

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

March 24 - March 31, 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: **betogether**



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



**Saturday,
March 26th at
6:00 p.m.
"Common Good
Immigration
Justice Event"**

In-Person at McFarland UCC!! Spread The Word!!

Note: This event will be livestreamed so you can watch it live without being in the building, BUT there will not be a zoom link and meeting for it the way we do Sunday worship.

To watch the event online use either of the following links. They are also on our website and on our online calendar.

Select Here to watch via the Vote Common Good Website

Select Here to watch livestream on YouTube

This is going to be fantastic so be sure to join us either at the church or on zoom for this amazing event that NION is sponsoring at our congregation. This live event will feature the immigration justice work of ***"Vote Common Good."*** Led by their founder Doug Pagitt, Vote Common Good organized and completed an immigration justice bicycle trip along the southern U.S. border last fall. They met with immigration advocacy groups and learned more about the plight of immigrants in and near border towns. They are now doing a series of live events and creating a documentary film that will be both informational and heart-opening. Their presentation will include videos of several immigrants and others who are traveling with their team to raise awareness and share their personal stories. They are hoping that people who are NOT on the "progressive" side of this issue will attend this event and join us for respectful conversation and sharing. If you have friends or family members who lean in a more conservative direction regarding immigration issues, this would be a wonderful event to invite them to attend with you.

As mentioned above, there is no registration needed for this event. Just come!



***Sunday, March 27th, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship***

In Person & on Zoom.

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

Password: **bettogether**

Update On COVID Policy For In-Person Worship

Just a reminder that we are still requiring masks inside our building. We ARE singing now with masks on! We will continue to watch the trends and our **HOPE** is to be able to make masks optional beginning on Easter Sunday.



Import USHER UPDATE!

We learned something important this past week! Evidently there are more than a few of you who would be happy to be greeters but who for one reason or another would prefer not to have to do the candle lighting task.

No problem! We can separate these duties when desirable, so if that's the only reason you have not signed up to be an usher, please know that we can work around this. Actually there are some kids who love being "acolytes" and it is a joy for all of us to have them handle the candle duties. So please sign up and know that you do not HAVE to walk up to the front of the church and deal with the candles at the beginning or end of the service in order to serve as an usher.

Also, we will have a meeting soon to make sure ushers know exactly what this simple task requires, so do not be concerned that you will not know what to do

If you have any issues with the online signups, please just contact Pastor Bryan via email or phone (pastorb@mcfarlanducc.org; 608-577-8716) and let him know which Sunday(s) you can usher.

Here's a link to sign up online to be an usher for a specific Sunday Morning:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD48AEA72EA64-sunday60>



It's Girl Scout Cookie Sale Time Again!

Thanks so much to Melissa Pfohl for putting the following message together for us. Let's support the Girl Scouts in our congregation by buying a bunch of cookies from them all!

The Girl Scout cookie sale may look a little different this year. For example, fewer booths at grocery stores, more electronic ways to place and pay for your order, and contactless delivery. Troops and Girls have many options for getting cookies to you, and we encourage you to reach out to them to see how they'll be setting up their sale.

Below is a list of Scouts from our congregation and the best way to contact them regarding cookies. Feel free to order from one (or more!) and thank you so much for supporting your local Girl Scouts.

Troop 7252, Kindergarten, Holly Pfohl, melissa.pfohl@gmail.com 608-234-2685
Troop 8044, 3rd grade, Lorelei Pfohl, melissa.pfohl@gmail.com 608-234-2685
Troop 8044, 3rd grade, Mariana Schweitzer, lschweitzer7@gmail.com 608-279-9614
Troop 8244, 5th grade, Lily Mortensen, akm8221989@gmail.com
Troop 1015, 8th grade, Lydia Mikelbank, dmikelbank@gmail.com (608) 217-1518
Troop 2651, 10th grade, Nora Wroblewski, norawroblewski@gmail.com or *Instagram handle*

Upcoming Events



Sunday, March 27th, "One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering

March 27th will be the official date of our "One Great Hour of Sharing" denominational offering. This is one of the 5 denominational offerings we support throughout the year that make it possible for the United Church of Christ to engage in crisis relief and ongoing efforts throughout the world to provide for the needs of some of the world's most vulnerable people. We will not be passing the plate for this offering, but you can donate through our website or by designating a

check for this purpose.

Select Here to Donate To One Great Hour of Sharing



Sunday, April 3rd, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Teen Youth Group Meeting with Lake Edge UCC Youth (at our church)

It's time to get together again! We'll play some games, have some meaningful discussion, and eat pizza.

Come and bring a friend!!



Friday, April 8th 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Younger Youth Group Next Meeting!

Thanks to those who made it last time and I hope to see ALL of you on Friday April 8th at 5:30 p.m. If the weather is nicer we could start

outside playing some games. We'll talk about all the things that Jesus went through on the last week of his life (what we call "Holy Week" leading up to Easter. There will be a craft and pizza! By the way, please let me know if you and your kids will make it and also what your favorite kind of pizza so I get what you like best.

Also, there will be an **Easter Egg hunt at the church at 9:15 a.m. on Easter morning!**



Purchase Easter Flowers For Our Church Sanctuary!

On Easter morning (April 17th this year) we want to have our church look like a beautiful flower garden. There

will be Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths in our garden. These flowers are available for purchase as a memory of family or friends. The cost is \$15.00 for the Lily and \$12.00 for each of the others. Orders need to be in by 3/23. **Signup sheets are available at church or call Lavon Geasland (608-298-7094).**



Important Update

McFarland UCC's Sundaes on Thursdays

Starting in the late 1980's, McFarland United Church of Christ initiated a special fundraising endeavor called Sundaes on Thursday held in the summer initially in the church parking lot and eventually at the Arnold Larson Park gazebo. At first, the funds raised were used to help supply needed cash and materials for the Ruth Zimmerman Hope II Haiti Orphanage in Port au Prince. Ruth was a friend of MUCC who started the orphanage in Haiti to care for abandoned and disabled homeless children.

The Sundaes on Thursday events continued for over 30 summers until COVID restrictions in 2020 resulted in a "pause". Over those years, Sundaes on Thursday became a McFarland community event that individuals and families looked forward to on Thursday evenings each summer. The events morphed from serving sundaes from a very old card table to using 2-3 cars/trucks to haul everything down to Arnold Larson Park, including multiple tables and a tent, gallons of ice cream, liters of root beer, crock pots of hot fudge and caramel toppings, and bins of supplies.

Music became a major part of the Sundaes events starting in 2007. Musicians included the McFarland Community Band, the Stoughton Community Band, Moldy Jam, the Almost-in-Time Dixieland Jazz Band, Steeplechase Brass, Prairie Bayou Cajun Band, Fiddles on Fire (violin students), a group of accordion players, and others. Having music during Sundaes on Thursday substantially increased the number of people in attendance as well as number of sundaes, etc. served.

All proceeds from Sundaes on Thursday over the past 30 years have been donated to groups and agencies aligned with our church's mission. During the past decade, annual proceeds from the 6-8 Thursday events each summer have been \$2000 - \$3000. About 10 years ago, SaLT made the decision to donate half of the Sundaes on Thursday proceeds to the McFarland Food Pantry for as long as Sundaes on Thursday continued. Annually, remaining proceeds were divided among other

community agencies (e.g., AIDS Network, McFarland Youth Center, Lions Club, Optimists Club, McFarland High School Black Student Union, The Road Home, McFarland Senior Outreach, McFarland Historical Society, etc.).

Coordination of Sundaes on Thursday has been done by a small planning team. Planning for each summer usually begins in January. At a planning team meeting in early February this year, the team reviewed the many positive aspects of offering Sundaes on Thursday as well as the challenges and time commitments needed to make these events successful. The Sundaes on Thursday team confirmed that all members of the current planning team are no longer available nor willing to continue with planning and coordinating Sundaes on Thursday.

A recommendation regarding next steps for Sundaes on Thursday was presented to SaLT at their March 3rd meeting. SaLT agreed with the recommendation to end the Sundaes on Thursdays events. In recognition of the 30+ years of a wonderful ministry and the impact that it has had within our congregation and the community, there will be a Sundaes on Thursday celebration on Thursday, June 23 in the church parking lot. All are invited to this celebration. Additional info and reminders about this Sundaes on Thursday evening event will be shared in June.

For any questions about Sundaes on Thursday, this decision, or the planned celebration, please contact members of the Sundaes on Thursday team:

- Ann Ross, moderator@mcfarlanducc.org
- Joan Jacobsen, treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org
- Cindy Wendorf, cwendorf@aol.com
- Rachel Saladis, Rachel.saladis@gmail.com



READERS

***Are You Willing To Read
Something During
Worship?***

Especially to those of you who prefer to worship on zoom, it would be great to hear your voices during Sunday morning worship. If you are willing to be on Pastor Bryan's list of people to ask to help out with readings (zoom or in person) please let Bryan know. This is yet another easy way to get involved in the "work" of our church and to participate actively in our life

together. And please respond if you're willing to read and are now back in person on Sunday mornings too!



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

This morning during our devotional group time (8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday) I shared two simple statements from author Anne

Lamott (that's Anne in the picture here). If you're not familiar with her, she's an amazingly gifted and inspiring writer and I highly recommend her books. Her writing is always powerfully honest, soulful, and often hilarious. My favorite of her books is [Traveling Mercies](#).

Here are the two statements I read to the group this morning:

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

"Lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining."

God knows there's a lot going on in the world these days. It's a lot to take in emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. I'm never an advocate of ignoring reality. But unplugging from all the noise and activity and constant input in order to create some space for our own hearts and minds to rest and regroup and listen to the deeper and quieter voice of the Spirit within seems more important than ever. Here's something that just occurred to me in light of this: "The busier things are, the more still we need to be."

To me the spiritual journey, or what I often refer to as the "path of Jesus," is really about getting more deeply in touch with who we truly are. Some kind of regular unplugging--being still and open--is a necessary part of that process. Don't guilt trip yourself into thinking you are being irresponsible if you slow down or even stop running around altogether. Just the opposite is true. It's so often by practicing some stillness (prayer and meditation but also just taking a walk or listening to music or gazing at something beautiful) that we become grounded and centered enough to actually become "response-able" instead of just reacting to life like waves on the surface of the sea.

And Anne's lighthouse statement... What a wonderful reminder that just being who we truly are, and standing still and strong AS that presence in this world is one of the most impactful *actions* any of us can take. I think this world needs more lighthouses in that sense. Sources of light that serve the world simply by shining.

Unplug and shine steady my friends. This world, including the loved ones in our own immediate contexts, need us to be who we truly ARE.

Hope to see you Sunday,

Pastor Bryan

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