

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

December 2021



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor Katie Dailey

OFFICE: 586-727-3155

E-mail: firstunitedcc@outlook.com

Website:

www.firstuccrichmond.yolasite.com

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,

“HAPPY NEW YEAR!” As we begin our new liturgical year and Cycle C, I believe we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Of course, we are **not** post-pandemic yet, so we need to be smart; it is flu season so it would be wise

to begin masking once again just to keep healthy and keep illness at bay.

Advent is a time to prepare in an intentional manner as we wait and prepare to celebrate once again Christ’s coming as a baby. Babies are cuddly and helpless and our Messiah is not. So we identify with the baby Jesus as the time when our Lord was born into our hearts, and then we remember who he was and what he did. What he did was rock the boat as his message said the way to be a follower is to forgive. Plain and simple, even though every denomination has a piece of the picture and a particular way of presenting their way, we must realize that the primary things Jesus addresses is forgiveness and love of neighbor. If you do that, you are following in his footsteps, but, if you put your emphasis on other topics he doesn’t even mention and do not forgive or love, well, I think you are practicing “churchianity” rather than Christianity. I don’t know if that is even a word, but I will be the first to admit that if all you read or study is from our denomination, you are missing out on a lot. Those of us who call ourselves Christians need to realize each denomination has a part of the picture. So, some put an emphasis on things liturgical and “proper” *the liturgy police in motion*, others want to be Scripture only, many are into feelings. Seasonal color, Scripture, Tradition, Doctrine, Resurrection, i.e. all are important and as a community of faith we never put anyone down as unsaved because they don’t think like us.

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Pastor's thoughts from previous page...

There is no need to profess that we have the only way, we don't. If a certain way works for you, makes you closer to God, more inclined to prayer and meditation, good. But, as we prepare to gather with others, let's not get into the game of my way is the only and best way. Many will gather in person this year, probably if all are vaccinated. Some will have been to a church service, some will feel no need and say, "I can be Christian by myself." Maybe!

My prayer for each and every one is that as you gather, forgiveness, patience and love will surround you and yours. I pray that central in all of your decorations is the Manger and the people and animals surrounding the newborn babe. Advent's assignment includes both being *more* and being *less*: carving out space in our mountains of commitments for prayer and Advent reflection, filling up the low levels of our generosity, and reducing old Mount Self-Indulgence so we can prepare a path for the Lord. We've got these weeks to go to work preparing the way—"Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off to work we go."

Plan to participate and enjoy our greens, our speaker, our Jazz worship, and our Jesse Tree production. Each will invite you in a way to understand others and learn about other traditions and meaningful ways to celebrate this wonderful time of the year. Merry Christmas to one and all.

Love & Peace,

Pastor KatieD+

P.S. We will once again have meals ready for first responders on Christmas Day. The Christmas Day Dinner for all is just too questionable since we are not post-pandemic, but please remember those who struggle, our donations for kids, and the missional activities via the MI Conference. Also, remember to get in touch with someone you haven't seen for a time: email, phone, snail mail. We all like to know we are thought of and missed.

Christmas Traditions Around the Globe

Although Americans celebrate the holiday with candlelight services, piles of gifts, large feasts, lights and trees, people in other countries mark Jesus' birth in many interesting ways:

- Nine days before Christmas in Mexico, Las Posadas processions reenact Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem.
- Instead of decorating trees,

Italians place fruit on small wooden pyramids.

- On Christmas Eve, the streets of Caracas, Venezuela, are blocked off so people can roller-skate to church.
- Ukrainian Christmas trees often feature an artificial spider and web. According to a folk tale, a poor woman who couldn't afford decorations awoke one Christmas morning to find that spiders had

"trimmed" her children's trees with delicate webs.

- In Brazil, the gift-bringer is known as Papai Noel (Father Noel), who lives in Greenland, according to legend. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears silk clothing because of the summer heat.
- It's considered bad etiquette to send red Christmas cards in Japan because funeral notices are customarily printed in red.

Church Council Highlights

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

- ◆ Technology improvements have been implemented to improve the online worship experience. Thanks to Tyler and Price for all their efforts in pulling this together.
- ◆ The council has two 3-year terms and one 1-year term to be filled for 2022. Any member willing to serve on the church council starting next year should let a member of council know.
- ◆ Just as last year, the Christmas dinner will be served to only the police and first responders.
- ◆ The annual congregational meeting will be January 16. All committee reports need to be submitted to the church office by Tuesday, January 4.
- ◆ The Hanging of the Greens will take place after service on Sunday, November 28.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve service will be at 4 pm.



Once again, we want to share our Christmas blessings with Kids In Distress Services. KIDS is a charity located in St. Clair that provides free clothing to underprivileged and displaced children in the surrounding area. The families in need are referred to this agency. Children, ages infant through 18 years old, receive clothing, age appropriate hygiene products, diapers and baby wipes.

The Mission committee would like you to choose an age and fill a Christmas gift bag with items that you think a child of that age would like to receive. Here is a list of a few suggested items:

- ◆ books
- ◆ small handheld game
- ◆ hat and/or mittens
- ◆ underwear
- ◆ wallet and/or purse
- ◆ gift card

Total value of the gift bag should be between \$25 - \$30. You may also provide

holiday wrapping paper. Please no religious items, candy or food.

The Christmas gift bags need to be brought to church on or before **Sunday, Dec. 5**. You can leave your gifts at the church on a Sunday at the 10 am service or drop them off when the church office is open on Tuesdays, 8:30 am until 12 noon, or Fridays, 8:30 am until 1 pm. This year more than any other year, KIDS needs our help. Please be generous.



A Successful Holiday Gift Auction...

A sincere "thank you" from Kim Schrote



As I write this article, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for each of you! Thanks to those who donated an item or two, shared food and fellowship, helped set up and take down. This Holiday Gift Auction was made possible by you.

We enjoyed seeing faces we hadn't seen in quite awhile. It felt like a homecoming celebration! Best of all, we collectively raised \$1,650 for our church. We'll need to start planning for next November, so mark your calendars. THANK YOU again and again and again!

Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

"Good news. . . Great joy. . . All the people!" Luke 2:10

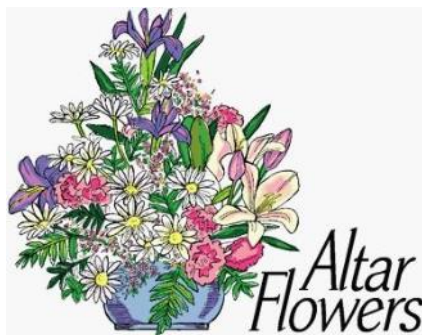
On Sunday, December 19, our congregation will collect the Christmas Fund offering. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christ-

mas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the

church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

This year, there will not be special offering envelopes. Please indicate on your regular giving envelope how much you would like to give to the Christmas Fund.



The Flower Calendar is displayed on an easel in the narthex for those who would like to donate altar flowers on a specific Sunday during the new year.

Pick a postcard that corresponds to the day you would like to provide flowers, address it to yourself, add a dedication if you want to, and submit the card to the church office. **Please do not keep the card.** We need the returned cards to acknowledge the donors and their dedications. As your date draws near, your postcard will be mailed back to you as a reminder to order your flowers. Flowers on the

altar can be an expression of celebration, or they can be a solemn remembrance of deceased family members and/or friends.

Thanks to all the past and future contributors—your flowers make a beautiful addition to our church.

Church Notes

December 5 (after worship)

11 am.....Speaker, Nicole Pazzi will discuss options for senior living and special healthcare services followed by a question and answer session. All are welcome!



December 12 (Sunday)

10 am.....A special worship service will resound with a Christmas Spirit of Jazz.

December 19 (Sunday)

10 am.....Worship with *The Jesse Tree* Presentation

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4 pm.....Candlelight Worship Service



Want to join our snow shoveling crew?

We have hired a company to plow the church parking lot and back sidewalk for the winter season, and now we need volunteers to shovel or snow blow the front sidewalk and front steps of the church when the snow flies. If needed, you can use the small snow blower in the shed. It works great thanks to Glen Porrett.

Use our Sign-up Genius link to choose the week/weeks you are available for shoveling. Go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ea8ae2fa6fa7-first4>

Welcome to Worship

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.



Community Rewards

Quarterly Statement

21 Households

August 1 - October 31

Total Donations: \$60.89

Zoom Meeting for Traci Bartell with the Ecclesiastical Council on January 2 at 2 pm.

Visitors and delegates from the churches of the Eastern Association of the MI Conference will be sent a link to get

onto the zoom meeting. No longer a MID (member in discernment) after this Ecclesiastical Council, Traci will be

able to put her profile out to seek a Call.

The Gift of Time



Too many of our older and disabled neighbors are lonely and isolated. They long for just a brief visit now and then from someone who will take the time to sit and chat.

And other families in our community are struggling to take care of a loved one at home. For these full-time caregivers, a break to run errands, go to their own doctor appointments, or just relax for an hour is often impossible because their parent or spouse cannot be left alone.

If you have a few hours, once or twice a month, to

visit or just sit with an older or disabled adult, your gift of time will make a huge difference for our lonely and struggling neighbors. No hands-on care or nursing experience is needed.

For more information, call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers at 586-757-5551.

First UCC's Weekly Prayer Discipline for December

December 5 - 11

Doug & Suzie Manska

Lucia Marshall

Kimberly McCardell

December 12 - 18

Sally McNinch

George & Sue Millbrand

Aaron Miller & Amelia Miller

December 19 - 25

Terry & Kathi Miller

Lantz, Jennifer, Shane & Logan Northam

Lisa O'Rourke

December 26 - January 1

Glen & Diane Porrett

Robert, Wendy, Drew & Nathan Reindel

Yvonne Reindel



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)

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

Worship

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

Christian Education

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

Finance/Stewardship

Chris Hensch (586-457-9196)

Memorial

Chris Hensch (586-457-9196)

Personnel

Joe Burkhart (330-431-3661)

Hope Fair (586-531-1103)

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.

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.

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 December birthdays:



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 08 - Terri Houston | 22 - Bill Wagner |
| 11 - Jackie Waszkiewicz | 24 - Carol Kulman |
| 13 - Joyce Townsend | 25 - Robert J. Reindel |
| 18 - Doug Maska | 27 - Don Cockerill |
| 18 - Shannon Vivona | |

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

- | |
|-------------------|
| 18 - Dekker Davis |
| 19 - Lucy Zoma |

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



- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 06 - Lantz & Jennifer Northam |
| 09 - Doug & Joselyn Maska |



Offerings

November 28.....\$ 300.00
November 21.....\$ 1,075.00
November 14.....\$ 2,750.00
November 07.....\$ 2,677.00

Attendance

November 28....22
November 21....27
November 14....28
November 07....34



December 20

Christian Symbol



EVERGREEN—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for December

December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 • Luke 1:68-79 • Philippians 1:3-11 • Luke 3:1-6

December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 • Isaiah 12:2-6 • Philippians 4:4-7 • Luke 3:7-18

December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a • Psalm 80:1-7 • Hebrews 10:5-10 • Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 26 First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 • Psalm 148 • Colossians 3:12-17 • Luke 2:41-52

Servers Rotation Schedule—2021

November 28

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

December 5 (counter: Ron Schrote)

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

December 12

Lay Reader.....TBD
Altar Flowers.....Darlene Furtaw

December 19

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

December 28

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch
Altar Flowers.....Poinsettias

January 2, 2022 (counter: Ron Schrote)


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

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. Thank you.



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4 pm</p>			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10 am followed by a Q & A Session with speaker for senior assistance	6 Happy Anniversary Lantz & Jennifer Northam	7	8 Happy B-day to Terri Houston	9 Happy Anniversary Doug & Joselyn Maska	10	11 Happy B-day to Jackie Waszkiewicz Quilt Guild 10 am
12 Worship 10 am with A Christmas Jazz Service	13 Happy B-day to Joyce Townsend	14	15	16  Church Council Council Meets 7 pm	17	18 Happy B-day: Dekker Davis Doug Maska Shannon Vivona
19 Worship 10 am with <i>The Jesse Tree</i> Presentation Happy B-day to Lucy Zoma	20	21	22 Happy B-day to Bill Wagner	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Worship 4 pm Happy B-day to Carol Kulman	25  <i>Christmas Day</i> Happy B-day to Robert Reindel
26 Worship 10 am	27 Happy B-day to Don Cockerill	28	29	30	31	



Return address requested

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

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Or Where You Are On Life's Journey...
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