

# 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, SEPTEMBER 27 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/624201194>

(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 everyone. Well once again I'm writing this particular "pastoral blurb" (that's what Melissa and I always call the "Few Words From Pastor Bryan") a week early so that I don't need to do it during my vacation. So just imagine me somewhere totally relaxed, enjoying the beauty of nature, joyfully communing with God, and being recreated and renewed by the gift of time to "just be."

Well actually I'll probably be driving home when you see this from visiting my brother and his family in Louisville, KY once again.



You've often (if you listen to my sermons) heard me quote one of my favorite spiritual teachers, Father Richard Rohr. He once referred to the biblical principle of Sabbath as taking time to "deliberately understimulate" ourselves. "Understimulation" is such a rare concept that my spell checker won't even accept it as a word. Maybe it's not a word. But it should be one. It's a great word! Father Rohr said the Sabbath was God's way of reminding us of two things. First, that not everything is up to us. We don't have to make everything happen, or always "pull things off." Lots goes on in this world that has nothing to do with human initiative. And second, it reminds us that sometimes less is more, and that in order to be most productive, we need to actually stop working. Stop doing. Give things a rest.

So try this sometime. When you know it's time for a break—for you to "just be" for a while, and someone asks you what you're doing, just tell them, "I'm understimulating." If they ask you what that means, tell them you're making "something out of nothing." And then just smile, relax, and know that you're doing something really important—nothing.

You're probably thinking, I'm glad he's going on vacation. He obviously needs it!

*(continued on next page...)*

Actually I'm feeling pretty good all things considered. Yes, I work lots, as do most of you in one way or another, whether you're paid for your work or not. But you all make serving this congregation a joy and a privilege, not a burden. I love my work with and among you, and I think we are truly doing our best to listen for God's leading and to respond in ways that make this world a better place. Being a part of this circle of faith gives way more to me than it takes. So thanks for being such a wonderful church to serve.

Still, I'm going to go understimulate. Thanks for giving me the time now and then to enjoy doing nothing.

See you Sunday I hope!  
Pastor Bryan



## NION Webinar "Stories At The Border" *To Be Shown Again September 29, 2020*

NION Webinar "Stories At The Border" To Be Shown Again September 29, 2020 The webinar that our NION ministry hosted together with the Wisconsin Immigration Justice Task Force earlier this summer was a resounding success. The recording of the webinar has been edited and turned into a resource that other conferences are now using as well. We are going to host a reviewing of this edited webinar on Tuesday, September 29th, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Here is the zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIf--hpjMoHdUSwZcuWbDGc9GOSnF\\_AVRt](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIf--hpjMoHdUSwZcuWbDGc9GOSnF_AVRt)

We will look forward to renewing our understanding of what is going on, and to selecting some specific actions we will take to respond with compassion, justice, and love.

# 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.**