

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

January 27 - February 3, 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 Morning, 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



Sunday, January 30th, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship On Zoom Only.

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

Password: **bettogether**

Sunday, January 30th, 1 p.m.



"Understanding Spirituals" featuring the Rev. Dr. Ray Jordan.

A good friend of Pastor Bryan's named Rev. Laura Barnes is the pastor of Federated UCC in Placerville, CA. They have invited anyone from our congregation who might be interested to join them for this wonderful program as outlined below. Here's the zoom link and passcode:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81578118534?
pwd=NnJzZXJXZEMyaEp3NjdjSEZTRkxGdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81578118534?pwd=NnJzZXJXZEMyaEp3NjdjSEZTRkxGdz09)

Meeting ID: 815 7811 8534 **Passcode: 754439**

From Pastor Laura Barnes....

All are welcome to join us (Federated Church in Placerville, CA) this Sunday, Jan 30th, at 1 p.m. CST for a class on "Understanding Spirituals" led by The Rev Dr Ray Jordan.

We look forward to honoring African American History Month in February through the singing and celebration of spirituals each Sunday.

Pastor Ray will be sharing with us on the following:

- 1. Historical Context of the Spiritual*
- 2. Deconstruction of the spirituals such as "Wade in the Water", "Steal Away", and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot"*
- 3. Share a deeper understanding and contemporary use of the Spiritual within our worship context*
- 4. Examples and recommendations for paying forward "royalties" for the use of these sacred songs*

Dr Jordan is the Director of the Dr. Dennis Simon Civil Rights Pilgrimage at Southern Methodist University (SMU). He is also adjunct faculty in the Graduate Liberal Studies, Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management Graduate Studies and SMU Human Rights Programs. Ray is the Senior Minister of First Community Church UCC in Dallas, TX.



*Tuesday, February 1st, 6:30 p.m.
(and every Tuesday through March
15th)*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84182707339>

Passcode: betogether

McFarland UCC Racial Justice Conversations

*New year, new conversations! (From Jayne Fischer
and our Racial Justice Ministries Team)*

We are continuing our journey to educate ourselves on what has happened and is still happening to people of color in our country. Last year we read and discussed three books on Racial Justice issues. This year, we plan to watch the PBS Wisconsin series "Why Race Matters," which aired in 2021 but can be streamed at <https://pbswisconsin.org/why-race-matters/videos/>.

Each video is about 20 minutes long, and we'll watch one episode each week and then discuss what stood out to us and what we learned. **We'll meet on Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., starting Feb. 1, for seven weeks.** Our local PBS Wisconsin reporter Angela Fitzgerald is host and producer of the series, and each episode features an interview between Angela and a local person of color on a different topic relevant to racial justice.

If you would like to be part of this discussion, please contact Jayne Fischer at jdfischer2@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 3rd, 6 p.m. Monthly SaLT Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81391336252>

Upcoming Events



**Help Cora Thompson
Raise Funds for
Special Olympics!**

Our own beloved MUCC

teenager Cora Thompson is participating in the Polar plunge with her DECA Club to raise funds for Special Olympics. She has been really engaged in DECA and has earned a spot competing at state as a freshman!

Let's all support Cora as she raises funds for Special Olympics Wisconsin by making a donation through her fundraising page for the 2022 Madison Polar Plunge Presented by JP Cullen. Even a small donation will help her achieve her goal! The process is fast, easy, and secure.

Go Cora!!

Here's the link to make your donation:

<https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/3649937>



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

A spiritual teacher, retreat leader, musician and author I enjoy very much is a woman named Jan Phillips. I came across this little piece she wrote recently that is a lovely example of her gift for sharing nuances and layers of spiritual truth in the context of everyday life. I have a feeling lots of us will resonate with this. I know I do.

Enjoy, and I hope to see you in zoom church this Sunday.

Pastor Bryan

"How Long Light Takes" By Jan Philips

Twenty-five years ago I wished I could be as compassionate as my partner Annie. Whenever she left the refrigerator door open or the oven on overnight, I always sought her out to tell her about it. Oh, I'd close the door or turn off the oven, but I had to let her know I did it. I asked her one time, "Do I ever leave things on like that?"

"Yup," she said. "You leave things on a lot. But I just turn them off."

Compassion in action.

Now I live with my sister and I find myself doing the same thing.

"You forgot to lock the door."

"You left the oven on."

WHY?? What does that buy me?

Yesterday when I came out for coffee, I noticed the freezer door was open a little. I closed it and decided to keep it to myself. And this morning, I walked through a toasty warm living room because the heater had been left on all night. I didn't say a word.

My goodness. I think I might actually be evolving a bit--moving toward the Light I wish to live in. I guess this is how it happens. Inch by inch. It took me decades to not tell a loved one that I had to close the door because she didn't. As if I was somehow not being a responsible human if I failed to remind another of his/her/their imperfections and inconsistencies. As if they might fail to learn and grow and do the right thing if I did not let them know they'd screwed up. Geeze.

But you know why I think I just might be getting somewhere? Because I'm laughing about all of this within myself right now. No guilt or shame trips--even within myself. I'm simply laughing along with the Divine that it took me decades to learn to quietly shut the freezer door and not say anything.

Another decade and I might not even write about it.

608-838-9322

5710 Anthony St.

McFarland WI 53558

mcfarlanducc.org

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Pastor Bryan Sirchio

pastorb@mcfarlanducc.org

608-577-8716

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