



THE ANCHOR



First United Church of Christ
Belleville, Wisconsin

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Beloved Church,

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be “church”. Some of this has been prompted by preparations for our annual meeting and envisioning the year ahead. There is so much we have to be grateful for, and so much we have accomplished! Yet above all else, I am reminded that to “be church” is more than what we “do”; it is who we are and how we are, together. It is the body of this faithful fellowship and the sacred relationships that grow with God and so bind us to one another that defines what it means to “be church”.

The church, *this church*, is a community we can share mutual joy and sorrow, encouragement and care. We don’t claim to be perfect, but it is here that we can try to offer a safe space to be our authentic selves, in all our strengths and growing edges; it is here that we can deepen in faith, wrestle with doubts, and discern God’s still-speaking voice in our lives. To be the church is to learn to see and serve the presence of God in one another, in creation, and in the world. When we can “be” a faithful church community, all the tasks of mission and ministry flow generously through our life together.

At no time has the treasure of the church, particularly *this church*, been more personally experienced than in these days of my family’s loss – you have surrounded Greg and I, my father Jim, and our whole family with such prayers of love and care. We are blessed and grateful for each one of you and the First UCC church family. Thank you.

As we move into this new year, let us continue to “be church” together, and see where the Spirit leads us. I look forward to the adventures that await us, and I cherish the ties that bind us together in God’s ever widening and encircling love,

In Christ’s peace,
~Pastor Laura



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WELCOMING

JANUARY 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 9:30 am - Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Mark Yurs, Guest Preacher 10:30 am - Fellowship	JANUARY 8 <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> 9:15 am - Sunday School 9:30 am - Hybrid Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship/ "Un-decorate" Christmas	JANUARY 15 <i>2nd Sun. After Epiphany</i> 9:15 am - Sunday School 9:30 am - Hybrid Worship Rev. Dr. Mark Yurs, Guest Preacher 10:30 am - Fellowship	JANUARY 22 <i>3rd Sun. After Epiphany</i> 9:15 am - Sunday School 9:30 am - Hybrid Worship Remembrance Sunday 10:30 am - Fellowship	JANUARY 29 <i>4th Sun. After Epiphany</i> 9:15 am - Sunday School 9:30 am - Hybrid Worship Annual Meeting Following Worship Fellowship
Matthew 2:13-23	Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17		Psalm 27:1, 4-9	Matthew 4:12-23
Liturgist: Ron Babler	Liturgist: Gary Hintch	Liturgist: Esther Olson	Liturgist: Stacy & Mitch Heller	Liturgist: Sandy Van Kleeck
Musician: Kim Goke	Musician: Kim Goke	Musician: Barb Babler	Musician: Barb Babler	Musician: Kim Goke
Ushers: Jennifer Engstad Rodger Goke Stacy Heller	Ushers: Jennifer Engstad Kathryn Fox Sandy Van Kleeck	Ushers: Paul Campbell Kathryn Fox Sandy Van Kleeck	Ushers: Paul Campbell Kathryn Fox Sandy Van Kleeck	Ushers: Kathryn Fox Shawn Kippley
Tech Team: Diane Alsmo Paul Hodel	Tech Team: Connie Geier Tanya Helwig	Tech Team: Diane Alsmo Paul Hodel	Tech Team: Connie Geier Tanya Helwig	Tech Team: Diane Alsmo Paul Hodel
Fellowship Time: <i>Open for Volunteer</i>	Fellowship Time: <i>Open for Volunteer</i>	Fellowship Time: <i>Open for Volunteer</i>	Fellowship Time: <i>Open for Volunteer</i>	Fellowship Time: <i>Open for Volunteer</i>
<i>Fellowship Time is after Worship at 10:30 am — Volunteers needed to host; supply a beverage, and if you wish, a light snack.</i>				

ZOOM/WORSHIP INFORMATION

Whether you join us on Sunday morning in the sanctuary or via Zoom, watch our worship service on YouTube at a time convenient for you, or simply read over the week's bulletin, we're glad to have you with us! Here's how we can connect:

ZOOM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP — 9:30 AM

Zoom requires that software be no more than nine months behind the current version before using the platform.

The ID/Password information stays the same for each Sunday:

<https://zoom.us/j/605612147> Meeting ID: 605 612 147 Passcode: 679117

If you don't have internet access, simply phone in by dialing 1-312-626-6799, enter the Meeting ID, then the Passcode, followed by #. (There is also a direct link in the weekly "Chimes" that internet users can access.)

WORSHIP RECORDINGS — YouTube.com — If you're unable to join us on Sunday mornings, you can access the worship recordings on our YouTube channel. In the search bar type in our channel name: bellevillefirstucc.

There is also a link in the weekly "Chimes" — <https://www.youtube.com/@bellevillefirstucc>

Another way to access our channel is with the link on our website.

WEEKLY BULLETIN — Members who do not have internet access are mailed a print copy of our Sunday bulletin.

All other members can access the bulletin as well through a link on our weekly "Chimes" email. This gives you the opportunity to print off a bulletin if you so choose.



**“Remembrance Sunday”
Sunday, January 22, 2023
9:30 am**

The loss of a loved one creates ripples of grief not only for the immediate family, but for friends, neighbors, and whole communities. As a community of faith, we recognize the importance of providing circles of support to those both inside and outside our congregation.

Sunday, January 22 our annual Service of Remembrance will be included in our morning worship. We will be honoring the memory of members of our congregation who have passed away in the past year with the chime of a bell and the lighting of a candle. We invite all who have also lost beloved family or friends this year to be recognized as well.

To help us prepare, please forward the name(s) of those family members and friends whom you wish to be remembered, your relationship to them, and the date of their death to the church office or Pastor Laura by January 16. Together we will give thanks to God for the lives of all these whom we have loved and be assured that God holds them in eternal life.

Those members/former members from our congregation who will be remembered are:

Wilbur Hollis — Age 88 — February 10, 2022

Joyce Lapp (*former member*) — Age 73 — May 13, 2022

Richard Dallman — Age 76 — May 15, 2022

Elizabeth Erb — Age 25 — May 26, 2022

Elaine Funseth — Age 86 — June 8, 2022

Rose Legler — Age 90 — August 8, 2022

Sharon Dallman — Age 76 — September 6, 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 29, 2023

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 following worship. It will be a hybrid gathering available on Zoom. We will approve committee reports, vote on the annual budget, and address other items that appear on the agenda.

Per approval, we will reelect Connie Geier to a second term on the Church Council, along with electing Greg Wolff and Sherrol Yurs to first terms. Steve Geier will be voted on to begin a first term on the Endowment Committee, along with reelecting Pam Kelly and Betty Wolff to second terms.

There is a lot to celebrate, so please plan on joining us that day!

A reminder to staff and committee chairs that reports are due **January 9**. The Annual Report will be printed and delivered to those who do not have internet access, and otherwise will be available electronically. There will also be a few print copies available here at the church.



SUNDAY MORNING SIGN-UPS

With the coming of the New Year, we are going to try something a little different –

There will be quarterly sign-up sheets in the Welcome Area for ways to participate in worship as liturgists, greeters, and/or fellowship hosts. We will also include a sign-up for children, youth, and/or families to serve as acolytes.

We hope this will give you an opportunity to look ahead and plan your participation in worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings.

If you are an online participant, please call Pastor Laura or the church office to let us know if you would like to be an online worship reader – we want to include you, too!

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



January 1:
Hayden Streich
January 3:
Corey Hurst
January 4:
Maddie DeSmet
Juanita Harbort
Kristi Therkelsen
January 5:
Brett Lyne
January 7:
Lois Heittola
January 9:
Mark Christen
Amanda Nemec

January 10:	January 21:
Betty Goke	Mason Anderson
Gunnar Helwig	Lindsay Kittleson
Carl Schultz	
January 11:	January 22:
Tony Buol	Sylvia Zentner
January 14:	January 25:
Beth Borchardt	Kate Hendrickson
January 15:	January 26:
Ben Copeland	Charlotte Fox
Jay Mullen	January 27:
January 16:	Gary Heinzman
Leah Hatlevig	Kensington Yaun
Cindy Lettman	January 28:
Sherrol Yurs	Mary Boley
January 20:	Dylan Gratz
Larry Roosli	January 30:
	Brock Kelly
	Janelle Oppliger-Handeland



January 24:
Paul & Gerri Campbell



Let us know if we missed your name or need to make any changes to our list.



CONNECTING

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS LIFTED UP FOR...

Tom Adams, Tenley Boutelle

WITH CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR...

Beth Campbell, Brian Duffin, Masey Farrell, Roger Hodel, Betty Legler, Ken Martinson, Jodi Steidl

OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOME CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING...

Herb Blaser	New Glarus Home
Betty Goke	Four Winds Lodge
Adolph Leuenberger	Heartsong, Belleville
Marilyn Mellenberger	New Glarus Home
Sylvia Zentner	Glarner Lodge

...and for all those whose names and needs are unspoken



WE LIFT UP PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD...

- For a New Year full of promise, joy, and peace
- For leaders and a just governance of our nation
- For those in need of food and shelter from cold winter days
- For communities devastated by winter storms
- For the people of Ukraine, Poland and others who experience the trauma of war
- For all who are harmed by the prejudices of race, identity, sexual orientation, and poverty

We pray for your comfort, your care, and your guidance O God.

WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO...

...Kathy & Allen Marty and their niece Jolene Adcock on the unexpected death of Jolene's husband, Bryce Adcock, on December 12 in Madison. A celebration of life is planned for June 2023.

...Pastor Laura, Greg, her father James Davison, and their family on the passing of her mother, Edith S. Davison, 94, of Madison on December 23. She passed away peacefully at home, in the presence of her family. There will be a memorial service at First Baptist Church, Madison on January 14 at 2:00 pm with a reception to follow the service.

The Belleville Schools community (staff and students) on the unexpected passing of one of one of its high school teachers, Ed Neumann, 46, of Evansville on December 25. Our sympathy to his family as well. A celebration of life is planned for early in 2023.

Our Christian love and prayers surround all who grieve; our faith entrusts these beloved lives to God's eternal care.

WE HAVE MANY THANK YOU'S TO SHARE...

- ~ For the Memorial gift from Lori Yaun in memory of her mother, Ruth Hanson
- ~ To Rev. Dr. Mark Yurs, who graciously has led worship and preached in Pastor Laura's absence
- ~ Our Advent season was filled with joy and participation from all generations of our church family! We thank all who participated as: Worship leaders and readers, candle lighters, musicians, decorators (church and Community Park), flower deliverers to shut-ins, tech team and ushers, tree-trimmers, fellowship hour hosts, and story writers. And a *special* thanks to our children, youth, and adults who told the Christmas story in word, dance, music, and drama on December 18.

Some say it takes a village; this season, as in all seasons, it is the gifts of time, talents and joyful fellowship that make us the church, a community of faith that welcomes all and lives out the Good News of God's redeeming love.

"Thank you to the church family for remembering me with the lovely poinsettia and candy.

May you all have a healthy, happy holiday season. — Marilyn Mellenberger"

"With many thanks for the poinsettia plant and the chocolates. From shut ins — Herb & Luane Blaser"

"Thank you to the Church Council and congregation for the special Christmas card and gift card.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Happy New Year everyone! — Kathy Stenseth"



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Enjoy these pictures of the past season...



FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3 years old - 5th Grade

Sunday Mornings 9:15-10:30 am

January 8, 15, 22 & 29

Our children and teachers worked hard to prepare a wonderful telling of the Christmas Story in our intergenerational worship on December 18! The kids were excited, and did a great job!

We also have a special thanks for Barb Babler, DeLynn Palmer, Karisa Hurst, Brooke Butts, and Pastor Laura for planning the program, to the parents who assisted, to Steve Geier and DeLynn Palmer for taking on the parts of the Donkey and the Mother Sheep, and to the Bell Choir for the music that accompanied us! Thank you!



Our regular Sunday School schedule will resume on January 8. That day we will learn about the baptism of Jesus. We hope to see everyone there!

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

6th - 12th Grades

We had a fun time making a “stable” for the Christmas program, preparing luminarias for Christmas Eve, and decorating wreaths for the church entrances!

We are looking forward to getting together in the New Year. Watch your emails for info!



CONFIRMATION

Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:15 pm

January 4, 11, 18 & 25

Confirmation will resume its regular schedule on Wednesday, January 4 at 7 pm with a belated Christmas Party for confirmants and mentors. Get ready for “Christmas Story Jeopardy!”.



COMMITTEES/GROUPS

STEWARDSHIP/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives! Thank you for the community of generosity that we share as a faith family. As of January 2, we are grateful to the 54 families who pledged \$117,020 to the general budget of First UCC for 2023. With this promise, our church will continue to thrive and change lives.

We also thank you for your support this year for our 2022 plan of ministry. If you have not yet done so, you may state next year's intention of giving in any amount you choose. Should your circumstances change, you can adjust the amount at any time. If you are curious about electronic giving, please contact the church office.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE — Kwik-Trip Car Wash Cards

Wash that salt and winter grime off your car! We have cards for sale for \$35 that are good for 5 Ultimate car washes; a great deal! Purchase a card on Sunday mornings, or contact Shawn Kippley (608-235-1896) or the church office.

FIRST UCC GUILD — A few "elves" delivered poinsettias to 29 members as a "Merry Christmas" message to our senior members and those who found it difficult be out over the holidays. We also received a Thank You from the Friends of the Library for the loan of two coffee urns for the tree lighting event in Library Park.

FINANCE COMMITTEE — We have completed work on our budget for 2023 and the response for pledged offerings has been amazing. If you have not yet filled out your pledged commitment for 2023 you can still do that. There are pledge cards in the gathering area next to the steps or just a note with your commitment will be fine also. We will take commitment cards even into January so you have time to consider your pledge. Thanks to everyone who has made their commitment and even though you may not feel that you can make one we thank you also for your donations to the church's goals.

ENDOWMENT — The Endowment Committee, after the better part of the last year, is pleased to announce the rollout of our Planned Giving Initiative. Planned Giving can be perpetuated through gifts during our lifetime or through some portion of our will, trust or estate plan. Gifts of this nature may be gratefully accepted into the Endowment, General, Memorial or Capital Improvement Funds. The Endowment Committee will be on hand during the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th to briefly introduce the program. Please pencil in Sun. February 26th as a more in depth presentation will be offered along with an opportunity for questions and answers. We look forward to sharing this initiative at the aforementioned dates but please feel free to contact Pastor Laura or any Endowment Committee member for more information.

WEBSITE DESIGN — Our "new" revised First UCC website was officially launched in early December. We're hopeful this updated information will be helpful to anyone searching for a church home or those who want to learn more about us — even our own members! Please take a look and let us know what you think. There's a button at the top of the "Weekly Chimes", or you can visit www.bellevillefirstucc.org. Any feedback can be directed to the Website Team of Pastor Laura, Michael Fox, Tanya Helwig, and Kathy Stenseth.

BUILDING & GROUNDS — Thanks to all those keeping our sidewalks/driveway clear and safe!

CHURCH DINNER — It's time to look ahead and envision what a church dinner may look like in 2023. Would you like to be part of the church dinner planning team? Ideas and planning will begin in the 1st quarter. If interested, please contact Jayne Campbell.



REACHING OUT

JANUARY MISSIONS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

We are planning our Souper Bowl of Caring again this year, **January 15 - February 12**, to support the Belleville Food Pantry. Since the Pantry is usually stocked with soup, we have adjusted our collection the last couple of years to provide items the Pantry needs.



This year, we will be collecting canned protein. This includes: stew, chili, Spam, chicken, tuna, etc. Watch for additional details.

WILDCAT CLOSET

We are once again collecting items for the Belleville School District's Wildcat Closet.

Items needed include:

* Youth winter boots	* Youth tennis shoes
* Snow pants	* Any Wildcat gear
* Girls and boys' jeans, size 5-10	

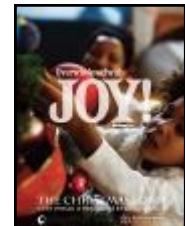


The school kindly asks that clothing be washed before being donated (also free of pet hair). They're also still looking for clothes racks and hangers. Donated items can be left in the bin/on the cart inside our front entryway.

MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATES...

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

Thanks to all who contributed to the UCC Christmas Fund, providing support funding for current and retired UCC pastors and church leaders who are in need of financial assistance. Your gifts to the UCC Christmas Fund changes lives. We received \$385.



BELLEVILLE COMMUNITY GIVING TREE 2022

Once again the Belleville community went above and beyond in making Christmas a little brighter for families in need. Thirty-five families each received \$240 in grocery gift cards and a \$25 Kwik Trip card. Each of the 95 children received gifts and/or gift cards. Many, many thanks go to all who participated in any way – community and church members, school staff and student organizations, and local businesses. Please know that the families are truly grateful for your generosity.



LOCAL 2022 CROP WALK ALLOCATION RECEIVED

We received a check for \$754.27 from Church World Service which was forwarded to the Belleville Food Pantry. This was the local allocation from the CROP Hunger Walk that took place this fall. Your generosity made a difference - thank you!



BELLEVILLE + BLOOD DRIVE — Tues. January 17, 1-6 pm — St. Mary of Lourdes
For appt. call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org; Sponsor Code: BellevilleWI
Give blood & automatically be entered for a chance to go to the Super Bowl in AZ!

First UCC Council Meeting Minutes — November 21, 2022, 6:30 pm, Beil Hall

Members Present: Barb Babler, Jayne Campbell, Kathryn Fox, Connie Geier, Shawn Gratz, Stacy Heller, Shawn Kippley, Rodger Goke, Pastor Laura

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Jayne Campbell, President.

Pastor Laura led devotions with a prayer by Diana Butler Bass entitled, "Choose Gratitude".

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills as funds are available by Stacy and seconded by Connie. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda by Stacy and seconded by Connie. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda: There was discussion around using the Carillon again at special services. There will need to be some research into the programming.

Pastor's Report: Discussion centered around the service times for Christmas Eve. We also reviewed the current process for preparing and serving Communion. The present arrangement with bread and plastic serving cups in baggies will be used through the rest of this year – may change in the coming New Year.

The Gift Acceptance Policy was presented and followed by discussion. Motion to adopt the Gift Acceptance Policy was made by Kathryn and seconded by Connie. Motion carried.

An undesignated gift of stock valued at \$5,000 has been accepted. A motion to place the funds in the Endowment Fund was made by Barb and seconded by Rodger. Motion carried.

Charges of \$75 for members using the First UCC building for personal or family events will be waived on a motion by Connie; seconded by Kathryn. Motion Carried.

The Council representative for ushering in January will be Kathryn. Usher for December 25 will be Sandy and for Jan. 1 will be Stacy and Rodger.

The Health and Safety Committee recommends that the front door remain locked during worship and an usher will watch the door for those arriving after the service has begun. We will continue with 3 ushers, one of which will remain at the front entry.

A motion to adjourn was made by Connie and seconded by Stacy. Meeting was adjourned and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Babler, Council Member

First UCC Financial Report Summary-Cash Basis—NOVEMBER 2022

General Fund:

November 2022 Beginning Balance	\$ 32,602.31
November Receipts	\$ 11,588.60
November Disbursements	<u>\$ (12,437.39)</u>
November 2022 Ending Balance	\$ 31,753.52

Capital Fund:

November 2022 Beginning Balance	\$ 210.46
November Receipts and Interest	\$.08
November Disbursements	<u>\$ -</u>
November 2022 Ending Balance	\$ 210.54

Maintenance Fund:

November 2022 Beginning Balance	\$ 782.78
November Receipts and Interest	\$ 140.07
November Disbursements	<u>\$ -</u>
November 2022 Ending Balance	\$ 922.85

Davison Family Grant:

November 2022 Beginning Balance	\$ 1,879.01
November Receipts	\$ -
November Disbursements	<u>\$ -</u>
November 2022 Ending Balance	\$ 1,879.01

United Church Foundation Investments:
Endowment Fund as of 9/30/2022

Cost Value	\$ 42,306.51
Market Value 3/31/2022	\$ 74,240.14
Market Value 6/30/2022	\$ 65,560.23
Market Value 9/30/2022	\$ 61,911.92
Endowment Fund Principal	\$ 52,224.00
Current Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,500.42

Parsonage Fund as of 9/30/2022

Book Balance	
Initial Investment	\$ 40,722.60
1st quarter 2022 earnings	\$ 181.01
2nd quarter 2022 earnings	\$ 322.35
3rd quarter 2022 earnings	\$ 269.77
4th quarter 2022 earnings	\$ -
Recognized gains	\$ 25,149.76
Gen Fund disb**	<u>\$ (4,710.00)</u>
Total book value	\$ 61,935.49
Market Value at 3/31/2022	\$ 73,371.54
Market Value at 6/30/2022	\$ 64,793.18
Market Value at 9/30/2022	\$ 61,187.55
General Fund Loan	\$ -

OCWM:

Pledged	\$ 7,500.00
Paid to Date	\$ 6,875.00

Fund Raising:

November 2022 Beginning Balance	\$ 498.99
November Receipts	\$ (5.00)
November Disbursements	<u>\$ 473.00</u>
November 2022 Ending Balance	\$ 966.99

**Disbursement from Parsonage fund earnings not to be repaid

**First United Church
of Christ
Belleville, Wisconsin**

130 East Church Street
PO Box 380
Belleville, WI 53508

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**WELCOMING
CONNECTING
REACHING OUT**

First United Church of Christ

Check us out!

www.bellevillefirstucc.org



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 Hybrid Worship with Communion 10:30 Fellowship <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 6:30 Mission & Outreach	4 7:00 Confirmation	5	 EPIPHANY	6 8:30 Tech Team 7
8 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Hybrid Worship 10:30 Fellowship/ "Un-decorate" Christmas	9 <i>Annual Reports Due</i>	10 5:30 Endowment (Zoom)	11 6:00 Finance 6:30 Health & Safety	12 7:00 Confirmation 5:45-6:30 Bell Choir	13	14 8:30 Tech Team
15 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Hybrid Worship 10:30 Fellowship	16 <i>MLK, Jr. Day</i>	17 6:30 Church Council Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6:00 pm St. Mary of Lourdes	18 7:00 Confirmation	19 5:45-6:30 Bell Choir	20	21 8:30 Tech Team
22 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Hybrid Worship Service of Remembrance 10:30 Fellowship	23	24	25 7:00 Confirmation	26 5:45-6:30 Bell Choir	27	28 8:30 Tech Team
29 9:15 Sunday School 9:30 Hybrid Worship Annual Meeting After Worship Fellowship	30	31			 JANUARY	2023