

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 21 - October 28, 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



**Friday Evening, October 21st
Teen Youth Outing with Lake
Edge UCC to Schuster's
Farm! Corn maze, bonfire, FUN!**

Meet at the church at 5:45 p.m. We'll be back at the church for youth to be picked up at 9:20 p.m. Cost: \$10

**Sunday, October 23rd,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on**

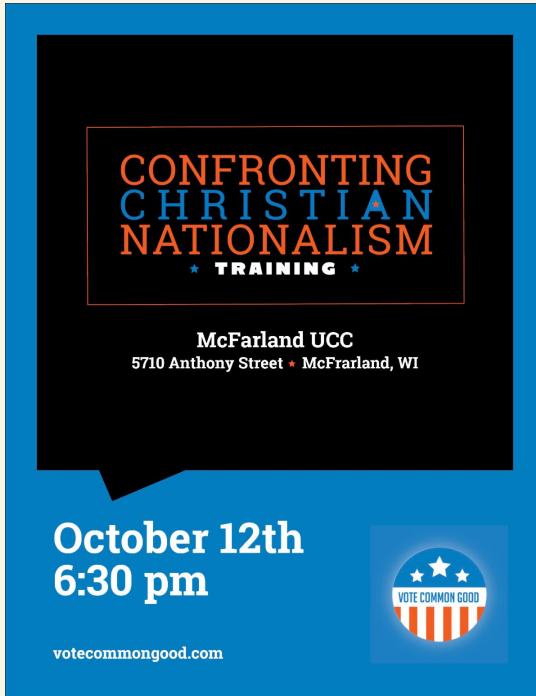


Zoom.

(Masks are optional)

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

Password: **bettogether**



**Tuesday, October 25th,
6:30--7:30 p.m.
Confronting Christian
Nationalism Discussion on
Zoom.**

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

Password: **bettogether**

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.**

FUN Night!

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

Sign Up Here Online for the "Talent/No Talent Show!" We just need your name and a very brief description of what you'll be doing so we can have a good flow between serious and not-so serious acts!
We need both!!

Games from 6:00 - 6:55 (bring your favorites with you, including cards)
The Show starts at 7 p.m.!

There is also a paper signup sheet on the bulletin board at Church that is on the wall to the left as you face the sanctuary.

We also need 4 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. *You can also sign up for this on the [signup genius page](#).*

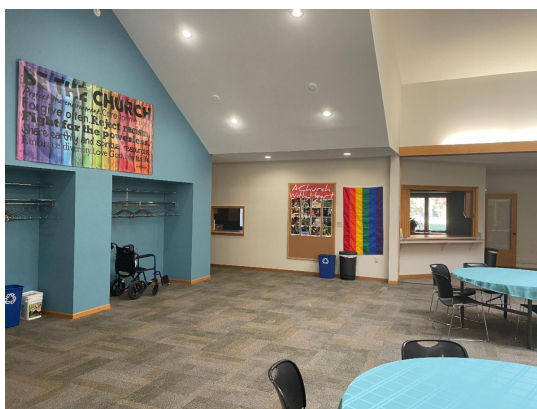
Things Coming Up



Sunday, October 30th, "Neighbors In Need" Denominational Offering

As most of you know, the denomination our congregation belongs to is called "The United Church of Christ" or the "UCC" for short. We proudly participate in 5 different denominational Offerings each year. October is the month in which we contribute to the "Neighbors In Need" Offering. This offering is used to fund local efforts to work for justice and compassion, and also to support our denomination's partnerships with ministries focused on justice for and with Native American communities. *[Here is a link to a brief video](#)* that describes what the Neighbors In Need Offering is about.

Checks can be made out to our congregation with "Neighbors In Need" in the memo, or you can donation directly to this offering on our website. *[Here is a link to the donate page on our site](#)*. You will see this specific offering listed.



Saturday, November 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Open Discussion about Art, Wall Space, and Bulletin Boards in our church building.

This is an open meeting for anyone in our congregation who would like to share thoughts, hopes, opinions, and feelings regarding how we use our wall space and art in general throughout our building, including the sanctuary. How do we make these kinds of decisions? How can we encourage the artists among us to share their gifts?

How do we work things through if and when there are differing opinions about the style and placement of a piece of art in our building? How do we express our commitment to racial justice and overall diversity through art

in our buiding?

This November 5th Saturday meeting is your chance to lovingly share any thoughts or opinions or hopes you have regarding all of this. If you can't make the meeting and have a perspective you would like to have represented, please be in touch with Pastor Bryan and share your thoughts and he will make sure your perspective is brought into this discussion.



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

And Paula D'Arcy

Oh my goodness what gorgeous weather we're having! 70's in late October? Drop everything and feel that sun on your skin and enjoy the exquisite beauty of this time of year!

Like many of us, my schedule feels pretty jammed these days. It's a challenge to keep things in balance. When I get busy it's difficult for me to even enjoy stopping and "just being" when I can. But today, by the grace of God, I was able to do just that, and I'm so glad I did. In addition to taking a nice walk along the bike path and board walk at McDaniel Park with a church member, I sat on my deck and spent 30 minutes in meditation, just feeling the sun on my body, and drinking in the pleasure of being outside in just a T-shirt (a black one of course). :)

When I was finished, I knew I needed to get this newsletter finished and sent out and then get to church to enjoy an evening excursion with our teen youth to the corn maze at Schuster's Farm in Deerfield. I wasn't sure what to write here, but as I ended my time of stillness outside, I remembered an excerpt from author and retreat leader Paula D'Arcy's book, [Waking Up To The Beauty of This Day](#). Here's what she said that came to my mind...

Years ago while experiencing my first silent retreat, the director told me to spend the first day relaxing. I thought he was wasting my time. Give me something to do, I thought: books to read, things to study. He would not change his assignment and I would not/could not comply. I was angry.

On the second day his directive was the same. Relax. Slow down. He

saw the discipline I lacked and sorely needed: I did not know how to bring my life into balance. Then he added something new: "Take a bubble bath." I left his office fuming. I wanted to learn, to grow. I didn't want to waste time on something frivolous.

Third day, the same recommendation. By the fifth day I was worn down. I found some bubbles, poured them into a bathtub and slipped in, still angry. It had taken that long for me to give up my version of things. I only knew how to reach goals and check important items off a list of significant tasks. But he was asking me to transfer my persistence and drive to a completely different set of challenges. In that week I was introduced to the discipline necessary to discover the deeper meaning of things—the foundation stones for a relationship with this beckoning presence. I had to let go of my external drive for outer results and bring that same commitment to the inner journey. I had to learn not to be in charge. I had to learn to listen and to wait.

"It had taken that long to give up my version of things." Oooh I just love that. Well not always. I get pretty attached to my version of things. Most of us do. But I just love what Paula is getting at here.

My version of things would often have been to convince myself that the tasks before me are more important than feeling the late October sun on my skin. Somehow I caught myself today. Thank you God. Thank you for the priceless gift of a perfect October day, and for the blessing it is not to have missed it.

I hope you didn't either. If you did, you'll have the next two days. And go ahead. Finish off one of these gorgeous Fall days by taking a bubble bath! Or whatever the equivalent expression of giving your soul what it needs the most at this point in your life to bring things more into balance. Or to listen to the longings of your inner life as much as you do to the never-ending lists of tasks, responsibilities, and obligations.

I hope to see you in church Sunday as always. But then again it's supposed to be another flawlessly gorgeous Fall Day, so if I don't, well, I'll understand... The Cathedral of Creation just might be demanding your presence.

God is so good to us all. Every day is beautiful in its own way, but when one like this comes along, the greatest "thank you God" we can offer is to make sure we feel it and enjoy it as fully as possible. We an amazing gift it is to be a human being.

Pastor Bryan

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