

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

December 2025



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.*



Christmastime is here! My hope is for it to be a restful and Christ-centered Christmas season. Decorate and have a list of Christmas movies to watch. But what's even more important than those things is your Christmas Advent reading plan. A plan can take you through prophecies in Scripture,

Christ's birth, and our need for Him. This is the most important part of the Christmas celebration because it helps us focus on the real meaning of Christmas. Christmas isn't about gifts, decorations, and movies. It's about Christ! If you are trying to fight the pull toward materialism at Christmas, I've gathered some fun ideas for Christ-centered traditions!

Names of Jesus Paper Chain Countdown

Some have fond memories of paper chain countdowns from their childhood. You can make them for Christmas or visits from Nana. One here suggested putting the names of Jesus and Bible verses on each chain. As you countdown the days to Christmas, you can discuss both as a family!

Gingerbread Nativity Scene

Want a fun twist on making a gingerbread house? Make a gingerbread nativity scene! I found this idea on the "Not Consumed" blog. I think it'd be a lot of fun for people of all ages. If you have friends over to do it, you could have them each bring some of their favorite candies!

Christmas Advent Bible Reading Plan

If you look on Pinterest there are many options for Christmas Advent Reading plans. Choose one with a few verses to read each day. It's broken into sections of prophecy, Christ's birth, the gift of salvation, and Christ's second coming. It's already been so neat walking through the Christmas story throughout the whole Bible. We pray together, read the verses, and then discuss them for a while!

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Christ-Centered Christmas Music

Christmas music is so fun. I love listening to it from right after Thanksgiving to Christmas. What if we listened to more meaningful Christmas music? There are so many songs about Christ's birth. Find some on your own or give this playlist I've made a listen!

Bethlehem Themed Picnic

I saw this idea while browsing online. The idea is to have a themed picnic under the Christmas tree. Think about the food Mary and Joseph may have eaten and create a charcuterie board of sorts. Think grapes, oranges, cheese, flatbread, hummus, pomegranates or dates. I love this idea and might try it this year!

String Popcorn and Cranberries

Popcorn is easier to string if it is stale. Pop some corn and set it outside to pick up some moisture so the corn won't split as you put the needle through. White popped corn with red cranberries looks nice on the tree and afterward just put it outside for the birds!

Our Newsletter will be out prior to Thanksgiving, so blessings to you and yours and all who will be at your table on this wonderful day that is still basic, friendly, family and friends, and not commercialized. In Michigan it is parade and Lions game, and let me remind you that Trinity Lutheran has Thanksgiving Day Dinner for any who want to participate. It's the Lions against the Packers!!

We will, for the 32nd time, host the Christmas Day Dinner; and the Porrett daughters, Justine and Jen and their families are again getting things together for the great feast with lots of feasting and goodies. Dylan will be the chief again. 'Tis the season to renew friendships and family get-togethers; just BE together and remember the good times and the family members who won't be at your table!

I wish everyone a wonderful season full of love and good times, good sharing and blessings. May you and yours enjoy and be a blessing to each other.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor KatieD+





Once again, we will collect Christmas Gifts for K.I.D.S. Kids in Distress is a charity located in St. Clair that provides free clothing to underprivileged kids and displaced children in the surrounding area. The families in need with children ages infant through 18 years old are referred to this agency.

Please fill up a bag or shoe box with items for any age

group that you think would help them feel loved at this time of the year. No candy, religious items or food items. **Here are some items to include:**

**gift cards for gas or food
soap, shampoo
wash cloths and towels
blankets
clothing
hats & gloves
hand-held games**

Please don't wrap your gift (you can put the wrapping paper or tissue paper inside). The donation amount is between \$25 and \$30 per gift. We will collect them on the altar between Sunday, November 23 and Sunday, December 7.



I want to say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart to each of you for your dona-

tions, bidding on your items, and all the yummy food last Sunday! Our Annual Holiday Gift Auction this year raised \$813 for our general fund. I would also like to say "Thank You" to our auctioneer Ryan Schrote, our cashiers Jennifer Northam & Niki Schrote, and our runners: Paul and Allison Achatz and Blake and Brady Schrote.

I would like to have some feedback from all of you as to whether or not you want to continue the yearly Auction, or should we replace it with another fund raiser? Also, if you have any ideas, please let me or a council member know your suggestions.

Kim (586-925-8802)

Thursday, December 25th will be our **Annual Free Christmas Day Dinner**. Again, in honor of Glen and Diane Porrett, we are dedicating this year's 32nd Anniversary Dinner to them! Returning again this year are 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 12:30 – 3 pm. We are offering pick-up within a 5-mile radius. Please call the church to reserve your pick-up time (586-727-3155). Look for an email from us asking for volunteers to help with all the jobs that need to be filled. We will need help on December 20th and Christmas Day morning

(times to be announced) and also during the dinner and clean-up afterward. If you would prefer, call Jennifer Northam (810-523-0225) or Justine Achatz (586-248-2989) and let us know what you would like to do to help. All are welcome! Please come and dine with us.

*MERRY
Christmas*



Free
Christmas Day Dinner

**All are welcome to the table. Join us as we
share food, fellowship, and the joy of
Christmas.**

Thursday, December 25, 2025

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

First United Church of Christ

68651 S. Forest, Richmond, MI 48062

Turkey, Ham, Potatoes, Vegetables, Desserts and more

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

Please call (586) 727-3155





**“...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY...”**

MATTHEW 2:10

Be the Light

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. You are part of the community of The Christmas Fund, whether you donate at

Christmastime, benefit directly from our grant or leadership programs, or simply believe in our mission to help secure the financial foundation of those engaged in the life of the church. Please consider donating today to ensure more healers receive the

loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. The Christmas Fund was here for them. And regardless of who you are or what brought you to the United Church of Christ, The Christmas Fund is here for you. **Offering: December 21.**

Give the Gift of Your Time



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.

If you have just a couple hours — a week, per month, or a few times each year — 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. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program will provide you with all the support you need to help a neighbor with any of the following types of essential support:

- ◆ Transportation for medical appointments and essential errands
- ◆ Simple chores, yard work and home repairs
- ◆ Help with housekeeping and meal preparation
- ◆ Friendly visits and supportive phone calls
- ◆ Respite breaks for full-time family caregivers
- ◆ Other support that can help a frail, older or disabled neighbor

For more information call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers at 586-757-5551 or visit www.ivcinfo.org.



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



Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar can be an expression of celebration or a solemn remembrance of deceased family members or friends.

If you would like to provide altar flowers on a specific Sunday during the new year, you can now sign up on line and receive a reminder to order your flowers as your date draws near. Press Ctrl + Click on the link below to see available dates. Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom after you select your date/dates and click on the "Submit" button to complete your signup. You can also

use the signup sheet displayed on the back table in the narthex if you prefer not to use the online link.

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

[Members and Friends: Altar Flowers 2026](#)



Food Pantry Needs

Greetings Everyone,

Here is an updated list of our current needs for the food pantry:

- Hamburger Helper
- Boxed potatoes
- Juice boxes
- Jell-O
- Manwich
- Canned fruit

- Spaghetti sauce
- Green beans
- Canned tomatoes (diced, stewed, sauce, etc.)

Thank you for any help you can provide.

God Bless!

Michele
Richmond Community
Food Pantry



Community Rewards: August 1 - October 31, 2025

20 Households—Total Donations: \$36.42

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for December

- December 7 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 • Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12
- December 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 35:1-10 • Psalm 146:5-10 or **Luke 1:46b-55** • James 5:7-10
• Matthew 11:2-11
- December 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 7:10-16 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 • **Matthew 1:18-25**
- December 24 **Christmas Eve**
Isaiah 9:2-7 • Psalm 96 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
- December 28 **First Sunday after Christmas**
Isaiah 63:7-9 • **Psalm 148** • Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 22:13-23

Servers Rotation Schedule—2025

November 30

Lay Reader..... ..Mike Grzanka
Altar Flowers.....Jennifer & Lantz

December 7

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

December 14

Lay Reader.....Chris Hensch
Altar Flowers.....Darlene Furtaw

December 21

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

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Lay Reader.....Volunteer
Altar Flowers.....Poinsettias

December 28

Lay Reader.....**Mike Grzanka**
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 December birthdays:



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 05 - Benin Davis | 18 - Shannon Vivona |
| 05 - Zora Davis | 18 - Doug Maska |
| 08 - Terri Houston | 19 - Lucy Zoma |
| 11 - Jackie Waszkiewicz | 24 - Carol Kulman |
| 13 - Joyce Townsend | 27 - Don Cockerill |
| 18 - Dekker Davis | |

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



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



Offerings

- November 23.....\$1,000.00
 November 16.....\$ 675.00
 November 09.....\$1,332.00
 November 02.....\$1,690.00

Attendance

- November 23.....18
 November 16.....32
 November 09.....15
 November 02.....23



Attendance and Offering Report

Weekly Prayer Discipline for December

November 30 - December 6

- Tom & Christine Hebel
 Christine Hensch
 Terri Houston

December 7 - 13

- Dave & Terry Hunger
 Patty Kelly
 Carol Kulman



www.clipartof.com - 1110260

December 14 - 20

- Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan & Mayella Maska
 Doug & Suzie Maska
 Lucia Marshall

December 21 - 27

- Kimberly McCardell
 George & Sue Millbrand
 Lantz, Jennifer, Shane & Logan Northam

December 28 - January 3

- Amy Santo & Matthew
 Adam & Michelle Schrote
 Ron & Kim 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

Steve Furtaw
(586-855-3248)

Buildings and Grounds

Jack Dailey
(586-202-7358)

Worship

Donna Cockerill
(586-872-8417)

Finance/Stewardship

Steve Furtaw
(586-855-3248)

Memorial

Veronica Chrostowski
(586-615-8735)

Vitality

Pat Fenton
(586-248-1808)

Personnel

Steve Furtaw
Veronica Chrostowski
Jack Dailey



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 Secretary	586-872-8417	2025
Veronica Chrostowski	Council Member	586-615-8735	2026
Pat Fenton	Vice President	586-248-1808	2025
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.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Happy B-day: Zora Davis Benin Davis</i>	6 <i>Happy Anniversary Jennifer & Lantz Northam</i>
7 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	8 <i>Happy B-day to Terri Houston</i>	9 <i>Happy Anniversary Doug & Joselyn Manska</i>	10	11 <i>Happy B-day to Jackie Waszkiewicz</i>	12	13 <i>Happy B-day to Joyce Townsend</i>
14 <i>Darlene provides altar flowers Worship 10 am</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Happy B-day: Dekker Davis Doug Manska Shannon Vivona</i>	19 <i>Happy B-day to Lucy Zoma</i>	20
21 <i>Christmas Fund Offering Council meets after service Worship 10 am</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service 4 pm Happy B-day to Carol Kubman</i>	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27 <i>Happy B-day to Don Cockerill</i>
28 <i>Worship 10 am</i>	29	30	31 			



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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