



November 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 Mike the Church Secretary call 715—748-3391 (church office) 9-1 Monday thru Thursday

Church website: www.uccmedford.org. Online worship ([Facebook live](#))

cuccofmedford@gmail.com

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2021

OPENING Scott K. called the meeting to order at 6:21 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., Pam O. and Mark D.

ABSENT

CONSENT AGENDA

SECRETARY'S REPORT The September minutes were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Pam O. made a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT The September Treasurer's Reports were emailed prior to the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. Gloria C. made motion to accept the report. Jackie H. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT The September Pastor Report was distributed to the Council Members for review. Mark J.. made a motion to accept the report. Gloria C. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- The Council the fact that the nuts from the black walnut trees on the west side need to be picked up each fall before mowing and that next year we will get a group together to rake the nuts when they fall/
 - Jerry G.-P. had nothing to report on the dishwasher and front door issues.
 - Mark J. contacted Dan H. to schedule a B&G meeting regarding parsonage updates. Meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- continued

FIVE PRACTICES

- The Five Practices team will be hosting the lunch for the Candlelight Guild's Holiday Bazaar on November 6, 2021 and is asking the congregation for donation for chili ingredients, crackers, cheese and dessert.
- Five Practices and Candlelight Guild are discussing combining the teams and their missions for a stronger, single effort.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2021.

CHRISTIAN ED

Respectfully submitted by Pam Ouimette, Recording Secretary

- Scott K. contacted the former Christian Ed committee members to check if they continue having interest in serving on the committee. The former members were no longer interested since their children have been now been confirmed.
- Pastor MJ reported that Paula J., Missy K. and Lindsay R. will form the new Christian Ed committee.
- Confirmation classes started this week. Tamara C.-D. will be teaching the class which begins in November and meets every other week for 11 sessions this year.

CANDLELIGHT GUILD

- The Annual Holiday Fair will be held on November 6, 2021. Tickets for the Bucket Raffle will go on sale as early as Sunday, October 17, 2021.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 5 pm.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

- Search Committee met and established guidelines for applicant interview questions
- When they meet in two weeks, the Search Committee will discuss interviewing the one candidate who has applied thus far.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Council discussed Pastor Mary Jo's October 1, 2021 letter of resignation effective October 31, 2021. Pam O. made the motion to accept the letter of resignation. Jackie H. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Mike G.-P. has secured pulpit supply people and musicians through the end of December. The Council decided that the pulpit supply people will be offered the Parsonage for a stay the night before the service.

continued

- The Council discussed asking Tamara C.-D. to consider becoming licensed to preach, I order to serve Communion and perform Baptisms. Pam O. made the motion to pursue Tamara's licensing. Gloria C. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- o Scott K. will write the letter to the Division of Church and Ministry requesting their approval and help with the process.

- Scott K. suggested that Mike G.-P. as head of Search Committee and Gloria C. as Council V.P. will conduct an exit interview with Pastor MJ on October 19, 2021 at 8 am.

- The Council discussed conducting Safe Church Background checks for all church employees and will be reviewed by the Council President and Vice President and marked confidential and safely filed.

- Mike G.-P. distributed Budget Planning Worksheets to review for the November Council Meeting.

- Mike G.-P. informed the Council that the office computer is outdated and will need to be replaced as updated versions of the software will not download to the older computer model. Mike G.-P. will source options for replacement and present at next Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- No changes to COVID protocol, although we will recommend wearing masks to protect those who are not vaccinated, those who are immune compromised, and those children who are not eligible for vaccination. We will also still comply to social distancing and hand sanitizing.

- Scott K. reported that we are continuing to sanitize church on Mondays and Fridays each week.

- October Service Assignments:

October 17: Scott K. greeter/recorder, Linda R. reader

October 24: Jerry G.-P. greeter, Pam O. recorder, Pam O. reader

October 31: Scott K. greeter/recorder, Paula J. reader

November 7: Pam O. greeter/recorder, Paula J. reader

NEXT MEETING: Next Regular Meeting: November 11, 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 Pam O. made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark J. the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Ouimette, Recording Secretary



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Dear friends in Christ,

Over the weekend I came across a compelling piece in The Atlantic written by Peter Wehner. [“The Evangelical church is breaking apart: Christians must reclaim Jesus from his church”](#) addresses a phenomenon many of us in mainline congregations also are experiencing. Conflicts over COVID protocols, deep political polarization, and a renewed racial justice push prompted by the death of George Floyd have contributed to a growing tribalism in congregational life.

Wehner is an Evangelical Christian who served in the administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. He concisely frames the problem: “The aggressive, disruptive and unforgiving mindset that characterizes so much of our politics has found a home in many American churches.”

The article’s subtitle is eerily similar to the title of Robin Meyers’ prophetic 2009 book, “Saving Jesus from the Church,” in which Meyers implored us to “to stop worshipping Christ and start following Jesus.” Wehner warns about an idolatrous fusion of religion and politics that blatantly ignores the core message of the Bible.

Wehner writes: “When the Christian faith is politicized, churches become repositories not of grace but of grievances, places where tribal identities are reinforced, where fears are nurtured, and where aggression and nastiness are sacralized. This result is not only wounding the nation; it’s having a devastating impact on the Christian faith.”

All this should prompt us to reclaim our essential calling as disciples – to share the love of Jesus in all we say and do. Ministry is hard work right now, with lots of land mines to navigate. There’s no better time to remember that Jesus didn’t call us to agree with one another on every issue – he called us to care for one another in acts of compassion and to deal mercifully even with those who are hard to love. This modeling of a grace-filled beloved community nourishes souls and invites people to live in the life-giving ways of Christ.

Wishing you continued strength, courage and hope in these challenging days,

Franz



Autumn Greetings Community United Church Of Christ,

During UCCI team devotionals, our chaplain often shares the wise and inspiring words of [Steven Charleston](#). A few days ago, as we turned the calendar page to October, Steven offered this:

"October is a sacred month for me. I don't know why. It just always has been. In my language, [Choctaw] it is called Month of the Little Hunger. And I understand why because it is a time when our awareness is sharpened. The air gets colder, the mind gets quicker. Even the trees reach their most intense colors, a magical beauty revealed to us in evening light. Spiritually, this is the doorway to ancient days, to our ancestors, and the story of our people. The Spirit is always near in October. Wood fires and first snows: we have crossed the threshold. We are walking on sacred ground."

These beautiful words ring so true for Outdoor Ministry. At Cedar Valley, Daycholah Center, and Moon Beach, we have been moving with reverence toward the changing light, the glow of the leaves, the clarity of the night sky. It truly is magical. We invite you to come and experience this magic.

Speaking of walking on sacred ground, in a few days, we will officially rededicate Daycholah Center. The ceremony will take place on Indigenous Peoples' Day and will include speakers representing the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Hocak United Church of Christ, the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, and UCCI. Cordell Funmaker will provide songs and drums and Bryan Sirchio will lead us with music. There will be a fire circle with a presentation of the Ho-Chunk Nation flag and a shared meal.

The ceremony will be [live-streamed on the Daycholah Center Facebook page](#). Please join us online if you are able!

We thank this community for your prayers, kind words of affirmation, and support surrounding the name change. You have energized us for the work ahead.

Peace,

Glenn Svetnicka

Executive Director

glenn@ucci.org

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Sometimes Clergy have a hard time making ends meet after they retire. They spent their lives pastoring without asking a lot financially from their beloved churches, providing for the needs of family and children on their salaries, but sometimes having not enough left over each week to save for a comfortable retirement. So when there is a sudden change in rent or utilities, unexpected car repairs, difficulties caused by Covid, medical emergencies or they need expensive medical equipment like hearing aids, life can get pretty scary for clergy/ lay retirees as well as low-income pastors.

We know that seeing the grateful relief expressed in letters thanking the Pension Boards for stepping in to help fill those gaps with the gifts we and our churches give to the Christmas Fund (this year December 19th.) “We don’t know what we would have done without your gift” is said over and over again. If you know a pastor/lay church worker that is in need, let our Conference Minister Franz Rigert (frigert@wcucc.org) know.

In 2019, nationally,

- \$1,347,419 was given to 350 persons to bring their household income up to minimum level so they can provide for basic needs
- \$123,727 was provided to 69 individuals and families that face unforeseen circumstances.
- Health Premium supplements totaling \$374,577 were provided to 144 persons.
- And at Christmas time, \$260, 500 in “Thank you” gift checks given to 521 retired UCC clergy/lay employees.

So if you had ministers who remind you of wonderful childhood memories or visited family members in the hospital or helped you through a difficult time or said something you didn’t like at first but now you realize made all the difference, perhaps a gift to the Christmas fund on December 19 would be the best “thank you” of all. You can find promotional materials for your church or give a gift directly at www.christmasfund.org.



In a deeply moving ceremony, the former Pilgrim Center was renamed Daycholah Center, using the original Ho-Chunk name for Green Lake. The ceremony culminated a years-long initiative to honor the land and the people who first called it home. [Read more.](#)

The Candlelight Guild met on Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30.

Join us for the **Holiday Fair** on **Saturday, November 6th 9-2** At this time there are 10 vendors setting up space at the fair.

We will be selling baked goods, cookies and candies in sealed containers. Accepting craft items and 2nd time around Christmas items. We have a bucket raffle, for those ready to try their luck! The 5 Practices Team will be serving a Chili Lunch.

Craft items, 2nd time around Christmas items, baked goods, cookies and candies in sealed containers can be brought to the church on Friday, November 5th 4-7:00 and the day of the event 7:30-9:00. We can package the cookies etc. for you. Call with any questions- Susie 715-965-4679 or Dawn 715-748-3295. Thank you!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

CG Meeting - November 9th at 5:30

Decorating of the Church - November 30th at 5:30.

And watch for the Christmas Giving Tree to be placed in the fellowship hall.

For the Candlelight Guild, Dawn



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

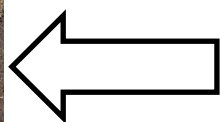
Please share this information:

***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!

COMMUNITY MISSION WITH JESUS

Who are we?

Pay it forward...

**Volunteers needed
to help with**

**Lawn Work
Housework
Meals
Companionship
Laundry
Garbage
Short-term Medical
Dishes
Transportation**

COMMUNITY MISSION WITH JESUS

A ministry of:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church-Holway

**Community United Church of Christ-
Medford**

River of Hope-Medford

**First Lutheran Church-Westboro
St Paul's ELCA, Medford
New Life Apostolic,
Medford**

Do you ever feel powerless?

**Do you worry about friends and loved
ones who are not getting the help they
need at home?**

We are thankful for the resources of the
government, state, and county but sometimes
people fall through the cracks.

Here to help.

How do we help people in our community who
need extra support due to illness, death of a
spouse, aging, or a physical disability?

We are looking for volunteers to assist people with
cleaning, cooking, or transportation needs when
these needs are unable to be met through other
sources. Someone to help with lawn work,
laundry, doing dishes, short-term medical
assistance, or just companionship.

Community Mission With Jesus is an
inter-denominational, non-profit ministry seeking to
help people of all races, creeds, colors, languages,
and nationalities.

If you would like to help either as a volunteer or as
a donor, or if you need help, contact Teresa
Gretzinger at 715-965-3186.



**Community
United Church Of Christ
Invites you to our**

Holiday Fair

**510 E Broadway Ave.
Medford, WI 54451
Saturday
November 6, 2021
9:00 - 2:00**

Featuring
**Crafts, homemade baked goods,
candles & cookies, Terri Lynn Nuts
Crafts from the Little Store. Knit Items
Creative Hideaway
Green Hydrangea Designs - Wood signs
Sweater mittens and Maple Syrup
Scentsy Products
Handmade Gifts and Cards
Doll Clothes
and much more!**

Bucket Raffle
(License #R0034120-B-41443)

Serving lunch

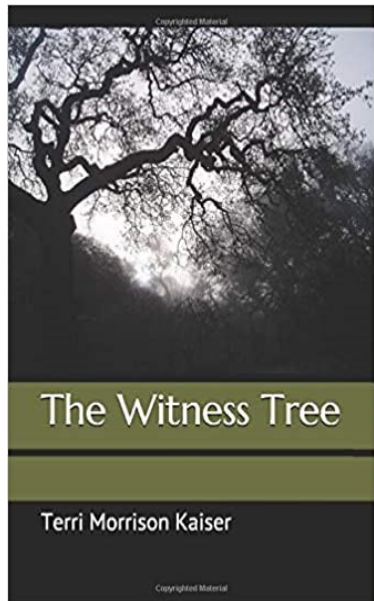
Event could be cancelled due to Covid-19 recommendations.



Happy Thanksgiving



Page-turners meeting 11-22-2021 at 600 pm via Zoom



When a skeletal foot slips from the confines of a downed tree, Foley family secrets whisper like thistle in the wind, enticing, teasing, and daring the truth to come forth. The year is 1944 and Esther Foley suffers a humiliating introduction to her new neighbor when he finds she and her children sleeping along his portion of the Redemption River one July morning. The neighbor, Robert Sommers, may be Esther's ticket to a new life, even if she may need to manipulate the situation a tad. A desperate act will change all their lives and Esther will spend the rest of her days making amends. In the process, she will rediscover the courageous young woman she once was, and know that nothing is out of bounds when a mother needs to protect her own. Esther's daughter, Helen, was certain she had out-run the ghosts of the Foley family past, until the bones are found and the rumors begin. A box of letters and a mysterious ring hold the key to all that Helen has blocked from memory—along with her part in the shattering events of the past.

Click on book above to redirected to Amazon and book. Click on Zoom link below to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83739739037?pwd=UUt6emJrQU1uMUhoMHhkTDh3UUt4Zzo9>

Cerebration on Wednesdays at 630 pm via Zoom ; We will be discussing several chapters at each session:

November 3, Braiding Sweetgrass

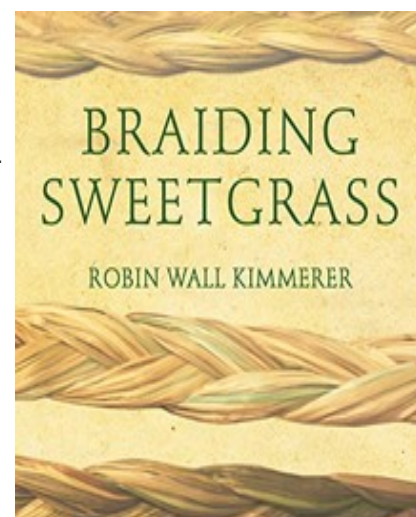
November 17, Burning Sweetgrass, to the end this book is the WI Conference UCC all church read,

“Braiding Sweetgrass, Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,” by: Robin Wall Kimmerer

The book is available on Audible (audio book) on thriftbooks.com and on amazon.com. All are welcome to join us. We meet on Zoom. Community UCC, Medford, WI is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89790351264?pwd=SoprcWw5ODNwS2FRUnJ4TmwyckhoUTo9>



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:



Let get together “virtually”! Save these dates:

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

Cerebration Wednesday at 6:30, November 3rd and the 17th at 630pm via Zoom.

Church Council Meeting, November 11th, at 6:15 [in person and on Zoom](#)

Candlelight guild 530 pm on November 9th, at 6:15 pm

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

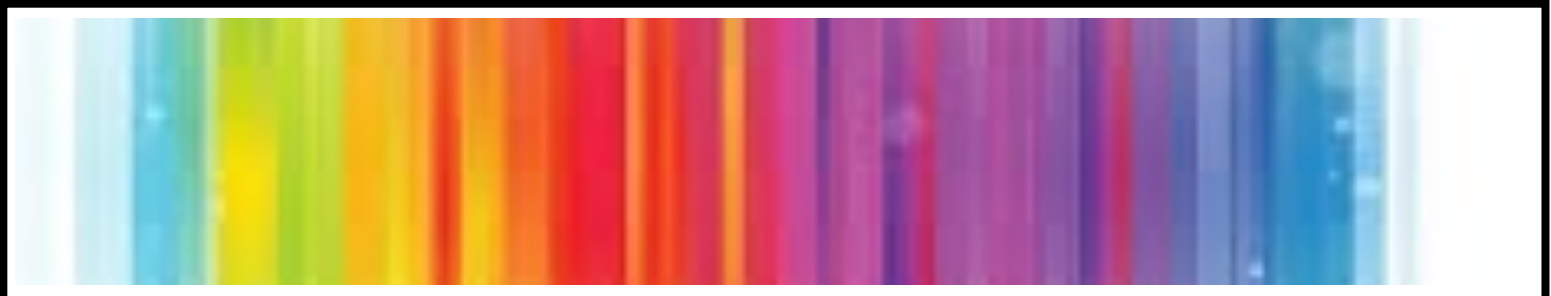
On your computer, your tablet or phone: click on the link that is in our weekly email

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.



GIVING MADE EASY

Did you know we offer electronic giving?

You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone, or tablet.

Give online by visiting our website at
secure.myvanco.com/L-YRWC/home

or

Download our free and new Vanco app from the App store or [Google Play](#)

Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit our online donations page to set up your online giving



Vanco

Please be aware as of January 1, 2022 the Give Plus app will be no longer. You will be redirected to this new Vanco app (for non recurring donations). People who are set up for recurring donations need to do nothing unless you want to make changes in the future.

Any questions feel free to call Mike at the Church (715) 748-3391
Between 9-1 Monday's through Thursdays

Search committee met on 10-7-2021 at 6pm

Attendance: Mike, Jerry, Scott, Tamara

The committee came up with twelve questions to ask the future candidates

Next meeting will be November 1, 2021 at 600pm on Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Goen—Penney.

*Bear in mind that the results of
our choices can be incredibly
significant.*



For Taylor County Supportive Housing

**All Proceeds will be used for Renovation Costs of
the Homeless Shelter**

November 23, 2021

4 – 7 pm

First Baptist Church

751 Grace Way

Cost is \$10 for adults and

\$5 for children under 10

*"From homelessness to housing stability, we provide shelter, food,
support, and solutions to address the housing needs in our community."*

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.

A Prayer For Inner Strength

Dear God,

Please give me the strength to face the day and to see the many blessings that it contains.

Give me the courage to walk on, no matter how long the path or how many turns the road holds.

Guide my thoughts so that I walk in love and peace and with gratitude stamped on my heart.



Ramblings of the Clairy

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

OCTOBER FINANCES:

As of 10-31-2021

Income \$ 4,430.00

Expenses \$ 6,005.51

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	2 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	3 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Cerebration</i> <i>630pm via</i> <i>Zoom</i>	4 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>10-12</i>	5 <i>Craft drop off</i> <i>items 4-7pm</i>	6 <i>Craft drop off</i> <i>items 730-9am</i> <i>Holiday fair</i> <i>9-2pm</i>
7 <i>Zoom : Faith</i> <i>Formation 9:30</i> <i>Tamara doing</i> <i>Worship 1000</i> <u><i>Worship on</i></u> <u><i>Facebook 1000am</i></u>	8 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	9 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Candlelight</i> <i>meeting at</i> <i>530pm</i>	10 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	11 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Council 615 pm</i> <i>Zoom and in person</i>	12	13
14 <i>Zoom : Faith</i> <i>Formation 9:30</i> <i>Tamara doing</i> <i>Worship 1000</i> <u><i>Worship on</i></u> <u><i>Facebook 1000am</i></u>	15 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	16 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	17 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Cerebration</i> <i>630pm via</i> <i>Zoom</i>	18 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	19	20
21 <i>Zoom : Faith</i> <i>Formation 9:30</i> <i>Jill doing</i> <i>Worship 1000 and</i> <i>Communion</i> <u><i>Worship and</i></u> <u><i>Communion on</i></u> <u><i>Facebook 1000am</i></u>	22 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Page-Turners</i> <i>600pm via</i> <i>Zoom</i>	23 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	24 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>eve service at</i> <i>the New Life</i> <i>church at</i> <i>7:00pm</i>	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Mike off</i>	26	27
28 <i>Zoom : Faith</i> <i>Formation 9:30</i> <i>Elizabeth Worship</i> <i>1000</i> <u><i>Worship on</i></u> <u><i>Facebook 1000am</i></u>	29 <i>Mike 9-1</i>	30 <i>Mike 9-1</i> <i>Decoration of</i> <i>church 530pm</i>				

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](#)**