

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RICHMOND, MICHIGAN
October 2021



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Katie Dailey
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OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAYS
8:30 AM - 12 NOON
FRIDAYS
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.***



Dear Ones,

Let all of us speak the truth to our neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.

—Ephesians 4:25-26

In this, like many of Paul's letters he advises the new Christian community on how they should communicate with one another during times of difficulty and stress. What might Paul advise the church today?

Last spring, with the availability of effective vaccines, we thought the COVID crisis was finally behind us and we could return to the "before times." We were back in the sanctuary for worship and reuniting with our community of faith. But then COVID infection rates began rising and we are once again having to make difficult decisions that cause the community stress. We want to sing together, share Communion, and reunite with our family of faith, but do we do it safely? How would Paul guide us to be faithful to God and to our relationships with one another today?

These stressful times can lead to disagreements about how to proceed, different ideas about masks, anger over conflicting perspectives on the vaccine and—most important, misunderstanding about our mutual purposes as a Christian community.

In Ephesians, the early church is called speak truth in love (4:15), to put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling and slander, together without malice, and to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as Christ has forgiven us (4:31-32).

How do we speak the truth in love: truth about how we are feeling, truth about what we want, truth about where we believe God is leading us as a community of faith?

continued on next page

Pastor's thoughts from previous page...

Speaking the truth — sharing thoughts and ideas openly and honestly — requires courage, vulnerability and safety. Speaking the truth in our communities as we seek to build up the body of Christ requires the creation of sanctuaries where people can speak without fear.

In the book, *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High*, the authors write that when you build safety, you can dialogue about almost anything. This isn't something that just happens, "safety has to be made."

Opinions vary in a crucial conversation; stakes are high, and emotions run strong. How do we talk openly? How do we work through high stakes and controversial issues honestly and respectfully and still remain together as a community of faith?

According to the authors of *Crucial Conversations*, successful conversations encourage the free flow of information and "start with heart:" working on ourselves first and recognizing what we really want (our motives), and developing our personal dialogue skills.

People who are gifted in dialogue, based on their research, keep a constant vigil for safety because nothing kills conversation like fear. For them, the first condition for safety is mutual purpose, which means that others perceive that we are working toward a common outcome, that we care about their goals, interests and values, and vice versa. Finding mutual purpose means that we really must care about the interests of others — not just our own.

At the same time the authors of *Crucial Conversations* are clear that " while it is true that there's no reason to enter a crucial conversation if you don't have Mutual Purpose, it's equally true that you can't stay in conversation if you don't maintain Mutual Respect." To be able to speak our truth and for others to speak theirs, there must be Mutual Purpose and Mutual Respect — truth spoken in love. In the letter to the Ephesians (5:1-2a) that means we are called to "be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love as Christ loved us."

For Everything a Season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.

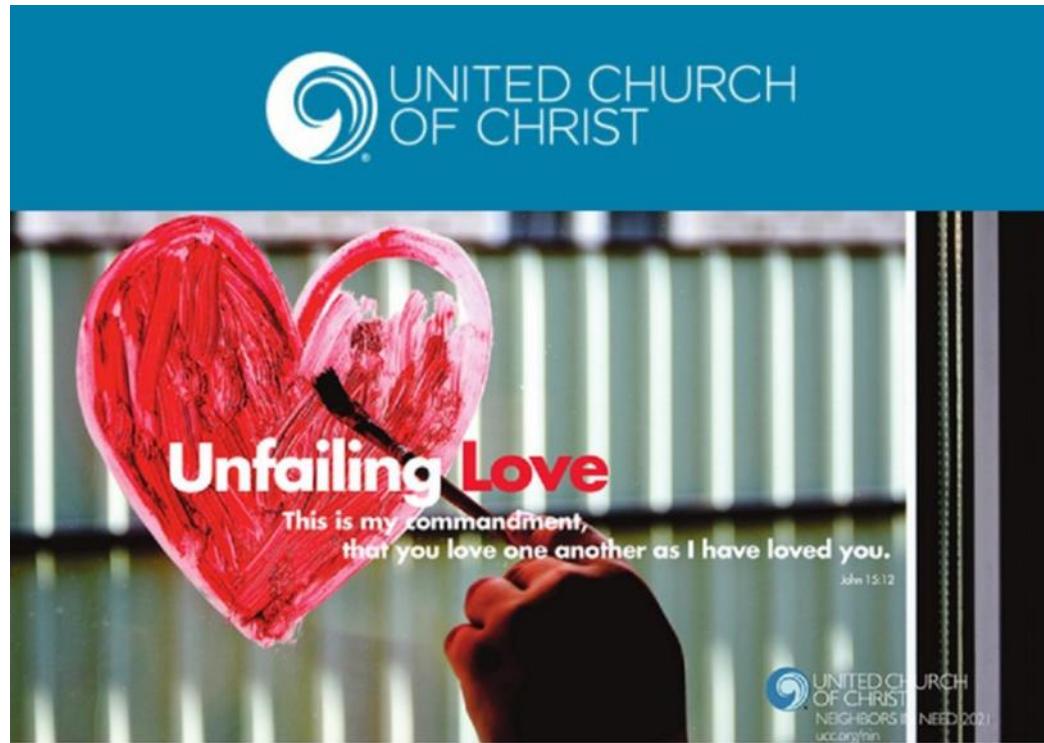
The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless.

The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree—or a person—based on just one season of

life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived."

"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering Sunday, October 3

The 2021 Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One-third of

NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches

and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Craft Show, Bake Sale and Used Book Sale



The Marysville Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a craft show on **October 16**. The event takes place at **The Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd. in Marysville** from 9:30 am - 3 pm. Free admission.

Funds raised from this event help sponsor college scholarships. For questions, please call or text Evelyn at 810-990-9718 or Gio at 248-635-7011.

First United Church of Christ

Church Council Highlights

The September meeting of the church council included the following highlights:

- A proposal was submitted to the Michigan UCC for a “Vitality Award” grant that includes innovative ways to broaden involvement of youth in church services. It includes involving youth in directing and operating the video feeds of the church services, performing drama and performing musical performances. This would be supported by improved technology, including a computer and monitor, two projectors, two drop down screens, lighting to modernize the service, and three internet-based cameras. Price Smith and the Worship committee will take the lead on this initiative.
- The annual meeting to approve the church’s budget for 2022 was moved to Sunday, October 10 in church after service since the budget will be available at that time.
- The church council will lead the service on Sunday, September 19, Laity Sunday.
- Commitment cards have been sent out and due back to the church by Sunday, September 26.
- We need to find someone new to plow the church parking lot this winter. Please pass along any suggestions that you have to a member of the Building and Grounds committee.
- We also need to find a new company to perform maintenance on the church’s boiler. Please pass along any suggestions that you have to a member of the Building and Grounds committee.



Please remember to return your 2022 Commitment Card and Time & Talent Sheet by September 26. Your confidential commitments are important for planning our finances for 2022. Please submit them to the church office or put them in the collection plate as soon as you can. Thank you for your generous giving.

Servers Rotation Schedule—2021

September 26

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch
Altar Flowers.....Need Volunteer

October 3 (counter: Ron Schrote)

Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
No Altar Flowers

October 10

Lay Reader.....Joyce Townsend
Altar Flowers.....Kim McCardell

October 17

Lay Reader.....Hope Fair
Altar FlowersNeed Volunteer

October 24

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch
Altar Flowers.....Kim McCardell

November 7 (counter: Ron Schrote)

Lay Reader.....Lucia Marshall
No Altar Flowers

Safety & In-Person Worship

Dear Ones,

Like many others, we have been diligently watching the spread of the latest COVID-19 variants. Certainly, we are living through an incredibly fluid and complex time. We need to find a way forward that acknowledges the risks that remain for coming together as well as the cost of staying physically isolated from each other.

We are also writing to share some guidelines which will remain in place until we receive more and better information:

- ◆ We will make every effort to hold our family-friendly space.
- ◆ We continue to offer worship in person and online at 10 am during our Sunday Worship Service.
- ◆ Inside the church, we ask that you practice appropriate social distancing whenever possible.
- ◆ We encourage you to wear a mask if you or members of your family have any concerns about your safety.
- ◆ Please make use of the many options for COVID-19 testing if you suspect that you may have been infected.
- ◆ As always, please use your best judgment always with regard to the way you physically participate in our life and work.

Finally, we ask that we meet one another gracefully and accept that, in the current context, there will be many views as to what constitutes best practice. Please stay engaged, stay tuned, and stay safe. God is working powerfully through us, and we believe that, for such a time as this, God has called us together as a congregation to be Christ's Body in our world.

Yours faithfully and joyfully,

First UCC Richmond,
Church Council

Church Notes



Our church doors are open every Sunday at 9 am for those who would like to drop by for a visit or to drop off an envelope. Our worship service starts at 10 am and all are welcome.

You can also watch our worship service from home on our Website Sunday mornings. Go to: firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com and click on "Worship Services" in the side bar.

OR

Join us on our Facebook page as we live stream our service Sundays at 10 am.



Please Take Note:

We have changed the date for our congregational budget meeting. We will meet on October 10 right after the worship service to vote and discuss the budget for next year.



First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for October

October 3 - 9

Mark & Vicki Davis
Dennis Dubay
Erin Dunsmore

October 10 - 16

Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore
Kristina Dunsmore
Karen Eltringham

October 17 - 23

Kyle & Kevin Ensley
Doris Essenburg
Tim, Hope, Nicole & Nyana Fair

October 24 - 30

Joshua, Allyssa, Annabelle &
Jaxson Fair
Pat Fenton
Rob & Amy Follebout

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

Terri Houston (810-650-5612)

Finance/Stewardship

Chris Hensch (586-457-9196)

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

Memorial

Chris Hensch (586-457-9196)

Worship

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

Personnel

Joe Burkhart (330-431-3661)

Christian Education

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

Mark your Calendars for our Holiday Auction



Sunday, November 7th is our Annual Holiday Gift Auction right after the 10 am service. The news people tell us to start our holiday gift shopping early, but we say, start at the Auction! Not only will you get one-of-a-kind gifts,

you'll also help support our church. We ask that you bring a finger food to share and hopefully, an item or two to donate.

Need to Get in Touch with Pastor Katie?

Covid19 has altered many of our schedules and is keeping us sheltering at home when possible. So there may be times when Pastor Katie is not in the office when you need pastoral care. Please know that Pastor Katie is always glad to take your call or to arrange a day and time to meet with you.

Cell number: 586-202-8644

Home phone: 586-716-9543.

You can also call the office at 586-727-3155 and leave a message with Helen or on the answering machine. 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, so please feel free to give us a call when needed.

27th Annual New Baltimore Make A Difference Day



When: Saturday October 16, 2021
10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Where: New Baltimore Civic Club
36551 Main Street, New Baltimore, MI 48047
For more info: Ph: 586-725-4690 or
Email: hayman690@comcast.net



Sponsored by:

Beaumont

Hosted by:

Flo Hayman

Marcia Shinska

Pat Goldenbogen

Services

- Free Childhood & Flu Vaccine
- Flu & Pneumonia Vaccine – for adults
- Free Vision Screening for Children
- Free Glaucoma Screening
- Free Blood Pressure Screening
- Free Diabetes Screening
- Veteran Collection

Activities & Fun

- New Baltimore Fire Department
- New Baltimore Police Department
- Free Hot Dogs, Chips & Beverage
- Free Pumpkins & Free Candy
- Free Crafts & Face Painting
- Magician
- Petting Farm
- Music & Photo Booth by: Big Truck Ent.



Your Church Council

Listed below are your church council members. Please contact any one of them with any questions, comments or concerns.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Ron Schrote	Council President	586-925-8801	2023
Steve Furtaw	Council Member	586-855-3248	2021
Mark Davis	Treasurer	586-292-3612	2023
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	586-244-3290	2023
Terri Houston	Council Member	810-650-5612	2021
Hope Fair	Vice President	586-531-1103	2023
Joe Burkhart	Council Member	330-431-3661	2022
Chris Hensch	Council Secretary	586-457-9196	2022
Pastor Katie	Pastor	586-202-8644	N/A

First UCC Prayer Chain



Pastor Katie	586-202-8644
Diane Porrett	586-727-1374
Karen Eltringham	586-291-0615
Shelley Champion	586-255-0387
Christine Hensch	586-457-9196
Traci Bartell	586-557-2264
Kim McCardell	586-623-9833

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 October birthdays:



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 11 - Kim McCardell | 27 - Pat Fenton |
| 19 - Mark Davis | 27 - Steve Furtaw |
| 19 - Aaron Miller | 31 - Henry Schroeder |
| 25 - Joe Burkhart | |
-

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

- | |
|--------------------|
| 10 - Carissa Sugg |
| 14 - Reagan Manska |
-

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



- | |
|---------------------------|
| 07 - Vance & Pam Green |
| 11 - Rich & Sue Weinert |
| 23 - Terry & Kathi Miller |
| 25 - Rob & Amy Follebout |



Offerings

September 19.....\$ 412.00
September 12.....\$ 998.00
September 05.....\$2,085.00
August 29.....\$1,010.00

Attendance

September 19...25
Sept. 12.....35 @ Trinity
September 05...15
August 29.....21



Happy Halloween



Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for October

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 03 | Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | Job 1:1, 2:1-10 • Psalm 26 • Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 • Mark 10: 2-16 |
| October 10 | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | Job 23: 1-9, 16-17 • Psalm 22: 1-15 • Hebrews 4: 12-16 • Mark 10: 17-31 |
| October 17 | Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost |
| | Job 38: 1-7, (34-41) • Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c • Hebrews 5:1-10 • Mark 10: 35-45 |
| October 24 | Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost |
| | Job 42: 1-6, 10-17 • Psalm 34: 1-8, (19-22) • Hebrews 7: 23-28 • Mark 10: 46-52 |
| October 31 | Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost |
| | Ruth 1: 1-18 • Psalm 146 • Hebrews 9: 11-14 • Mark 12: 28-34 |

Office Hours

The secretary is in the office on Tuesdays, 8:30 am –12 noon and Fridays 8:30 am till 1 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.

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.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 10 am Neighbors in Need offering	4 Final Budget Meeting 7 pm	5 Happy Anniversary Pam & Vance Green	6	7 Happy Anniversary Pam & Vance Green	8	9 Quilt Guild meets 10 am
10 Vote on Budget after service Happy B-day Carissa Sugg Worship 10 am	11 Happy B-day Kimberly McCardell Happy Anniversary Sue & Rich Weinert	12 13	14 Happy B-day Reagan Manska	15	16	
17 Worship 10 am	18  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 Happy B-day: Mark Davis Aaron Miller	20	21  Church Council Council Meets 7 pm	22	23 Happy Anniversary Kathi & Terry Miller
24 Worship 10 am	25 Happy B-day Joe Burkhart Happy Anniversary Amy & Robert Follebout	26 27 Happy B-day: Pat Fenton Steve Furtaw	28	29	30	
31 Happy B-day Henry Schroeder Worship 10 am						



Return address requested

68651 SOUTH FOREST
RICMOND, MI 48062
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Or Where You Are On Life's Journey...
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