

SUMMER!

at McFarland United Church of Christ

July 2019
monthly newsletter

SUNDAY MORNINGS

JULY 7

Worship (10 am) we will celebrate July birthdays and share in Communion
Bible Discussion (11 am)

JULY 14

Worship (10 am) Real Life Stories (read Bryan's message for more info)
Bible Discussion (11 am)

JULY 21

Worship (10 am) One
Bible Discussion (11 am)

JULY 28

Worship (10 am)
New Covenant Partner Meeting (11 am) for anyone curious about being a member of MUCC
Bible Discussion (11 am)

Just to remember God is a blessing - now and tomorrow and always. From east to west, from dawn to dusk, keep lifting all your praises to God!

Psalm 113:2-3 (MSG)

A Few Important Things From Pastor Bryan...

Beautiful hot July greetings everyone! I'm writing this special message to you all regarding 3 things happening in July that I want to make sure you know about;

1. MUCC responding to the separation of immigrant children from their families.
2. A Special "Real Life Stories" worship on July 14.
3. A Special "One Love" Outdoor Worship on July 21.

1. Responding to the atrocity of separating children from parents at the U.S. Border: Those of you who were in worship at MUCC on June 30, in addition to getting to experience the musical gifts of my beloved daughter Emma "with whom I am ridiculously well pleased" (you'd have had to have been in church to understand that!), heard me call for those who are interested to help our congregation respond to the tragic reality of children being separated from their families at our borders. I mentioned that there is a campaign that was started by First Presbyterian Church in Marshfield, WI called, "Reunir!" Reunir is the Spanish word for reunite. I have been in touch with our conference leadership and with those who run this campaign in Marshfield about our getting involved. A number of you expressed a desire to be a part of this. Since this is an urgent and time sensitive situation, I am proposing that as many of you who are interested and able gather at our church for a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8. Please let me know via email (pastorb@mcfarlanducc.org) if you are interested in being part of this effort even if you can't attend the meeting on Monday. And of course any thoughts or feelings or opinions any of you would like to share with me regarding this situation or our congregation responding to it are as always more than welcome.

(more on pg. 2)

2. "Real Life Stories" worship on July 14: I will be out of town attending the "Wild Goose Festival" (A Progressive Christian Music and Arts festival in the mountains of North Carolina) from Tuesday, July 9, through Monday, July 15. Martha Olsen has proposed that we have a special worship on the 14th in which a few of our members/friends will talk about a time in their lives when they sensed God's presence in a particularly meaningful way. I have no doubt that this will be a very meaningful time of worship, and if it works well we may wind up using this as a basic format and approach to worship on Sundays when I am out of town for vacation or continuing education. The next time I will be out of town will be Sunday, August 11 when I am leading the Haiti Allies Journey of Mutual Exchange trip to Haiti. If you are willing to be one of the persons who will share a "real life story" regarding your experience of God's presence, please let me or Martha know. And please be sure to attend worship on the 14th and support those who will be sharing from their lives with us in this way!

3. Special Outside "One Love" Worship on July 21!: A number of people have suggested that we try worshipping outside since it's such a beautiful time of year and I think that's a great idea! So weather permitting we're going to do this on Sunday, July 21st. We'll bring folding chairs outside, but please feel free to bring your own lawn chair if you'd like.

What is the "One Love" worship service? I think it's crucial for us to recognize and celebrate the One Love of the Divine at the heart of just about all major religious traditions, and to show honor and respect for what have traditionally been called the "Perennial Truths" that run through all religions. My contention is that finding common ground always leads to finding higher ground. In this world of so much division and polarization, the more we can build bridges of understanding and love, the better.

Our own Trish Kalhagen (Trish is the woman who gave the message during our "Break The Silence" Sunday) and I have put together a basic liturgy which will help us recognize and give thanks for some of these common truths. I imagine using this liturgy once or twice a year and each time inviting a practitioner from another religious tradition to be with us and share some kind of ritual or prayer or ceremony from that tradition that we as people in the Judeo-Christian tradition also embrace and honor.

I am delighted to let you know that a woman named Lori Frison, who has been committed deeply to the study and practice of Shamanism (i.e. Native American or Indigenous Spirituality), will be with us for worship on July 21. She is a delightful and soulful presence and you will not want to miss this! She will help set the tone for our worship by sharing a ritual for creating and honoring Sacred Space. We will then also reflect on the ways in which God speaks to human hearts and lives through Creation and the natural world. What better way to do this than to be outside together! This will be a great change of pace and a wonderful service to tell friends of yours about, especially if they are looking for a church that is willing to think and pray and live outside the box a bit!

Thanks so much everyone!
Pastor Bryan

"In this world of so much division and polarization, the more we can build bridges of understanding and love, the better."



Morning Yoga Mon & Thurs at 9 am

Enjoy the morning with Patricia Green-Sotos every **Monday & Thursday at 9am**

Patricia will lead you through yoga flows designed to align and destress.

Afternoon Yoga Mondays at 4:30 pm

Find your afternoon peace and calm with Georgia Lyon, another fabulous teacher, every **Monday at 4:30 pm**.

Relay for Life Team Meeting July 9 at 6:00 pm

The McFarland Relay for Life Team will be hosting a planning meeting **Tuesday, July 9 at 6:00 pm**. If you are interested in more information Melissa in the church office can connect you with the team leaders.

New Covenant Partners (members) Meeting

Sunday, July 28 at 11:00 am

Pastor Bryan will meet with those interested in becoming new members of MUCC Sunday, **July 28, at 11 am** right after worship.

Sundaes on Thursdays!

June 20 - August 8

Another summer is off and running full of fun, music, and ice cream! For almost 30 years MUCC has been serving sundaes and root beer floats donating all proceeds directly to the McFarland Community Food Pantry and other local nonprofits. For all things Sundaes on Thursdays and an up to do schedule including weather information, visit: mcfarlanducc.org/sundaes-on-thursdays

You can also check out the Sundaes on Thursdays Facebook page for current info, pictures, and videos! Feel free to share your own photos, videos, and comments. The Facebook page is also shareable and a great way to stay connected and invite neighbors, friends, and family: facebook.com/sundaesonthursdays

Join in the fun!

How do I sign up?

To sign up for the date that works best for you, visit: mcfarlanducc.org/signups

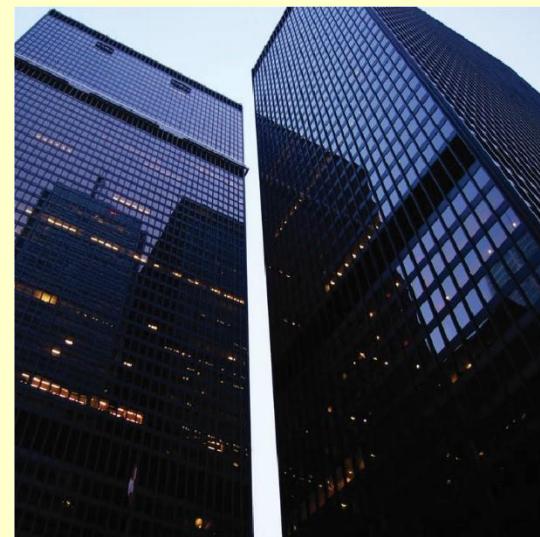
OR check out the paper signup on the bulletin board at church.

What do I need to serve?

Serving is simple and fun. For sanitary purposes, all servers are asked to wear a hat (let us know if you need one). Then meet at MUCC at 5:45 pm or at Arnold Larson Park Gazebo at 6:10 pm.

Thanks for supporting Sundaes on Thursday!

If you have questions contact Melissa in the office at office@mcfarlanducc.org or 608-838-9322. You can also talk to anyone from the Sundaes on Thursday Planning Team: Rachel Saladis, Cindy Wendorf, Heather Ross, & Joan Jacobsen.



Caption describing picture or graphic.



So many toppings! - June 20, 2019

“ MY KIDS AND I
LOOK FORWARD
TO THIS ALL YEAR!

-posted by a McFarland neighbor
on the Sundaes Facebook page



“Journey of Mutual Exchange”

There are still a few spots available! Dates: August 6-14, 2019

Cost: \$1,850.00 (scholarship discounts possible if necessary)

Official Deadline for Registration is July 10, 2019.

Haiti Allies refers to these trips as “journeys of mutual exchange” in order to underscore the priority placed on being open to receiving the many gifts the Haitian people and culture offer to those who venture to this beautiful island. We will of course offer gifts of service ourselves, but the overriding experience of most participants on these trips is that we inevitably wind up receiving so much more than we give. While there will be a nucleus of folks from Haiti Allies’ home state of Wisconsin, there are typically participants from other parts of the U.S. who will meet us at our official “gateway city” which will most likely be Atlanta and we will fly to Haiti on Delta Airlines. Haiti Allies will make the round trip flight arrangements from Atlanta to Port au Prince (unless participants prefer to do so in order to get these miles and points on credit cards and/or frequent flyer programs) and all subsequent costs other than souvenir purchases will be included in the \$1,850 price of the trip. Participants who make their own flight arrangements.

After arriving in Port au Prince we typically begin the journey with a brief tour of the capital city and then travel to a small mountain village outside Port au Prince where we will experience the gentle rhythm of rural life, receive a cultural and historical orientation, and enjoy the hospitality and warmth of the people in this village. This is a restful and slow-paced time in which we will get to know some Haitian people, learn some basic Haitian Kreyol phrases and customs, catch up with our own hearts and minds, get to know each other, hear Haitian music and drumming, and maybe even learn a few Haitian songs and dances. Activities in the village vary from trip to trip, but often include making coffee from scratch as rural Haitians do, making peanut butter, and learning about Haitian voodoo. The accommodations will be very rustic, but we'll be safe and welcome and experience the healing magic of Haitian hospitality. After this initial orientation, we will return to the city and move into Walls International Guest house, a very modest but secure and friendly guest house that will be our home for the remainder of the journey. Our daily activities in Port au Prince will include a number of different adventures and experiences. Haiti Allies's methodology always involves a combination of working with our hands, hearts, and minds. The hands on/service component of the adventure will depend in part on the skills and interests of our group and also on what's happening in the country when we are there. These experiences typically include volunteering at an orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity (the sisters of Mother Teresa), volunteering at a hospice-like facility also run by the Missionaries of Charity called the “Home for the Dying and the Destitute,” and volunteering at a school supported by Haiti Allies in one of Port au Prince's most impoverished neighborhoods. Most evenings we will also have meetings with Haitian friends and leaders who will teach us about various aspects of life in Haiti.

In addition to opportunities to serve and be a compassionate presence, we will spend time together as a group each day processing and reflecting on what we are seeing and learning. These are powerful heart-opening trips that often lead to profound personal insights. There will be space open in our agenda for journaling, resting, and meditation. We will touch and be touched by a number of painful and heartbreaking realities connected to the extreme material poverty of Haiti, but group members are almost always inspired and deeply moved by the joy and hospitality and grace of the Haitian people. The group will be limited to 15 persons including the leaders, so please be in touch as soon as possible with Bryan Sirchio at bsirch@sirchio.com (608) 577-8716 if you are interested in learning more about this adventure and discerning whether or not it's the kind of trip you'd love to experience. We'll look forward to hearing from you and to sharing this amazing adventure together. Once you contact Bryan he will send you information and details regarding medical prep, etc. (which is relatively minor). The most important thing is to make sure you have a valid passport!



CONNECT HERE

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Bryan Sirchio
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608-291-4457

Melissa Mendl, Office Admin
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608-838-9322

Barb Baumgartner, Office Volunteer

Samantha Johnson, Custodian

Diane Smeaton, Worship Keyboards

Gail Freedman, Kitchen*

*Requests for supplies can be made on the white board by the freezer.

SaLT (SERVANT & LEADERSHIP TEAM)

Moderator: Hélène Benink; Vice Moderator: TBD
Treasurer: Joan Jacobsen; Clerk: Anne Gerke
Jason Chapman; Ann Ross; Bruce Fischer

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Tracy Donohue & Ann Ross

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY

TEAM LEADERS

Jason Chapman, Tech Support;
Martha Olsen, Kitchen
Joan Jacobsen, Ushers

MESSY CHURCH TEAM

Nikole & Jason Chapman
Rita Treece; Lisa Ludwig
Diane & Lydia Mikelbank;
Mel Thompson

YOUTH LEADERS

Mel Thompson & Kati Atkins

ON THE WEB at

mcfarlanducc.org
facebook.com/mcfarlanducc

Raise prayer requests and find support at
Facebook.com/groups/achurchwithheart

THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Ask, Seek, Knock Box

Located in the Fellowship Space just outside the Sanctuary, the "Ask, Seek, Knock Box" is available so that you'll have an easy, quick, and anonymous (if you prefer) way to offer positive responses, questions, or suggestions regarding your faith and the Sunday morning worship experience here at McFarland UCC

Questions?

Is there a question about God, the Bible, a specific Scripture verse or your faith journey, etc. that you would like Bryan to consider addressing or responding to in a Sunday morning message?

Topics?

Is there a topic or issue or concern you would love for us to somehow bring into the context of worship?

Music, Art, Liturgy?

Do you have a favorite hymn or song or poem or something that could be a part of worship that you'd like to suggest?

If you would like to meet with pastor Bryan personally to discuss anything about your worship experience, please approach him and let him know. He would love to meet with you!

IT'S ALL ON THE WEBSITE!

We have been updating the church website to make it a "one stop shop" for all things MUCC:

CALENDAR with QUICK UP TO DATE EVENT INFO

Mcfarlanducc.org/calendar

EVENT DETAILS (easy to share with friends!)

Mcfarlanducc.org/events

ONLINE DIRECTORY (password protected to respect privacy of those who offered their personal information. Call or email Melissa in the office for the login password)
Mcfarlanducc.org/directory

FORMS (Church Building Use, Ministry Idea, etc)

Mcfarlanducc.org/forms

ALL CURRENT SIGNUPS

Mcfarlanducc.org/signups



General Fund Summary June 2018 – May 2019

SaLT review 06/26/19

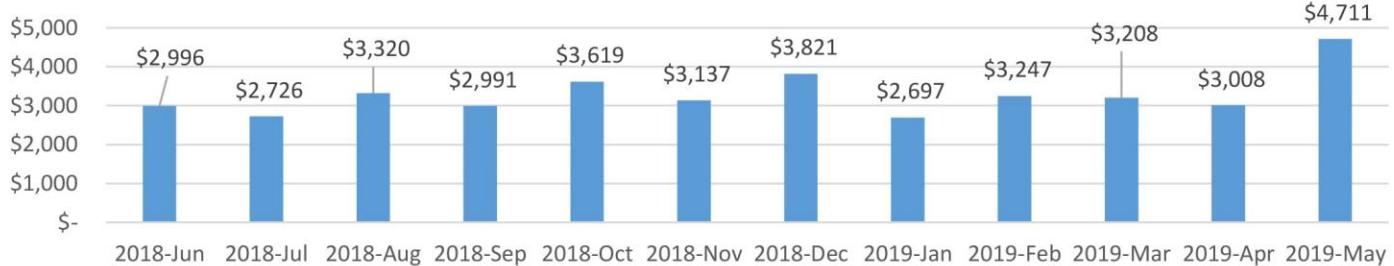
Month	Average Weekly Revenue	Monthly Revenue	Monthly Expenses	Variance (between rev/exp)
Jun 2018	\$ 2,996	\$ 11,983	\$ 13,923	\$ (1,940)
Jul 2018	\$ 2,726	\$ 13,630	\$ 8,035	\$ 5,595
Aug 2018	\$ 3,320	\$ 13,281	\$ 7,444	\$ 5,837
Sept 2018	\$ 2,991	\$ 14,957	\$ 13,654	\$ 1,303
Oct 2018	\$ 3,619	\$ 14,475	\$ 18,144	\$ (3,669)
Nov 2018	\$ 3,137	\$ 12,550	\$ 9,958	\$ 2,592
Dec 2018	\$ 3,821	\$ 19,103	\$ 18,455	\$ 648
Jan 2019	\$ 2,704	\$ 10,816	\$ 13,185	\$ (2,369)
Feb 2019	\$ 3,247	\$ 12,988	\$ 9,861	\$ 3,127
Mar 2019	\$ 3,170	\$ 15,852	\$ 15,089	\$ 763
Apr 2019	\$ 2,961	\$ 11,843	\$ 10,707	\$ 1,136
May 2019	\$ 4,711	\$ 18,846	\$ 15,942	\$ 2,904
Totals		\$ 170,324	\$ 154,397	\$ 15,927

June 2018 – May 2019



MUCC Average Weekly General Fund Revenue

June 2018 - May 2019



MUCC Monthly Operations June 2018-May 2019

