

NOVEMBER 2018

the HeartBeat

MCFARLAND UCC - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SsLT, Financial Info,
& Pastor Search

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Confirmation,
Messy Church, &
Bible Discussions

COMING EVENTS!

Pastor Meet & Greet,
Food Pantry Giving
Tree, & MORE!



NOVEMBER 2018

MCFARLAND UCC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 3

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS!

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November 11: Assuring A Vibrant Future

9 am - Choir rehearsal. No sign-up required!

10 am - As part of worship we will observe the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day/Veterans Day.

11:15 am - Bible reading group: the Psalms

4:30 pm - Messy Church! More information on page 3.



November 18: Going to Seed!

9 am - Choir rehearsal.

10 am - Thanksgiving celebration with the choir singing.

11:15 am - Planned giving information with Lisa Fernan



November 25: More Music!

9 am - Choir rehearsal.

10 am - More Music Sunday with special music and hymn requests! The service will be led by Tom Ludwig and others!

11:15 am - Bible reading group

December 2: Calling Our New Pastor

9 am - Choir rehearsal.

10 am - Worship led by our candidate for pastor, the Rev. Bryan Sirchio, with the first Sunday in Advent Communion, and celebrating December Birthdays.

11 am A congregational vote on whether to call Bryan as pastor will be held following worship.



"I will put my teaching in their minds and write it on their hearts..." – Jeremiah 31:33

A note on the voting process: covenant members of the church are eligible to vote. The Constitution and By-Laws of the church provide that a quorum for the meeting to call the pastor is defined as 25% of the membership (which would be 35 voting members). The candidate for pastor must receive 85% positive votes from those voting in order to be called as pastor.



A Letter from the Pastoral Search Committee

Dear McFarland UCC,

Ten months ago you entrusted us, your Search Committee, with the responsibility of prayerfully selecting a candidate for your approval. We started by gathering a significant amount of input from many of you as we assembled our Local Church Profile. We then carefully reviewed the UCC Ministerial Profiles of 13 candidates. After checking references, we felt that one candidate stood out from the rest and moved to interview him, first by a video conference call, and then in person. As we continued strongly feeling called to one another, we arranged to hear the candidate preach in a neutral setting with no ties to either our Church or the candidate. Immediately following that service, the Search Committee had an additional honest and moving conversation with the candidate. 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.**

Bryan has a talent and love for music and songwriting, he has combined these passions and spent the last several decades as an Ordained Minister with full standing in the UCC. Bryan holds a Masters in Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The list of Bryan's achievements and contributions is long, and so we would like to share some highlights that we feel are important for you to know. First, Bryan began his work with the UCC as the Pastor of a Parish in Northern Wisconsin. He then, after a lot of prayer and soul searching, left this position to serve the Church in the best way that he felt he could, which focused around his songwriting. He felt called to a "freelance ministry of music" through which he could share his joy for songwriting and provide the Church with a combination of new music, wonderful language, messages and theology. Among his many other accomplishments over the years, Bryan founded and directed Crosswind Music Ministries, acted as an Interim Youth Minister at First Congregational UCC in Rhinelander, served as a Campus Evangelism Minister for the University of Wisconsin - Madison and founded and co-led Haiti Allies, a successful non-profit organization that promotes education, job creation, and meal programs for the poor. More recently, Bryan launched a new online business called the Convergence Music Project (CMP), a digital resource that focuses on more progressive theology and inclusive language.

While our Search Committee was impressed with the many projects Bryan has been involved with, we also spent careful consideration on the question of whether he is prepared to fully settle down and be our full time pastor. To this question, Bryan is unwavering in his answer, driven by "God's leading." In his own words, he will be our Pastor first, "letting go of anything that gets in the way of (his) being able to joyfully and effectively serve (our) church". At the same time he (and we, the Search Committee) feel that many of his involvements with the greater Church will be a gift to us that we may experience and potentially embrace in sustainable ways.

Those who have had experience with Bryan describe him in the following ways:

- Someone who is "deeply committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and lives out his commitment with integrity".
- He is known to have "vision" for our future and "respect for our traditions".
- He has "a remarkable ability to 'connect' with children and youth, and adults as well."





A Letter from the *Pastoral Search Committee* (continued)

The members of our committee look forward to talking with you about our joyful interactions with Bryan, so please feel free to reach out to any of us. We also hope you will make every effort to attend the Saturday night Meet and Greet where you will meet Bryan in a more informal setting as well as the Sunday morning worship service followed by the congregational vote. Please note that only covenant partners are allowed a vote, but all are welcome to attend.

Please mark the following events in your calendar:

Saturday night, **December 1st, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m Meet and Greet.** We encourage everyone to stop by with your youth and children to participate in this opportunity to become acquainted with Bryan.

Refreshments and treats will be served.

Sunday morning, **December 2nd, 10:00 a.m. Service.** Bryan will conduct the worship service. Following the service, a congregational meeting will be held to hear a brief report from the Search Committee and vote on the recommendation to call Bryan Sirchio as our new pastor. Assuming a positive vote, the following week, Sunday 12/9, will be the Sunday Service led by SaLT, Pastor Mike and Bryan together, where we gratefully say goodbye to Pastor Mike and welcome Pastor Bryan.

We believe that God has led us to this exciting moment in our ministry... and so does Bryan. We look forward to growing together as a faith community, serving others and proclaiming the good news of God's love. We sincerely thank you for the privilege you have given us and the trust that you have placed in us



Blessings,

The Members of the Search Committee

Wendy Abel, Katie Adkins, H el ene Benink, Lavon Geasland, Lisa Ludwig,
Mike Pfohl, and Russ St. Clair

search@mcfarlanducc.org

How the vote is taken at the congregational meeting December 2 after worship:

Covenant members of the church are eligible to vote. The Constitution and By-Laws of the church provide that a quorum for the meeting to call the pastor is defined as 25% of the membership (which would be 35 voting members). The candidate for pastor must receive 85% positive votes from those voting in order to be called as pastor.

A word on our transition with interim minister Michael Bausch:

By mutual agreement with our SaLT team and Pastor Mike, he will lead worship on November 11 and 18 this month, and be out two Sundays, November 25 and December 2. If the congregation votes to call the new pastor on December 2, Pastor Mike's last Sunday will be December 9, in collaboration with SaLT and our newly-called pastor. The intention is to have a ceremony of farewell for the interim minister and a "hand-off" and formal "hello" to our newly-called pastor.

FAITH FORMATION

LEARN - STUDY - GROW - TOGETHER

AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE DISCUSSION

Sunday Mornings

11:15 – 12:00 pm

The Bible reading group is reading in the Psalms. Come to read a Psalm or two, and to join in the conversation.



MESSY CHURCH

November 11

4:30 – 6:00 pm Theme: *Giving Thanks!*

Messy Church is a monthly cross+generational event for learning our most important faith stories. Held on the second Sunday of each month, it begins with Biblical storytelling, continues with hands-on learning through arts and crafts (for teens and adults too!), and includes a simple dinner. We wrap up with a brief informal worship recapping the story of the day, group prayer, and song. Youth group and Confirmation class will also join in.

CONFIRMATION GROUP

The Confirmation learning group also meets during Messy Church. Youth from 6th grade on who have not yet been confirmed are encouraged to participate. We will meet again the following Sunday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Mike with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

ALL CHURCH WORK MORNING SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17 8:00-12:00

Come help out inside and outside...lunch provided!!



WEEKLY "YOGA-LATES"

TUESDAYS 4:30 – 5:30

Each week Cindy Weber leads this class designed as a blend of both Yoga and Pilates. Enjoy a wonderful hour aimed at exercising and relaxing your mind, body, and soul! Only \$10 per class.

A Letter from the *Finance Committee*

Dear Members and Friends of McFarland UCC,

First, we would like to thank all of you who have supported our church in recent years – with your time, talents, prayers and monetary gifts. YOUR generosity is critical to this church's growth and expanding ministries. MUCC would not exist without your support.

Second, this is the time to reflect on where we are and what's ahead - there is good news!

- The 2016 Capital Campaign resulted in a refreshed, more modern church building interior. With improved worship space and a more welcoming fellowship area we are ready to continue expanding ministry in our community and beyond.
- We will soon be welcoming our new pastor! What an opportunity for us as a church to undertake new ministries of serving others beyond our building walls. What a gift it is to have our new spiritual leader guiding and teaching us.
- The arrival of December means the start of a new church year. This season is a time to pray and reflect and then prepare our plan. What is God calling us to do and to be through the mission and ministry of our church?

Finally, people who recognize how they have been blessed by God make very generous givers.

There are several perspectives that guide individuals as they give back:

- Commitment (God's word tells us to give)
- Compassion (Giving comes from the heart and may be for specific causes or needs)
- Community (Wanting to be involved with others in particular ministries)
- Challenge (Givers are urged to reach or exceed a financial dollar goal)
- Critical (People give because they believe their contribution is money well spent)

Which of these motivates you?

What share will you return to the Lord of all that God has already given to you?

God's peace and grace to each of you,

2018-19 Finance Committee

(Geoff Brink, Joan Jacobsen, Barb Janoski, Carol Lemke, Farrel Smith)



General Fund Summary Jan-Oct 2018

SaLT reviewed 11/07/18

Month	Average Weekly Revenue	Monthly Revenue	Monthly Obligations	Variance (between rev/obligations)
Jan	\$ 2,406	\$ 9,623	\$ 16,510	\$ (6,887)
Feb	\$ 2,914	\$ 11,654	\$ 10,214	\$ 1,440
Mar	\$ 3,518	\$ 14,072	\$ 15,022	\$ (950)
Apr	\$ 2,600	\$ 12,993	\$ 14,429	\$ (1,436)
May	\$ 2,971	\$ 11,884	\$ 10,812	\$ 1,072
Jun	\$ 2,996	\$ 11,983	\$ 15,223	\$ (3,240)
Jul	\$ 2,751	\$ 13,754	\$ 9,335	\$ 4,419
Aug	\$ 3,320	\$ 13,281	\$ 8,744	\$ 4,537
Sept	\$ 3,350	\$ 16,750	\$ 14,695	\$ 2,055
Oct	\$ 3,611	\$ 14,442	\$ 18,144	\$ (3,702)
Totals		\$ 130,436	\$ 133,128	\$ (2,692)

Note: Monthly obligations include actual expenses that have been paid and outstanding obligations (\$1300/month for Our Church’s Wider Mission [OCWM] and mortgage payment)

2018 Budget	\$162,736
Weekly Average Revenue Needed to Meet Budget	\$3,130
Actual Average Weekly Revenue Jan-Oct 2018	\$3,044



MUCC General Fund Average Weekly Revenue Jan - Oct 2018



MUCC Monthly Operations Jan-Oct 2018



UPDATES, REPORTS, & INFORMATION

FINANCIALS

Thank you to all who have responded in the last few months to help address our financial needs and increased your giving. We are so grateful that you have decided to make this church community yours too! If your way of giving is not something that you can do financially, we always welcome the gift of your time and talents. We have many volunteer opportunities and the gift of your time is valued and appreciated too. Visit mcfarlanducc.org/signups or email the church office (office@mcfarlanducc.org) for updated information on volunteer events.

Planned Giving Information Session at MUCC November 18

Lisa Fernan, a church member and member of SaLT will offer an informational session following worship on Sunday Nov. 18 to give an overview of how we can share financial resources with the church with our IRA's, Required Minimum Distributions, and donations of stocks and bonds. Lisa works with this as a financial advisor with Edward Jones, and will offer her insights to those interested



WIDER CHURCH NEWS!

Former pastor Rev. Kerri Parker will be installed as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches on Tuesday, December 4, 1:30 p.m., at Sun Prairie United Methodist Church, as part of the WCOC Annual Meeting.

SAVE THE DATES

It's a Wonderful Life – December 8th we will be hosting a live reading (radio show style) of this Christmas classic! Join Patrick Fernan, Brooke Hauser, and friends for a fun evening benefiting the food pantry.

Poinsettia Dedications – After December 1st, poinsettias will be available to dedicate in honor or memory of someone important to you. We have purchased our plants from the McFarland Lioness, so you'll also be supporting a great community organization! Stay tuned for more information and a signup in the weekly Pulse, bulletins, and facebook. Plants will decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas Eve.

Giving Tree – We are excited to once again participate in the McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree. Thank you to Anne and Jessie Gerke for organizing! The tree will be up with tags very soon!

SPECIAL THANKS!



THE CROP WALK

Thank you walkers and donors! You raised \$400 for those in need.

NOISY OFFERING & TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF



\$325 was raised during worship October 28 and during Halloween as MUCC youth trick or treated in their neighborhoods. Thank you!



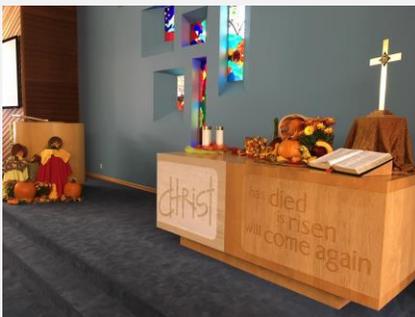
NEIGHBORS IN NEED

To date we have received over \$300 for this important wider UCC ministry!



speed • style • pizza

MOD PIZZA FUNDRAISE YOUR HEART OUT Thank you for supporting MUCC Youth!



WORSHIP ART - Thank you to Colleen Krattiger, Joan Jacobsen and Jean Duchrow for decorating the sanctuary for fall! And thank you to Julie Woodward for donating the pumpkins and gourds from her family farm. *Interested in decorating for Advent? November 29* will be our next get together in the sanctuary.

Who's using the building?

We thought you might like to know the ways in which MUCC opens its doors to the community! Check out the many groups, organizations, and individuals who use the building:

- **Community of Practice** – a once a month pastor support group
- **FREE Sale for Families** – local nonprofit recycling children's items and raising money for other local charities, twice a year
- **The Lego Team!** – a group of parents and kids creating and inventing!
- **Yoga** – classes held every Tuesday at 4:30pm. Come and unwind from a busy day.
- **Music Lessons** – every Wednesday afternoon MUCC is filled with beautiful music from Maria Pauls strings lessons.
- **Music Recitals** – happening year round. From piano to violin to voice!



CONTACT/CONNECT

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office hours are **9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays**. Administrative Assistant Melissa Mendl sets appointments with the pastor, maintains the church event calendar, coordinates building use, posts information and highlights to our church's social media such as Facebook and Twitter, publishes the weekly worship bulletins, produces the weekly emailed information through our Pulse, produces the monthly newsletter (The HeartBeat), creates the worship slides for the sanctuary screens, and handles any drop-in or telephone inquiries. She will work four days a week, with the office closed on Mondays. Melissa coordinates her work with the interim minister and members of SaLT, and church members in charge of various tasks. Pastor Mike is in the office most of those days plus Sundays and occasional Saturdays, but it's best to make an appointment.

Church Staff

Office Administrator: Melissa Mendl

office@mcfarlanducc.org

Custodial: Samantha Johnson

Nursery: Courtney O'Brien

Worship Keyboards: Diane Smeaton

Interim Minister: Michael Bausch

pastor@mcfarlanducc.org

SaLT

Moderator: Carolyn Bell

Vice Moderator: Helene Benink

Treasurer: Joan Jacobsen

Clerk: Anne Gerke

Jason Chapman

Lisa Fernan

Bruce Fischer

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Financial Secretaries

Jeanne Benink & Tracy Donohue

Messy Church

Nikkole Chapman

Jason Chapman

Rita Treece

Diane Mikelbank

Lydia Mikelbank

Lisa Ludwig

Mel Thompson

Youth Leaders

Dana Crumpton

Mel Thompson

Social Media Corner

facebook.com/mcfarlanducc

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

Instagram & Twitter: [@mcfarlanducc](https://twitter.com/mcfarlanducc)



November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 WORSHIP 10am Lego Team 3 pm	5 Finance Committee 2:30 pm	6 Yoga 4:30 pm	7 Music Lessons 4pm SaLT Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10
11 WORSHIP 10am Lego Team 3 pm Messy Church 4:30	12	13 Yoga 4:30 pm	14 Music Lessons 4pm Lego Team 6:30 pm	15	16	17 Church Work Day 8 am
18 WORSHIP 10am Lego Team 3 pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm	19	20	21 Music Lessons 4pm	THANKSGIVING		24
25 WORSHIP 10am	26	27 Yoga 4:30 pm	28 Music Lessons 4pm	29 Lioness Club Poinsettia Delivery Headquarters Decorating for Advent 6:30 pm	30	DECEMBER 1 Meet & Greet with Rev Bryan Sirchio 6 – 8 pm