

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 14 - October 21, 2021

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK

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

<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, October 17th at 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday morning worship outside and on zoom.

Last Outdoor Worship Before we return to



the building October 24th!!

Remember also to bring loose change for the "Let There Be Light" weekly "noisy offering" which some of our youth will lead.



Social Justice Letter-Writing Campaign...

Printed form letters will be available at a table at worship this Sunday. We'll help you find your elected

representative's name and address, address the envelope, and mail the letter for you!

A letter to our elected representatives opposing the racist practice of "Gerrymandering" ([click here to be taken to the letter on our website](#))

The Bible discusses the need for justice and equity, especially for those who are most vulnerable. A small group including Lavon Geasland, Judy Taber and Jayne Fischer decided to organize a letter-writing campaign in support of ending gerrymandering in Wisconsin. The letter-writing initiative is one of the actions that we brainstormed in a Racial Justice meeting in July. Gerrymandering disenfranchises voters by drawing district lines to favor whichever party is in power in a census year – both parties are guilty of this.

Judy has written the letter, and the SALT team has given us their blessing to set up a table at church beginning on Sunday, Oct. 10th. We will have copies of the letter available for those who would like to read the letter and sign it. We'll be able to look up your Senator/Assembly person, and we will send the signed letters to your representatives. We can also send an electronic copy of the letter to anyone who prefers to send the letter electronically to their representatives.

A recent survey conducted by YouGov found that 82% of Wisconsin voters want a fair and transparent redistricting process, and 73% of Wisconsin voters want to prohibit redistricting from benefiting one party over another. We're doing our part by letting our legislators know that we believe gerrymandering is undemocratic and suppresses the voices of voters.

Look for the table at church on Sunday.



*Sunday, October 17th at
1 p.m.:*

Crop Hunger

Walk. All ages are

welcome to participate!!

[Click here for details and registration](#)

So far we have not had anyone express and interest in being a Crop Walker. If you are interested please let Pastor Bryan know. Remember you can walk, bike, or do a "virtual walk."

But we can all sponsor a walker! We know that **Jean and John Shield, long-time friends of McFarland UCC, will be participating as they have for many years.** If you would like to sponsor John or Jean or both of them, contact Pastor Bryan and he'll put you in touch with them, or contact the Shields directly at 608-222-1607 or sheildfamily@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

**Indoor Worship Begins Next Week--Sunday,
October 24th!**

We will end outdoor worship and begin worshipping inside our building sanctuary once again on Sunday, October 24th. We are still figuring out COVID-19 protocol issues and more details will be sent next week. The one thing we agreed upon easily and unanimously is that masks will be

required for all persons. We also agreed that we would not yet open the building for other purposes beyond Sunday morning worship, and we will not be offering coffee and hospitality in the building after worship. We will revisit these things at our November SaLT meeting on Thursday, November 4th. If you have thoughts, suggestions, strong feelings or opinions about how to safely be in the sanctuary together, please let Pastor Bryan or a member of SaLT know. You are also welcome to attend the SaLT meeting if you would like to discuss any of this with us.

Thanks for your patience, grace, and support throughout this whole process!

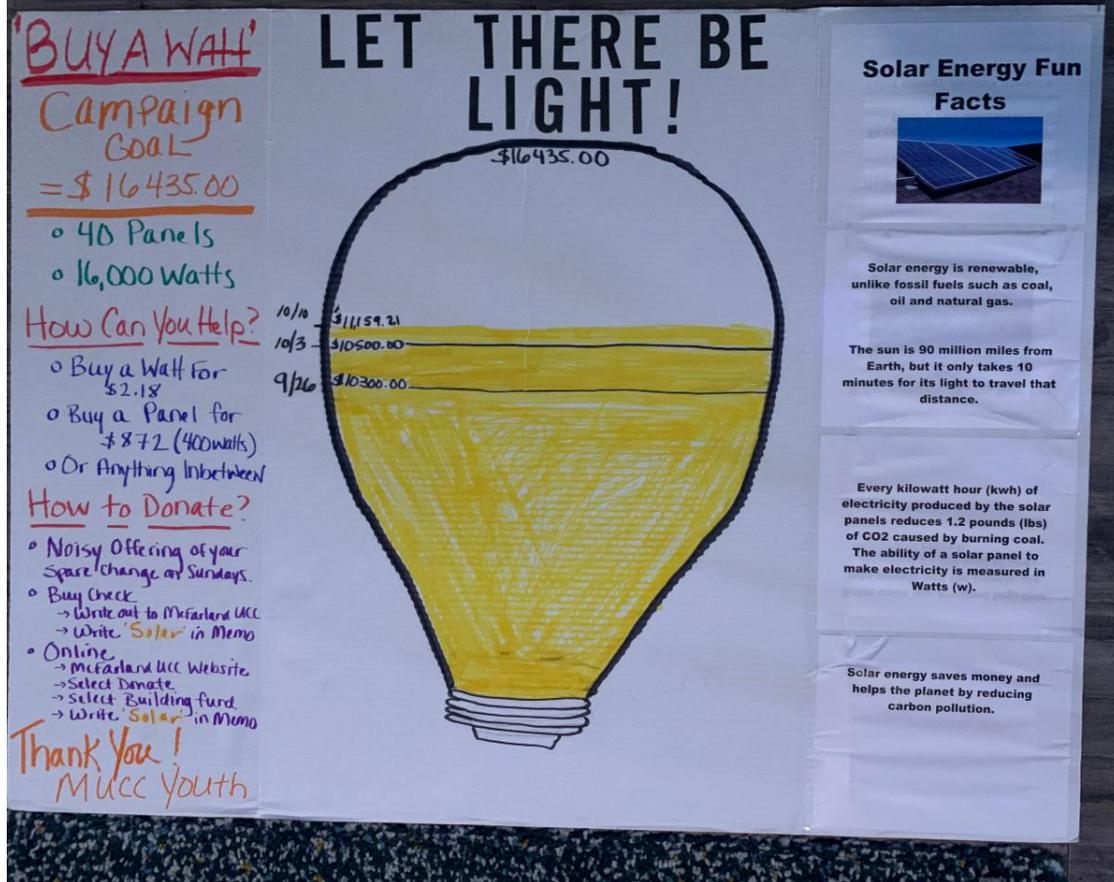


"Let There Be Light" Solar Energy Campaign Update:

According to one of our campaign leaders Heather Blackmore, our **current total is now still \$11,159.21 since we did not have an offering last week because our outdoor service was rained out.**

A few of you have indicated that you are going to make a contribution, but we will not count it until the check or online payment is actually received.

We are hoping to raise \$5,276 more by 11/15/21 to reach the \$16,435 goal! Bring your coins to church for the next noisy offering each Sunday between now and 11/15.



"Let There Be Light" Campaign Overview

(Thanks to Joan Jacobsen for this comprehensive report!)

The Let There Be Light Campaign has two purposes: 1) to raise funds to support an eco-friendlier way of meeting the electrical needs of the church and 2) to illuminate the economic and social impact of reducing energy costs.

The monetary goal of the Let There Be Light Campaign is \$16,435 by 11/15/21. If this goal is achieved before 11/15/21 (the scheduled date for the solar panel installation) then the campaign ends when \$16,435 has been reached. This goal includes two projects:

1). Installation of 40 solar panels on the church roof.

--Total cost for the solar project is \$34,875.

--Two grants are available for the solar project: Focus on Energy and Solar

for Good.

--Midwest Solar has successfully submitted our application for the Focus on Energy grant. We were notified 9/14/21 that we will receive a \$10,000 credit that will be applied after solar panel installation.

--Geoff Brink and Judy Taber will be submitting our application for a Solar for Good grant; the most we could receive from this grant would be \$10,000.

The maximum amount we anticipate from grants is \$20,000 resulting in a minimum balance of \$14,875 to Midwest Solar for the solar project. If the total grant amount is less than \$20,000, the Outreach Funds Team has authorized use of unrestricted Outreach Funds to pay the remaining balance.

2). Conversion of church parking lot lights to energy-saving LED lights and fixtures.

This work is scheduled to be done this fall for a cost of \$1,560.

The \$16,435 campaign total includes \$14,875 for solar panels and \$1,560 for parking lot lights.

Church youth are organizing a “Buy a Watt” fundraiser as part of this campaign. To support the purchase of solar panels, youth members will conduct “noisy offerings” during worship by “selling” watts for \$2.18. Note that the 40 solar panels will produce 16,000 watts of electricity.

In recognition of individuals and communities globally who are impacted physically or ecologically by the production of alternative energy sources (e.g., solar panels and batteries), a contribution from the unrestricted Outreach Funds will be made to Amnesty International. Amnesty International works to make sure that climate action is done in a way that does not violate anyone’s human rights, and reduces rather than increases inequality.

The campaign theme, “Let There Be Light”, was suggested by Claire and Gwen Hofmeister.

The individuals involved in discussing the initial Capital Campaign proposal included the Outreach Funds Team and a newly established subgroup, the Let There Be Light Campaign Team. See below for list of

team members. SaLT reviewed the campaign proposal during the 9/9/21 SaLT meeting.

Let There Be Light Capital Campaign Team

Heather Blackmore, Joan Jacobsen, Gwen Hofmeister, Claire Hofmeister, Julie Woodward, Chris Taber, Denny Blackmore, Jean Blackmore, Colleen Krattiger (ex officio), Bryan Sirchio (ex officio)

Outreach Funds Team

Geoff Brink, Bonnie Thomas, Denny Blackmore, Jean Blackmore, Chris Taber, Martha Olsen, Daryl Kleckner, Jean Kleckner, Harold Stafford, Judy St. Clair, Steve Davidson, Joan Jacobsen, Colleen Krattiger (ex officio), Bryan Sirchio (ex officio)



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

Something deep, and something, well, not so deep!

First the deeper thing...

Last Monday was what we have traditionally called

Columbus Day in our country. We all know why. It's the celebration of Christopher Columbus "discovering" the so-called "new world." As we all know, the problem was that this land was not "new" to those who were already here. We know the history. The injustice and genocide. It, along with the other "original sin" of our nation in the form of the enslavement of Africans, has never truly been dealt with on a wide scale from the perspective of justice. We still have lots of work to do in this regard.

Thankfully, there is a growing movement to rename Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples' Day." It is a call to celebrate indigenous cultures and to tell the truth about what happened to the first peoples of the land on which we all now live.

As part of this movement, one of our United Church of Christ camps at Green Lake, WI decided to change it's name from "Pilgrim Center" to "Daycholah Center." Daycholah is the Ho Chunk word for "Green Lake."

As you can imagine, the process of changing the name of a camp that had a long and emotionally charged history was not easy. But those in leadership of the camp and the camping board did all the hard work of having long discussions and meeting with people on all sides who had strong opinions. They persisted. They listened. They were respectful, loving, and committed. They established a clear process and saw it through.

The name change actually took place officially last Monday in a beautiful ceremony at the camp. It was a powerful experience. The Doctrine of Discovery--the Church Doctrine initiated by the Pope in the 1500's that gave the "explorers" a mandate from God to enslave, plunder, and kill indigenous peoples--was denounced as a heresy and repudiated. Members of the Ho Chunk tribe spoke and sang and drummed. It was moving to say the least.

I was asked to provide some music for the gathering. It was a privilege, as this issue and this camp have been near and dear to my heart for a long time. A member of the tribe gave me a blanket from the tribe to honor my participation. It was humbling.

About 35 years ago I was asked to represent the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC at a conference dealing with white extremist groups who were using the farm crisis at the time to recruit people. The white supremacist groups that have been more visible than ever in recent years and that played a key role in the Jan. 6th insurrection have been building their infrastructure and arming themselves for a long long time. The UCC National Staff person for racial justice 35 years ago was Rev. Benjamin Chavis, who later went on to be the director of the NAACP for a time. I'll never forget something he said during one of his keynotes. He said,

"One of the reasons I am a part of the United Church of Christ" is that the UCC has shown a consistent tendency throughout its history to do the right thing when pushed."

I love that. "To do the right thing when pushed." Let's hope and pray we push ourselves more times than not. But we are a people who will come around to doing what God wants us to do. We're far from perfect. It sometimes takes us a while to get where we need to go. But our way of

trying to follow Jesus means that we put our convictions into action. We don't just talk about it. We act. We don't just lament the world's brokenness. We try to bring healing. We don't just wish things would change. We roll up our sleeves, take risks, and do the work that leads to change. As Frederick Douglas put it years ago, we do our best to "pray with our feet."

I hope some of us will have a chance to enjoy camping and retreating at Daycholah Center. It's a beautiful place, with a beautiful history of ministry, and now an even more beautiful name. Making changes like this is a small thing perhaps. But these small things matter. Thanks be to God.

And now the not so deep thing...

My grandson Alex (Emma's 3rd who just turned 6) was playing with play-doh with his grandmother. He made what you see below, and ran to Emma and said, "Mom look! I made Grandpa Bryan!"

I hate to admit it, but as a 6 year old sculptor, I think the kid's got some talent...

At least I'm smiling!

Hope to see you Sunday,

Pastor Bryan



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