



March 2018 Newsletter

Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am;

510 E. Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451

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

Church website: www.uccmedford.org

believe417@gmail.com or cuccofmedford@gmail.com

Dear friends,

Lent continues with these opportunities for our church family and friends to gather for times of fellowship and Worship. Here is what's happening:

Lenten Wednesdays: Soup is served at 5pm and Worship is at 6pm.

(note: There will be no worship or soup on March 28th)

"The Seven Last Words of Christ" series continues:

March 7th: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

March 14th: *"I Thirst"*

March 21st: *"It is finished"*

The Sundays of March: 9am Worship

March 4th, we will welcome Rev. Elizabeth Hazel as our guest and will share the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Her message is entitled, "Forgiveness and Hardness of Heart," inspired by Matthew 18: 21-35,

March 11th, My message, "More Words," will be taken from John 3:14-21.

March 18th: My message, "Be Holy" will turn our attention to the beatitudes.

March 25th, Palm Sunday, our service will include Mark 1:1-11, fresh palms and the Baptisms of Maizy Johnson and Sabrina Johnson.

March 29th, Maundy Thursday, 6pm

Worship will include the reading of the Passion of Jesus, Holy Communion, message and hymns.

March 30th, Good Friday: Worship will be led by the Medford Clergy Association, at noon at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Holway, WI All are welcome !

April 1: Easter: Sunrise Service with Communion at 6:42am

Easter Breakfast at 7:45am

Worship at 9am

On Sunday, February 25th, we considered carrying the cross of Jesus and carrying one another's burdens. Lighten someone's load in the coming weeks and help them with a chore or two. Call someone you have not heard from recently. Lift someone's spirits by inviting them to come along with you to worship this month.

Do you have a better way to carry the cross? Then, just do it! Consider yourself "nudged"!

As always, we gather for coffee before and after Worship each Sunday.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your life's journey,
you are welcome here at Community United Church of Christ.

You will be warmly welcomed. I guarantee it!

God bless us, one and all,

Pastor Mary Jo



Easter Lily and Spring Flowers ORDER Form

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily or spring flowers to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter morning, we are ordering Easter Lilies \$12.50, Begonias \$20.00 and Daisy Mums for \$15.00. from Gertsberger Floral, Rib Lake. If you would like to dedicate one of these plants in honor/memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it as soon as possible.

The final order deadline is Sunday, March 18th. I will be calling them in on March 20th.

Please return these to Mike or Jerry Goen-Penney.

Easter Lily _____

Begonia _____

Daisy Mums _____

Number of plants: _____

Paid by cash_____ check # _____(Check payable to CUCC)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AS INFO WILL BE PRINTED AS LISTED.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Please return to: Community United Church of Christ
 510 E Broadway Ave
 Medford, WI 54451
 715-748-3391

If you wish to place a different flower or arrangement in the sanctuary, please feel free to do so and leave a note of dedication on the pulpit or office message board.

**Council meeting minutes
Medford, WI February 6, 2018**

A potluck dinner was held at 5:00 pm to acknowledge the outgoing and incoming members for 2018.

The meeting was called to order by President Randi H. at 5:22 pm. Pastor Mary Jo L. offered a prayer of guidance.

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

Guest: Anna G.

Absent: None

Secretary's report: The minutes from the January meeting were emailed prior to tonight's meeting.

Dawn B. made a motion to accept the minutes. Pam O. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Copies of the January income and expenses were handed out for review. Linda N. made a motion to accept the report. Sandy K. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: Copies of the Pastor's activities for January were distributed and discussed. She attended the NWA Licensed Ministers' retreat in Merrill, WI, on February 3. Her license to serve as Pastor has been renewed for one more year. She will be installing the Council members for 2018, during the February 11 service.

Group and committee reports: Jerry G.-P. noted that there was a second call to fix the furnace in the parsonage. Joyce P. made a motion to move money from the General Fund to the Building and Grounds Fund to pay for this repair. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Joyce P. stated that K&B Refrigeration came and inspected the commercial stove in our kitchen. No gas leaks were found. All pilot lights are now lit and should remain that way. Dawn B. said that no specific date has been selected yet, but the Candlelight Guild will have a soup supper sometime in March.

Old business: The issue of paying for scrip was discussed. Linda N. made a motion that any committee within our church may get scrip cards with an IOU, but no IOU's will be allowed for personal purchases. Dawn B. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New business: The following people consented to perform the following positions: Randi H. – President, Joyce P. – VP, Pam O. – Recording Secretary, Jerry G.-P. – Financial Secretary, and Anna G. – fill open Council seat. Linda N. made a motion to accept the people/positions as stated above. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

March meeting date: It was decided that we should try going back to a regular meeting date for each month. The consensus was to meet on the second Thursday, making the next date March 8, at 5:00 pm.

Other business: Pam O. plans to begin familiarizing herself soon with the duties of Mike G.-P., should someone need to help in case of his absence.

Anna G. informed us that her daughter, Hollyann, may be addressing the Council soon about a special Girl Scout project.

Mike G.-P. will be updating the contact list for Council members.

Pam O. will be looking into organizing our annual golf outing, which somehow got overlooked last year.

Linda N. suggested having the time with children in the Sunday service a little sooner to devote at least 10 more minutes to the Sunday School Class time. Presently they only get about 20 minutes.

Dawn B. shared the idea for an activity to help raise money to pay for part of the roofing project. Members of the congregation could be given the opportunity to pay for metal sheets for the roof in memory of loved ones and these memorials would then be recorded in a memory book.

Pastor Mary Jo L. announced that the World Day of Prayer this year is on March 2, at 7:00 pm, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Medford. Readers are needed.

After reciting the Lord's Prayer with all in attendance, the Council members went into a closed session at 6:38 pm.

Adjournment: Joyce P. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda N. seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda R., outgoing recording secretary

**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 tonight'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 March;

March 7 Taco chili at 5pm Worship at 6pm

March 14 vegetable beef soup at 5pm Worship at 6pm

March 21 chicken dumpling soup at 5 pm Worship at 6pm

No soup, no service on March 28th



Open and Affirming (ONA)

In the coming months, you will be hearing more about Open and Affirming. Below is a brief summary of what Open and Affirming is and answers to some questions you may have.

Open and affirming. Open and Affirming (ONA) is an official designation of congregations and other settings in the Community United Church of Christ (UCC) affirming the full inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBT) in the church's life and ministry.



What is the definition of “Open and Affirming” (ONA)? Is it just one issue? An “Open and Affirming” setting of the CUCC (a local church, campus ministry, etc.) means that it has publicly declared that gay, lesbian, & bisexual (GLB) people (or those of all sexual orientations) are welcome in its full life and ministry (e.g. membership, leadership, employment, etc.). It bespeaks a spirit of hospitality and a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways.

Q. What can I expect in an ONA church?

A. A community of faith where you and your family are safe!

Because each congregation in the Community United Church of Christ is independent, and therefore free to make its own decisions, there is a broad diversity of theology and practice in our tradition. In the UCC, there is no hierarchy that can impose uniformity on our churches. Each ONA congregation has independently adopted an Open and Affirming covenant after a journey of dialogue, study and prayer. There are differences between congregations, but generally, an ONA church:

- 1.** is a safe space for open and honest conversation about human sexuality and gender identity.
- 2.** encourages LGBT members to serve in lay and ordained leadership.
- 3.** celebrates same-sex weddings.
- 4.** celebrates the anniversaries of LGBT married and partnered couples.
- 5.** advocates for marriage equality and LGBT civil rights.
- 6.** is willing to host meetings of support groups like PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).
- 7.** advertises that it is a safe space for LGBT and questioning youth.
- 8.** participates as a group in the local LGBT Pride Parade.
- 9.** celebrates ONA Sunday once a year and annually renews its ONA covenant.

Be careful who you hate.

It could be someone you love.



Matthew 22:36-40

BIBLE STUDY:

Revelation study; book title "No Longer At Ease" by Rev Kent Ulery

Dates are Wed, March 7; Tues, March 13; Wed, March 21 and Tues, March 27 ; 4pm

Bring your Bible...



March Newsletters and bulletins:

Newsletters were given by Mike and Sandy Kummer dedicated to their loved ones.

Bulletins were given by Dorie Eiden.

Fellowship: Christian Ed



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



World Day of Prayer

March 2
Holy Rosary, 7pm

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries.

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:

March 2, 2018 at 7pm

World Day of Prayer at Holy Rosary

March 8, 2018 at 5pm, Council meeting

March 25, Pancake breakfast after worship

March 29 at 6pm,

Maundy Thursday worship

March 30, 2018, Good Friday Worship

at Our Savior's ELCA in Holway at noon

April 1: Easter: Sunrise service at 6:42am

breakfast 7:45am and worship at 9:00am

April 7 Soup supper

April 21 NWA Annual Meeting

at First Congregational UCC, EauClaire

The Candlelight Guild

The Candlelight Guild will be holding a Soup Supper on April 7th. The profits from this event will be for the church roofing project. Watch for food donation and volunteer sign-up as the event gets closer.

We also will be holding a Spring Bucket Raffle. The raffle will be held the month of March with the drawing at the Soup Supper on April 7th. Check out our two largest prizes in the church office!

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 5:30 PM. Join us!

California Wildfires and Mudslides

Multiple wildfires broke out in northern and southern California this fall and spread rapidly due in large part to dry conditions and high winds. Then in southern California mudslides followed heavy rains in Santa Barbara County, where the enormous Thomas Fire had burned vegetation off the hillsides. The mud swept homes off their foundations and caused a 30-square-mile debris flow. (Source: NPR)

The disasters by the numbers:

- more than a dozen major wildfires, killing more than 40 people
 - more than 217,000 acres have burned
 - more than 5,700 structures including thousands of homes have been destroyed by fire
 - tens of thousands of people evacuated
 - at least 20 people killed by mudslides
- UCC Disaster Ministries, the Northern and Southern California-Nevada Conferences and congregations are rallying to support the recovery of fire and mudslide survivors, including such vulnerable folks as Spanish speakers and undocumented immigrants.

FEBRUARY FINANCES:

As of 2-27-2018 Income \$4,895.85
Expenses \$5,360.82
Church building fund (CBF) \$2,039.78



The Salvation Army of Taylor County We helped

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Homeless lodging | 37 Shelter Nights |
| Rent Assistance | 83 individuals |
| Utility Assistance | 74 individuals |
| Transportation Assistance | 202 individuals |
| Healthcare and Other | 90 individuals |
| Total | |
| 486 individuals | |

Please call if they can be of assistance: 715-560-0270



About the 3 Great Loves Initiative

3 Great Loves is a denomination wide story telling initiative. Over the span of two years, we will collect and lift up the stories of our local churches and affiliates. We want to hear about the knitting clubs, the food pantries, the community meals, protest, letter writing campaigns and anything else your church or organization may be doing to create a just world for all. Nothing is too small. The work that is already being done is significant and greatly needed. Our hope is that this initiative, we will tell the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world as covenantal partners united in common purpose, vision, and mission.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



One Great hour of Sharing (through April)

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). A 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.

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.

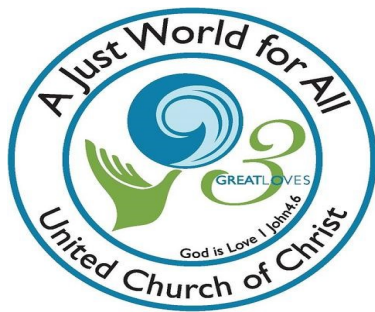


OUR CUCC MISSION:

The mission of this church: 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.



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.

Break The Silence Sunday April 22, 2018

A time for the church to learn together about the realities of rape and sexual violence;

about ways to create a community where survivors can share their stories and receive support, hope, and love;

and to prayerfully consider ways in which they can be advocates for change in their communities, and around the world.

Resources for Worship

<http://www.breakthesilencesunday.org>



Page Turners

Our next book is *The Second Mrs. Hockaday*, by Susan Rivers. We will meet April 3rd at 6pm. (no meeting in March because of Holy Week.)



Let us pray...

Leandro, Greg K, Teri, Judy, Bobbie, Harvey D, Lavern R, Dave K, Betty, Lucille, Rodney, Shirley, Ginny, Phyllis, Marge, Lil, Gavin R, 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; our President, Medford faith communities, and our world.



PRAYER

O God of love,
we are wayfarers in the world,
prone to erratic changes of course,
to losing sight of our goals,
to becoming so discouraged by the journey
that we will hitch a ride on anything that
comes along.
Help us on our way, O God.
If we change our course,
let it be not in self-interest,
but in order to share the love of Christ
with another sojourner.
If we lose sight of our goals,
let our quest bring us as your curious people
to honest searching of our faith.
If we become weary and discouraged
and forget you are with us
let it lead to recognition of our need for you.
As we travel in a world
that sometimes seems a trackless, hostile
wilderness,
we ask that your Spirit sustain, encourage,
And enable us to go on.
In the name of Jesus Christ'
who walked before us.
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- Pam Ouimette (2020)

Financial Sec.- Jerry Goen-Penney (2020)

Treasurer- Linda Neumueller (2019)

Dawn Brink (2019)

Sandy Kummer (2019)

Gail Paulson (2020)

Anna Grube (2021)



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 Backpack program sends food home for families in need on the weekends.



Reality of racism within our society

Galatians 3:26-28 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As so often happens, the word “racism,” ‘gets tempers flaring’ when we don’t even know what happened. Let me try to explain. Racism is more than what is in the heart of an individual person at the moment of a particular act. Racism is the cumulative history of all those thoughts and acts. They add up to a pattern in which people of color are routinely and systematically treated differently than white people.

Unfair racial stereotypes have taken hold in the hearts of people. They cause us to treat people differently—in stores, on the streets, in encounters between police and citizens. They even affect the way we describe violence and destruction of property. Young white men smashing windows, overturning cars, and battling police after a big athletic event are “out of control fans.” But a group of mostly African American youth who do similar things out of sorrow and rage that a young black man has died in police custody are dangerous “thugs.” The difference in the two descriptions is telling. Happy “revelers” whose youthful celebration “got a little out of hand” can be corrected and forgiven. “Dangerous thugs” present a much more ominous threat.

Racism is complicated, and has an individual aspect of prejudice. But even worse is the reality that generations of racist attitudes are now woven into our systems and institutions like poisonous threads, hurting us all. When our election laws begin again to systematically make it harder for African Americans to vote; when police forces protect and defend some people less than others and are not held accountable; when schools and jobs are routinely of lower quality in areas where people of color live; and when white people don’t know or care, then we have a system that perpetuates racism whether the people in it intend to be racist or not.

So I pray for release from racism at times like these. I pray for everybody: for the police—most of whom are courageous, well-meaning persons—who have to face the anger of the crowds, for protesters who have a lot to protest, for decision-makers who have the authority to bring reform. I pray for the grieving, the injured, the fearful. I pray that we all will find the courage to face the truth and do something about it.

To people of all races—really listen. Don’t justify. Don’t defend. Just listen to how our institutions work for or against our friends in their daily lives. And then join me in praying for a release from racism—in our hearts and in the institutions that perpetuate racism with or without us. Join me in advocating for transparency and accountability in those institutions—for all people.

I do believe racism is embedded in us all it is who we are whether we want to admit it is a whole different story. In a perfect world we would all have color blindness. But that simply is not how it is. Jesus will get us there.

Michael Goen-Penney

(Lay Academy assignment)

March 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | 1 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm | 2 World Day of Prayer 7pm Holy Rosary | 3 |
| 4 Communion | 5 Mike 9-1 | 6 Mike 9-1 BS 4pm AA/ Alanon7pm | 7 Mike 9-1 Taco chili at 5pm Worship at 6pm EDA 7pm | 8 Mike 9-1 Medford clergy 3pm Council 5pm AA 7pm | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Mike 9-1 | 13 Mike 9-1 BS 4pm AA/ Alanon7pm Guild 5:30 | 14 Mike 9-1 Vegetable beef soup at 5pm Worship at 6pm | 15 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm | 16 | 17 “Bow the Knee” Musical, St Stephen’s UCC, Merrill 7pm |
| 18 | 19 Mike 9-1 | 20 Mike 9-1 BS 4pm AA/ Alanon7pm | 21 Mike 9-1 Chicken dumpling soup at 5pm Worship at | 22 Mike 9-1 AA 7pm | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Palm Sun- day,Baptism Maizy and Sabrina John- son pancake breakfast after worship | 26 Mike 9-1 | 27 Mike 9-1 BS 4pm AA/ Alanon7pm | 28 Mike 9-1 No worship No soup | 29 Mike 9-1 Maundy Thursday worship at 6pm AA 7pm | 30 Our Saviors in Holway Good Friday service at 12 noon | 31 |

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**