

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

April 14 - April 21, 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 Morning, 12 noon Zoom Bible Study (No Bible Study on Easter Day, April 17th)

<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



April 15th--Tonight!
Good Friday Worship
6:30 p.m.

(In person & on zoom)

Tonight's Good Friday worship will be a simple service of Scripture readings, lots of art, and silence. After each

reading candles will be extinguished. We will end the time together in darkness and depart in silence.

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

Password: betogether



***Sunday, April 17th
9:30 a.m.***

Easter Egg Hunt!

Calling all kids! (and parents of course). We're going to be filling plastic eggs with treats and will

hide them inside and outside the building for you to find! **We'll start this at 9:30 sharp!** Gather in the fellowship area for instructions and official start. No grabbing any on your way inside!

Please note the time change from 9:15 to 9:30. We initially scheduled this for 9:15 but then decided there was no good reason to ask you families to come that early! The hunt itself will be over in plenty of time for the 10 a.m.. worship.



***Sunday, April
17th, 10:00
a.m.***

***(In person and on
zoom)***

Easter Sunday Worship!!

Join us for our first mask-optional service in over two years. **The choir will also be singing again** for the first time since the pandemic began.

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

Password: betogether

***Easter Flowers For Our
Church Sanctuary***

Thanks to the following persons who purchased flowers in honor of loved



ones. Our sanctuary is going to be beautiful on Easter Morning!! The memorial designations are in parentheses.

Rick & Jean Duchrow (our parents)
Gregg & Colleen Krattiger (John &

Eveylyn Krattiger, Dick Palzkill)

Sheryl Rowe (Rod Johnson)

Carol & Dave Lemke (all who are grieving)

Heather Blackmore (Beth Petty)

Ann Ross (R.A. Elton)

Joan Jacobsen & Julie Woodward (our mothers)

Sue Haeffner (Adeline Haeffner)

Judy Emmrich (Cathy Myers, Joyce Emmrich)

Dawn Cogger (Beatrice Love)

Tom & Lisa Ludwig (Roger & Jean Thomas, Mary Jane Ludwig, Glenn Ludwig)

Bruce & Jayne Fischer (Martin & Edith Fischer, Jay Dawley)

Becky Cohen (Julius, Marilyn & Brock Wittenberg)

Lavon Geasland (Don Geasland, parents)

Diane Miklebank (my parents, Joe & Esther Bertrard)

Harold Stafford (Jamie Sharling)

Martha Olsen (parents)

Masks Optional Beginning Easter Sunday, April 17th!

After Church Hospitality (coffee, snacks, etc.) will start again on April 24th, the Sunday after Easter!



Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00 p.m.

McFarland Food Pantry Annual Meeting

As most of you know the McFarland Food Pantry has been near and dear to the heart of our congregation for years. Several of our members have served on the board of the Food Pantry, and our own Judy Taber is currently the board chair.

This special zoom meeting is open to all and will include the following:

- Summary of 2021 Patry Activities
- Review of Pantry Finances
- Election of Two Pantry Board Members
- Review of By-Laws
- Recognition of Pantry Volunteers and Supporters

The Annual Report is available at: www.mcfarlandfoodpantry.com

Feel free to contact the pantry at:

Phone: 608-658-0927

E-mail: mcfcp@gmail.com

Zoom Link for the meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84386721486?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84386721486?pwd=NmZqdll1WS9Fc2MzQVZqSm1rQ1lsQT09)

[pwd=NmZqdll1WS9Fc2MzQVZqSm1rQ1lsQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84386721486?pwd=NmZqdll1WS9Fc2MzQVZqSm1rQ1lsQT09)



From Our Racial Justice Ministries Team

Personal Essentials drive for Nehemiah Community Development

This effort *will conclude this week on April 21st*, so be sure to put your items in the box at church by then...

Many of you participated a couple of years ago in the Nehemiah “Black History for a New Day” course. Continuing our connection with Nehemiah in support of racial justice, our church is organizing a drive during the month of April to collect essential items for Madison communities in need, through the Nehemiah Community Development organization. **A container under the church coat racks will be our collection point**, and we’ll begin collecting on April 3rd through the end of the month of April. **Whatever we collect will be delivered to the Fountain of Life Church in Madison on April 21st.**

Please consider picking up and donating some of these items when you’re out shopping! ***(Select This Link To Go To The List Of Items Needed)***

***Looking for a
specific way to
help Ukraine?***

WALK. RAISE FUNDS. HELP UKRAINE.

National CROP Hunger Walk for Ukraine

April 22, 2022

YOUR LOCATION. YOUR WALK.
#Walk4Ukraine

Here you go!

If you decide to walk let us know and our church will support you no doubt.

Use the link below to find out more about his if you are interested in participating.

events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/usa



Sunday, April 24th, 2022

Earth Day & Green Team Celebration at Church

In honor of Earth Day and of our congregation's commitment to eco-justice and honoring the gift of Creation, our monthly Outreach Commitment Focus will be given to the wonderful work of our Green

Team. We'll focus our worship largely on this topic, and after church our fellowship area will be full of exhibits that illustrate things like solar energy, composting, recycling, and landscaping. **The photo below is of our own Geoff Brink presenting the Green Team's proposal regarding landscaping on the church grounds.** We'll share all the exciting developments with the congregation on April 24th.

This after church program will be a perfect way to resume our after church hospitality with Fair Trade coffee and snacks!! Be sure to join us!!



Upcoming Events



NION Update

Next meeting is April 28th (link below)

(NION stands for **Now In Our Name** and is our immigration justice and compassion outreach ministry)

Once again, we had a fantastic meeting on March 26th at our church **with Vote Common Good** sharing insights and video footage from their **"We The People" bike tour** along the U.S. Mexico border last fall. The photo above was taken during that meeting and that's Doug Pagitt addressing the group. The evening was very informational and I know that many of you who were able to attend were moved and inspired by the event.

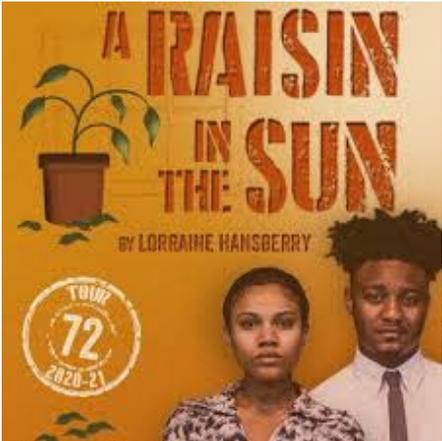
If you would like *to see a recording of the March 26th meeting, please select this link* and you will see the "Madison area" meeting posted on Vote Common Good's YouTube channel. It's in the second row of videos in the middle of the page. I highly recommend watching it. Other meetings from their tour are also available to be seen, and each meeting involved different people and content, so if the March 26 event was meaningful to you, be sure to watch some of the others as well.

Our Next NION zoom meeting will be on

Thursday, March 28th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Normally we meet the third Thursday of each month, but this month we are meeting a week later because of a scheduling conflict. All are welcome! We will discuss our next steps in response together and possible collaboration with some of the groups we learned about at the March 26th meeting. Here's the zoom link for that meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89676014919>



Racial Justice Opportunity at American Players Theater in September

At the last session in mid-March of the Racial Justice "Why Race Matters" discussions, the question was raised - "what do we do next?" There is clearly a lot of enthusiasm for continuing the journey of learning about racial disparities and the actions we can take to

improve ourselves, our community, and beyond. With this in mind, following is information about another Racial Justice opportunity for mid-September:

The American Players Theater (APT) recently published their 2022 season <https://americanplayers.org/> and one of their productions this Fall, *A Raisin in the Sun*, provides a unique racial justice learning opportunity for members and friends of our congregation.

A Raisin in the Sun, written by Lorraine Hansberry, premiered on Broadway in 1959. The play portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, a Black family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s. It examines the effects of racial prejudice on the fulfillment of an African-American family's dreams.

We are planning to attend the Saturday, September 17, 2:00 pm performance. This allows us to experience the performance and then gather on the grounds of APT to share food and fellowship while discussing our reactions to the play. To determine if there was interest in this activity, 14 participants of some of our Racial Justice ministry activities have indicated they are interested in attending this September performance at APT.

If we order tickets by April 29, we can get a 40% discount. Ticket prices for

a Saturday matinee for “Very Fine” seats are \$64 (these are the lowest ticket prices). Tickets ordered by April 29, reduces the price to \$38.40. Depending on the number of participants and availability of tickets, we may also take advantage of APT’s “Four Packs on the Hill” pricing (4 tickets for \$124/\$31 per ticket).

If you are interested and want to reserve your seat, please contact Joan Jacobsen at treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org or 608-669-7944 by Wednesday, April 27th. Joan will follow up with you regarding payment for your ticket(s).

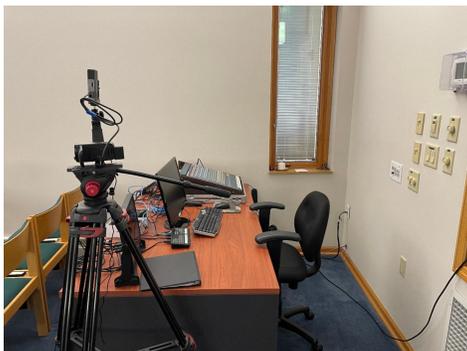
If you have questions about this event, please do not hesitate to contact Joan Jacobsen.



Sunday, May 1st, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Teen Youth Group Meeting at our church

With Lake Edge UCC Youth and possibly some other area churches

I'm really hoping you teenagers will be with us for this meeting. I'm very eager to get our older youth group going strong and to start planning some meetings and trips now that we are finally (knock wood and thank you God) able to meet beyond all the COVID restrictions. We'll play some games (outside hopefully!), have some meaningful discussion, talk about some things we can do together this summer and fall, and eat pizza. Come and bring a friend!! It helps me (Pastor Bryan) to know if you're coming or not so I'll know how much pizza to get, but come even if you forget to tell me!



Serve On Our Tech Team!!

No previous experience or knowledge required!!

Now that we have all this great new equipment we really need some volunteers to learn how to use it and

help at the tech table during worship services. **This is NOT as complicated as it may sometimes seem!** If you can use a computer at all you are more than capable of serving in this way. We will train you and you won't be asked to do anything until you feel confident you know what you are doing. **We really need to develop a team now** so that we are not so completely dependent on Tom Ludwig, Chris Taber, and Skylar Adkins (who have served us remarkably and we're so grateful!). If you are willing to join this team please let Tom Ludwig or Pastor Bryan know.

You can do this!



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

The amazing Nadia Bolz-Weber published a brief and powerful article this last week on the "mandate" Jesus gave us to love. I shared it with our morning devotional group on Maundy Thursday, and it spoke to us all so much that I wanted to simply point you to it this week instead of writing something myself.

But I couldn't, because I just realized that the essay is only available to those who are paying members of her subscription service, which means that it really wouldn't be right for me to share the link with all of you. No problem. Everyone's got to make a living, and Nadia gives lots of great stuff away. But thanks to my friend who did share it just with me!

So here's the gist. Nadia got into how much certain people annoy the heck out of her. People she doesn't agree with and who don't agree with her. She talked about how tempted we all are to "de-friend" others on Facebook, and how the "de-friending" has impacted our families and some of our closest and oldest friendships. She talked about how we are being seduced into thinking that all of our "good reasons" for disconnecting, for shutting down and shutting others out, for wanting to see others as wrong or bad or worse--are somehow legitimate. We all think we've got very good reasons for regarding someone else as "the problem."

But there's a problem with that.

As Nadia put it, "the problem is Maundy Thursday." "Maundy" comes from a Latin word that means "mandate." It's the root of the word "commandment." And it's the ONLY commandment that Jesus gave us. To

love each other, to love God, and to know that we just can't disconnect those two things. Ever. And the problem is that Jesus gave this commandment on the night before Good Friday--which is today. The day he knew they would torture him and kill him. The day he would ask God to forgive those who literally were driving nails into his wrists and feet, because "they just don't know what they're doing."

So there goes every reason I ever thought I had to justify NOT loving someone. Oh I'm glad God gives me and all of us the space and time we need to find our way back to the Center when we try to convince ourselves that this commandment to love MUST not apply in certain situations. We want there to be exceptions. There are no exceptions. None. We might need to struggle a bit with what love looks like in certain situations. But there's never a time to set that commandment of Jesus aside.

Not even with _____ (you fill in the blank--but keep staring at that cross long enough and you'll probably need take out whoever's name you put there).

Grace and Peace everyone, and I hope to see you either at Good Friday service this evening, or Easter Sunday. Or both.

It's been a really meaningful Holy Week for me. I hope it has for you as well.

Pastor Bryan

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