

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 4 - November 11, 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>

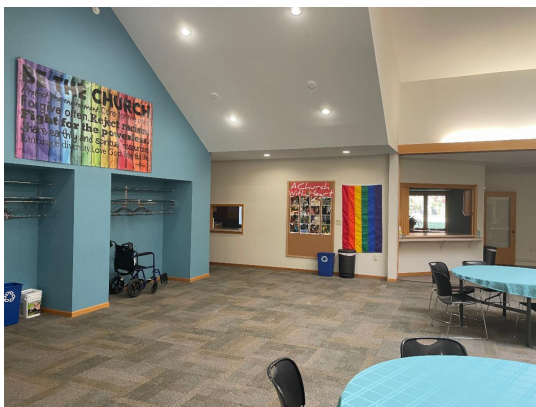


MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion
<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



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

Happening This Week



Saturday, November 5th
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

***Open Discussion about
Art, Wall Space, and
Bulletin Boards in our
church building.***

This is an open meeting for anyone in our congregation who would like to share thoughts, hopes, opinions, and feelings regarding how we use our wall space and art in general throughout our building, including the

sanctuary. How do we make these kinds of decisions? How can we encourage the artists among us to share their gifts? How do we work things through if and when there are differing opinions about the style and placement of a piece of art in our building? How do we express our commitment to racial justice and overall diversity through art in our building?

This November 5th Saturday meeting is your chance to share any thoughts or opinions or hopes you have regarding all of this. If you can't make the meeting and have a perspective you would like to have represented, please be in touch with Pastor Bryan and share your thoughts and he will make sure your perspective is brought into this discussion.



**Remember to Set Your
Clocks Back An Hour
This Sunday,
November 6th!!**

Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!



***Sunday, November 6th,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on
Zoom.***

***November Birthdays & Cake
Communion
Another Baptism!***

**Loose Change "Noisy Offering" for UNICEF!!
(bring coins to church with you)**

(Masks are optional)

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

Password: ***bettogether***

Sunday, November 6,



5:30--8:00 p.m.

Teen Youth Outing to...

Sky Zone!

An email message with details was sent out earlier this week. If you have not let

Pastor Bryan know you are coming please do. We need to make sure we have adequate car space and drivers.

Most Important! Parents must sign a liability waiver for this event. *[Here's the link to the website and waiver form](#)*

The cost is \$21.99 per person for the 90 minute use of the facilities. You can purchase tickets online or at the door. **Bring a friend but just be aware of the waiver form requirement.**

Things Coming Up



Amy Crull Yoga Classes To Resume at Our Church

Monday Evenings & Wednesday Mornings

Starting Monday, November 7th.

Classes cost \$10 per session. McFarland UCC members and friends are welcome to take a first class at no charge to give it a try!

Monday classes: 7-8pm

Join us for a stress-relieving class that comfortably stretches your body and calms the mind. Have a great night's sleep after. Beginners welcome! Props like yoga blocks and bolsters provided. Just bring your mat.

Wednesday classes: 8-9am

Join us for a morning class that starts slow and easy and ends with you feeling rejuvenated and ready for your day. Beginners welcome! Props like yoga blocks and bolsters provided. Just bring your mat.

Thank you,
Amy



Please vote on November 8th

Or earlier somehow...

Thank you if you've voted already.

And please make sure that you vote in a way that makes sense in light of who you are as a Spirit-centered person and a follower of Jesus if that describes who and what you aspire to be. In other words, vote for leaders you are convinced will work for the well-being of all persons and the natural world. Vote for those you feel are most committed to justice for all, compassion, respect, dignity, the well-being of the most vulnerable and impoverished and marginalized among us, and who are most committed to being truthful.

May the elections be peaceful, fair, accurately determined, regulated with integrity, honesty, and according to the law, and may the results--when no proof of widespread fraud or corruption is found--be accepted and honored.



*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 just 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!



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 contest, 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.

Thanks so much to **Gregg**



Krattiger for repainting our Anthony St. Church sign and to **Rick Duchrow** and **Geoff Brink** for helping to get it back in place. It looks fantastic! You guys are the best and your church family appreciates all you do to keep our building and grounds in such beautiful condition!!

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

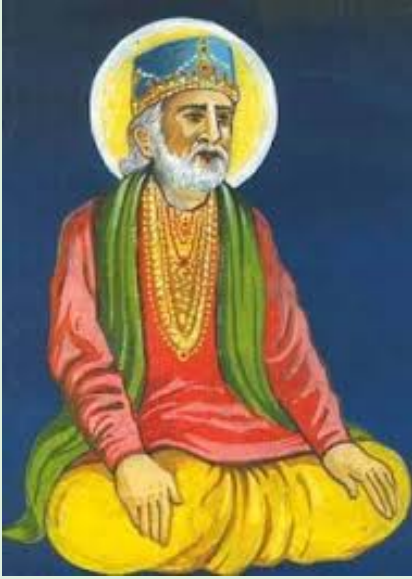
- Youth “Knock Knock” retreat: November 18-20 (see Pastor Bryan for details)
- Ken Medema and Andra Moran concert; Friday, December 9 (7:00 pm) and Sunday, December 11 (10:00 AM). Trimming the Church indoor Christmas tree after worship.
- Christmas Day Community meal/potluck: Sunday, December 25 (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)
- SaLT approved the date for the MUCC Annual Meeting : Sunday, January 22, 2023

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 Rumi and Kabir

This past week in our morning zoom devotions I shared some poems from one of



my favorite collections called, "Love Poems From God." This book features translations by Daniel Ladinsky of 12 different mystical poets (Rumi, St Francis of Assisi, Hafiz, Kabir, St. Teresa of Avila, Tukaram, St. Catherine of Siena, Mira, St. Thomas Aquinas, Rabia, Meister Eckhart, and St. John of the Cross). Powerful stuff.

I've been drawn recently to some of the shortest poems in the book. The ability of these poets to say SO MUCH with so few words is quite amazing.

Most people these days are familiar with the poetry of Rumi. He's kind of the go-to Sufi mystic poet along with Hafiz in our culture at this point. I didn't share this one this past week, but here's one of Rumi's lesser known and playful little poems that I love. I won't comment on it. I just thought some of you might get a kick out of it, AND maybe benefit from it!

"Relationship Booster"

By Jalaludin Rumi (1207-1273)

Here is a relationship booster
that is guaranteed to
work:

Every time your spouse or lover says something stupid
make your eyes light up as if you

just heard something

brilliant.

This next one is from a lesser known poet named Kabir. That's Kabir in the picture above. He doesn't fit easily into any one religious tradition, and has been claimed by Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. My kind of guy. Here's his shortest poem. I shared it this past week during morning devotions and I'm still thinking about it...

"It Stops Working"

By Kabir (1440-1518)

Look
what happens to the scale
when love
holds
it.

It
stops
working.

There are just so many "scales" in our lives. All the ways we measure ourselves, others, issues, and pretty much everything. Oh there's a time to "weigh things." I do it plenty. We all do. Even though Jesus clearly told us, "judge not" (Matthew 7:1), we all spend lots of time sizing things up in one way or another. We have to in some ways of course. And there's a healthy difference between discernment and judgment.

But... at some point, our scales don't really seem to measure what matters most. Even when they are functioning perfectly. The problem is that at some point the way we measure things--the way we come at things--the way we try to figure out who is right and who is wrong, what's more or less or better than, just doesn't tend serve us and our world very well at all. It just leads us to gridlock and too often to divisions and endless impasses at the point of "we and they." Kind of like our current political climate.

My words are probably just getting in the way, and it's most likely counterproductive for me to try to add much to Kabir's poem which says so much in part because it uses so few words! So I'll just say that one of the deepest reasons I'm irresistibly drawn to Jesus is because I see in his life and teachings what it looks like when someone lets the Love of God hold EVERYTHING.

Yeah. That pretty much says it.

Hope to see you in church this Sunday,

Pastor Bryan

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