



August 2021 Newsletter

- Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings and virtually at 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
believe417@gmail.com or cuccofmedford@gmail.com

Dear siblings in Christ,

We, at Community UCC, share in the ministry of “Community Mission with Jesus,” a group initiated

by Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Holway. The group was formed “officially” a few years ago when Our Saviour’s Church assisted an elderly person following the death of his spouse. He was unable to qualify for the usual kinds of government financial assistance available, but needed help with cleaning, meals, and companionship until he could get “back on his feet.” We, along with St Paul’s Lutheran Church (ELCA) and River of Hope Church have joined Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in this community ministry outreach. It is totally funded by donations.

CMwJ continues to serve by assisting those in need who fail to qualify for other resources for a variety of reasons or complications. The assistance we give is for a limited length of time, and includes helping individuals and families to get assistance through official, long-term sources. We are very often the option of “last resort.” Our services have included: cleaning, meals and companionship, respite care, transportation, bill payment, gas money, medical equipment and supplies, moving assistance, meals, household needs and supplies, basic home repairs, lawn work, and more.

CMwJ serves the city of Medford, Taylor County, and surrounding areas. At this time, we have become a “go to” resource for the ADRC and Taylor County Housing Authority. We also work closely with Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Friends in Faith, Stepping Stones and other faith-based groups in the area to source needs, resources, and personnel. We serve all faiths, all languages, all races and ethnic groups; if you fall “through the cracks” in the system, you probably qualify! Call me for more information.

If you are feeling “nudged” by the Holy Spirit to help those who are in need and would like to volunteer or if you are available to join in the decision-making CMwJ meetings (as needed) please let me know. If you are able to give monetary donations, let me know. If you can help in any way, let me know.

Community Mission with Jesus is sponsoring a Car Wash
and Community United Church of Christ is hosting!

The date: Wednesday, August 25th. The time: 11-2 The place: in our parking lot. The cost: \$5.
The driveways will be marked, “IN” and “OUT.” Can you or someone in your family help?
Please let me know if you want to make signs or have old towels, buckets, carwash soap
and rags that you could share.

God bless us one and all,

Pastor Mary Jo



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Greetings!

I find myself thinking about the closing lines of the New Creed of the United Church of Canada, “We are not alone. Thanks be to God.” As challenging and trying as the Coronavirus Pandemic can be, one thing remains certain: we face it together in the Wisconsin Conference.

Just last month the Wisconsin Conference hosted a series of five webinars on “BE(Coming) the Church Today: Learning and Sharing in Community.” The virtual gatherings provided a real opportunity for people to come together around what we are all experiencing. Small group conversations gave leaders a chance to share what they are trying and to learn from those further ahead in addressing adaptive challenges. Together, we explored our questions. **This is the Wisconsin Conference at its best: connecting, supporting, resourcing pastors and leaders to be the church today.**

As we move into the program year of church life, our pastors and leaders will face new challenges. **Your support of the Wisconsin Conference will ensure we can continue to provide high quality and impactful programming to strengthen local congregations.**

Please consider joining me as a monthly donor to the Wisconsin Conference through our recurring gift program. Jill Christopherson from Eau Claire recently shared why she makes a monthly gift:

The church is a major influence in my life, and I want the Church to remain a vibrant influence for individuals and communities long after I am gone. As I have become better able to financially support things that I value, the ease of pledging support with an affordable monthly gift fits the way that I manage my budget. The sustaining gift allows me to easily give a larger amount than what I could give as a lump sum.

You can sign up to be a monthly donor at www.wcucc.org/monthlyhero. If a recurring donation does not work for you at this time, please consider a gift this month to support the mission and ministry of the conference.

Together, we ensure that our pastors and leaders are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Faith,

Rev. Andrew Warner

Wisconsin Conference UCC | wcucc.org



510 E. Broadway
Medford, WI 54451
(715) 748-3391

July 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

Rob MacDougall, Wisconsin Conference Minister, Northwest Association, works closely with our church on several initiatives, including helping our congregation with the process of searching for a “settled pastor” – one who is called to serve a church for an extended period of time.

Pastor Mary Jo has been serving as our “designated pastor” with an open-ended contract. During one of Pastor Mary Jo’s regular status calls with Rob MacDougall, she mentioned to Rob that it might be a good time to begin the process for searching for a “settled pastor” – basing her suggestion on her understanding of the “church readiness indicators” for such a search.

So far, our Search Committee has updated and submitted our Church Profile to Rob MacDougall and once approved, the Church Profile will be posted on the Wisconsin and National UCC websites. Pastors interested in the position, submit their personal profiles to Wisconsin Conference Division of Church and Ministry which will forward potential profiles to our Search Committee for review. This process can take from two-to-five years.

If you have any questions, please call Search Committee Chairperson Mike Goen-Penney at 715-748-3391.

Sincerely,

Scott Knoff, CUCC Council President
Mike Goen-Penney, Chairman-Search Committee
Mary Jo Laabs, Pastor



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Grace and peace, friends in Christ!

On Sunday evening the, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries, gave a stirring re-election speech to the virtually gathered General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Her theme – straight from the core of the Gospel – emphasized Christ’s beloved community. “It’s not about the me,” she declared, “but about the we!”

As we emerge from this anguishing pandemic, we are only beginning to recognize its toll. Beyond the deaths and economic devastation, COVID brought long-haul symptoms to many, and levels of depression and anxiety to nearly all of us. We are reckoning with the fact that this prolonged time of isolation was punctuated by a bitter partisan divide, a surge in senseless violence, climate crisis-induced natural disasters, and an urgent push for racial justice.

To be sure, we have witnessed beautiful acts of neighborly care, giving us a glimpse of what life might look like if we lived by the motto “We’re all in this together.” But such grace has not translated to wider systemic issues. Intolerance and polarization are entrenched in tragic ways. No doubt our current statewide vaccination rate of 51% would be way higher if more people operated on the premise that it’s more about the we than the me.

Nothing is more central to our nation’s healing than the notion that we’re all in this together. In my view, our spiritual values (as of late prioritizing covenant more than autonomy) will be key to the reinvigoration and regeneration of every local congregation in the United Church of Christ. It is all about the WE!

Just as the early apostles were anxious and confused about a way forward for the Jesus movement, so do we in the Church of today find ourselves at a critical crossroads. The Pentecost story tells us “they were all together in one place” when the Holy Spirit united them in a purpose! (Acts 2:1) Although we may not have the luxury of being in one place – gathered as we are both virtually and in person – we nevertheless can be of one mind and one accord. (Philippians 2:2) The way forward will be daunting for many of our congregations, especially when individual desires become elevated over collective needs. But if we choose to unite ourselves spiritually as the body of Christ, opportunities to flourish will abound!

If Jesus teaches us anything, it’s the power of community. Congregational life is about caring for one another, loving those we don’t always like, and concerning ourselves particularly with the relief of the hurting and justice for the oppressed. In the words of Paul, “If one member of the body suffers, we all suffer.” (1 Corinthians 12:26) Yet even in the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son, rescuing and returning home were not merely about saving the one, but about a vision of wholeness and restoration for the entire community.

continued

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend prioritizing life and health of the vulnerable as a Gospel witness. Concurrent values of this guidance include urgency and care in meeting human needs, and attending to equity and accessibility. Take seriously the church's role as community leader, and trust in the resilience of the church.

2. Maintain masking expectations FOR ALL PERSONS indoors and when not distanced outdoors until COVID transmission is very low in the community. Although vaccination protects us well against serious illness, breakthrough infections do happen, and viral shed of the delta variant can be as high among the vaccinated as among the unvaccinated. This means universal masking is warranted even among the vaccinated.

If your church is gathering for worship outdoors, and you are not providing for distancing, we recommend that you make wearing face masks a standard for all. Being outdoors is not automatically protective against illness if you are in a crowd and are re-breathing the same air others have exhaled.

3. Reinforce your COVID safety protocols in response to the more transmissible COVID variants. Are people wearing face masks properly over nose and mouth? Are singers placed far away from the congregation? Are riskier activities taking place outdoors instead of indoors? Worship leaders may choose to remove their masks when presiding for the sake of accessibility, but we do advise that they wear their mask when they are not actively leading. Remember the benefits of layered mitigations.

4. Case tracking and establishing a No-Go threshold: The CDC maintains a data tracker by county showing community transmission. If reliable sources show community transmission as "high" or "substantial," we advise high levels of caution in church gatherings and any activity which might expose vulnerable members to illness. You could also look at the state DHS tracker and use "high" activity levels to consider a "no-go" threshold. Remember that statistics go in both directions – we have been privileged to experience a decline for many months in Wisconsin, but with the development of more transmissible variants, we are beginning to see increases. At what point will your faith community resume online-only activities, or set a policy of leaders-only in the building? We recommend being proactive and putting a plan in place now rather than having to make and communicate hasty decisions. Our ongoing standard for unsafe/safer/safest gatherings is built on a seven-day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 population, and the rates of positive tests. Our safer threshold for gathering is when cases are less than 5 per 100,000 population and positive tests less than 10%. Safest would be even lower.

5. Maintain virtual/hybrid gathering options as much as you can. This is a hard-won capacity for many churches; it is worth maintaining. It may be necessary to switch to gathering the community remotely in case of inclement weather, dramatic spikes in viral activity, or future public health crises. In any case, vulnerable people should not be forced to choose between participating in the life of their community and their own safety.

6. Witness to the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). Help debunk misinformation and disinformation about COVID and vaccination. Speak up when segments of the population are scapegoated or bullied as spreaders of illness. Help people come to a sound, informed, faithful decision on matters of importance.

7. Support vaccination efforts. The church has an important role in helping to ensure that everyone who wants to be vaccinated has ready access. Explore how you can work with your congregation, mission and service efforts, and wider community to reach those who have obstacles to vaccination. (See our full report for theological grounding and how to support vaccination efforts).

8. Plan on event modifications, mitigations and protective behaviors for many months to come. As much as we long for a different truth, the pandemic is far from over.

[Download a PDF of the recommendations](#)



WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

COURAGE. JUSTICE. HOLY IMAGINATION.

By Faith We Stand Firm: Ministry in the Era of COVID Variants

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. – 2 Corinthians 1:1 (NRSV)

INTRODUCTION

By Faith We Stand Firm is a continuation of the Wisconsin Council of Churches' ongoing guidance to churches for how to make safer choices during the COVID-19 pandemic. We say safer choices, because no choice is definitively safe. We can only mitigate risk, not eliminate it altogether. This document builds on the recommendations contained in *Returning to Church 2.0*, released in January 2021 and its successor documents *Bearing with One Another in Love* and *Love Builds Up*, released in spring 2021.

We note several circumstances necessitating a more comprehensive update to our guidance:

A decline in the number of COVID cases almost to the threshold of "Safer" or "Safest" levels in our earlier guidance in early summer, followed by a rapid increase in cases in midsummer due in large part to the delta variant.

Societal pressure to return to what seems normal and familiar.

Stagnation in vaccination rates at approximately 50% of the population, with notable disparities by race, age, and other personal characteristics.

The rapid escalation of the delta variant of COVID to be the predominant strain in Wisconsin, with increased transmissibility and impact upon the unvaccinated, as well as an uptick in breakthrough infections among the vaccinated.

Significant turnover in clergy leadership due to the stresses of ministry in the time of COVID, including difficulty accessing support from extended family and other communities of care where they are in ministry.

A refresher on the fundamentals of ministry safety during COVID for every community is timely. Support and mutual trust is vital if we are to prevent rapid turnover and the exit of even more clergy from ministry in the years to come.

continued

Lately, I've been pondering ways that emphasizing the "we" can be a catalyst for the adaptive changes necessary to become the Church of tomorrow. Our new (or next) normal will include both on-site and online community building. This requires gracious provisions beyond our personal preferences. Clarity about our purpose – both the inner building up of the body of Christ and the mission to serve a wider community – will appeal widely to spiritual seekers.

One reason the Church has regathered more cautiously than other institutions is that we are Rooted in Love (the General Synod 33 theme). Jesus taught us (very counter-culturally) to resist the temptation to make it all about our individual rights and our personal desires. Instead, we in the United Church of Christ preoccupy ourselves with compassion for the whole family of God. Thus, even as we widen our worship capacity and ease COVID restrictions, we do so ever mindful of the vulnerable among us.

I recently worshipped with a church that has eliminated mandatory mask wearing. But instead of simply eliminating a rule, they clung to a value – and committed to a wonderful covenant of care. All are asked to keep a mask on hand so that when they encounter a masked person (child, immunocompromised, unvaccinated) they can quickly pop on the mask and engage in safe conversation. Such solidarity is a sign of our loving commitment to the WE!

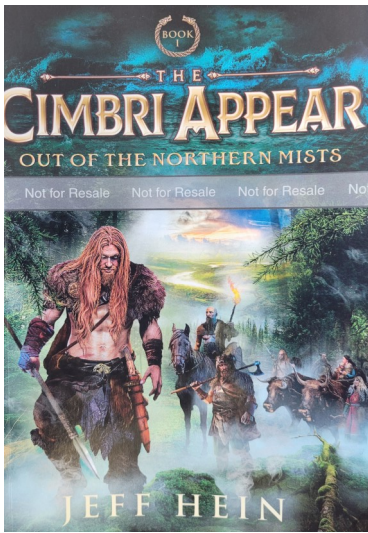
Finally – since we're all in this together – we would love to hear from you about the ways your congregation is regathering and adapting to the new realities before us. We invite you to complete this brief survey, and look forward to sharing the responses as a way of helping all of us gain insight and ideas for the next chapter in our journey of faith.

Blessings!

Franz

Candlelight guild will be meeting outdoors on August 10, 2022, 6:00 pm weather permitting. Please bring your own chair and hopefully enjoy the weather.





Out of the Northern Mists: The Cimbri Appear

In 120 BC the Cimbri are a Germanic tribe living on the very edge of survival as they suffer the growing effects of climate change. Rising sea levels, rising temperatures and increased precipitation over decades have resulted in hunger and uncertainty for their future. When a jealous god sends a final cataclysmic tidal wave that destroys their homeland and threatens their very existence, they are faced with a momentous decision.

The Cimbri nation embarks on an unprecedented migration that will take them on a twenty-year quest for a new homeland. Following the ancient Amber Road and the great rivers of Europe, they traverse dark swamps, primordial forests, vast plains, and mountains that touch the sky; all in the hope that a dim memory of an ancient tribal connection with the Celtic Scordisci will help them in their quest.

In return for a promise of land, the Cimbri join the Scordisci in their battle against the invading Romans, and it seems that finally, after years of hardship and loss, they have found their new home on the Pannonian plains. Borr, the son of the Cimbri chieftain Haistulf, has grown from a sickly young man into a warrior and leader of renown, and during this time of peace he marries his childhood love and is blessed with a son.

In time, their relationship with the Scordisci sours and when a devastating plague takes his parents and many of his tribe, Borr is thrust into the leadership of his clan, something he does not know if he is ready for. When the Scordisci turn from allies into enemies, Borr becomes the leader his father knew he could be.

Forced from their homes once again, the Cimbri cross the Danube river and attack the Celtic Taurisci people. As the Cimbri warriors overrun this new land, Borr struggles with his conscience as he questions the new path that his people are taking, but as one young clan leader among many, he does not have the influence to guide it.

Guided by a mysterious prophecy and responding to a sign from Donar, the Germanic thunder god, the Cimbri select Borr as the chieftain of the entire Cimbri nation, and despite his reservations, Borr promises himself that he will never again let his people suffer. When the sea god Njoror's curse is revealed as the reason for their sufferings, Borr prepares his people to continue their journey in the coming spring. But their rampage in Noricum has attracted the attention of the Roman republic.

Page Turners, August 30, at 6:30, "THE CIMBRI APPEAR OUT OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS,"

by Jeff Hein. By Zoom and at the Parsonage.

Sign Up for News

UCC News Digest is a weekly digest of news and commentary from throughout the United Church of Christ. If you have a suggestion for UCC News coverage, please send to:

Connie Larkman at larkmanc@ucc.org

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2021

OPENING Scott K. called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and Pastor Mary Jo led the group in a prayer of guidance.

PRESENT Mike G.-P., Jerry G.-P., Scott K., Gloria C., Pastor MJ, Mark J., Paula J., Jackie H., Paula J.

ABSENT Pam O., Mark D.

CONSENT AGENDA

SECRETARY'S REPORT The June minutes were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Jackie H. made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Mark J. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT The June Treasurer's Reports were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Jerry G.-P. made motion to accept the report. Paula J. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT The June Pastor Report was distributed to the Council Members for review. The portion regarding Celebration of Life should include Jim Steffiel's name. Mark J. made a motion to accept the report with change. Jackie H. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Jerry G.-P. met with Stryker Equipment to perform further tests prior to deciding on the installation of a commercial dishwasher. The water test indicated that the water has a high iron content that would require a water softener installed. Specs will be provided by Stryker for the plumber we may choose (usually recommend Kramer Plumbing). Decision tabled

Gloria C. suggested that we consider replacing the front door of the church.

Scott K. suggested that if we need to spend we do a feasibility/impact study regarding the construction of new church building.

FIVE PRACTICES

The Pride Tribe has chosen officers for the group add structure: Faith P. - President, Jerry G-P -Vice President, Mike G-P - Treasurer, Anna G. -Communications, Courtney - Secretary

The Pride Tribe will help pay for scholarships to the Rainbow Retreat at Moon Beach using their Pride Tribe funds. Scholarships are open to all.

Thank You cards sent to congregation from our Council members.

Discussed having a Council or church member present during funeral, wedding and baptism events.

Team also still considering a Free for All event in the church parking lot. We will wait until Candlelight Guild meets to discuss a joint effort with their group.

Next meeting TBD

CHRISTIAN ED

Mary Jo presented Lily Kalepp with a Deep Blue Bible.

Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 22, 2021 for four confirmands.

CANDLELIGHT GUILD

Paid John P. for mowing.

Candlelight Guild plans to resume meetings in September.

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

The Search Committee advised that we keep the Parsonage in light of the tight housing market and our search for a full-time pastor. Council agreed to look at improvements which were identified and estimated at about \$30,000 in 2019.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Committee met in June to revise the Church Profile and will meet again to approve. The updated Profile will be sent to Rob MacDougall as soon as it is complete

OLD BUSINESS

Pastor MJ will be on vacation July 12-19th and Patty Stevens will be our Guest Pastor and she will also be on vacation the weekend of August 7 and 8th when Sue Vornholt will be Guest Pastor.

Council and church members will be asked to provide usher/recording services each week.

Mike G.-P and Jerry G.-P will attend General Synod activities this week.

Sanitation of church continues on Friday nights and after the service on Sunday.

Don King's funeral will be held at the church on Saturday, July 10

NEW BUSINESS

Since, Pastor Mary Jo has been our interim pastor for six years with much success, she and Rob MacDougall discussed commencing a search for a full-time pastor, which might take two to five years. Pastor Mary Jo would be available for an interim position at another church when a full-time pastor is found for CUCC. Rob M. also suggested that we expand the number of people on the Search Committee and will recommend the steps that should be taken. Rob M. will be going on sabbatical in August. The Search Committee will send Rob M. the updated Church Profile before he goes on sabbatical. This will be announced to members at the service on Sunday, July 11, 2021. Mike G.-P. will contact Tamara C.-D, Anna G. and Dan H.

The Council discussed and approved new updates to our Open Church protocol:

Vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask during service.

Remove the social distancing tape from the pews.

AA and Al-anon now making coffee pot and using disposable cups.

Members can now use Fellowship Hall for post-service coffee hour using disposable cups beginning Sunday, July 11, 2021. Ushers will make coffee using smaller Bunn coffee maker.

Open up church to all outside meetings.

Replace one hymnal and one Bible in each rack.

Singing at least one hymn during services (unvaccinated people will need to wear mask) will start the first Sunday in August (August 1).

The Pride Tribe would like to use the Prayer Park firepit gathering area for an outside event in August. Council agreed that the group could use the property.

Paula J. and Pastor MJ have volunteered to help at the VBS on August 12, 2021.

NEXT MEETING: Next Regular Meeting: August 12, 2021 at 6:15 pm via Zoom and live in the Fellowship Hall.

CLOSED SESSION After a closing blessing and reciting the Lord's Prayer, the Council members went directly into Adjournment with no Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT Gloria C. made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark J. the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

August 25, 11–2pm

**Community Mission
With Jesus (CMWJ)**
hosting



\$5.00/car

**CAR WASH
FUNDRAISER**

**Community
United Church of Christ**
parking lot, 510 E Broadway, Medford

CMWJ is an inter-denominational nonprofit ministry seeking to help all people in Taylor County, WI who are in sincere need of help. Member churches include Our Saviour's Lutheran Holway, Community United Church of Christ, St. Paul's Lutheran and River of Hope all of Medford.



Hello Friends,

Hello summer! It has been a whirlwind month as we prepare to host our first larger camp events in over a year. It feels so good – and new – to gather together, give and receive hugs, see smiling faces! This moment in time holds so much joy and relief.

This moment also holds everything that we have experienced in a pandemic that is ending, and not ending. Our “Pick 2” policy has evolved in conjunction with CDC guidelines for those that are vaccinated. If you are vaccinated, you will no longer need to wear a mask indoors or outdoors. Masks will still be required for those not fully vaccinated. Outdoor mask wearing will still be required for those not vaccinated when in close proximity to others. Bottom line, be vaccinated if you are eligible!

Out of love for the vulnerable, there also may be times that vaccinated guests will still be asked to wear a mask. Bottom line number two, put compassion and flexibility in the driver’s seat.

We can’t think of a better way to transition than to be outside for play, rest, reflection and to come together in these sacred spaces. That’s Outdoor Ministry, and that’s what UCCI offers for you. Event registration is still open, so take a look and plan to join us this summer at Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center and Cedar Valley.

Can’t wait to see you!

Glenn & all your friends at UCCI

Glenn Svetnicka – Executive Director UCCI

glenn@ucci.org

2021: Re-United!

UCCI is open and ready to welcome you to Moon Beach, Pilgrim Center and Cedar Valley. We can't wait to reunite in these sacred spaces again.

Check out our event registration and link to the scholarship application below.

Money is not a barrier to participation.

**The lake is calling, the sunshine is calling, the trees are calling, camp is calling,
God is calling you – it's time!**

[Event Registration](#)

[Scholarship Application](#)

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 get together “virtually”! Save these dates:

Faith Formation Time with Children, Sundays at 9:30, [in the sanctuary](#)
and on Zoom

Pastor MJ’s Office Hours on Thursdays, 10-12, [in the office](#) and on Zoom
Cerebration Tuesdays at 6:30, August 10 (ch.16-17) August 24th ch.18 and 19

Confirmation meeting, parents and confirmands **August 11 at 6:30**
In the Fellowship Hall

Church Council Meeting, August 12 at 6:15 [in person](#) **and on Zoom**

Five Practices, August 18 at 6:30 [in person](#) **and on Zoom**

Search Committee, August 19, 6pm [in person](#) **and on Zoom**

Page Turners, August 30, at 6:30, with author, Jeff Hein...

on Zoom and in person [at the parsonage](#).



If you have not yet tried Zoom, here’s how:

On your computer, your tablet or phone: click on the link that is in our weekly email

Follow the prompts. Be sure to you allow your audio and video to be accessed.

Or...on your cellphone: download the free Zoom APP; “open” it. Touch “join.” Enter in the meeting ID
and passcode when prompted.

or...call the number on your landline. (This will give you audio only.)

Enter the Meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

Readers needed for our Worship Services!

Please call Pastor Mary Jo (715-351-0450)

if you are willing to read in-person and/or

to be recorded reading the scripture

for our online recorded services





General Synod 33 Recap

The national office of the UCC has written a summary article about all things General Synod, which you can [read here](#). Included in the article are links to information about the three worship services and news about the [business of Synod](#).

UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer presented a state of the church address, which you can read about here: "[We are a denomination on the move.](#)"

Synod delegates approved a resolution decrying oppression of Palestinian people as a matter of faith, but not before a debate over whether calling that oppression "apartheid" and naming it a "sin" was too inflammatory. [Read more about this resolution here](#).

Help Others - Donate Now

The General Fund of the Wisconsin Conference helps us connect, support, and resource pastors, leaders, and congregations. Your gift allows the Conference to provide relevant and timely help during the pandemic and beyond. [Donate to the General Fund](#)



The [Give Plus app](#) that you use for giving to our Church you will have to uninstall at the end of August. Please download the Vanco Mobile church center app and create your profile within minutes (you can do this at anytime now). [Click on link here](#).

Vanco is offering a new online giving site too, please [click here](#) for more information or contact Mike in the Church office if you have any questions on either the mobile app or online giving at 715-748-3391

Feeling Generous? If you feel so moved, Taylor County Supportive Housing is in need of donations for a future homeless shelter in Medford. (monetary and other needs. Ask Pastor how to donate items.)



Did you know that if you order on [amazon.com](#), you can pick a non-profit organization to receive a portion of your purchase at no extra cost to you? Go to [smile.amazon.com](#)

next time you place an order. Taylor County Supportive Housing is one of the numerous "non-profits" that you can choose.





MOON BEACH is nestled in the Northwoods, **between** Eagle River and St. Germain on the shores of Moon Lake & Little Saint Germain Lake. Cabins overlook Moon Lake amongst the native pine, oak and birch trees. Here you'll enjoy clear waters, mixed forests with numerous nature trails, and a wide variety of wildlife. Enjoy the peaceful quiet of northern Wisconsin at Moon Beach Camp.

**RELAX, UNWIND, DISCONNECT, RECONNECT, BREATHE,
AND BE WITH OUR CREATOR**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

WE WANT TO GIVE SO MUCH MORE! WE WANT TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES DO SOMETHING THAT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE IN SOCIETY TODAY ... WE WANT TO HELP PROTECT THE SABBATH! THE CRAZINESS OF OUR 24/7, SOCIAL MEDIA-INFUSED, "PULLED IN EVERY DIRECTION" LIVES HAS TRAMPLED ALL OVER ANY CONCEPT OF SABBATH. WE OVERSCHEDULE, OVERCOMMIT, AND OVERWHELM SO MUCH THAT THERE IS NO ROOM TO LISTEN TO GOD.

LET'S GIVE CONTROL BACK TO GOD. TAKE TIME RIGHT NOW TO MAKE A DATE WITH THE DIVINE!

[REGISTER](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[SEE FULL CALENDAR](#)

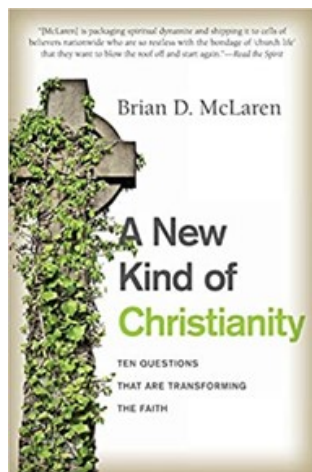
NEED FOOD? * If you know of anyone who would benefit from a little help with groceries?
Please share this information:

***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”)

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!



“Cerebration” book: “A New Kind of Christianity” by Brian McLaren
Ten Questions That are Transforming the Faith. Our discussion will begin
August 10th and 24th , at 6:30, on Zoom.

Brian D. McLaren, hailed as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals by *Time* magazine, is a speaker, social justice activist, pastor, and the author of *A New Kind of Christianity*, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, *A New Kind of Christian*, and *The Secret Message of Jesus*. McLaren has appeared on *Nightline* and *Larry King Live*, and his work has been covered in *The Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Christianity Today*, and many other publications. McLaren and his wife, Grace, live in Florida and have four adult children.

We are in the midst of a paradigm shift in the church. Not since the Reformation five centuries ago have so many Christians come together to ask whether the church is in sync with their deepest beliefs and commitments. These believers range from evangelicals to mainline Protestants to Catholics, and the person who best represents them is author and pastor Brian McLaren.

In this much anticipated book, McLaren examines ten questions facing today's church—questions about how

to articulate the faith itself, the nature of its authority, who God is, whether we have to understand Jesus through only an ancient Greco-Roman lens, what exactly the good news is that the gospel proclaims, how we understand the church and all its varieties, why we are so preoccupied with sex, how we should think of the future and people from other faiths, and the most intimidating question of all: what do we do next? Here you will find a provocative and enticing introduction to the Christian faith of tomorrow.

“Christians must be unlocked from ‘a prison’ of long-held assumptions and have the freedom to ask honest questions, Brian McLaren indicates in his newest book, *A New Kind of Christianity*. He’s not advocating for a new set of beliefs, he says, but rather a ‘new way of believing.’” -- The Christian Post

Books are available , used, for \$4.19 Call Pastor Mary Jo to reserve a copy. 715-351-0450



all children have the right
to simply be children...

'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me— you did it to me.' — Matthew 25:40 (The Message)

DONATE

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.

Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **August to September, 2021** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. However, some local churches select another date. NIN contributions can be made online at any time [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.

Prayer For America

Dear God, we thank you for the bountiful blessings you have bestowed on us. Guide us in being good stewards of these gifts. Let us care for all of your beautiful creation, from the redwood forest to the gulfstream waters. Make us instruments of your peace in order to put and end to rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air. Help us to love and care for all of our neighbors—locally and globally—so that we might be truly crowned with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. Amen

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

President- Scott Knoff (2023)
Vice President– Gloria Christianson (2023)
Recording Secretary- Pam Ouimette (2023)
Financial Sec.- Jerry Goen-Penney (2023)
Treasurer– Mark Jensen (2022)
Mark Dassow(2024)
Paula Johnson (2023)
Jackie Hierlmeier (2024)

Year exiting in February



Scrip cards

Please give me a call (Mike) at 715-748-3391 Monday thru Thursday 9-1 to make arrangements for pick up. Thank you in advance

Shopping?

Why not use SCRIP?

SCRIP cards make nice gifts.

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

County Market, Kwik-Trip, Arby's, Subway, Amazon, Fourmens, Fleet farm, and Maurice's are available



#digitalonly-Newsletter

You can receive this newsletter by email. If you would like to try the digital option, send an email to: cuccofmedford@gmail.com or call 715-748-3391 and ask to be added to the email newsletter list

JULY FINANCES:

As of 7-30-2021

Income \$ 2,417.00

Expenses \$ 5,362.83

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Zoom : Faith Formation 9:30 Worship 1000 and Communion	2 Mike 9-1	3 Mike 9-1	4 Mike 9-1	5 Mike 9-1 Pastors Zoom office hours 10-12	6	7
8 Zoom : Faith Formation 9:30 Worship 1000	9 Mike 9-1	10 Mike 9-1 Candlelight meeting outside of church, (weather permitting)bring chair at 6 pm Cerebration at 630 via Zoom	11 Mike 9-1 Confirmation meeting at 630 in the fellowship hall	12 Mike 9-1 Pastors Zoom of-fice hours 10-12 Council 615	13 Cerebration Zoom meet-up 630 pm	14
15 Zoom : Faith Formation 9:30 Worship 1000	16 Mike 9-1	17 Mike 9-1	18 Mike 9-1 Five practices 630 in person and on Zoom	19 Mike 9-1 Pastors Zoom of-fice hours 10-12 Search committee Zoom meeting at 600pm	20	21
22 Zoom : Faith Formation 9:30 Worship 1000	23 Mike 9-1	24 Mike 9-1	25 Mike 9-1 Community Mission with Jesus car wash 11-2	26 Mike 9-1 Pastors Zoom of-fice hours 10-12 Page Turners live with Zoom option at 630 pm	27	28
29 Zoom : Faith Formation 9:30 Worship 1000	30 Mike 9-1 Page Turners at 630 with Authoe Jeff Hein on Zoom and in person at the parson-age	31 Mike 9-1				

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.”**



**Worship at 10:00 on Sundays
or virtually on Facebook live,
(click on link below)
Community United
Church of Christ
(Facebook live)**

**"Faith Formation Time
with Children" 9:30
(click on link below)
[VIA Zoom](#)**