



## May 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](http://www.uccmedford.org)

[believe417@gmail.com](mailto:believe417@gmail.com) or [cuccofmedford@gmail.com](mailto:cuccofmedford@gmail.com)

Dear friends,

The month of May will begin with the Confirmation of Hollyann Grube, Logan Searles and Miles Searles. The three Confirmands have been studying the material in the book "Affirming Faith" written by Thomas E. Dipko, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. We have gathered twice a month since June, 2017 and have completed the 22 chapters of the book, which included study of the UCC Statement of Faith, line by line! Even though in the UCC, we proclaim that "everything" is faith formation, this time of study in preparation for Confirmation, has been exactly that!

The "three" students found that, in Confirmation, they will be saying "yes" to the promises their parents made for them at the time of their Baptism. Through prayer, reading scriptures, studying the history of the church, the history of the United Church of Christ, the Sacraments: Holy Communion and Baptism; doing some thinking, role playing, questioning, attending the Faith Formation Retreat at Moon Beach and, all the while, thinking about what they believe, they are ready to "affirm" their faith.

Come, join in Worship on Sunday, May 6th at 9am as we celebrate with Miles, Logan and Hollyann and their families.

Looking ahead to summer, I invite you to reserve 45 minutes, starting at 6pm, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday nights in June, July and August. Come to our mid-week service and be blessed by drama ministry, music, prayer and meditation.

Tamara Dassow Cox, the author of last years' "Home Improvement Series," is writing another series of skits! If you would like to be one of the "actors," please let me know. The title of the series will be announced soon. Many thanks, Tamara, for agreeing to share your talents again.

No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here at Community United Church of Christ, the "Red Brick Church."

Bring your friends, invite your family and co-workers.

Tell them they will be warmly welcomed. We guarantee it!

God bless us, one and all,

Pastor Mary Jo

## COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### COUNCIL MINUTES—APRIL 12, 2018

**OPENING** President Randi H. called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Pastor MJ led a prayer of guidance.

**PRESENT** Randi H., Mike G-P, Jerry G-P, Dawn B., Pam O., Pastor MJ, Linda N., Joyce P., Gail P., Sandy K., Anna G.

**GUESTS** Dan H.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** The minutes from the March 2018 meeting were emailed prior to tonight's meeting for preview. Dawn B. made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with the correction. Linda N. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Mike G.-P. distributed copies of the March Income and Expenses Reports to Council members for review. Joyce P. made a motion to accept the report as is. Pam O. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** Pastor MJ distributed her March Pastor's Report and led us through some of the high points:

**NWA Association Annual Meeting April 21, 9:30-3:30** Pastor MJ reviewed the invitation. Pastor MJ, Mike and Jerry G-P. will attend. Dawn B. made a motion to pay the \$10 fee for each of three attendees from General Fund. Linda N. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Annual Meeting of Wisconsin Conference June 8-10- Green Lake, WI** Pastor MJ reviewed the details and invited Council members to represent our church.

**General Synod Meeting June 27-30, 2019 – Milwaukee** Pastor M.J. announced that the organizers be looking for volunteers WI UCC churches to help at the meeting.

**Ruby's Pantry** Pastor MJ. is looking for volunteers to unload truck at 8:30 am and people to pack and distribute food boxes from 10:00 am – noon Saturday, April 21 at the Medford Armory

**Dawn Higgins' Benefit** Pastor MJ will announce the benefit for Dawn Higgins on April 28 at BS Bar during the April 22 church service. The Candlelight Guild plans to donate a gas card.

**Shared Pastor Insurance Fund** Pastor MJ announced that the UCC voted to discontinue shared cost of insurance at the end of 2019, so we will need to budget the expenses only through 2019.

### GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Building and Grounds** Dan H. approved the refinishing of the pews for \$1,000. JD Harries gave an estimate of approximately \$1,000. Candlelight Guild will pay up to \$1,000 for the cost of the pews. Dan H. also reported that the roof estimate will remain as quoted. The roofer will provide an additional quote for some additional work on the steeple windows that needs to be done while they have a lift engaged. Jerry G -P. announced that a parsonage "walk through" will be conducted in April and a report presented to the Council at the May meeting.

**Search Committee** Dan H. will schedule a meeting sometime in April or May 2018 for the committee members to revisit the Church Profile and make revisions as necessary.

**Candlelight Guild** Jerry G.-P. reported that the \$1,008 was raised at the Spring Soup Supper and donated the money to the Church Roof Fund. The Council extended its thanks to the Candlelight Guild for the hefty donation.

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**Christian Ed** Anna G. reported that three people will be confirmed on Sunday, May 6 and that Sunday School sessions will conclude for this season with a Children's Program during worship on April 22.

**OLD BUSINESS** Church Rood Fund-raiser Pam presented a draft letter to church members to encourage their purchase of individual metal sheets of \$80, with the cost of the sheets donated to be dedicated in honor of an event or the memory of a person. Dan H. suggested that we include the fact that the roof was approved for replacement at the Annual Meeting 2018 and is planned to be installed this Fall. Linda N. made a motion to send the letter to all church members. Joyce P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CUCC Golf Outing Pam O. presented a proposed plan to host the Council's 2018 Golf Event at Tee Hi Golf Club on Saturday, September 8. All members agreed with the plan. Gail P., Randi H, Pastor M.J. and Dawn B. agreed to join the event Committee. Pam O. will schedule a brief meeting in May to meet with the full committee.

**NEW BUSINESS** Pre-printed Bulletin Covers Linda N. expressed concern about the cost of the purchase of the bulletins covers and printing in color. Council members decided to print covers and content in black and white only, using colored papers, clip art and drawings of our Sunday School children. Dan H. made the comment that use of the PowerPoint and projector was initially meant to replace the printed bulletins. Members of the Council agreed but pointed out that many of our regular members rely on the printed bulletin to read. Dawn B. made a motion to begin to print our own bulletins in B/W once we have depleted the current inventory. Joyce P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Blessing Box The concept is no longer being considered because the Girl Scout member who was promoting the concept has left the Girl Scout troop.

Church Promotion Ideas Pam O. passed around the concepts for updated motel and café church promotion flyers. Pam O. and Pastor MJ will attempt to distribute the flyers over the next month. Pastor M.J. display the Easter newspaper display ad featuring All Are Welcome message, and our website URL. Council members agreed that advertising at special times of the year should be a regular practice if money is in the budget. Pam O. checked with MACC and Taylor County Tourism to see if they still create and distribute advertising placemats to area cafes and it appears that they no longer do this. Pam O. suggested that Pastor M.J. take the concept of creating and printing local church information placemats to the Medford Clergy.

Signs on Back Door Gail P. suggested that we place another bulletin board inside the foyer that could hold on the signs that are now pasted to the back door. Members decided that rather than installing another bulletin board, we limit the information on the back door to Welcome, office hours, worship hours. phone number and a service dogs only sign. Dawn B. to investigate vinyl lettering and a new service dog sign.

**APRIL MEETING DATE** The next meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 10.

**OTHER BUSINESS** None presented.

**CLOSED SESSION** After reciting the Lord's Prayer with all in attendance, the Council members went into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** Dawn B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gail P. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

## **CANDLELIGHT GUILD**

Thank you for helping us "Raise the Roof"! Our spring soup supper and raffle brought in \$1008.00. A check of \$1,000.00 will be presented to Building & Grounds for the roofing project. Thank you to everyone who was able to help prepare soup, serve, provide ingredients, bake desserts and join us to dine on this heart-warming meal. A special thank you goes out to the Medford Walmart for the boys' and girls' bikes, Gloria for the wood sign, Susie for the children's fun bucket and movie basket and Ruth for the garden trellis.

The Candlelight Guild will also be paying \$1,000.00 to repair the church pews, which are badly chipped and worn. We are also replacing a sink in the back kitchen, which will be used for large funeral dinners and events.

Confirmation gifts will be given to our three Confirmands. God Bless Holly Ann, Miles and Logan on your Confirmation Day.

The Candlelight Guild will take a summer meeting break the months of June and July.

We are planning an end of the year dinner on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and a brat fry at County Market on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

You Are Invited

Annual Spring Dinner

Wednesday, May 23, 5:30 pm

In fellowship hall

By Marilyn's Fire Station & Catering

Menu: Classic Lasagna & Chicken Alfredo along with bread, salad, beverage and dessert

A sign-up sheet will be placed in fellowship hall or call Susie at 715-965-4679. Please reply by Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cost \$10.00 to be collected the day of the dinner.

# Thank You

## For your Generosity And Donating to the Meals in a Backpack Program

The SOAR Program now uses their class time to fill backpacks with food to be sent home with elementary children who are in need for additional food for the weekend.

We continue to serve over 20 families in our area with more than 50 children the Medford School District. Your help is greatly appreciated!

If you would like more information about either program please contact Nikki Gripenrog at 715-748-4620 Ext 551 or [gripeni@medford.k12.wi.us](mailto:gripeni@medford.k12.wi.us)

Connor



Kim  
Kodysan  
Brianna  
Weston Baker  
Johnathan

### How can one person change the world?

the opportunities are endless. And they're all right here. What part of our world is waiting for you to make a difference

Sponsor a child . . .  
Plant a tree . . . Rebuild a home . . . Visit a prisoner . . . Be a mentor . . .  
Teach . . . Serve a meal . . .  
. Bring water to the desert . . . Pray . . .  
Donate . . .



### MAY NEWSLETTERS AND BULLETINS

Newsletters were given by Jerry and Dawn Brink dedicated to all mothers.

Bulletins were given by Phyllis Pope

Fellowship: Church Council

*Thank You*

### APRIL FINANCES:

As of 4-30-2018

Income \$ 7,293.57

Expenses \$ 6,409.05

### ROOF FINANCES

Church roof: \$22610.40

Garage: \$2,313.40

Steeple: \$14,331.78

Shed: \$1,093.24

Total cost of project: \$40,348.82

Balances on hand

CBF: \$2,133.78 as of

04/30/2018

(in Buildings and Grounds)

Buildings and Grounds:

Total on hand: \$27,911.75

Needed for project:

\$12,437.07

Project date A  list?



### CHURCH BUILDING FUND!

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



### 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



### 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

### 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. Also Arby’s scrip are up and running!

### 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.

### PAGE TURNERS

Our next book is After Anna, by Lisa Scottoline We will meet May 15th at 6pm in Pastor’s office. See ya there!



### 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.



## ABOUT THE 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



## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH (through July)

The suggested offering date is Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

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, May 20, 2018.

## Let us pray...



Greg K, Teri, Judy, Bobbie, Harvey D, Lavern R, Dave K, Betty, Lucille, 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

#### **Gun Violence in the United States: A Kyrie After Parkland, Florida, February 14, 2018**

When we fail to advocate  
for gun law reform;  
for sensible restrictions on purchase  
for limiting the power of those who  
benefit from the gun industry

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we project blame for gun violence on to  
those with mental illness,  
those who are strangers,  
those who are immigrants

**Christ, have mercy.**

When we fail to work for a “dis-armed”  
society,

To advocate for justice, health care,  
education for all,

To learn to talk through fears and  
communicate across boundaries

To work to establish a “Just world for  
all”

**Lord have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive  
us our sin, and lead us to life in peace and  
abundance

### 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)



## MOON BEACH

Hello friends!

Is someone you love looking for an amazing summer job, internship or seasonal volunteer opportunity? Please share this information and encourage them to apply for the Summer Ministry Team at Moon Beach Camp!

Here's what potential applicants might want to know:

Moon Beach is a UCC Camp in Northern Wisconsin. We're primarily a Family Camp in the summer and offer a variety of camps: Family Church Camps, Camp AweSum Family Camps (for families affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions) and Memory Family Camp (for participants with Dementia, their Care Partners and families). We also offer two youth camps: Music, Art, Dance & Drama and Camp AweSum Youth! Though we are affiliated with the United Church of Christ, we have an ecumenical staff and encourage anyone who loves caring for God's people and creation (age 18+) to apply! A little more about the camp and area: Moon Beach Camp is located just outside St. Germain, WI. We have 110 acres of Northwood's beauty: shoreline on three pristine lakes, tons of trails and plenty of wildlife (including a bald eagle pair and loon family that both nest onsite). Because we're a camp, we've got all the stuff you need for an incredible summer: FANTASTIC food, campfires on our lovely beach, a great swimming area, kayaks/paddleboards/other watercraft, tons of games, arts & crafts, yoga classes, worship and more, all in a breathtaking natural setting. Plus, our summer staff housing was redone this year and we added a beautiful, expansive deck that overlooks Moon Lake!

Come spend the summer of a lifetime with us!

Head to [ucci.org/moon-beach/staff-opportunities](http://ucci.org/moon-beach/staff-opportunities) to apply or get in touch with questions: 715.479.8255.



# May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1		1 Mike 9-1  AA/Alanon 7pm	2  Mike 9-1  EDA 7pm Conf. 4-530	3  Mike 9-1  AA 7pm	4  NA 7pm	5
6  Worship 900  Communion  confirmation	7  Mike 9-1	8  Mike 9-1  AA/Alanon 7pm	9  Mike 9-1	10  Mike 9-1  Council 5pm AA 7pm	11  NA 7pm	12
13  Worship 900	14  Mike 9-1	15  Mike 9-1  AA/Alanon 7pm  Book club 6pm	16  Mike 9-1  Conf. 4-530	17  Mike 9-1  AA 7pm	18  NA 7pm	19
20  Worship 900  Strengthen the church starts (OCWM)	21  Mike 9-1	22  Mike 9-1  AA/Alanon 7pm	23  Mike 9-1  Candlelight dinner 5:30	24  Mike 9-1  AA 7 pm	25  NA 7 pm	26
27  Worship 900	28  Office closed	29	30	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**