

SHAPING, STRENGTHENING AND ENGAGING OUR FAITH

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

ART IN THE CHAPEL – PAINTINGS BY PHYLLIS ANDERSEN

Artist's Reception – Sunday, May 12 @ 9-11 a.m.

A new artistic exhibit begins in the Chapel on Sunday, May 12. In 1965 Phyllis Andersen received a degree in art from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has worked as a portrait painter, graphic designer, systems analyst and administrative assistant. Art has been an important part of her journey all along. Phyllis has been a member of FUMC since 1990 and is offering a gallery of her work which she describes as calming and contemplative with atmospheric colors. She looks for themes and elements that engage the viewer and colors that evoke a mood. See her work in our Chapel beginning May 12 and throughout the whole month. On May 12 an informal Artist's Reception will be held in the Chapel from 9 to 11 a.m., a good opportunity to visit with Phyllis about her work. Be sure to stop in for a dose of inspiration!

YOUTH CURRICULUM ORIENTATION FOR EVERYONE: "OUR WHOLE LIVES: SEXUALITY & FAITH"

Sundays, April 28 in Room LL06 and May 5 @ 9:30 a.m. Room 214

FUMC will be using a new elective curriculum for middle and high school youth this fall. "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum designed to provide accurate information in a non-judgmental environment and connect the realm of sexuality education with our faith. Parents of middle and high school youth and anyone else in the congregation who is interested are encouraged to attend this three-part informational series that will provide an overview of the curriculum, a sample lesson, and an opportunity to ask questions. Parents and youth are strongly encouraged to attend these informative sessions to learn more about the curriculum and have their questions answered. The OWL Team look forward to seeing you there!

GREEN TEAM MAY FORUM: NATURAL BURIAL

Sunday, May 19 @ 11 a.m. in the Chapel

Special guest Kevin Corrado will share the philosophy behind Natural Path Sanctuary, a nature preserve/burial ground/cemetery that opened at the Farley Center in 2011, just outside of Verona. As Kevin explains sustainable end-of-life choices and burial practices, he will transform the commonly gloomy topic of death into a conversation about respect for the deceased and hope for the future. There will be time for questions and answers.

THEOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. in Room LL05

The group will begin a short book or a series of articles or stories to read and discuss for the month of May. Newcomers are always welcome. Class discussions, led by various members of the class, are always both lively and enlightening.

MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

COME AS YOU ARE WORSHIP

Mondays & Wednesdays @ 9:30 - 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

No Worship Wednesday, May 1 or Monday, May 27.

This half hour of worship is for anyone who wants to grow closer to God through prayer, music and Scripture. Fellowship time, with coffee and a light breakfast, begins at 9 a.m.

YOGA FOR GOOD

Mondays @ 11:45 a.m. and Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

No Class Monday, May 27.

Reach out in yoga poses as you reach out to help the community! A portion of the modest class fees are donated to First Church's Food Pantry. Mats and supplies are provided. Drop-ins are always welcome.

MONDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Mondays @ 7 p.m. in the Chapel

No Session Monday, May 27.

Join others to explore the practice of meditation. The group begins and ends each session with short meditative readings. A time of silent meditation is also an important component of each class. If you need some peaceful, quiet time and some sharing of thoughts, this is a good place to be. Meet at the front doors of the church (by the parking lot) at 6:55 p.m. to walk upstairs to the Chapel together.

BIBLE STUDY: "JOHN 1"

Sundays, April 28 and May 5 @ 11 a.m. in Room 208

Facilitated by retired UM pastor, Jim Scorgie

This group has been examining the first chapter of John's gospel, with particular attention to its themes, its variations from the other gospels, its relationship to the Old Testament and the questions it raises for theology, the contemporary church and today's social issues. The final two sessions of the class are still open to new participants.

A HARVEST OF GOOD BOOKS RETURNS THIS SUMMER

Watch for the summer schedule of books and presenters which will be part of our summer book review series beginning Sunday, June 2. A wide variety of topics are covered with something of interest for everyone. News about each week will be available in print soon and will be posted on the church website.

WEEKEND OPPORTUNITIES

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Friday/Saturday, May 17/18 at Lodi UMC

Discover something new in the person you love. Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat where engaged, newly married, or couples thinking about marriage can get away from jobs, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference an Engaged Encounter Weekend can make! The next Engaged Encounter Weekend is Friday evening, May 17 - Saturday, May 18 at Lodi UMC, Lodi WI. The cost is \$75 per couple. For more information contact John and Rosie Mitchell @ 920-894-7177 or jdmitche@frontier.com.

FAITH AND REASON

Tuesday, May 14 @ 7:30 a.m.

Capitol Lakes, 333 W. Main

Is not science merely that branch of theology which explores the manner in which God made the universe? This question and a host of others are vetted in gatherings held the second Tuesday of each month. Group members facilitate the discussions on a variety of current topics.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Ruth Circle: *Tuesday, May 14 @ Noon,*

Capitol Lakes, 333 W. Main

This month Jim Ostrander will talk about his work as Coordinator of Homebound Ministries at First Church. Everyone will have an opportunity to make a card to send to one of our homebound members, an activity we hope will be the beginning of a regular, monthly correspondence with our new acquaintances. Please bring your own lunch. Beverages and card making supplies will be provided.

SPOUSES NEWLY ALONE

Tuesday, May 28 @ Noon at the Concourse, 1 W. Dayton Street

Persons who have recently experienced the death of their spouse meet at the Concourse on the last Tuesday of each month for lunch, conversation and fellowship.

OLD TESTAMENT STUDY WITH PASTOR CARLY

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join Pastor Carly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a study of the Old Testament. This is a come when you can, no preparation class, so new members are always welcome.