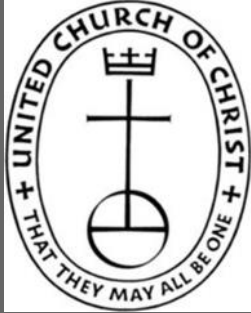


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

January 2024



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.*

*May the Revealer, Reconciler and Redeemer Presence
in the New Year be yours all year through.*

5-4-3-2-1 Did you do that pause prior to lashing out with someone who irritated you over the holiday? Looking around and noting five things you can see, four things you can touch, three things you can hear, two things you can smell, and one thing you can taste. Reminding oneself of those little blessings helps, doesn't it?

Breathing in and letting the breath go slowly as you remember the above is a source of relaxation. OK. Let's dive right into this bizarre of semi-human communication. It's all about understanding the quirks and quibbles of our fellow creatures and even coming to embrace the sometimes painful ways they may express themselves.

Like a three-toed sloth clinging to a Guarumo tree, we each have our own ways of holding onto our unique expressions. Learning how to interpret each other's intentions can be a boggling adventure. Take the gnawing of an innocently outstretched hand for example. The bite-eater may be thinking, "Dude, I'm just messin' with you and I love you to tiny pieces!" But to the bite-ee, it could be interpreted as, "Just how much blood loss is too much, and where do I go for a tetanus shot?" Me, never, I'm allergic to tetanus. It's like deciphering a world of Critterglyphics.

Communication styles can be a wild ride indeed, influenced by history, culture, and upbringing. Like a kanga's pouch, there can be a lot hidden beneath the surface. It's up to you how you wish to deal with it, or not. So if you find yourself faced with a wild dog that's just plain cuckoo for coconuts, I'd encourage you to take a few steps back and watch the circus from a safe distance. Protecting yourself is the top priority - you are nobody's chew toy. And nobody else is your chew toy, either.

Not every fox is eager for a belly rub; in fact, most aren't. Only my "SweetPie" likes a belly rub. Sooooo, respect everyone's space and don't force your goodness upon them or you may end up with a tail of regret. Like trying to teach a cat to bark - or really do anything for that matter - it just ain't gonna happen.

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Trust your instincts. Like my wise owl buddies always say, well - actually they say nothing because silence speaks louder than words. It's a jungle out there so stay flexible and open your mind to alternate paw-sibilities when you navigate through this magical menagerie called interpaw-sonal communication.

I love you all. I thought a little silliness in order to begin the new year. Blessings to all for a healthy and wonderful 2024. One more thing, before you copy and send be sure to fact-check. Dazzle came from my alumni magazine. "Messin" always reminds me of Nicole who said she liked messing with her grandma. That was Jackie Schroeder. Don't believe everything you read and let's not be so serious.

Pastor KatieD+



Church Council Highlights

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

- ◆ Through October, we had a budgeted deficit of \$11,845, but our actual YTD deficit was \$3,878. Giving was down in November, but did increase in the first two weeks of December.
 - ◆ Our annual meeting will be held on January 21 following the Sunday service.
 - ◆ The January council meeting will be held on January 24th at 7 pm.
 - ◆ A new "In Memoriam Plaque" has been added to the church sanctuary that includes the names of members and friends who have recently passed on. A memorial plaque for the Eternal Light has also been added to the sanctuary.
 - ◆ Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we will have just one service on Christmas Eve at 4 pm.
 - ◆ We continue to search for a Music Director.
 - ◆ The required maintenance was performed on the elevator and we have received a certificate of operation from the state through December, 2024.
 - ◆ It was decided that a fund would be available for expenses incurred by people who perform custodial activities for the church.
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Greetings Everyone,

The greatest experience of my life has been being part of the First United Church of Christ in Richmond, Michigan.

I have had great losses and gains in this pivotal time of my life. Through these last few years the gains have outweighed every set back because every week I am revitalized by attending and playing music for the congregation.

I lost my father and closest friends (and the church has also reflected great change) since I came to the church in 2018. We have moved in parallel as many of the congregation are now in the Kingdom of Heaven and some new faces are in the pews.

The emotional weight of seeing change is often symbolized in the lyrics of the hymns that are sung every week. You may not have known it, but many times I have been very happy and very sad as I experience the gravity of the hymns' lyrics. The voices of the congregation come together and it hits me that I am very lucky to be behind that piano.

I will miss everyone, but please note I have chosen to continue to play piano in my home town and I am compelled to try my best to bring new people into the light that Jesus has shown us.

As you know, I like to laugh. Many of my online mishaps and musical mistakes have been corrected over time, but it is testimony that our wonderful Pastor Dailey is forgiving and patient. She has put up with my wrong notes, wrong hymns, putting her face upside down on the internet or my favorite trick being the accidental silent movie as she will have no audio sound! We now have the very best UCC broadcast in all of SE Michigan, in my opinion.

To Katie, Jack, Ron and Kim and EVERYONE, I will miss you. However, everyone is replaceable. I believe there is another musical person that will lead you into the church's next breath and light successfully. Change can be good. There is a young pianist out there. There are new church members out there as well. We simply need to reach out and continue to advocate the "Come as You Are" philosophy and great things will happen.

God Bless All,

Price

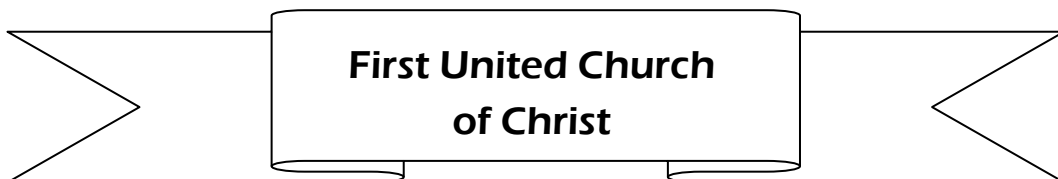
Thank you!

The Christmas Dinner was a huge success! We served 80+ guests and delivered carry-out meals to Richmond EMS and Richmond Police Department. We cannot adequately express our gratitude for this Christmas miracle. Thank you to Kim and Ron Schrote for their guidance and help throughout the whole process; Terry Hunger for her beautiful table decorations; Dylan Allor from Trinity Lutheran Church for his expertise in the kitchen and for literally cooking EVERYTHING for 100 people and bringing along the Outreach committee volunteers from Trinity!!! Thank you to Pat Fenton for coming early on Christmas Day to put together candy bags and fruit baskets; Chris Hench for helping clean the basement and putting up the Christmas tree; Sandy and Terry who come every year and help in the kitchen; Kim McCardell for washing dishes; Michael Ureel for being Santa.

Also, thank you to the businesses in the area for donating or offering a discount on food items: Kroger, Achatz Pies, Giovanni's Old World Italian Bakery, Ken's Country Kitchen, Weeks Meat Market, Hamilton Bicycles, Jusko's Greenhouse, Mrs. Dorsey's First Grade Class for making Christmas Cards, and of course the Members and Friends of the 1st UCC along with the Church Council. Thank you to Pastor Katie and Jack for helping clean up and having faith in us to pull off the dinner. Thank you to the Voice Newspaper and Blue Water Healthy Living for the excellent articles before the dinner. Thanks to many who just showed up to volunteer to serve food from word of mouth. Thank you to our families: Jacob, Shane and Logan who manned the elevator and took the carry outs and gave rides home to diners; Alyson who helped decorate the basement; Lantz and Paul for their help during the dinner. Thank you to all for your thoughts, prayers and donations to help make this a success! There are so many more to thank and we apologize if we forgot someone, just know you are appreciated. It really was a Christmas Miracle!!

With our love and gratitude,

Justine Achtaz and Jennifer Northam





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: 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. If we have your email address, the link to Facebook and You Tube can be forwarded to you.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 21 immediately following the service.

Please plan to attend our January annual meeting to elect council members, a financial secretary and a treasurer, as well as address other items brought up by the congregation. Thank you.



Attention committee liaisons:

Please remember: Your annual committee reports are due to the church office by January 7. Thank you.



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.



Due to a parishioner allergy: First UCC is now a pineapple-free zone. Please refrain from lotions, gums, fruit juices, perfumes, air fresheners and any other scent or flavoring with pineapple in it. 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.

HAVE CAR, WILL TRAVEL?

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED!



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, homebound 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.



Once again I send a heartfelt thank you to members and friends for giving me a wonder-

fully generous Christmas bonus. I am always grateful for your kindness and support.

The recent past has brought many changes, but we all have powered through. I feel fortunate to work with Pastor Katie and this congregation of friend-

ly smiling faces who step up when help is needed.

Warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy New Year!

Helen

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

Servers Rotation Schedule—2024

December 31

Lay Reader.....Donna Cockerill
Altar Flowers.....Need Volunteer

January 21

Lay Reader.....Kim McCardell
Altar Flowers.....Need Volunteer

January 7

Lay Reader.....Darlene Furtaw
Prepare Communion.....Need Volunteer

January 28

Lay Reader.....Kim Schrote
Altar Flowers.....Need Volunteer

January 14

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

February 4

Lay Reader.....Darlene Furtaw
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 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 January birthdays:



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 15 - Vicky Davis | 20 - Kevin Ensley |
| 15 - Terri Verlinde | 20 - Kyle Ensley |
| 17 - Kaleb Manska | 25 - Tim Fair |

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



- 21 - Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore



Offerings

- December 24....\$1,001.00
- December 17....\$1,800.00
- December 10....\$2,305.00
- December 03....\$1,940.00

Attendance

- December 24.....55
- December 17.....22
- December 05.....17
- December 03.....18



Weekly Prayer Discipline for January

December 31 - January 6

- Terri Houston
- Dave & Terry Hunger
- Patty Kelly

January 7 - 13

- Sandy Knoell
- Carol Kulman
- Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan & Mayella Manska



January 14 - 20

- Doug & Suzie Manska
- Lucia Marshall
- Kimberly McCardell

January 21 - 27

- George & Sue Millbrand
- Lantz, Jennifer, Shane & Logan
- Yvonne Reindel

January 28 - February 3

- Lisa O'Rourke
- Amy, Adam & Matthew Santo
- Adam & Michelle Schrote

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 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.**



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.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 10 am	8	9	10	11	12	13 Quilt Guild 10 am
14 Worship 10 am	15 Happy B-day: Vicky Davis Terri Verlinde	16	17 Happy B-day to Kaleb Manska	18	19	20 Happy B-day to Kevin & Kyle Ensley
21 Happy Anniversary to Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore Worship 10 am	22	23	24  Council Meeting 7 pm	25 Happy B-day to Tim Fair	26	27
28 Worship 10 am	29	30	31	<p>Join us January 21 after the service for our Annual Congregational Meeting.</p>		



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

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