

# 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

## 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., 6:00 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)

**Thursday, April 1st Friday, April 2nd**



## ***Holy Week Worship Services 6:30 pm***

***Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday (With Communion. Bring your Bread & Cup)***

***6:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/97838518176>***

***Friday, April 2nd, Good Friday Service***

***6:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/97212554901>***

---



**Sunday, April 4th is Easter Sunday! Join us for Easter worship during our regular Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.**

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

***Password: [bettogether](#)***

---

---



***Tuesday, April 6th at 5 pm  
Younger Youth Zoom  
Meeting (12 & under)***

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

---

# Join the Church

## ***Interested in Becoming An "Official Member" of McFarland UCC?***

***New members will be received on Sunday, April 11th during 10 am zoom worship.***

If you missed the new member informational meeting last week and are interested in possibly joining our church on April 11th please just contact Pastor Bryan this week. Still plenty of time!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



***Sunday, April 11th at 3 p.m.  
COVID-19 Vaccination Information  
Zoom Meeting with McFarland UCC  
member Helene Benink.***

***<https://zoom.us/j/95908645301>***

Helene is a cell biologist and has put together a wonderful presentation on the vaccines available for COVID-19 and why it is important to get vaccinated. Helene has already offered her presentation twice, but this one will include information on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. If you have questions about the vaccines or you know someone who is questioning whether or not to get vaccinated, this would be a great meeting to attend.



***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! I will send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting. Thanks.

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*

---

---



## A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

Hi folks. Well, we made it to April! I have nothing against winter, but I'm always glad when Spring arrives, and April really marks that for me. So good to see some green reaching up through the soil, and the appearance of some of the early flowers. I am really ready for some warmer weather and to enjoy watching nature do her "Spring thing."

And of course it is Holy Week. I hope you'll find some time to linger a bit with the events of this week in the life of Jesus. It is actually what happened on the Monday through Saturday of Holy Week that means the most to me at this point in my spiritual journey. Sure, Palm Sunday (or "Provocation Sunday" if you caught last week's sermon) and Easter Sunday are amazing when we look deeply into them, but too often we go from the "Hosanna!" of Palm Sunday to the "He is Risen!" of Easter without taking the conflict, pain, and amazing courage and drama of the events that led to Jesus being killed seriously enough.

And what about the whole cross thing? Sometime I need to do a sermon series on the meanings of the cross. Was it really necessary for Jesus to Die? I'm so glad that theologians and pastors and Christians throughout the world are rethinking some of the traditional doctrines when it comes to the meaning of the cross. I very much agree with Richard Rohr's often quoted statement that;

*"Jesus came not to change God's mind about us, but to change our minds about God."*

My friend and colleague Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ELCA Lutheran pastor

and a brilliant author and speaker, and she wrote the following in a piece about Holy Week.

*"I know for myself that at the fundamentalist church I was raised in I was taught that the cross was about the fact that, because I was bad God had to send his little boy...(and he only had one!)... but God had to send him to suffer and die a horrible death because – well, someone had to pay for the fact that I'm bad. And therefore, being a Christian meant feeling bad enough about all of this that you would then try much, much harder to be good.*

*I'm not sure which is worse about what I was taught: the fact that we had somehow made God out to be a divine child abuser or that we had made God out to be an angry loan shark demanding his pound of flesh. Either way, I don't think that's really who God really is. But I do think that whole mess is what we get when we think the cross is about us and not about God. "*

If you'd like to read Nadia's entire article called "A Case For Holy Week," here's the link: [A case for Holy Week - The Corners by Nadia Bolz-Weber \(substack.com\)](https://www.substack.com/p/a-case-for-holy-week-the-corners-by-nadia-bolz-weber)

How we understand the Story--what happened and why during that last week of Jesus's life on earth--really does matter. In fact it's crucial. It will change us as individuals who are following Jesus, how we understand who God is, how we treat people, how we treat ourselves, and how far we take our own commitment to embodying God's justice and love and compassion.

But the really amazing news is that we are all blessed as a result of what Jesus went through--whether we think about it much--or not.

Now that's Grace.

Have a meaningful Holy Week,

Pastor Bryan

---

**General Fund Summary**  
**Mar. 2020 - Feb. 2021**

For a full PDF summary report  
prepared by treasurer, Joan



Jacobsen, please click the link  
button below. Questions?  
Connect with Joan at:

[treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org)

[General Fund PDF](#)

608-838-9322  
5710 Anthony St.  
McFarland WI 53558  
[mcfarlanducc.org](http://mcfarlanducc.org)

Pastor Bryan Sirchio  
[pastorb@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:pastorb@mcfarlanducc.org)  
608-577-8716

Follow Us

