

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

March 2026



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.*



COMPASSIONS, CONVICTIONS, COMMUNITY

If you're looking for easy and convenient answers, then you might be disappointed by scripture. Do not steal, do not

defraud nor act dishonestly. Jesus's words compound these words: he doesn't ask us to look for him in convenient places, but in the deepest sufferings of those around us. And this puts us at a crossroads. How often have we heard from family members, colleagues, friends: "Well, it's not happening here," or "Eh, that makes me uncomfortable," "What's in it for me? Why should I care?" "I'm done, no more action from me." How often have leaders in our churches, schools and governments denied, deflected or disregarded the very suffering that we witness for the sake of comfort? Can we pretend that we are somehow separated from the suffering of others? Does our proximity to pain set the precedent for pursuing justice?

No. *"Amen I say to you, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me,"* Jesus says. We know what suffering looks like. Convenience is not the call, it is conviction. Complacency is not the goal, but community—a *beloved community*, where all of God's children may thrive. *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."*

I admire pastors who fly across state lines to protest on city streets and accompany migrants; I have heard students bring themselves and their friends to serve, and I have prayed with colleagues, clergy, and people across the country, lamenting and bearing witness to the suffering of God's people.

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No longer may we stand idly by when our neighbors' lives are at stake. No longer will our silence deafen the cries of the poor and the brokenhearted. No longer should we, can we, will we, turn ourselves away.

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." The MI Conference of the United Church of Christ is heading up what is called the **Palm Sunday Path**. It is a gathering to witness in Lansing at 3 pm at the Capital that we stand for justice. Standing by and watching our country's leadership in the executive branch of our Federal Government to allow the abuse of men, women, and children based on skin color is not acceptable. Even if people can't go to Lansing, **they can pray** that the witness to the need for justice is effective. Let us begin to think like the Native Americans. How will our action or inaction affect seven generations from now. It is not just about us. It will affect those who will come after us.

May God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, but the courage to change the things we can no longer accept. May we have the courage to contest complacency with compassionate conviction and stubborn hope, to do justice, love mercy, and always walk humbly with God.

—Pastor Katie, in process



Send forth a love offering to the world this year with One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). One Great Hour of Sharing is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

This year's suggested offering date is March 15.

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.



Join us for Euchre Night on Saturday, March 14 at 6:30 pm. We have been blessed with more people from the community who come and enjoy the evenings. If you want to meet new people,

play Euchre and have an evening of laughter, come and join us! And, we always appreciate any snacks you would like to bring to share.

New 2026 Tax Benefit

For the 2026 tax year, taxpayers who claim the standard deduction on their income tax (those who don't itemize their deductions) can claim a **new charitable deduction** for their monetary gifts:

SINGLE filers can claim a **\$1,000 deduction**.

MARRIED FILING JOINTLY filers can claim a **\$2,000 deduction**.

This is a powerful new incentive to allow you to make additional contributions to the general fund of our church while also giving you a break on your taxes.

Thank you, and may God bless you for your generous support!



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 for Nov. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026

20 Households—Total Donations: \$36.22

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for March

- March 01 **Second Sunday in Lent**
Genesis 12:1-4a • Psalm 121 • Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 • John 3:1-17 or
Matthew 17:1-9
- March 08 **Third Sunday in Lent**
Exodus 17:1-7 • Psalm 95 • Romans 5:1-11 • John 4:5-42
- March 15 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41
- March 22 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Psalm 130 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45
- March 29 **Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm/Passion Sunday)**
Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Matthew 21:1-11

Servers Rotation Schedule—2026

March 1

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

March 8

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

March 15

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

March 22

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

March 29 (Palm Sunday)

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

April 5 (Easter)

Lay Reader.....Darlene Furtaw
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 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:



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:



19 - Ron & Kim Schrote



Offerings

February 22.....\$1,111.00
 February 15.....\$ 355.00
 February 08.....\$1,135.00
 February 01.....\$1,186.00

Attendance

February 22.....15
 February 15.....14
 February 08.....13
 February 01.....15



Attendance and Offering Report

Weekly Prayer Discipline for March

March 1 - 7

Michael Grzanka
 Christine Hensch
 Terri Houston

March 8 - 14

Dave & Terry Hunger
 Patty Kelly
 Carol Kulman



March 15 - 21

Chuck & Debbie Laramie
 Doug, Joselyn, Kaleb, Reagan & Mayella Manska
 Doug & Suzie Manska

March 22 - 28

Lucia Marshall
 Kimberly McCardell
 George & Sue Millbrand

March 29 - April 4

Lantz, Jennifer, Shane & Logan Northam
 Amy Santo & Matthew
 Adam & Michelle Schrote

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 |
| Mike Grzanka | Council Secretary | 586-817-4180 | 2026 |
| Kim Schrote | Council President | 586-925-8802 | 2026 |
| Chris Hensch | Vice President | 586-457-9196 | 2026 |
| Veronica Chrostowski | Council Member | 586-615-8735 | 2028 |
| Jack Dailey | Council Member | 586-202-7358 | N/A |
| Steve Furtaw | Council Member | 586-855-3248 | 2028 |

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.

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 will be updated.



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

Veronica C. (586-615-8735)
Michael Grzanka (586-817-4180)
Kim Schrote (586-925-8802)



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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK & PRAYER SERVICE

Please mark your calendars – We will be having a Maundy Thursday Potluck and Prayer service on Thursday, April 2nd starting at 6:00pm. Please plan on attending so we can all be together for this evening as Jesus ate the last supper, broke bread and drank wine with his disciples for the last time before his crucifixion.

**First United Church
of Christ**

March 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----|---|
| 1 Worship 10 am | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Happy B-day to Terry Hunger |
| 8 Worship 10 am Church Council meets after service | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Quilt Guild 10 am Euchre 6:30 pm |
| 15 Worship 10 am Happy B-day to Fred Weeks | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Happy Anniversary to Ron & Kim Schrote | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Worship 10 am | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Worship 10 am  | 30 | 31 Happy B-day to Ray Trombley | One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, March 15 | | | |



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