

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

June 26 - July 1, 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 Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>



MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion

<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



TUESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Bible Study & Discussion

<https://zoom.us/j/95481817891>



WEDNESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices

<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>

UPCOMING EVENTS

OURDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUES

Our first in-person outdoor worship service since the pandemic went wonderfully last week! Thanks so much to all of you who



attended, and especially to those who came early to help set up. We will continue worshipping outside until our leadership team decides it is time to be in the building once again.

Zoom Worship Updates: Thanks also to those of you who worshipped with us on zoom. Overall we got lots of good feedback and our basic process seems to be working well. One suggestion was to have the bulletins available for download on our website so that those interested can print them out ahead of time and not need to deal with the link in the chat box on zoom. We are making that possible from this week forward.

Tech Team Needed: Now that we are committed to making worship available on zoom indefinitely, we really need to get a team of volunteers who will help us. **We are forever indebted to Tom Ludwig** for being our zoom tech during the pandemic. Tom and Chris Taber are now handling the outdoor zoom usher responsibilities, but it would be good to have at least 3 or 4 others who will learn the ropes and be available from time to time. We'll face another learning curve once we're back in the building. Please let me (Pastor Bryan) know if you're willing to be part of this team. You do NOT need to be a computer wiz by any means.

Note: We're going to need help setting up each Sunday. The set-up will start each week at 8:45 a.m. Please come then if you can help carry stuff outside. We need a handful of you to volunteer to learn how to set up the sound system. It's really not that complicated, so please let Pastor Bryan know if you're willing to help with this. We'll need to meet sometime other than Sunday morning to do this training.

Zoom Programs Will Continue: In case you may be wondering, the Monday through Friday morning devotions group will continue on zoom as long as there is a core of persons interested in showing up each morning. Join us if you never have! The same is true at this point of the Tuesday evening Bible Study and Wednesday evening Midweek Inhale.

One Change: Sunday Bible Study will begin at 12 noon instead of 11:45.



A Few Words From Pastor Bryan

Hi everyone. Well it sure felt great to be together again in person last week, and I was and am so glad that the hybrid in-person/zoom experiment went well also. It feels great to be taking these steps and to be enjoying the process of reopening after the pandemic.

"Reopening." I like the feel of that word. As I preached at times during the pandemic, I am hopeful that the pandemic experience will be a wake up call of sorts for us all. As painful and tragic and tumultuous as this pandemic experience has been, it has also provided us with some amazing opportunities to learn and grow and do some things differently. I think it has also deepened our appreciation for many things we may have taken for granted. I know that's been the case for me.

What have you learned in this past year or so as a result of the pandemic experience? Has God taught you something through this? Or perhaps made something you already knew even more deeply meaningful? What are you appreciating in a new way now that you/we are able to start being together again?

Among many other things, I am hoping and praying that we as a church will experience a "reopening" to God in as many ways as possible. I'm hoping that the chances we will have to see each other and hear each other's voices in prayer and in singing will mean more to us than ever. I'm hoping for a reopening--a deepening of a felt sense of God's Spirit-- in our times of fellowship and fun, our gatherings and programs for teens and younger children, in all of our outreach programs, and in our many programs for spiritual learning and growth. I hope and pray you will all dive into our community's reopening of life together in a way that feels vital and alive and full of hope. And lots of FUN!

Let's Reopen in the best possible ways...

Hope to see you this Sunday!

Pastor Bryan

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