

THE PULSE



MCFARLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a church with heart - weekly newsletter

"I will put my teaching in their minds and write it on their hearts..."

Jeremiah 31:33

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK

You can find brief descriptions of these on our website:

mcfarlanducc.org/online-events

SUN. Morning, 10 am Zoom Worship

<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439> Password: betogether

SUN. Morning, 11:45 am Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>

MON. - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion

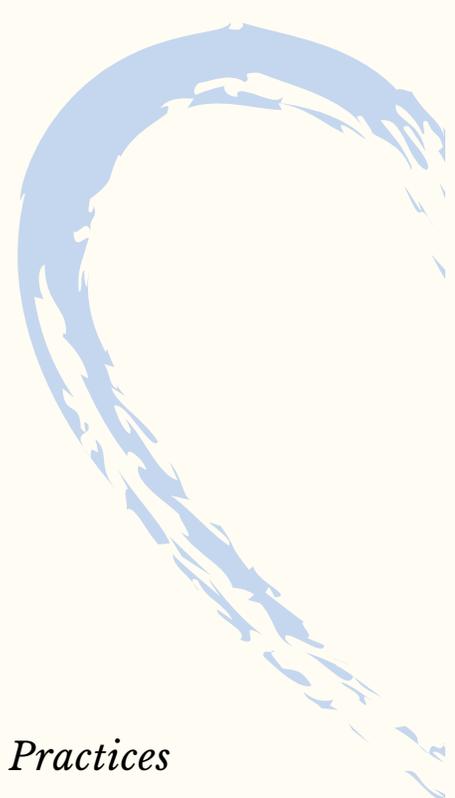
<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>

TUES. Evening, 6 pm Bible Study & Discussion

<https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>

WED. Evening, 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices

<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THURS. March 25th

6 pm New Members Informational Meeting with Pastor Bryan

(more info on the next page)

<https://zoom.us/j/92669506482>



THURS. March 25th

*7 - 8 pm Upcoming Lecture:
"Nature's Best Hope" sponsored by
Olbrich Gardens*

(more info here)



FRI. March 26th & SAT. March 27th

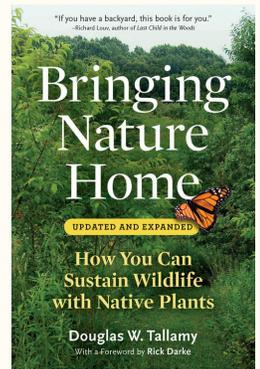
Friday afternoon - All Day Saturday

Pick up your palm branches for Palm Sunday! Available outside the church front doors.



"Nature's Best Hope lecture sponsored by Olbrich Gardens

This lecture is presented by Professor Tallamy, a leader in the push to reintroduce native plants as a way to stop the precipitous decline in bird and insect populations. His book is what inspired MUCC's Green Team to try to put a small prairie/native planting on our building property. The zoom link is below.



If you have any questions or wish to join the MUCC Green Team, please contact Bruce & Jayne Fischer at:

fischer12@charter.net

<https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/natures-best-hope-zoom-webinar/2765310>

JOIN THE CHURCH!

Informational meeting March 25th, 6 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/92669506482>

New Members Sunday: April 11th during 10 a.m. zoom worship.

A number of you have inquired about officially becoming a member of our congregation. Some of you have been patiently waiting since before our building was closed because of the pandemic, and some of you have found your way to us since we starting worshipping virtually on zoom.

Initially I (Pastor Bryan) thought we'd wait to receive new members until we were together again in the building, but even with the progress we're making with the vaccine, etc., it is still a ways off. So we've decided to wait no longer!

If you are interested in joining our congregation formally, or in just finding out more about what that means to us, **please try to join us on zoom for an informational meeting on Thursday, March 25th, at 6 p.m.** And of course we trust you know that whether you ever join our congregation officially or not you are welcome to fully participate in every aspect of our life together. There really is no "in" or "out" when it comes to our family of faith and our understanding of what it means to be church. More than anything, membership is a way to say publicly that you want to belong to and with us and to live out your faith journey in community with us. Actually that means a lot, so join us on the 25th if you'd like to hear more.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask me before this meeting please feel from to call me or email me and I'd be delighted to talk with you. There is absolutely no obligation to join if you attend the March 25th meeting.

Also, **if you worship via zoom from a far away place but would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member** even though you will not ever likely be with us in our building, please feel encouraged to participate in this meeting. Obviously we have never been in the position of thinking and praying through what a zoom church membership would involve, but we are delighted to figure this out together. Your presence in our fellowship feels very real and vital to us so if you are interested in making a formal commitment to membership please join the meeting.

We will officially receive new members in zoom worship on April 11th, the Sunday after Easter.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Check out all these and more on the calendar at:

mcfarlanducc.org/calendar

Holy Week Worship Services

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday

(Regular Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.)

<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>

Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/97838518176>

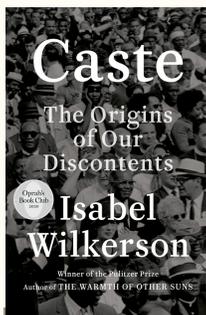
Friday, April 2nd, Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/97212554901>

THURS. April 22nd

6 pm

Racial Justice Group Next Meeting to discuss "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson.



The next book we'll be reading and discussing for the Racial Justice book club is "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson (who also wrote, "The Warmth of Other Suns," the National Book Critics Circle Award Winner in 2011).

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day!) at 6:00 p.m. Please read Parts One, Two and Three for the meeting.

This book has a long waiting list at the library, but you can order the book from one of Madison's independent booksellers such as The Frugal Muse or A Room of One's Own.

Hope to see you at our meeting on April 22! I will send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting. Thanks.

Jayne Fischer



THE 2021 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE!

March 13 to April 18

The Girl Scout cookie sale may look a little different this year. For example, fewer booths at grocery stores, more electronic ways to place and pay for your order, and contactless delivery. Troops and Girls have many options for getting cookies to you, and we encourage you to reach out to them to see how they'll be setting up their sale. The girls are eager to engage with you!

**Below is a list of Scouts from our congregation
and the best way to contact them regarding cookies.**

*Feel free to order from one (or more!) and thank you so much for
supporting your local Girl Scouts.*

Troop 8044, 2nd grade,
Lorelei Pfohl,
melissa.pfohl@gmail.com
608-234-2685

Troop 8044, 2nd grade,
Mariana Schweitzer,
lschweitzer7@gmail.com
608-279-9614

Troop 8244, 4th grade,
Lily Mortensen,
akm8221989@gmail.com
608-225-6677

Troop 1015, 7th grade,
Lydia Mikelbank,
dmikelbank@gmail.com
608-217-1518

Troop 2651, 9th grade,
Nora Wroblewski,
norawroblewski@gmail.com
or Nora's Instagram

Troop 2109, 12th grade,
Larissa Mikelbank,
dmikelbank@gmail.com
608-217-1518

UPCOMING COOKIE BOOTHS

Saturday March 13, 10 AM to Noon
at the MUCC parking lot,
contact Lily/Troop 8244 for details

Friday March 19, 4-6 PM
at the MUCC parking lot,
contact Nora/Troop 2651 for details



A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR BRYAN

Hi everyone,

A few of you have been asking when our church building is going to be open again. The fact that this question is even being asked is a wonderful indication that there is some light at the end of the tunnel regarding the pandemic. More and more of us now are getting vaccinated, it's officially Spring (at least on the calendar!), and I know we're all eager to begin to move in the direction of reopening.

All I can say is that our leadership team will discuss this at our next monthly meeting on April 8th, and that we will begin to envision when and how we will once again have opportunities to worship together in person and open our building to the various ways in which it is used. We will let all of you know immediately once we have any specific plans to share.

That being said, I want to encourage you all to remain patient with this process. The simple truth is that we are not yet close to opening the building. We are actually in a very crucial stage of this pandemic experience, and if we do not make wise and responsible choices we will only wind up taking steps backward rather than forward.

I am hopeful that we can have some outdoor worship experiences this summer, but even that will need to be thought through very carefully. At this point it is not likely that we will open our building for worship until September at the earliest. This is just my best guess based on what our denominational leaders and the CDC's are suggesting at this point, but I'm sharing this with you because I don't want you to have false hopes that we're going to reopen the building anytime soon.

I am so grateful for the grace and maturity and patience you all have shown during this time. Yes, you will be able to find plenty of churches that are already open and making very different decisions. It is confusing and frustrating I know. But we are going to continue to try to do what is safest and best not just for ourselves, but for the entire community, nation, and world. As far as I'm concerned that is the most responsible, loving, and Christ-centered thing to do. Again, I am so grateful for your understanding, patience, and support. God willing, it's just a matter of months now before we can finally move into the first stage of reopening.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bryan