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Summer 2019 Save the Dates!



UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MARCH

MARCH 3 – **Choir Practice (9am)** The choir will be singing in worship. **Worship (10am)** We celebrate Birthday Blessings and Holy Communion. **After Worship Bible Discussion (11am)**

MARCH 10 – **Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) Messy Church “To-Go!” (11am)** pick up a take out bag after worship. More details on the next page. **After Worship Bible Discussion (11am)**

MARCH 17 – **Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) After Worship Bible Discussion (11am) Installation Service for Pastor Bryan (2pm)** more info on page 3.

MARCH 24 – **Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) After Worship Bible Discussion (11am)**

MARCH 31 – **Choir Practice (9am) Worship (10am) After Worship Bible Discussion (11am)**

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

Jeremiah 31:33

FAITH FORMATION



LEARN – STUDY – GROW – TOGETHER

ASH WEDNESDAY *March 6 at 6:30 pm*

Join Bryan for a very simple and informal Ash Wednesday Service, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We will talk a bit about the meaning of Lent and Ash Wednesday in particular, read some Scripture, sing a song or two, pray together, and then share a ritual of ashes. We will end no later than 7:30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES: *Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, & Good Friday*

We will celebrate Palm Sunday during regular worship at 10 a.m. on April 14. We will also have a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m., and a Good Friday service on Friday at 6:30 p.m. More about these services will be included in the April Heartbeat, but they will both be low key and informal. The Maundy Thursday service will include Communion and a reflection from Bryan. The Good Friday service will simply be an opportunity to be in Silence and Solidarity with Christ on the Cross, a responsive reading, Scripture, an extinguishing of the Light, and departure in silence.

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP *Sunday Mornings 11:00 am after worship*

Please join us after worship each week for a simple but meaningful time of engaging God's Word through the Bible. We've been using the ancient technique of sacred reading known as "Lectio Divina." It is very simple. We read through a brief portion of Scripture together, and then go around the table and share a thought or verse or few words that struck us as significant. We just listen to each other and minimize discussion as we go around. Then we read the text out loud together again. We go around again and this time share just 2 or 3 words or a very brief thought that felt significant. Then we read it a third time out loud and even slower. This time we each share one word that seemed most meaningful. Then we have discussion about it all. It's been great! We wind up sharing insights from our lives and from our spiritual journeys, and where helpful pastor Bryan (or anyone!) offers some insights regarding the text and context in which it was written. We close with a quick prayer. We'd love to have you join us, and it does not matter at all if you have NEVER opened a Bible before.

MESSY CHURCH *Sunday, March 10*



Messy Church is a monthly cross+generational event for learning our most important faith stories. Held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Messy Church incorporates Biblical storytelling, hands-on learning through arts & crafts, and includes a simple dinner.

Sunday, March 10 is a big day at MUCC as we open our doors and prepare for the *FREE Sale For Families happening later that week, (March 15 & 16). So, we are planning a "Take Home Messy Church!"

Please indicate on the signup bulletin board at church by the kitchen or visit mcfarlanducc.org/singups if you and your family would like to participate. This will help the Messy Church Team determine how many "to-go" bags to make. Included in each bag will be:

- A Bible story & Scripture to read and discuss together,
- activities and craft "ingredients" to experience God's story,
 - AND an easy take out dinner!

Reading this newsletter online and want to signup for a Take Home Messy Church bag? **CLICK HERE!**

Take out bags can be picked up at MUCC before or after 10 am worship Sunday, March 10.

Questions? Contact any member of the Messy Church Ministry Team: Rita Treece, Diane Mikelbank, or Nicole Chapman. Or contact Melissa in the MUCC office: 608-838-9322 or office@mcfarlanducc.org

**Learn more about the FREE Sale For Families on Page 4*

CONFIRMATION GROUP *Upcoming Dates & Times*

MARCH 10 (4:30 pm/during Messy Church)

MARCH 24 (6:30 – 7:30 pm)

*During March we are hoping also to visit a sacred art exhibit at First Congregational UCC in Madison. More information about this will be made available as soon as we firm up the details.

APRIL 14 (4:30 pm/during Messy Church)

APRIL 28 (6:30 – 7:30 pm)

We will meet twice monthly through April, giving us 6 sessions. The class will conclude with a celebration during worship in early May, depending upon which Sunday works best for the students with their exam schedule at school.

“I’m just someone who likes cooking and for whom sharing food is a form of *expression.*”

- Maya Angelou



SHARED TABLE COMMUNITY MEAL

Shared Table Community Meal is a weekly free meal provided by a rotation of community organizations. Each Thursday night McFarland Lutheran Church is the host facility; Community groups bring the food and handle setup, serving and cleanup.

MUCC will be providing the meal and serving, **Thursday, MARCH 7**. We will be offering our classic and crowd favorite with a new twist: **Turkey Rice Casserole**.

Dinner begins at 5:00 pm and cleanup is at 6:15 pm. You are welcome to come and enjoy a free meal with friends and family!

FREE SALE FOR FAMILIES

March 15 & 16

The FREE SALE FOR FAMILIES is a nonprofit organization offering community members and businesses a way to recycle children's items (infant-teen) for other individuals and families to reuse, regardless of income level or need. Free-will monetary donations are accepted in exchange for the items and are then given to local charities and non-profit organizations.

We are thrilled to open our doors to this incredible event! MUCC will be hosting and providing hospitality not only the Free Sale organization and its volunteers, but also to many local families. Go to mcfarlanducc.org/blog to see all the ways you can volunteer.

Reading this newsletter online? Simply click the button below!

[VOLUNTEER SIGNUP HERE](#)

Folks who volunteer for 4+ hours can "SHOP" EARLY!
Kids that need little supervision are welcome, as there are areas where they can play. Thank you!

**Volunteers can shop early from
6-8pm Thursday evening, March 14th.



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

ART EXHIBIT EXCURSION: Discussion *March 10*

Martha Olsen is organizing a group to tour the small "Yearnings" art exhibit at First Congregational UCC. **The excursion tour will be March 31 at 2:30pm.** The exhibit consists of art work by four local women artists on the topics of Refuge, Lament, Mercy, and Faithfulness. This developed out of a yearlong study of the Psalms and sacred scripture. Interested? **You are invited to an informal meeting Sunday, March 10** where we will discuss the exhibit. Questions? Connect with Martha Olsen (405-714-4002) or Melissa in the church office (office@mcfarlanducc.org or 608-838-9322)

INSTALLATION FOR REV. BRYAN SIRCHIO *Sunday March 17*

We are so thrilled to have Bryan as our new pastor! Now it is time for his official installation service. Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 pm we will celebrate through song and spoken word all the things God is doing and going to do! Refreshments will be served afterward.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING *April 5 - 6*

Since our conference is hosting General Synod (the national gathering of our denomination that takes place every 2 years) in Milwaukee from June 21-25 th , our own Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting which typically takes place in June will be held this year on April 5-6 in Wisconsin Dells. If you would like to attend this meeting please speak to Bryan or a member of our leadership team (SaLT) to find out more. Our congregation is allowed 2 voting delegates, but anyone is welcome to attend.

YOUTH EXCURSION *Sunday April 7*

Meet at the church at 10 am Sunday, April 7 for our trip to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at The Palace Theater in the Wisconsin Dells. Lunch will be provided at the theater and we will return around 5pm. Connect with Dana Crumpton for more details!

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UCC IN MILWAUKEE *June 21-25, 2019*

This is a big deal for our conference! These meetings are held all over the country and it will likely be many years before we have an opportunity to host this gathering again. Our conference will need many volunteers from local churches such as ours to help out in various ways, and these are fantastic experiences for participants. There are always wonderful key note speakers and all kinds of fun things going on. It's a great chance to see the entire denomination in action together, to meet our leaders and hear wonderfully inspiring messages and just to get a sense of the larger Body of Christ with whom we are in covenant relationship. Wendy Abel is going to organize our own congregation's participation and she has information regarding the various volunteer positions needed. Let's send a LARGE number of folks from our church! You don't have to stay for the entire event and could drive back and forth rather than paying for lodging in Milwaukee if you prefer. Talk to Wendy and see what works for you.



HAITI ALLIES Summer 2019

TRAVEL TO HAITI WITH PASTOR BRYAN THIS SUMMER! AUG 6-14



Haiti Allies is the non-profit organization Pastor Bryan helped start about 20 years ago and through which the work you've heard him talk about in Haiti takes place. Haiti Allies typically 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. These trips include a wide range of ages, but participants have to have finished 8th grade.

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 a designated hotel in Florida. Haiti Allies will make the round trip flight arrangements from Florida to Port au Prince and all subsequent costs other than souvenir purchases will be included in the \$1,850 price of the trip. Obviously those of us from McFarland UCC who participate in this trip will travel together and Bryan will coordinate that.

After arriving in Port au Prince we will 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. But 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 Pastor Bryan 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. And if you'd love to be a part of this and the cost of the trip is the ONLY reason you would not participate, please talk to Bryan about scholarship and discount possibilities. God will make a way if this is something you're meant to do.



WILD GOOSE FESTIVAL

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2019

July 11 - 14

The Wild Goose Festival is a Progressive Christian Music & Arts Festival in the mountains of North Carolina, not far from Asheville. Pastor Bryan will be leading some music and worship and workshops at this festival, and would love to have some MUCC members and friends join him!

You can tent camp, RV camp, or find lodging in the area. GREAT music, amazing keynote speakers, seminars, and workshops all day from cutting edge theologians and teachers. Our "radically inclusive" way of following Jesus is part of a progressive Christian movement that is global, and this festival is all about celebrating this understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the arts.

Talk to Pastor Bryan about this

if you have any questions.

It will be a great time of fellowship and fun!



CONTACT & CONNECT

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!

If you have questions, connect with Melissa in the office at office@mcfarlanducc.org or (608) 838 - 9322

The MUCC Directory is Up and Running!

A huge thank you to Judy St. Clair and Jason Chapman for all their hard work compiling and creating our very own online directory.

- Simply visit the church website.
- Hover over the CONTACT tab and click DIRECTORY

or visit mcfarlanducc.org/directory You will be asked to login. Type in: *churchwithheart*

The directory page is password protected because we want to honor the privacy of those who have shared their personal information.



For an up to date and current calendar of MUCC programs, events, and other building uses visit:

mcfarlanducc.org/calendar

Church Staff

Pastor Bryan Sirchio

pastor@mcfarlanducc.org

608-291-4457

Office Administrator: Melissa Mendl

office@mcfarlanducc.org

Office Volunteer: Barb Baumgartner

Custodial: Samantha Johnson

Worship Keyboards: Diane Smeaton

Kitchen: Gail Freedman

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

SaLT

Moderator: H el ene Benink

Vice Moderator: TBD

Treasurer: Joan Jacobsen

Clerk: Anne Gerke

Jason Chapman

Ann Ross

Bruce Fischer

Financial Secretaries

Jeanne Benink & Tracy Donohue

Youth Leaders

Dana Crumpton

Mel Thompson

Sunday Morning Ministry Team Leaders

Tech Support - Jason Chapman

Kitchen - Martha Olsen

Ushers - Joan Jacobsen

Messy Church

Nikkole Chapman

Jason Chapman

Rita Treece

Diane Mikelbank

Lydia Mikelbank

Lisa Ludwig

Mel Thompson

On the Web

mcfarlanducc.org

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