

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*

September 23 -- September 30, 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



***Sunday, September 25th,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on
Zoom.***

Masks are now optional...

***We'll be receiving new members this Sunday. Always a joyful
time of celebration and welcome!***

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

Password: **betgether**



we are one family under God

***Thursday, September 29,
from 6:30-8pm.***

***The Wisconsin Conference
Immigration Working***

Group is sponsoring a zoom workshop on

Thursday, September 29, from 6:30-8pm.

Register to attend this workshop by clicking [here](#).

NION members from our church will be participating in this event and sharing what we are currently doing.

What does it mean to be immigrant-welcoming in 2022?

The Wisconsin Conference's Immigration Working Group is inviting congregations around the state to a conversation about the many ways we are living into our 2017 resolution to be an Immigrant Welcoming Conference. A discussion of what we are doing now—sponsoring refugees, accompanying asylum seekers, raising money, advocating for reform, and partnering with resettlement and other agencies to provide volunteer and financial support—will lead into ideas for specific actions for congregations to take or explore.

Things Coming Up



***Sunday, October 2nd, Our
Church's 45th Anniversary
Celebration During Sunday
Morning Worship!***

Please join us on Sunday, October 2 to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of signing of the McFarland UCC Charter. Join us in person or on Zoom to hear more about this important time in the MUCC history. We'll honor charter members still among us and spend part of our

worship giving thanks for our church's past, present, and future.

It's Birthday Sunday this first Sunday of the month so we'll have birthday cake for our church as well as for those with birthdays in October!



***Sunday, October 2nd,
5:30-7 p.m.
Teen Youth Meeting with Lake
Edge UCC at church.***



***Any Interested Members or Friends
are Invited
and Welcome to attend the
Leadership Retreat on Saturday
October 8th!***

The purpose of the MUCC Leadership Retreat is to bring leaders and others from our congregation into a quiet place for reflection, prayer, planning, and conversation with the intent of identifying how we can best move forward in a collaborative and unified way for MUCC. This is an opportunity to discern what Christ is doing in the through us, and what brings us together as a church. A focus will be on strategic planning to assist in guiding MUCC into the future and how developing a detailed course of action and a plan is essential.

Please send your RSVP's to Becky Cohen by September 29th.

Becky's email: cohenrw@yahoo.com or cell (608) 358-0492

The retreat is coming soon!!!



Ushers Needed!

**We still need some
ushers for certain
Sundays in October,
November and**

December.

The link for Sign Up Genius to Usher:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD48AEA72EA64-summer> (The link says summer however ushers are needed year round)

Thank you to everyone who ushered during the summer!!! And thanks to many of you who already signed up to usher this Fall!

Your willingness to usher is truly appreciated.

Becky Cohen



Pastor Discretionary
Fund

The "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" Needs To Be Replenished

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is the account that Pastor Bryan uses to help specific individuals and families in our local community with things like food, gas, emergency housing, rent, and utilities bills. This fund stands on its own and we do not draw from our General Fund or our Outreach Funds for this aspect of our congregation's ministry. When this account reaches a zero balance we let our community know and trust that some of you will feel led to contribute to this ministry. Well **the fund has indeed been depleted, and so we are hoping some of you make a donation toward this purpose.**

If you have any questions about how this money is used or what our policies and methodologies are for offering this kind of compassionate direct assistance here in McFarland and vicinity, please contact Pastor Bryan and he'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

Thanks so much to all of you who have contributed to this fund in the past, and thanks in advance for helping to make sure we have money designated for this very vital dimension of our church's service to our community.

Here is a link to make a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary fund

Of course checks can be made out to our church for this purpose as well. Please just put "Pastor's Discretionary" in the memo line.



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

***Will my sermons be
"political" during this
election season?***

You know I've really been thinking and praying a lot about this, and I want to share a few things with you all.

First, while I want my sermons and our worship to help us respond faithfully to what's going on in the world, including the realm of political realities, my call as preacher and pastor is always first and foremost to help us draw closer to God, and to discern and respond to the leading of God's Spirit and God's Word in Scripture. You will not hear me "pound away" on social issues every week, especially now. So please don't worry about that.

I will prayerfully do my best to balance our weekly messages. Some will be encouraging, hopeful, and comforting, and some will be challenging at times if the Scripture takes us that way. Hopefully many of them will be both. Some will focus more on the "vertical dimensions"--our personal lives and relationship with God. Some will likely focus more on the "horizontal dimensions"--how we live our faith in relationship to others and to the earth. Right now we're taking a fresh look for a few weeks at the story of "Eve, Adam and the Snake" in Genesis 3, which generated a LOT of responses this past week. Last week's message focused on the problem of shame and on God's unconditional love for us all.

Like many of you, I'm already a bit weary of political ads on TV, and especially the negative ones. It's only going to get worse. I'm tired of my email inbox being filled with fundraising appeals, and especially those that use manipulative and shaming techniques. The emails aren't going to stop coming. And social media... sigh.

So I want you to know that I will be very sensitive to the simple fact that we don't need politics force fed to us in church every Sunday. That's not going to happen.

I will do my best to feed your souls with encouraging messages, AND to also feed your souls (and my own) with reminders of what the Way of Jesus stands for in this broken yet beautiful world. There might be

occasions when I'll feel led to connect the biblical teaching with something going on in the world in a way that can't help but have political implications. If and when I do so, I will be respectful and be guided by biblical principles and not simply by my own opinions. I will never reduce God to any one political party. I will always strive to be respectful and open-hearted to all persons on all sides of an issue, and I will remind all of us that our faith calls us to "speak Truth to power IN LOVE." Love includes respect and a willingness to listen, or as St. Francis put it, a desire to "seek to understand rather than to be understood." My sermons will NEVER simply be about some personal axe of my own to grind. I promise you that. And as always, please know you can approach me anytime and push back (hopefully with kindness and respect!) against anything I ever say that you don't understand or agree with. I welcome that, and if your sense of what Scripture is saying or how to apply it differs from mine, let's learn together.

So as always, I'm going to do my very best with God's help to feed your souls with biblical messages that help us all to follow Jesus and respond to God's leading in a balanced, healthy, open-hearted, fun, loving, and faithful way.

I hope to see you either in person or on zoom this Sunday, and every Sunday.

Love and blessings to you all,

Pastor Bryan

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