



## November 2020 Newsletter

Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at [uccmedford.org/media](http://uccmedford.org/media)

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 brothers and sisters in Christ,

In his book, "Markings," Dag Hammarskjöld wrote "For what has been, 'thanks.' For what will be, 'yes.'"

I believe that these are the best words that we all can say as we set foot into November...into daylight savings time, into the time of "election," into the cold and windy days of winter and into this month that begins the "holiday season." With this in mind, enter into the coming days with thanksgiving in your heart. Give thanks to God for the many time and places and people in our lives, both now and in the past. Give thanks for opportunities that we have embraced and for those we have left behind; the times we have said, "Yes!" to God's nudging and the times we have held back, when we have said, "No, not now."

It is sometimes difficult to imagine how we can be thankful for all that has been and at the same time, be receptive to all that may yet be. That is how, by faith, we can draw the connecting line between gratitude for God's gifts received and the hopeful welcoming of gifts still promised\_\_\_\_\_>

If we see life as a gift and receive it with gratitude, then we will be open and trusting enough to risk a "yes" to those things that God has yet to reveal to us!

If we sometimes wonder how persons of *great faith* are able to make the decisions they make and still seemingly follow God's direction, it is this connection between "thanks" and "yes." May it be so for us!

**This coming Sunday**, November 1<sup>st</sup>, please join in online worship at [uccmedford.org](http://uccmedford.org) by video or audio link or read the Sunday service that has been mailed to you. We will share "virtually" in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in our homes, as we celebrate "All Saints Sunday." Let's prepare our "worship spaces" with a candle, a Bible, a cross and something that reminds us of a saint from the past, or a picture of a "saint" that we have known and want to honor. Get a piece of bread or some crackers; juice, water or wine ready.

**Please pray with me** this prayer written by *Sister Christine Koelhoeffer, IHM*

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future. We pray, may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence, You, the God who does not abandon.

Peace be with you and be safe! Pastor Mary Jo

## December Blessing Box Calendar

Please drop off your items whenever you can...a few items at a time, please!

Dec 1 popcorn	Dec 11 tea	Dec 22 salt
Dec 2 soap	Dec 12 cake mix	Dec 23 baking powder
Dec 3 Jell-O	Dec 13 crackers	Dec 24 pepper
Dec 4 instant potatoes	Dec 14 cookie mix	Dec 25 Jello
Dec 5 stuffing mix	Dec 15 cereal	Dec 16 pudding
Dec 6 Rice-a-Roni	Dec 16 hamburger helper	Dec 27 potato chips
Dec 7 hot chocolate	Dec 17 Kleenex	Dec 28 cereal
Dec 8 flour, sugar, baking powder	Dec 18 Corn bread mix	Dec 29 oatmeal
Dec 9 pudding	Dec 19 masks	Dec 30 pancake mix
Dec 10 coffee	Dec 20 hand sanitizer	Dec 31 candy
	Dec 21 TP	

### Let get together “virtually”! Save these dates:

Zoom Faith Formation Time with Children, Sundays at 9:30

Zoom Coffee and Conversation, Sundays at 10

Zoom Office Hours (Pastor MJ) Thursdays, 10-12

Zoom “Cerebration” every Tuesday at 6:30 until Nov 24

Our fall *Cerebration* series is focusing on the book,

“**Grateful**” by Diana Butler Ross.

Zoom Church Council Meeting, Nov 12 at 5:00

Zoom Page Turners Mtg, Nov 30 at 6:30

**Note:** Links are available by request and on weekly email.

### During Worship on November 22, the Last Sunday of the Church Year, we will observe “Totenfest”



Throughout Christian history, the church has and continues to remember and celebrate the lives of faithful people who have died. “Totenfest” is a distinctive practice that grows out of the Evangelical tradition of the United Church of Christ. Although the name, “Totenfest,” is unknown to many in the UCC, its importance as a special time of remembrance continues not only in our Evangelical heritage, but for all. It is a way of remaining related to deceased loved ones, as the process of grieving and remembering are vital to our spiritual health. We will remember our loved ones who have passed away during the past year, light a candle and ring the church bells in their memory.

If you would like your loved ones names mentioned during the November 22<sup>nd</sup> online Worship Service, please call Pastor Mary Jo at 715-351-0450

**NEED FOOD?** \* If you know of anyone who would benefit from a little help with groceries?

Please share this information:

**\*Indianhead Food Pantry** is open Tues, Wed- Friday from 9-2. Please wear a mask.  
Food is being distributed by drive-up only. Address: 508 S 8th St (across from "Brass Rail")

**Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution:** Hosted by: River of Hope Church

The next Pop-Up Pantry is Saturday, November 28, 2020  
and every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

Medford High School Parking lot, 1015 W Broadway, Medford, WI 54451

Registration begins at 8:00 AM Food bundles available 8:00-11:00 AM

**The Blessing Box outside our church's back door has non-perishable food: open 24/7**

Keep in mind that the temperatures will soon fall below freezing when you donate items  
for the Blessing Box. Thank you!

>Advent Begins, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>:

Zoom Advent Devotions on Wednesdays during Advent, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, at 6pm  
(Scripture, prayer & a hymn!)



Zoom Advent Devotions on Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, at 6pm

You are invited to sign in and spend a few minutes reading scripture, praying  
and singing a hymn! All are welcome. The link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86227474916> Meeting ID: 862 2747 4916

As you make your plans for Christmas, Community  
United Church of Christ Christmas Eve Worship,

Dec. 24 will be posted on our webpage, [uccmedford.org](http://uccmedford.org)

It will be available in 30-minute audio and video links;  
(Facebook and YouTube) and will include the lighting

of the "Christ Candle," singing carols, a Christmas Message  
and a "candle lighting" time. Please have your candles ready  
for lighting at home!

**The Candlelight Service will also be broadcast  
from 6-6:30 pm on the local Medford Radio Station,  
WKEB, 99.3**



## **Council meeting minutes from October 8, 2020.**

**OPENING** Randi H. called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and Pastor Mary Jo led the group in a prayer of guidance.

**PRESENT** Mike G.-P., Jerry G.-P., Scott K., Paula J., Gloria C., Joyce C., Randy H., Pastor MJ

**ABSENT** Anna G., Mark J., Pam O.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** The minutes from the September 2020 meeting were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Gloria C. made a motion to accept the minutes. Joyce P. seconded the motion. Motion passed without discussion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** The September 2020 Treasurer's Reports were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Pastor MJ mentioned that the report said that she was reimbursed \$250 for Community of Practice dues this year, but it was not a reimbursement – just a registration fee. Mike explained that he put it in the it in the wrong place and made the change. Jerry G.-P. made motion to accept the report. Scott K. seconded the motion. Motion passed without discussion.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** The September 2020 Pastor Reports were distributed to the Council Members for review. Joyce P. made a motion to accept the September report. Gloria C. seconded the motion. Motion passed without discussion.

### **GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

Jerry G.-P. reported that the parsonage and church furnaces were checked and that he is going to help seal the windows in the parsonage.

Pastor MJ told the group that Roger H. constructed a pedestal for the church podium. The Council agreed to giving Roger H. a \$25 Scrip Card for County Market to thank him for his work.

Scott K. asked if we are set up with Feddick for this year's snowplowing. Mike G.-P. responded that Feddick is set up.

#### **FIVE PRACTICES**

Next meeting Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Letter to Congregation

Gloria C. suggested that we mention that the decision is based on the recommendations of the Governor, UCC and the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

When someone gets a call regarding the church opening – we need to reiterate that we are following all the guidelines and that with the local upsurge in COVID cases, this is NOT the time to open.

Scott K. thinks if we expand the letter anymore, it would become a “book” and that we should cover any other issues that may arise in our telephone conversations with members.

Mention that we should prepare our members for the building remaining closed through Christmas. There will be no in-church worship. We will have an audio and video recording available. We have already reserved a 30-minute radio service at 6 pm on Christmas Eve for \$325. The radio station will bill us on January 1, 2021.

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## **CHRISTIAN ED**

Pastor M.J. reported that Christian Ed and 5 Practices met via Zoom to discuss the future of Christian Ed:  
The date of a confirmation ceremony is still on hold.

The possible curriculum for when we resume in-church Sunday School:

“Dig In” for \$109 per quarter

More promotion of our Zoom Faith Formation sessions until we are back in the church

May record Sunday session to email to parents so they can see how the session works

Clea R. and Anna G. have resigned from teaching Sunday School, so we will need to recruit replacements once we are back in the building.

## **CANDLELIGHT GUILD**

Candlelight Guild paid John P. for mowing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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None discussed

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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Mike G.-P. reported that CUCC does not have a Non-profit Status. We have a tax exempt ID number, but not a formal non-profit status. In order to get that status we need to apply for a WC-3 status for \$600. We can hold fundraisers online if we have this status and the status will afford us discounts on many other services and technology. The Council decided to table the discussion on making the commitment at this time. Mike G.-P. to check to see if the 2021 fee will be higher than \$600.

Pastor Mary Jo attended an online workshop on the subject of copyright licenses. We now have a license for using song lyrics in printed materials, but not for music that is not on our website or incorporated in our YouTube video. The only music that we can use is the music that is old and is in the “public domain. We need to get the CCI livestreaming license for \$225 per year in order to include music of any type – live or recorded on our website or in our YouTube videos. Pastor Mary Jo is researching a database of UCC musicians that offer copyright free music. The Council decided the best thing to do is to wait to purchase the license until we are back in live worship to purchase the license.

Pastor Mary Jo shared an idea that she heard at the Pastor’s meeting: The Sheboygan church purchased Kindles and downloaded the service on the Kindles for distribution to members without internet. We would have to load it, sanitize it, have people pick up and return it, and we would sanitize it, and load again.

Randi H. brought up the Annual Meeting and the designation of three new Council members. Scott K. shared an idea: Because it’s difficult to have 117 members attend via Zoom, he suggested that we delegate 10 delegates from the congregation and all members of the Council to attend. Pastor MJ suggested that we could do it for many people. Joyce P. mentioned that many people don’t have access to a computer or the internet. Gloria C. mentioned that you can call in. The Council decided that we could host an Annual Meeting by ZOOM and invite members to attend ZOOM meeting either by clicking the video link or simply calling in.

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The Council set the Annual Meeting date for Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 10:30 am. Committee Reports due to Mike G.-P. by January 6, 2021. Annual Reports will be delivered to members by January 17, 2021 by email and mail.

Three Council members will need to be replaced this year. The Council members will be recruiting possible members before the end of this year.

Randi H. will write a letter for next newsletter announcing the plans for the annual meeting and that we are looking to fill three council seats this year and anyone interested should contact her.

Randi H. reported that a member called her and said that she is getting sermons mailed to her and suggested that sermons can be emailed to people with emails rather than mailing to save postage.

Jerry G.-P. mentioned that Pam O. has gone “above and beyond” in recording, videotaping, emailing and letter writing and suggested that we express our thanks in some way. The Council discussed various ideas. Jerry G.-P suggested that he may even be a back-up in videotaping and editing. Gloria C. suggested that we thank Pam in our newsletter so members understand what she does. Randi H. will put that thank you in the letter for the November newsletter. Council decided to give Pam O. an Amazon gift card to thank her for her service. Joyce P. made the motion to send Pam an Amazon gift card in amount of \$150. Gloria C. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 5 pm via ZOOM.

**CLOSED SESSION** After reciting the Lord’s Prayer, the Council members went directly into Adjournment with no Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT** Joyce P. made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion.

### **Letter from the Church President**

Hello to all Church members and friends:

I hope everyone is staying well and doing the best you are able during these difficult times!

The date of the Annual meeting has been set for Sunday, January 31, 2021 @ 10:30 am.

Since Covid cases continue to rise in our community, we will continue to follow the recommendations set by our Governor, the UCC and WI Council of Churches in order to do our part to keep our members safe and healthy. Our plan is to hold the meeting by Zoom, with all Council members present. With the Church being closed most of this past year, the agenda will be simplified: Mainly to accept minutes and reports from last year’s meeting.

We hope anyone interested in “attending” the meeting will do so. A computer is not required for you to join in-you may do so by phone, although you won’t “see” others who are attending, but you will still be able to participate! Zoom meeting ID # and instructions to join will be included in January’s newsletter.

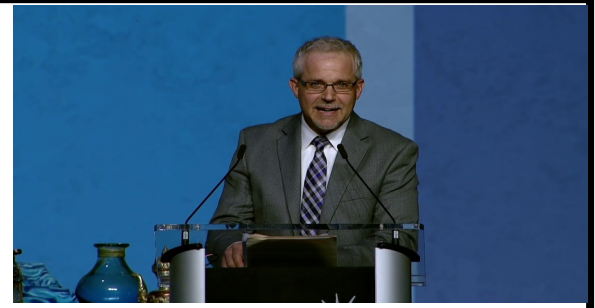
Also, as of February 2021, there will be 3 seats opening on the Council-if you may be interested, or have any questions, please contact any Council member.

We hope you will plan to join us for the annual meeting!

Randi Hirt-Council President

October 22, 2020

Greetings friends across the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ!



Grace and Peace to you in the midst of these turbulent times. As the pandemic numbers in Wisconsin continue to rise at alarming rates, we face an all-out crisis. Our health care system is stressed. The lives of thousands more may be in danger, even as the livelihoods of many have been severely impacted.

This dramatic spike in both cases and deaths necessitates we take every possible precaution and place the safety of our family and all our neighbors (our friends and those we don't know) first. Just yesterday, Wisconsin recorded 4,591 new cases and 18 more deaths. Over 1600 people have lost their lives in our state to COVID-19 and, over the past few weeks, we have become an epicenter for the rapid transmission of this virus.

In alignment with the guidance of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Governor Evers' order limiting public gatherings, the Conference field Staff and I strongly urge all congregations to resist in-person gatherings. We recommend remote worship for the duration of the fall season. For those congregations who have resumed outdoor or strictly protocolled in-sanctuary worship, I recognize this is a discouraging setback. But I ask you to join in this critical effort to once again flatten the curve and lower the cases.

Pastors and lay leaders, I know this long chapter of social distancing feels exhausting and seems never-ending. If ever there were a time for enduring with patience, for doubling down on diligence, and for offering abundant grace even in our frustration -- now is that time!

In many instances our pastors are placed in impossible predicaments. The pressures of health concerns and the worries of the economy quickly become polarizing issues. They are both important, but we can't fix the economy until we curtail the virus. Right now, our highest calling as a united and uniting Church of Christ is to take care of one another and to extend compassion to all.

The next few weeks will be pivotal, both in terms COVID-19 and the election. Every congregation has good people all across the pandemic and political spectrums. This a time to be bigger than our differences and better than our divisions. Especially now, the Gospel begs us to engage one another with love and reconciliation.

One thing is for sure – no matter the outcome of the presidential election – some people in every congregation will feel disappointment and grief, even bitterness and despair. The question is: What healing and unifying role can the Church play?

For many of us, it may be helpful to emotionally and psychologically pre-process some of the aftermath scenarios. Especially if we enter into a time of prolonged unknowns and anxiety over unclear election results, we will need to be ready for a time of potential social angst and unrest. What will prove vitally important is a steady pastoral presence and strong, supportive lay leadership.

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Here are some strategies to ponder and practice:

- Prepare to engage people with a non-anxious presence
- Pause for prayer and intentional invoking of the Holy Spirit
- Promote listening with empathy
- Demonstrate an extra measure of grace
- • Emphasize the need for the beloved community to support each other
- Recognize the inherent goodness (the imago dei) in every person

In the meantime, friends, while we always take care not to preach politics, we also know that the Gospel speaks to the times at hand. The values we share across the United Church of Christ about social justice and wide welcome are as relevant today as ever. If Jesus taught us anything by example, he taught us that the oppressed and marginalized need a voice and deserve every ounce of dignity and every opportunity for a good life, that we ourselves desire.

Finally, Jesus teaches us that integrity matters, that honesty and truth are the foundations of trust. That humility and grace are important attributes not just for our faith leaders but for leaders in all dimensions of life.

Together we lift up all leaders in prayer. We pray for peace and for calm in the coming days. So, take heart. Keep the faith. And let us hold fast to the confession of our HOPE without wavering, for the One who promises all our tomorrows remains ever faithful.

Blessings and best of health to you! Rev. Franz Rigert Conference Minister

Rev. Franz Rigert Conference Minister

[Click here to view the video](#)

Additionally, here are two resources you may find of value:

[The Faith Leaders COVID Safety Pledge from the Wisconsin Council of Churches](#)

[Listening and Empathy at Election Time, an article by Drew Benson, PhD, LP](#)







# WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

COURAGE. JUSTICE. HOLY IMAGINATION.

## **CHURCHES URGED TO RETURN TO PHYSICALLY DISTANCED MINISTRY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 6, 2020

Contact: Rev. Kerri Parker, (608) 837-3108 x25, [execdir@wichurches.org](mailto:execdir@wichurches.org)

(STATEWIDE) - The Wisconsin Council of Churches recommends that churches statewide return to remote operations as the COVID-19 crisis deepens in Wisconsin. While today's state Executive Order to limit indoor gatherings to 25% of building capacity exempts religious services and places of worship, and churches are free to continue operations as they have been, the ecumenical organization recommends that they not gather in person.

"Our obligation as faithful people is not to the minimum standard, but to behavior that demonstrates care for the most vulnerable and the well-being of the entire community," said the Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. "In view of the high level of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, it is neither prudent nor pastoral to gather groups of people together at this time. We urge you to put a hold on any plans for worshiping or having fellowship together in physical place for the time being."

It is estimated that approximately 25% of mainline Protestant churches have been offering worship indoors this fall, with others holding worship outdoors and many continuing worship online. Throughout the pandemic, more than half of Christian churches the Council surveyed have been offering ministry to address the needs of hungry people in Wisconsin, in ways that protect the health and safety of staff, volunteers and people served. Other common church-based programs included health-related ministries such as blood drives, COVID testing and distributing masks for the community.

"Being a faithful people is not abstract; it is about applying our faith when it matters," continued Rev. Parker. "This virus is not going to get itself under control. We have a responsibility to each other. We are able to worship, pray, provide faith formation and pastoral care, and address other community needs in ways that limit the risk of spreading COVID, to save lives and relieve the strain on the health system. We have a moral imperative to do so."

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is a network of Christian churches and faith-based organizations committed to working together across differences. Exercising holy imagination, the organization helps its members and friends make courageous choices that lead toward peace with justice, the vitality of the church, and the well-being of neighbors. The ecumenical organization counts twenty Christian traditions representing over 2,000 congregations in its membership, and has been providing information and advice to churches during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Its resources have been shared nationwide.

## **Shedding Light on Clergy Exempt Standing and Supporting Clergy Roles**

by Rob MacDougall



About four years ago I was sitting in the living room of Revs. Carol and Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder drinking a cup of Ralph's remarkable coffee and listening to a group of retired UCC clergy. The purpose of our gathering was to discuss a proposed clergy status called Omega Standing. The idea for this standing came from the working group for the new UCC Manual On Ministry. Nobody was getting on board with the name Omega because some clergy thought it implied clergy with one foot in the grave, which was not the intent of the working group. While not a catchy term, the name Omega has been changed to Exempt Standing.

This new standing emerged because of new realities about the longevity of human life and newly established and enforceable requirements for UCC clergy to continue in good standing with the denomination. Years of clergy misconduct had been exposed in churches across denominations and faith traditions so the UCC took steps to insure the safety and health of those served by our pastors. Oversight by committees on ministry and accountability of clergy has been elevated out of concern for vulnerable people. The new Manual on Ministry makes explicit the need for ongoing required trainings to ensure that clergy understand the necessity of good boundaries, current information, implicit bias training, etc.

These realities also resulted in the creation of Exempt Standing, the recognition that some retired clergy would no longer be actively involved in public ministry and would therefore not need to meet the training requirements to maintain good standing with the UCC.

According to the Manual on Ministry, "The choice to claim Exempt Standing may be the result of vocational discernment as an Ordained Minister ends their ministry career and wider church engagement, the result of a significant change in health that ends their capacity for representative servant leadership on behalf of the United Church of Christ, or the result of other reasons" (pg. 56). Exempt Standing includes setting aside engagement with public ministry and releases a minister from ongoing requirements for standing. Each year as clergy fill out the annual information review form there is the opportunity to consider changing one's standing; those considering such a change can consult with their Committee on Ministry and/or Conference staff. For example: Exempt Standing is not relinquishing one's ordination; it is instead a covenantal statement between the UCC and an ordained minister regarding public ministry. Exempt Standing is not the same as being retired. Retirement is an employment decision that may or may not include ending all forms of public ministry, including public ministry within one's own family, paid or unpaid (preaching, teaching, presiding over the sacraments, funerals, weddings, etc.).

After completing the Wisconsin Conference boundary training program, provided online by Convergence, retired clergy expressed concerns about the relevance of the training for them. The Commission on Ministry boundary training task force doesn't want this requirement to be an obstacle to retired clergy continuing in their roles. The Commission is appreciative of this feedback and is actively seeking a more relevant training to meet the needs of our valued group of retired clergy. During this time of increasing need in local churches as well as increased stress on local clergy we are committed to supporting healthy ministry and the wellbeing of our pastors.

Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougall Associate Conference Minister Wisconsin Conference



Dear UCCI Family –

Yesterday I viewed a YouTube Video featuring infant swimming lessons. The instructor, clearly not a parent, tossed a non-ambulatory-aged infant into the pool. After momentarily going under the water, the infant proceeded to swim. Not panic-stricken flailing mind you, but actual swimming! The instructor never left their side, and the child did well all by themselves!

This pandemic of 2020 has tossed UCCI into the deep end of the lake. We had been building some amazing momentum at all three Sites...then, splash! Fixed costs piling up...no revenue coming in. That which we assumed would continue and grow forever...simply could not...not if we wanted to keep people safe and healthy.

We have furloughed staff, cut benefits, spent our disaster relief and rainy-day funds, and are coming to the end of our financial rope. We all need a vaccine and soon, and to assume that we will quickly return to business as usual is naïve. We need to find significant donations and/or financing to cover our fixed costs, or we will be forced to consider selling assets.

It really does not feel good to be flailing around in uncharted, murky, and turbulent waters. Thankfully, our life preservers are close at hand. God will not let us sink. Our partners at the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ (WCUCC) are helping us work on creative solutions to stay afloat. Our financiers are working with us on options to move to less turbulent waters. Swim we will! Our facilities are well maintained. Our staff is dedicated and committed. Our programs are diverse and solid. While our cash flow is depleted, our Ministry is VIBRANT! The world needs UCCI to make it through this pandemic intact and ready to serve!

That's where you come in. In the very near future, you will be asked to give generously to the UCCI Fund as part of our year-end appeal. As most of you know, in Outdoor Ministry it is a standard to expect that 20% of the budget will need to come from donations in a typical year. In an unprecedented year of pandemic, that number is much higher!

Folks, if ever you were to give to the UCCI Fund, give now (<https://ucci.org/donate>). If ever you were to consider who you might invite to help, consider them now. If ever you were to share this appeal, share it now. We need all the support we can find!

Peace,

Glenn

Glenn Svetnicka – Executive Director UCCI

[glenn@ucci.org](mailto:glenn@ucci.org)

## "prayers-midst-covid"

### For Healthcare Professionals

God of love, thank you for the gift of care. As we come face-to-face with pain and suffering, grant us courage and strength. Help us to provide compassionate care even as we ourselves are in need of compassion. Grant us a sense of serenity and calm in the midst of the storm. Protect us from harm in body, mind and spirit. Bless us with hope for tomorrow. Amen.

### For parents

God of love, thank you for the blessing of family. We need help now to know how to care for children. Give us the extra strength and courage to do what we need to do to keep our families safe and healthy. As our lives are turned up-side-down, be our source of security and strength. Bless our homes with your Spirit of peace. Help our children know they are deeply loved no matter what. Give us a glimpse of hope for tomorrow. Amen

### Newsfeeds

United Church News

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/UnitedChurchOfChrist>

Disaster Updates

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/disasterupdates>

Global Ministries News

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/globalministries>

Daily Bible Readings and Daily Devotional

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/uccdailydevotional>

Weekly Seeds

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/WeeklySeeds>



Save the date

July 11-18, 2021

### A thank you to Pam

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Pam Ouimette for the countless hours she has put in recording and videotaping the weekly sermons for our Church website. This is in addition to her time spent sending emails and writing letters to keep us all up-to-date and "connected" during this time away from each other. We sincerely appreciate the time she has spent to keep all members in touch with current events of the church. THANK YOU  
PAM!!

Randi Hirt & UCC Council



# GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>

## YOUR CHURCH GIVING APP

With GivePlus, you can quickly and easily give to your church using your smartphone. Enjoy the convenience of making credit or debit card donations as a guest user, or create an account to set up recurring donations and view your giving history. Either way, GivePlus offers a safe, secure way to make one-time or recurring contributions to your church. GivePlus is free to use and available for download at the App Store. If you have questions or would like to learn more, search our FAQs and check out our user guides below

### FAQS



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### HOW TO



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Go to the Apple  
or Google Play and



Store

search "give plus church":click above to download

## Neighbors in Need

(NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

**Please give me a call (Mike) at 715-223-9403 or Pastor at 715-351-0450 to make arrangements for pick-up during this challenging time.**

Shopping?  
Why not use SCRIP?



SCRIP cards make nice gifts.

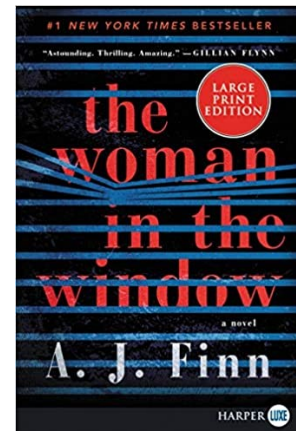
Our Church gets a percentage  
of the cost of each SCRIP card purchased.

Call the Church office, 715-748-3391 to order SCRIP.  
Arby's \$140.00, Foreman's \$90.00, **Kwik-Trip \$200.00 expires November 1st.** Subway \$80.00,  
County Market \$1800.00, Wal-Mart \$250.00 Hardees,  
Fleet Farm \$75.00.

## PAGE TURNERS

Our October read is  
"the Woman in the window"; A.J. Finn.  
Page turners will be meeting via Zoom at  
6:30pm , November 30th.

Click on book to download



Dear friends,

### OUR Mission Statement:

As an open-minded and inclusive community of faith, Community United Church of Christ,  
Medford, WI, welcomes everyone as Jesus would.

### MISSION STATEMENT

We are the church – an open and affirming community in which diversity is celebrated as an asset and fully embraced into our life, leadership, ministry, community, worship, rites, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

It is our mission to serve, to pray, to love, and to hold true to these words:

**“No matter who you are and where you are on your life’s journey, you are welcome here.”**



## LET US PRAY...

For those with health concerns: friends and family; those anticipating medical testing; those at home recovering from surgery; for those who are suffering with the flu; those traveling; those serving our country here and abroad; leaders of our communities; our President, Medford faith communities, those who lives have been affected by fires, flood and hurricanes; those who have been separated from us by distance or difference of opinion; those who are grieving the loss of loved ones; the hungry and the homeless, that caring people will help them.

### **“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;**

let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,

and His hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker”

(Psalm 19:1-6)

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

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

President- Randi Hirt (2021)

Vice President- Joyce Peterson (2021)

Recording Secretary- Pam Ouimette (2023)

Financial Sec.- Jerry Goen-Penney (2023)

Treasurer– Scott Knoff (2022)

Gloria Christensen (2022)

Mark Jensen (2022)

Anna Grube (2021)

Paula Johnson (2023)



### **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

### **OCTOBER FINANCES:**

As of 10-31-2020

Income \$ 7,587.00

Expenses \$ 6,016.99



**DON'T FORGET  
YOUR MASK!**

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



Open and Affirming

“No matter who you are or  
where you are on your life’s  
journey, you are welcome  
here.”



**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic  
please be sure to check your  
options in the calendar for  
Worship and Sunday school  
etc. Also you can listen to  
Pastor’s sermons by clicking  
below or by going to  
[uccmedford.org](http://uccmedford.org)**

# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Matthew 23:1-12</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>Zooms : Time w/children,9:30</i> <i>Coffee: 10</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Micah 3:5-12</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Psalm 43</i> <i>Cerebration 630 "Grateful"</i> <i>Via Zoom</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Joshua 3:7-17</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37</i> <i>Pastors Zoom office hours 10-12</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Revelation 7:9-17</i>	<b>7</b> <i>1 Thess. 2:9-13</i>
<b>8</b> <i>Matthew 25:1-13</i> <i>Zooms : Time w/children,9:30</i> <i>Coffee: 10</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>1 Thess. 4:13-18</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Amos 4:18-24</i> <i>Cerebration 630 "Grateful"</i> <i>Via Zoom</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Psalm 70</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Joshua 24:1-25</i> <i>Pastors Zoom office hours 10-12</i> <i>Council meeting 500 via Zoom</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Psalm 78:1-</i>	<b>14</b> <i>1John 3:1-3</i>
<b>15</b> <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i> <i>Zooms : Time w/children,9:30</i> <i>Coffee: 10</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>1Thess 5:1-11</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18</i> <i>Cerebration 630 "Grateful"</i> <i>Via Zoom</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Psalm 90:1-8, 12</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Judges 4:1-7</i> <i>Pastors Zoom office hours 10-12</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Psalm 34:1-10, 22</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Psalm 123</i>
<b>22</b> <i>Matthew 25:31-46</i> <i>Zooms : Time w/children,9:30</i> <i>Coffee: 10</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</i> <i>Cerebration 630 "Grateful"</i> <i>Via Zoom</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Psalm 100</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Psalm 100</i> <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	<b>27</b> <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>
<b>29</b> <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i> <i>Zooms : Time w/children,9:30</i> <i>Coffee: 10</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>1 Cor 1:3-9</i> <i>Pageturners 630 via Zoom</i>					