

Ministry Reports

as submitted by 2017 ministry teams

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is our monthly cross+generational event for learning our most important faith stories. Held from 4:30 – 6:30 on the second Sunday afternoon each month (September through May) this multigenerational event takes stories from the Bible sharing their message through crafts, activities and a free family friendly meal. Each time about 20 to 40 attend: local McFarland families, MUCC members, and visiting neighbors. New families continue to attend. Visitors from other congregations also continue to stop by, investigating how we run Messy Church.

We are desperately seeking more help so we can offer more activities, serving a broader age range. New opportunities in 2017 included:

Mother's Day Brunch Messy Church – May 14, 2017
Take Home Messy Church including the meal – November 12, 2017

Join us for crafts, songs, stories and general messiness!

Rita Treece, Nikole Chapman, Diane Mikelbank

S.O.S. Endowment Fund

Our "SOS" Endowment Fund helps Sustain Outreach & Scholarship activities. Past donations invested in this Fund have supported our church mission trips and faith development/education activities such as church camps, retreats, General Synod and seminary coursework.

With no 2017 internal requests, \$1,000 Fund earnings were donated to The Road Home Dane County (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network), helping homeless families with emergency shelter and achieving stable housing. 2016 & 2017 fund-raising was deferred to promote the Church Capital Campaign. With your future support, a growing Fund can bolster our church's outreach/education efforts.

Toni Walski, Henry Walski, (Chair), Jean Blackmore, & Denny Blackmore

SUNDAES ON THURSDAYS

The 2017 Sundaes on Thursday series was an exciting one! We welcomed new performers, and partnered with amazing community non-profits, as we broadened our outreach and connections. Performances were held rain or shine, resulting in both a bit of dancing in the rain, and a quick move to using our sanctuary space as a venue!

In addition to tasty treats and contributions to area non-profits, there was intentional focus on linking to other events being held by and at MUCC – the community picnic, and outdoor movie night, Messy Church and Sunday services.

Together, we raised \$3,177.00 over the 9 week series; half of this money went directly to the McFarland Food Pantry, while the other half was divided between the following community non-profits: WI AIDs Resource Center, McFarland Black Student Union, Optimists Club, McFarland Youth Center, Shalom Free Health Clinic, McFarland Lioness, and Community Garden.

Crews of combined MUCC Engaged Disciples, and community partners welcomed and served hundreds of people. Thank you to each of you who helped in any way – whether it was by purchasing a sundae, including this outreach in your prayers, helping with set up and tear down, or assisting in the serving line. We couldn't have done it without you all!

Rachel Saladis, Jeanne Benink

YOUTH GROUP

2017 came with a slower Youth Group Schedule due to Leader's scheduling and decreased attendance at planned events. We were able to host and hold several events and activities. These events ranged from fundraising, community service, Christian/personal development and fun.

We had High School and College aged youth members attend a weekend of discussion and exploration of Social Justice with a last-minute hosting of Jesus Core for the Wisconsin Conference. When the scheduled retreat looked like it would be canceled, MUCC jumped in to host this meaningful retreat.

Several members came together to help set up and serve desserts for the hit show "Buck and Lena: Lutefisk and Lies". They were a big help getting everything plated and out for intermission. It was also great to have them for a quick clean up!

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Spring came with a fun event scheduled to hand make prayer beads and gather for pizza and a movie. During this event, 5 members made over 120 multicolored prayer beads to hand out to the congregation on Easter Sunday.

We were afforded the opportunity to work at Brat Fest to help fund our events. A group of 7 people worked shifts to earn money for the youth group. We were able to raise just under \$300. We may have also enjoyed a few brats and ice cream together!

Over the summer months, we don't hold organized youth group activities. However, there were 2 members who spent 7 days at Pilgrim Center for summer camp. They both attended Pilgrimcon-a fan fiction themed camp. We also worked as a group at Sundaes on Thursday's to raise money for Camp Pride. Camp Pride is a camp open to High School LGBTQ+ youth and their allies.

We returned to Pilgrim Center in the fall for the Knock-Knock retreat. One youth member, 1 Leader and a visit from Pastor Mike gathered for a weekend of exploring issues our middle school youth face today. We discussed family, friendships and the "tough stuff".

Our year came to an end with our annual shopping trip to purchase gifts for those affected by HIV/AIDS for the Felicia Melton-Smyth gift drive. The 5 youth group members and 3 adults picked out and wrapped gifts to fulfil the gift tag requests. The gifts were then distributed by ARCW.

We look forward to more events with the Youth of MUCC in 2018!

Dana Crumpton & Mel Thompson