

SHARING THE WORD

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RICHMOND, MICHIGAN

April 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.*



Spring is Here!

When St. Patrick's Day arrives, we typically see the last of the snow and then spring begins automatically. Bulbs begin to burst with the tulip leaves popping up 4-5 inches; daffodils aren't far behind and crocuses have already bloomed. Yea, it is time to be outdoors raking and for some you have to plow an area

a couple of times before putting in your plants or seeds.

At our house there is a gardener and there is a worrier. The gardener is a pretty easygoing gal, and by May she is ready to put seeds into shallow furrows, heaping the soil into little mounds and maybe curling pieces of fence around them. Amazingly several weeks later, plants will appear in the strangest places. Sometimes green peppers come up between azalea bushes. Rhubarb makes a colorful border. Marigolds and zinnias provide lots of color and she prefers the taller ones. This method drives the worrier crazy. He knows how it is supposed to be and this (her way) is not it. He gets out a "how to" book with illustrations on how to arrange according to size, height and drainage requirements. Straight rows are a must. The soil must be tested, fertilized, mulched, weeded, and watered. Above all, "himself" must worry, or else how will the garden grow? In time "himself" will have to admit that hers did alright in spite of going in all wrong.

Maybe this is what the kingdom of God is like as described in the sowing of seed story. Just scatter and trust that seeds will sprout in spite of no interference. The ground has a way of producing itself. Call it agricultural grace. The automatic earth can be trusted - but what about my life? Paul is right; in this earthly tent I do groan and sigh with anxiety, but not exactly for the reasons he says in 2 Corinthians. "If our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God. "Well, yes, we hope that. A building to replace this tent sounds heavenly. Here indeed we will groan.

Paul names the big worries—death and judgment—but fill in your own variations: nuclear war, cancer, divorce, addiction, pollution. What makes your heart race? What feeds your ulcer, makes your shoulders cramp, and keeps you awake at night? Someone tells you "Have faith!" We live between the time of planting and the harvest, and it is a time of great uncertainty."

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Angst is for humanity. Perhaps we need to be more flexible and go along with nature: first, get outside to observe the growth, the arriving and nesting birds, take a short walk, and talk with the neighbors. It's spring! Get out and enjoy without rushing. If you follow the Friday Grind, you will look at your iPhone less. Jesus knew how to get away to pray and renew, setting a good example for us.

Start with Holy Week. Get out and smell the fresh spring air. Come to the potluck on Maundy Thursday at 6:00 followed by Communion and prayer. On Good Friday stop by at 1:00 to experience the last hours of Jesus' life. Easter Sunday will have many enjoying Easter Buffets so after worship we will disperse to family gatherings and the outdoor cooking.

Easter Blessings to all,

Pastor KatieD+

Church Council Highlights for March 8, 2026

- ▷ Please keep thinking about Fundraising Ideas for added income for the church. We need to bring in more income due to the increase in everything: Snow Plowing, Insurance, Products we use.
- ▷ Our Building Insurance has gone up for this year beyond what we had budgeted. We budgeted \$6,400 and it came in around \$7,200. We are actively looking at other insurance companies.
- ▷ Change in how quarterly statements will be done, only twice a year versus 4 times. Second quarter statements will be emailed to addresses in the Church Directory. Fourth quarter will be available on back table for pickup; those not picked up will be mailed.
- ▷ Maundy Thursday Potluck and Prayers at 6:00 pm. Good Friday Service at 1:00 pm. Both here at the Church.
- ▷ Palm Sunday: there will be the Palm Sunday Path which is a gathering at the Capitol in Lansing in the afternoon. Many people from varied other Leaderships will be coming together. Information is available as *MIPalmSundayPath* on Facebook.
- ▷ All are welcome to attend council meetings as they are open meetings.



Here at our church:

April 2..... Maundy Thursday Potluck and Prayer Service, 6 pm

April 3.....Good Friday Service, 1 pm

April 5.....Easter Sunday, 10 am

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 & BASIC HOUSE-KEEPING

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.

Please call our office today at 586-757-5551.



Our next monthly Euchre Night starts at 6:30 pm on April 11. We have several people who attend from the wider community. This is a fun fundraiser for all!

If you would like to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so, grazing in the kitchen is a highlight of the evening. Please join us in the fun and fellowship.

Changes in Quarterly Statements

Members of our Church Council met on March 8 and decided that Financial Quarterly Statements will be available for the second and fourth quarters.

You will receive your second quarter statement by email (listed in the Church Directory). If you wish to have your statement printed or we do not have your email address, you can pick

up your Financial Statement from the table in the back of the church. The fourth quarter statements will be printed and available at church on the back table.



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.



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. Right 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

**First United Church
of Christ**

Sunday Services

Scripture Readings for April

- April 05** **Easter Sunday**
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 • **John 20:1-18** or Matthew 28:1-10
- April 12** **Second Sunday of Easter**
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 • Psalm 16 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • **John 20:19-31**
- April 19** **Third Sunday of Easter**
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 • 1 Peter 1:17-23 • **Luke 24:13-35**
- April 26** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • **John 10:1-10**

Servers Rotation Schedule—2026

March 29 (Palm Sunday)

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

April 5 (Easter)

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

April 12

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

April 19

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

April 26

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

May 03

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



*May your Easter be filled
with love that lingers.*

Happy Easter



We wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members and friends who are celebrating their April birthdays:



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 02 - Hope Fair | 07 - Micheal Grzanka |
| 02 - Matthew Santo | 18 - Nathan Reindel |
| 03 - Jennifer Northam | 24 - Benjamin Hostetler |
| 04 - Dave Hunger | 26 - Lynn Dunsmore |

Offerings

March 22.....\$ 503.00
 March 15.....\$1,105.00
 March 08.....\$ 535.00
 March 01.....\$ 345.00

Attendance

March 22.....15
 March 15.....18
 March 08.....12
 March 01.....20



Attendance and Offering Report

Weekly Prayer Discipline for April

March 29 - April 4

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

April 5 - 11

Ron & Kim Schrote
 Wendy Reindel
 Ryan, Niki, Blake & Brady
 Schrote



April 12 - 18

Lynn Stackpoole
 Ray Trombley
 Terri Verlinde

April 19 - 25

Matt, Shannon, Elliot &
 Theodore Vivona
 Jackie Waszkiewicz
 Jim Weeks

April 26 - May 2

Rich & Sue Weinert
 Justine Achatz, Paul, Alyson,
 Jacob & Carissa
 Veronica Chrostowski

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 fristunitedcc@outlook.com or leave a phone message at the church office: 586-727-3155. Thank you.

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.

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.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Maundy Thursday—April 2: Potluck & Prayer Service 6 pm			1	2 Happy B-day: Hope Fair Matthew Santo	3 Good Friday Service at noon Happy B-day to Jennifer Northam	4 Happy B-day to Dave Hunger
5 Worship 10 am <i>Easter</i> SUNDAY	6	7 Happy B-day to Michael Grzanka	8	9	10	11 Quilt Guild 10 am Euchre 6:30 pm
12 Worship 10 am Church Council meets after service	13	14	15	16	17	18 Happy B-day to Nathan Reindel
19 Worship 10 am	20	21	22	23	24 Happy B-day to Benjamin Hostetler	25
26 Worship 10 am Happy B-day to Lynn Dunsmore	27	28	29	30	Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary 1 pm	



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