

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

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK

You can find brief descriptions of these on our website:

mcfarlanducc.org/online-events

SUN. Morning, 10 am Zoom Worship

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

SUN. Morning, 11:45 am Bible Study

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

MON. - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion

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

TUES. Evening, 6 pm Bible Study & Discussion

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

WED. Evening, 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices

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



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SAT. March 13

10 am - noon. Girl Scout Cookies w/ Lily Mortensen at MUCC Drive Through



MON. March 15

6 - 7 pm Teenage Youth Games

<https://zoom.us/j/97903049438>



TUES. March 16th

6:30 - 8 pm "Immigration Justice Reset: How To Support Family Reunification"

MORE INFO HERE!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-6qrjkiHNZCgvGinzRtteV5KMvDQUpk>



Tuesday, March 16th

"Immigration Justice Reset: How to Support Family Reunification"

6:30 - 8 pm



This is another zoom meeting sponsored jointly by our own NION (Now In Our Name) ministry and the Wisconsin Conference Immigration Justice Working Group. The meeting will feature the work of "Al Otro Lado," an advocacy group that is doing the legal and hands-on work of reuniting families. This will be a great chance to learn more about what is needed to bring parents and children who have already been located back together. The meeting will be recorded and made available if you are not able to be there on Tuesday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-6qrjkiHNZCgvGinzRtteV5KMvDQUpk>



THE 2021 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE!

March 13 to April 18

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. The girls are eager to engage with you!

**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 8044, 2nd grade,
Lorelei Pfohl,
melissa.pfohl@gmail.com
608-234-2685

Troop 8044, 2nd grade,
Mariana Schweitzer,
lschweitzer7@gmail.com
608-279-9614

Troop 8244, 4th grade,
Lily Mortensen,
akm8221989@gmail.com
608-225-6677

Troop 1015, 7th grade,
Lydia Mikelbank,
dmikelbank@gmail.com
608-217-1518

Troop 2651, 9th grade,
Nora Wroblewski,
norawroblewski@gmail.com
or Nora's Instagram

Troop 2109, 12th grade,
Larissa Mikelbank,
dmikelbank@gmail.com
608-217-1518

UPCOMING COOKIE BOOTHS

Saturday March 13, 10 AM to Noon
at the MUCC parking lot,
contact Lily/Troop 8244 for details

Friday March 19, 4-6 PM
at the MUCC parking lot,
contact Nora/Troop 2651 for details

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Check out all these and more on the calendar at:

mcfarlanducc.org/calendar

THURS. March 25th

New Members Informational Meeting with Pastor Bryan

(more info on the next page) <https://zoom.us/j/92669506482>



THURS. March 25th

7 - 8 pm

Upcoming Lecture: "Nature's Best Hope" sponsored by Olbrich Gardens

(More info coming soon!)

Holy Week Worship Services

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday

(Regular Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.)

Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm

(zoom link next week)

Friday, April 2nd, Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

(zoom link next week)

THURS. April 22nd

6 pm

Racial Justice Group Next Meeting to discuss "Caste," by Isabel Wilkerson.

keep reading for a note from Jayne Fischer.

JOIN THE CHURCH!

Informational meeting March 25th, 6 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/92669506482>

New Members Sunday: April 11th during 10 a.m. zoom worship.

A number of you have inquired about officially becoming a member of our congregation. Some of you have been patiently waiting since before our building was closed because of the pandemic, and some of you have found your way to us since we starting worshipping virtually on zoom.

Initially I (Pastor Bryan) thought we'd wait to receive new members until we were together again in the building, but even with the progress we're making with the vaccine, etc., it is still a ways off. So we've decided to wait no longer!

If you are interested in joining our congregation formally, or in just finding out more about what that means to us, **please try to join us on zoom for an informational meeting on Thursday, March 25th, at 6 p.m.** And of course we trust you know that whether you ever join our congregation officially or not you are welcome to fully participate in every aspect of our life together. There really is no "in" or "out" when it comes to our family of faith and our understanding of what it means to be church. More than anything, membership is a way to say publicly that you want to belong to and with us and to live out your faith journey in community with us. Actually that means a lot, so join us on the 25th if you'd like to hear more.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask me before this meeting please feel from to call me or email me and I'd be delighted to talk with you. There is absolutely no obligation to join if you attend the March 25th meeting.

Also, **if you worship via zoom from a far away place but would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member** even though you will not ever likely be with us in our building, please feel encouraged to participate in this meeting. Obviously we have never been in the position of thinking and praying through what a zoom church membership would involve, but we are delighted to figure this out together. Your presence in our fellowship feels very real and vital to us so if you are interested in making a formal commitment to membership please join the meeting.

We will officially receive new members in zoom worship on April 11th, the Sunday after Easter.

RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS "CASTE,"

by Isabel Wilkerson

Hi All,

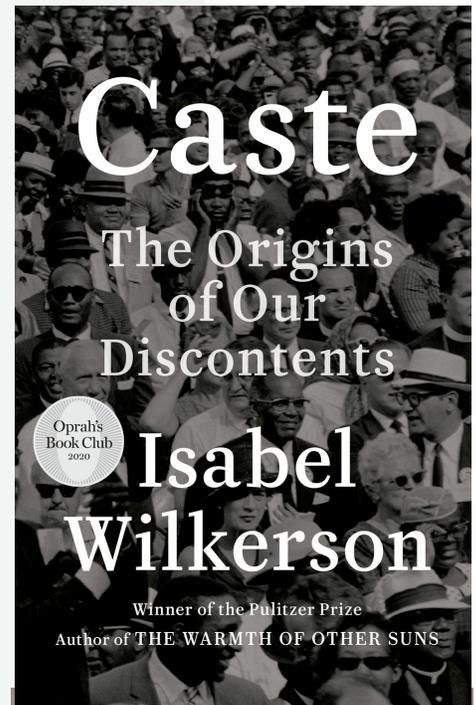
The next book we'll be reading and discussing for the Racial Justice book club is "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson (who also wrote, "The Warmth of Other Suns," the National Book Critics Circle Award Winner in 2011).

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day!) at 6:00 p.m. Please read Parts One, Two and Three for the meeting.

I've heard that the book has a long waiting list at the library, but you can order the book from one of Madison's independent booksellers such as The Frugal Muse or A Room of One's Own.

Hope to see you at our meeting on April 22! I will send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting. Thanks.

Jayne Fischer



A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR BRYAN

Well it's been a year now. Wow. It seems longer. It seems shorter. And what a year. It was on March 12, 2020 when it became clear to me that we had to shut our building down because of COVID-19. I remember it well because it was the day we had planned to hold a large NION Immigration Justice event featuring attorney Linda Zuba. We'd made lots of plans and it was a tough call to postpone the event. But it was the right call. And our building has been closed ever since. A whole year now.

None of us had any idea really what we were facing a year ago, or what the cost of this pandemic would be. We're still in it obviously, and this is a very important time in the process. Stay vigilant my friends. But there is some light at the end of this tunnel. The Biden administration seems to be working hard to get the vaccines out and available. It feels hopeful. As I wrote last week, things are melting, literally and metaphorically.

There are many challenges ahead. Already people are talking about how disorienting it is and will be to try to "open up" again when the time is right. Emotions are understandably all over the place. Some things simply will never be what they were a year ago. This isn't going to be simple or easy. Even for us as a church, it will be a strange process when we begin to open the building again. It won't be for a while yet,

so please stay patient. But we'll get there. Once we do it will not be easy. We won't all be able to come at the same time. There will be limits and we'll have to figure out who can be in the building for worship and who can't. We've never had to do that before. Never. It's going to feel weird. We probably won't be able to sing together or touch each other for a long time yet. But we'll move forward with God's leading and lots of love, laughter, grace, grit and gratitude. Of that much I am confident.

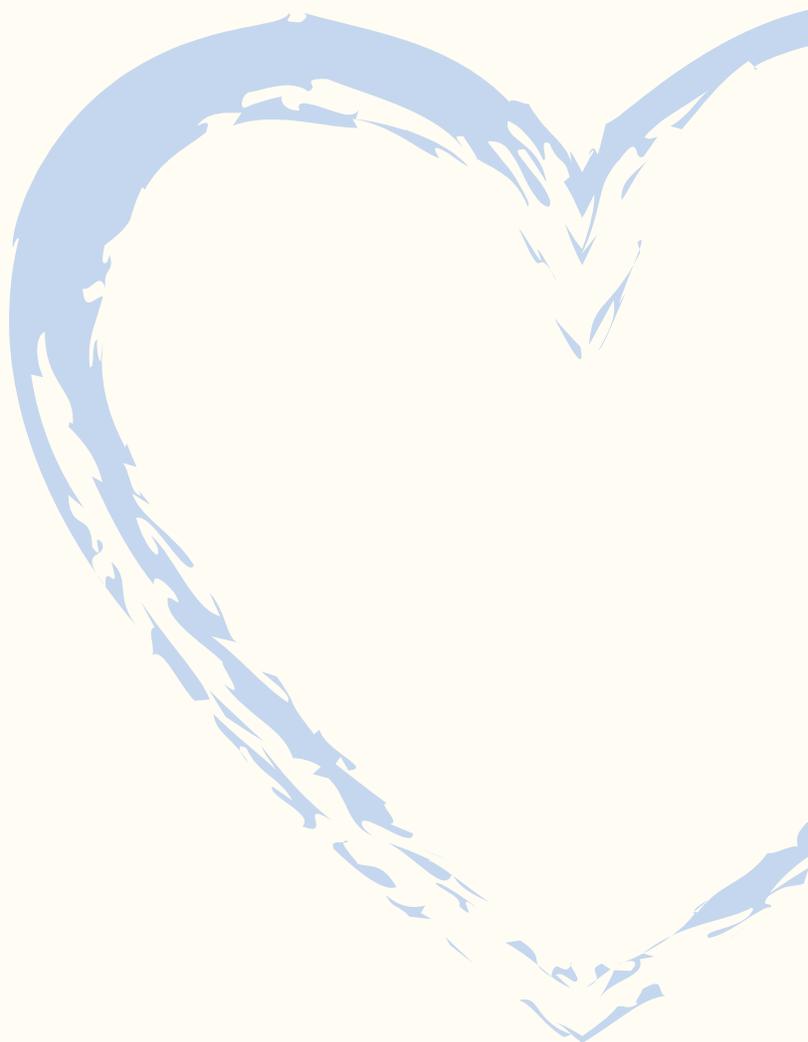
You know I really don't have words to express my gratitude for how well you/we have dealt with this past year. As I've said to you many times, I'm almost (hey--I'll get over it!) embarrassed by how good I have it being pastor of MUCC. You all have made it so easy for me to offer leadership. We've been on the same page regarding what is needed and what is most loving and responsible. Most of you have figured out how to do zoom and joined us for worship. We've GROWN programmatically, spiritually, financially, and numerically. We've been generous. We've been there for each other. Our Outreach programs have grown. I could go on. We aren't the perfect church by any means, but that simply is because there is no such thing!

I've joked a few times when calling us to worship on Sunday mornings that I can overhear your conversation with each other before worship. I'm usually just standing a few feet off camera getting myself as ready for worship as I can.

Last week a visitor asked, "So how is McFarland UCC doing during the pandemic?" I think it was Harold Stafford who responded, "Well, we're doing pretty well. We're all a little tired of zoom, but actually we're kind of thriving." Or something close to that. That informal response brought a tear to my eye and a smile to my heart. Yes, we are thriving. Thanks to you. Thanks to God. Thanks to strong and faithful leaders among us. Just amazing really. What a year. Who knows what the next year will hold for us, but what's most important is that we know Who is holding all of us, as individuals and as a family of faith. Thank you God. And thank you McFarland UCC.

Grace and Peace to you all,

Pastor Bryan



GENERAL FUND SUMMARY MAR. 2020 - FEB. 2021

Questions? Connect with Joan at:
treasurer@mcfarlanducc.org

General Fund Summary Mar 2020 – Feb 2021 (Funds for general operating expenses)

SaLT review 03/04/2021

Month	Revenue	Expenses	Variance
Mar-20	12,564	12,099	465
Apr-20	16,656	16,683	(27)
May-20	14,261	10,159	4,102
Jun-20	15,758	11,085	4,673
Jul-20	14,692	19,905	(5,213)
Aug-20	18,938	9,905	9,033
Sep-20	11,813	11,178	635
Oct-20	15,801	16,775	(974)
Nov-20	14,696	11,926	2,770
Dec-20	17,416	17,789	(372)
Jan-21	14,918	11,777	3,142
Feb-21	11,873	10,192	1,681
Total	179,387	159,472	19,915

2021 Budget* *includes extraordinary expenses	\$180,455
Average Monthly Revenue Needed to Meet Budget	\$15,038
Actual Average Monthly Revenue Mar 2020-Feb 2021	\$14,949

