



Community United Church of Christ

Newsletter June 2017



Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am; 510 E. Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451
To contact Interim Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, call: 715-351-0450 (cellphone); 715-748-3391 (church office)

Office hours are included on the calendar, according to the week's schedule.

email: believe417@gmail.com or cuccofmedford@gmail.com

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Visit our web page: www.uccmedford.org

Dear Friends,

There is *something stirring* here at Community United Church of Christ. Each time we gather together, whether it be in coffee hours or Bible study or Sunday morning worship...we have been changed because of having been here, in the midst of friends who we may not have met anywhere else!

At our "new member" get together on Thursday, May 18, we talked about our histories...how we came to be here at Community UCC and how long we have been here. We shared why we love our church. We wanted our newest member to know that he is warmly welcomed here. We all agreed that there is something about coming through these doors, and being welcome here that feels good. We laugh with one another here and share our hopes and dreams here. We come up with ideas, share tears and fears and coffee here. Whatever heritage we bring with us, whatever our skin color, age, political preference, gender, lifestyle; whatever education we bring with us; whatever our life experience or our family lifestyle; whatever our history with another church or whatever our individual histories...we are together in this community that we call "church." However bold or famous or misfit we may be, we have been called to be together. Jesus has called us together, to help one another and love one another as he has loved us!

Want to know what's stirring here? It is the Holy Spirit moving among us. It's what God is up to here!

As you read this, we are preparing for the next season of the Church Year: Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday is June 4th. In Acts 2:1-21 we read: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

It was that day that the "church" was born! In Rev. Kate Huey's words: "Then there was the amazing linguistic experience of speaking in other languages, yet being understood by people of many different languages and lands, the names of which represented the known world at that time and have caused no small anxiety to worship leaders in every time. No matter: in that moment, all the people were one in their hearing, if not their understanding of the deeper meaning of what they heard. Despite their differences, they could all hear what the disciples were saying, each in their own language.

Fire, wind, and humble Galileans speaking persuasively in many tongues were dramatic signs that God was doing a new thing that would transform the lives of all those present, and far beyond, in time and place."

I am inspired by these words and excited for our celebration of Pentecost. We will meet as a Congregation following worship that day to make decisions for the future of our ministry together. Please, come and be part of the decision-making, as we add another page to our history here at Community United Church of Christ.

Beginning, June 7th, we will begin to gather on Wednesday nights at 6pm, and explore "Home Improvement" in the light of the Bible. Sunday Worship will continue at 9am.

Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message) "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out
—plans to take care of you, not to abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."

God bless us one and all as we open our eyes wider to the new possibilities before us,

Pastor Mary Jo

**CUCC Council Meeting
Medford, WI
May 4, 2017**

Council members arrived at 5:45 pm for Pam O. to take photographs to be used on our new website.

The meeting was called to order by President Randi H. at 6:18 pm. Pastor Mary Jo L. led us in a responsive prayer printed on the back of her monthly report.

Present: Pastor Mary Jo L., Randi H., Sharon P., Linda R., Linda N., Jerry G.-P., Joyce P., Dawn B., Sandy K. **Absent:** Gail P. **Guests:** Mike G.-P. and Scott K.

Secretary's report: The April minutes were reviewed. It was noted that only the initials of the last names of members mentioned should be used, not the complete last names. Also to insert the word "Easter" between 6:14 am and sunrise service. Motion by Linda N. to accept. Seconded by Jerry G.-P. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The report was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Jerry G.-P. to accept. Seconded by Linda N. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: There are 5 -6 perspective new church members. Letters will be mailed to them for an upcoming informational meeting if they would choose to join our congregation. Gloria C. and Pat S. have volunteered to go through the boxes of old photographs and organize, frame, &/or hang them. The Pastor's cousin and friend, whose group is known as Winchester, will be playing the music for our August 6 outdoor worship service. Rooms are filling quickly for the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake on June 9 -11. A motion was made by Sharon P. to pay for registration, food, and lodging for Pastor Mary Jo L., Jerry G.-P. and Sherry D., and for mileage for Pastor. Scott K. is hoping to attend for the day on Saturday. If more than 4 apply, the cost will be split between the four. Seconded by Linda N. Motion carried.

Old business: Dawn B. asked if the original purpose of the free will offering basket during fellowship was to go to the Candlelight Guild to purchase coffee and other supplies. Motion made by Linda N. that such money collected should go to the Guild. Seconded by Joyce P. Motion carried. It was also discussed that due to recent church break-ins no money is to be left in the church. It needs to be promptly deposited. President Randi H. noted that we have received a second estimate for new lights in the Fellowship Hall. There was no discussion on it at this time as we then went upstairs for a 45 minute sound system presentation. The representative not only demonstrated the system to the council, but left it for 1 - 2 weeks for the entire congregation to experience. The Search Committee has completed our church profile. Rob Mac Dougall is so pleased with the direction our church is going in under the leadership of Pastor Mary Jo L., that he suggests she could stay longer if approved by our congregation. Instead of a 6 month contract she could be issued a 1 year contract for a period of 3 - 5 years and be deemed a Designated-Term interim minister. The Search Committee Chairperson, Council President, and Pastor will draft a letter for Mike G.-P. to send to all members 2 weeks prior to a meeting after a Sunday worship service for them to vote on this issue. We are contemplating mailing the letters on May 18 or 19, and meeting on June 4. Motion to accept made by Joyce P. Seconded by Jerry G.-P. Motion carried.

New business: It was suggested and agreed upon that the 4th Sunday coin collection be continued through the summer with the money going to the Building Fund for the roofing project. This would be only during June, July and August. When Sunday School resumes the money would go back to the children's designated recipient. Pastor Mary Jo L. would like to try a Wednesday night service during the summer for those who are gone or busy on the weekends. She would like to begin on June 7. Motion made by Dawn B. to try this. Seconded by Sandy K. Motion carried. Joyce P. requested using or renting church tables for home use for 3 weeks. It was stated that the tables were purchased by the Guild for the church and was decided they were to be left in the church. Motion made by Linda N. to allow any member of the church to borrow tables and chairs by signing an agreement to bring them back in the same condition as borrowed or replace them. Seconded by Sandy K. Motion carried.

thank-you note from Pastor Mary Jo L. was read for acts of kindness at the time of her son's passing.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 pm.

Closed session: After the Lord's Prayer was recited by all, the Council members went into a closed session at 8:50 pm.

Adjournment: Motion made by Linda N. to adjourn. Seconded by Linda R. Motion carried at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda R., recording secretary

The June newsletter has been sponsored by Mike and Jerry. Dedicated to Jesus!

The June bulletins have been given by Linda R's Parents' birthdays!



The Council will be sponsoring Fellowship Hours this month.

Council members:

- President- Randi Hirt (2016-2019)
- Vice President- Joyce Peterson (2015-2018)
- Recording Secretary- Linda Reynolds (2015-2018)
- Financial Secretary- Jerry Goen-Penney (2017-2020)
- Treasurer- Linda Neumueller (2016-2019)
- Dawn Brink (2016-2019)
- Sandy Kummer (2016-2019)
- Sharon Pound (2017- 2020)
- Gail Paulson (2017-2020)

If any questions should ever arise, please feel free to contact any of our Council members.



CUCC Projects, April 2015-2017

Cleaned out the parsonage
Painted rooms
Changed main floor bathroom light fixture
New carpet in downstairs bedrooms and living room
Laminate in dining room area
New banners purchased
Outdoor vinyl sign put up to cover wooden sign in flower bed:
 "Jesus didn't reject anyone, neither do we!"
The kitchen was thoroughly cleaned and closets were reorganized.



2016

Ceiling in the men's bathroom was replaced
Secretary's office, painted and new carpet installed,
 desk donated by Dan & Randi Hirt;
New computer and printer purchased for the Secretary's office
Old Sunday school room converted into Pastor's office.
 Wooden desk donated by Pastor Mary Jo
Outside drain pipes were redirected. There is no longer a water leak in the secretary's office!
A bulletin board put up welcoming new members and seasonal designs
 for other bulletin boards (thanks to Dawn Brink)
Adopted "Stepping Stones" and the Backpack Project as a mission
Extravagant Welcome carpet place at the front entrance (old carpeting removed)
New baseboards were installed in the chancel area of the sanctuary.
Organ was repaired: draw knobs, pedals and new speakers installed.
Carpet was shampooed in the Fellowship Hall.
A stainless steel "bar" was put on the outside of the building to protect the gas meter.

2017

Carpet was replaced on the back entrance steps and landing
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations team formed, and a bulletin board with our progress
 and ideas was put up.
A doorbell installed at the back door by Gail and Jon Paulson
A grab bar was added at the top of the steps for use by those on the chair lift
Parsonage roof replacement:
Printer replaced

Future project estimates:

Garage roof: \$2257.30
Roof on Shed: \$1072.12
Church roof: \$22153.02; Steeple: \$14,250.05 (in 3-5 years)
Update the sound system: first estimate: \$5,300.00
Second estimate for sound system : \$14,000.00
Repair cracked stained glass window above front entrance \$2,500.00
Update the outdoor signs to read: "Community United Church of Christ"
Put in cement bollards to better protect the a/c and the gas meter
Install railings on both sides of the chancel steps
Replace the "pipe" railing on the short ramp from Pastor's office to front entrance area.
Remove old heaters from both offices.
Install windows in secretary's and Pastor's office door
Replace light fixtures in fellowship hall (outdated and unsafe) \$2,750.00
Second estimate for light fixtures \$1,186.00

Elevator: the first estimate was \$300,000

May Finances:

General Fund balance: \$25,508.80 as of 05-31-2017

May income: \$15,388.69 as of 05-31-2017

May expenses: \$12,192.25 as of 05-31-2017

Associate Conference Minister

for the Northwest Association

Rev. Rob MacDougall began his call as the Associate Conference Minister in the Northwest Association on September 1, 2015. Rob grew up in Racine, just a few blocks from the city's best Danish bakeries. (The best kringle comes from Bendtsen's on Washington Ave.) He attended St. Olaf College, graduating with a BA in Social Work. He worked doing chemical dependency prevention with youth in Milwaukee and Minneapolis before deciding to attend seminary. Rob graduated from Pacific School of Religion with his M.Div. in 1985. He was ordained that same year at his home church, First Congregational UCC of Minneapolis. His first call was to St. Paul's UCC in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was the Associate Pastor with the Rev. Ted Trost. After three years at St. Paul's, Rob received a call to serve First Congregational UCC, Menomonie, where he served for 27 wonderful years.

Rob completed a D.Min. at United Theological Seminary in 2005. His thesis focused on issues around clergy retirement. Rob married Wendy Randall in 1981; they met at St. Olaf. Wendy is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and is the current director of the Dunn County Health Department. Rob and Wendy have three adult children and one grandchild. Rob recently planted a postage stamp vineyard, and is hoping to produce some drinkable wine a few years from now.

Rev. Rob MacDougall
Associate Conference Minister



Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Half of this offering stays in the Wisconsin Conference, with the other half going to support wider church ministries. In Wisconsin, STC supports pastor and congregational care through programs like Communities of Practice, Lay Academy and the work of the Associate Conference Ministers with congregations.

At the national level, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. As God calls our congregations to "be the church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017. We, at Community UCC, will receive "Strengthen the Church" offerings during the month of June.

Thank you for your generosity!

We are reaching out to help...

-Stepping Stones is a non-profit organization that provides free support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Taylor County.



-The Back Pack program sends food home for families in need on the weekends.



Some of the items needed are: cereal, canned goods, and other non-perishable items.

The items for the backpack program can be put in the toy box.

Thanks so much for your generous donations!

CHURCH BUILDING FUND!

**We have done it before. Let's do it again!
Save dollar bills that have a C, B, or F
on them. We are saving for buildings
and grounds projects!
roofing project!**



Scrip: We get a percentage of the cost of each Scrip card purchased. We have the following cards: County Market, Kwik-Trip, Wal-Mart, Sub-Way, and Fourmen's. If you are interested in any others, such as: Amazon.com, Arby's, Barnes and Noble...and many others, ask Mike!

The Candlelight Guild met on Wednesday, May 10th for their annual end of the year dinner. Twenty-three members enjoyed food catered from Marilyn's Firehouse & Catering. Great food by Marilyn was enjoyed along with delicious desserts made by Gloria, Mike and Faith. Lots of good food and laughter filled fellowship hall. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us! We will not hold meetings the months of June & July. Our next event will be a County Market Brat Fry on August 4th. For the Candlelight Guild, Dawn

Let us pray...

Sharon, Sandy, Cason, Betty, Stella, Shelly, Randy, Trudy, Roger, Kelly, Faith, Madylyn, Pat, Dorie, Richard, Peter, Marge, Graham, Lavern, Lacey Rose, Jayse, Kitty, Cory, Greg, Gail, Ginny, Lil, Lucille; friends and family members; those anticipating medical testing; Those recovering from surgery; those traveling; those serving our country here and abroad; leaders of our communities; those graduating, State, Nation; Medford faith communities, and our world; our brothers and sisters in Christ.



God of All,
you have so fashioned the world
that it possesses the potential to repair its imperfections.

And, O Eternal One,
You have fashioned humankind by endowing us,
as your partners
with the creative ability to help the repairing.

You gave us the insight to transform the simple herb
into a healing balm for the body.

May we, as your servants
Realize our responsibility to transform
The herb of human caring
into a healing balm for the aching soul.

Like ourselves, many are in need.

We know the inner yearning for fulfillment, for purpose,
For meaning in our lives.

May we ever come to know
that as we help others to feel fulfilled, so shall we.

And then may we recognize the strength, the will, the dedication,
and the commitment to do that for which we were created:
to serve you by realizing your reign in our midst. Amen



Coloring for Kids



June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Worship at 9AM Also Communion Special Meeting after Service	5	6 Pastor MJ 10-2 2:30 Five Practices AlAnon/AA 7PM	7 Pastor MJ 1-4 Worship at 6PM Council Meeting 6:30 PM	1 Pastor MJ 10-2 AA 7PM	2 NarAnon 7PM	3 10 Wisc. Conf.
11 Wisc. Conf.	12	13 Pastor MJ 1-4	14 Pastor 1-4	15 Pastor 11-3	16	17
AA/7 pm		AlAnon/AA 7PM	Worship at 6PM	AA 7PM	NarAnon 7PM	
18 Worship at 9AM	19	20 Pastor MJ 10-2	21 Pastor 1-4	22 Pastor MJ 11-3	23	24
AA/7 pm		AlAnon/AA 7PM	Worship at 6PM	AA 7PM	NarAnon 7PM	
25 Worship at 9AM	26	27 Pastor 10-2	28 Pastor 1-4	29 Pastor 11-3	30	
CBF for roof		AlAnon/AA 7PM	Worship at 6PM	AA 7PM	NarAnon 7PM	

Community United Church of Christ
510 E. Broadway Avenue
Medford, Wisconsin 54451-1524

Community
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST,

**Wherever you are
on your life's
journey,
you are welcome here!**

**9 am Sunday
Worship**
*** Holy Communion:
the first Sunday
of the month**