

# Ministry Reports

*as submitted by 2018 ministry teams*

## **2018 McFarland UCC Youth Group Review**

2018 had an increase in Youth Group Events. We were able to host and hold several activities. These events ranged from fundraising, community service, Christian/personal development and fun. We started the year a little slow but picked up in the fall.

February, we had two youth events. Several members came together to help set up and serve desserts for the hit show "Love Letters and Laughs". They were a big help getting everything plated and out for intermission. It was also great to have them for a quick clean up! We also held a youth event to make mason jars of soup and cookie mixes. The youth filled the jars with the dry ingredients with the recipe on the jar. They then sold the jars after service as our "Soup-er Bowl" Sunday Fundraiser.

We were again afforded the opportunity to work at Brat Fest to help raise funds for our events. A group of 7 people worked shifts to earn money for the youth group. We were able to raise just over \$300 by wrapping brats. We may have also enjoyed a few brats and some ice cream together! Over the summer months, we don't hold organized youth group activities. However, there were 3 members who spent 7 days at Pilgrim Center for summer camp. They all attended Pilgrimcon- a fan fiction based themed camp.

As the fall came, we regrouped and started to meet on the second Sunday of the month with the Messy Church Group. We start out gathered with the group to sing and hear the story, then break into our youth group and work on a project. Some of our projects have been: making prayer beads to hand out at McFarland Family Festival, burned our fears in a bon fire and created a sweet treat from letting go of our fears and took broken crayons and repurposed them into ornaments. After our project, we come back together with the group to share a meal together.

We returned to Pilgrim Center in the fall for the Knock-Knock retreat. Two youth members and one leader gathered for a weekend of exploring issues our middle school youth face today. We discussed family, friendships and the "tough stuff".

We have a dedicated group of youth who are starting their confirmation journey. They have met several times and had one outing to The Chazen Museum of Art with Pastor Mike and Martha Olson. They will continue their time Pastor Bryan.

Our year came to an end in December, with a meet and greet with our newly called pastor and our annual shopping trip and Over-night to purchase gifts for those affected by HIV/AIDS for the Felicia Melton-Smyth gift drive. The 9 youth group members and 2 adults picked out and wrapped gifts to fulfil the gift tag requests. The gifts were then distributed by ARCW. We had a fun night of pizza, snacks, movies, and games. We even managed to sleep a little.

**We look forward to more growth and events with the Youth of MUCC in 2019!**

*Dana Crumpton & Mel Thompson*

## 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 April), his multigenerational event takes stories from the Bible sharing their message through crafts, activities and a free family-friendly meal.

This year, we incorporated the youth, as they work toward their confirmation goals, into Messy Church. Mel and Dana have planned specific activities for their age group. This addition has proved to be a huge success as we are seeing more youth attend monthly. The church renovation offered an opportunity for us to organize supplies and the additional storage has been greatly appreciated.

We continue to seek more help with this ministry so we can offer more activities that serve a broader age range and provide coverage for the times those on the committee have other commitments. If you have activity ideas, can help out at the monthly event or can contribute to the meal; all areas would appreciate your time and talents.

**Join us for fun, crafts, laughs, stories and general messiness!**

Thanks,

*Messy Church Planning Committee:*

Rita Treece, Nikole Chapman, Diane Mikelbank

## SUNDAES ON THURSDAYS 2018

Sundaes on Thursday were scheduled for nine Thursdays this past summer. Schoep's donated 50 gallons of ice cream, Culver's donated the caramel and chocolate sauces, and members of the congregation donated 25 2-liter bottles of root beer. Musicians were scheduled for all nine Thursdays and there were seven community organizations who assisted with set-up and serving.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Community Partner</i>
6/21/18	Trisha and Donny	McFarland Lioness
6/28/18	McFarland Community Band	
7/5/18	Moldy Jam	Spirit Productions
7/12/18	Paul Otteson	McFarland Community Garden
7/19/18	Stoughton Community Band	McFarland Optimists
7/26/18	Trisha and Donny	McFarland Youth Center
8/2/18	Fiddles on Fire	McFarland Black Student Union
8/9/18	McFarland Community Band	
8/16/18	Almost in Time Dixieland Band	EDS-WI

## **SUNDAES ON THURSDAYS 2018 (CONTINUED)**

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate every Thursday with rain occurring during four Thursdays. This resulted in some revisions to these Sundaes on Thursday. The second scheduled performance of the McFarland Community Band in August was cancelled. The Almost in Time Dixieland Jazz Band scheduled for August 16 was also cancelled; however, the community group, EDS-WI, volunteered to serve sundaes at the combined McFarland Community Garden Pot Luck Dinner and MUCC Family Movie Night. The other two events impacted by the weather (6/11, Trisha and Donny; and 7/19, Stoughton Community Band) were held in the fellowship space at McFarland UCC.

A total of 825 ice cream sundaes/root beer floats were served over the summer resulting in over \$2,000 in donations. The McFarland Food Pantry received \$1000 and the seven community partners listed above each received \$150.

*Note: Sundaes on Thursday has become so much a part of the McFarland community that it is now listed as a Community Event in the "Welcome to McFarland Community Guide 2018-2019"! McFarland UCC is identified in the guide as sponsoring the event.*

*Workgroup members: Rachel Saladis, Cindy Wendorf,  
Heather Ross, Joan Jacobsen*

## **McFarland UCC Search and Call Committee Report for 2018**

The McFarland Search and Call Committee, comprised of H el ene Benink (Chair), Lisa Ludwig (Chaplain), Mike Pfohl (Secretary), Kati Atkins, Russ St. Clair, Lavon Geasland and Wendy Abel, began meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Weekly meetings were held throughout much of the process. The process involved two main phases. The first was to draft our Local Church Profile. This involved the gathering of diverse information that included developing a series of questions for the congregation in order to accurately capture who we are, where we want to go as a congregation as well as what qualities are most important to us in a new pastor. The Local Church Profile was approved, and our open position made active/live on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## **Search and Call Committee Report (CONTINUED)**

Once our position was active, the second phase of receiving and carefully reviewing UCC Ministerial Profiles began. These profiles totaled 13 candidates. After checking references, we moved forward with one candidate, Bryan Sirchio, first by a video conference call, and then in person. As we continued strongly feeling called to one another, we arranged to hear Bryan preach in a neutral setting with no ties to either our Church or him. Immediately following that service, the Search Committee had an additional honest and moving conversation with Bryan. Based on all of this, we unanimously selected—through prayer and mutual consent the Rev. Bryan Sirchio as our candidate for the ministry of our church. The Chair then worked with the Conference, Bryan and SaLT to draft the Call Agreement as well as set-up both a meet and greet as well as a Candidate Sunday. Once all of this was approved, on November 1, 2018, a letter announcing Bryan to the congregation that was sent out on behalf of the Search and Call Committee.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Bryan Sirchio was voted in to be our new Pastor in a congregational meeting after service. The Call Agreement was signed immediately following this service. The following week, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a service was held with both our Interim Pastor Mike Bausch and Bryan Sirchio present. During this service the congregation released Pastor Mike as Interim Pastor and welcomed Bryan Sirchio as the new full-time Pastor of McFarland UCC.

## **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.

Value as of 12/31/17 was \$34,462. \$1,968 was available for distribution in 2018. Distributions were made to three former attendees of MUCC who still live locally (McFarland, Stoughton, & Sun Prairie) who are in some degree of economic need. Each received \$500 making the total 2018 distribution: \$1,500. As of 12/31/18 the account holdings with Edward Jones is: \$31,206.

Proposals Considered:

- Create Distribution Request form so that all distribution requests to be received in writing. Form shall consist of the following: name; amount requested; date needed; organization or individual receiving; reason for receiving; instructions for disbursing awarded funds; Fund Trustee approval signature; and Amount awarded.
- Create Distribution Request deadlines so all distribution requests submitted receive equal and fair consideration.

*Denny Blackmore, Jean Blackmore, & Larry Raese*

## 2018 Finance Committee

During the summer, the SaLT team authorized the re-establishment of a Finance Committee to develop and implement a Stewardship Campaign for 2019. In addition, the Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing monthly financial reports, assisting the treasurer with the development of an annual budget, and providing recommendations to SaLT regarding revenue and expense management (e.g., reviewing our insurance policies). The Finance Committee has met 6 times since October 2018.

The Stewardship Campaign included e-mail messages, announcements during worship, information in weekly and monthly newsletters (*Pulse* and *Heartbeat*), Sunday worship message focus, and letters with commitment cards sent to 79 individuals/families. To date, 52% have made financial commitments for 2019.

During 2019, the Finance Committee will be collaborating with our Financial Secretaries (Jeanne Benink and Tracy Donohue) to learn more about the software the church currently uses to support revenue management. Also, the Finance Committee is planning to follow up on the 11/18 presentation that Lisa Fernan provided on options for giving with another presentation; this presentation would be by Melinda Gustafson Gervasi, author of *Middle Class Philanthropist: How Anyone Can Leave a Legacy*.

*Members:* Geoff Brink, Joan Jacobsen,  
Barb Janoski, Carol Lemke, Farrel Smith;

*ad hoc members include:* Carolyn Bell (*moderator*),  
Helene Benink (*vice-moderator*), and Rev. Bryan Sirchio (*pastor*)

## **Building Committee Update 2018**

2018 was an exciting year for our building project. The work started in late October of 2017 and concluded in mid-February of 2018. The night of our Christmas Eve service we had no Christmas tree, no carpet in the fellowship hall, our kitchen was nonexistent, there was drywall dust everywhere and we only had one functional bathroom. Our goal was to finish the internal renovation in time for the Valentine's Day program and we met that goal. It was an exciting time to invite members of our community into our Church.

Included in our project were: New tile and carpet throughout the church, all new lighting and paint, 4 newly configured family bathrooms, expanded and remodeled kitchen with updated electrical, addition of storage areas, 2 new screens and projectors in the Sanctuary with a new AV station and installed hearing loop, newly configured administration office, removal of the narthex wall to open up our fellowship hall and the installation of an automatic door opener at the main entrance.

With all of the wonderful improvements that have been made we are not done. Yet to be completed are the addition of new handicap parking stalls, sealing and striping of the existing parking lot, retaining wall repairs and removal of the large planters to create an outside sitting area. We project that all remaining pledges will be received by 2020. Those with remaining pledge balances – if you are able to advance the timeline for giving we will complete these items as soon as we have the needed funds. We will also accept any additional contributions for this project.

Thanks to everyone for your generous donation of ideas, time and money. Without you this project would have never happened. Special thanks to the other members of the Building Committee. The time and dedication you put into this project was amazing! We truly are a CHURCH WITH HEART!!!

God's Blessings to all of you,

Gregg Krattiger  
*Building Committee Chair*

*Committee Members:* Joan Jacobsen, Rick Duchrow,  
Farrel Smith, Carol Lemke, Geoff Brink, Gregg Krattiger

## **Building & Grounds 2018**

The Building & Grounds group gets together twice each year to complete Spring Clean Up and Fall Clean Up. This past Spring we met on May 12<sup>th</sup> to trim trees and bushes, pick up fallen branches, clean and organize the storage building, caulk around the exhaust vents on the church roof, burn the burn pile near the community garden and complete any other miscellaneous items that needed to be done.

Our Fall Clean Up day is directly related to when the majority of the leaves fall. Because of the mild fall weather the leaves fell a little later this year and we also had to deal with all the rain. We had originally scheduled November 17<sup>th</sup> but due to a couple inches of snow on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> we had to postpone until the 24<sup>th</sup>. The forecast then called for rain on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During the week of Thanksgiving we had groups of 2 or 3 people that showed up on days that they were available and we were able to get the bushes trimmed and leaves taken to the compost pile. Not ideal but we got the major items taken care of. Special thanks to Henry and Russ for trimming all of the bushes and to Julie, Joan and Bruce for helping with the leaves. Next year we will plan to schedule in late October.

Special thanks to Farrel Smith for all the work he does throughout the year. Farrel spends a lot of time working on both inside and outside projects – much more than we take care of on our normal clean up days.

If you are interested in giving of your time to help with the Building & Grounds please contact me so I can get you on our email list.

God's Blessings to all of you,  
Gregg Krattiger – *Building & Grounds Committee Chair*

*Committee Members:* Tom Ludwig, Rick Duchrow, Farrel Smith, Geoff Brink, Russ St. Clair, Dave Lemke, Steve Gerke, Denny Blackmore, Gregg Krattiger