

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*

November 25 - December 2, 2022

You can find brief descriptions of these weekly programs on our website:

mcfarlanducc.org



SUNDAY Morning, 10 am Zoom Worship
<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439> Password: **bettogether**



SUNDAY, 12 noon Zoom Bible Study
<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>



MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion
<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



WEDNESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices
<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>

Happening This Week



**Sunday, November 27th,
10:00 a.m.**

**Morning Worship
(in person and on zoom as
always)**

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

Password: **bettogether**

First Advent Sunday Theme is Hope

Younger Youth Will Make Advent Wreaths During Church Sunday Morning

Sheryl Rowe has materials to help the younger kids make Advent wreaths during worship on Nov. 25th. She's going to try to do this quietly at the children's table so kids can stay in worship. We'll see how it goes!! We're grateful to Sheryl for bringing this kind of creativity into worship with our children!

Things Coming Up



FINANCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

As we begin our financial planning for 2023 we are once again seeking financial pledges to help us have a sense of what degree of support we can count on in 2023.

Please be on the lookout for a separate email that will go out to everyone who receives the Pulse. It will contain a letter and pledge form for you to use. We will also place this letter on our website next week to make this as accessible as possible.

Thank you for your continued support!

Members of the MUCC Finance Committee

Geoff Brink Joan Jacobsen Barb Janoski Carol Lemke
Farrel Smith Sue Haeffner

Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 p.m. Monthly SaLT meeting
in person at the church and on zoom. These church leadership team meetings are always open to anyone. If you would like to join us on zoom please use the Sunday morning worship zoom link and password.



Info From Anne Gerke About "The Giving Tree"

(giving Christmas gifts to area families through the McFarland Food Pantry)

As many of you know, McFarland UCC has participated in the Giving Tree, supporting the McFarland Food Pantry, for the past several years. I'm excited to share with you that we will be participating again this year! Below is a list of the items being requested (e.g., toys, clothes, gift cards).

NOTE: I've updated the list below and indicated the items that are no longer available. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the other items.

- AGE: 7 / FEMALE: Arts & Crafts, Games, unicorn, sparkle clothes (size 7-8), Hair pieces, Squishmellow
- ~~· AGE: 7 / FEMALE: Size 7-8 soft pants (not jeans), anything Barbie~~
- AGE: 4 / MALE: Size 5T clothes, Hot Wheels, Construction anything
- AGE: 5 / FEMALE: Clothes 5T/6, shoes 10, girly things
- ~~· AGE: 5 / FEMALE: Clothes 6x, shoes 11, girly things~~
- AGE: 8 / FEMALE: Clothes 8/9, shoes 2, girly things
- AGE: Teen / FEMALE: Makeup
- Angelos Gift Card
- Angelos Gift Card
- ~~· Kwik Trip Gift Card~~
- Kwik Trip Gift Card
- Kwik Trip Gift Card
- ~~· Palenque Gift Card~~
- Pick 'N Save Gift Card
- Pick 'N Save Gift Card

If you are interested in participating, please contact me (608-212-1525 or asgerke@yahoo.com) to sign up for one or more of the items listed above.

We want to make things go smoothly for all involved. Please drop all items off at the McFarland Food Pantry, 5404 Anthony Street on one of the dates listed below.

- Wednesday, November 30: 3:00pm - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, December 3: 9am - 3pm
- Wednesday, December 7: 3:00pm - 5:00 pm

REMINDERS:

· Please let the Food Pantry know that you are from McFarland UCC when you drop your items off.

· If you need to make alternate arrangements, please get in touch with Kelly Maly directly (608-243-8234 or kelly@kellmaly.com).

· Please let me know when you drop off your items off at the McFarland Food Pantry, so I can ensure all gifts are accounted for.

Thank you for your continued interest in supporting the McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree.

If you have any questions, please let me know (608-212-1525 or asgerke@yahoo.com).

Thanks!

Anne

Come and join us

Holiday Concert

Featuring



KEN MEDEMA

is known throughout the world for his amazing gifts as a pianist, vocalist and "spontaneous songwriter."



ANDRA MORAN

is a nationally known Christian singer and songwriter.

Friday, December 9th

7:00 pm

Free - All Ages Welcome

McFarland United Church of Christ

5710 Anthony St

McFarland, WI 53558



**Friday, December 9th, Younger Youth Meeting Before The Holiday Concert!
5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

Even though we've moved our Younger Youth meetings to the second Sunday of each month, we're going to **meet in December on Friday the 9th** to make it easy for families to join us for the special Ken Medema and Andra Moran concert that evening! We'll make Christmas tree ornaments and have pizza and a Bible Story as usual and then hopefully kids and families will stay for the concert. Bring friends!!!



**Sunday, December 11,
Immediately After Worship**

**Decorate The Church For
Christmas!**

Worship on December 11th will already be special since Ken Medema will still be with us on Sunday morning. Then after church we'll enjoy Christmas cookies and finish trimming our church tree together. Plan to stay around a bit for this fun time of fellowship and joy!



***Youth Art Contest for Climate
Hope Cards!!!***

I (Pastor Bryan) know some of the teens and younger kids in our congregation are great artists! **Here's a chance to enter a nation-wide contest that our denomination, the United Church of Christ, is holding.** If you are 18 or younger, you are invited to draw, paint, or color your feelings about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Winners will be announced during an online award ceremony on Saturday, January 7th, 2023. **The winners of the Art Contest will have their art printed on thousands of Climate Hope Cards to be collected by UCC members around the country and ultimately delivered en masse to the White House!**

The contest runs until November 29th. [*Here's a link to more about how to submit your art.*](#) If you need help please ask Pastor Bryan! It would be awesome to have a bunch of youth from our congregation enter this contest. Who knows, your art might get all the way to the White House! Even if you don't win the context, we'll love seeing your art in our own church.



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

**...and Bridget Anna
McNeil**

(Artwork by Jessica Boehman)

Heather Wallace, one of our newer church members, sent me a brief article and image this morning, and I just had to share it with the rest of you on this so-called "Black Friday."

If you love this day of shopping and entering into the Advent and Christmas season with crowds and sales at the mall then power to you! I'm not going to lay a cliché guilt trip on you about too much consumerism, or "remembering the reason for the season." We'll do our best throughout Advent to explore and connect with the deeper spiritual meanings of this beautiful holiday season. Personally, today I observed what Shane Claiborne and others have claimed as "Buy Nothing Friday." But to each their own and enough said about that (My grammar guard mother would be aghast at how we use pronouns these days... sorry mom!).

Apart from the consumerism of this season (upon which a healthy 4th quarter economy obviously depends), the article Heather sent me helped me understand perhaps a little more deeply why I and many others sometimes feel a bit out of sorts as our culture kicks into the busy-ness of this time of year. The simple truth is that in a very straightforward sense, it's downright "unnatural" to do what we do! The earth and the natural world (at least in our northern part of it) is telling us to slow down, hunker

in, snuggle up, be a bit more quiet, and go deeper into the stillness and darkness of winter.

But most of us tend to do pretty much the opposite.

So that's about all I'm going to say here, except to encourage you to take a moment and read what Bridget Anna McNeil writes below, and give yourself permission to listen to and honor your being if it's telling you find a blanket and a hearth rather than to head to the mall...

I hope to see you soon one way or the other, and especially at church sometime soon.

Pastor Bryan

From Bridget Anna McNeil

The winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this is a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year which is coming to a close... like nature and the animal kingdom around us, this time of hibernation is so necessary for our tired limbs, our burdened minds.

Our modern culture teaches avoidance at a max at this time; alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, overspending, comfort food and consumerism.

And yet the natural tug to go inwards as nearly all creatures are doing is strong and the weather so bitter that people are left feeling that winter is hard, because for those of us without burning fires and big festive families, it can be lonely and isolating. Whereas in actual fact winter is kind, she points us in her quiet soft way towards our inner self, towards this annual time of peace and reflection, embracing the darkness, and forgiving, accepting, and lovingly saying goodbye to the past year.

Winter takes away the distractions, the buzz, and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth."

.. and then, just around the corner the new year will begin again, and like a seed planted deep in the earth, we will all rise with renewed energy once again to dance in the sunlight.

Life is a gift. All the seasons are a gift. It's okay to stay home, to embrace

the quiet, and to trust the stillness.

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