

# SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

January 2020



FIRST UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor Katie Dailey

OFFICE: 586-727-3155

E-mail: [firstunitedcc@outlook.com](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com)

Website:

[www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com](http://www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com)

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY—THURSDAY

8:30 AM - 12 NOON

FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 1 PM

*We are  
a Christian community  
called to love  
God and our neighbors  
as much as we  
love ourselves.*

*No matter who.  
No matter what.  
You are  
welcome here.*

## January 2020 Greetings

Beginning the new year always comes with new and better good intentions that many times falls by the way-side in a few weeks. But here, we keep on keeping on, keep doing good, keep loving one another with no need for a New Year Resolution.

Socrates had it wrong: it's not the unexamined but the un-committed life that is not worth living. Descartes was also mistaken: "Cogito ergo sum?" Nonsense. Amo, ergo sum," There are no smaller packages in this world than people all wrapped up in themselves. Paul had it right in his letter to the people in Corinth: if we fail in love, we fail in all.

Can we briefly review four ethical stages found in history? We shudder when we hear "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But, far from commanding revenge, the law repudiates it, insisting that a person never take more than one eye for an eye, one tooth for a tooth. Found in the book of Exodus, this law proclaims limited retaliation.

The parent of unlimited retaliation is the notion that might makes right. That is a thoroughly uncivilized concept which to this day governs the actions of so many so-called civilized nations. Limited retaliation is what most people have in mind when they speak of criminal justice. Might it also be the justification most frequently used for capital punishment?

A third stage might be called limited love. In the 19th chapter of Leviticus we read, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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Limited love is certainly an improvement over limited retaliation, and because costly, can be very moving. I'm thinking of the unstinted devotion parents so often show their children and vice versa. But when the neighbor to be loved has been limited to one of one's own family, one's own people, then limited love, historically, has supported white supremacy, religious bigotry, the notion of "America for Americans."

Limited love can be more self-serving than generous. Jesus pressed for a fourth stage, unlimited love, the love God offers each of us the love we offer others when we make a gift of ourselves without pre-conditions. Jesus pushed for a "no strings attached love" regardless of race, nationality, or religion. This was the love of God when at Christmas he gave the world he so loved, long after it proved itself unlovable, his only begotten son the "whosoever should believe in him should not perish but have eternal life." (Jn 3:16)

We aren't and we never want to lose a sense of community because we've forgotten how to love. Never let it be that our souls grow shallow, less generous, and more vindictive. In this new year may we continue to return evil with good, violence with nonviolence, and hatred with a love that is obliged to increase upon pain of diminishing.

As we move forward, let it always be with and in love.

Happy New Year 2020!

*Pastor KatieD*



**Dear Ones, Church,**

I am so thankful for your generous Christmas gift and mostly for you being you! You made our seasonal worship wonderful, our outreach extraordinary, I am so blessed to be your spiritual leader and friend.

*Pastor KatieD*

**"Notice, with amazement and gratitude, the countless blessings that surround you."**

I am once again reminded by this quote from Mary Davis, a spiritual teacher, and by the generosity of this congregation that my life is filled with many blessings. I appreciate all the friendly faces in this loving congregation and I express a sincere "thank you" to all who contributed to my Christmas bonus. I wish you all a wonderful new year filled with countless blessings of your own.

Your church secretary,

Helen

**On behalf of Kids in Distress Services...**

Dear First UCC Members and Friends,

We want to say thank you so very much for all the wonderful bags. We were having a very hard time filling children's gifts for Christmas the day of your drop-off. We were at our other building trying desperately to find so many items. We kept saying to one another, "If only we had \_\_\_\_\_. We got back to our building to find every item we listed was just dropped off by you. God works in such great ways! Thank you for answering so many of our prayers.

In Gratitude, K.I.D.S.

# Church Notes

## A Note From the Food Pantry...

On behalf of the Richmond Community Food Pantry, I would like to thank all our area churches for your donations throughout the year.

Just a few reminders: Please remember that for health and safety reasons, we cannot accept any food items past the expiration date printed on the can, label or packaging. We also cannot accept canned goods that are dented at the top or bottom, boxes or packages that have been opened, or anything re-sealed with tape or staples.

We had a very large food drive this month and several others so the pantry is well stocked now. I will keep you informed of our current needs, but we should be set for a few months. We are grateful and truly blessed to have such a generous community to help us serve the need of others.

As the world rejoices in the wonder of His birth, may you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love, always.

Happy New Year!

Michele  
Richmond Community Food Pantry

## 'Tis the Season to Clear the Snow

Cold weather is here and that means cold temps and falling snow. 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 on the back table in the narthex. Write your name on the week/weeks that you would like to shovel the snow. Thank you.



## A Joyful Christmas Meal...

The Christmas Dinner was a great success measured by the smiles, fellowship and milestones that were celebrated this year. Thank you doesn't seem like enough to say when our whole congregation pulled together to support the dinner with donations of money, desserts, time and love. Last time I asked for the count, we had served 62 meals. The First Responders came to the church and took carry-outs. We had total strangers come and help serve so their Christmas Day was fulfilled as much as ours was. We would be amiss if we didn't say Thank You to the Dinner Committee Members for all they did. They went over and above so our guests had a wonderful Christmas Day!

Kim Schrote



Due to a parishioner allergy: First UCC 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.

# Servers Rotation Schedule—2019



## January 5 (Counter: Chris Hensch)

Greeters.....Joyce Townsend & Pam Green  
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert  
 Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend  
 Communion Preparer....Kim McCardell  
 Communion Servers.....Glen & Diane Porrett

## January 12

Greeters.....Kathi & Terry Miller  
 Ushers.....Ray Trombley & Kim McCardell  
 Lay Reader.....Sue Weinert  
 Altar Flowers....Darlene Furtaw

## January 19

Greeters.....Glen & Diane Porrett  
 Ushers.....Ron & Kim Schrote  
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall  
 Altar Flowers...Need Volunteer

## January 26

Greeters.....Karen E. & Joe B. & Lisa O.  
 Ushers.....Tom Hebel & Sharlene Haws  
 Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell  
 Altar Flowers....Shannon Vivona

## February 2 (Counter: Sue Weinert)

Greeters.....Doris Essenburg & Lucia Marshall  
 Ushers.....Glen & Diane Porrett  
 Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend  
 Communion Preparer....Sharlene Haws  
 Communion Servers.....Rich & Sue Weinert

## February 9

Greeters.....Ron & Kim Schrote  
 Ushers.....Rich & Sue Weinert  
 Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall  
 Altar Flowers....Need Volunteer



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



<u>January 5 - 11</u> Ray & Paulette Trombley Terri Verlinde Matthew, Shannon & Elliot Vivona	<u>January 12 - 18</u> Mary Lou Volkenant William Wagner Jackie Waszkiewicz
<u>January 19 - 25</u> Fred Weeks Jr. James & Rose Weeks Tarah Weeks	<u>January 26 - February 1</u> Rich & Sue Weinert Justine, Caleb, Paul & Alyson Achatz Jacob Marlow

# 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

Sharlene Haws (586-727-9912)

### Buildings and Grounds

Terry Miller (586-709-3906)

### Worship

Terri Houston (810-650-5612)

### Christian Education

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

### Finance

Ron Schrote (586-925-8801)

### Stewardship

Ron Schrote (586-925-8801)

### Memorial

Sue Weinert (586-206-1719)

### Personnel

Terri Houston (810-650-5612)

Sue Weinert (586-206-1719)

Terry Miller (586-709-3906)

## Pastor Katie's Office Hours and Pastoral Care

Pastor Katie will be in her office at the church on Wednesdays & Thursdays. If there are situations that arise in which you need pastoral care on a day that Pastor Katie is not in the of-

office, please call 586-727-3155 and leave a message with Helen or on the answering machine. You can also give Pastor Katie a call:  
Cell number: 586-202-8644  
Home phone: 586-716-9543

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. Pastor Katie is always happy to receive your calls.

### 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Steve Furtaw	Council Member	2021
Mark Davis	Treasurer	2020
Ron Schrote	Vice President	2019
Katie Dailey	Pastor	—
Sharlene Haws	Council Member	2020
Terri Houston	Secretary	2021
Terry Miller	Council Member	2019
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	2020
Sue Weinert	Council President	2020

## First UCC Prayer Chain



Pastor Katie	586-716-9543
Sue Weinert	586-206-1719
Diane Porrett	586-727-1374
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) Choose 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 January birthdays:



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 01 - Brendan Weeks  | 17 - Charles Busch |
| 05 - Savannah Kohn  | 25 - Tim Fair      |
| 06 - Andrew Ball    | 26 - Kathi Miller  |
| 15 - Terri Verlinde |                    |

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

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 17 - Kaleb Manska | 20 - Kyle Ensley |
| 20 - Kevin Ensley |                  |

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



- 21 - Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore

**BEST  
WISHES  
TO YOU!**

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**Call to Care Team:**

Shelley Champion...586-255-0387



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**Attendance**

December 29.....26  
December 22.....57  
December 24.....67  
December 15.....41

**Offerings**

December 29.....\$ 704.00  
December 22.....\$1,134.58  
December 24.....\$1,003.25  
December 15.....\$1,333.00

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**  
January 21

# Sunday Services

## *Scripture Readings for January*

- January 05**    **Second Sunday after Christmas**  
Jeremiah 31:7-14 • Psalm 147:12-20 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • John 1:1-9, 10-18
- January 12**    **The Baptism of Christ**  
Isaiah 42:1-9 • Psalm 29 • Acts 10:34-43 • Matthew 3:13-17
- January 19**    **Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 49:1-7 • Psalm 40:1-11 • 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 • John 1:29-42
- January 26**    **Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Isaiah 9:1-4 • Psalm 27:1, 4-9 • 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 • Matthew 4:12-23

### **Office Hours**

The secretary is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 8:30 am till 12 noon and Friday 8:30 am till 1 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.

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  New Year's Day	2	3	4
5  Worship 11 am	6	7	8	9	10	11  Quilt Guild 10 am
12  Worship 11 am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19  Worship 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting after service	20	21	22	23  COUNCIL MEETING 7 pm	24	25
26  Worship 11 am	27	28	29	30	31	



Return address requested

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68651 SOUTH FOREST  
RICHMOND, MI 48062

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Or Where You Are On Life's Journey...  
You Are Welcome Here!

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cell: 586-202-8644 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: [firstunitedcc@outlook.com](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com)