



William E. Kapp  
Pastor

## *First United Church of Christ Inc.*

504 Washington Avenue • Sauk City, WI 53583  
Phone: (608) 643-8387 • Fax (608) 643-2561  
email: [office@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org)  
<http://www.ucc-saukcity.org/>

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### **January 2018**

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

One of the games we used to play in my confirmation class growing up was called, "Is it Law or Gospel?" The confirmation leader would mention a situation or event and my class had to decide if it was the good news of the gospel from God (something God does for us) or daunting news of the law (something God requires of us).

For example, what about the Apostle John's exhortation "love one another"? Is this law or gospel? The answer is law, because it is something required of us. What about the words, "you are forgiven"? The answer is gospel, because it is something that is done for us through Jesus Christ.

The primary use of this law/gospel distinction is in the interpretation of Scripture. For the preacher and the reader it is important to know, "is God requiring something of me or freely giving me something in this text"? But law and gospel show up in our lives as well.

As we begin 2018, I'd like us to consider these law and gospel aspects. Is the coming of 2018 law or gospel for the Christian? It depends on how you think of it. If a new year is a fresh start, a new beginning, then you probably think the start of the year is "good news" at least in the general sense. There are, however, law aspects to the New Year. Many people start the New Year with resolutions, something they require of themselves, something to do. Many people fear what will come, worrying they won't meet their goals, or that the next year will fall short of their expectations.

More specifically for the Christian, we see both law and gospel elements to the New Year. The New Year does have some law aspects to it. As Christians, considering anew what God requires of us is appropriate as we enter a new year. Have we been attending worship? How is our prayer life? Are we reading God's Word? These are law questions, but important ones as Christians, and the New Year is a good time to ask them.

All of us will have different answers to those questions, but we all share in the fact that those answers will be insufficient, which is why we also take note of the gospel aspects of the New Year. 2018 will be another year as a baptized child of God. 2018 will be another year where God offers us God's grace in Word and Sacrament. 2018 will be another year of God's forgiveness covering our sins. Most exciting of all, 2018 may just be the year where we are able to exemplify all that God wants us to be.

May God bless you this New Year and always.

With the Greatest of Hope!  
Pastor Bill

## Annual Meeting Preview

As stipulated by our Constitution, we are to gather as a congregation on the first Sunday in March -- this year the 4<sup>th</sup> -- for an Annual Meeting.

Business to be conducted includes a review of 2017, plans for our future, adoption of the 2018 budget, and election of Finance Committee and/or Consistory members. The March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will begin immediately following our 9 a.m. worship service. Our 8 a.m. WRPQ-740AM and 99.7FM radio broadcasts will be pre-recorded,



## 2018 Annual Report

Copies of the **2018 Annual Report** will be available in the back of Church beginning Sunday, February 18.



We are looking for people who are interested in ushering at either worship services in 2018. Please contact Rita Larsen at [rita.larsen16@gmail.com](mailto:rita.larsen16@gmail.com) or 963-1748 if you are interested or would like more information. Thank you!



## Undecorating Party

All are invited to help with our annual “undecorating” party at church on Saturday, January 6, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Tammie Huerth at (608)963-4311.



The Sauk Prairie area churches and service organizations take turns helping at the Food Pantry. On Saturday, January 20, we need seven to eight volunteers to help with distribution. Volunteers need to arrive at 9:00 a.m. and will be finished about 11:15 a.m. Volunteers should be at least 12 years. Volunteers help with setup; assist patrons as they “shop” for items; help with loading and carryout; and do a little restocking of shelves. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.





From Margaret McFarlane

Classes will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:10 a.m. We will celebrate January birthdays.

Thank you to Dana Gee for painting the outlines on the windows that we decorate for the Christmas season. Thanks to the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Confirmation students who helped paint them. They look wonder-ful!

We had a total of 53 carolers on December 3! Thanks to all the students, parents, and staff who helped brighten the holidays for those at Maplewood Village and The Pines.

Thanks to all who contributed to our Harvest Home Table! We appreciate the wonderful donations! Thank you to Pastor Bill, Hogan Haas, and Evan Roberts for delivering it.

The students did a wonderful job on the Christmas program. They deserve lots of praise for their hard work! Thanks to the staff, parents, Theresa Grimes, Nadene Litscher, Denny Kahn, Marcia Nachreiner, Cindy Baker, and Pastor Bill for helping make the program a reality.

The Sunday School choir will sing on January 21 at the 10:30 service.

We are planning a bowling party on Sunday, January 21, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., at the Riviera Bowl. The price is \$2.00 per bowler (spectators are free). The Sunday School will pay the balance.

Looking ahead: There will be no Sunday School on March 4<sup>th</sup>, due to the Annual Meeting



As a fundraiser, The Sunday School will continue to sell Culver's gift cards. Why not buy a card for yourself and they, also, make great gifts! Our Sunday School earns 5% of each sale. If you don't catch us on the third Sunday, e-mail your order to:

**[mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com](mailto:mmcfarlane1219@gmail.com)**



If you use **Facebook**, please think about being "our friend" at First United Church of Christ-Sauk City.



## Music At First Church

From Dennis Kahn, Music Director

Happy New Year to all! Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas have come and gone. I want to thank everyone who contributes and/or supports music at First Church! We must remember that Christmas signifies the start of the church calendar and much more celebrating is to come! With that in mind, First Choir continues to celebrate Christmas, prepares for Lent and looks towards the Easter season.

I want to say how much I appreciate everyone who has contributed their efforts and talents to music at First Church. Whether you have been at it for years or just recently joined our efforts, your willingness to help us glorify God is greatly appreciated.

As you consider resolutions for the New Year, perhaps one could be “bringing your voice” to our music ministry. Please call me at 370-6000 if you would like to discuss joining us!

First Choir rehearses Wednesdays @ 6:45 p.m.



## Contemporary Worship Service

Have you attended our worship service on Wednesday evenings? It is a casual, contemporary service at 6:00 that is fun, come-as-you-are and lasts 30-40 minutes. We are looking for people to help with the music. If you play an instrument or sing and like contemporary Christian music, come be a part of the team! We would love to put together a praise team or band—commitment level is your choice. Sign up for one service or many, solos or groups. Or just let us know you are interested!

Don't have time for dinner before coming to the service? A light supper is served in the church dining room from 5:30-6:00. No need to bring anything, just show up for fun fellowship and good food before the service.

A big thank you to **Kristy Litscher** and **Theresa Grimes** for coordinating this wonderful service and leading us in worship every Wednesday. Your dedication to this contemporary service is truly appreciated by many!

For more info, contact:  
Kristy at [KristeenLitscher@outlook.com](mailto:KristeenLitscher@outlook.com) or 643-6199; Theresa Grimes, Pastor Bill or the church office.

**Consistory Minutes**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
*Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>*

Attendance: Pastor Bill, Shirlee Lendved, Kurt Schultz, Dean Dahnert, Tom Litscher, Mark Pierick, Theresa Grimes, Marcy Thurwachter, Don Larsen, and Chris Logterman

Guests: Brigitta Brickl

- ✚ Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill
- ✚ Presentation Kurt Shultz and Brigitta Dahnert
  - Brigitta Brickl attended to present on ALICE (Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate)
  - Overview of ALICE training as well as reviewing emergency procedures in general (fire, tornado, and medical)
  - Brigitta would lead training and Sauk Prairie Police would attend to answer questions
- ✚ Pastor Bills Report
  - See report in January Scoop
  - One update under #5 the neutral pulpit will be rescheduled.
  - Received 48 pledges for \$91,952
  - Continuing issues with receiving fax and service from Frontier
  - Harley Breunig has been voluntarily taking care of leaves in the Church park. Discussed giving him a thank you gift for his help in our park upkeep.
    - Marcy move to give Mr. Breunig a thank you gift, Tom 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
- ✚ Approval of financial statements or invoices and committee minutes
  - Marcy move to approve financial statements, Theresa 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes
- ✚ Committee Reports and Updates:
  - Building & Maintenance
    - Review projects completed in 2017 and priorities for projects in 2018
    - Dean has started report for Annual Meeting
  - Christian Fellowship
    - See report in January Scoop
  - Finance
    - Meeting November 11, 2017
    - Reviewed stocks and moving funds from money market to CD's
    - Discussed term limits for serving on committee, including staggering terms and having 3-year terms
    - Automatic payments for regular bills and monthly review of other bills and payments, possibly two members of Consistory
    - Discussion of some lines on budget and accounts, considering consolidation and further discussion needed
    - Discuss using Memorial Fund general donations to pay the Campital Campaign pledge
  - Members in Ministry
    - Actively making visits
    - Encouraging individuals to join and help with ministry
  - Sunday School/Church Youth Program

- See report in January Scoop
- Youth Program on January 10<sup>th</sup>, topic to be determined
- Theresa move to approve, Don 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passes
- Stewardship
  - Recruiting members to serve

✚ Ongoing Business Update:

- Trim on hold until after tiling project in kitchen and dining room completed
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor kitchen tiling needs attention in areas as well
  - Youth/Game room needs attention to the carpeting
- Kitchen windows
  - Project completed
- Phones – under contract until August 2018
  - Purchasing programmable phones will likely improve some issues

✚ New Business Issues

- Consistory Nominations
  - Tom Litscher will rotate off Consistory
  - One member will need to be nominated
- Parish-Pastor Relations Committee
  - 2019 will be the next time a member nomination will needed
- Worship times in the summer
  - Tom will contact the radio station to check if 9:00AM timeslot is open for Summer 2018.
  - Discuss further in January

✚ Tom move to adjourn, Shirlee 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

✚ Closing Prayer: Pastor Bill

✚ Next Consistory Meeting: January 18th

Dear Consistory,

Christmas is soon upon us and with that comes a sense of excitement and anticipation. What a joy to know that in spite of the world's many challenges, God has not given up on us. Through the Christ child we have been given hope that God's Kingdom will reign.

I am excited for the ministry of First UCC in 2018 and eagerly anticipate all the wonderful opportunities our congregation will have to be the face of Christ in the world. What a privilege it is!

In terms of my consistory report:

- 1.) We are in the 4th week of the Salvation Army bell ringing campaign. First UCC rang at the Pig this past Friday and Saturday. I am hopeful to have the consistory help me organize all the bills so that I can get it turned into the bank. St. John's Lutheran church and Blackhawk UMC have already rung and Concordia rings this upcoming weekend at Pig and Sentry.
- 2.) I have a wedding scheduled for June 9, 2018 at the church.
- 3.) First UCC could have done better with our initial fire inspection in November. You may recall we had a few issues to correct. I have spoken with Chris Garcia about getting our fire extinguishers recharged and backup batteries installed in our exit lights. I have spoken with Tim Herbrand regarding getting new pads for the AED machine located in the sanctuary. The extension cord used in the music room has been repurposed and all storage in front of the electrical panels has been placed elsewhere.
- 4.) John Nachreiner called from Sauk City Utility. They're updating how they are testing the water usage in the village and they want First UCC to install a different kind of faucet than what we have currently so they can hook up their equipment. The village has offered to pay to get this done. They also are making changes so that in the future all water use info will be sent into the village remotely as opposed to having someone come and read our meter.
- 5.) The Association has requested that First UCC provide a neutral pulpit for our Wednesday January 17, 2018 contemporary worship service. The UCC church in Evansville is interviewing a prospective candidate and their search committee would like to hear this candidate preach. We will provide a location for this opportunity. The prospective candidate has been in contact with me regarding logistics related to the day. I have also communicated with our worship planners.
- 6.) The week of Christian unity will happen the third week of January and a pulpit exchange will occur on January 21, 2018. I have agreed to participate and am waiting for the assignment.
- 7.) GriefShare is on hiatus for the next couple of months due to inactivity and concern from some of our elderly participants about getting out in the winter conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Bill

## Christmas 2017 Greenery & Poinsettia Dedications



*"To my family and friends,  
Please be thankful today;  
I'm still close beside you,  
In a new special way.  
I love you all dearly,  
Try not to shed a tear;  
Cause I'm spending my  
Christmas with Jesus this year."*

*Jan Pierce,  
in loving memory of her husband,  
Lieutenant Colonel Donald R. Pierce*

*Russ & Sherry Pieper,  
in loving memory of their parents*

*Ron & Roberta Lipka,  
in loving memory of Ron's mother,  
Irene Kessler*

*Steve & Marcy Thurwachter,  
in loving memory of Marcy's parents,  
Merton & Shirley Moely*

*Graig & Laurie Kerl and Family,  
in loving memory of Laurie's parents,  
Rich & Linda LeMoine  
and her grandparents,  
Verlyn & Hazel Boettcher*

*Sharal Steuber,  
in loving memory of her husband,  
Theron Steuber*

*Katie Smith,  
in loving memory of  
Bill Hegerfeld  
&  
Douglas Smith*

*Cecy Haines,  
in loving memory of  
her husband, Pete Haines  
&  
her father, Alan Von Behren, Sr.*

*Cliff & Jan Lawton,  
In loving memory of their sons,  
Jason Barry and Russell Lawton*

*Lois Pieper,  
The two evergreen wreaths welcoming  
you on the Washington Street entrance  
are in honor of  
Tammie Huerth & Kathy Johnson,  
who continue to transform each of our  
seasons with beautiful, creative  
meaning. Thanks, Tammie & Kathy,  
for your gifts for all of us to enjoy!*





THANK  
YOU



**to those who assisted with H.E.L.P.!!**

The H.E.L.P. (Help Excite Little People) project was, again, a great success! The toys and teen items were made available to approximately 65 adults. Many thanks for all the wonderful donations. We had a wonderful variety of good, used toys, and many brand new things. As always, the monetary donations were appreciated and were used to buy batteries and items for teens. My sincere thanks to all the “elves” who helped with publicity, cleaned toys, repaired items, or helped during the distribution:

Rod & Carol Hehenberger  
Debbie Tschudy  
Tom McFarlane  
Dianna Woerpel  
Gary & Sandy Schlender  
Amanda Moseman  
Charmaine Carter  
Pastor Bill  
Patsy Hering  
Tim & Katie Homar  
Jenny Carley, Casey & Calista Brickl  
Chris Logterman and family  
Peggy Ganser  
Troop 173  
Troop 373  
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter  
Shannon Ruhland  
Emilia Pape

Shirlee Lendved  
Rita Larsen  
Micki & Donna Cruse  
Evan Roberts  
Sami Huerth  
Myra Ballweg  
Sherry Bongard & Alana  
Chris Garcia  
Klaire Baier  
Cathy Brewer  
Rose Kleinert  
Laurie, Abby, & Riley Kerl  
Emily Fuchs  
Dale & Becky Kowalski  
Jessica Breunig  
Cindy Baker  
Marcia, Libby, & Linnea  
Nachreiner

Thank you all for making the holidays brighter for our Sauk Prairie children and youth!

Margaret McFarlane, H.E.L.P. Coordinator



## BLESSINGS & THANKS FROM THE HE♥RT!

### From Mitch & Sandy Maier

The phenomenal success of the Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner was a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm volunteers and donors display on a continual basis. We surpassed last year's total by about 100 people. We take this opportunity to wish you a heartfelt "Thank You!"



## With Appreciation

♥ Thank you to Ed & Rita Larsen, Debbie Tschudy, Cliff & Jan Lawton & kids, Chris Logterman, Jan Pierce, Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, Shirlee Lendved, Rhonda Pierick, Liz Bongard, Mary Jensen, & Sheri White for ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Piggly Wiggly and Sentry on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

♥ Thank you to everyone who brought bars for the Sauk Prairie Blood Drive: Liz Bongard, Barb Brock, Dianna Woerpel, Shirlee Lendved, Carol Hehenberger, & Fritz Wyttenbach and to those who worked at the Blood Drive: Liz Bongard & Dianna Woerpel.



Special thanks to Deb Tschudy, Emily Fuchs and Charmaine Carter for helping with our coffee fellowship table on December 10th, great coffee and treats were had by all. With all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we are sending a very special thank you to everyone who helped with our Craft and Bake sale on Sunday, December 17th ~ whether you baked, created or bought thank you for all your giving. 2017 has been a blessed year...our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your generosity, your time is valuable; we appreciate the volunteers who always come through for us. Wishing our extraordinary Pastor and members, a very holy, happy, and healthy 2018. Our next Christian fellowship meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join in our crusades ☺

Christian Fellowship



The Salvation Army helps the less fortunate in so many ways: with fuel and electric bills, with health care supplements, with food and shelter, and with disaster relief. Our thanks to everyone from First UCC and the Sauk-Prairie community who helped in this year's kettle drive.

## MEMORIALS REPORT

Memorials were received in December in memory of:

Lucile Gasner



## RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

We thank the December sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:  
Mark & Rhonda Pierick and Krystal Martin & Kyle Carlson, in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Diane Richards.  
Steve & Marcy Thurwachter, in loving memory of Marcy's father, Merton Moely.  
Ed & Rita Larsen and Family, in honor and celebration of Ed & Marlene Larsen's 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

## ♥ January Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

George & Julie Perry, 50 years on January 6  
Duane & Dianna Woerpel, 58 years on January 9  
Bruce & Jennifer Pape, 20 years on January 16  
Thomas & Marilyn O'Donnell, 56 years on January 27

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in January!  
Please let us know if we missed your special day!

## Ushers

| <b>8:00</b>           | <b>January</b>        | <b>10:30</b> | <b>8:00</b>    | <b>February</b> | <b>10:30</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Nadene Litscher       | Bill Steckelberg      |              | Laura Kapp     | Dave & Shirlee  |              |
| Mark & Rhonda Pierick | Jamie & Karen Wittwer |              | Jake McCaulley | Lendved         |              |
|                       |                       |              | Lois Price     |                 |              |

## January 7, 2018 Communion Servers

**8:00**

**10:30**

Herm & Debbie Tschudy  
Galen & Pam Alwin

Tim Homar  
Tom McFarlane  
Amanda Moseman  
Bill Steckelberg

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00-Noon; Saturday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment; E-mail: [bill\\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org)  
Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249

Cindy Baker Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.–Noon  
Church Secretary Office phone: 643-8387; E-mail: [office@ucc-saukcity.org](mailto:office@ucc-saukcity.org)  
Website [www.ucc-saukcity.org](http://www.ucc-saukcity.org)

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue  
Sauk City, WI 53583

## JANUARY 2018

*"Come, Let Us Adore Him!"*



### Wednesday Fellowship Night @ First UCC:

- \*Casual Dinner in Dining Room: 5:30 p.m.
- \*Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 p.m.
- \*First Choir: 6:45 p.m.

*This month's newsletter is sponsored by George & Julie Perry, in honor and celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on January 6<sup>th</sup>.*

- 1 ✨ Happy New Year 2018!
- 4 ✨ Family Fun Night: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 6 ✨ "Undecorate" the Church: beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 7 ✨ Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study Classes resume: 9:10 a.m.
- 9 ✨ Christian Fellowship: 6:30 p.m.
- 18 ✨ Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 20 ✨ First U.C.C. helping at the Food Pantry: 9:00-11:15 a.m.
- 21 ✨ Pulpit Exchange Sunday
  - ✨ Sunday School Choir sings: 10:30 worship service
  - ✨ Sunday School Bowling at the Riviera Bowl: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 25 ✨ 12 Step Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ 740AM and 99.7FM) & 10:30 a.m.  
Confirmation: 9:00-10:20 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 and older  
Adult Bible Study 9:10-10:20 a.m.  
Wednesday Night: Dinner: 5:30 p.m.; Contemporary Worship Service: 6:00 p.m.;  
First Choir: 6:45 p.m.  
Website: [www.ucc-saukcity.org](http://www.ucc-saukcity.org)