

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 11 - November 18, 2021

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK

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

<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

**November 14th, at 10:00
a.m.**

**Sunday morning worship
inside our church
sanctuary (masks
required) & also on zoom**



as usual.



Annual "Neighbors In Need Offering"

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Our Congregation is glad and proud to support 5 denominational offerings each year. We are designating Sunday, November 14th as the day we will receive our "Neighbors in Need" Offering. Donations for this offering can be made anytime through our church's website ([here's the link](#)). This offering is used to support many ministries of justice and compassion that our denomination is involved with. More will be shared about this offering during worship on November 14th.



Thursday, November 18th: NION Meeting at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83173630730>

(There is a passcode required for the meeting. NION stands for "Now In Our Name" and is

our congregation's outreach group focusing on compassion and justice for immigrants in our community and beyond. All are welcome and wanted at this meeting. Please contact Tom Ludwig at tludwigrn@gmail.com to get the meeting passcode).

Pastor Bryan on Vacation from November 15-22nd. I'm getting in my last vacation week before the Advent and Christmas season is upon us. Pastor Kris Gorton will be on call in case of pastoral emergency (608-438-6307; pastorkris@memorialucc.org). Trish Kalhagen and Tom Ludwig will be leading worship on Sunday, Nov. 21st.

Current COVID-19 Precautions For Indoor Worship At McFarland UCC

1. Vaccination Status: We strongly encourage those who want to be inside the building for worship to be fully vaccinated. We are not going to ask people if they are vaccinated or not, but it is our preference that persons worshipping inside the building be vaccinated if possible.

2. Masks are required: We are asking everyone to make this easy by joyfully agreeing to come to indoor worship masked and not to ask for an exception. Regardless of our personal individual preferences and comfort level with wearing masks, we will require masks as an expression of loving concern for each other and especially for the children among us who are not yet able to be vaccinated. Even if the county mask mandate ends we will require masks in worship at least through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. SaLT will revisit this issue at the Dec. 2nd meeting.

3. Gentle Humming Now Permitted: We are still not going to be singing in church, but humming along with the music is now welcome. Step by step we'll get back to singing "full on" as soon as possible. SaLT will revisit this at the next meeting on December 2nd.

4. Social distancing: We will have ushers present to help you as you enter the sanctuary to find seats for yourself and those with you. We will provide sheets of colored paper to put on the chairs on both sides of a family or group. These chairs will remain empty. We have increased the distance between the rows of chairs. As we have during outdoor worship, we will not pass an offering plate or engage in liturgical moments that encourage touching other people. During times of announcements or prayer or other occasions for persons in the congregation to speak into a microphone, a wireless microphone will be brought to you by a designated individual who will hold the mic for you to speak into and thus avoid many different people touching and passing a microphone.

5. Regarding Children: We are well aware that children are not yet vaccinated and we want to do everything possible to keep them safe. For this reason we will not have children gather at the "kids table" as we have in the past and we suggest that children stay with their families, but if parents are okay with their children sitting at the table then this is permissible. There will be paper and markers available for them to draw and color if they like. In accordance with our county guidelines we are asking that children over the age of 2 wear masks.

6. Post Worship Fellowship: We are still encouraging people to leave the building immediately after worship and to visit outside if they would like to, but we will not linger after worship inside for fellowship. This policy will not change until our building is officially open for full use.

Upcoming Events



Younger Youth Update

Friday Night Monthly Meetings!

Friday, December 3rd from 5:30-6:45 p.m.

After conversation with parents of younger youth recently, we've decided to begin a monthly Friday evening younger youth meeting. We'll meet (masks on at this point still) inside our building at 5:30 p.m., share a Bible story, do a craft, and have a simple pizza dinner. In 2022, we will meet the 2nd Friday of each month and share the same basic format. Pastor Bryan will send out a schedule of our meetings and Bible story themes to parents of children 12 and under. Spread the word, bring your friends--the more the merrier!

Next Teen Youth Meeting: December 5th at

4:30-6:00 p.m. We'll meet at our church with youth from Lake Edge UCC and possibly some other area churches. Come enjoy some fun games, good conversation about things that matter, make some new friends, and eat some pizza. Your friends are welcome!

Support 3 of our McFarland UCC Youth...

**Cora Thompson, Nora Wroblewski,
Sean Fernan**

They are all involved (Cora back stage, Nora on stage, and Sean playing bass in the orchestra) in McFarland High School's presentation of

"The Addams Family"

November 11-14, 2021

Click Here for all performance times, details, and tickets

PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

MCFARLAND HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS



SHOW NOVEMBER 11-14

SHOWING NOVEMBER 11-14

7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
2PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

The Addams Family

TICKET INFO
AVAILABLE ONLINE MONDAY 11/1/21
BIT.LY/MCFARLANDPAC
STUDENT/SENIOR \$12 ADULTS \$18



Directed by Mallory Franczak Produced/Music by Paul Gregg Costuming by Bernie Friedman
Accompanist Nick Nyderek Scenic Design by Scott Wirtz-Olsen

Book by MARSHALL BRICKMAN and RICK ELICE
Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA

AVAILABLE ONLINE MONDAY 11/1/21
BIT.LY/MCFARLANDPAC
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**A Few Words
From Pastor
Bryan**



Yesterday was Veterans Day as most of you know. A dear friend of mine posted a picture and shared some words about a letter her father received from a German prisoner of war he had

befriended on a ship during World War II. My friend's father evidently was a soldier on this U.S. war ship. He treated this German prisoner with kindness and dignity despite the fact that their nations were at war and these men obviously served in opposing forces that were trying to kill each other.

The letter, written a few years after the war ended, was a letter between friends. Obviously they both survived the war. The German man once again expressed his gratitude for my friend's father's kindness and for helping him to endure and survive a time of crippling fear and overwhelming difficulty. He shared greetings from his wife and child, and extended their gratitude for helping him to survive so that this family tree could continue to grow. The two men became friends over time.

I was touched by this letter.

Sometimes the most powerful agency we have as human beings is claiming our own freedom to treat others with dignity and grace and kindness, even when we have every reason to see another through a lens of suspicion, contempt, and hostility. Sometimes the most sacred, holy, and world-changing thing we can do is to refuse to let anyone or anything tell us who or why we should regard as an enemy.

I am increasingly concerned that as a society we are losing the capacity to treat each other with basic human decency when we realize that we disagree with each other. The violent speech and actions that are now so much a part of our public discourse are leading more and more people to some very dangerous places.

Speaking of veterans, I was also touched by recent reflections on the life and legacy of the late General Colin Powell. One commentator remarked that General Powell saw war as a tragic last resort and as the result of a failure of persons and nations to respect each other's common humanity. It was said that it is often soldiers like General Powell-- those who have

experienced the horrors of combat first hand-- who value the peaceful resolution of conflict most deeply.

Jesus told us to "love our enemies." Those words were no more easy or "realistic" when Jesus spoke them than they are today.

Let's honor soldiers we know and love and appreciate by following the example of my friend's father and this German soldier. There are few things more more needed at this point in history than the ability to make a friend out of someone we may be strongly inclined--for easily justifiable reasons-- to dislike or initially see as an opponent.

I'll help you all with this if you'll help me! We all know how difficult it is to practice this kind of "revolutionary love." Maybe the most important thing is to be truly willing to ask God to melt away our defenses and our resistance when love is most difficult and costly.

Hope to see you Sunday,

Pastor Bryan

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