

# 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

**June 10 - 17, 2021**

## HAPPENING EVERY WEEK

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

[mcfarlanducc.org](https://mcfarlanducc.org)



**SUNDAY Morning, 10 am Zoom Worship**

<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439> Password: **bettogether**



**SUNDAY Morning, 11:45 am Bible Study**

<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>



**MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion**

<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



**TUESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Bible Study & Discussion**

<https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>



**WEDNESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices**

<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>

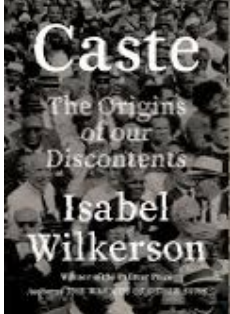
## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Racial Justice Book Group**

*Final Discussion June 17, Plus More info!*

**From Jayne Fischer:**

Just a note that we will be discussing Parts Six and Seven



(the last two parts) and the Epilogue on **Thursday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m.** I'll be sending out the discussion questions in the next few days. (if you would like to receive updates from the book group email: [\*\*jdfischer2@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:jdfischer2@gmail.com))

I also wanted to bring your attention to the "Go Big Read" (initiated by UW) this year. Below is part of a note from Kelly Heasty, Assistant Director of the E.D. Locke Public Library in McFarland. Please keep this in mind and watch for further information, either from me or in the monthly Library newsletter (to subscribe, go to [\*\*www.libraryaware.com/3104/Subscribers/ManageSubscription\*\*](http://www.libraryaware.com/3104/Subscribers/ManageSubscription)).

The book chosen for this year's UW common book program, "Go Big Read" is by a Ghanaian-born author, Yaa Gyasi, and is entitled "Transcendent Kingdom." Following is a summary of the story:

*"Gifty is a sixth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at the Stanford University School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after an ankle injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family's loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith and grappling with the evangelical church in which she was raised, whose promise of salvation remains as tantalizing as it is elusive. Transcendent Kingdom is a deeply moving portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants ravaged by depression and addiction and grief—a novel about faith, science, religion, love."*

Ann Engler (our Adult Services Programming Librarian) and I would like to move forward in planning an event with MEP (McFarland Equity Project) around this book. The library typically orders many copies of the "Go Big Read" selection each year. This year, we have planned to order 20 copies along with having copies available on Overdrive, our digital library. The books should be arriving some time in July.

**OURDOOR WORSHIP STARTS JUNE 20TH!**

As was announced a few weeks ago, we'll start holding



outdoor worship services each week (weather permitting) on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Next week I (Pastor Bryan) and SaLT will send an email message to all of you with details about this first outdoor worship with thoughts regarding the wearing of masks, social distancing, physical contact, singing, and whatever questions come up as to how to best be together outside at this point. If you have any

strong feelings or preferences or suggestions please let me or a member of SaLT know. As always, we want to do what's best for our entire community.

Also, we are going to need to do all of our music live once again. Diane Smeaton will be with us on the electric piano, and we'll begin (unless for some reason the science suggests otherwise) singing together. I would love to have more of you sharing your musical gifts with us if you'd like to play or sing something for us, or lead us in a song. And I'd also love to know if there are particular hymns or spiritual songs you'd like to sing together again soon in worship. Send me an email and let me know if there's a song you'd love to have included in worship soon.



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**Younger Youth and Teenagers:** You'll be hearing from Pastor Bryan soon. No more zoom meetings... We're going to start meeting outside and doing some fun stuff together in person. And how about a

**Family Movie Night Outside?** Got suggestions for movies that would be fun for all ages? We'll get that going soon so stay tuned!



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## A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

Well it's hard to believe that we are coming up on our last zoom only worship service this coming Sunday. I know many of you are



eager for this time apart physically to come to a close, and I am also excited to be able to see many of you again—especially those of you for whom virtual church didn't quite work. I'll write more next week regarding details for how our outdoor services will work.

But I just wanted to say a few words about this “zoom church thing” we've been working with for close to 15 months now. The two words that come to mind are “**Wow!**” and “**Thanks!**”

The wow is just really my overall feeling when I think of what we've been through and what we've managed, by the grace of God, to pull off together.

None of us had any idea how this would go when the pandemic caused us to shut down our building. But we've managed not only to have a large number of our members and friends attend worship together in this virtual way, but we've kept our community connected in vital and meaningful ways. We've prayed together, laughed together, and listened for God's word together. It was a bit tentative at first I know, but we got into a rhythm with it and made the best of it. And we did some creative stuff with it too—all those offerings of original music and art, our Virtual Christmas Pageant, responding to the racial injustice that exploded in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, two Holy Weeks and Easters. **Wow.**

As for “**thanks,**” well I have to start once again with Tom Ludwig's stepping in and volunteering to be at the zoom controls weekly. What a gift of time, energy, and expertise. And I thank God for those of you who decided to figure the zoom thing out and who made the commitment to joining us for worship as often as possible. I'm so grateful also to and for all of you who found your way to our church from far-away locations through the zoom worship opportunity. We are delighted you are part of our church family now and we'll do our best to continue zoom worship and other virtual programs indefinitely. We trust you'll be patient with us as we figure out how to do this. Please just know how important your presence and participation is to us. We want you to feel included and able to participate in the life of our congregation in as many ways as we possibly can.

So, one more week of zoom only. It's hard to believe I'm finally able to write that. What an amazing time for the world, our country, our community, our church, and for all of us as individuals. I do hope you'll join us this Sunday for our last zoom only worship time together (unless the weather is bad some weeks and we can't meet outside). I know most of us are more than ready to at least have the option of coming together in

person for worship. But I'll be honest. I'm feeling a little bit of sadness because I know something that has become vital and sustaining is about to change, and probably forever. I'll miss having us ALL in one place, even if that "place" is virtual. But I also know God will show us how to stay in community and how to keep growing together in Christ as we become a virtual/in-person hybrid church.

I'll write it once more. We're about to share our last zoom only worship.

**Wow. And Thanks.**

Together, by God's Grace, we did it.

Pastor Bryan

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