

the Chimes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MADISON



Pastor Schroerlucke Announces Retirement

In a letter to the congregation, Rev. Schroerlucke announced his retirement from active, full-time ministry effective July 1, 2012. (The full letter can be read on the church's website: www.fumc.org, search: SPRC) This will conclude a 40-year ministry as an ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church, the last 12 years serving as Lead Pastor at First UMC, Madison. Pastor Schroerlucke states that this decision comes at a good time in his spiritual and professional journey.

Already our Committee on Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC) is engaged in dialogue with the District Superintendent, Bishop and cabinet about a successor. (See related letter from SPRC Chairperson, Brenda Furlow, also available at www.fumc.org, search: SPRC)

In the United Methodist tradition, we practice an appointment process of sending and receiving clergy leadership in our churches. After conversations with our SPRC and developing a pastoral profile for First Church, the cabinet will appoint a person to serve as our new lead pastor. This is an intentional process of discernment to match a pastor's gifts and graces with the ministry needs, vision and identity of a local church. During this process, the congregation will be kept informed through *Chimes* and the church website. Questions may be directed to: sprc@fumc.org.

It should be noted that Pastor Keith and the staff will continue to direct the ministries of our church and help provide a smooth transition. More information will be shared in future communications.

As Pastor Schroerlucke reminds us, "This is one moment in a long journey, no more or less important than any other, for every moment is important. Keep perspective and remain faithful."

Special Listening Sessions

The SPRC will host three listening sessions where members can learn more about the pastoral appointment process, ask questions and have conversation with representatives from our Committee on Staff Parish Relations. These conversations will take place on Sundays, January 15 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. in Room LL05, and January 29 at 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel.

Committee on Staff Parish Relations

Brenda Furlow, Chair
Leigh Roberts
Carolyn May
Jeremy Peacock
Jim Hoyt
Gordon Ridley
Tim Casper
Elissa Jones
Heidi Hoffland
Jim Blanchard
Kate Vanderheiden,
Chair of Church Council

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m.

Sunday, January 15
Remembering the Vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Message: "The Story of Nathaniel and Our Story"
Text: John 1:43-51
8:00 - Worship in the Chapel
9:30 - Blessed Brass, Chamber Choir
11:00 - Worship in the Chapel
We will receive a special offering for Human Relations Day.

Sunday, January 22
Ecumenical Sunday
Message: "Let's Not Forget Andrew"
Text: Mark 1:14-20
9:30 - Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir
11:00 - Worship in the Chapel

Sunday, January 29
Message: "From the Chaos"
Text: Mark 1:21-28
9:30 - Chancel Choir,
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
11:00 - Chapel Choir

Sunday, February 5
Holy Communion celebrated at all three services
Message: "Quiet Moments"
Text: Mark 1:29-39
9:30 - Chancel Choir
11:00 - Worship in the Chapel

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, February 12
"Bring a Bear and Show You Care" Sunday
We welcome Sonja Parr to our pulpit this Sunday.

Sunday, February 19
9:30 - Dixieland Service

Sunday Fellowship
Coffee Fellowship 8:30-11 a.m.
First Cup Café 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Musings

Thinking back over this past year brings up memories of all the wonderful folks at First Church who have helped with our many Outreach activities. Without your help these programs could not have succeeded. Finding adequate words to express my gratitude and appreciation is difficult. As I think of our generous community at First Church, I am reminded of a song's words:

*Can we be like drops of water, falling on the stone?
Splashing, breaking, dispersing in air, weaker than the stone by far,
but be aware that, as time goes by, the rock will wear away.*

To me the “stone” or “rock” represents the seemingly insurmountable problems we face in our world, such as poverty, homelessness, hunger, injustice, violence. When we see ourselves and our neighbors and friends as drops of water, we realize we don't have to right these wrongs by ourselves. The reality that we cannot solve these problems by ourselves is OK, because we know that together, we can.

Our Outreach projects here at First Church attempt to grapple with these huge problems. Our “drops of water” are all of you who volunteer, give money or donate an item, even just once. Your contribution, alone, won't alleviate hunger or homelessness or depression or poverty. One drop of water doesn't really affect the rock. But your drop combined with hundreds of others, like those from our First Church family, will eventually wear it down, if not wear it away entirely.

Our recent Thanksgiving and Christmas community meals are a good example of what can happen when many “drops” work together. Hundreds of First Church members gave food, many spending time and effort making it themselves, while others gave money to purchase turkeys and other meal necessities. Hundreds of church and community members volunteered their time and effort to make the event run smoothly. Some volunteers worked before the event, planning and securing donations. Others came the day before to get everything set up and ready. And still others came on the day of the meal and made it happen. The “rock” which for many in our community is hunger, loneliness, isolation, frustration and depression was worn away by the action of these many “drops” of water.

So many of you give of your time, your labor, your hearts, and your financial gifts. All of you help in the ways that you can. “Thank you” seems so inadequate for the amount of stone we wore away this past year. We needed you and you helped. From my heart to yours, thank you.

Susan Jeannette, Director of Outreach Ministries



“Our ‘drops of water’ are all of you who volunteer”

Epiphany 2012: “What Have We Done with Jesus?”

Our Epiphany theme this year is “What Have We Done with Jesus?” or “How have we brought Jesus into the traditions and celebrations of the church?” During the Epiphany season, we will celebrate some of the traditions that help us remember who we are. Some of them are now just memories from the past, while others we continue to practice. As Tevye in “Fiddler on the Roof” learned, traditions are important but sometimes these traditions need to change or be adapted to the changing times.

Sunday, January 15 – Human Relations Sunday

“In my childhood memories, I have pictures of Sunday morning worship with men and women wearing hats. Of course, the men took their hats off upon entering the church but hats were a big part of Sunday worship. I even remember the first hat I wore for Sunday. Did I feel grown-up! **You are invited to come to church on Sunday, January 15 wearing your Sunday-go-to-meetin’ hat and celebrate one of those lost traditions in the church.**” *Pastor Keith*

Sunday, January 22 – Ecumenical Sunday

“I am continually amazed by the number of church and denominational traditions represented in our congregation. We are a melting pot of church traditions. During worship on this Sunday, we’ll try to identify many of these.” *Pastor Keith*

Sunday, January 29

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 9:30 worship. This is also the week that Youth Fruit Sale begins. (See related article on page 5.)

Sunday, February 5 – Super Bowl/Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated at all three worship services. If “TT” should happen, feel free to wear your “green and gold.”

New Chimes Publishing Schedule and Article Deadlines

Beginning with this issue, the *Chimes* will be published once a month. This schedule will allow our communications staff and volunteers to focus on new efforts related to the church’s website, electronic communications upgrades, communications support for new ministry efforts and expanding social media presence.

The deadline for submitting articles is noon on the first Wednesday of each month with the publish date on Thursday of the following week.

The next *Chimes* will be published on February 9, so articles should be submitted by Wednesday, February 1. You can view the publication schedule for all of 2012 at www.fumc.org on the Publications tab.

Newcomer Gathering – Sunday, January 29

9:30 a.m. in Room 202

If you’ve been visiting with us in worship and would like to consider membership, or if you simply desire more information about First Church, please come and share in this informal time of fellowship. Our conversation will center around the church’s ministries. There will be discussion about membership as well as time to get acquainted with one another. Please contact Mary Hasheider at 608-256-9061, Ext. 34 or email mhasheider@fumc.org if you plan to attend. If you’re unable to attend and are interested in membership, please let Mary know.

First United Methodist Church Capital Fund Appeal Planning Update

Together, we have come a long way over the past decade. Our building program, completed in 2007, has enhanced our ministries. We now look forward to the next chapter in the life of our congregation. Our Capital Fund Appeal will be an important step as together we will strive to pay off our building debt. Doing so will result in significant interest savings and will position our congregation well for future ministry.

The Appeal Steering Team has been meeting to begin detailed preparations for the appeal. They have established a timetable and begun recruiting for additional helpers. The Capital Fund Appeal will occur during the first three months of 2012, culminating with our Commitment Weekend on March 25.

What can I do at this time?

- 1) We ask that you pray for God’s blessing upon the Steering Team as they continue to make plans during the next month.
- 2) Be open to help with the appeal if approached. As a volunteer helper, you will not be asking for money; instead, you agree to help get the word out about the good things that are happening at First Church, and how this appeal will help us prepare for the future.
- 3) Take note of the various appeal communications that will occur. A question and answer brochure will be sent in early February.

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

first church News

Film Screening: "Fresh" – Sunday, January 15

10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

The week before FUMC hosts a Winter Farmer's Market and Meal of Hope (prepared with locally grown foods), come and view this thought-provoking movie about the state of U.S. agriculture. Discover a new way of thinking about the food we eat.

Friday Night Dinner & Concert – Gaet Ma Dang: Korean Music and Dance Friday, January 27

Dinner: 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Concert: 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Start the evening with a hearty, "Three-Bar Meal" from the FUMC Baked Potato Bar, Salad Bar and Ice Cream Sundae Bar. Tickets for the meal are \$7 and can be reserved by contacting the church office at info@fumc.org or 608-256-9061 by Tuesday, January 24.

After dinner, let yourself be transported by the sounds of Korean folk music played on traditional drums, bamboo flutes and other instruments. Members of this touring troupe will also perform group Court Dancing and solo dance pieces. A goodwill offering will be accepted.

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Farmers' Market & Meal for Hope – Sunday, January 22

8-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Stock your larder with products from local farmers who practice sustainable farming methods. The Market will be open in Fellowship Hall from 8-11 a.m. Insulated, blue FUMC tote bags will be available that morning or you can bring your own bag for carrying your goodies home. In addition to the support this gives our local farmers, a portion of the proceeds and farmers' products will be donated to our church's Food Pantry.

Meanwhile, a special Kitchen Kadré will be busy cooking and serving up the Meal for Hope, made of ingredients from the farmers at the market. The morning's menu will include: Wild Mushroom, Winter Greens and Egg Strata; Hot Honey Brats; Roasted Baby Red Potatoes; Fresh Fruit, Yogurt and Granola Parfait; and Assorted Pastries. Don't miss this delicious meal and opportunity to support local farmers and our Food Pantry! If you'd like to help in the kitchen or dining room, please contact the church office.

Meal Information/Tickets:

Meal 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Adults: \$10, Seniors & Ages 6-12: \$6
Tickets can be purchased at the Information Desk on Sunday morning, January 15. They can also be reserved until Tuesday, January 17 by contacting the church office at 608-256-9061 or info@fumc.org.



Help St. Vincent de Paul Recycle the Warmth – Sunday, January 29

St. Vincent de Paul will hold their 20th annual Recycle the Warmth blanket drive at First Church on Sunday, January 29. New or gently used bedding such as blankets, pillow cases and sheets, as well as sleeping bags, will be gratefully accepted. A large bin will be set up in Fellowship Hall to collect your cozy donations. The bin will be onsite from Friday, January 26 through Monday, January 30, in case you cannot bring your donation on Sunday. All of the bedding collected will be given away without charge by St. Vincent de Paul during 2012 to needy individuals and families. If you have questions you can reach Susan at 608-256-9061 or outreach@fumc.org. Thank you for helping Recycle the Warmth!

Game Days Are Here Again

Join the gang on Wednesdays, January 18 and February 1 for brain-stimulating fun. We will meet from 1-3 p.m. in Room 208. Come one, come all!



**Youth Missions
Fruit Sale**
Sundays, January 29
– February 19

As in past years, there will be a variety of delicious kinds of fruit plus cheese and sausages to choose from. If you don't want any, but still want to support youth missions, consider buying an order for the FUMC Food Pantry. Orders can be placed at the Youth Kiosk in the Octagon on Sunday mornings. Fruit pickup will be available on Sunday, March 4 between services. The youth thank you for your support!

**New Part-time Position
Opening at First Church**

We are looking for a part-time person to coordinate and direct our children's Sunday School program from childcare for infants and toddlers through the 5th grade classroom. Major responsibilities will include:

- The recruitment, training and nurture of Sunday School teachers as directed by the Minister of Discipleship.
- Researching and recommending curriculum to be used in the Sunday School program.
- Providing the week-to-week administration of the Sunday School program, including appropriate record keeping, room maintenance and communications.
- Scheduling and supervising the childcare attendants on Sunday mornings.

This person will work independently as a member of the Church School team, which also includes our Minister of Discipleship and Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. This position will require an 8 to 12 hour commitment per week including Sunday mornings.

Inquiries and resumes may be sent to Rev. Keith Schroerlucke, kschroer@fumc.org.



Doug Knudson



Jim & Paula Benson



Sandy Solomon

Thank You to Our Visitation Teams

Thank you to all our Hospital and Homebound Visitation ministers (and we do consider you "ministers" and partners in the ministry at FUMC) for the compassionate and meaningful ministry you share every day. Your faithfulness and caring have touched many and are a wonderful expression of God's love and the best qualities of FUMC.

Several individuals have tirelessly organized the efforts of these visitation teams. **Paula and Jim Benson** have been the coordinators of the hospital team for several years. They have decided to concentrate on hospital visits, so **Doug Knudson** now will do the coordinating, while Jim and Paula remain on the team. Thank you, Doug, for accepting this new responsibility, and thank you, Bensons, for your service in this ministry.

You might have thought **Sandy Solomon** had been a member of our congregation far longer than she has by the way she jumped right into her ministry of coordinator of homebound visitation. She has worked to identify all our homebound members and to have up-to-date information as to their whereabouts. Sandy has decided her energies are best used to visit rather than coordinate other visitation team members. Thank you, Sandy, for your quick-to-engage, caring ministry to our older members.

Judy Lyons continues into 2012 as our staff person working with our Caring Ministry program and will work with Keith in coordinating these caring ministries. (Thank you, Judy!)

If you are moved by the work of these teams and want to become involved, we can use more hospital visitors, more folks to stay in touch with our homebound members, and someone to help coordinate these visits to our members who can't be with us. We don't want to miss anyone in our church family.

Keith Schroerlucke & Judy Lyons

Interfaith Dialogue on Sexuality Conference

Sunday, January 22, 1-5 p.m.
The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St.



Come to this important event to learn strategies on creating open and affirming congregations, to develop relations with other seekers in the LGBT community, and to hear stories of those who have struggled for justice and inclusion in religious communities.

The Reconciling Ministries Team of FUMC is one of the co-sponsors of this event, which features keynote speaker Scott Anderson, the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Scott is the first openly gay man to be ordained as a minister since the Presbyterian Church voted to be an affirming organization. Contact Tina Lang at tlang@fumc.org or 608-256-4646, ext. 15 for information about registering or go online to: www.lightoutreach.org.



Meet Ralph and Erica Kauten

Ralph and Erica have helped create an event which has become a tradition at First Church: our Christmas Community Meal. Ralph and Erica work tirelessly from mid-November until Christmas Eve soliciting volunteers, food donations and financial gifts to ensure a successful event. Of course, they have it all down to a fine art by this point – it is Erica’s 15th year and Ralph’s 18th year of coordinating this event. In fact, Erica met Ralph while volunteering at the Christmas meal 15 years ago and the rest, shall we say, is history.

This was Ralph and Erica’s last year coordinating the Christmas Meal. They will be moving on to other projects and plans. Erica joked, “We feel the marriage is solid now and can start another project.”

One of my highlights as Outreach Director is assisting the our meal coordinators with the three Holiday Community Meals. I have enjoyed working with Ralph and Erica immensely and learned a lot from their years of expertise. They will be greatly missed at our Christmas Table next year, and I hope at least one of their future projects includes First Church. With all of our hearts, thank you, Ralph and Erica Kauten!

Susan Jeannette,
Director of Outreach Ministries



Christmas Community Meal Enjoyed by All

Our Community Meal served on Christmas Day was enjoyed by 224 people who came together for warm company and a delicious dinner. An additional 309 meals were delivered throughout Madison, and 90 meals were packaged for take-out. Working all day Saturday and most of Sunday, 143 volunteers made this event happen, using the food and financial gifts donated by First Church members.

Many thanks to those who coordinated specific areas: Alan Fish and Alan Crossley (meal preparation in the kitchen), Karen Crossley (meal service in Fellowship Hall), Judy Metz and Robyn Halsten (service to our guests in the Hospitality Area), Dave Leeper (home meal delivery), John & Lou Stolzenberg (clean-up), and Donalea Dinsmore (food preparation on Christmas Eve). And our biggest thanks to Ralph and Erica Kauten, for their 18th year of making our Christmas Community Meal a wonderful success.

Let’s Get Physical and Raise Money for Our Food Pantry

Princeton Club has issued a challenge: For every hour of exercise completed by First Church members and friends, they will donate 10 pounds of food to our Food Pantry through Second Harvest Food Bank. Last year, our FUMC Food Pantry Team was 10th on the Leader Board and raised more than 15,000 pounds of food! We want to smash that record this year – but we’ll need your help to do it. Go to our website, www.fumc.org, and click on the Events tab, or stop by the poster display in Fellowship Hall for details of how to sign up.

Our First Church Food Pantry served more than 5,000 families – almost 13,000 people – in 2011. One third of these were children. Please help us take full advantage of this generous opportunity provided by Princeton Club.

You do not have to belong to Princeton Club to help, nor do you have to do a lot of exercising. Over the 21 weeks of the challenge, if you log just 1 hour of exercise each week, that becomes 210 pounds of food given to our pantry – the equivalent of a \$210 donation. If 10 people do this, or 100 people... well, you see how it can grow. Help out your First Church Food Pantry and get more physically fit in the process.

2011 Year-end Report

Accomplishments Related to FUMC Ministry Plan

The Ministry Plan of First United Methodist Church starts with our mission and vision statements, plus the three areas of strategic focus identified by the Church Council. This report is not a comprehensive list of all the accomplishments and programs from 2011, but highlights some areas that were our “growing edges.”

Our vision statement says, *“We will embrace Christ-like hospitality in attitude as well as action.”* Our first strategic focus is to “encourage and grow an environment of radical hospitality.” Here are some key examples of what we did this year:

- **“Downtown for Good”** - During the week our volunteers welcomed increased numbers of guests to the Food Pantry (Monday – Friday) and shower program, and we now provide 50 sandwich and snack bags each day for people who are homeless and hungry.
- **Welcoming** – An average of 900 people are being welcomed to FUMC each month during the week (not including volunteers and people coming for meetings); in the evenings and on weekends our building is used by a variety of arts groups – some have shared their music and drama gifts with us in performances at First Church.
- **Lenten Fine Arts / “Secret Garden” Musical** – A program that invited people (especially families) from the community who are not typically able to participate due to financial or other constraints, and partnered them with church members as volunteers and audience members, helping them feel a part of our community of faith.
- **Packer Lunches** are proving to be a way of welcoming many of our downtown neighbors who are homeless, with whom we can share a simple meal and enjoyment of the game.
- **Reconciling Congregation** is more than an intention. We became more actively welcoming and visible within the LGBT community through participation in the Madison Gay Pride Weekend, targeted ads, and educational offerings. A significant number of newcomers have mentioned this as being important to them in their decision to come to First Church.
- **Weekday Volunteer Receptionists** are welcoming an average of over 900 individuals per month (65% are guests of our food pantry or other outreach ministries) during the daytime hours. A new training and support program has been started to help them and the food pantry volunteers learn more about our downtown neighbors and visitors and how best to make them feel welcome as we try to help meet some of their needs.
- **Mental Illness Awareness** – The Homelessness Task Force sponsored a fall educational program on mental illness, which is strongly related to homelessness. Sharing from members and others began to build a greater understanding of what we might do as a church and individually to help people who suffer in this way and their families. We have learned that radical hospitality is not a special program. Instead it is a difference in how we view everyone who comes to us and every activity we engage in. In 2012 we will learn how to see with “new eyes” – and that will continue to bring our culture at First Church more in line with our vision.

Our First Church vision statement reads: ***“We will affirm, nurture, and support diverse spiritual journeys.”*** A second area of focus was to take advantage of new technologies as resources to support ministry. In 2011 we made great strides in this area:

- New Website - In September, we launched a completely redesigned and more functional public website, using a web content management system that makes it easy for “non-technical” staff to maintain web content. Other new features of the site include audio of sermons and special music, a complete events calendar with easy-to-use online registration, online volunteer sign-up, beautiful presentation of the Chimes and other publications, and a version of the site optimized for smartphones and other mobile devices. The site has already resulted in a significant increase in volunteers and event registrations!
- Social Media - Along with the new website, a volunteer team is now maintaining a vibrant Facebook page. We are also on Twitter (@MadisonFUMC), and provide an RSS feed. Lots of new ways to find out what’s going on and to reach new people.
- Communications Audit – Staff and members of the communications team completed a communications audit, yielding a wealth of insight on next steps to make our communications efforts more efficient and effective. We plan to move further in our implementation of new technologies for communications and connecting (including implementation of digital signage). Many of these upgrades and changes will allow us to realize savings and other benefits from our new website and social media presence.

Our vision statement reads: ***“We will engage one another as partners in ministry, committed to growing leaders for the church and the world.”*** Our third focus is to establish leadership development programs, growing partnership in ministry. In 2011 we did preliminary work on some initiatives that will come to fruition in 2012:

- We came to an important realization that the first step in developing leaders is to engage more people from our congregation – especially newcomers – in ministry activities that enable them to discover and use their gifts and passions. As a result, we developed an idea (for launch in 2012) to facilitate these connections by an every-Sunday ministry connections kiosk staffed by volunteers (similar to the Information Desk, but reaching out to members one-on-one).
- We began a Ministry Leaders Roundtable to provide a regular gathering of program council leaders and staff, where ideas can be shared and plans coordinated.
- The Church Council focused on the need for new ways of doing lay leadership that require fewer people to be tied up in “committee” work and instead, empower more people to be engaged in doing ministry. New organizational practices and models are being explored, and this initiative will be continued in 2012.

Kate Vanderbeiden, Chair
FUMC Church Council

Young Adults

Young Adults Ice Skating Saturday, January 21 3-5 p.m. Location TBA

Even though we don't have any snow, it might still be cold enough to ice skate. Depending on conditions, we'll either meet at Tenney Park or Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Either way, we'll warm up afterward with some hot cocoa and fine conversation. All ability levels are welcome and both locations have skate rentals available. Contact Seth at youthya@fumc.org to sign up.

YA Potluck & Discussion – Sunday, January 22 New Time: 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall

After a congenial potluck dinner, stay for thought provoking discussion about an engaging topic. Dinner will be at 5 p.m. and the discussion will begin around 6 p.m.

Young Adults Outing At Olbrich

Conservatory Walk & Spiced Cider Saturday, February 4, 2-5 p.m.

Remind yourself of warmer days as we spend some time in the beautiful indoor nature conservatory at Olbrich Gardens. Cost is \$2. Then head over to Seth & Nichole's home for some spiced cider and board games. To sign up contact Seth youthya@fumc.org.

Young Adult YWCA Dinner

The Young Adult group enjoyed a fabulous evening as they prepared and served a delicious Christmas meal for about 40 residents at the YWCA. The group also delivered the delightful gift baskets filled with items that members of FUMC left under the Forest of Giving trees. After dinner, many residents stayed around to play games and make Christmas cards. This evening is something the Young Adult group looks forward to every year. Thank you for helping make this such a special event.

Sunday Faith Development Opportunities

The Journey – 9:30 a.m. in Room 208

Theology for the 21st Century – 9:30 a.m. in Room LL05

The class will begin a seven-week study of the book *The God Problem: Alternatives to Fundamentalism* by Nigel Leaves.

The Christian Adventure – 11 a.m. in Room 208

The class will discuss an article appearing in the journal *The Fourth R*, "Is belief in the divinity of Jesus essential to being Christian?"

For more information on these classes go to:

<http://www.fumc.org/get-involved/sunday-morning/adults/>

Basic Lay Speaking Courses Offered

Dates: Sundays, February 19, February 26, March 4, March 11

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Lancaster United Methodist Church
216 South Monroe St., Lancaster, WI 53813

Teacher/Facilitator: Pastor Barbara Cook

This is an introduction to the lay servant ministries of speaking, caring and leading, with an emphasis on preaching and worship preparation. Those completing this course will become Basic Lay Speakers. The only prerequisite is that students be active members of a United Methodist Church for at least one year prior to the first day of class.

The registration \$20 fee can be paid on the first day of class. Make checks payable to Lancaster United Methodist Church. Please register by February 1 by sending an email to dbcook@tds.net or calling 608-723-4332.

Donations Sought for the 2012 Team Going to El Salvador

First Church's International Ministry Team has assembled a squad to return to the Getsemani community in western El Salvador this February 18 to 26, 2012, to construct Habitat for Humanity houses. While at the Getsemani community, the team will also be reviewing the micro entrepreneurship initiative that First Church is supporting as part of the Strengthening the Getsemani Community Project.

As part of its preparation for this trip, the 2012 El Salvador team is now collecting books in Spanish and bilingual juvenile books, used athletic shoes and T-shirts in good condition to donate to the Getsemani community or to Habitat for Humanity El Salvador.

In addition, cash donations, which the team can use to purchase Spanish books at wholesale or to support the micro entrepreneurship initiative, would be most appreciated. These donations may be left at the church office midweek or at the International Ministry Team's fair trade coffee sales table on Sunday mornings.

SOUPER Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5

Super Bowl weekend is a time when people come together for football, fun, and food. On Sunday, February 5, you can start your celebration off on a positive note by making a difference for people who are hungry. Our youth invite you to bring a donation of canned goods and/or dollars to place in the soup kettles that will be located in the Octagon. All donations will be given to the FUMC Food Pantry and its Sandwich Bag ministry.



Warming Shelter Update

The Daytime Resource Center, or Warming Shelter, on East Washington Avenue is up and running and in great demand. Although conceived of and advocated for by many groups who work with the homeless, including First Church, the responsibility for staffing and coordinating is being borne by Porchlight, Inc. For our part, our Outreach volunteers are making and delivering sandwiches and snack food every weekday. This is the same service we have been providing in our Narthex for over a year, but we have transferred it to the warming shelter until spring. Financial donations and volunteers are always welcome. Call Susan at 608-256-9061 or email her at outreach@fumc.org and we will put you to work. Thank you.

An Invitation to a Celebration

**Sunday, February 12, 9:30 a.m.
River Falls UMC, River Falls, WI**

On February 12, the congregation of River Falls UMC will celebrate Reconciling Sunday, marking their one year anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation. In a letter to Rev. Tina Lang, River Falls' Pastor Janet Ellinger wrote, "We have been encouraged in our journey by the ministry of First UMC in Madison. Your witness in becoming a Reconciling Congregation helped us know we had partners in this 'adventure'. We want to invite anyone from First Church who would be so inclined to join us on February 12." A light lunch will follow the worship service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please look for Birthdays and Anniversaries at their new home - the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Or call the church office at 608-256-9061 for a listing to be sent to you.

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Joys & Concerns

Please remember these FUMC members and friends in your prayers:

Edward Adams, Jean Ebersohl, Lillian Wirth, Kirk Luker (Afghanistan) and **Alec Johnson** (grandson of **Bill and Jane Johnson**).

We extend our love and fellowship to **Ruth Burdick** upon the death of her son, Stewart Burdick on December 8.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Colin Godding** and his family. Colin's father, Allan Godding, Sr., passed away on December 18.

Bob Rackow died on Christmas Day. Please remember Bette and their son, Jim, in your prayers during this time of loss.

We rejoice with **Matt and Sara Esslinger** on the birth of their daughter, Sydney Marie Esslinger, on August 23. **Terry and Jan Von Haden** celebrated the addition of this grandchild to their family.

Jeff and Kristin Heelan welcomed a son, William Thomas Heelan, into the world on December 5. He has an older sister, Claire. Proud grandparents are **Terry and Jan Von Haden**.

FUMC Building Open Hours

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday–Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Building Closures

The church building, offices and food pantry will be closed Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 31 while our support and program staff attend a planning retreat off-site. You can leave phone or email messages and staff will return them as soon as possible. Food Pantry hours and evening activities at the church will not be affected.

Parking Notice

The covered parking adjacent to the Masonic Lodge will not be available to First Church-goers on Sunday, January 22.

First Church Food Pantry

Monday: 10 a.m. - noon
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - noon
Thursday: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - noon

*The Food Pantry will be closed Monday, January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

First United Methodist Church

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all God's Children



Bring a Bear and Show You Care – Sunday February 12

Share new teddy bears and other stuffed animals on Sunday, February 12, for the Madison Police Department's "Bear With Me" program. Cuddly toys ride along in police officers' cars and are distributed by the officers when they encounter young children in traumatic circumstances. Your special friend should be new, not used. Stuffed toys will be collected at the Sanctuary doors prior to all worship services.

Middle School & High School Youth: Winter Retreat at Pine Lake Coming In February

Come experience the beauty and fun of winter at Pine Lake UMC camp. The groups will stay in heated cabins and can enjoy God's wonderful outdoors through cross country skiing, ice skating, sledding, hiking, building snowmen and playing broomball. Indoor pursuits will include hot cocoa, good food, prayer, devotions and indoor games. Get more information and sign up at www.fumc.org on the Youth page. (Click on the Get Involved tab and then on Youth.)

Eagle Scout Award for Emiliano Fraire



Emiliano organized a book drive at FUMC from which he collected most of his total of 1,700 books for Big Brothers Big sisters of Dane County. This project earned him the Eagle rank. Congratulations!

Youth Mission Trips Kick-Off – Sunday, January 29

An important informational meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. Young people who plan to participate in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) or the middle school mission trip to Chicago, and their parents, are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. This meeting will provide:

- Details about how to register for the mission trips
- Cost info and ways to reduce registration fees
- Fundraising information
- A chance to meet fellow mission trippers
- Information about how youth can help with the upcoming Fruit Sale

Children & Youth

Children's Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Children come to 9:30 a.m. worship and go to their classes after the Pastor's "Conversation with the Children."

- Toddlers Age 2 and 3 – Room LL19
- Preschoolers – Room LL17
- Grades K-1 – Room LL10
- Grades 2-3 – Room LL15
- Grades 4-5 – Room LL11

Childcare on Sundays 9:15 a.m. – Noon

- Infant – 2 years: First Floor Nursery - Room 104
- Toddlers age 2 and older: Lower Level - Room LL12

Youth Sunday School Meet at 9:30 a.m.

- Middle School: Room LL02
- High School: Room LL04

Youth - Special Classes Meet at 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation (3rd Sunday): Room LL06
- High School Seniors (2nd Sunday): Room LL06
- January 29 - Mission Trip Kick-Off (All): Room LL04

Youth Event

- (Skiing/Snowboarding) Trip to Tyrol Basin: Saturday, January 14, 2-10 p.m.



DOWNTOWN FOR GOOD

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First Church Holiday Scenes

