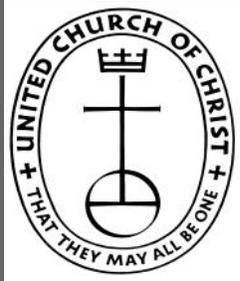


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

March 2017



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

CELL: 630-297-1740

OFFICE: 586-727-3155

FAX: 586-727-8341

E-mail: firstunitedcc@outlook.com

Website:

www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 AM - 12 NOON

FRIDAY, 9 AM - 3 PM

Afternoons by appointment

Pastor Denise is in Richmond on

Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday

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

Dear Ones,

Welcome into Lent - a slow deepening time of year. A time to nourish our roots, preparing to blossom and grow as disciples of Jesus and members in the family of God. If you feel like the world is moving too fast and you'd like to slow things down, this is the season for you, dear friend.

At 1st UCC we'll begin the journey together on Ash Wednesday. Join us at 6 pm for a simple supper of soup, salad, bread and slow conversation. At 7 pm we'll begin a simple time of worship and receive ashes.

On Wednesday, March 1st, I'll be in the church kitchen making soup and salad. Is there anybody out there who would like to make bread in the kitchen while I make soup? Or even in your own kitchen at home. Let me know.

Our dinner conversation will be about slowing down together and building community where there is space for imagination, courage, hope, healing, rest and faith. I hope you will join us! No need to bring anything. Just come and share the gift of a simple meal, conversation, prayers, songs and ashes.

Pastor Denise

The Season of Lent

— from the congregational resource, *Seasons Fusions*

Wilderness time

During the Season of Lent we travel with Jesus on a journey. We start in the wilderness - away from the things that normally comfort and sustain us - and continue in the steps of Jesus' ministry and through to the last days of his life. At this - like maybe no other - time of year, we are invited to examine our spiritual lives and identify those parts of ourselves that need improvement. Where are we

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falling short? What relationships need attention? How do we dig deeper into our relationship with God? What parts of our lives have become too much about us and not enough about God?

Trappist monk Thomas Merton said, "The whole Christian life is a life in which...the more we progress, the poorer we get so that the man who has progressed most, is totally poor - he has to depend directly on God. He's got nothing left in himself."

When was the last time you heard someone say they wanted to be "totally poor"? The human tendency is to accomplish, acquire, and ascend - always looking to gain, not to become poor. Merton's "totally poor" is a life that's progressed the most, a life that's getting closer to God and further away from worries about money, possessions, and power.

As we begin Lent, we find ourselves at the edge of "wilderness time," at the edge of total and complete dependence on God for everything we need. Scary? Yes. Completely and totally fulfilling in the spiritual sense? Absolutely.

Entering and participating in a Lent that empties you of selfish desires and temptations and puts your complete faith and trust in God isn't easy. As we will read in the Bible stories of the Lenten season, Jesus' explanation of the Reign of God and the movement of the Spirit in our lives weren't always understood by those who heard it - even the disciples who were closest to Jesus. So, in the wilderness, we needn't despair when we don't get everything right. But we are called to put an intense focus on our relationship with God and how we show God to others in our lives. Our progress on this journey won't be measured in success, but by how empty we become, how much room we are able to make for God in our lives.

- **What scares you the most about depending completely on God to provide in your life?**
- **What parts of your life do you try to control - instead of letting God control them?**
- **What one spiritual practice will you take on this Lent that makes more room for God in your life and less room for your personal desires?**

***"Let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action."—1 John 3:18***

LET'S SHARE FOOD!!!

The Mission Committee would like your help to stock the shelves at the Richmond Food Pantry. Starting on Sunday, March 5 through Easter Sunday, please bring in can goods, cereal, peanut butter & jelly, pudding & fruit cups,

coffee, tea, condiments - whatever you wish. Place your food donations in the front of the sanctuary and watch the pile grow throughout the Lenten season. Thank you, and know that the glory of God is shown when hungry people are fed.



March 20

Church Notes

Gather 'Round the Circle...

Join us Sunday, March 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!

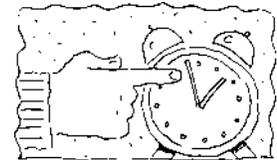
Lent

BEGINS

Ash Wednesday, March 1...

Worship Service at
First UCC 7 pm

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12...



SET YOUR CLOCKS
Ahead!



Food Pantry Needs

spaghetti sauce
pancake mix/syrup
coffee (regular & decaffeinated)
canned tomatoes (diced, stewed, etc.)
Jell-O
jam/jelly assorted flavors

Easter Egg Hunt...

Saturday

April 8

11:00 am



Come join the hunt at First UCC! Lots of fun for the kids! We will create a craft, have story time, enjoy a lunch and hunt for candy-filled eggs. All are welcome!

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!



Women's Grow Conference *Deeply Loved* Robyn Dykstra & Kim Boyce Koreiba April 21 - 22 at Colonial Woods Missionary Church 3240 Pine Grove Ave. Port Huron

Tickets: \$40—includes all food and beverage at the conference
Call to register: 810-984-5571

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!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Sunday, March 26 You are here....

*Just as you did it to the
one of least of these who
are members of my family,
you did to me.*

—Matthew 25:40

Paul's letters remind us that as members of the church, we are so closely connected we can think of ourselves as parts of one body. The New Testament constantly refers to followers of Jesus, not as Christians, but as a family – brothers and sisters.

Our church lives this out when someone is ill, mourning or facing a crisis. You are there for your loved ones in need. You show that love in tangible ways with casseroles, cards, hugs and spoken words of

prayer. These acts of kindness let your brothers and sisters in Christ know that you are present with them. They know that they are not forgotten in their times of trouble.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is a way for us to help our brothers and sisters anywhere in the world. Their needs might seem different than the people you worship with on Sunday, but your tangible gifts declare the same message: "I am here." By giving to OGHS you are helping those who suffer from natural disasters, war or poverty. You let them know that they are not forgotten. Even when the need seems far from here, by acting together as the body of Christ, we are able to be there for members of

Christ's family.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. As members of the UCC, the mission made possible by the OGHS offering is something we are ALL a part of as the church. On average, of every dollar given to OGHS, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming.

Through this special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, we join other Christians to make our presence known to brothers and sisters who might feel forgotten – the hungry, the hurting, the thirsty, the sick... Please give generously on March 26. Special giving envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletin.



This Lenten Season, the Mission Committee will be providing members and friends the Bread for the World Lenten Prayers for Hungry

People – a weekly devotional of readings, prayers, and actions to help you observe Lent in 2017. The readings are from the gospels of Matthew and John. The small "table tent" devotional is a gift of faith enabling you to rededi-

cate yourself to prayer on behalf of those in need. Watch for your copy in the bulletin, on the tables in the church basement or call the office and a copy will be mailed to you. Enjoy, and blessings to you this Lenten season.

Thank you to all who purchased salsa & chips on Super Salsa Sunday. The profit was \$211.00 and will be given to Kids Against Hunger this fall.

A HUGE thanks goes to Terri Houston for growing the tomatoes and veggies and making the delicious salsa. It is really good stuff!!! Also thank you to Traci Bartell for

getting the chips. Hopefully your Super Bowl watching was much better with having these yummy snacks to eat.

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.

Make Cleaning Rewarding!



For many older and disabled adults who are struggling to remain in their own homes, simple tasks that we take for granted like dusting and vac-

uuming can become next to impossible. Not only can a cluttered or dirty house be uncomfortable, but it can become a health and safety hazard.

If you have a couple hours that you can offer to provide some light housekeeping for a struggling neighbor, you can make a real difference in someone's life and gain im-

measurable rewards in the process! Grab a friend and clean as a team to make it even more enjoyable. You can help on a regular basis or just whenever you have some extra time. We will schedule around your other commitments.

For more details, please call 586-757-5551.

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



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

March 19

Greeters.....Karen E. & Joe B.
 Ushers.....Bob & Veronica Chrostowski
 Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
 Altar Flowers...Traci, Kathi, Terry, Amelia, Aaron

March 26

Greeters.....Mary Lou V. & Lucia M.
 Ushers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
 Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

April 2

Greeters.....Ron & Kim Schrote
 Ushers.....Sharlene Haws & Ray Trombley
 Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
 Communion Preparer...Paulette & Ray T.
 Communion Servers.....Rich & Sue Weinert

April 9

Greeters.....Bob & Veronica Chrostowski
 Ushers.....Kim McCardell & Ray Trombley
 Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
 Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for March

“Clip and Keep Reminders”



February 26 - March 4

Tarah Weeks
 Rich & Sue Weinert
 Norma Werth

March 5 - 11

Justine, Caleb, Paul &
 Alyson Achatz,
 Jacob Marlow
 Carissa Sugg



In Our Prayers

March 12 - 18

Matthew, Andrew, Jacob &
 Avery Ball
 Frank & Donna Bartell
 Traci Bartell

March 19 - 25

Cheryl Beauchamp
 Carmen Breese
 Joseph Burkhart

March 26 - April 1

Warren & Sue Ann Burmann
 Al & Mary Alice Busch
 Charles Busch

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:

Terri Houston at home and on the mend after successful neck surgery - she's unable to drive for another 2 months at least....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 all of our bodies and spirits.

Prayers for a new Music & Choir Director for 1st UCC....of gratitude for the gifts of earth, sky, and water and for our care of the earth....for our Richmond schools – students, teachers, administrators, staff and board....for the leaders of our country, may they be servants of the people, serving with wisdom, justice and mercy....for a spirit of welcome in our country...for protection for the most vulnerable, including refugees and immigrants....for all who are in harm's way in the service of justice and peace and freedom....for detained immigrants....for all prisoners, and for people just being released from jail, especially those who have served long sentences....for people suffering from addictions or depression...

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	2017
Karen Eltringham	Council Member	2017
Dave Hartwell	Council Member	2017
Ruth Hartwell	Council Secretary	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	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
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 March birthdays:



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 03 - Dave Hartwell | 15 - Fred Weeks Jr. |
| 06 - Andra Jones | 22 - Garrett Esper |
| 06 - Krista Plucinski | 24 - Drew Reindel |
| 07 - Joyce Dubay | 25 - Terry Miller |
| 07 - Terri Hunger | 31 - Ray Trombley |
| 09 - Al Busch | |

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



- 19 - Frank & Donna Bartell
 19 - Ron & Kim Shcrote

**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:	February 19.....35	Feb. 19.....\$1,127.00
	February 12.....40	Feb. 12.....\$2,072.50
	February 05.....34	Feb. 05.....\$2,577.00
	January 29.....38	Jan. 29.....\$1,381.00



Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for March

- March 5** **First Sunday in Lent**
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- March 12** **Second Sunday in Lent**
Genesis 12:1- 4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- March 19** **Third Sunday in Lent**
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- March 26** **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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:

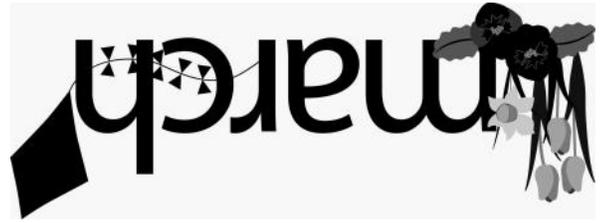
We are traveling life's road: created by God, guided by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit and grounded in scripture. We strive to be individuals on a spiritual journey and a community sharing God's love with all.

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.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Service 7 pm	2	3	4
5 Worship 11 am Potluck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm	6	7	8	9	10	11 Quilt Guild 10 am
12 Worship 11 am Daylight Saving Time begins	13	14	15	16 Church Council meets 7 pm	17	18
19 Worship 11 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 11 am One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	27	28	29	30	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
cell: 630-297-1740 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: firstunitedcc@outlook.com