

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 15 - April 22, 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: **betgether**



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., 6:00 pm Bible Study & Discussion

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



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

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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

(In addition to regular weekly programs listed above)

Monday, April 19th at 6 p.m. Teenage Youth Group
zoom meeting. Join us for some online games and
conversation! <https://zoom.us/j/92046741403>

Tuesday, April 20th from 5-6 p.m. Younger youth meeting. Sunflower planting kits are available at the church. Please check your email for further instructions.
<https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>

Tuesday, April 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Special meeting with UCC National Staff leader Katie Adams on how faith-based organizations can work effectively to influence our elected representatives. More information below. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-6qrjkiHNZCgvGinzRtteV5KMvDQUpk>

Thursday, April 22nd at 6 p.m.
Racial Justice Book Group Next Meeting to discuss "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839794550?
pwd=SFRHZ3dvWHdRQWJzak95KzAwVDdRUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839794550?pwd=SFRHZ3dvWHdRQWJzak95KzAwVDdRUT09)

Meeting ID: 878 3979 4550

Passcode: 811837



Update about MUCC's Drive-thru COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

We are collaborating with the pharmacists from Forward Pharmacy in McFarland to distribute COVID-19 vaccine. The Forward Pharmacy team is responsible for handling and administering the vaccines. Volunteers are needed to assist with welcoming/checking-in individuals and keeping the flow moving through the driveway and parking lot.

Forward Pharmacy was planning to administer up to 200 doses of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine at our church on Thursday, 4/22, 11 am to 6 pm.

However, as you may have heard in the news, federal health agencies have called for a pause in the use of the J&J vaccine following the emergence of a rare blood clotting disorder in six recipients. All six were women

between the ages of 18 and 48 and all developed the illness within one to three weeks of vaccination. Nearly seven million people in the US have received J&J shots so far, and about nine million more doses have been shipped out to the states (including the doses received by Forward Pharmacy in McFarland).

According to national health care experts, this J&J vaccine “pause” may be resolved soon. Judy Taber (a member of McFarland UCC who is collaborating with the Forward Pharmacy pharmacists) has shared that the Forward phamacists are working on trying to obtain other vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna). Judy has followed up with the 50+ individuals who already have appointments for 4/22. Judy also is continuing to take appointments. If you are interested in receiving a vaccine, please contact Judy at judytaber@gmail.com or 608-215-4161. Please share this information with others who are looking to receive a COVID vaccine.

So here's we stand at this moment:

- We may still be able to hold a vaccine clinic on 4/22 if the J&J pause is ended prior to next week (Forward Pharmacy has already received the 200 doses)
- We may be able to hold a vaccine clinic on 4/22 if the J&J pause is extended, but Forward Pharmacy is able to obtain doses of the other vaccines within the next week
- We may have to reschedule our drive-thru vaccine to a later date when either the J&J pause is ended or other vaccines become available

We will need up to 24 volunteers to assist with the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at McFarland UCC. If you are interested in volunteering for MUCC's Vaccine Clinic, please contact Joan Jacobsen at treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org or 608-669-7944.

We will keep you posted regarding next steps as we learn more in the next few days.

UPCOMING EVENTS



"Justice Reset: Advocacy as People of Faith"

Attention especially to NION & Green Team!

Tuesday, April 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Wisconsin Conference Immigration Justice Working Group and the Wisconsin Conference Creation Justice Ministries Group are co-sponsoring this meeting. The key presenter will be Katie Adams, the UCC National Staff Leader for Domestic Policy. Katie is an inspiring and knowledgeable leader who will help to reenergize our faith-based efforts to influence our elected representatives regarding public policy. If you find yourself wondering whether or not our attempts to let elected representatives know how we feel about issues makes any real difference, this is an important meeting for you to attend!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-6qrjkiHNZCgvGinzRtteV5KMvDQUpk>



Thursday, April 22nd at 6 p.m.

Racial Justice Group Next Meeting to discuss "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson. See the following note from Jayne Fischer.

Hi All,

The next book we'll be reading and discussing for the **Racial Justice book club** is "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson (who also wrote, "The Warmth of Other Suns," the National Book Critics Circle Award Winner in 2011).

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day!) at 6:00 p.m. Please read Parts One, Two and Three for the meeting.

I've heard that the book has a long waiting list at the library, but you can order the book from one of Madison's independent booksellers such as The Frugal Muse or A Room of One's Own.

Hope to see you at our meeting on April 22!

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839794550?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839794550?pwd=SFRHZ3dvWHdRQWJzak95KzAwVDdRUTo9)

[pwd=SFRHZ3dvWHdRQWJzak95KzAwVDdRUTo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839794550?pwd=SFRHZ3dvWHdRQWJzak95KzAwVDdRUTo9)

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Jayne Fischer



The 2021 Girl Scout Cookie Sale! March 13 to April 18

The Girl Scout cookie sale may look a little different this year. For example, fewer booths at grocery stores, more electronic ways to place and pay for your order, and contactless delivery. Troops and Girls have many options for getting cookies to you, and we encourage you to reach out to them to see how they'll be setting up their sale. The girls are eager to engage with you!

Below is a list of Scouts from our congregation and the best way to contact them regarding cookies. Feel free to order from one (or more!) and thank you so much for supporting your local Girl Scouts.

Troop 8044, 2nd grade, **Lorelei Pfohl**,
melissa.pfohl@gmail.com 608-234-2685

Troop 8044, 2nd grade, **Mariana Schweitzer**,
lschweitzer7@gmail.com 608-279-9614

Troop 8244, 4th grade, **Lily Mortensen**,
akm8221989@gmail.com 608-225-6677

Troop 1015, 7th grade, **Lydia Mikelbank**,
dmikelbank@gmail.com (608)217-1518

Troop 2651, 9th grade, **Nora Wroblewski**,
norawroblewski@gmail.com or *Nora's Instagram*

Troop 2109, 12th grade, **Larissa Mikelbank**,
dmikelbank@gmail.com (608)217-1518



BIRTHDAYS UPDATE

April marks the end of a year of pandemic birthday celebrations. So many birthdays! We donned our masks to celebrate birthdays in the summer, the very early morning, the bitter cold and in a crowded vestibule to recognize John Reeds's 95th birthday! Many thanks to the birthday crew that helped me plan and responded to my calls to gather. If your birthday was overlooked, I hope that you felt the love of

your church family in other ways! It's been a joy to gather with you for these special days and offer a prayer for you of thanks and gratitude.

Martha Olsen



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

One of our congregation's ongoing commitments of outreach is to support the 5 different denominational offerings each year that support some of the United Church of Christ's missions throughout the U.S. and the world. One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up this weekend, and it will be highlighted during worship this coming Sunday.

In a nutshell, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is one way that the UCC and other major Protestant denominations reach around the entire world to meet the material needs of some of the most vulnerable people on earth. Whether it is medical care, clean water, emergency support and aid to victims of hurricanes and earth quakes and other so-called natural disasters, it is through the One Great Hour of Sharing that our local congregation is blessed to be able to reach around the world with compassion.

You can make a donation to this special offering through our website's online giving process. Please just be sure to indicate in the process that your offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing. And of course you can send checks to our church designated for this purpose as well. Thanks so much!

Select this link to be taken to the page on our website where you can donate to One Great Hour of Sharing.



GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

Click the button below to view this month's financial summary.

[Visit our website](#)



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

Hi everyone,

I've heard it said that gratitude is always a gateway into the presence of God. My own experience is that practicing gratitude is the single most powerful way to shift the energy when things are feeling "off" somehow. Choosing to be grateful is the most direct and powerful way to find our way back to the Center of our beings, where we connect most meaningfully with the Spirit of God.

And yet let's face it, most of us do not spend all that much time feeling consciously and deliberately grateful. Why not, especially when it is so powerful? Well probably for a zillion different reasons that I can't get into here in any depth. Most of us have heard the saying that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." But I've also heard that "insanity is knowing what will lead to the results you most truly desire yet refusing to do it."

So as one periodically insane person to the rest of you, let's come back to our senses and spend more time practicing gratitude! And I deliberately use the word "practice" here. We need to be grateful on purpose. Be specific about it. Do something like choose for 1 week to write down 3 things we're grateful for each day at some point on in a notebook. Keep a "gratitude journal." According to Brene Brown, a study has actually documented that writing down what we are grateful for is WAY more effective in changing attitudes and lives than just thinking about it.

Well maybe I'm just writing this to myself... I've kept a gratitude journal from time to time, but it's been a while since I've honored the practice of writing down what I'm grateful fo. So I'm going to commit myself to writing down at least 3 things each day in this week to come that I'm grateful for. Join me!

In fact I'm going to start right here. I'm grateful to be pastor of McFarland UCC. Seriously. As I've told you all many times, I am keenly aware of how blessed I am to be serving our congregation. I'm grateful for the depth of spirituality and commitment in our congregation. I'm grateful that we have done our best together to remain alive and growing throughout the pandemic. I'm grateful that our congregation is alive with people who take

the initiative to use their gifts and serve us without even being asked. I'm grateful for their maturity and humility, and that they do these things without asking or needing to be thanked. I'm grateful that they ARE thanked, probably not often enough, but that no one's service to our congregation is taken for granted.

I'm grateful for the ways in which different people with different opinions and passions work together with respect and kindness. I'm grateful that we can disagree and share different perspectives and see that as a strength rather than a frustration. I'm grateful for the wisdom and maturity of people on our committees and leadership and outreach teams.

I'm grateful for the balance we enjoy between feeding our own spiritual needs and growth and reaching out to others with compassion and justice. For the balance between the inner journey and the outer journey that is at the heart of our congregation. I'm grateful that we have so many new members and friends as well as members who have been around a long time and made this church what it is. I'm grateful that long-time members delight in new people arriving, and that there are no ego or "turf" wars for control, and that we are eager to help each other finds ways to serve and feel at home.

I'm grateful for all the young children that have found their way into our life together in the past couple of years. I'm grateful that we truly mean it when we say that all people are welcome in our congregation. I'm grateful that our efforts to deal with racism and social justice are real and specific and growing. I'm grateful that there is no undercurrent of negativity in our congregation. I'm grateful for the enthusiasm I feel for our continued growth. I'm grateful for all those who have found their way to our church through the internet and zoom worship. I'm grateful that we are focused on Jesus and his teachings without being obnoxious or narrow or legalistic or closed to other traditions and forms of spirituality and Divine Truth.

Okay. That was more than three things. But you know what? I feel even more alive and grateful and joyful right now than I did 15 minutes or so ago when I started tying that last paragraph.

Gratitude "works." Let's be a grateful people together. And if you're having a hard time feeling positive these days, start making your own gratitude list. Keep going until you really feel it. It's got to get from the head to the heart to be real.

Love and Blessings to you all,

Pastor Bryan

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