SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RICHMOND, MICHIGAN
January 2018

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,

Happy New Year!

I have a good friend who always declares a theme for the coming year. It's a good practice. It's not exactly a resolution. More like a touchstone that will help you remember how you want to approach life this year.

I guess 2018 is going to be a big year, because I have two themes:

"It's not too late."
&
"I wouldn't worry so much about that."

I'm writing this while visiting my octogenarian parents in Chicago. My dad says, "Actually, it is too late for some things – and really, there is a whole lot to worry about these days." The nut has not fallen far from this tree. You see where I get it from? Of course he's right.

Even so. I think I will keep my two themes for 2018. Because I need a lighter heart and more hope to keep on keeping on. I want to trust God more. Not in a passive kind of way, but so that I can live with more freedom to do what I am able to the repair and healing of the world and to work out my own salvation. Which isn't everything. Or the perfect thing. But something.

What will be your theme, your touchstone, for the New Year? I wonder what would be a good theme for us at 1st UCC? Wouldn't it be fun to share our ideas about that?

Love to all,

Pastor Denise

Coming Up Soon...the Annual Congregational Meeting

We will gather for our annual meeting on January 21 after the Sunday service. Please plan on attending this important meeting of our church family. All committee reports are due by Friday, January 5.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Members will be voting on the acceptance of the amended Church Constitution which includes reducing the size of our church council from nine to six members and some minor grammatical corrections. Members who have email will receive an electronic copy of the amended constitution, and printed copies will be available on the table in the narthex.

Also we need to elect at least three new council members if the six-member council is approved or six new council members if we stay with nine council members. At the October congregational meeting we voted to reduce the size of council to six on a temporary, provisional basis until after the 2018 annual meeting.

We need nominees to run for these open council positions. This is an important and rewarding way to share in the responsibility of being a member of your church. Please consider this opportunity to serve!

For 2018 election in January, a six-member council would need the following:

Two new 3-year term nominees, 2020 term.

One 2-year term nominee, 2019 term.

For 2018 election in January, a nine-member council would need the following:

three new 3-year term nominees, 2020 term.

two 2-year term nominees, 2019 term.

one 1-year term nominee, 2018 term.

Thank you for your support of our church,

The Church Council

Have Car, Will Travel?
Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed!

All our "snowbirds" are heading south for the winter! Won't you please help fill in for them? Many of our regular drivers take a couple months off this time of year, but the need for transportation does not lessen. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program needs drivers who can provide rides for our older and disabled neighbors so that they can get to doctor appointments and essential errands. Just a couple hours of your time can make a huge difference in someone's life.

You pick your own area and your own times. Drive as often or as little as you like in the comfort of your own car. Even one more ride a year might get someone to an appointment that could save their life! **Daytime drivers especially needed!** Please call IVC today at 586-757-5551 for more information.

(Learn more about our work at www.ivcinfo.org)

Spread the Good News...

We have received $83.80 from Kroger Rewards this quarter!

Are you signed up for our Kroger Community Rewards Program? If not, here's how to join and start earning rewards for our church:

Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- Don't have a Kroger Plus card? The cards are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on "Sign In/Register."
- If you are a new online customer, click on "SIGN UP TODAY" in the "New Customer?" box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account: enter zip code, click on favorite store, enter your email address, create a password and agree to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on "My Account" and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on "Edit Kroger Community Rewards information" and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number (97155) or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after you register your card.
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thank you,

The Community Programs Staff

Church Notes

January Song Circle
Sunday, January 7...

Join us for potluck (5:30 pm) and singing (6:30 – 8pm). We eat, sing, laugh and talk about our lives. Come join the circle!

Richmond Lenox E.M.S.

and the

American Red Cross

Tuesday, January 2

2:00 pm - 8:00 pm

At the Richmond Township Offices

new location:

34900 School Section
Richmond, MI 48062

Save a life, donate blood.

Annual Congregational Meeting—January 21, 2018...

Please plan on attending this important meeting. All committees should submit their annual reports by Friday, January 5, 2018.

Also, if you haven't submitted your Time and Talent Sheet, please do so as soon as possible.

Euchre Party...returns in Feb.

On behalf of the children in St. Clair County we thank you. Your wonderful donation of all the boxes and bags filled with Christmas treasures will help KIDS provide a Merry Christmas for many of these children.

May your holidays be full of joy and blessings.

The Staff of Kids in Distress Services

A heartfelt "thank you" to all the members and friends of this congregation who pitched in to provide me a generous Christmas bonus. It was a delightful surprise that is greatly appreciated.

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderfully blessed holiday, and I pray that we all have a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely, your church secretary,

Helen

A Big Hug Just For You!

On Christmas Day we served approximately 80 meals! We had 35 or more volunteers from the community, our sister churches and our own wonderful congregation. We prepared for more meals, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate with us. So we were able to send meals home with several of the people.

This year, as you well know, we worked as a committee to put on the Christmas dinner. This way no one person (s) had the full responsibility. It worked well!

We can only say "**thank you**" to each of you! We received donations of prayers, baked goods, canned goods and money. What more can a committee ask for?

Poinsettia Money for Food

A sincere "thank you" to the following members and friends who contributed to help support Backpack Blessing from the Community. Your donations helped feed our local school families in need by providing enough food for breakfasts, lunches and dinners over the Christmas Break.

Terry & Kathi Miller...in memory of Donna Bartell & Lori McKinney
Jim & Joyce Townsend...in memory of our parents
Shelley Champion...in memory of Shirley Champion
Glen & Diane Porrett...in memory of our parents & Kirk Traub
Pastor Denise...in honor of Jeanie Wylie & Curt Koehler
Northam family...in memory of grandparents
Terri Houston...in memory of David Houston and Ed & Gloria Meyers
Lucia Marshall...in memory of Kirk Marshall
Karen Eltringham...in memory of Leland & Delores Stiles
Joe Burkhart...in memory of Charles & Wanda Burkhart
Al & Mary Alice Busch...in memory of our parents
Joyce & Jim Townsend
Doris Essenburg...in memory of Donna Bartell
Sue & Rich Weinert...in memory of Ken Potts
Chris Hensch
Ron & Kim Schrote...in honor of children & granddaughter
Shelley Champion...in memory of Shirley Champion
Terry & Kathi Miller...in memory of Donna Bartell & Lori Bartell-McKinney

From the Eastern Association Michigan Conference for the United Church of Christ

Hello Eastern Association Churches!

The Coordinating Committee for the Eastern Association needs your help. We have an unfilled position of Secretary of the Committee.

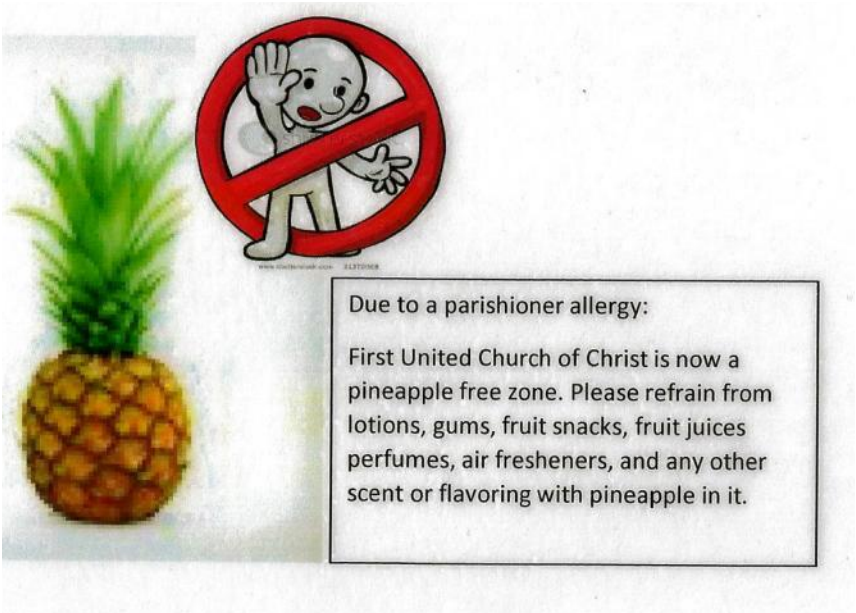
The secretary is an administrator and a full voting member of the committee. Responsibilities include recording and distributing minutes, sending notices of our spring and fall meeting and communicating activities of member churches.

The Coordinating Committee's goal is to promote and facilitate communication and fellowship between its member churches and to provide support and resource sharing. As a member of the Eastern Association, your insights, and those of your community and church, will enable us to be more effective. This committee meets generally quarterly and plans the spring and fall meetings. We also nominate people to serve at General Synod and on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Conference.

Please send your nominations for secretary to uccmiea@gmail.com. Thank you for your help in continuing our mission.

Sincerely,

Dennis Jackson
Moderator, Eastern Association



Servers Rotation Schedule—2018

December 31, 2017

Greeters.....Karen Eltringham & Joe Burkhart
Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett
Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
Altar Flowers...Darlene Furtaw

January 7

Greeters.....Sharlene & Darrel Haws
Ushers.....Ray Trombley & Tom Hebel
Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell
Communion Preparer....Mary Alice Busch
Communion Servers:.....Karen E. & Joe B.

January 14

Greeters.....Pam Green & Joyce Townsend
Ushers.....Mary Alice & Al Busch
Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
Altar Flowers...Shelley Champion

January 21

Greeters.....Ray & Paulette Trombley
Ushers.....Joe Burkhart & Karen Eltringham
Lay Reader.....Mary Alice Busch
Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

January 28

Greeters.....Kathi & Terry Miller
Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote
Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

February 4

Greeters.....Karen Eltringham & Joe Burkhart
Ushers.....Kim McCardell & Sharlene Haws
Lay Reader.....Christine Hensch
Communion Preparer....Ray Trombley
Communion Servers.....Tom Hebel & Ray T.

First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for January

"Clip and Keep Reminders"

December 31 - January 6

Kim Grewe & Evan

Rev. Denise Griebler & Bill Wylie-Kellermann

Scott & Stephanie Grzanka

January 7 - 13

Michael Grzanka

Dean, Shelly, Makenna & Cooper Handrow

Darrel & Sharlene Haws

January 14 - 20

Tom & Christine Hebel

Ginnean Henrie, Joshua & Savannah

Christine Hensch

January 21 - 27

Kristie Hollick & Jesse

Kyle, Jamie & Grant Hopp

Joshua & Emily Houston

January 28 - February 3

Terri Houston

Dave & Terry Hunger

Alexa & Andrew Jarrell

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
Replacement
pending

Worship
Sharlene Haws
(586-727-9912)

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

Christian Education
Joe Burkhart
(330-431-3663)

Finance
Rich Weinert
(586-484-1643)
Kim McCardell
(586-623-9833)

Stewardship
Rich Weinert
(586-484-1643)

Memorial
Karen Eltringham
(586-291-0615)

Personnel
Terry Miller
Karen Eltringham
Kim McCardell
586-623-9833

Sabbatical Update

As part of our agreement with Pastor Denise, she is granted a 6-week sabbatical after every three years. We are planning for Pastor D to be away during the season of Lent – Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Holy Week.

The Sunday worship services and pastoral care will be covered by Katie Dailey who will be licensed to serve our congregation during this time.

Pastor Denise's sabbatical begins the day after Ash Wednesday and ends during Holy Week. Pastor Denise and Katie will co-celebrate Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter worship services. We'll keep you updated as we move forward with these plans.

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/

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
Joe Burkhart	Council Member	2018
Mark Davis	Treasurer	2017
Karen Eltringham	Council Member	2017
Denise Griebler	Pastor	–
Sharlene Haws	Council Member	2017
Kim McCardell	Council President	2018
Terry Miller	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.

Prayers coming your way...

+ Prayers for a blessed New Year for all!

+ Prayers of thanksgiving for a wonderful Christmas Day community dinner – for all who helped, donated and for all of the guests who came . . . . for all who helped with our Christmas Tree Sale. . . . for all who donated shoebox gifts for KIDS and to the Veterans of the Cross offering for retired UCC pastors.

+ Prayers for all who are in the midst of grief or mourning and finding their way, especially for the family of Mike Quinn . . . .

+ Prayers for those in our congregation with long-term illnesses and their caregivers, and for those who are homebound – especially for Paulette & Ray Trombley, Amy Follebout, Justine Achatz, Al & Mary Alice Busch, Lucille Trombley, Kieth Murphy & Shelley Champion, Marjorie Pentzien, Bob Reindel.

+ Prayers for our community, especially for our Richmond schools—students, teachers, administrators, staff and board, for the joy and challenge of learning!

+ Prayers for immigrants and refugees, for the homeless and the poor, and the opening of our hearts to them.

+ Prayers for the leaders of our country - may they be servants of the people, serving the Common Good with wisdom, justice and mercy for all.

+ Prayers for veterans and for all who are in harm's way in the service of justice and peace and freedom

+ Prayers for people suffering from addictions and for their loved ones

+ Prayers of thanksgiving for the beauty of the earth and for its healing. May we wake up to our need to care for the earth.

+ Prayers for peace between nations, and a laying down of nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

First
United Church of Christ

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

06 - Andrew Ball
15 - Terri Verlinde
17 - Charles Busch
25 - Timothy Fair
26 - Kathi Miller

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

01 - Brendan Weeks
05 - Savannah Kohn
17 - Kaleb Manska
20 - Kevin Ensley
20 - Kyle Ensley

We also wish a HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to the following members whose wedding anniversary is in January

07 - Dennis & Joyce Dubay
21 - Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore

B E S T W I S H E S T O Y O U !

Call to Care Team:

Mary Alice Busch...586-727-7009

Shelley Champion...586-255-0387

Attendance

December 24 pm...34
December 24 am...44
December 17.....39
December 10.....41

Offerings

December 24 pm...$ 283.00
December 24 am...$1,836.50
December 17.....$2,043.00
December 10.....$ 846.00

January 22

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for January

January 07 **The Baptism of Christ**
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 14 **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 21 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 **Pastor Denise away thru Thursday**	3	4	5	6
7 **Worship 11 am Potluck 5:30 pm Singing 6:30 - 8 pm**	8	9	10	11	12	13 **Quilt Guild 10 am**
14 **Worship 11 am Sunday school**	15	16	17	18 **Church Council meets 7 pm**	19	20
21 **Worship 11 am Annual Congregational meeting after service**	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 **Worship 11 am Sunday school**	29	30	31			

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
68651 SOUTH FOREST
RICHMOND, MI 48062

Return address requested

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