

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*

October 28 - November 4, 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

**FUN
Night!**

TONIGHT!!!
Friday, Oct.

28th, 6-8 p.m.

All Ages Fun Night!!!

Games, Snacks, Drinks, Talent/No Talent

Show!!

Sign Up Here Online for the "Talent/No Talent Show!" We just need your name and a very brief description of what you'll be doing so we can have a good flow between serious and not-so serious acts! We need both!!

Games from 6:00 - 6:55 (bring your favorites with you, including cards)
The Show starts at 7 p.m.



***Sunday, October 30th,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on
Zoom.***

**You are welcome to
wear your Halloween
Costume to Church!**

(Masks are optional)

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

Password: ***bettogether***



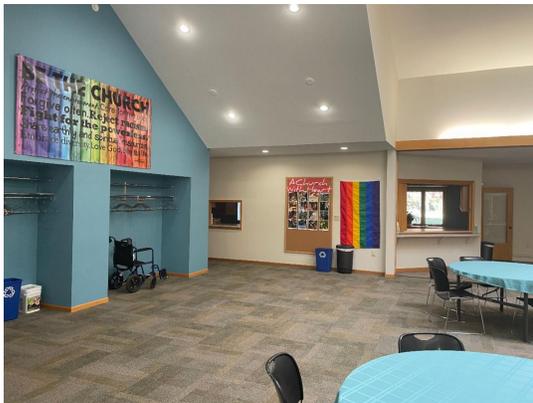
***Sunday, October 30th,
"Neighbors In Need"
Denominational Offering***

As most of you know, the denomination our congregation belongs to is called "The United Church of Christ" or the "UCC" for short. We proudly participate in 5 different denominational Offerings each year. October is the month in which we contribute to the "Neighbors In Need" Offering. This offering is used to fund local efforts to work for justice and compassion, and also to support our denomination's partnerships with ministries focused on justice for and with Native American communities. ***Here is a link to a brief video*** that describes what the Neighbors In Need Offering is about.

Checks can be made out to our congregation with "Neighbors In Need" in the memo, or you can donation directly to this offering on our website. *[Here is a link to the donate page on our site.](#)* You will see this specific offering listed.

Thursday, November 3rd, 6 p.m. Monthly SaLT Meeting
(In person. All are welcome. You may join us on zoom by using the Sunday morning worship link and password if you like)

Things Coming Up



***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 lovingly 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.

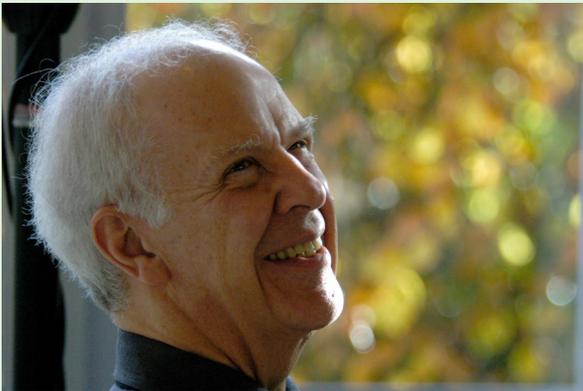
***Sunday, November 6,
5:30--8:00 p.m.***

Teen Youth Outing to...



Sky Zone!

This was the youth group's requested next fun outing! We'll meet at 5:30 at the church, drive to Sky Zone and jump around from 6 p.m. to 7:30, then return to the church. More information about this will be sent out via email by Pastor Bryan this week coming week. Note: parents must sign a liability waiver for this event and the cost is \$22 per person for the 90 minute use of the facilities. Bring a friend but just be aware of the waiver form requirement.



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

**And Parker Palmer, and
the Autumn Trees**

I voted yesterday. It was so easy. No line. No obstruction. No intimidation. No drama. I just went to the library near my house. Took me 5 minutes.

But it felt different this time. I realized, even as I exercised my cherished right to vote, that I felt very unsure about the state of our democracy. In light of all that's been going on in our country in the past few years, I wondered just how secure our freedom to peacefully choose our elected representatives actually is.

And then the news today of speaker Pelosi's husband being attacked.

It is sobering and then some to find myself wondering if we are actually witnessing the historical events and processes through which our nation's democratic institutions and ideals could come to an end.

I came across this message today from author and educator Parker Palmer that captured my mood and questions well. Parker, an internationally known author and spiritual leader, is a resident of Madison. He wrote...

The trees around here are starting to lose their leaves, and some are already "bare to the bone." At this time of year, Shakespeare's Sonnet 73 often comes to mind.

He calls autumn's leafless trees "bare ruined choirs," a reference to the skeletal remains of England's abandoned monasteries. Then he goes to the core of one of the feelings autumn evokes: "This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong, / To love that well which thou must leave ere long."

I have a long list of loves that grow stronger as I grow older. That list includes scores of people, the work I've been privileged to do, the power of clear thoughts and honest emotions, the quest for truth and justice, the gift of democracy, and the glories of the natural world.

Sonnet 73 reminds me to love all of it right now, before I take leave of it. Or it takes leave of me...

As you reflect on Shakespeare's words, I invite you to make your own list of loves and reflect on it for a while. What calls to you at this moment? How can you love it well, today, without delay?

Please include democracy, truth, and justice on your list of loves, and take that list to the polls when you vote.

Please love fiercely and well; we are at risk of losing it all ere long.

I am not feeling hopeless or in despair regarding the state of our democracy. Actually I'm feeling more resolved than ever to do whatever I/we can to "love our democracy well" as Shakespeare and Parker Palmer put it. I am grateful for the Holy Spirit's call to speak and stand for the Truth in Love, and to do so in a way that always regards others with respect and dignity. And I am so deeply grateful to be pastor of a congregation that is willing to wrestle with things like so-called "Christian Nationalism" and that is not willing to just stand by in the face of threats to basic democratic freedoms and human rights. I am not sure exactly what is ours to do as we face this next season of our nation's history. I have no illusions that this is going to be easy. I think we are likely in for a very difficult season ahead.

But I do know that we will find our voice and speak up and take action when and where we must. And I know we will help each other find warmth and laughter, no matter how "cold" this winter ahead may be.

This world, like this day in late October, is beautiful beyond words. It is

also full of fragility and change. May we love each other and all that means most to us with deep resolve, courage, grace, and deepened appreciation.

See you soon I hope,

Pastor Bryan

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