



February 2018 Newsletter

Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at Community United Church of Christ 9 am;

510 E. Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451

To contact Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, call: 715-351-0450 (cellphone); 715-748-3391 (church office)

Church website: www.uccmedford.org Email: cuccofmedford@gmail.com

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

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Dear friends,

Welcome to the month of February, beginning with the shadows of winter and ground hog and transitioning into a hopefully sunny spring!

Beginning February 14th, Ash Wednesday, the Church sets aside 6 weeks for solemn study and reflection. To the rest of the world, it remains six weeks between Valentine’s and April Fool’s Day, which, by the way is, this year, Easter.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, wrote this: (1Corinthians 1:18, 27)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...

During the first two and a half weeks of Lent, we will hear the blessed story of Jesus being tempted in the desert (Sunday, Feb 18) and will listen to his words: “take up your cross and follow me...” (Sunday, Feb 25).

Our Wednesday evenings in Lent, will offer a time of soup and fellowship at 5pm. (We will share some delicious homemade soups; a free will offering will benefit the school “Back Pack Program.”)

Worship on Wednesday nights will begin at 6. The topic of the evening services will be “The Seven Last Words of Christ:” in scripture and message and song.

Rather than giving up something for Lent, consider adding a night-time worship service to your schedule.

Consider doing something nice for someone or giving an hour in community service; donate *more than you can afford* to one mission effort; be the change that you would like to make in your closest friend.

Imagine the possibilities possible, even if you do not consider yourself a lover or a fool.

Let these 40 days between Valentine’s Day and April Fools’ Day be different this year!

Psalm 46: verse 10a:

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am
Be still and know that I
Be still and know that
Be still and know
Be still and
Be still
Be

God bless us, one and all,

Pastor Mary Jo

Candlelight Guild meeting minutes

The Candlelight Guild met on January 9th. Thank you to everyone who took down the Christmas decorations and packed them away before the meeting.

Valentines will be prepared to send out to Octogenarian friends and members of CUCC.

We also will be planning for the March Soup Supper.

The next meeting of the CG will be held on Tuesday, **February 13th at 5:30**. We invite everyone to join us and share your new and old ideas. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING.**

For the CG,

Dawn

Bible Study:

Wednesdays at 4 pm, Revelations

Beginning: January 30 , February 6, February 13, February 20 and February 27

Bring your Bible...



ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR

TREAT YOUR NEIGHBOR WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

RENEW A FRIENDSHIP



CUCC Projects:

January/February

Projects in
progress:

Furnace room
(walls leaking)

COMPLETED



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!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Lent starts February 14th with soup at
5 pm and service at 6 pm

JANUARY FINANCES

As of 1-30-2018 Income \$4838.87
As of 1-30-2018 Expenses \$5478.90
Church building fund (CBF) \$1985.78

CUCC Council Minutes

Medford, WI . January 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Randi H. at 5:00 pm. Pastor Mary Jo L. offered a prayer of guidance.

Present: Randi H., Mike G.-P., Linda N., Dawn B., Gail P., Pastor Mary Jo L., Linda R., Sandy K.

Absent: Joyce P. & Pam O.

Secretary's report: The minutes from the December meeting were emailed for review prior to night's meeting. Dawn B. made a motion to accept the minutes. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: We received and discussed copies of the checking register for December. Linda N. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Sandy K. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: Pastor Mary Jo L. reviewed her month's activities in her written monthly report. President Randi H. will conduct annual, individual staff reviews with Mike G.-P. and Pastor Mary Jo L. Sunday, February 4, we will enjoy special music during our service. We will once again be having soup suppers at 5:00 pm before each of the 6:00 pm Lenten services. There will be a basket at the supper for optional offerings to go to the "backpacks for kids" program.

Group and committee reports: Dan H. gave a short report from buildings and grounds. He stated that the cost of materials for putting new metal shingles on the garage, shed, and church have risen. We need to look at trying to complete this project by this fall.

Old business: In February, Pam O. will train as back-up secretary. We received and discussed copies of the proposed budget for 2018. We added an emergency hotel allowance for the pastor under the category of pastor reimbursements. Linda N. made a motion to accept the proposed budget with the one addition. Gail P. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Terms for council members were reviewed. Both Randi H. and Joyce P. have consented to serve another 3-year term. Ballots will be provided at the annual meeting for one 3-year term member to replace Linda R. and one 2-year term member to complete the vacancy left by past member Sharon P.

New business: None.

February meeting date: Tuesday, February 6, at 5:00 pm, with a soup supper to acknowledge old and new council members.

Closed session: After reciting the Lord's Prayer with all in attendance, the council members went into a closed session at 6:36 pm.

Adjournment: 6:47 pm.

Respectively submitted by Linda R., recording secretary

Lenten Worship Opportunities during February;

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, 5pm Soup: Cheesy Vegetable

6pm: The Seven Last Words of Christ Series,
"Father forgive Them"

Sunday, Feb. 18, 9am: Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, Feb 21, 5pm Soup: Cheeseburger

6pm: "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

Sunday, Feb 25, 9am: Mark 8:31-38

Wednesday, Feb 28, 5pm Soup: Reuben Soup

6pm: "Here is your son. Here is your mother"



Why use Scrip, you may ask?



- *Scrip cost you no extra money
 - *Scrip makes it easy to live on a budget.
 - *Scrip makes a great gift
 - *Scrip profits go to our Church.
 - *We get a percentage of the cost of each Scrip card.
- purchased. Stop in the Church office. The Scrip "volunteer" will be happy to special order other Scrip on Sunday for you., too!

OUR CUCC MISSION:

The mission of this church is that we are united in spirit and inspired by God's grace.
We welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

You can receive this newsletter by email. If you would like to try the digital option, send an email to: cuccofmedford@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email newsletter list.



February Newsletters and bulletins were given by Jim and Joyce Petersen dedicated to the ones who have passed

Fellowship is Generous friends

HOLY COMMUNION OUTREACH

If you are unable to partake in Holy Communion during our regular worship service and would like to receive it in your home, hospital, etc., please contact either the Pastor directly: 715-351-0450 or call the church office at 715-748-3391

One Great hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ Involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your generous contribution.

Wednesdays of Lent soup at 5:00 and Worship at 6:00

Burning the Palms from Palm Sunday, 2017:

Following Worship on Feb 11th,

we will make the ashes for Ash Wednesday, Feb 14



What is the significance of the ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the day many Christians mark as the first day of Lent, the time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. ... As they “impose” or “dispense” the **ashes**, the pastor or reminds each Christian of Genesis 3:19: “For dust you are and to dust you shall return.”

Why do you get ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing **ashes** made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants to the accompaniment of the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

Why is it important to celebrate Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday : What is it and why is it an important day for Christians? Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent – which is the period of self-restraint and abstinence for Christians prior to Easter. It marks the first day of fasting, repentance, prayer and self-control.

Let us pray...

Milton, Judy, Cason, Betty, Shelly, Randy, Trudy, Roger, Kelly, Dorie, Richard, Marge, Lavern, Lacey Rose, Jayse, Kitty, Cory, Greg, Gail, Shirley, Ginny, Lil, Lucille;

friends and family members; those anticipating medical testing;

those recovering from surgery; those traveling; those serving



O Lord Jesus Christ,

Help us always to remember that is you whom we behold in the weakened bodies and haunting faces of the hungry of the world.

Grant that we may not turn away
But rather that we receive your blessing
as a minister to the least of your brothers and Sisters. Amen.



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

President- Randi Hirt (2021)

Vice President- Joyce Peterson (2021)

Recording Secretary-Linda Reynolds (2018)

Financial Sec.- Jerry Goen-Penney (2020)

Treasurer- Linda Neumueller (2019)

Dawn Brink (2019)

Sandy Kummer (2019)

Gail Paulson (2020)

Pam Ouimette (2020)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join the Patient Family Advisory Team at Aspirus Medford Hospital & Clinics. Help to improve patient experience. For more information call Volunteer Services at 715-748-8789 or download an application at: www.aspirus.org/MedfordVolunteers.

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.



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm	2	3
4 Scout Sunday and Communion	5 Mike 9-1	6 Mike 9-1 Bible Study 4pm Council 5pm	7 Mike 9-1 EDA 7pm Comfirm. 4-530	8 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm	9	10
11 Worship at 9	12 Mike 9-1	13 Mike 9-1 Bible 4pm Candlelight Guild 530pm AA/Alon	14 Mike 9-1 Ash Wednesday Lent (Soup at 5pm) service at 6pm	15 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm	16	17
18 Worship at 9	19 Mike 9-1	20 Mike 9-1 Bible Study at 4pm AA/Alon 7pm	21 Mike 9-1 Confirm. 4-5 Lent (Soup at 5pm) service at 6pm	22 Mike 9-1 Page Turners 6pm AA 7pm	23	24
25 Worship at 9 One Great Hour of Sharing	26 Mike 9-1	27 Mike 9-1 Bible Study 4pm AA/Alon 7pm	28 Mike 9-1 Lent (Soup at 5pm) service at 6pm			

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



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

**Worship:
9 am each Sunday**

*** Holy**

**Communion:
the first Sunday
of the month**