

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*

October 14 - October 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, 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, October 16, 6:30--7:30
p.m. Confirmation Class**

The schedule for the 2022-2023
Confirmation class has been sent to parents.
It's time to start! Please be in touch with

Pastor Bryan if you have any questions.

**Sunday, October 16th,
Sunday Morning Worship**



10 a.m in-person and on Zoom.

(Masks are optional)

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

Password: **bettogether**



*Sunday, October 16th
Immediately After Worship,
"Get Out The Vote" Post Card
Campaign*

*Sponsored By Our Racial
Justice Ministries Team*

This photo shows LaVon Geasland, Judy Taber, and Jayne Fischer preparing post cards for us to fill out after worship on October 16th. **We are participating in a project called "Reclaim Our Vote."** This campaign is specifically focused on sending post cards to people in communities of color throughout the U.S. encouraging them to vote and giving them information on how and where to register and vote easily in their location. **This is a simple effort to respond to race-based voter suppression throughout the country.**

**CONFRONTING
CHRISTIAN
NATIONALISM**
★ TRAINING ★

McFarland UCC
5710 Anthony Street • McFarland, WI

**October 12th
6:30 pm**

votecommongood.com

VOTE COMMON GOOD

*Follow Up After Our
Program This Past
Wednesday (Oct. 12)...*

We had a great turnout for the presentation October 12th on "Confronting Christian Nationalism" on October 12th. There were about 35 present at church and another 15 or so who joined on zoom and the live stream.

If you missed it or want to see it again, here is a link to the recording of the meeting: [Select Here](#)

It was a lot of information, much of it new, and some of it quite alarming.

So Let's Continue This Conversation!!

I think we need a chance to process and debrief this content together and see what we can do to continue the work of dealing with the challenges and dangers of Christian Nationalism.

Here's what I'm proposing As Next Steps:

--Watch the recording of the program again or for the first time if you missed it (those of you who are interested).

--Write down any question you have, or key observations or suggestions for further action and email them to me (Pastor Bryan) if you like. I will work on them and prepare them for further group conversation and also share them with Doug Pagitt to get his feedback.

--Let's meet on Zoom on Tuesday, October 25th at 6:30 p.m. to talk about the presentation and what, if anything, we feel called to do in response. **A zoom link for this Tuesday evening meeting will be included in next week's Pulse.**

Things Coming Up



**Friday Evening, October 21st
Teen Youth Outing with Lake
Edge UCC to Schuster's
Farm! Corn maze, haunted
forest... more details will be sent
through email. Bring a friend!**

Tuesday, October 25th, 6:30



*p.m. Zoom Meeting to discuss
the October 12th "Confronting
Christian Nationalism"*

presentation and possible next steps.
Zoom link will be in next week's Pulse.

FUN Night!

*Friday, October 28th
6:00 -- 8 p.m.
All Church Fun Night!!*

Mark the Date! More details to come!!

The idea is just to have some **fun for all ages** playing some games and enjoying a time to socialize and enjoy each other. **Board games and cards from 6- 6:50 p.m.** and the **"Talent/No Talent Show!" will start at 7 p.m.** A Talent/No Talent Show is just a chance to either share an actual talent (music, poetry, a piece of art, etc.) OR to do something silly and just for fun. A skit, a joke, a "stupid human trick." Whatever! Let's play together and have fun getting to know sides of each other that don't tend to emerge on Sunday mornings!

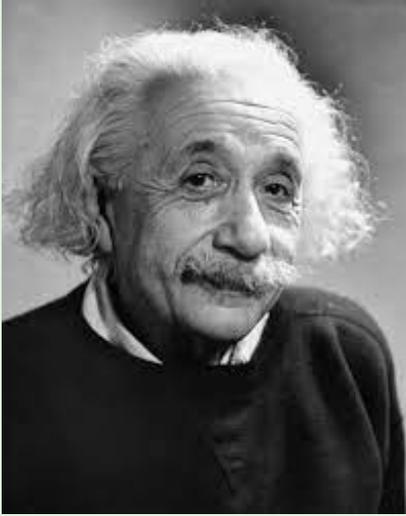
We'll need a few volunteers to help out in the kitchen with snacks and drinks. Please let Pastor Bryan or Joan Jacobsen know if you're willing to help out with this.

Sign Up For the Talent/No Talent Show!: There will be an actual signup sheet at church, but you can also email pastor Bryan and let him know if you would like to participate in this "show." **Remember we're looking for silly stuff as well as actual talent!**

A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

And Albert Einstein

There are quite a few quotes by Albert Einstein that reflect his deep spirituality and openness to the Divine Mystery. I love it when someone with a brilliant mind and



deep commitment to scientific methodology and insight is also open to a Greater Mystery. I really appreciate Einstein's humility in the face of all that simply cannot be definitively known by looking through the lenses of empirical verifiability. There's just so much of life that can't be approached or experienced that way. Like love, forgiveness, and grace, for example.

Here are two of my favorite Einstein

quotes:

First,

"I think the most important question facing humanity is, 'Is the universe a friendly place?' This is the first and most basic question all people must answer for themselves."

And second,

"Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous."

Just this morning after making a pastoral call I had 45 minutes to kill before another appointment. There were two different coffee shops I knew of nearby at which I could grab a cup of coffee and work on my computer a bit. I decided on one of them. But then a car blocked my ability to change lanes to make a left hand turn. So I just decided to take a right hand turn and go to the other coffee shop instead.

I walked into the shop and got in line. I turned around and coming through the door was a friend I hadn't seen in almost 5 years. We'd lost contact under some rather strange circumstances, and for reasons I won't get into, I hadn't felt comfortable reaching out to this person. But in the past several months she kept coming to mind, or she would be mentioned in a conversation. I really wanted to see her and reconnect and clear the air if possible, but it just didn't feel right to initiate contact.

But there she was, walking right into the line behind me. Neither of us had a choice. We smiled and hugged and she said, "Wow, you've been on my mind! You keep coming up in conversations I'm having in a lot of different circles these days. Did you get the email I sent you about 6 weeks ago?"

I hadn't received the email. She had gotten my email address wrong. We

laughed, and I shared with her that I'd been wanting to reconnect and talk (and no this friendship was not of a romantic nature!). We chatted long enough to realize that there were actually some very significant reasons for us to talk at greater length and depth that neither of us were aware of prior to today. I gave her the correct email address. We'll get together and talk more deeply soon.

Coincidence? I don't want to blow God's cover or anything. All I know is that life is amazingly beautiful when we trust that God is always working behind the scenes in ways we can't possibly explain or figure out. It's such a gift to know that we don't have to pull everything off on our own. Some things are just given. It's like the Big Love smiles on us sometimes and says, "I can see you're not going to get this on your own, so let me just spot you this much." Pure grace. God doing for us what we could not (or often would not) do on our own.

I've given up trying to figure out how this kind of thing "works." And I've certainly stopped trying to somehow pull the levers or the strings, even with my prayers.

But it sure is a gift when one of those "God things" is almost too obvious to miss isn't it? How about you? I bet you've had some experiences of God's anonymous Grace as well.

The Universe IS friendly. And you never know what beautiful crossing of paths might just happen.

So thanks to whoever blocked the lane so I couldn't turn left this morning...

Blessings everyone,

Pastor Bryan

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