

First United Church of Christ

504 Washington Avenue Sauk

City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCOOP

April 2024

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com • For the Youtube channel type: “ [First UCC Sauk City Youtube](#) ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor and solve the world's problems over a cup of coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the first cup.

Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)

This Month at First Church...

April 14th Coffee Fellowship

April 18th Consistory 6pm

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387

Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926

Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org

April 2024

From the Interim Pastor

“After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb...”

IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING

Kate Franzmann

The tomb,
so dark. The
stone, so
heavy.
The odds are so stacked
against life in this place.
Our place.
Stacked against life, against hope,
against love, against joy. Yet the
stone that should not have
rolled away does.
The light that didn't need to shine
fills the darkest space.
And now this day, this moment,
this one is filled with all that
is good.
In spite of everything we expected
and beyond anything we deserve,
it is filled with all that is needed,
all that could ever be and more.

The odds are indeed “so stacked against life, against hope against love, against joy.” And, indeed, the two Mary's know this. But they aren't coming to the tomb on that first Easter morning because they have hope. They are coming because they have known what it means—what it feels like, to have been deeply and truly loved. They come because, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, they can't believe that such a love as they have seen and known in Jesus could ever really be taken from them.

Somehow they already hold in their hearts the message of Easter—that the darkness won't last forever; that Love rises from whatever tomb attempts to hold it down; that our brokenness can be repaired or, at the very least, we can know we are loved *in* our brokenness. The message of Easter is that hope, held in spite of the despair that makes hope seem impossible, is what is finally real.

The message of Easter is that yes, indeed, you have been—and you *are* loved. Impossibly loved *beyond* your faith (or lack of faith), *beyond* your hope (or lack of hope). You are loved *in the midst of* your weakness and the depths of your brokenness. You are loved, through losses and disappointments, by a Love that cannot be contained in any tomb or dimmed by any shroud or constrained by any power—including what you *thought* was the almighty power of your own darkness. Like the old gospel song says—“Ain't no grave gonna' hold your body down.”

Come to church this coming Sunday and we'll give this hope a proper Easter celebration.

Always in hope,

Brad

Annual Congregational Meeting
First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Avenue, Sauk City, WI 53583

Sunday, March 3, 2024 ~ Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – Rose Kleinert
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Brad Brookins
3. **Declaration of Quorum** – Minimum of 10% of the membership as per First UCC Constitution
 - a. 43 members present in sanctuary.
 - b. 5 online.
4. **Appointment of Parliamentarian, Head Teller, and Tellers**
 - a. Parliamentarian – Tim Homar
 - b. Head Teller – Tammie Huerth
 - c. Teller – Kathy Johnson
 - d. Tamara Straub made a motion to approve these nominees, Mark Pierick seconded, motion carried.
5. **Consider Approval of Minutes from the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of March 5, 2023**
 - a. Kathy Johnson made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes, Barb Sprecher seconded, motion carried.
6. **Consider Approval of Financial Reports and Proposed 2024 Budget**
 - a. Tamara Straub made a motion to approve the 2024 Financial Report, Mark Pierick seconded, motion carried.
7. **Tim Homar presented the proposed 2024 Budget.**
 - a. Carol Hehenberger asked why the Insurance number was higher this year, Tim said we made 5 payments this year instead of 4.
 - b. Peggy Ganser made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget, Diana Woerpel seconded, motion carried.
8. **Consider Approval of Committee Reports as presented in the Annual Report**
 - a. Peggy Ganser made a motion to approve all Committee Reports, seconded by Tamara Straub, motion passed.
9. **Update on: Capital Project(s)**
 - a. Carrie Finley presented information on the new sign proposal and sign examples.
 - i. Tim Homar made a motion that we approve spending up to \$4,500.00 from the Memorial Fund so we can purchase more than one interchangeable Packard. Tammie Huerth seconded. Motion carried.
 - ii. Questions were asked about the placement of the sign because it is only one sided. There are rules and regulations regarding where the sign can be placed given, we are on a corner.

- iii. Brigitta Brickl asked if we need to consider asking for more money so that we can have it lit when installed instead of doing it later. Mark Pierick said it is going to be months before we have the sign and electricians.
won't give us a bid at this time. Approval will be needed from the Sauk Village.
- iv. Cliff Lawton asked if we could repair our current sign. Mark Pierick and Dean Dahnert have investigated this and there isn't enough material left on the sign to make repairs. Wood has dry rotted, being held together with copper plating.
- v. Liz Bongard asked if we can write on the Placards. Carrie said they are too customizable which doesn't allow us to do this. There is always the ability to purchase separate banners to advertise our separate activities.
- vi. Jesse Brickl asked about LED signs. Carrie said we are limited on this lighting because of the neighborhood.
- vii. Paper has been passed around to vote for which sign we want. viii. Vote is in, Sign #2 is the one most of the congregation would like to move forward with. Tim Homar made a motion that we accept sign #2 as our new sign, Tamara Straub seconded, motion passed.

b. Mark Pierick has information on other projects:

- i. Replacing the four (4) doors on Madison Street as they are rotting. Special order doors as they are odd sizes. Currently they have metal placed at the bottom to keep the mice out of the building. Costs are \$3,848.50 from Top Tier Builders. ii. Outside trim around windows and doors needs to be painted. Some fill will be needed as there is some wood rot. Our bid was from last year, but he is keeping it the same. Bid is \$2,700-\$3,000 from Works by Wheeler.
- iii. Education building roof and front roof will need to be repaired in the next 5 years. Just looking forward regarding these issues.
- iv. Mark is looking for contractors that are looking for work.
- v. Tamara Straub asked where the funds would come from. Sue Herbrand would like the funds from Mission Possible to pay for both the door replacement and exterior painting.
- vi. Lois Pieper asked where we are with maintenance of the elevator. Mark said the oil is currently leaking, which is a good thing unless it leaks too much. Cost would be \$10,000 for maintaining the elevator.
- vii. Tamara Straub made a motion that we accept the funds from Mission Possible and move forward with this outside work. Carol Hehenberger seconded; motion passed.

10. Church Constitution:

- a. Tamara Straub asked why the Open and Affirming committee is not mentioned. Tim Homar said this is an ad hock committee and fall under the general committees.
- b. Carol Hehenberger asked about joining the church via baptism. Tim Homar said it will be changed to include baptism followed by confirmation.
- c. Tammie Huerth made a motion that we accept the updated Constitution with the change above included. Jenny Brickl seconded; motion passed.

11. New Business – Issues from the Congregation

12. Consistory Elections – 1 Position

- a. Nominee 1 Sharon Diehl – 3-year term
- b. Beth Huerth made the motion to accept Sharon as our nominee, Jamie Wittwer seconded, motion passed.

13. Introduction of Consistory Members – Rose Kleinert

- a. Barb Sprecher
- b. Heather Miller
- c. Rose Kleinert
- d. Carrie Finley
- e. Tammy Young
- f. Tim Henning
- g. Sharon Diehl

14. Pastor Brad’s Report

- a. Included in the Annual Report.
- b. Those helping in the church office: Peggy Ganser, Tammie Huerth, Deb Tschudy, Marcy Thurwachter, Rose Kleinert.

15. Consider Adjournment

- a. Jamie Wittwer made a motion to adjourn meeting, Kari Larson seconded, motion passed.

16. Closing Prayer – Pastor Brad Brookins

A brief consistory meeting was held after the annual meeting: present were Tammy Young, Carrie Finley, Heather Miller, Barb Sprecher, Tim Henning, and Rose Kleinert (Sharon Diehl was absent due to an out-of-town commitment). Tammy Young made a motion that we keep our consistory positions the same as last year; all were in favor, motion carried.

✚ President	Rose Kleinert
✚ Vice-President	Carrie Finley
✚ Secretary	Tammy Young
✚ Liaison to Finance	TBD



Happy 100th Birthday Verda McFarlane ~ Psalm 31:23 says “Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful.” Please join us in celebrating with our oldest member, Verda McFarlane, as she turns 100 years old **Friday, April 5th**, by sending birthday Greetings to:

Verda McFarlane
The Pines Assisted Living
1050 Prairie Street, Room #30
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

People are our First Priority...

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options.

We'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live YouTube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services can also be seen on our YouTube channel. Type "First UCC Sauk City YouTube" into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone.

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.

CONSISTORY

Consistory Meeting Minutes from **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

Present: Pastor Brad, Heather Miller, Carrie Finley, Sharon Diehl, Barb Sprecher, Tim Henning, and Rose Kleinert.

Absent: Tammy Young

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Committee Updates:

Christian Fellowship:

- No meeting in March.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th (time to be determined). Maintenance:
 - church doors on Madison Street entrance to be replaced or try to fix original doors(?), painting around outside church windows, and resealing of church parking lot. Monies for these projects were approved at the annual meeting.

The consistory needs to see the design and style of these doors before they are purchased and/or installed (looking for authenticity).

Mark is asking for permission to have a couple of master keys for the Ed building to eliminate numerous keys throughout the building.

Consistory would like to have other options investigated (such as going with a fob of sorts to get rid of all keys and only one is necessary).

Members In Ministry: Continue to make visits, Debbie Tschudy returns from Florida on March 30th ~ a meeting to be held in early April.

O and A (Love Thy Neighbor): The committee would like to participate in the FROLIC Parade again in Mt. Horeb on June 9th - They are requesting approval to purchase a new banner. Motion to approve by Carrie; second by Tim, motion carried. To further understand options to Love Thy Neighbor, Pastor Brad will be reaching out to the UCC Conference for literature and speakers; motion to approve by Barb, seconded by Sharon, motion carried. For further details, see scoop.

New Sign: Sign and monies were approved at the annual meeting. Waiting for further details.

Sunday School: See scoop.

New Business:

- Pastor Brad will be part time (20 hrs./week) starting on June 1st. We will revisit in September.
- The finance committee would like approval to move monies from our checking account to a CD. Motion to approve by Tim, seconded by Carrie, motion carried.
- Discussion on parsonage rent increase. Motion to approve by Sharon, seconded by Barb. Motion to adjourn motion made by Heather, seconded by Barb, motion carried. Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

Next consistory meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 18th at 6pm**



6111 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Suite 301
Independence, OH 44131

Lifeline Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive, and painless **health screenings at First United Church of Christ on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.**

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

○ **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)**

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

○ **Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening**

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

○ **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)**

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

○ **Atrial Fibrillation**

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Lifeline Screening, who will be on site on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at First United Church of Christ to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

Preventive screenings can help, and we have partnered with Lifeline Screening to provide these valuable screenings.

The mission of Lifeline Screening is to provide advance, yet affordable and convenient health screenings that supplement your traditional healthcare.

They can help make you aware of a previously silent, unrecognized problem that can now get treated at an early stage or confirm that you are on the right path and should continue your healthy habits.

Don't let heart disease and stroke get in your way of the life you love. These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- * Thank you to Calista and Carley Brickl for helping me deliver the 60 birthday bags to the SP Food Pantry. Kris Ballweg was very grateful for our donations. Thanks again to the congregation and Sunday School families for the supplies to make this project happen!
- * Our annual Easter egg hunt was Sunday, March 17. Spring break for the Sauk Prairie School District is March 22-31. We had our egg hunt a little earlier this year. It was a cold morning, but our students had fun! Afterwards, we enjoyed some treats and fellowship with the students and families. We had 10 students, 3 Confirmands, and 10 adults! Thank you to the Confirmation students for dying the hard-boiled eggs and for hiding the eggs in the park.
- * On Palm Sunday, March 24, students participated in a Palm Procession during the church service.
- * The Sunday School is collecting monetary *donations for Mabel's Building Mission*. This is our 21st year supporting this project. In the past, we have collected donations that have been used to build approximately 23 homes! "Mabel's Building Mission" was founded for the purpose of helping the poor in the town of Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Homes are built for families that are employed but can't afford a home. Pastor Herb and Bev Feierabend from our church family were involved in the leadership of the building projects for many years. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 so our church can build a home for a family again. There is a display as you enter church (by the bulletin board). You can use one of the envelopes that are on the table. Please put it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the church office. Donations should be turned in by May 12.
- * Looking ahead....
On **Sunday, May 5th** we will be honoring our youth that are graduating from high school this year. Please join us at the 9:00 service.
- Sunday, May 12th** is Confirmation Sunday. We will celebrate the affirmation of Baptism as Dayton Ballweg is Confirmed.
- Sunday, May 19th** is Sundae Sunday. Further details to follow.

Margaret McFarlane

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES!

From Dennis Kahn, Music Director

Please contact Denny Kahn at 608 963 4915 if you would like to volunteer to provide special music at our worship services this summer.

We have dates available for summer music from Sunday, June 9th through Sunday, September 8th.

Following our summer hiatus, First Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us in the fall, if not before!

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There was no meeting in the month of March. Christian Fellowship meetings will be on a short hiatus while some of our members are snowbirds until after Easter! We will be having Coffee Fellowship on ***Sunday, April 14th***.

STOCK THE SCHOOLS for APRIL

Individual Packages of Pretzels or Cheese-its, and \$25 Gift Cards to Piggly Wiggly, Hansen's, Kwik Trip, or Walmart for purchasing specific items for students



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

Members in Ministry continue to make visits to members in nursing homes and homebound. Call the church office at 608.643.8387 or Debbie Tschudy at 608.963.4873 A meeting will be held in April. Thank you.



FLOWER FUND

We are once again soliciting monetary donations for our flower fund. These funds are used to purchase flowers and planting supplies for the planters and in-ground flowers which lend a bright and cheerful welcome to our church. You may place your donation in the offering plate (in an envelope marked flower fund) or drop off at the church office. If writing a check, put "Flower Fund" in the memo line.

THANK-YOU!

OPEN & AFFIRMING (Love Thy Neighbor)

A meeting was held on March 12th at church. Shirlee and Tamara are meeting at the New Life Church in Madison on April 1st to discuss how that church is moving forward with social justice issues. They will report back to us their findings.

We are waiting on presenting a survey until we have more information from several other churches.

We have been asked to participate in the FROLIC Parade again this year in Mount Horeb on June 9th. We hope more people will join our march representing our church. We also would like to propose having a banner made that has our church name front and center. This could be used for several other occasions as well (i.e. coffee sales, cow chip parade, etc.).

We are proposing to emphasize each month to draw attention to issues. April is Earth month, Shirlee will be sharing an article on this in the scoop.

Tamara worked up a list of services we can all take part in to build our church. This was in the bulletin.

Our next meeting is scheduled for *April 16th*



Badger Gas and Steam, Swap Meet Food Stand

Friday, May 4th 6am – 6pm

Saturday, May 5th 6am – 6pm

Sunday, May 6th 6am – 3pm

Volunteers are needed and much appreciated, any monies you earn will go toward a non-profit of your choice.

Back Bay Mission Trip in Biloxi, MS is scheduled for June 17th thru June 21st (departure on the 15th, arrival home on the 23rd). If you are interested in participating in the Mission Trip an informational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 7th at 10am in the Ed Building kitchen. Questions, contact Tim @ 608.963.8734 or Sue @ 608.370.4686 ~ you can earn monies for travel expenses at the upcoming Badger Gas and Steam Swap meet (day and time above).



Memorials have been given in memory of:

**Frances & Renee Wentz
Ted & Millie Larsen**

Radio Broadcast Sponsors for April

April 7th – Sponsored by **Jane Litscher**, in memory of **David Litscher's** birthday.

April 14th – Sponsored by **Steve & Marcy Thurwachter**, in memory of Marcys' mom's birthday **Shirley Moely on 4/7** and Sponsoring are **Jamie & Karen Wittwer**, in memory of Jamies' dad's birthday, **Clifford Wittwer**.

April 21st – Sponsored by **Steve & Kristy Statz**, in honor of **First UCC's rich musical history & traditions, especially the First Choir**

April 28th – Sponsored by **Emily Fuchs**, in memory of her parents **Frank & Anna Matoushek**

First UCC is so grateful and blessed by the many that sponsor our Sunday morning radio broadcasts, this gift is priceless.

Currently, the following dates are available for Radio Sponsorship:

- o ***June 2nd, June 23rd, June 30th, July 7th, August 25th,
September 1st, September 15th, September 29th
October 20th, November 3rd, November 10th, and December 1st***

WORLD OF GOOD

Welcome to the first in a series of articles on caring for creation. In celebration of Earth Month, and Earth Day on April 22, we are starting off our series on the environment with some thoughts on ways our church can mobilize to address climate justice.

Working for the environment is our responsibility; with that in mind, I would like to tell you about A Kairos Call to Action -- an initiative issued by the UCC Council for Climate Justice, that calls for UCC churches to adopt goals to address climate and inequality. According to the Council, climate scientists have impressed upon us the urgent need to act. Action is needed today, and on a society-wide scale over the next 10 years to meet the minimum goals needed to put human civilization on a more sustainable and equitable path. They want to impress upon us that there is a rich theological tradition that underscores the ways that moments of crisis can be God-charged moments of possibility. Kairos means “right time”, and NOW is that time. A Kairos Call to Action is a resource for providing the scientific, theological, and practical resources for churches who are seeking to develop mobilization plans to address the intertwined crises of climate and inequality.

Here are the 10 ways the Council for Climate Justice suggests that churches can mobilize:

1. Enter a period of study and immersion.
2. Plan inspired worship that continually focuses attention on this Kairos moment. (such as an Earth Day service).
3. Know your Environmental Justice History and become a zero-waste church.
4. Cultivate gardens, landscapes, and appetites in the struggle for justice.
5. Become a carbon-neutral or a carbon negative/climate positive church.
6. Divest from fossil fuels and move church money out of “dirty” banks.
7. Make every election a time to call for values-based voting that expresses care for creation and justice for all.
8. Through townhalls, delegations, candidate forums, emails, and petitions, call upon elected officials and candidates for office to support the Green New Deal.
9. Become a Kairos mobilization hub.
10. Throughout the process of mobilizing, tell our story.

For more information on the above and links to further discussions, you can



Google search A Kairos Call to Action. **Now is the right time!**

WE
appreciate
YOU

NOTES

Thank you to all who
thought of me in any
way on my 90th Birthday
March 18. It was so nice
to hear from so many of
you.

And a thank you to Pastor
Brad and those who have worked
so hard to make our church
welcome to all people. Just
as Jesus would have done.

God Bless All

Love Love Pice



April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Amy Bachunber	4 Sharon Diehl	5 Frank Kirchstein Verda McFarlane (100 yrs young)	6
7	8 Jane Litscher	9	10	11	12 Matt Moseman	13
14 Ken Meier	15	16	17	18	19 Audrey Brickl Cecy Haines Sherry Pieper	20
21	22 Roger Heidenreich	23 Reagan Noltner	24	25	26	27 Kim Baier
28 Austin Perry Scott Kinnamon Derek Sliter David Young	29	30 Haden Hass Katie Huerth	1	2	3	4
5	6					