



THE GREETER

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
133 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET
WHITEWATER, WI 53190
262-473-4101

March 2017

THINGS TO NOTE:

***New Members Class:**

Last new member class is
Sunday, Feb. 26th.

***Youth Bake Sale –**

Sunday, Feb. 26th

***Ash Wednesday:**

Wednesday, March 1st

6pm – Lenten Soup Dinner

7pm – Worship Service

***Lenten Calendar inside**

***Daylight Savings March 12th**

“Spring ahead” one hour before
you go to bed on Saturday.

***Book Club – Tuesday, March 28th**

at 6:30pm

***OFFICE IS CLOSED THURSDAY,
MARCH 2ND AND MARCH 23RD.**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

***BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH –
PUT YOUR CLOCK
AHEAD ONE HOUR.**

A Message from your Conference Minister:

Dear friends and colleagues,

Though I am typically a sound sleeper, lately I have found myself troubled in the night. I wake up with a nagging angst about the state of our nation. Things feel uncertain and unsteady. Many of the values I hold so deeply seem compromised. I worry more than ever about the dignity and equality of all human beings and the absence of kindness in our public discourse.

While it is obvious this partisan divide remains bitter and wide, we are wise to remember that our beloved congregations reflect the polarities of our nation. We who are ordained in the United Church of Christ must take great care to balance our prophetic voices with pastoral sensitivity, holding the wellness and wholeness of the Church at heart. We are not authorized, or in any way encouraged, to exacerbate divisions. Rather, we are called to lead with love.

That said, when fundamental values are at stake, silence is not an option. Recall when Jesus entered Jerusalem and the multitudes shouted, *“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.”* Some of the Pharisees turned to Jesus and said, *“Order your disciples to stop!”* He answered, *“I tell you if these were silent, even the stones would shout out.”* The late Fred Craddock, distinguished professor of New Testament, offers a wonderful commentary on this sentence: *“In other words, some things simply must be said; the disciples are pressing what is ultimately and finally true; God will provide a witness though every mouth be stopped; opposition to Christian witness cannot succeed, and the truth will come out, it cannot long be silenced.”* (Interpretation Commentary on Luke, pages 227-228).

What then, shall we say? We are surely called by God, and expected by the IRS, to rise above partisan rants and speak, instead, about the values of the Gospel. These values are more than a reflection of our unique identity in the United Church of Christ. They are the very embodiment of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Jesus valued a wide welcome and a gracious hospitality toward the sojourner- *“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I*

was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me" (Matthew 25:34-36). Against the backdrop of a travel ban for seven predominantly Muslim countries (temporarily stayed by the 9th Circuit Federal Judge), as well as a halt to refugees preparing to enter the US, over 50 congregations across our Conference have committed to talk about the issue of immigration. These resources ([Link](#)) encourage rich conversation about our own family lineage and the opportunities our ancestors found.

Jesus valued justice and compassion toward the marginalized - *"The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me . . . to bring good news to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announced that the time has come when the Lord will save his people"* (Luke 4:18-19). These days we hold in prayer and advocacy all that are disenfranchised and marginalized: those suffering racial disparities, the LGBTQ community, refugees and migrant workers, victims of abuse and addiction, the unemployed and imprisoned, the sick and impoverished. Jesus spent a disproportionate amount of his time blessing those whom society relegated least, last, and left out. As of today, 58 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference UCC are now Open and Affirming, and far more are committed to the practice of inclusion by offering a warm and wide welcome to all!

Jesus valued faith over fear and would not be manipulated by scare tactics - *"Peace I leave you, and my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid"* (John 14:27). Homeland security continues to be a preoccupying concern for our country, as it should. Vigilance is necessary. Fear, however, can be used to psychologically paralyze people. It can cause societal hysteria and be used to justify all sorts of human rights violations, such as waterboarding, racial profiling and religious discrimination. I rejoice in the fact that scores of our congregations have been involved in interfaith conversations with Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh sisters and brothers. In my yard is a sign from World Relief that says: We are not afraid
- wewelcomerefugees.com.

Jesus valued a life of humility for those in positions of power and leadership- *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who . . . taking on the form of a servant, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross"* (Philippians 2:5-8). Never do we find Jesus seeking to be the center of attention. Never do we hear him boast or desire credit for the grace of God that flowed through him. Instead he said, *"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God."* (Luke 18:19). Arrogance is the camouflage of insecurity. Humility is the virtue of maturity. If we are to bridge any of these divides - the political divide, the economic divide, the racial divide - it will take humility. It will take more listening than shouting and as much self-examination as finger-pointing.

May God grant us courage and compassion, wisdom and love, as we wade through these uncharted and choppy waters together.

In Christ, may you sleep well!

Franz

Income and expenses - January 2017

Income: \$15,794.17

Expenses: \$16,208.06

In Our Prayers

Jill Freiermuth
Art VanderKoy
Marilyn and Carroll Olm
Lars and Barbara Larson
Jeff Radaj
Al Kromholtz
Fred Bertolaet
Dick Triebold
Tera Leffingwell
Lein Family
Linda Norton has leukemia.
Dan Gerner
Marie Roe
Blanche Rigert
Family and friends of Dr. Ruth Miner-Kessel who died on 1/29.
Family and friends of Nancy Pope who died
Military and their families
Norwin (Dike) Watson and his family dealing with cancer.
Steven
Wally Robeson
Family and friends of Dave Van Doren who died on 2/13/17
Prayers for peace not victory
Prayers for folks in California
Family and friends of:
-J.P Cullen
-Danny Hapka
-Dr. Robert Koenitzer
-Ella Wilson
.....who all died last week.
Nancy Cooper
Art Vanderkoy
Lee Stoneking
Vivian McQuiod
JOYS:
Rev. Blairs Installation
Ellie Wilson – “thanks’ for prayers
Ministries of the wider UCC
Max Rigert appreciated the support
Corey Davis mom’s surgery went well

REMINDERS

March Ushers

March 5th = Diaconate
March 12th = Rick Blucher, Marcia Yochum
Lu Gunther and Mel Lentz
March 19th = Kay Robers, Janet Morrow and
Bill & Heather Kehoe
March 26th = Allen Grady, Dick Triebold,
Jim Caldwell and Corey Davis

March Fellowship Hour Schedule

March 5th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 12th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 19th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 26th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

March Nursery

Cindy Robers

**Greeter Deadline:
March 15, 2017**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March

3- Russell & Mary Westrick
4- Sarah Thostenson
6- Donna Stevenson
7- Mike Kaspar III
Shaunna Keyo
8- Chuck Taggart
11- Kelly Davis
12- Martha Johnson
Geoff & Jacki Hale
13- Wally McDonell
14- Abigail Coleman
16- Rudy O'Connor
19- Roger Helming
23- Charles Brizius
Betty Ann Resop
24- Laura Kaspar
25- Lyle Hunter
28- Kay Robers
Rick & Margie Hammerl
29- Roni Telfer
Gerry Jennings
Jacki Hale

AROUND THE CHURCH.....

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

Please feel free to “Remember the Food Pantry”.

We want to say a special ‘thanks’ to “Wilfred Roe” for taking the items every month to the food pantry.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study at Church. Come and join us at 2pm, Tuesday afternoons. Please plan on joining us for any of these Tuesdays at Two.

CLOTHES CLOSET

IF you need a tax receipt - please contact Kay Robers. Thank you in advance!

PLEASE HELP US:

IF YOU ARE GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN THE HOSPITAL – PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. THE HOSPITALS DON’T LIKE GIVING OUT TOO MUCH INFORMATION (HIPA) ESPECIALLY IF THE “BOX” ISN’T MARKED FOR “RELIGION”. QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

PLEASE JOIN US:

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST
6PM = LENTEN SOUP SUPPER
7PM = WORSHIP SERVICE

***See the Lenten Calendar in the Greeter**

CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP

Please Join Us!!! The Christian Book Club is reading *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by: Matthew Desmond. This is an award winning book published in 2016. It is based on the author’s living in Milwaukee for several years where adequate and affordable housing is an ongoing problem. “Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible”.

The Christian Book Club will be discussing this book on Tuesday, March 28th (chapters 1-12) and Tuesday, April 25th (chapters 13 – “About this project”) at 6:30pm. A Teachers’ Guide, prepared by the book’s publisher, is available in the Church office. It includes a summary of each chapter, as well as a “Who’s Who” of the individuals in the book. Kathy Ross is leading the discussion. If you have questions, please contact Kathy.

MID-WEEK MEALS

The next MWM will be in Ash Wednesday, March 1st at 6pm. This will be a Lenten Soup Supper. Ash Wednesday service will follow at 7pm. Please consider hosting a MWM.

CONGREGATOR’S CIRCLE

Congregator’s Circle will meet in the Oasis room of Fairhaven. All are welcome.

FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

2/26= Youth Bake Sale
3/1= Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm
Lenten Soup Supper – 6pm
3/4 & 3/5= 30 Hour Famine
(host church)
3/12= Sunday School-10am
Fairhaven (kids)
3/19= Sunday School – 10am
C.E Mting – 11:30am
3/26= Sunday School – 10am

GOOD FRIDAY SCHEDULE:

APRIL 14TH –

1pm = First United Methodist Church
(WARM)
Preaching – Pastor Mike Obinger
Worship Leaders – Pastor Sue, Pastor Don
Pastor Erica
*FUMC Choir
1:45pm = Congregational UCC
Preaching – Pastor Don Norman
Worship Leader – Rev. Blair Hull
2:30pm – First English Lutheran Church
Preaching – Rev. Blair Hull
Worship Leader – Pastor Steve Hanson

Just a something to think about:

Just a reminder that if you are 70 ½ and have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account, you can donate a portion or all of this to the church to meet your pledge. There are significant tax savings if you have capital gains accumulated in your account. This distribution must be directed to the church rather than to you so you have to talk to your plan administrator to set this up. You still receive the credit for the donation just as if you had given the money out of your bank account. We're not offering tax advice but just letting you know there is more than one way to make a donation to the church.

Thank you David Yochum for sharing this with us!!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the wonderful people who brought bars, cookies and food to Don Hale's service. So very kind..... Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen, serving – etc....cleaning for Don Hale's luncheon. What a blessing you are!

Don Hale Family

Whitewater Congregational UCC Unapproved Cabinet Minutes 2-16-17

The February meeting of the Cabinet was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Moderator Carrie Oster. Members present were Rick Blucher, Margie Hammerl, Rick Hammerl, Gary Kincaid, Kathy Kincaid, Charlotte Kuenning, Karen O'Connor, and Zach Oster. Pastor Blair was also present.

Pastor Blair began the meeting with a prayer.

Clerk: Zach Oster for Sharon Knight- Membership remains at 201. Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting were amended on a motion from Karen O'Connor and a second from Rick Hammerl to remove the paragraph of the January Music Board report about discussion of future room usage in the west hallway. With this amendment, the minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Zach Oster and a second from Rick Blucher.

Treasurer's Reports: Kathy Kincaid- The Treasurer's report for 1/1/2017 – 2/7/2017, Balance sheet as of February 7, 2017 and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual were distributed and reviewed. These reports were approved on a motion by Zach Oster and a second by Rick Hammerl. Kathy explained that \$500 was moved in January from the Special Music checking account to the Music Fund investment account so it would earn interest. Two undesignated memorial gifts were moved to the investment account (Memorial Fund), after they had been held in a checking account for one year in case the donor decided to designate them for a specific purpose. The church ended 2016 with a budget deficit of over \$8000.

New and On-Going (around the table) All Committee Chairpersons are asked to submit their reports electronically by the Monday before each Cabinet meeting. New business items should be sent to Carrie Oster by the Wednesday before each Cabinet meeting.

Music: Karen O'Connor- No meeting since the last Cabinet meeting. Jill Freiermuth has agreed to join the Music Board (term expires 2020).

Missions and Generosity: Margie Hammerl- No report. They have had to reschedule their meeting because of bad weather, for the second month in a row.

Christian Education: Zach Oster - The CE Board has not met since the last Cabinet meeting. Next CE meeting is February 19.

Our church is hosting a 30 Hour Famine for hunger awareness on March 3-4. Maggie and Ashleigh are coordinating this event with other youth directors and pastors in Whitewater. The Methodist and Catholic youth groups will participate, and others have been invited.

The nursery will soon see more updates. Plans are to replace the foam floor tiles with carpet squares, replace the countertop, paint the room (including a new mural), and add new play items including a new kitchen set. Most or all of this is happening through donations. Thanks to Cindy Robers for taking the lead on this. Thanks also to Rick Hammerl, Riley Hull, and Cindy Robers and her sister-in-law for donating goods, time, and talents to this project.

We plan to start recruiting volunteers this month to help with Sunday School, youth group, and perhaps the nursery. Expect to hear more about this soon.

Trustees: Rick Hammerl – Trustees had an informal meeting with a walkthrough of the future Sunday School/youth room (next to the choir room), which is now used for storage. This room needs work: removing old unused boiler pipes, repairing drywall, and replacing ceiling tiles. Trustees will have the room inspected for possible asbestos removal needs and will get estimates for the rest of the work. Ceiling tiles also need to be replaced in the nursery.

Trustees are also looking at the roles of their board, planning and prioritizing upcoming projects in the church building, and more. A Trustees meeting is tentatively set for Feb. 26.

The elevator has been repaired and is working now.

Diaconate: Charlotte Kuenning- The Diaconate met Tuesday, February 7. Jim Holtz and Charlotte Kuenning will serve as co-chairs. The most recent church constitution as related to Diaconate duties was reviewed and discussed. Updates were noted as to what Diaconate is currently responsible for. Will be presented at February Cabinet meeting.

The sound system in the sanctuary has been adjusted to reduce feedback. The consultant who did this, Metro Sound and Video, advised us that the sound system will need to be replaced in the next 2-3 years because of legal issues and irreplaceable parts. Metro Sound and Video will give us cost estimates for replacement systems. Diaconate is also looking at options for projection screens that can be used to show movies at church events.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Blair- We will be taking in 9 new members on Palm Sunday (April 9). New member classes have been very rewarding, not only for those attending but for Pastor Blair as well. Our usual Palm Sunday meal will also celebrate our new members. Instead of tickets, we will ask for freewill donations. Joyce Follis has agreed to coordinate the meal.

In general, things are going well, but we need to do a better job of communicating among different groups within the church and involving the whole congregation in major decisions. Updating the church constitution will help; so will the new quarterly all-church meetings.

Old Business:

All groups that supervise staff should review and update their job descriptions and pay policies (i.e., what activities each position is paid for). They should be written down and stored in a central place. Music Board has been doing this in the past couple of years. Renea and the Personnel Committee may have old job descriptions for some positions.

Kathy Kincaid noted that expiration dates for some board members' terms in the Annual Report are inconsistent and should be corrected. All boards are asked to confirm each board member's expiration date at their next meeting.

Campital Campaign – The Conference is aware that we want to reduce our commitment. This should not be a problem, since the campaign was more successful than they expected.

New Business:

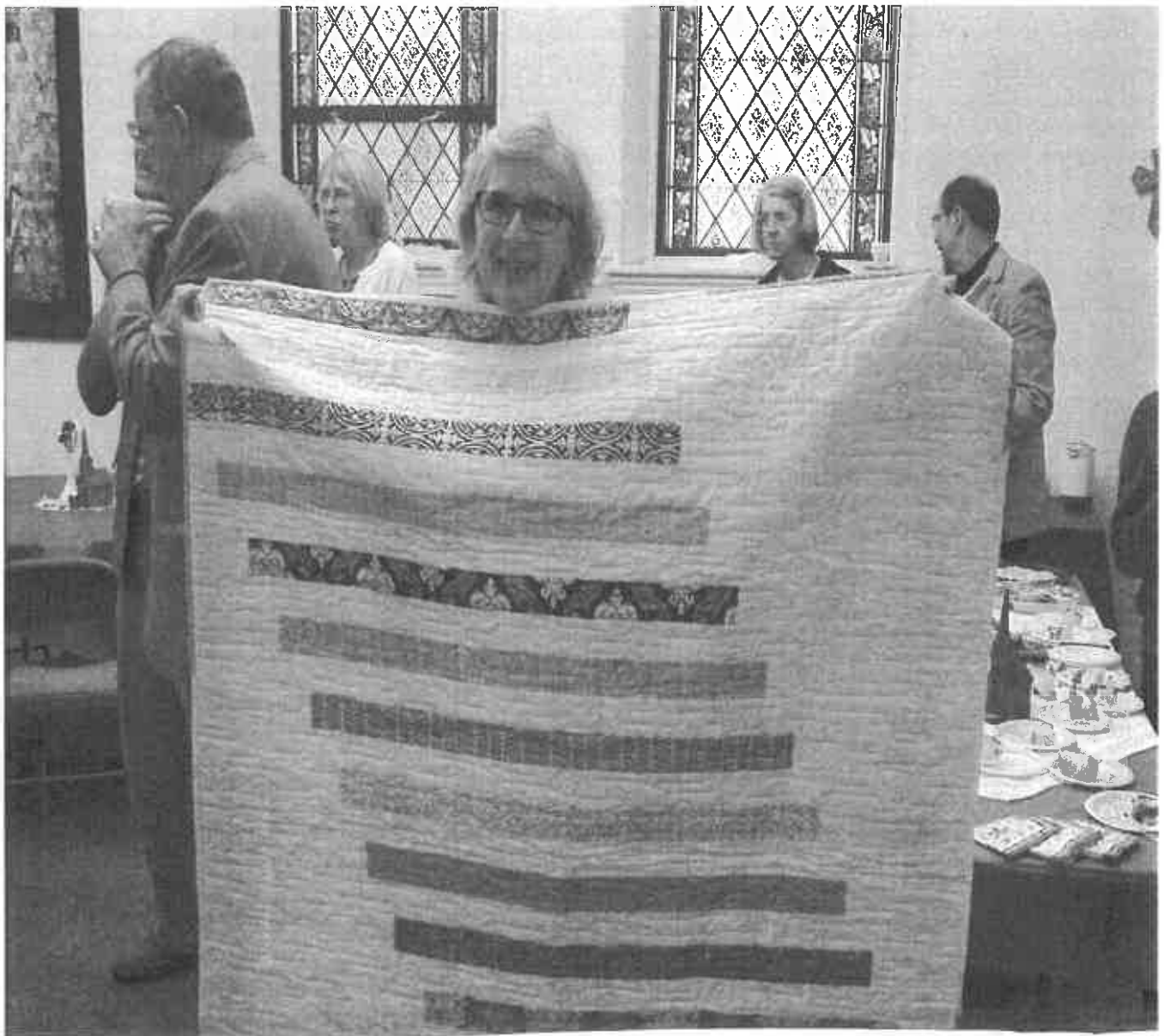
Constitutional Revision Committee – Volunteers for this committee include Carrie Oster, Pat O'Connor, Kim McDonell, and Gerry Jennings, but more members may be added. They will start meeting soon to review feedback from boards and other information.

Conference Annual Meeting, June 8-11, Green Lake – We need to select the delegates from our church. There will be a workshop at the Annual Meeting where churches can explain what they do for outreach activities.

Quarterly Whole-Church Meetings – The first one will be April 30 after worship. Everyone is invited. There will be a potluck. Each board will host a table. People will be encouraged to move around to learn about each board's work, ask questions, and share ideas.

The meeting was adjourned just before 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Zach Oster, on behalf of Sharon Knight, Clerk



Dear lovely people,

I want to thank you for attending my installation on January 29, at 3 PM. Thank you for participating in the event itself, for coming to church again on a Sunday when you were already present in the morning, and for giving me the lovely cards and gifts. The monetary gift I will use toward purchasing sermon study materials called Feasting the Word.

Especially, I want to thank Carrie Oster for the beautiful lap quilt. I love it and I have used it many times already.

Lastly, a big thank you to the members of the search committee. Thanks, not only for providing the worship leadership for the installation service itself, but for taking so much time out of your busy lives to do the work of searching for a new minister. I know it took lots of hours. And I thank you so much.

Blessings,

Rev. Blair Hull=



It's more than a pain in the gut.



#SEEHunger

On Friday, March 3rd starting at 4:00pm through the evening of Saturday, March 4th, ending at about 7:00pm, 8th grade and high school youth will unite together to bring awareness to our global and local famine crisis, by participating in a 30-hour famine.



Youth throughout Whitewater will begin fasting on Friday, March 3rd at noon through 6:00pm Saturday, with a meal to follow. For 30 hours youth will be participating in a lock-in, sleeping in cardboard boxes and participating in community service events to help unite our community in battling against hunger.

Students will be in cardboard box houses on Saturday, March 4th from 9:00am to 11:00pm in front of the Living Word Fellowship Church located at 212 W. Main Street, downtown Whitewater. They will be taking monetary donations and non-perishable food donations for the Whitewater Pantry. 100% of all funds raised and donated will be given to the local Food Pantry and to Bethel House in Whitewater.

What is it like to not have anything to eat or to live in a cardboard box?

This experience will give our local youth a taste of what so many deal with every single day. All donations appreciated!

This year, the 30-hour Famine starts and ends at the Congregational United Church of Christ, 133 S. Franklin St., Whitewater, WI 53190. **Questions?** (262) 473-4101

All 8th grade and high school students are welcome to join us! An ecumenical opportunity for all youth in our community. Three youth groups are involved already, with room for more. YG leaders can contact the Congregational United Church of Christ, or visit our website for more information: www.whitewaterucc.org/2017famine << Find our wish list here, too.



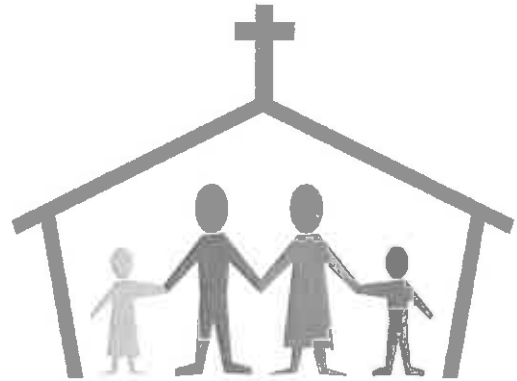
The 2016 30-Hour Famine was hosted by the First United Methodist Church
2016 Youth Groups Included: Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Patrick Catholic Church, and WARM (Whitewater Area Regional Ministry) United Methodist Ministry. Food donations were given to the Local Food Pantry and monetary donations went to the 2016 Do Something MobilePack that took place at the High School on April 2, 2016. Besides lots and lots of fun.... here are some of the service projects we did in 2016:



Volunteers needed for Christian Education!

We are seeing more young people in our church, which is great! Maggie, Ashleigh, and Cindy need your help to make this an even better place for young people to support each other and strengthen their faith.

You don't have to do it every Sunday all year (unless you want to!). One Sunday each month, or every week for one month, or just once in a while: we are grateful for whatever help you can give.



Sunday School

Help Maggie present the day's lesson. Help the kids have fun. Show videos, lead activities, and be an extra set of eyes and ears.

Nursery

Care for infants and young children during worship. Keep them safe, watch them as they play, lead activities if you want, and return them to their parents or guardians after the service.

Youth

Help Ashleigh with youth group and other activities. Share stories, music, food, and faith with our youth.

Want to help? Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

For our children's safety, volunteers must pass a background check and attend Safe Sanctuary training. If you sign up, we will contact you with details.



**EASTER FLOWERS GOING ON
SALE SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND**

COST: \$12.00

**KINDS: MUM'S
KALANCHOES
TULIP'S
DAFFODIL'S
BEGONA'S
CALLA LILLIES**

**-YOU CAN PURCHASE A PLANT FROM KIM
MCDONELL ON APRIL 2ND AFTER WORSHIP OR
FROM THE OFFICE AFTER**

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lunch starts at 11:45pm with a
15 minute Devotion starting at 12:15pm

3/1 = ASH WEDNESDAY "Lenten Soup Supper" – 6pm (Fellowship hall)

3/1 = ASH WEDNESDAY "Worship Service" – 7pm

3/8 = First United Methodist Church (WARM)

Devotional Leader: Pastor Erika Martinez

3/15 = St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Devotional Leader: Pastor Steve Hanson

3/22 = Congregational UCC

Devotional Leader: Pastor Kathryn Craven

3/29 = First United Methodist Church (WARM)

Devotional Leader: Father Mark Niehaus

4/5 = First English Lutheran Church

Devotional Leader: Pastor Sue Bresser

4/9 = PALM SUNDAY "Worship Service" – 10am

4/9 = PALM SUNDAY "Brunch" – following worship

4/14 = GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES –

1pm – First United Methodist Church

1:45pm – Congregational UCC

2:30pm – First English Lutheran Church

4/16 = EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – 10AM



MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Trustees-9am ASH WEDNESDAY *Lenten Soup Supper-6pm *Worship-7pm	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 *30 Hour Famine hosted here	4 Clothes Closet *30 Hour Famine hosted here
5 Worship-10am Fellowship-11:15am	6 Bethel House Class	7 Call to Care-1pm Bible Study-2pm	8 *Lenten Lunch-1st United Methodist Choir-6pm	9 Bethel Mting-7pm	10	11
12 *DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Worship-10am Sunday School-10am Fellowship-11:15am Fairhaven (kids)	13 Bethel House Class	14 Clothes Closet Bible Study-2pm	15 Congregator's - 9:30am *Lenten Lunch - St. Pat's	16 Cabinet-6:30pm	17	18 Clothes Closet
19 Worship-10am Sunday School-10am Fellowship-11:15am C.E. Mting-11:30am	20 Star Gleaners-1:30pm Bethel House Class Mission and Generosity Mting-7pm	21 Bible Study-2pm	22 *Lenten Lunch- WE HOST	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
26 Worship-10am *OGHS Offering Sunday School -10am Fellowship-11:15am	27 Bethel House Class	28 Clothes Closet Bible Study-2pm Book Club- 6:30pm	29 *Lenten Lunch-1st United Methodist *Ministerial Mting	30	31	
				looking ahead: 4/1=Closet Closet 4/2=Worship- 10am *sell Easter flowers Office Hours: Hours: M-T & TH=9am-2pm W=9am-11:30am		