

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*

November 11 - November 18, 2022

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, 12 noon Zoom Bible Study
<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>

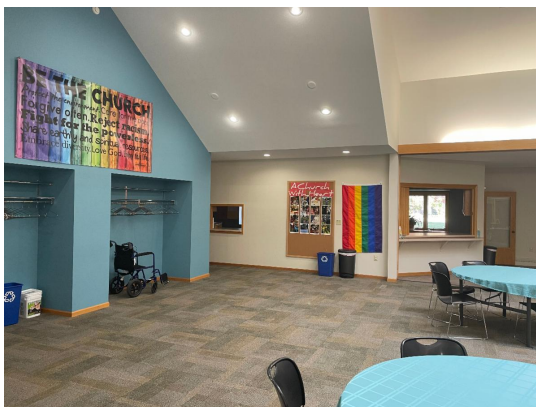


MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion
<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



WEDNESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices
<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>

Happening This Week



Saturday, November 12th
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**Worship Arts Team
Meeting**

8 church members and Pastor Bryan met last Saturday to discuss how we will encourage artists in

our congregation to share their gifts and how we will make decisions regarding the use of our wall space and bulletin boards. We decided to call

ourselves the "Worship Arts Team," and we asked Cindy Wendorf to be our point person for this ministry. The team is going to meet again this Saturday, November 12th to continue the discussion we began last week. Everyone is welcome to join this meeting and team, even if you were not able to be there last week. The Worship Arts Team will always be open to anyone who wants to join it and if you have thoughts about art in our building that you would like to share but are not able to attend the meeting, please contact Cindy or Pastor Bryan and offer your perspectives anytime.



***Sunday, November 13th,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on
Zoom.***

***Loose Change "Noisy
Offering" for UNICEF
Again!!***

(bring coins to church with you)

(Masks are optional)

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

Password: ***bettogether***



***Sunday, November 13,
5:30-6:45 p.m. Younger
Youth Meeting at Church***

***We're Moving From Fridays
to Sundays as Requested!***

Thanks to you parents for your responses to my recent inquiry about the best time to meet for the majority of you. It was almost unanimous that Sundays would be better than Fridays. So let's try it this month! We'll keep the time the same so it doesn't get too late on a school night. Email reminders will be sent out this week as well. We'll have the same basic format--games, a craft, pizza, and a Bible story or teaching.

Spread the word, bring your friends, and let's have a blast together on November 13th!

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.



Green Team Meeting (in person and via zoom if you are interested in attending virtually) All are welcome!

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

Password: **betogether**



Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:30 p.m.

"Taking A Faithful Stand for Equity"

This is not a program specifically of our own congregation, but is very much in alignment with our Racial Justice Ministries. Unfortunately it is at the same time as our Green Team meeting this month. The organizations listed below jointly host monthly meetings on racial justice and equity.

All are welcome to attend this zoom only meeting. It does require registration. [**Register Here.**](#)

Here's How This Meeting is Being Described

Election Day 2022 is behind us. How was it? What did we learn? What's next?

Please come prepared to discuss in a nonpartisan way:

- What was the local experience of the national election in your community?
- What have you learned that we should keep in mind for future elections?
 - What went well that we should do again?
 - What went wrong and how can we do better?
- How can we develop our relationships with elected officials, both new and old?
- What's next for Taking a Faithful Stand in 2023?

The co-sponsors of Taking a Faithful Stand for Equity:

MICAH, Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Wisconsin Council of Rabbis

**Thursday, November 17,
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**



NION monthly meeting

(NION is our Immigration Justice and Compassion Outreach. Please join us even if you have not been at all involved before. Everyone is welcome!)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88499213430>

Things Coming Up



Youth Art Contest for Climate Hope Cards!!!

I (Pastor Bryan) know some of the teens and younger kids in our congregation are great artists! **Here's a chance to enter a nation-wide contest that our denomination, the United Church of Christ, is holding.** If you are 18 or younger, you are invited to draw, paint, or color your feelings about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Winners will be announced during an online award ceremony on Saturday, January 7th, 2023. **The winners of the Art Contest will have their art printed on thousands of Climate Hope Cards to be collected by UCC members around the country and ultimately delivered en masse to the White House!**

The contest runs until November 29th. *[Here's a link to more about how to submit your art.](#)* If you need help please ask Pastor Bryan! It would be awesome to have a bunch of youth from our congregation enter this contest. Who knows, your art might get all the way to the White House! Even if you don't win the context, we'll love seeing your art in our own church.



Sunday, November 20th, 5-7 p.m.

Service Opportunity to Help Little John's of Verona get their Thanksgiving meals prepared!

McFarland UCC member Becky Boggs works at Little Johns and has put out a call for helpers the evening of Sunday, November

20th from 5-7 p.m. There will be more details in next week's Pulse about this opportunity to serve (we'll go to the facility in Verona) from about 5-7 p.m. In the meantime if you are able and willing to help out please let Becky know. Her email and phone are: bekyjboggs@gmail.com and 262-374-0921.

NION's "First Step" Scholarship Program



With initial support from McFarland UCC's Outreach Funds, MUCC's Now In Our Name (NION) Ministry Team has teamed up with the Madison College Foundation to establish FIRST STEP, a non-endowed scholarship fund for Madison College immigrant students.

The goal of our FIRST STEP scholarship fund is to support immigrants who are in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program and seeking to participate in specific short-term diploma or certificate programs. Immigrant students may apply for the scholarship if they are eligible to be enrolled or already enrolled in one of the following programs:

- Emergency Medical Technician - 5 credits
- Phlebotomist – 3 credits
- Healthcare Customer Service – 9 credits
- Construction Essentials – 8 credits
- Electronics Soldering Assembler – 8 credits
- Intro to Software Development – 6 credits

Successful participation in one of these short-term programs can result in an entry-level job with potential for advancement. These roles also fill critical employment needs within our community.

The FIRST STEP Scholarship Program has an initial target of distributing \$5,000 in scholarship funds for the 2023 Winter and Fall terms (about

\$2,500 each term). Madison College Foundation will be overseeing all donations and managing the FIRST STEP Scholarship Program, including providing an electronic link for contributions to the FIRST STEP Scholarship Program:

<https://www.supportmadisoncollege.org/firststep>.

Contributions can also be submitted to MUCC with a note that it is for the FIRST STEP Scholarship Program.

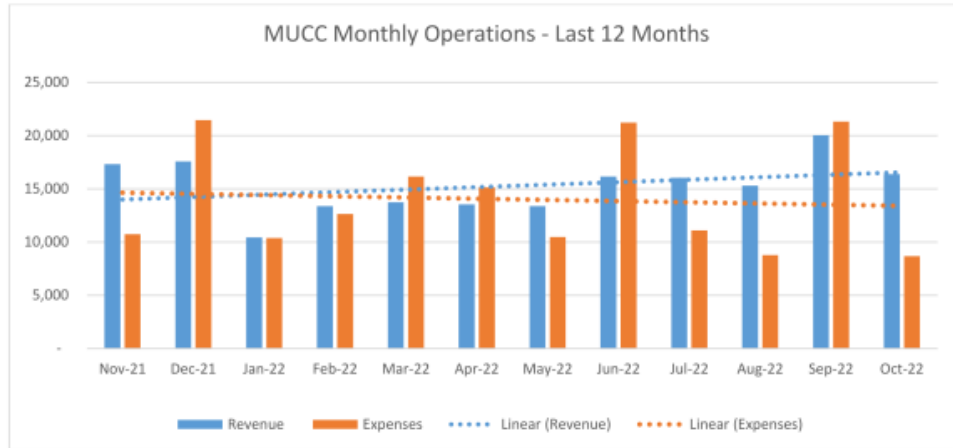
If you are interested in learning more about this scholarship program, please contact any member of the FIRST STEP Scholarship Program

Team: Judy Emmrich, Lori Stoneking, and Joan Jacobsen.

General Fund Summary

(Funds for general operating expenses)

Month	Revenue	Expenses	Variance
Nov-21	17,318	10,727	6,592
Dec-21	17,562	21,456	(3,894)
Jan-22	10,429	10,370	58
Feb-22	13,360	12,619	741
Mar-22	13,726	16,142	(2,416)
Apr-22	13,519	15,131	(1,612)
May-22	13,375	10,456	2,919
Jun-22	16,152	21,207	(5,055)
Jul-22	16,020	11,078	4,942
Aug-22	15,291	8,767	6,524
Sep-22	20,034	21,315	(1,281)
Oct-22	16,376	8,671	7,705
Total	183,161	167,939	15,222



2022 Budget*	\$174,957
<small>*includes extraordinary expenses</small>	
Average Monthly Revenue Needed To Meet Budget	\$14,580
Actual Average Monthly Revenue Nov 2021 – Oct 2022	\$15,263



SOLAR SAVINGS			
	Electricity Cost	Solar Credit	Savings %
Sept 2022*	\$118.42	\$119.80	101%
Year to Date Jan-Aug	\$1248.65	\$881.12	71%

*Note that electric bills are paid based on prior month usage

SaLT Spot (Monthly Highlights From Our Servant and Leadership Team Meeting)

- Youth “Knock Knock” retreat: November 18-20 (see Pastor Bryan for details)
- Ken Medema and Andra Moran concert; Friday, December 9 (7:00 pm) and Sunday, December 11 (10:00 AM). Trimming the Church indoor Christmas tree after worship.
- Christmas Day Community meal/potluck: Sunday, December 25 (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)
- SaLT approved the date for the MUCC Annual Meeting : Sunday,

Want to get more involved with MUCC? Servant and Leadership Team?(SaLT) is seeking MUCC members for 2023 Open Positions: Vice-Moderator, two (2) SaLT Members-at-large, Financial Secretary. See any SaLT member for details. SaLT members include Ann Ross (Moderator), Heather Blackmore (Vice-moderator); Joan Jacobsen (treasurer); Diane Mikelbank (clerk);



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

And The Joke I Did NOT Tell Last Week In Church!

It always amazes me how much we see things through the "lenses" of our own world views, perspectives, opinions, biases, and personalities. There's nothing wrong with that. We all do it. We only really get into trouble when we are not aware that we do it, when we do not reflect on how it is impacting our life and our relationships and actions, or when we are not willing to be honest about it.

(Yes Steve Davidson we really do NEED to offer our Enneagram class!)

This is one of the reasons why community is so important, and why being a part of a spiritual community is so central to the entire Biblical message. We need each other's different gifts and perspectives in order to discern the Word and intention of God together. We need the insights of others to see things that no one of us can see on our own. Yes, it's important to do our own personal inner work and study and reflection as individuals, but no one person's take on things is always going to be the "right" way or the only way or the best way to see something.

This is why group Bible study is so important. for example. We all know how it's possible for two or more of us to read the same words in Scripture and yet "hear" many different things. Listening to each other's differing responses to the same text or question or situation helps us all to learn and grow. It also provides a check and balance that can help prevent us from tragically misinterpreting something or going off on some dangerous tangent. History is full of examples of groups that were taken on a destructive and misguided track by a single individual who had too much

power and authority to impose his or her own point of view on others. This happens in the church, in every religion, and in societies as well.

But I need to get to the joke. It IS connected to everything I just wrote!

I almost shared at least parts of this joke last week in church, but I chose not to. It's a bit long for a pulpit joke, and it involves quotes from some politicians and public figures. Given the levels of anxiety some were feeling just days before the midterm elections it seemed best not to use political references, even playfully.

But this one made me laugh out loud, ever as it reminded me of the limits of any one person's point of view, and how we all tend to see things through our own particular way of seeing everything. I'm glad we have each other to listen to, work with, play with, worship with, laugh with, and... cross the road with.

So here's the joke. Why did the chicken cross the road?

DONALD TRUMP: I've been told by my many sources, good sources – they're very good sources – that the chicken crossed the road. All the Fake News wants to do is write nasty things about the road, but it's a really good road. It's a beautiful road. Everyone knows how beautiful it is.

JOE BIDEN: Why did the chicken do the...thing in the...you know the rest.

SARAH PALIN: The chicken crossed the road because, gosh-darn it, he's a maverick!

BARACK OBAMA: Let me be perfectly clear, if the chickens like their eggs they can keep their eggs. No chicken will be required to cross the road to surrender her eggs. Period.

AOC: Chickens should not be forced to lay eggs! This is because of corporate greed! Eggs should be able to lay themselves.

HILLARY CLINTON: What difference at this point does it make why the chicken crossed the road.

GEORGE W. BUSH: We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road or not. The chicken is either with us or against us. There is no middle ground here.

DICK CHENEY: Where's my gun?

BILL CLINTON: I did not cross the road with that chicken.

AL GORE: I invented the chicken.

JOHN KERRY: Although I voted to let the chicken cross the road, I am now against it! It was the wrong road to cross, and I was misled about the chicken's intentions. I am not for it now, and will remain against it.

DR. PHIL: The problem we have here is that this chicken won't realize that he must first deal with the problem on this side of the road before it goes after the problem on the other side of the road. What we need to do is help him realize how stupid he is acting by not taking on his current problems before adding any new problems.

ANDERSON COOPER: We have reason to believe there is a chicken, but we have not yet been allowed to have access to the other side of the road.

NANCY GRACE: That chicken crossed the road because he's guilty! You can see it in his eyes and the way he walks.

PAT BUCHANAN: To steal the job of a decent, hardworking American.

DR SEUSS: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I've not been told.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY: To die in the rain, alone.

GRANDPA: In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?

COLONEL SANDERS: Did I miss one?

PASTOR BRYAN: To get to church to be with the rest of the flock because we chickens need each other to cross the roads we encounter in our lives and in this world. And I hope to see you in our church or on zoom this Sunday!

Pastor Bryan

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