunday Services

## *Scripture Readings for December*

**December 04** Second Sunday of Advent

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

**December 11** Third Sunday of Advent

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

**December 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

**December 25** Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

### **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.

### **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 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Christmas Tree Sale — December 2, 3, 4 and December 9, 10, 11</b> </div>				1	2	3
4 <i>Worship 11 am</i> <i>Potluck 5:30 pm</i> <i>Song Circle 6:30 pm</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Worship 11 am</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Church Council meets 7 pm</i>	16	17 <i>Euchre Party 6 pm</i>
18 <i>Worship 11 am</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
25  <i>Christmas DAY</i> <i>Worship 11 am</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</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](mailto:dgriebler@sbcglobal.net)  
cell: 630-297-1740 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: [firstunitedcc@outlook.com](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com)