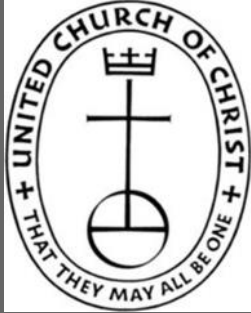


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

March 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.*

Show up!

Sometimes God shows up but not always in the sermon. As a child and when our kids were younger, truth be told, I showed up to give a good example or satisfy the demand of my parents. In reality, worship is boring when one doesn't put anything into it before attending and while attending. It matters if one reads the readings prior to worship, and it matters if you really take part, you know you are an active participant.

My experience is God always meets me when I am faithful. God always shows up. Sometimes God shows up in the parking lot, in the person who greets me with a smile, hug, or firm handshake like Rose Weeks always had. When Rose shook your hand, you knew it. Sometimes God shows up at the coffee hour and not necessarily in the sermon. Of late, God showed up in the face of an impossibly cute toddler who just turned two and who played peekaboo with me during the service. Many times, I encounter the holy presence of God before the service actually begins.

Could it be that our churches are far too pastor-centric? The gathered are so busy expecting the word of God to come from the message that God's presence has arrived for them in another form and they missed it. Ever notice how the gathered sit in the same location week after week? Assigned seating? I heard someone express, "it is good to see you" to another, and then added, "I missed your smile for the past few weeks. I want you to know I'm praying for you and miss you when you're gone." Nothing had started but there was God present in that moment of deep human connection. That one was seen and it reminded me that God sees me.

I love hearing the chatter and the ramblings of little ones, and I love hearing others give a sermon. Personally, I have my go-to's after I've given a sermon and do that to see how others have interpreted the same reading. Granted, not every Sunday brings new insight or revelation and no transformative change to any life. Some of the Gospel texts are really difficult. Every sermon won't calm doubt and fears, but every Sunday brings joy. There is joy in the simple pleasure of being present among the people of God week after week. That is why the writer of Hebrews reminds us that we should not neglect to meet together, assemble together and encourage one another (10:24-25). Remote is fine but it never can replicate the beauty of being with one another, fully present. It's like that old story of the child in bed who is told, "don't worry, God is here" and the response is "I want God with flesh on."

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God's divine presence is there when there is division and despair to bring peace; when there is pain and confusion to bring comfort. Covid is over, we aren't live on Facebook at present, and many are missed. *Why not Come & See! While you're at it, invite others.*

Pastor KatieD+

Church Council Highlights

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

- ◆ The light in the parking lot was replaced and works great!
- ◆ Council is working with the Building and Grounds committee to get quotes for some electrical and plumbing work needed in the basement level of the church.
- ◆ We have a new musician: Robin O'Neill has graciously agreed to help our music ministry and choose hymns for our Sunday services. **Update:** Robin has decided to decline the position. We are back to square one.
- ◆ Special offering envelopes will be available for the One Great Hour of Sharing. We collect the offerings on March 10.



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten

offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

This year's offering date is March 10. However, gifts may be given at any time. Special envelopes are attached to this month's newsletter. You are also able to donate by mailing checks

directly to United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 71957, Cleveland, Ohio 44194 or give online via a secure donation form: [/support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation](https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation)) or text OGHs to 41444 and follow the prompts to give securely.



Kroger Quarterly Statement: Nov. 1, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024

Households: 18

Total Donations: \$51.67



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.



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.



Saturday, March 16 at 6:30 pm. We gather at the church for laughter, snacks and Euchre. Admission is \$10 per person. Feel free to bring a snack for all to enjoy. All are invited and welcomed to join the fun.

Please help to restock our Richmond Food Pantry with the items listed below for our neighbors in need. Thank you. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Food Pantry Needs

- Canned fruit
- Boxed potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce
- Boxed cereal
- Cake mix/canned frosting
- Pudding snack packs
- Jam/jelly
- Macaroni and cheese



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.

A Driving Need



Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can

make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. We especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours – mornings and afternoons. 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 we call you with specific appointments that meet these criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551.

Summer Yard Sale:

Friday, June 21 from 9am - 4 pm and

Saturday, June 22 from 9 am - 3 pm

As you do your spring cleaning this year and find all those hidden treasures, think about donating them to our church yard sale. We decided to bring back our summer fundraiser since it has been several years since our last one. If you're like us,

you have some items you want to get out of your house, basement or attic. (Please, no clothing, but most everything else is fair game.)

Watch for more information in coming newsletters.



If you have any questions, ask Ron or Kim Schrote.

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for March

- March 03 **Third Sunday in Lent**
Exodus 20:1-17 • Psalm 19 • 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 • John 2:13-22
- March 10 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Numbers 21:4-9 • Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 • Ephesians 2:1-10
• John 3:14-21
- March 17 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 • Hebrews 5:5-10
• John 12:20-33
- March 24 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Mark 14:1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
- March 31 **Easter Sunday**
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians
15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Servers Rotation Schedule—2024

March 3

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

March 10

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

March 17

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

March 24

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

March 31 (Easter)

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

April 7

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 firstunitedccc@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 March birthdays:



March
BIRTHDAYS

07 - Terry Hunger
15 - Fred Weeks Jr.

31 - Ray Trombley

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



March
ANNIVERSARIES

19 - Ron & Kim Schrote



Offerings

Attendance

February 25.....\$ 750.00
February 18.....\$ 575.00
February 11.....\$ 715.00
February 04.....\$1,910.00

February 25.....26
February 18.....15
February 11.....17
February 04.....17



Weekly Prayer Discipline for March



March 3 - 9

Justine, Paul & Alyson Achatz
Jacob Marlow & Carissa Sugg
Veronica Chrostowski

March 10 - 16

Don & Donna Cockerill
Jack & Rev. Katie Dailey
Mark & Vicky Davis



March 17 - 23

Jerry & Lynn Dunsmore
Karen Eltringham
Doris Essenburg

March 24 - 30

Tim & Hope Fair
Pat Fenton
Steve & Darlene Furtaw

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

Veronica C.. (586-615-8735)

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

Worship

Donna Cockerill (586-872-8417)

Christian Education

Jack Dailey (586-202-7358)

Finance/Stewardship

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)

Memorial

Shannon Vivona
(586-372-1147)

Personnel

Steve Furtaw (586-855-3248)
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	2026
Donna Cockerill	Council Member	586-872-8417	2025
Veronica Chrostowski	Council Member	586-615-8735	2026
Pat Fenton	Vice President	586-248-1808	2024
Shannon Vivona	Council Secretary	586-372-1147	2024
Steve Furtaw	Council President	586-855-3248	2026
Jack Dailey	Council Member	586-202-7358	2025
Kim Schrote	Financial Secretary	586-925-8802	2026

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.

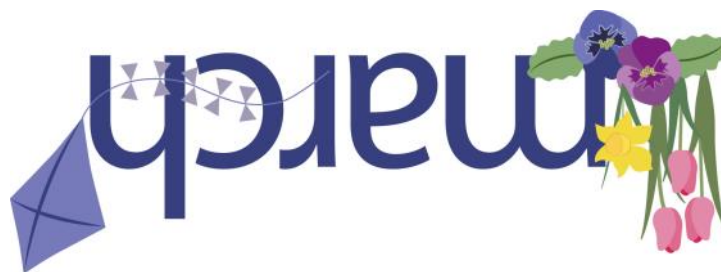
Adopt-A-Bill Here's How it Works:

- 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.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		is March 31			1	2
3 Worship 10am	4	5	6	7 Happy B-day to Terry Hunger	8	9 Quilt Guild 10 am
10 Worship 10 am	11	12	13	14	15 Happy B-day to Fred Weeks Jr.	16
17 Church Council meets after service Worship 10 am	18	19 Happy Anniversary to Ron & Kim Schrote	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10 am	25	26	27	28 	29 	30
31 EASTER Happy B-day to Ray Trombley 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
cell: 586-202-8644 • office: 586-727-3155 • email: firstunitedcc@outlook.com