

November 2013

SCOOP

First United Church of Christ

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

Luke's gospel shares a parable of two men, a Pharisee and a tax collector, who go to the temple to pray. The Pharisee was a leader in the Jewish synagogue, a respected member of the faith community who followed the Hebrew Law to the letter. The tax collector, on the other hand, was a thief and a crook. No one liked or respected him.

The Pharisee begins his prayer by saying, "I thank you, God that I am not like all those people." He then lists category after category of people he's thankful that he isn't, topping it off by specifically referring to the tax collector praying near him. For the Pharisee, the tax collector was not a neighbor to be loved, but an object of comparison and disdain.

The Pharisee tries to impress God by talking about how good he is. Maybe even he's thinking that because he is such a faithful servant of God, his voice should count more than the tax collector's. After all, he used money responsibly. He read the prophets. He was a faithful husband. He helped the poor. He fasted twice a week. And he even tithed. He'd make a good neighbor and a good church member, that is, if you could stand his arrogant ways.

The tax collector prays in utter simplicity and truth. "Dear God, have mercy on me, a sinner." He doesn't try to impress God with how great he is. He doesn't presume that he deserves anything from God, and he knows that he certainly hasn't earned it. The tax collector is a sinner who didn't follow any of the Hebrew laws. He is a crook, plain and simple.

Jesus concludes his story by saying, "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus often turns our understanding of the world upside down. On the surface, it would seem that the Pharisee is the one who should walk away justified. He "earned it" through all of his work and sacrifice. Yes, he liked to pat himself on the back for all of his good deeds, but at least he was doing something for God. The tax collector did absolutely nothing. And yet, Jesus valued the humility in which the tax collector prayed.

I think we can learn from both characters in this story. We are united with the Pharisee in thanking God and with the tax collector in receiving God's mercy. We stand neither "by ourselves" like the Pharisee nor "far off" like the tax collector, but centered in relationship with God.

Let us strive to be humble as we go about serving in Christ's name.

Blessings, Pastor Bill



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in Prairie du Sac on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m. You are asked to bring canned or dry goods to the service to donate to our area food pantries. Join our community in giving thanks to God for His many blessings!



Food Pantry Needs

Our Sunday School is, again, sponsoring the Harvest Home Table from November 3rd-24th. You can bring non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries to place on the table in the Narthex. All items will be donated to our local Food Pantry. (Baking items and mixes, baby food, formula, bar soap, laundry and dish detergent, cleaning products, diapers, and personal care items are especially appreciated.) The Food Pantry likes to use their financial sources to purchase protein foods, which are essential for good nutrition but difficult and expensive to donate.



Come Help Decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas

On Saturday, November 30, at 9:30 a.m. the women of the Christian Fellowship Committee will have the decorations out and anyone who is interested in helping decorate can come to church at that time. A chili luncheon will be served for all of the church "elves" afterwards.



Hello! My name is Malte Lucke, and I am 16 years old. I am from Germany, and I live in Moers-Meerbeck. I am working as a volunteer in the Protestant church there in Moers-Meerbeck. I would like to live in an American family for six weeks to improve my English skills and to learn about the life in another country. My parents and I have thought about a suitable period of time. We decided that this period would be my summer holidays next year, which are from July 7th to August 18th. If there was a family (or two) which would welcome me, that would be a pleasure.



CONSISTORY MEETING

First United Church of Christ

October 17, 2013

6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher, President, Lyle Kuhnau, Deb Tschudy, Amanda McFarlane, Tim Homar, Tim Herbrand and Rose Kleinert

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bill

Opening Devotion: Theresa

Secretaries Report: Motion to approve by Lyle, second by Tim Homar, motion carried.

Pastors Report: (a) Thanksgiving eve service is scheduled for Wednesday, November 27th. (b) Our church will be volunteering with the Salvation Army Bell ringing again this year at Piggly Wiggly. (c) Youth Ambassadors will welcome students from Germany July 7th through July 21st; their theme is "Poverty"; they will be involved with an urban project in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School/Church Youth Program:

(a) Thirty-four youth and adults plan on participating in making meal packs for "Sauk-Prairie Against Hunger" (Feed My Starving Children) on Thursday, October 24th, starting at 6:00 p.m. (b) Sunday School started collecting for UNICEF. (c) Bibles will be handed out on November 3rd. (d) Harvest Home table will be available from November 3rd through November 24th. (e) Sunday school students will each be making one ornament to adorn the Christmas tree. (f) Christmas pageant preparations are being made.

(g) The youth will be serving supper at The University of Wisconsin Madison Campus (Crossings) on February 16th. (h) Youth retreat is scheduled for March 21-23, 2014 (registration due in December).

Members in Ministry: Actively making visits to the shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals weekly. If anyone is interested in making visits, please contact Liz Bongard.

Christian Fellowship: (a) Meeting was re-scheduled for October 22nd to accommodate picture taking. (b) Upcoming coffee fellowship between services November 10th. (c) Church decorating for Advent to be scheduled.

❖ *Christian fellowship committee welcomes newcomers and anyone with interest to attend a meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 12th, at 6:30 p.m.***

Finance: Finance committee will be meeting on November 12 to discuss 2014 budget and review of endowment fund.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report, next meeting is November 7th at 6:30 p.m.

❖ *Stewardship committee welcomes new and familiar faces to attend a meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 7th, at 6:30 p.m.***

Building & Maintenance: (a) Assigned tasks for church issues; church park tree trimming will take place in November.

Pastor Parish Relations: Nothing new to report, committee met on September 17th, quarterly meetings will be scheduled; if there are any issues, suggestions, and/or concerns that need attention please feel free to contact one of the committee members.

Bills and Financials: Motion to approve by Tim Homar, second by Rose; motion carried.

Ongoing Business: (a) Picture directory committee continues to assemble pictures; congregation picture taking is October 22nd through October 26th. (b) First UCC webpage is moving forward with changes and updates. (c) Reviewed phases for strategic goal planning. (d) First UCC insurance coverage reviewed, consistory to work on inventory of church education building owned items.

New Business: (a) A defibrillator will be installed at church, training for CPR/AED will be offered to anyone interested.

Next Consistory meeting: Third Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Through September 2013

Actual Expenses: \$159,039.19

Actual Income: \$123,918.09

Net Ordinary Income: - \$35,121.10

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on changes. To remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another. Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty. Let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours. Let us think of our families and friends, and let us give thanks in our hearts.

Author Unknown

Christian Fellowship Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance: Pastor Bill, Tammie Huerth, Rita Larsen, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender and Debbie Tschudy

Old Business

Bell Tower repair/remodel – Dianna is working on it – sent revised bid estimate back to Eagle Carpentry since they will not be doing the painting – approx. \$275 and Dave Bongard will do the painting – no cost estimate yet

September 15 – **10:30 church service in the park** – cancelled due to rain

Fall church cleaning days – October 18-19 at 9:00 a.m. each day – had quite a few members volunteer their time to help clean

Debbie is working on putting together the list for a SCOOP insert on what our committee works on and descriptions – it may help new members who might be interested in helping – copies given to committee for them to review and comment on – have not received any comments from members and no further update yet – will revisit in November

October 20 – **Coffee Fellowship** – it is good to have new members volunteer their time to help – thank you

New Business

Coffee Fellowship date
November 10

Christian Fellowship Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Minutes

(continued)



Decorating church on November 30, starting at 9:30 – Tammie Huerth is chairing, and she put together a committee for decorating (Tammie, Dianna, Donna K., Rose and Cecy); Larry Johnson will decorate outside of church; and there will be a sign-up sheet for helpers. Advent season starts December 1.

Any other new business?

December 8 - December coffee fellowship

December 15 – We will have a Christmas goodies/treats bake sale

Miscellaneous Church Issues:

December 8 – Music Sunday

December 15 – Sunday School Christmas program at the 10:30 worship service

Next Meeting – November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

How About Sponsoring A Radio Broadcast or Our Newsletter? If you would like to remember or honor a family member or friend by sponsoring a Sunday morning worship service radio broadcast or our monthly newsletter, please call the Church office. The cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast is \$73.50, and the cost of sponsoring a monthly *SCOOP* is \$50 (cost of paper and postage).

MUSIC @ FIRST CHURCH

Even though it is only November, it is time to think about our Annual Christmas Music Festival. In addition to First Choir, we would like to have solos and ensembles to fill out our worship services. The Music Festival will be at both services on Sunday, December 8th. Any and all who would like to share their gifts of music should contact Denny Kahn at either 370-6000 or 963-4915. Both vocal and instrumental selections are welcome.

Music, as always, is such a special part of the Christmas season. In addition to the Music Festival on December 8th, First Choir will be singing each Advent Sunday and on Christmas Eve. While the holidays are busy, perhaps coming on board with First Choir would be a way for you to experience the joys of Christmas music. Please consider coming to choir on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. to join our “festive group!”

Finally, as Thanksgiving approaches, I am pleased to share that an Ecumenical Choir will participate in the Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John’s Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 27th. As the director for this year’s choir, I encourage members of First Church to join us for the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Music is available at First Choir rehearsals. The Ecumenical Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, November 20th, at 8:00 p.m. and then again right before the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Sunday School News

by Margaret McFarlane

✿ If you haven't sent back the Time & Talent sheets, please take an opportunity to do this.

✿ On Sunday, November 3, students in second grade and our new students in Grades 3-6 will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service.

✿ The Sunday School choir will sing at the 10:30 service on November 17.

✿ UNICEF boxes were sent home for those who would like to collect for this worthy cause. Money is due back by November 10.

✿ Our HARVEST HOME TABLE will be set up from November 3rd-24th in the narthex (by the ushers' counter) to collect food for the Food Pantry. Students can bring non-perishable food, cleaning, and personal care items to class or they can put it on the table.

✿ 4th, 5th, & 6th graders are invited to paint the windows for Christmas on Sunday, November 24, at 1:00 p.m.

✿ The Sunday School hour will be extended until 10:20 on November 24, December 1, 8, and 15. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.

✿ The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15, at the 10:30 service.

✿ We will have program practice on Saturday, December 7 and 14, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the program need to be present for both practices. Please call me if this is a problem. Pre-K, K, and 1st grade students will be dismissed at 10:15 after they practice. Grades 2-6 will dismiss at 11:30.

You can H.E.L.P. (Help Excite Little People!)

The red sleigh is out in the Education Building entryway, and it is again time to think of our holiday toy collection. From now until mid-December, we'll be collecting good, used toys and items for teens to distribute to less fortunate children and youth in our community. You can participate by:

- 📦 Spreading the word that we're collecting toys.
- 📦 Bringing toys to put in the sleigh. If you have time to clean your donations, please mark the bag/box as "clean toys."
- 📦 Making monetary donations if you don't have any toys to "recycle."
- 📦 Volunteering to be an "elf." Elves wash and organize the toys. We meet in the Sanctuary basement. Our November toy washing sessions will be:

Monday, November 18, from 10:00-Noon
Friday, November 22, from 10:00-Noon
Monday, November 25, from 10:00-Noon
Wednesday, November 27, from 10:00-Noon

- 📦 Pick one or join us for as many as you are able.
- 📦 Watch for the December schedule in next month's *SCOOP!*

If you have questions, please contact Margaret McFarlane at 643-6327.

Thank You

FROM THE HEART

Dear Pastor Bill and Friends & Family of First U.C.C.:

It makes me feel so special and as happy as can be to know someone as nice as you took time to think of me. You touched my day with thoughtfulness and brightened up my mood. That's why I'm sending warmest thanks and deepest gratitude for all your cards, visits, and prayers!

**God Bless and Thank You,
Millie Larsen**

From Cliff Lawton

Thank you for all your warm wishes and cards as I recovered from my hip replacement done at Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital.

My sincerest thank you to Pastor Bill and friends of First United Church of Christ in remembrance of my brother, Dea Fraust.

Blessings of Love, VaLera Accola



Christmas Poinsettias

We invite you to donate towards poinsettias and greenery in memory or honor of a family member or friend. All donations will be acknowledged in the January SCOOP. You may put your donation in the offering plate or take it to the church office.



A Pat on the Back and a Great Big Thank You

A special thank you to our Church Directory Committee for all their time and assistance helping to make our upcoming new directory a success – **Pastor Bill, Rose Kleinert, Dorothy Kundert, Amanda McFarlane, Lois Pieper, Margaret McFarlane, Marcia Nach-reiner, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender and Sharal Steuber**. Also, a special thank you to our members who took the time to come in and get their picture taken; we really appreciated it! It is great for all members to be able to put a face to the names, especially since we have so many new members and have not updated our directory since 2008. Also, thank you to those members that submitted pictures. Thank you, **Rose and Amanda**, for all of your time and hours putting the pictures into and creating our special new directory, we could not have gotten it done without you! Thank you to our special secretary, Cindy, for the time she spent helping us with member lists, labels, etc. You are a treasure to our church.

From Christian Fellowship:


A special thank you to **Rose Kleinert** and **Fritz Wyttenbach** for the delicious food you brought for our coffee fellowship on Sunday, September 22. Thank you to **Em Fuchs** for helping serve that day. We appreciate you!!!


Thanks to **Deb Tschudy, Carol Hehen-berger, Sherrie Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Dorothy Kundert, Tammie Huerth, Tom Litscher and Dianna Woerpel** for cleaning the Sanctuary, balcony areas and stairs, the Narthex, windows and doors, Pastor Bill's office, the main dining

room and kitchen, the fireside room, windows, benches, and chairs in the educational building. We have a large church building with many nooks and crannies and besides all of the work **Chris Garcia** does every week (have you noticed the floors in the educational building?) this extra cleaning helps and saves us money from hiring professional cleaners.

Special thank you to **Melissa Brickl, Dorothy Kundert and Carolyn Kennedy** for hosting our coffee fellowship on Sunday, October 20. We appreciate all the wonderful treats and refreshments. Thank you for taking the time to help and blessings to you all.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

 As you are out and about doing your Christmas shopping, please remember we continue to **collect new and gently-used clothes and diapers** for children ages newborn through 5 years. You can place your items in the bassinette in the back of church. Our donations have been very appreciated by the families who have received them!!

 We acknowledge 1st **anniversaries**; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50. Please let us know if we missed your **birthday** on the birthday calendar or your **wedding anniversary!**



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we praise you for the many ways we have known your steadfast love. In the healing of those who were sick, in the comfort of those who were grieving, in the solace of those who were lonely, in the welcome of those who were estranged, in so many ways we have seen your love.

Holy Lord, your love creates and your love redeems and most certainly your love sustains. We pray for ourselves and all those we know who need the sustenance of your care.

Holy One, we hope to always remember the steadfastness of your love.

Alleluia and Amen.



Memorials Report

Memorials were received in September in loving memory of:

Rosemary Lichtenwalner

Radio Ministry

We thank the October sponsors of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Frank & Georgia Selden, In loving memory of their mothers, Valitha Sprecher and Marjorie Selden;

The Family of Lucinda Gruber, In honor and celebration of Lucinda's 94th birthday on October 8th

Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Larry & Kathy Johnson	Tim & Katie Homar	Tom Litscher	Cecy Haines	The Larsen Family	
Kurt & Wendy Schultz			Tina Wilkinson		
			David & Gloria Ramsey		

Communion Servers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>November 3</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>December 1</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Emily Fuchs, Chair	Carol Hehenberger, Chair		Pam Alwin, Chair	Ed Larsen, Chair	
Gary Schlender			Galen Alwin	Tim Homar	
Terry Steuber	Rick Breining		Barb Brock	Rita Larsen	
Fritz Wyttenbach	Sharon Diehl		Debbie Tschudy	Todd Pieper	
	Tim Herbrand				

“Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest.”
Love, Jesus

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
504 Washington Avenue
Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER SCOOP

This month's *SCOOP* is sponsored
by Herman & Debbie Tschudy,
In loving memory of Emil & Martha
Tschudy, Dale & Anna Mae Dennis,
and Peter and Dominic Giacomino.

Harvest Home Table: November 3rd – 24th

- 3 Daylight Savings Times Ends
- 7 Stewardship Committee: 6:30 p.m.
- 10 ***Happy 1st Anniversary, Pastor Bill & Laura!***
Coffee Fellowship between worship services
- 12 Christian Fellowship Committee ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 17 "A Celebration Sunday": Stewardship Sunday
Sunday School Choir sings @ 10:30 Worship Service
"A Celebration Sunday" Luncheon following the 10:30 Worship Service
- 18 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 21 Consistory: 6:30 p.m.
- 22 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 24 4th, 5th, and 6th graders paint Church windows for Christmas: 1:00 p.m.
- 25 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 27 H.E.L.P. Toy Washing: 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at St. John's Lutheran Church: 7:00 p.m.
- 28 ***Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!***
- 30 Decorate church for Advent and Christmas: 9:30 a.m.; chili luncheon to follow

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ AM740 & FM99.7) & 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation: 9:10-10:20 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:10-10:10 a.m. for ages 3 and older

Pastor Bill Kapp Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon; Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Office phone: 643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249; E-mail: bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

Cindy Baker Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.–Noon

Church Secretary Office phone: 643-8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org