

MINISTRY REPORTS

as submitted by 2019 ministry teams

SUNDAES ON THURSDAYS 2019

Sundaes on Thursday were scheduled for seven Thursdays in 2019 at Arnold Larson Park. Schoep's donated 44 gallons of ice cream, Culver's donated the caramel and chocolate sauces, and members of the congregation donated 28 2-liter bottles of root beer. Musicians were scheduled for six of the seven Thursdays and there were six community organizations who assisted with set-up and serving.

Date	Music	Community Partner
6/20/19	Almost in Time Dixieland Jazz Band	McFarland Optimists
6/27/19	McFarland Community Band	McFarland Senior Center Endowment
7/11/19	Stoughton City Band	McFarland Historical Society
7/18/19	Trish and Donny	EDS WI
7/25/19	McFarland Community Band	McFarland Community Garden
8/1/19	Family Fun Night	McFarland Youth Center
8/8/19	McFarland Fiddlers	Supported by MUCC

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate every Thursday with rain occurring during two Thursdays. This resulted in some revisions. The first scheduled performance of the McFarland Community Band in June was cancelled. The music performance by Trish and Donny in July was held in the fellowship space at McFarland UCC.

While there were no musicians scheduled for the 8/1/19 date, the Sundays on Thursday team decided to hold a "Family Fun Night" that included games (bocce ball, bean bag toss, etc.), activities (creating a Sundaes on Thursday banner), and bubbles. There were over 100 participants who enjoyed this family-focused fun event.

The number of ice cream sundaes and root beer floats served each week ranged from 60 to 223. The 806 ice cream sundaes/root beer floats served during the six Sundays on Thursday events resulted in over \$2,000 in donations. The McFarland Food Pantry received \$1000 and the six community partners listed above each received \$166.

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"! McFarland UCC is identified in the guide as sponsoring the event.

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

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES 2019

The Sunday Morning Ministry Teams were re-established during the first quarter of 2019. Team leaders were identified who reviewed and clarified the duties and responsibilities of each team. Recruitment began in February for volunteers to assist with one or more of the three teams:

- *Kitchen/Hospitality* – time commitment is 9 am – 11:30 am. Responsibilities include preparing and serving coffee and other beverages and refreshments before and after service in the fellowship area, providing a warm and relaxing welcome to all, and cleaning up the kitchen and fellowship space.
- *Usher* – time commitment is 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Responsibilities include greeting and welcoming visitors, handing out bulletins, lighting altar candles, assisting with offering, counting attendance, picking up any bulletins, etc. in the sanctuary after worship, and reconnecting with newcomers in the fellowship area after worship. It is expected that the usher will collaborate with tech support to assure that sanctuary lights and microphones are turned off before leaving the church.
- *Technical Support* – time commitment is set-up at 9:30 am and providing support during worship. Responsibilities include opening the computer to the morning's worship and announcement slides, using the sanctuary computer to advance slides during worship, and adjusting lights and microphone volumes as needed. It is expected that the tech support person will collaborate with the usher to assure that sanctuary lights and microphones are turned off before leaving the church.

The 2019 schedule was developed and distributed in March. Our administrative assistant, Melissa, provided support by entering the schedule into "Sign-up Genius" so that team members could access the information easily as well as electronically swap dates with another team member as needed. A paper schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship area. It was anticipated that developing an annual schedule with 34 volunteers would result in multiple revisions throughout the year. Team members were expected to contact another team member to switch dates if unable to serve on any of the dates scheduled.

Recruitment for 2020 Sunday Morning Ministry Teams occurred in November resulting in a 17% increase in the number of volunteers (from 34 to 41) to provide support during 2020.

Sunday Morning Ministry Team Leaders:

Kitchen/Hospitality – Martha Olsen

Ushers – Joan Jacobsen

Technical Support – Jason Chapman

2019 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and implementing a Stewardship Campaign, authorizing the financial secretaries to distribute contribution statements on a routine basis, reviewing 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 met six times during 2019.

Information about the top 10 best practices for a financially healthy congregation presented by the UCC Cornerstone Fund at the national UCC synod was reviewed at the July 23 Finance Committee meeting. While committee members agreed that MUCC meets most of these best practices, there are opportunities for improvement (e.g., options for promoting and publicizing the monthly General Fund Summary).

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign included e-mail messages, announcements during worship, information in the Pulse newsletter, Sunday worship message focus, and letters with commitment cards sent to 83 individuals/families. To date, 47% have made financial commitments for 2020.

During 2020, the Finance Committee will be collaborating with our Financial Secretaries to expand our understanding of the software the church currently uses to support revenue management.

Members: Geoff Brink, Joan Jacobsen,

Barb Janoski, Carol Lemke, Farrel Smith, Ann Ross

Ex officio members include: Helene Benink (*moderator*), and Rev. Bryan Sirchio (*pastor*)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE 2019

The committee responded to the following needs relevant to maintenance of the church's building and grounds:

- Spring cleanup was held on April 20th. Spring cleanup was very productive. Mulch was spread, shrubs and trees were pruned, branches were picked up, lights were replaced, and windows were cleaned.
- Fall cleanup was on October 19th. This was held earlier than normal due to the early cold spell that we had. We spent the majority of the morning outside trimming trees, raking leaves and cutting back bushes. We also replaced lights and did general cleaning around the church.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE 2019 (CONTINUED)

- Covers were placed on the thermostats in the sanctuary and fellowship hall to protect the settings. If there is a special event and you need the temperature changed please talk to a member of the Building & Grounds Committee or Pastor Bryan.
- Special thanks to Farrel Smith for all the things he does at the church. Taking out the garbage every week, general upkeep to the grounds, etc. He even put new striping on the parking lot.
- Special thanks to Russ St. Clair for all the hours spent trimming bushes throughout the summer.

For the coming year action is anticipated on the following items:

- Drywall repair and paint in the fellowship hall and sanctuary.
- Replacement of the soap dispensers in the bathrooms.
- Review of the Capital Campaign budget to see what items can be completed in 2020. Parking lot sealing and striping, new handicap parking by steeple, removal of 3 planters and installation of patio area, repair/replacement of steeple shingles.

Thanks so much to the members of the committee and all those that volunteered their time and effort this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregg Krattiger, Chair

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/BUILDING COMMITTEE 2019 UPDATE

With all of the wonderful improvements made to our church in 2017 /2018 we are not done. Yet to be completed are the addition of new handicap parking stalls, sealing and striping of the existing parking lot, steeple roof repair/replacement, retaining wall repairs and removal of the large planters to create an outside sitting area.

Our Capital Campaign allowed members to donate funds over a 5 year period. The funds that will come in over the next 2 years, per our calculation, should be very close to completing all of these projects. Our plan at this time is to complete items on this list as funds become available. The order of completion is as follows:

- Removal of the planters to create an outside sitting area and to repair the retaining wall by the side door of the sanctuary.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/BUILDING COMMITTEE 2019 UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- Addition of the handicap stalls, sealing and striping of existing parking lot
- Steeple roof repair/replacement

As 2020 progresses we will be looking at the funds available to determine when these improvements can be made so that we can inform the congregation.

New donations are always appreciated. You may have already completed your pledge or you might not have been at MUCC during our Capital Campaign. New funds that come in during 2020 might allow us to complete these last few items earlier than expected. Any donations left over after these are completed will remain in the Building & Grounds fund for future needs.

Thanks to everyone for your generous donation of ideas, time and money. Without you this project would have never happened.

Capital Campaign Team Members: Gregg Krattiger, Geoff Brink, Tom Ludwig
Building Committee Members: Gregg Krattiger, Chair; Joan Jacobsen, Rick Duchrow, Farrel Smith, Carol Lemke, Geoff Brink

2019 SUSTAINING, OUTREACH, AND SCHOLARSHIPS (S.O.S.) ENDOWMENT

Following current guidelines (valuation change during 2018), it was determined that there would not be any disbursements of funds during 2019.

In November, the SOS Fund received a substantial gift from a member of the congregation. Fund balance as of 12/31/19 is \$62,800.

Doubling the size of the fund provided fund trustees along with members of the Servant Leadership Team and the Finance Committee an opportunity to review the current SOS Fund guidelines. Representatives from these three groups met in December. Revisions to the guidelines were suggested. Some of the revisions recommended included a) renaming the Sustaining Outreach and Scholarship Fund as the "Reed-Smeaton Outreach Fund", b) the number of fund trustees increase from three to five, and c) maintaining a minimum balance of \$25,000. These recommended revisions are part of the governing document revisions being presented for approval at the January 26, 2020 annual meeting.

Fund Trustees: Denny Blackmore, Jean Blackmore, Larry Rease
pastor and moderator are ex-officio members

YOUTH GROUP 2019

Many thanks to Mel Thompson for leading our youth group through a rather unusual 2019 at McFarland UCC. Thanks also to our amazing Dana Crumpton-Lee for his presence and leadership during the early part of 2019 before his journey with cancer finally ended midway through the year. Dana gave his time and energy and love to our youth as much as he possibly could throughout his years of illness, and we are so deeply grateful for his years of leadership and ministry with our youth.

The youth group met throughout the year during Messy Church Sundays, and made the best of things thanks to the leadership of Mel Thompson and other adults such as Kati Adkins who helped out. Many of the youth group members were also part of the confirmation class that was confirmed in June of 2019. The youth enjoyed attending the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in Wisconsin Dells that Dana arranged for them to see even though Dana wound up not being well enough to join them. Mel and her two children Aaron and Cora (along with Pastor Bryan) were also able to attend the Wisconsin Conference "Knock Knock" retreat in November at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake, WI.

The youth group continues to meet during "Sunday Funday" (formerly known as "Messy Church") the third Sunday afternoon of each month. We are currently learning how to play the game "Dungeons and Dragons," and will be using this game to explore some Bible stories and themes once we learn how to play it well enough. Thanks to Aaron Thompson and Zach Chapman for patiently teaching the rest of us how to play. We're getting there!

The youth group looks forward to regrouping a bit in 2020 and to having lots of fun as we explore our faith together and share some meaningful adventures.

Submitted by Pastor Bryan for the Youth Group

2019 SUNDAY FUNDAY!

Sunday Funday! is of course the new name for the former Messy Church. It was decided in 2019 that we should stop using the name "Messy Church" because that name is trademarked by an international organization and stands for some specific things

2019 SUNDAY FUNDAY! (CONTINUED)

programmatically that we were no longer following closely enough to represent. But this change was not easy to make because Messy Church was such a vital and wonderful aspect of our congregation's life when Pastor Kerri Parker brought it into our congregation's life and was able to do her magic with it during her pastorate. The core leadership agreed that we wanted to maintain many of the aspects of Messy Church, but just call it something different. So we had a congregational contest, and the winning new name was Sunday Funday! We are still meeting monthly on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of the month from 4-6 p.m. We gather to sing, hear a key Bible story message, and then the young kids do a craft related to the theme while the older teens have youth group. Then we share a meal, have a 10 minute wrap up, and are done by 6 p.m. Thanks so much to Nikole & Jason Chapman, Diane Mikelbank, Lisa Ludwig, Cindy Wendorf, Anne Gerke, and Joan Jacobsen for helping us continue this wonderful ministry.

Submitted by Pastor Bryan

NOT IN OUR NAME (N.I.O.N.) 2019 CAMPAIGN

This group, started by members and friends of McFarland United Church of Christ in McFarland, WI, is open to people of all faiths, spiritual perspectives and worldviews who are committed to compassion, justice, kindness and love. Our government has separated hundreds of immigrant children from their parents upon arriving at the border. These families are often fleeing horrific violence and crippling poverty, and parents are doing everything they can to protect their children by coming to the United States. Taking these children from their parents is inhumane, unnecessary, and unacceptable. It is easy to feel powerless when confronting an issue like this. We feel strongly about giving a voice to this issue. We demand that all children must be reunited with their families and sponsors, and that the current practice of separation and detaining immigrant children and immigrants of all ages must end immediately. This will no longer be done in our name! Not In Our Name!!

Currently our NION task force has 29 people on a specific email list, who are committed to learning more, staying informed, and available to continue to work towards justice and policy change. The following are opportunities that have been created and sustained by the group thus far:

NOT IN OUR NAME (N.I.O.N.) 2019 CAMPAIGN (CONTINUED)

NION Facebook page: has reached 230 people through posts, shares and likes of our content

Not In Our Name website: is housed within our McFarland United Church of Christ web; includes links to all NION activities and resources

NION Petition: created to provide voice and demand change - currently has approximately 3600 signatures

Not In Our Name original song: co-written by the NION task force, free for all use, including piano arrangement, chords, and lyrics; as well as recorded video

Sale of bracelets and t-shirts: Available at our church and online; bracelets designed and created by Haiti Creates; profits evenly distributed to Haiti Creates (from the sale of bracelets), and Border Network for Human Rights and Matthew 25: Ministries

We are also proud to host a very special event, Stories from the Border, presented by Linda Zuba, on March 12, 2020.

DANA CRUMPTON-LEE YOUTH CHURCH CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019

This scholarship fund in honor and memory of McFarland UCC's beloved Dana Crumpton-Lee is overseen jointly by Jean Duchrow, Lavon Geasland, Mel Thompson, and Ron Lee.

As it says on the application form for this scholarship;

The UCC camps in Wisconsin were very near and dear to Dana's heart, and he wanted as many young people as possible to experience the ministries that take place in these outdoor facilities.

Dana was also a huge advocate of community service and he asked that applicants be actively involved in their community. Applicants are asked to write a brief essay describing ways in which they serve the community and also why they think going to church camp will be helpful and meaningful to them.

We are thrilled to be able to honor Dana's life of ministry with and service to our youth through this scholarship fund.

DANA CRUMPTON-LEE YOUTH CHURCH CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019 (CONTINUED)

The fund was established after Dana's memorial service in June, 2019.

Total Received in 2019: \$2,220.00

Total Disbursed in 2019: \$300.00

Fund Balance as of 12/31/19: **\$1,920.00**

We hope many young people from our congregation will apply for scholarships in 2020 and enjoy church camping!

Faithfully,

Jean Duchrow, Lavon Geasland, Mel Thompson, and Ron Lee,
and Pastor Bryan (ex-officio).

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF & NOISY OFFERING 2019 UPDATE

UNICEF: Our annual "Noisy Offering" and Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign raised \$300 in contributions for the United Nations Children's Education Fund.