

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 29 - May 6, 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: **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>

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

(In addition to regular weekly programs listed above)

Thursday, April 29th 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Green Team Meeting: Information and Discussion regarding the possibility of solar panels at MUCC.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89743069856?
pwd=bWN2bzk2KoppcksvS3dWUW9NWEVGQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89743069856?pwd=bWN2bzk2KoppcksvS3dWUW9NWEVGQT09)

Meeting ID: 897 4306 9856

Passcode: betogether

Tuesday, May 4th at 5 p.m. Younger Youth zoom meeting. (See note below)

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

Tuesday, May 4th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Racial Justice Ministries meeting. (more info below).

<https://zoom.us/j/94304653280>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Younger Youth (12 & Under) Next Steps (Meeting Tues. May 4th at 5 p.m.)<https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>

Just a word here to let parents of younger youth know that I will send out a separate email message to all of you in the next few days regarding our summer schedule. As of now we will still plan to meet next Tuesday, May 4th at 5 p.m. as usual, but I realize **a number of you now have Tuesday conflicts. We are in the process of trying to see if another day of the week will be better**, and we will also schedule some outdoor gatherings for kids during the summer months as soon as SaLT and I discern together when it is okay to do this. Hopefully it won't be long! Thanks so much to all of you who have been making the zoom meetings every other Tuesday, and I hope you are remembering to water your sunflower plants!

Pastor Bryan



Racial Justice Ministries Group Meeting: Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94304653280>

It is time for those who feel called to give some time energy to our racial

justice ministries to start coming together on some sort of regular basis in order to get a bit more organized and focused. We are so grateful to Jayne Fischer for leading the book study discussions we've been enjoying, and for the group of persons who have been thinking through how to make the artwork and books and toys, etc. in our building more diverse in as many ways as possible.

Rachel Saladis is providing overall leadership for our Racial Justice Ministries team and she's inviting those who are able to attend a zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30. We realize that this is short notice, but we'd like to gather with those who are able and start taking some next steps together. No worries if you can't make this meeting. There will be others again before long. My (Pastor Bryan's) apologies that this meeting is starting as late as it is, but we have Bible study from 6:30-7:30! We will hold this meeting to an hour time limit.



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

Thanks to Fitchburg Pharmacy and a host of MUCC volunteers, we held a very successful first shot Pfizer vaccine clinic on Thursday, April 22nd. . The **second shot clinic will take place on Friday, May 14th.** Details regarding exact hours and volunteers needed once again will be posted ASAP. Thanks again everyone for serving our wider community in this way!



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 hope you are doing well and enjoying the end of April and the beginning of May this year especially as more of us get vaccinated and take steps to "get back out there." Be safe and follow the science of course, but it feels so good to see many things opening up again in all the ways they are. Our church leadership team (SaLT) will be meeting next Thursday and we'll keep updating you regarding plans to hold outdoor worship services as soon as it seems right to.

I love all the seasons of the year and am glad we get to experience all 4 seasons here in southern Wisconsin. I must admit however that I particularly love Spring, and the month of May especially. Among other things, I just love what the month of May does to the trees and the gardens. I love feeling the warmth of the sun and being outside more. And I usually find myself wanting to take a few more hikes on trails and get in a kayak or a canoe and enjoy the open water. In other words, its good to get outside and relax just "be" a bit.

Well that all reminded me of a short reflection that my dear friend Marques Bovre wrote about a year before he passed away of brain cancer at age 51. Figured I'd share his humble and simple wisdom with all of you this week. Marques was a very wise and in-tune man. I miss him a lot, but it's always a gift to read some of his thoughts.

Much love to you all,

Pastor Bryan

The Virtues of Wasting Time

By Marques Bovre

My name is Marques Bovre. Today I am here to extol the virtues of and plead the case for wasting time—a subject I am well acquainted with and a leading expert on. I feel confident that I will be the only person of my chronological age group that you will meet this week who will ask you to consider wasting time. More specifically, I ask you to consider wasting time with God and to do it at least once a day.

Most of us who are here who grew up in a church have some familiarity

with formal prayer, but I'm talking about just hanging out with God. Let go of thinking you've got to accomplish things and just listen. Who knows what you might hear. If you feel like talking, then have an intimate conversation with God. A real conversation. This connects you with God and with your true self in deeper ways. But in order to do this, you have to put the brakes on whatever you are doing and just be.

When you are just being, you are truly being a human being. Far too often in this culture, we become human "doings" and we lose track of who we truly are and we end up identifying too deeply with what we do. Our work becomes our life, when God is calling us to make our life our work.

I have been an inveterate waster of time my whole life—it's always come quite naturally to me. I never needed an admonition to "fear not," I just wasted time because it felt delicious. I only learned later that it felt so good to waste time because I was wasting time with God. Sure, sometimes I mess it up, get too busy, and I forget who I am. But God always sends various angels, messengers, and prophets with that simple message: "Don't be afraid." I heard that's in the Gospels 365 times—one for each day of the year. Once a day, be fearless enough to do nothing. Just be. Waste time with God.

There are a myriad of things I've never accomplished because of all my time wasting—among them is the fact that I have no great mastery over the contents of the Bible. But I have boiled it down to a basic cliff notes version of what God asks of us and wants for us:

1. Remember who you are—the real you. You are a child of God and as such God asks you to love God with all your heart.
2. Through that love, learn to love yourself. Not as you think you should be—but just as you are.
3. Love the rest of God's children as you love yourself and God.
4. If you do all these simple things, the rest of the rules and regulations pretty much follow along.

So again, I encourage you to waste some time with God today. Enjoy wasting time while you can. Be made new in it.

Someday, there won't be anymore time to waste.

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