

# 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



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 2020

Worship Using Zoom Technology 10am at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439> Note: Because of the threat of "Zoom Bombing," Sunday Morning Worship is password protected. If you would like to join us, and do not yet have the password, please email our very warm and friendly choir director Tom Ludwig at [tludwig.rn@gmail.com](mailto:tludwig.rn@gmail.com).

Bible Study 11:45am <https://zoom.us/j/262314649>

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAY thru FRIDAY

Devotion & Check In  
8:00 am

We will continue to have morning devotion time Mon. through Fri.

Link

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

### TUESDAYS

Bible Study &  
Discussion 6:30 pm

NEW THIS WEEK! Bryan will facilitate a bible discussion time.

Link Here:

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

### WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Inhale  
6:30 pm

We focus on spiritual practices that help nurture our connection to God & help us stay grounded in the Spirit.

Link Here:

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

# a few words from Pastor Bryan...

Hi folks. What a lovely gift it is to have this blush of warmer weather and sunshine. Good for the soul for sure and I hope you're finding ways to enjoy it. October is just such a gorgeous month in our part of the world.

How are you doing? I hope and pray you are finding ways, as I said in my sermon last Sunday, to keep your attention "fixed on God." I know that sounds like such a typical thing that a minister would say, but I really think it's what is going to make the difference for us as we move through what is likely to be an extremely unpredictable and volatile end to 2020. To state the obvious, we're in the midst of one of the most challenging times our nation has ever had on quite a few fronts. I know also that apart from the pandemic and the chaos and uncertainty of the political world, more and more of us are facing heartaches and losses and anxiety in very personal ways. So once again, doing whatever we can to stay spiritually connected and alive is crucial. There's no one way to do that, but do take a moment to ask yourself what helps you be conscious and awake to the Big Love's presence in your life? Being in nature? Spending time in silence or prayer or some form of meditation? Reading books or watching movies that somehow fill your soul and touch your spirit? Whatever it is, do those things on a regular and deliberate basis. It will make a difference.

I keep saying this, but it is powerfully true—you are not alone. This faith community of ours means it when we say we love you and are here for you. If you are lonely, or at the edge of your emotional, spiritual, or financial breaking point, or just need a word of encouragement, please reach out to someone from our church. And don't hesitate to call me or send me an email if I can be helpful in any way.

God is with us, and we are with each other. Christ is before us, behind us, and all around us. I hope and pray you are gently surprised by God "showing up" in a way that feels authentic and real and encouraging to you this week.

Blessings my friends,  
Pastor Bryan

# Tuesday Evening Bible Study & Discussion

Starts THIS Tuesday, October 13.  
(6:30–7:30) <https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>

Well I've been talking about launching a second Bible Study group for a while now. A number of you have let me know that you are interested in this kind of program, but that Sundays at 11:45 isn't a good time for you. I've been thinking about how to focus and shape this new group (and those of you Sunday morning regulars are welcome to join this group too!), and a few different possibilities have come to mind. We could of course follow the same format and structure we use for the Sunday Bible study. That group has been and continues to be wonderful. We've used the ancient wisdom tradition technique called "Lectio Divina," which means, "Holy Reading." Very simply, we collectively choose a Scripture text or topic. Sometimes it's a response to the sermon or Scripture from worship that morning. More times than not someone shares a question or a part of the Bible they've always wondered about or struggled with. We read the text together and each of us shares, without any discussion, what seems significant to us in just a few words. We trust that God's Spirit can speak through each person's observations, questions, and insights, even if we've never read the Bible before at all. We then have an open conversation and trust the Spirit to lead us. It is ALWAYS rich, meaningful, and usually a nice combination of deep insights and humorous quips and observations. We usually have some good laughs together, and there are no taboo questions or thoughts. My suggestion is that we give this a try this first Tuesday night for those who have not experienced it. If you plan on joining us, feel free to bring a question or bible passage or topic that you'd like to discuss. We'll share these together and choose the one we agree upon together.

As I mentioned in zoom church a time or two however, I'm also interested in some other possible ways to use this Tuesday evening time. We could view and discuss Rev. Otis Moss III's "How The Bible Actually Works" videos. We could also use this Tuesday evening time for periodic discussions on various issues, such as the upcoming election and how our spiritual life impacts our vote. We also want to begin some kind of educational program focusing on racial justice, and since we have other meetings on Thursday evenings, Midweek Inhale on Wednesdays, Mondays are my day off, and Fridays just don't feel like the right time—I think Tuesdays are the only open night at this point where it makes sense to offer programs. So perhaps we'll do a combination of Bible Study and other Adult Education or Explorations and Discussions of some kind. We'll talk about all this together and feel our way into it.

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And lastly... the time. We can talk about this also, but I like having it early enough so that we all have a portion of our evening open after we're done, and I think it's wise to have a one hour time limit for the same reason. So for starters we'll plan on meeting from 6:30–7:30 p.m. But again, we'll see who shows up and we can feel our way into all of these specifics.

And by the way, an hour conversation like this would be a great way to invite a friend to join us and become part of our community, and these meetings are a wonderful way to enjoy each other and get to know each other better. So I'll hope to see you next Tuesday!



## Racial Justice Book Group

### Choosing Our Next Book

Thanks to all who participated in discussions of our first book, "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram Kendi. We encourage you to join us as we continue to educate ourselves on the topic of racial justice. We will be voting on which book we'll be reading next, from a list

of books that people in the group have suggested. Our next meeting will probably be in early December (via Zoom). Please send an email to Jayne Fischer ([jdfischer2@gmail.com](mailto:jdfischer2@gmail.com)) if you would like to participate.

# CONNECT WITH US

## CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

**Pastor Bryan Sirchio**

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**Melissa Mendl**, Office Admin

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Office Hours: T/W/TH/F 9-1pm

## SaLT

(Servant & Leadership Team)

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

NOTE: this email address goes out to all SaLT Members listed below:

**Hélène Benink**, Moderator  
[moderator@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:moderator@mcfarlanducc.org)

**Colleen Krattiger**, Vice Moderator

**Joan Jacobsen**, Treasurer  
[treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org)

**Anne Gerke**, Clerk  
[clerk@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:clerk@mcfarlanducc.org)

**Lavon Geasland, Ann Ross, Cindy Wendorf**, SaLT Members

## FINANCIAL

### SECRETARIES

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

**Sue Haeffner & Ann Ross**

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Other Helpful Email Addresses You Might Like to Have

**N.I.O.N.** [nion@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:nion@mcfarlanducc.org)

**Eco-Justice Green Team** [ecojustice@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:ecojustice@mcfarlanducc.org)



# IT'S ALL ON THE WEB!

## CALENDAR with QUICK UP TO DATE EVENT INFO

[mcfarlanducc.org/calendar](http://mcfarlanducc.org/calendar)

## EVENT DETAILS

(easy to share with friends)  
[mcfarlanducc.org/upcoming-events](http://mcfarlanducc.org/upcoming-events)

## ONLINE DIRECTORY

(password protected to respect privacy of those who offered their personal information. Call or email Melissa in the office for the login password)  
[Mcfarlanducc.org/directory](http://Mcfarlanducc.org/directory)

## FORMS

(Church Building Use, Ministry Idea, etc)  
[Mcfarlanducc.org/forms](http://Mcfarlanducc.org/forms)

## ALL CURRENT SIGNUPS

[Mcfarlanducc.org/signups](http://Mcfarlanducc.org/signups)

**Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**