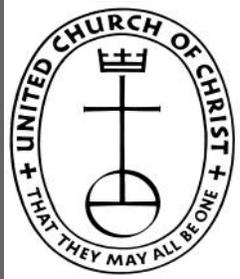


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

August 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.*



Beloveds -

My heart is so full of thanks for the love shown by our congregation to the Chrostowski family on the day of Bob's memorial service. Of course there was lots of love being expressed in days after Bob died as folks came together to think about and do what needed to be done for welcoming such a large gathering of mourners into our church and providing gracious (and delicious!) luncheon hospitality.

There are people who really should be named, but there were so many. But the truth is, I was up north on vacation while you all put it together, so I don't want to start naming and wind up missing someone. So I will simply say thank you. Thank you for taking care of Veronica and her family. And for taking care of each other. You all were actually BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST. Your light shined!

When a congregation loses someone like Bob, that loss is felt by the whole body. He helped us to be touched deeply by our faith and shared humanity. He helped us laugh. He showed us something about how to live our faith day by day. He helped us take things more seriously and more lightly all at the same time. So his passing leaves an empty place that we will feel for a long time.

Though I never had the pleasure of knowing Terry Breese, I feel the empty place in our congregation marked by his death. But I also know the seeds of generosity, community building through music and multi-cultural delight he planted among us. I love that we sang Terry's table grace to the tune of Edelweiss at the end of Bob's service.

continued on next page

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We will miss our friend. But his spirit remains with us and even lives in us when our faith moves us to laugh, joke around, sing, cry, or say that's just not fair, or work together to be good neighbors and human beings who respect the dignity of all humans and their place among creation and all God's creatures.

At a church I served many years ago, a wonderful and beloved member, much like Bob and Terry, died. We had a great funeral service for Gordon – an overflow crowd of family and friends and community members, great hymns and singing, lots of stories about Gordon and the ways the light of God's love shined through him. After the service, one of the more crabby, critical-of-everything-and-everybody members of the congregation shook my hand vigorously and said through tears: "O Pastor, I want my funeral service to be just like Gordon's." I replied: "Well, then you better get busy living like Gordon lived. It's probably not too late."

It's not too late for any of us or for our church. And I really do want to live more like Bob. And more like the generous people of our congregation who helped to make a lovely and gracious space for people to mourn and celebrate Bob's life.

Love to all,

Pastor Denise

General Synod News

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old).

In June 2017, thousands from across the country (and abroad) gathered for General Synod 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland. Together, they discerned resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. They stood up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And they joined together in worship each day to lift up the Stillspeaking God.

This year General Synod took on issues as varied as fair trade and just wages to the rights of Palestinian children living under Israeli military occupation; from care for the earth to care for our church's missionary programs; from the ways we nurture and credential the call of new pastors to serve our churches to the call for congregations becoming immigrant welcoming churches.

General Synod is a place where the wider UCC gathers to remember who we are and Whose we are and to discern and act as God's people in these times. General Synod doesn't speak for or dictate

policy to UCC congregations. Rather, General Synod *speaks to the churches and invites* faithful engagement with the Stillspeaking Word and the world that God loves so dearly. The theologian Cornell West put it this way: "**Justice is what love looks like in public.**" General Synod 2017 went public with love and invites our churches to share God's love in the world by engaging in works of justice and mercy, caring about and for the Common Good.

You can learn more about General Synod 2017 and our United Church of Christ at www.ucc.org.

First UCC Roof Project News



Thank you to all those who donated \$100 for Roof Squares! Your generosity has raised \$9,990 so far! That is \$9,990 toward our goal of \$14,000 needed to cover the total cost

of \$24,000 for the new roof if we get the full \$10,000 grant from the city.

On Sunday, July 30 after the service, we will have a drawing of one of the Roof Squares. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at a nice restaurant. We will still welcome donations for the Roof Project beyond the drawing date. So please keep buying squares if you can! Hopefully we will be able to cover more of the cost without drawing as much from the church's savings.

Again, we want to thank each and every one of you who donated to the Roof Project by buying Roof Squares. The response from all our members and friends has been overwhelming and supportive. Thank you!

And thank you to all who gave Roof Squares in memory of the following:

Josephine Wagner
Raymond Trombley Sr.
Rick Trombley
Bobby Renshaw
Duane Essenburg

Open and Affirming News

**Put this date on your calendar and come to church!
August 20th!**

Rev. Henry Brinker, pastor of 1st UCC of New Baltimore, and I will exchange pulpits for the morning. Rev. Brinker has faithfully served the New Baltimore church for about ten years. He's an openly gay minister with a faith-journey to share along with real-life struggles and joys. After worship he will have an open dialogue with our members. Rev. Brinker will talk about why it matters for a congregation to go through this process and then be open and clear about their intention to welcome everyone.

Perhaps in the Fall or during our annual meeting in January, we will be ready as a congregation to vote on whether or not we believe we are called to covenant together to officially become an Open and Affirming congregation.

Here is the working Open and Affirming covenant that our 1st UCC welcoming/ONA committee has written after much study, discussion, prayer and conversation with many of you. This is the statement that we will study, discuss, pray over and finally vote on as a congregation.

Rooted in the belief that we are all God's children, we

honor and affirm all people no matter race, gender, age, sexual orientation and expression, gender identity, nationality, immigration status, ethnicity, marital status, physical ability, mental ability, political affiliation or theological perspective. We believe in the message of the new commandment given by Jesus to love one another. Acting with this as model and compass, no matter your past, present or future journey we welcome all to God's table, to join in fellowship, and to be challenged together in our call to love, worship and serve God.

— adopted by the 1st UCC welcoming/ONA committee

Church Notes

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



Our summer worship schedule begins on June 4 through September 10.

Euchre Party...

Join us on August 19 at 6 pm for a fun and friendly evening of cards. You don't need a partner, just come on down!

SongCircle — Special Guest, performer and educator, Julie Buetell ...

Join us for a very special SongCircle in August. Julie Buetell, a popular Detroit folk singer, teacher and performer will join us and lead us in songs that build and deepen community.

If you've never come to SongCircle - or maybe you are a regular who's thought about inviting a friend - this is the time to gather round. Our August SongCircle promises to be a great one!

There's good food, a caring community, laughter, tears, jokes, stories, silence, and ... singing!

Sunday, August 6, at 1st UCC
5:30 potluck supper (bring a dish to pass - it always works out!)
6:30 – 8pm Singing led by Julie Beutell

Any change to your address, phone number or email?...



Please let the office know if you have any changes to your listing in our church directory. We will publish an updated version for this fall.

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!

Please Mark Your Calendars...

We are planning our Annual Gift Auction for November 19th. Details to come in our next newsletter.



It is time to start thinking about collecting items for School Kits.

We need the following supplies:

- blunt scissors (round tip only)**
- 70-count bound notebooks**
- 12" rulers**
- handheld pencil sharpeners**
- large erasers**
- unsharpened pencils**
- boxes of 24-count crayons**
- several 12" X 14" or 14" X 17"**
- lightweight or cotton tote bags with handles (no reusable shopping bags).**

All items need to be at church by **August 27.**

Your support of the CWS kit program makes a tremendous difference in the lives of so many people. Each kit represents a person whose life will be changed because of the simple items contained within. Thank you for your continued support and compassionate response.

Vacation Bible School NEWS

Calling all kids!!

Calling all people who know kids to invite!!

Tri-Church Vacation Bible School! August 8 - 10, 5:30 - 8 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.

This is a safe, friendly and fun time for your kids – sign 'em up for "Camp Out" VBS.

For children 4 years old through 5th grade.

This lively VBS program will engage your child and help them to experience for themselves how Jesus lights up the world with God's love for everyone. They'll have a great time making cool crafts, playing fun games, eating

yummy snacks and making new friends. Kids will learn that it's fun and faithful to share God's love with others! Registration forms will be available in the church office and on the table in the narthex.

VBS Volunteers Needed

VBS is a joint project between First United Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran and First United Methodist. Can you help with Vacation Bible School this year?? First UCC needs to help!

We're looking for help with the following:

- **The registration table on August 8**

➤ **Teachers (there's a great curriculum to work with) – a couple of teachers for each activity center: Bible exploration, crafts, games**

➤ **Group leaders (Jr. & Sr. high school-aged volunteers needed here!)**

This year we are trying a 3-day program in the middle of the week in hopes that this will work well with family summer schedules. Can you pitch in to help? Are there children you could invite?

If you can help, please contact Pastor Denise. Thanks so much. (630-297-1740)

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

Replacement
pending

Welcoming

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

Christian Education

Replacement
pending

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



From Congregational UCC:

Your cakes, as always were delicious! It is just wonderful that year after year your mission is still MCREST. Your dedication is as appreciated as are your cakes. Thank...thank you. Till next year,

*Linda
CUCC, Armada*

From the Chrostowski family:

We want to take this time to say "Thank You" to our family of faith for everything so many did to make Bob's celebration of life so beautiful. May God bless each and every one of you.

From CWS:

Thank you for your kind donation of Hygiene Kits to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That

someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. Caring people like you – who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster – allow people in crisis to receive help when they need it, and hope for the future. Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes, your donations ensure that help is never far behind.

With deepest gratitude,

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO

Servers Rotation Schedule—2017



August 6

Greeters.....Sharlene & Darrel Haws
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert
 Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
 Communion Preparer...Mary Alice Busch
 Communion Servers.....Glen & Diane Porrett

August 13

Greeters.....Pam Green & Joyce Townsend
 Ushers.....Ray Trombley & Sharlene Haws
 Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
 Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

August 20

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett
 Ushers.....Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham
 Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell
 Altar Flowers...Diane Porrett

August 27

Greeters.....Sharlene & Darrell Haws
 Ushers.....Need Volunteers
 Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert
 Altar Flowers...Terry & Kathi Miller

September 3

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

September 10

Good Old Days...Community Worship Service
 at Trinity Lutheran 9:30 am

First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for August

“Clip and Keep Reminders”



July 30 - August 5

Sally McNinch
 George & Sue Millbrand
 Aaron Miller

August 6 - 12

Amelia Miller
 Terry & Kathi Miller
 Lantz, Jennifer, Shane &
 Logan Northam



August 13 - 19

Marjorie Pentzien
 Chris, Krista, Hanna & Robbie
 Plucinski
 John & Nancy Pollock

August 20 - 26

Gary & Lynda Porrett
 Glen & Diane Porrett
 Mike Quinn

August 27 - Sept. 2

Robert, Wendy, Drew &
 Nathan Reindel
 Robert & Yvonne Reindel
 Charles Rocker

General Synod service project will help keep hundreds warm during Baltimore winter

written by Anthony Moujaes



Thanks to the help and generosity of participants in a United Church of Christ General Synod service project, homeless men, women and children in the Baltimore area will receive a warm perk this winter.

The service project, organized by the Central Atlantic Conference, collected hundreds of cold-weather clothing items at this summer's recently-completed biennial gathering, to be distributed to people experiencing homelessness "throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area, to show those who often feel forgotten and invisible that they matter,"

said Sheila Helgerson, executive director of United Ministries.

United Ministries is a UCC Council for Health and Human Services Ministries member, and 17-year provider of supportive housing to less fortunate people. Earl's Place is one of its programs, a transitional housing site for homeless men.

General Synod 31 took place from June 30 through July 4 in Baltimore, with 3,000 attendees taking part. Delegates and visitors were asked to make or purchase hats, gloves, scarves and socks, to add to the Central Atlantic Conference collection of "ugly quilts: (sleeping bags) or blankets. In all, participants donated 181 hats, 85 gloves, 54 pairs of socks, 38 blankets, and dozens of pillows, quilts and blankets for babies, children and adults. While Earl's Place is a minis-

try that focuses on homeless men, Helgerson has plans to make use of the variety of items that were donated.

"There are [area] shelters that work with women and children, so for the most part all these donations will definitely be helpful," Helgerson said.

According to a 2016 report, there were more than 26,000 homeless persons in the geographic area of the Central Atlantic Conference (New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Northern Virginia).

"This is not something we've ever done, so I didn't have any expectations, but I'm pleased because this will be a big help to so many people," Helgerson said. "We appreciate all the generosity. This will help people stay warm and dry this winter."

Wider Church Connections...you 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/>

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:

Deep gratitude for the love, hospitality and generosity of our congregation shown the day of Bob Chrostowski's memorial service....for Veronica and her extended family as they mourn Bob's death the generosity of our congregation in supporting the new roof project....for Donna Bartell and her extended family....for Amy Follebout who is suffering from lupus. For Justine Achatz (Glen & Diane Porrett's daughter) who is in the midst of treatment for breast cancer....prayers for Diane Porrett....for all who are mourning, Terry Hunger as she mourns her sister's death....Lucille Trombley....Paulette & Ray Trombley as they live with Parkinson's....Leona Conner who is 100 years old!....Al & Mary Alice Busch....Marjorie Pentzien....Bob Reindel...for those who are struggling with grief and loss, for all of our bodies and spirits, for peace for each of us and all of us together....and for our children and their Sunday school teachers - their joy, learning, compassion and their imaginations....for our Richmond schools - students, teachers, administrators, staff and board, for a wonderful and safe summer vacation....for the leaders of our country - may they be servants of the people, serving the Common Good with wisdom, justice and mercy for all....for a spirit of welcome in our country....for protection for the most vulnerable, including refugees and immigrants....for our neighbors who live in constant fear of being deported and separated from their families....for all who are in harm's way in the service of justice and peace and freedom....for access to healthcare for all, especially the most vulnerable - children, pregnant women, the elderly, the poor, those who have pre-existing conditions, for people suffering from addictions or depression and their loved ones...and for the healing of her earth and especially for her waters...for peace and an end to the war in Afghanistan which is our nation's longest-lasting war....for an end to water shut-offs in Detroit where currently 20,000 homes (an estimated 60,000 people) have no water. Deep gratitude for all the times 1st UCC members have donated water for Detroit and Flint residents.

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 either Tuesday or 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

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!

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
Pending	Council Member	2017
Pending	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.

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for August

- August 6** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Geneses 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- August 13** Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- August 20** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
- August 27** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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 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.



**First
United Church of Christ**

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



**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**

04 - Sally McNinch
04 - David Busch
06 - Lucia Marshall
07 - Donna Bartell

13 - Rich Weinert
17 - Bill Jones
26 - Justin Dunsmore

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

26 - Elaina Briggs
29 - Brianna Jones

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



**AUGUST
ANNIVERSARIES**

14 - Justin & Avrie Dunsmore
21 - Glen & Diane Porrett
26 - Sue & Warren Burmann

**BEST
WISHES
TO YOU!**

Call to Care Team:

Mary Alice Busch...586-727-7009

Shelley Champion...586-255-0387



Attendance
July 23.....26
July 16.....49
July 09.....42
July 02.....35

Offerings
July 23.....\$1,160.00
July 16.....\$1,654.00
July 09.....\$1,681.00
July 02.....\$1,238.25

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE
August 21**

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>Funeral Service for Tina Fister 11 am</i>
6 <i>Worship w/ communion 10 am Potluck 5:30 pm Song Circle 6:30 pm</i>	7	Vacation Bible School at Trinity 6 - 8 pm			11	12 <i>Quilt Guild 10 am</i>
13 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Euchre Party 6 pm</i>
20 <i>Worship 10 am Rev. Henry Brinker preaching</i>	21	22	23	24 <i>Church Council meets 7 pm</i>	25	26
27 <i>Worship 10 am School Kit items due</i>	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