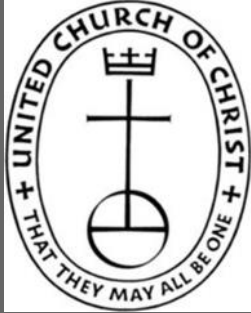


SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

April 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.*

Spiritual Direction vs. Therapy

Spiritual direction or therapy? Knowing the difference and which to choose matters. Interest in spiritual direction, in what Gregory Nazianzen (one of those early church fathers) called the “art of arts,” has only grown in the last 60 years. It’s the fruit of re-emphasis on the universal call to holiness, meant for “all the faithful,” the renewal of Christ’s call to perfection.

However, today when collectively we’re more alert to the reality of mental health, we run into confusion due to the similarity of spiritual direction and things like therapy. As Henri Nouwen put it, the difficulty is that spiritual direction and therapy “often appear to be one and the same thing” when in fact they’re not. The idea of therapy, of counseling, the concern for brain health and mental health are indeed similar horizons of human understanding and compassion, but they are distinct from spiritual direction and should be kept so because therapy and spiritual direction serve different purposes: the former integration and the latter vocation/calling.

First about spiritual direction: it helps to remember, as Thomas Merton wrote, that it’s a “monastic concept.” Ancient and Egyptian in origin, the art of spiritual direction was formed among men and women monastics struggling to serve God in the desert. Apart from community, these men and women needed trustworthy guides to help them stay the spiritual course. Spiritual direction was meant in this context to help a person fulfill his or her unique vocation, the ultimate purpose of which was union with God. Identifying graces as well as temptations and consolations as well as struggles, the spiritual director helps a person follow a particular vocation of prayer, whether clergy or a parent. This is why spiritual directors are “servants of prayer,” because that’s what they do. They help us find Christ in prayer and in our lives.

Which begins to explain both the difference and relationship of spiritual direction to therapy. As I said, therapy is about what from Jungian psychology we call integration. Rooted in what the ancients, and later Freud, called the “talking cure,” therapy in its different forms helps a person integrate behaviors, emotions, conceptions (or misconceptions), issuing from both the conscious and unconscious elements of the psyche, into a healthy understanding of the self in relation to reality. Processing childhood trauma, understanding emotions, managing depression or anxiety, even interpersonal problem solving are areas in which a therapist helps a person realize what Jung called “individuation”—the achievement of a healthy self in relation to the rest of the world.

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Many pastors engage with a Spiritual Director for sure and some also with therapy. All pastors need to make time for either or both so as to prevent burnout and to be stretched as each pastor tries to stretch the membership of the local church. Stretch, I stress, as this pastor never expects everyone to think like the pastor, but surely to THINK. If that is happening, I am one contented pastor.

Pastor KatieD+

Church Council Highlights

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

- ◆ The light was replaced in the hallway from the back entrance of church—much brighter.
- ◆ Treasury - Our budget is down from our projected amount for the month—due to snow removal of the parking lot and additional repairs to our building.
- ◆ We are still in search of a music minister. If you have any leads, please send to any council member or Pastor Katie directly.
- ◆ Building and Grounds Committee has been hard at work coordinating electrical and plumbing repairs and improvements. We extend a HUGE-thank you to Rich and Dave for all their work!

Trinity Lutheran is Asking For Our Help



Trinity has hosted the MCREST shelter program for many years. This one week event is held in early September where the church opens its building to house

30+ men who are without a home. Trinity provides three meals daily, sleeping quarters, transportation arrangements, showers, hygiene needs, clothing, laundry service and the like. The goal is to ultimately provide the opportunity for these men to gain their own independent housing.

Sponsoring this project requires volunteers, donations of supplies and money. Over the years, Trinity's fund reserve for this program has depleted and they are

searching various avenues within the community to help cover the shortfall. If you can lend a hand, please consider helping with a financial donation. Simply mail a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church at the address listed below:

**Trinity Lutheran Church
35110 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062**

Please direct any questions to Trinity's church office at 586-727-7270. Thank you.



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, April 13 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.



Our Building and Grounds committee invites those who would like to lend a hand, to sign up on our lawn-cutting schedule. We have a SignUpGenius" page online that you can use to view and sign up for the week or weeks that you would like to mow the lawn. There is a lawn tractor and mower in the shed that you can use. So, if you can help keep our lawn neat and trim, please use the link below to view the online signup sheet.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4EA8AE2FA6FA7-8761603-first>

Any questions, or for help call Rich Weinert (586-484-1643) or Dave Hunger (586-727-1995). 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.

Use Your Practical Skills to Help Neighbors in Need



Volunteers are greatly needed to help frail, older and disabled adults in our community with the following:

- > Minor home repairs
- > Indoor/outdoor chores
- > And basic housekeeping

For a frail older adult or a person with disabilities, simple tasks like dusting and vacuuming, changing light bulbs or raking leaves can be impossible. Many minor home repairs are often well beyond their abilities, and far too expensive for them to purchase professionally.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program helps our older and disabled neighbors with such tasks so they can remain safe and independent in their own homes. If you can help weekly, monthly or even just a couple times a year, please call us today. The time you give will make a real difference in someone's life. **Call 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 April

- April 07 Second of Easter
Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31
- April 14 Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19 • Psalm 4 • 1 John 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48
- April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12 • Psalm 23 • 1 John 3:16-24 • John 11-18
- April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8

Servers Rotation Schedule—2024

April 7

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

April 14

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

April 21

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

April 28

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

May 5

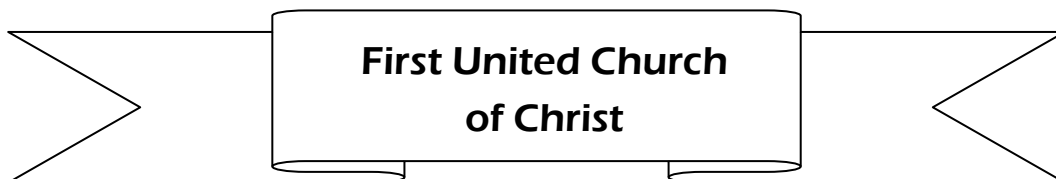
Lay Reader.....Darlene Furtaw
Prepare Communion.....**Need Volunteer**

May 12

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch
Altar Flowers.....**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 April birthdays:



April
BIRTHDAYS

02 - Matthew Santo
02 - Hope Fair
03 - Jennifer Northam

04 - Dave Hunger
24 - Benjamin Hostetler
26 - Lynn Dunsmore

Offerings

March 24.....\$TBD
March 17.....\$ 315.00
March 10.....\$ 505.00
March 03.....\$1,580.00

Attendance

March 24.....18
March 17.....16
March 10.....16
March 03.....14



Weekly Prayer Discipline for April

March 31 - April 6

Kerri Green
Vance & Pam Green
Darrel Haws

April 7 - 13

Tom & Christine Hebel
Christine Hensch
Terri Houston



April 14 - 20

Dave & Terry Hunger
Patty Kelly
Fred & Sandy Knoell

April 21 - 27

Carol Kulman
Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan,
& Mayella Maska
Doug & Suzie Maska

April 28 - May 4

Lucia Marshall
Kimberly McCardell
George & Sue Millbrand



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.

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.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Happy Birthday: Matthew Santo Hope Fair	3 Happy Birthday to Jennifer Northam	4 Happy Birthday to David Hunger	5	6
7 Worship 10am	8	9	10	11	12	13 Quilt Guild 10 am Euchre 6:30 pm
14 Worship 10am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21  Council Meeting after service Worship 10am	22	23	24 Happy Birthday to Benjamin Hostetler	25	26 Happy Birthday to Lynn Dunsmore	27
28 Worship 10am	29	30				



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