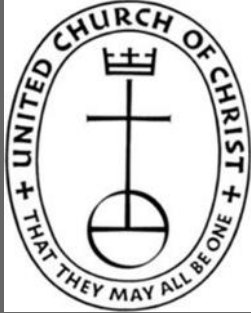


# SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

December 2023



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:

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.*



With immense gratitude for him and his service to our congregation and community, I am writing to share the news that Price D. Smith has decided to resign from the staff of First UCC Richmond. Prices' last day will be Christmas Eve.

I deeply admire Price, and I am in awe of his gifts as a musician. There is no one who has worked harder than Price over the past years to serve and lead us. We are a better congregation thanks in no small part to him and his contributions. His musical talent and knowledge of technology is truly a gift. We will all miss him but we wish him well.

Price worked to install sound and video systems that have given our church unsurpassed acoustic, live-streaming, and recording capabilities from upstairs. He brought in Tyler to assist at first, then Mia came to run the video, and for the last couple of years Devin (his daughter) has done the camera and led praise prior to going live. Price faithfully walked with many of our congregation on Sundays as well as at baptisms and funerals. Always, he would go the extra mile. He brought Devin on board and coached her for providing 'Praise' prior to our going on-line.

As these all-too-brief highlights indicate, we have much to thank Price for, and we will not be the same without him. For now, please join me in thanking Price for all he has done and the gift from God that he is.

*Pastor KatieD*



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. 10**. 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, K.I.D.S. needs our help. Please be generous.

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

***“Grace upon Grace.” John 1:16***

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 Christmas “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 appreciat-

ed by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Envelopes are provided for making a donation to the Christmas Fund that will be collected during the month of December.



**Kroger Quarterly Statement: August 1 - October 31**

Households: 20

Total Donations: \$57.52



# Welcome TO OUR church

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: [firststuccrichmond.yolasite.com](http://firststuccrichmond.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. If we have your email address, the link to Facebook and You Tube can be forwarded to you.



Monday, December 25 will be our Annual Free Christmas Day Dinner. In honor of Glen and Diane Porrett, we are dedicating this year's 30th Anniversary Dinner to them! We are bringing back turkey and ham, mashed potatoes and all the fixings thanks to many wonderful donations. And then we will finish it off with all your wonderful desserts! (Please consider providing desserts!)

Our dinner will be served from 1– 3 pm on Christmas Day. If you need a ride, we offer pick-up service within a 5-mile radius. Please call the church at 586-727-3155 to reserve your pick-up time. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table of the church for all the jobs that need to be filled. We will need help on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day mornings (times to be announced) and also during the dinner and clean-up afterward. If you prefer, call Jennifer Northam (810-523-0225) or Justine Achatz (586-248-2989) and let us know how you can help. All are welcome! Please come and dine with us. Merry Christmas!

thank you

thank you

thank you

Our Annual Holiday Gift Auction held on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> was a great success and fun day for all. We raised a little over \$1,200 for our general fund!

I would like to say a big heartfelt Thank You to our runners: Logan, Caleb, Reagan, Mayella, Blake and Brady; to our bid takers Jennifer and Niki and our auctioneer Ryan! And Thank You to those who donated items, won a bid, brought food and all those wonderful desserts!

If you were unable to attend this year, here's a heads up that next year's date is Sunday, November 10, 2024.

Merry  Christmas

To our family  
of faith

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart as you celebrate your blessings with family and friends.



—Blake Schrote (6 years old)



—Anonymous



First United Church of Christ \* 68651 S. Forest \* Richmond, MI 48062

## FREE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER!

30<sup>th</sup> year celebration – 1993 – 2023

ALL ARE WELCOME



Monday, December 25, 2023

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Turkey, Ham, Potatoes, Vegetables and  
all the fixings

If you need a ride to and from the dinner and are within  
a 5 mile radius, please call ahead to schedule your  
pickup.

Please call (586) 727-3155





## "KNOWING THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN."

**I**n this season when we magnify the Lord for the great things God has done through unlikely people and in unexpected ways, we give thanks that we, too, by God's Spirit, can do great things. We, too, can lift up those who are laid low. We, too, can fill the hungry with good things. We, too, through our open-hearted generosity, can proclaim that nothing will be impossible with God.

We can do all of that and more by contributing to the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross. Our gifts help retired clergy, church staff, and their surviving spouses to pay bills, maintain their health insurance, and meet emergency needs. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our contributions tell our former servants of the church that they are not forgotten, that they are loved, that they and their ministries are appreciated and remembered. In the words of one recipient, "The financial assistance is greatly appreciated, but just as valuable is knowing that I have not been forgotten by the church I love." For Love's sake, let's give generously.

### In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund  
Give online at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org).

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## Church Council Highlights

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

- ◆ Through October, we had a budgeted deficit of \$10,297, but our actual YTD deficit was \$1,825 which is an improvement from the September deficit (so we were in the black for the month).
  - ◆ Our annual meeting will be held on January 21 following the Sunday service.
  - ◆ There are two openings for council members for 2024 which will be voted on during the congregational meeting in January of 2024. If you are interested in serving on council, please let Ron Schrote or a council member know.
  - ◆ Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we will have just one service on Christmas Eve at 4 pm.
  - ◆ The church received a request to host a health screening event in April open to the public. The council approved pursuing hosting the event.
  - ◆ A representative from Meals on Wheels dropped by the church with a brochure and lawn sign. They are in need of drivers to deliver meals (several people are on a waiting list that currently cannot be served due to a lack of drivers). The council approved displaying the lawn sign on the church lawn by Main Street.
  - ◆ The Building and Grounds committee has been trying to contact our elevator maintenance company to have the quarterly maintenance performed as well as yearly testing that is required by the state. Since the testing has not been performed, we are in danger of having the elevator shut down by the state. Several attempts to contact the elevator maintenance company have been unsuccessful. The council decided to withhold the quarterly payment that is due until the company fulfills its obligations. Since our contract with the company ends the middle of next year, it was also recommended that quotes from other companies should be obtained.
  - ◆ Price Smith reluctantly submitted his resignation effective after Christmas to fulfill a need to pursue other opportunities.
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- 



**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. Thank you.

**2024  
Offering  
Envelopes**



Offering Envelope Books for 2024 are available on the back table in the narthex. Please pick yours up. Thank you.



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.** 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.

## Reach Out in Faith



Thousands of older and disabled adults in our community struggle daily to get by. For these individuals a little extra help can make it possible for them to remain safe and independent in their own homes.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program matches volunteers with frail, home-bound and isolated neigh-

bors who need assistance. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you and how you would like to serve. You can be matched with the same person for regular visits, or just be on a list for occasional rides and chores. Volunteers are needed to help with the following:

- > Transportation for appointments and essential errands;
- > Simple chores, yard work or home repairs;

- > Help with housekeeping or meal preparation;
- > Friendly visits or supportive phone calls;
- > Respite breaks for full-time family caregivers;
- > And other support that can help a frail, older or disabled neighbor.

We also need volunteers who can provide support in our office, assist with special events, or serve on our various committees. Call us at 586-757-5551 for more information.



We need a team of volunteers to set up communion and host our coffee hour on the first Sunday of each month. If you can lend a

hand, please contact the church office at 586-727-3155.

Thank you.

**First United Church  
of Christ**



# MACOMB COUNTY, **LET'S DO LUNCH.**

## BE A MEALS ON WHEELS **VOLUNTEER**



- 2-3 HOURS A MONTH. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday at lunchtime
- MEAL DELIVERY takes only 60-90 minutes
- MOST VOLUNTEERS deliver twice a month
- ROUTES are assigned close to your home or work
- Drivers must be 18 years or older with valid driver's license, proof of insurance and use their own vehicle.

### **JOIN THE MACOMB MOVEMENT!**

[macombgov.org/seniors](http://macombgov.org/seniors) or call 586-469-5228

**MEALS** **on** **WHEELS**  
**MACOMB COUNTY**



Office of  
Senior Services

### **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

[macombgov.org/seniors](http://macombgov.org/seniors) • [volunteer@macombgov.org](mailto:volunteer@macombgov.org)

# Sunday Services

## *Scripture Readings for December*

- December 3      **First Sunday of Advent**  
Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-37
- December 10     **Second Sunday of Advent**  
Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8
- December 17     **Third Sunday of Advent**  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 • Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55 • 1 Thessalonians 16-24  
• John 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 24     **Christmas Eve**  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 • Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
• Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38
- December 31     **New Year's Eve**  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 • Psalm 48 • Galatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:22-40

## **Servers Rotation Schedule—2023**

### **December 3**

Lay Reader.....**Need Volunteer**  
Prepare Communion....**Need Volunteer**

### **December 10**

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch  
Altar Flowers.....Jennifer Northham

### **December 17**

Lay Reader.....Kimberly McCardell  
Altar Flowers.....**Need Volunteer**

### **December 24**

Lay Reader.....Kim Schrote  
Altar Flowers.....**Poinsettias**

### **December 31**

Lay Reader.....**Need Volunteer**  
Altar Flowers.....**Need Volunteer**

### **January 7**

Lay Reader.....**Need Volunteer**  
Prepare Communion...**Need Volunteer**

## **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](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com) or leave a phone message at the church office: 586-727-3155. Thank you.

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



- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 08 - Terri Houston      | 18 - Shannon Vivona |
| 11 - Jackie Waszkiewicz | 19 - Lucy Zoma      |
| 13 - Joyce Townsend     | 24 - Carol Kulman   |
| 18 - Dekker Davis       | 27 - Don Cockerill  |
| 18 - Doug Maska         |                     |

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**

**Attendance**

November 26....\$ 635.00  
 November 19....\$ 650.00  
 November 12....\$ 935.00  
 November 05....\$1,340.00

November 26.....16  
 November 19.....16  
 November 12.....19  
 November 05.....36



**Weekly Prayer Discipline for December**



<p><u>December 3 - 9</u>                  Mark &amp; Vicky Davis                  Jerry &amp; Lynn Dunsmore                  Karen Eltringham</p>	<p><u>December 10 - 16</u>                  Doris Essenburg                  Tim &amp; Hope Fair                  Pat Fenton</p>
<p><u>December 17 - 23</u>                  Steve &amp; Darlene Furtaw                  Kerri Green                  Vance &amp; Pam Green</p>	<p><u>December 24 - 30</u>                  Darrel Haws                  Tom &amp; Christine Hebel                  Christine Hensch</p>



# 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

Shannon Vivona (586-372-1147)

### Buildings and Grounds

Jack Dailey (586-202-7358)

### Worship

Donna Cockerill (586-872-8417)

### Christian Education

Shannon Vivona (586-372-1147)

### Finance/Stewardship

Jack Dailey (586-202-7358)

### Memorial

Veronica Chrostowski  
(586-615-8735)

### Personnel

Ron Schrote (586-925-8801)  
Shannon Vivona (586-372-1147)  
Veronica C.. (586-615-8735)

### Vitality

Pat Fenton  
(586-248-1808)



## Do You Have Something to Share...

Email to [firstunitedcc@outlook.com](mailto:firstunitedcc@outlook.com) before the 20th of each month and we will add your news to our monthly newsletter.

## 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>
Katie Dailey	Pastor	586-202-8644	N/A
Mark Davis	Treasurer	586-292-3612	2023
Donna Cockerill	Council Member	586-872-8417	2025
Veronica Chrostowski	Council Member	586-615-8735	2023
Pat Fenton	Vice President	586-248-1808	2024
Shannon Vivona	Council Secretary	586-372-1147	2024
Ron Schrote	Council President	586-925-8801	2023
Jack Dailey	Council Member	586-202-7358	2025
Jackie Waszkiewicz	Financial Secretary	586-244-3290	2023

### Need to Get in Touch with Pastor Katie?

Pastor Katie is available before worship on Sundays from 9 - 10 am and then again after worship from 11 am - 1 pm. She is also in on Wednesdays from 10 am until 2 pm. You may call and schedule an appointment or simply drop in. **Call her at 586-202-8644 or email her at [daileystory@gmail.com](mailto:daileystory@gmail.com).**




You can also call the office at 586-727-3155 and leave a message with Helen or leave your message on the answering machine.

### 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.

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 10 am	4	5	6 Happy Anniversary Lantz & Jennifer Northam	7	8 Happy Birthday to Terri Houston	9 Quilt Guild 10 am Happy Anniversary Doug & Josephyn
10 Worship 10 am	11 Happy Birthday to Jackie Waszkiewicz	12	13 Happy Birthday to Joyce Townsend	14	15	16
17 Worship 10 am	18 Happy Birthday to Dekker Davis Doug Mansk; Shannon Vivona	19 Happy Birthday to Lucy Zoma	20  <b>Council Meeting</b> 7 pm	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Happy Birthday to Carol Kubnan	25 	26	27 Happy Birthday to Don Cockerill	28	29	30
31 Worship 10 am						



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 • Pastor Katie Dailey • [daileystory@gmail.com](mailto:daileystory@gmail.com)

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