

# 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 4 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>  
(more information below in Pastor Bryan's note)

### 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>  
(more information below in Pastor Bryan's note)

# a few words from Pastor Bryan...

Hi folks. I hope you are doing well and having a good week all things considered. I say, "all things considered" because let's face it—there's a lot to consider these days. Like many of you, I watched the presidential debate Tuesday night. I won't say much about it except that I'm still trying to come to terms with what we and the rest of the world witnessed. As I shared with one of our members this morning, it felt to me like a gut punch to the soul. Apart from the rude and aggressive tone and the dysfunction of the process, the whole thing was disheartening. That's a word I don't often use. Disheartening.

And yet... (thank God there is always an "and yet!") I found myself feeling particularly grateful and glad that we refer to ourselves at McFarland UCC as a "church with heart." I so much appreciate all the ways in which our congregation is alive and vital and thriving. The depth of faith and commitment and kindness and openness to the Spirit that we enjoy as a congregation is truly a gift to me and to all of us who are part of this community.

I also appreciated some of the video clips from late night comedians a few of you sent me early this morning. Being able to laugh at the absurdity and the downright nonsense of much of what is happening at this point is good medicine. Thank God for the gift of humor.



*(continued on next page...)*



I also want you to know how grateful I am to be pastor of our congregation. You fill my heart with so much gratitude and joy. I was in a zoom meeting this morning with other clergy throughout the Wisconsin conference and I listened to several of them describe the conflicts in their congregations regarding whether or not they should be worshipping in the building. Not one pastor believed that it was safe or wise to do so, and yet they are under extreme pressure from members who are aggressively claiming that COVID-19 is a hoax and that masks are ineffective and unnecessary and an affront to their personal freedom. I was very quiet during this discussion, and when one colleague asked me how things are in McFarland I simply said, "I have it made. We're all on the same page as far as I know. No conflicts. We're making the best of virtual worship and finding ways to stay connected. I know it's obnoxious to say, but I'm spoiled. I serve a very mature group of people, and all I can say is that I'm grateful beyond words."

Do you know what a blessing it is to me to be able to focus on the spiritual life of our congregation and on our call to love each other and serve the world rather than on the petty personal disagreements and undercurrents that are exhausting so many of my colleagues in ministry? I hope you do. Thank you. Seriously. I am so grateful. My work with you is... "heartening."

Let's keep helping each other to open our hearts to God's Spirit and to each other and, yes, to those who are most difficult to love.

Hope to see you at zoom church this Sunday,  
Pastor Bryan

# Be Sure Your Vote Counts This Year

So many of our congregation's Outreach Commitments will be significantly impacted by the results of the elections coming up this November. Management of the COVID-19 crisis, our ability to worship in our church building, climate change, immigration justice, racial justice, the economic well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable persons in our society—all of these things and many more are at stake in this upcoming election.

I don't believe it is the church's role to tell you who to vote for. I do believe it is our call and responsibility as followers of Jesus to use our voice and vote in ways that line up with who we are as people of faith. So vote for the candidates you believe will bring about God's Dream for the world as expressed in and through Scripture. In other words, vote for justice, kindness, truth, love, compassion, the well-being of the poor and most vulnerable, peace, respect for others, welcoming the "stranger" (i.e. the foreigner), respect for Truth in all its forms, the well-being of the earth, and security and prosperity as defined by biblical faith.

We give thanks to McFarland UCC member Kathy Krusiec for putting together the following information to encourage us all to vote. Given some of the controversies already being associated with the voting process this year, be sure to "plan your vote" so that your voice is heard. Elections matter. With all that our world is facing in this time of the pandemic and the urgency of climate change realities, this year's election matters to an unprecedented degree.

If you would like to discuss how to vote based on your faith do not hesitate to contact me. And, if there are any ways our congregation can help you figure out how to vote this year please be in touch and we will assist you in any way possible.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bryan



## MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE!

1. Confirm your registration status. Go to MyVoteWisconsin, <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> or contact your municipal clerk. The McFarland Municipal clerk can be reached at (608) 838-3153.
2. Need to Register? Register on line at MyVoteWisconsin. You can Register at your Village Hall any day. The McFarland Village Hill is located at 5915 Milwaukee Street.
3. Request an Absentee Ballot - Make your request NOW! Any registered voter can request an Absentee Ballot. No explanation needed.  
Request an Absentee Ballot on line at MyVoteWisconsin or from your municipal clerk. To ensure that your request is processed and a ballot is mailed submit your request by October 19, 2020. You may need a copy of a photo ID to submit with your request. If needed, the McFarland State Bank drive thru will provide a copy to be submitted with your application. No contact required.
4. Submitting an Absentee Ballot  
Your Absentee Ballot will arrive by mail. Read all instructions carefully.  
Vote - In the presence of a witness.  
Sign and provide your address.  
Have a witness sign your ballot.  
Absentee ballots must be received November 3, 2020 by your Village Clerk.  
  
URGENT! Mail may be slowed. Mail your Ballot as soon as you receive it to make sure it will be counted.  
  
You may also drop your Absentee Ballot at the McFarland Municipal Building or the handy drive thru drop box located in the McFarland Village Parking Lot. If you are not a resident of McFarland check with your municipal clerk.
5. In-Person Absentee and In-Person Election Day Voting  
You can vote in person beginning Tuesday, October 20th at the McFarland Municipal Center. Voters in other municipalities should contact their municipal clerks.  
Yes, there will be In-Person Voting. Remember you can also register to vote on Election Day, Tuesday November 4th at your local polling place.  
Remember to wear a mask and be aware of social distancing.

### Questions?

Contact the League of Women Voters voter helpline at 608-285-2141 or chat on their website at <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/>

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# CONNECT WITH US

## CHURCH STAFF & LEADERSHIP

**Pastor Bryan Sirchio**

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

**Melissa Mendl**, Office Admin

[office@mcfarlanducc.org](mailto:office@mcfarlanducc.org)  
608-838-9322

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.**