

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

February 2017



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Denise Griebler
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OFFICE: 586-727-3155

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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 –

When my kids were in high school I started posting words to live by on our kitchen cabinets. A wise saying here. A poem or quote there. I was pretty sure they weren't listening to what I was saying in those days! Maybe the kitchen cabinet wisdom would find a way into them.

One post was a question in large letters that read:

What are you noticing?

It's a good question for all of us during the season of Epiphany. This is the liturgical season set aside for noticing the many ways that God is made known in the world.

In this time when all eyes seem to be on our nation and our new president, Christians are called to watch for and to notice God. Not as an escape from the world. Rather, Epiphany calls us to notice God IN the world.

Christmas gives us the first clue that God comes in unexpected places among unexpected people. God came to us as a vulnerable little baby! Born in a barn to an engaged couple, surrounded by farm animals, wrapped up and laid in a feeding trough, visited by farm-workers and angels and foreign sages. No pomp and circumstance. Not at the center of power but along the humble edges to those who pay attention to dreams and angels and who can let things be according to God's word and way.

When have you been noticing God-with-us in the world?

When you are alone? With other people?
In nature? In an unexpected kindness?
In expressions of love or forgiveness?
When people work together for justice?

Pay attention to when you notice God. Do more of that thing! God comes in ways that surprise and humble and name us all as children of God. Pay attention.

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One of my favorite kitchen cabinet sayings in those days was one by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

Because of all that I have seen, I will trust God for all that I have not seen.

I'm praying that we at 1st UCC live like Epiphany people who can see God in the midst of this broken and beautiful world. And that because we have seen and known of God, we will trust in God's way of justice, mercy and peace. Perhaps if we trust God's way, we will be the very ones through whom God makes a humble appearance. What are you noticing?

Blessings and love,

Pastor Denise



MISSIONS



February is upon us, and it is time to assemble the Church World Service Hygiene kits. These small packages assembled lovingly by our members

will be shipped to people in need around the globe. The hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

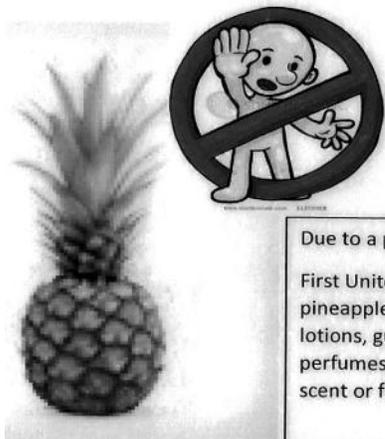
Contents of one Hygiene Kit:

- 1 hand towel (no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 standard size band-aids

There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church. Please have your items to the church on or before **Sunday, February 26.**

In 2016 we sent 37 hygiene kits. It would be fantastic if we could do that many this year.

Each person should give what she has decided in her heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7



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.



February 20

Church Notes

Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, February 5 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!

Super Chip and Salsa Sale Sunday, February 5...

One bag of chips and one container of salsa—\$12

The sale supports Kids Against Hunger.

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.

Please do not bring anything for coffee hour that contains pineapple. This is really serious. Let's all do our best to take care of each other!



Lent
B E G I N S

Ash Wednesday,
March 1...

Worship Service at
First UCC 7 pm

Dear Church of Christ Friends,

As we head into 2017, we thank you for the very generous donation of new clothing and cash for our less fortunate children. Do come by to visit our facility.

*Happy New Year,
K.I.D.S.*

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/>

MISSION CALENDAR 2017

February 5.....Super Sunday Salsa & Chip Sale

February 26.....Health Kit items due in church

February 28.....Paczkis for Possibilities Sale

March 26.....*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

May 14.....*Blanket Sunday Offering

June 4.....*Strengthen the Church Offering
Baby items for KIDS

July - Aug 27.....School Kit items due in church by August 27

October 1.....*Neighbors In Need Offering & Kids Against Hunger
Sticky Bun Sale

October 15.....Bread for the World Bread Sale

November 18.....Kids Against Hunger meal packaging @ Trinity Lutheran

**Nov. - Dec. 3.....Shoebox Christmas Gift Collection for KIDS (shoebboxes due
in church by Dec. 3)**

December 17.....*Christmas Fund Offering

December 25.....Christmas Day Dinner

*Envelopes will be provided

Check the Mission bulletin board at the back of the church for the detailed list for the 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 and Keith's Horseback Riding Therapy.

The Richmond Food Pantry is always in need of food. Watch the newsletter for the monthly items that are needed.

Our congregation gives \$600.00 annually to support the Richmond Good Samaritan Fund. Cash donations are always needed and welcomed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

6:00am-sold out

**PACZKIS FOR
POSSIBILITIES**

Pre-order by February 20th fattues1stucc@gmail.com

Or get 'em that day!

**\$25.00 dozen
\$15.00 half dozen
\$3.00 each**

**Profit supports the ministries
of the church and
Kids Against Hunger**

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
68651 SOUTH FOREST AVE.
RICHMOND**

**586-727-3155
Sunday Worship
11am**



*No matter who you are or where you
are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

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.

Give Me A Break!



Many families in our community are struggling to take care of a loved one at home. For

these full-time caregivers, a break to run errands, go to their own doctor appointments, or just relax for an hour is often impossible because their parent or spouse cannot be left alone.

If you have a few hours, once or twice a month, to just sit with an older or disabled

adult, your gift of time will make a huge difference for these families. No hands-on care or nursing experience is needed.

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

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

Terry Miller
(586-727-1726)

Buildings and Grounds

Matthew Ball
(586-531-7966)

Worship

Ruth Hartwell
(586-727-8083)

Welcoming

Karen Eltringham
(586-291-0615)
Joe Burkhart
(330-431-3663)

Christian Education

Dave Hartwell
(586-727-8083)

Finance

Rich Weinert
(586-727-1139)
Kim McCardell

Stewardship

Bill Wagner
(586-292-2667)

Memorial

Karen Eltringham
(586-291-0615)

Personnel

Terry Miller
Karen Eltringham
Kim McCardell
586-623-9833

Servers Rotation Schedule—2017



February 5

Greeters.....Sharlene & Darrel Haws
 Ushers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
 Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
 Communion Preparer.....Mary Alice Busch
 Communion Servers.....Karen E. & Joe B.

February 12

Greeters.....Paulette & Ray Trombley
 Ushers.....Kim McCardell & Sharlene Haws
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
 Altar Flowers...Jennifer Northam

February 19

Greeters.....Ron & Kim Schrote
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert
 Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
 Altar Flowers...Kathi Miller & Traci Bartell

February 26

Greeters.....Sally McNinch & Doris Essenburg
 Ushers.....Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham
 Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell
 Altar Flowers...Sharlene Haws

March 5

Greeters.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
 Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote
 Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
 Communion Preparer...Sally McNinch
 Communion Servers.....Bob & Veronica C.

March 12

Greeters.....Rich & Sue Weinert
 Ushers.....Rob & Amy Follebout
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
 Altar Flowers...Amy Follebout

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



<p><u>January 29 - February 4</u></p> <p>Ron & Kim Schrote</p> <p>Ryan & Niki Schrote</p> <p>Jim & Joyce Townsend</p>	<p><u>February 5 - 11</u></p> <p>Dawn Marie Trombley & Garrett Esper</p> <p>Lucille Trombley</p> <p>Ray & Paulette Trombley</p>
<p><u>February 12 - 18</u></p> <p>Terri Verlinde</p> <p>Mary Lou Volkenant</p> <p>William Wagner</p>	<p><u>February 19 - 25</u></p> <p>Jackie Waszkiewicz</p> <p>Fred Weeks Jr.</p> <p>James & Rose Weeks</p>

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:

Bob Chrostowski at home and on the mend!...Niki & Ryan Schrote (expecting their first child . . . a girl!)...Donna & Frank Bartell...Lucile Trombley...Paulette & Ray Trombley... Leona Conner...Chuck & Mary Alice Busch...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, staff and board...for the new leaders of our country, may they be servants of the people, serving with wisdom, justice and mercy...for peace in the world...for refugees and for a willingness for nations, including ours, 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 or depression...

We give thanks for our Council members who faithfully served and whose terms have ended: Veronica Chrostowski, Terri Houston, Kathi Miller And for new council members who will serve for three years: Terri Miller, Ruth Hartwell and Bill Wagner.

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
Mark Davis	Treasurer	—
Karen Eltringham	Council Member	2017
Dave Hartwell	Council Member	2017
Ruth Hartwell	Council Member	2019
Denise Griebler	Pastor	—
Kim McCardell	Council President	2018
Terry Miller	Council Member	2019
Bill Wagner	Council Member	2019
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	2017
Rich Weinert	Vice President	2018

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
Joyce Townsend	586-727-9735

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 February birthdays:



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 - Kim Schrote | 17 - Sue Millbrand |
| 01 - Rose Weeks | 17 - Shame Northam |
| 06 - Kristina Dunsmore | 17 - Charles Rocker |
| 07 - Jim Weeks | 18 - Dean Handrow |
| 11 - Veronica Chrostowski | 21 - Dennis Dubay |
| 12 - Pam Green | 21 - Adam Santo |
| 13 - Sue Weinert | 27 - Ron Schrote |

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

- 07 - Noah Franklin

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



- 01 - Don & Pat Lawrence

**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)



Attendance and Offerings:	January 22.....40	Jan. 22.....\$1,158.00
	January 15.....42	Jan. 15.....\$1,391.00
	January 08.....51	Jan. 08.....\$1,061.08
	January 01.....35	Jan. 01.....\$1,019.00

**First
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for February

February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16);
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 26 Last Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

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.

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.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Building & Grounds cntr. meets 7 pm</i>	2	3	4 <i>Quilt Guild 10 am</i>
5 <i>Worship 11 am Super Salsa & Chip Sale before & after service Potluck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Worship 11 am</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Church Council meets 7 pm</i>	17	18
19 <i>Worship 11 am</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Worship 11 am Health Kit Items due in church</i>	27	28 <i>Paczki Sale 6 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!

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