

the Chimes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MADISON



A Warm Welcome to Rev. Carly Kuntz

The Committee on Staff Parish Relations is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Carolyn “Carly” Kuntz to serve as our lead pastor beginning July 1, 2012.

Rev. Kuntz brings 27 years of experience as a pastor in Wisconsin United Methodist churches, most recently as lead pastor at Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls for the past ten years.

Carly was born and raised in Baraboo. She received a Music Education degree from UW-Madison and was a public school music teacher before earning a Divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary in the mid-80s. Prior to

Emmanuel Community, she served as lead and associate pastor in a variety of other Wisconsin churches. Carly has also served in various conference activities, including the Board of Ordained Ministry from 1992 to 2000, the Conference Board of Church and Society from 1988 to 1991, and Chair of the Reconciling Task Force from 1989 to 1991.

We are pleased to have Rev. Kuntz join us as lead pastor. The Committee believes she has the gifts to support and lead us as we continue our faith journey, both as a congregation and as individuals. Although she had not planned a change of appointment, Carly is excited by the opportunity to serve First Church. She comes to us with a deep faith, a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, a wonderful sense of humor, and a passion for Brewers’ baseball. (Don’t be surprised if sermons on Sunday mornings occasionally refer to America’s favorite pastime.)

The Committee is excited to have Carly joining First Church and we look forward to having you meet her as well. We expect she will begin with us during the first week of July, and her first Sunday here will be July 8.

You will hear more about the upcoming transition in the next several months, as we celebrate Keith’s ministry and welcome Carly. In the meantime, please keep Rev. Kuntz in your thoughts and prayers as she supports her current congregation’s unplanned pastoral change.

We also invite suggestions from any of you concerning the transition process. If you have any ideas, please share them with a member of the Committee.

Committee on Staff Parish Relations

Email: SPRC@fumc.org

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

Sunday, February 12

Seminary student
Sonja Parr will deliver
the morning message:
“Choose Your Words Carefully”
8 – Worship in Chapel
9:30 – Blessed Brass,
Chancel Choir
Bring a bear or other stuffed
animal for the Madison Police
Department’s “Bear With Me”
program for children.

Sunday, February 19

Sunday of the Transfiguration
Message: “Looking Ahead
with Hope”
Text: Mark 9:2-9 and
2 Kings 2:1-12
9:30 – Dixieland Service,
sponsored by Kathy Endle
in loving memory of her father,
Bill Endle

Lenten Theme:

“Jesus the Christ: Vision of Hope”

Sunday, February 26

Message: “Finding Hope in
New Possibilities”
Text: Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark
1:9-15

Sunday, March 4

Message: “Finding Hope in
Risk and Promise”
Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
and Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 11

Message: “Finding Hope
in Righteous Anger”
Text: Exodus 20:1-17
and John 2:13-22

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

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

We seek to embody grace and hospitality in the manner of Jesus, nurturing our diverse spiritual journeys and joining together as a servant community to help realize a more loving and just world.

Musings

Shapers of an Arc

Standing in the lengthening shadows of a winter afternoon in Washington, D.C., instead of falling prey to the chilly temperature, I was captured by the beauty of the new Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial. As the tallest monument to an individual among the many in D.C., King's towering stone presence reminded me again of his enormous personal presence in the struggle for justice in our country.

The curving wall that defines the perimeter carries a small selection of Dr. King's remarks. Among them is one he first used in 1961 (long before I was consciously aware of his remarkable oratory) that I have always found challenging, yet hope-filled: "The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. It bends toward justice, but here is the thing: it does not bend on its own..."

I suspect that as a man of deep faith, Dr. King could easily interchange the words "moral universe" and "God's purpose for the world." When we as persons of faith become discouraged by the events of the world around us, we can perhaps adopt the longer view of "the arc of the universe." Indeed the changing curve of the arc is a process, an unfolding of some of that purpose now but with more to come.

And how will this come to be? If "it does not bend on its own," then the "benders" (not an elegant word like Dr. King would have used!) must be us, as Dr. King went on to suggest. We are among those who bring about a just, moral universe or God's purpose in the world. It will not happen from the sidelines or even in the pews but by our active work in the world, in small ways and large, for justice, for compassion, and for peace.

Let's be shapers of the arc.

Judy Lyons

Coordinator of Homebound Ministries



"The arc of the moral universe...does not bend on its own."



Keep Our Vision Growing Appeal Update

What is the purpose of our Keep Our Vision Growing appeal? Together, we have come a long way over the past decade. Our building program, completed in 2007, has been a blessing for our ministries. We now look forward to the next chapter in the life of our congregation. Our Keep Our Vision Growing 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.

What's been going on over the past month? The Appeal Steering Team continues to meet to make preparations for the appeal. We doubled the size of our appeal team and now have two dozen people involved. We also have been recruiting additional helpers to serve as telephone callers. Thanks goes out to everyone who has agreed to help! We have designed our appeal logo (see above) and are in the process of preparing a variety of printed communications that will make their way into the hands of all our members in February and March.

What can I do at this time?

- 1) Please continue to pray for God's blessings for a successful appeal.
- 2) Anticipate receiving a phone call in late February from one of our appeal volunteers. The purpose of the phone call is simply to see if you have any questions and to encourage attendance at worship on March 4, as we will share more information about the appeal and provide an appeal packet.
- 3) Take time to review the various appeal communications that will occur.

A question and answer overview is part of this issue of the Chimes.

Our Keep Our Vision Growing appeal will culminate with our Commitment Weekend on March 25, when we ask all our members to respond with their financial commitment to our appeal.

We are excited by the fact that already we have received \$85,000 in gifts towards the appeal. These funds have been used to reduce our loan principal, resulting in interest savings of \$153,000. All future gifts, both large and small, will contribute to additional, significant savings for our congregation.

“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

Family-Style Worship: Finding Promise in the Parables

Sunday, February 26

9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

There is no better way for children to learn about worship or to know it as a vital and important part of Christian life than by being present and participating in the whole of it.

This family-style worship service will include storytelling (Jesus' parables are great stories!) and hands-on activities for children and parents, but it is a service for people of all ages, single and partnered, with children and without. Come and experience God's presence in this intergenerational gathering.

Since we hope children will be in worship, there will be no Sunday school classes for preschool children (4-5 year-old class) through grade 8 on February 26, but the 2-3 year-old toddler class, high school class and childcare will all be available. Join your church family for Family-Style worship on February 26.



what is Lent?

To speak about Lent, or any season of the year, one must first recognize the importance of time as determined by the calendar. Significant events that give meaning to our faith understandings take place at specific times: “In the days of King Herod of Judea” (Lk 1:5) or “This was... while Quirinius was governor of Syria.” (Lk 2:2) To the Christian, history is where God is made known, so without time, there is no knowledge of the Christian God.

However, when time loses the power of language and becomes a legalistic method to justify faithfulness or piety, the depth of the mystery and spirit of God can be compromised and even lost. **Defining special moments in time, to celebrate that mystery and spirit, can bring a sense of community and transformation.** It is a fine line Christians have had to walk and they have not always done so successfully.

In the early centuries of Christian development, a special day of the week was identified for the celebration of the mystery and spirit of God as made known in the person Jesus. This would have been consistent with the practice of Synagogue Sabbath.

As the Sabbath became important, so too did the celebration of Pascha (Passover-Easter) happenings. The Pascha had been the center of the Jewish year as commemoration of deliverance from slavery. Paul deliberately took the language of the Jewish Feast by calling it the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (See 1 Cor. 5:7-8) Building on the accepted observance of Pascha, early Christians began using the celebration as a time for baptism, laying on of hands, anointing and first communion.

Early in the fourth century, there was a major disagreement over whether Easter should be celebrated on the Jewish Passover (which could fall on a weekday) or always on a Sunday. We know today how that argument ended.

Over time, the celebration of Easter moved from three days, Friday, Saturday (Easter Vigil) and Easter Sunday, to an observance lasting a week. This included Maundy or Holy Thursday and Good Friday. These and lesser days of that week (Holy Week) became a time to remember specific events in the life of Jesus. It should be noted that the English term “Easter” comes from the Old English *eastre*, a pagan spring festival.

Although the origins of Lent are controversial, it seems likely that this season developed as the final preparation stages for entry into the Christian community. **The word “lent” means spring and probably comes from Germanic roots meaning long, referring to the lengthening days.** The “forty days” of Lent (most likely associated with the account of Jesus wandering in the wilderness following his baptism, although the number 40 shows up several times in Jewish tradition) was first mentioned at the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. By the time of Augustine, this season had become an accepted time of the Christian year. It begins on a day that came to be known as Ash Wednesday because of the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of all Christians, a practice dating at least from the late-eleventh century. The Sundays in Lent (Martin Luther called them “Little Easters”) are not counted as part of the forty days.

Traditional disciplines of Lent have included almsgiving, prayer and confession, fasting, abstinence and acts of mercy. The extents to which these are practiced have varied by denomination and over time. However one addresses Lent, it is set aside as time to prepare for the Easter experience, reflecting on that experience for one’s life and the world.

(Primary resource used: Introduction to Christian Worship by James F. White. Third Edition.)



Rev. Keith Schroerlucke
Lead Pastor



This year, our theme for the Lenten Season will be **“Jesus the Christ: Visions of Hope.”** Where in the life and message of Jesus can we discover a little hope for the living of these days? As we focus on several stories from the Gospels, we may be surprised to find that “hope abounds.”

The Spirit of Hope in the Midst of Ashes

**Wednesday, February 22
7 p.m. in the Chapel**

Join others in worship to mark the beginning of the 40-day Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 22. A time of contemplative worship is being prepared by Tina Lang and Scott Foss to include music, liturgy, reflection, and imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday worship calls us to focus on the inward spiritual journey as we move outward into the world.

Come and begin the Lenten season with worship in our beautiful Chapel.

Jesus the Christ: Visions of Hope for Meditation

Several of our members have been willing to identify, claim and share visions of hope. Their thoughts have been pulled together into a collection of meditations, one for each of the 40 days of the Lenten season. (Sundays are not included in the forty days of Lent as each Sunday is seen as a “little Easter.”) **Watch for the daily meditations to start arriving by email on Ash Wednesday.** If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please contact the church office at 608-256-9061 to make this request. Many thanks to all the authors. We trust that the visions shared over these next 40 days will inspire us, strengthen the connections among us, and give all of us hope for the journey.

Lenten Sunday Worship

Lent 1 – February 26

Message: “Finding Hope in New Possibilities”

Text: Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15

Lent 2 – March 4

Message: “Finding Hope in Risk and Promise”

Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-38

Lent 3 – March 11

Message: “Finding Hope in Righteous Anger”

Text: Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22

Lent 4 – March 18

Message: “Finding Hope in Faith”

Text: Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-21

Lent 5 – March 25

Message: “Finding Hope in the Heart”

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33

The schedule for Holy Week and Easter will be published in the March *Chimes* issue.

Sunday Morning Lenten Study

Sundays at 11 a.m. in Room 208

The Christian Adventure class will begin a new book study just prior to Lent and new participants are invited. The *Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (this year’s presenter at the Lyon’s Lecture in April), will be the topic of discussion beginning Sunday, February 12. Copies of the book are available to lend if participants prefer not to purchase.

Monday Meditation Group Offers Lenten Study

**Mondays, February 20 – April 2
7-8:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Members and friends are invited to join the Meditation Group for exploration of a book titled *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer*, by J. David Muyskens. The author invites readers to draw closer to God through 20-minute per day practices of contemplative prayer over the course of 40 days. Progressing through the daily scripture and meditative readings, participants are led to greater understanding and fresh awareness of Jesus’ promise, “I am with you always.” Join this 7-week Lenten experience, from Monday, February 20 through April 2! Please indicate your interest to Mary Bean (marybean@charter.net) by Monday, February 13 so we’ll have enough copies of the book available for everyone.

first church News

Dixieland Service – Sunday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Dixieland service features another all-star band. Made up of a Who's Who of jazz musicians in the Madison area, this year's band will really sing. Players include: David Cooper, trumpet; Greg Smith, clarinet; Al Anderson, trombone; John Christiansen, bass; Cliff Fredriksen, guitar; and Rand Moore, drums. Once again, Dixieland music will swing us into Lent.

This year, our Dixieland Worship and Musicians are being sponsored by a gift from Kathy Endle in loving memory of her father, Bill Endle. As many of us know, Bill loved all kinds of music but had a special fondness for Dixieland. If you might be interested in sponsoring one of our special services during the year, please contact Pastor Schroerlucke or Scott Foss at sfoss@fumc.org.

Newcomer Gathering – Sunday, March 4 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. Please contact Mary Hasheider at 608-256-9061, Ext. 34 or mhasheider@fumc.org if you plan to attend.

MARDI GRAS SOIREE!

February 21, 6 p.m.



Mardi Gras Soiree – “Fat Tuesday,”

Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to kick off the Lenten season together on one fanglorious evening! This year our super awesome youth will provide live background music for a delicious New Orleans style meal. The dinner will be served “family style,” providing an opportunity for guests and youth to eat together and visit. There will be door prizes, pies in the face, and of course a king and queen. All proceeds go to support our youth missions. Tickets are available in the Octagon on Sundays or online at www.fumc.org. Wear a mask and something bright and cheerful to our celebration! *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Bonus Offer: Buy some fruit at the Youth Fruit sale (through February 19) and receive a \$1 off coupon for Mardi Gras!

Youth Fruit Sale Pick-up
Saturday, March 3 (9:30-11 a.m.) and
Sunday, March 4 (all morning)

UMW Ruth Circle Meeting

Ruth Circle meets at Capitol Lakes at noon. Attendees should bring a bag lunch for themselves. The next two meetings will be held:

- Tuesday, February 14: The group will make Valentines to mail to homebound church members and friends.
- Tuesday, March 13: Topic to be determined.



Sign Up for CSA

The community-supported agriculture (CSA) collective now known as Hmong Toj Siab will once again be distributing boxes of fresh herbs and vegetables this summer.

Shareholders will still be able to pick up their boxed produce at the church each Sunday from mid-June until the end of the growing season.

If you would like to be involved this year, look for the table display in the Octagon on Sunday between services. Members of FUMC's Young Adult group will be ready to answer any questions and to help with sign-up. You can also contact Candace Moore at info@fumc.org.

Engaging In Respectful Dialogue: Creativity, Courage and Hope

Sundays, February 26-March 25
10:45 a.m. - Noon in Room LL05

First Church's mission statement can be found on our website, Sunday bulletins, newsletters, bookmarks, and many other places, but the most important place it can be found is in our daily living. Living our mission takes maturity, skill, and lots of practice. **If you're committed to the mission and vision of First Church and you're interested in practicing skills that will help us "join together as a servant community to help realize a more loving and just world" please consider participating in a 5-week series beginning Sunday, February 26.**

The foundation documents for this series are scripture, the United Methodist Social Principles, FUMC's mission statement, and Parker Palmer's new book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*. (Copies of the book will be available for those who are interested, but neither purchasing nor reading the book is required for participation.)

The series is designed for anyone interested in improving old and learning new skills for engaging in respectful dialogue. Please think about the relationships you share, identify a friend or neighbor (or family member) with whom you disagree theologically or politically, and then invite that person to join you for this five-week series. A wide range of perspectives will strengthen the experience for all participants. A team of FUMC leaders will facilitate activities that challenge participants to think, speak and act in ways that spark creativity, courage and hope. Join the effort!

Church Women United

Friday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Oakwood Village West

6309 Mineral Point Rd, 2nd Floor Tower

To mark the World Day of Prayer Celebration the group will explore the theme "Let Justice Prevail" with a program written by women of Malaysia. Everyone is welcome to come. The gathering will begin with coffee and dessert.



Donations Sought for the 2012 Team Going to El Salvador

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

In preparation for their trip, the team is 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; and
- Cash donations, which the team can use to purchase Spanish books at wholesale or to support the microentrepreneurship initiative.

These donations may be left at the church office during the week or at the International Ministry Team's fair trade table on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support.

Sign Up to Participate in the 2012 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast

From Ash Wednesday through the end of Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity. Last year, more than 6,000 people across the world welcomed these day-by-day opportunities to fast from carbon as part of their Lenten discipline.

This effort was initiated by the United Church of Christ and has been endorsed by people of every Christian perspective. To learn more or to sign up and join others who are becoming more conscious and conscientious about daily living, visit <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=cv76p6iab&p=oi&m=1109091349154> And yes, the effort is on Facebook too. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, each day's activity will be cumulatively posted on Facebook at Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast.

Game Day Dates

Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.
in Room 208: February 15 & March 7

Advocate for Kids!

Wednesday, March 7, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families for this interactive advocacy training that will combine state legislative session updates with question and answer time. The training will include:

- Updates on current legislative issues affecting kids and families
- How to plan and implement a successful advocacy campaign for your issue(s)
- Kids Count Data briefing
- Voter ID law briefing
- New legislative redistricting maps session
- A visit to the State Capitol to meet with state senators, representatives or staff

Who should attend? Anyone who wants to learn how to effectively raise their voice for children and families. Experienced advocates as well as beginners are welcome. Past participants have included parents, foster parents, teachers, child care providers, non-profit directors, outreach coordinators, social workers, nurses, therapists, college students, victim advocates, parent educators, chaplains and many others. The \$40 registration fee includes all training materials, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information contact Wenona Wolf at 608-284-0580, Ext. 304 or wwolf@wccf.org.



New Part-time Position Available 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 classes. Major responsibilities will include:

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

This person will work independently and as part of the Church School team, which includes our Minister of Discipleship and Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. This position will be an 8 to 12-hour commitment including Sunday mornings.

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

Sabbath in Everyday Life: A Day of Retreat

Saturday, March 24

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch included

We're often better at the "bigger Sabbaths" in life, like taking summer vacations or going away for a weekend. But the smaller Sabbaths in everyday life can be harder. The frenetic pace of life and information can prevent us from taking the smaller Sabbath time we need. **This retreat will explore Sabbath in everyday life, including spiritual practices to enhance Sabbath time, obstacles to Sabbath, and cultivating Sabbath by noticing and attending to God's presence.** There will be presentation time, individual reflection, small group sharing, plenty of Sabbath time, and opportunity to walk the labyrinth in our Chapel.

This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and will be led by Judy Nolde, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Madison, and a Benedictine Oblate with Holy Wisdom Monastery. In addition to her ongoing scholarship in Loyola University's Pastoral Studies program, Judy meets with individuals looking for spiritual guidance, leads small groups and retreats, and leads meditation sessions as a volunteer at Gilda's Club.

Registration including lunch is \$65 before March 16 or \$75 after March 16. Visit www.wichurches.org to view or print an event flyer and registration form or contact Tina Lang at tlang@fumc.org or 608-256-9061, Ext. 15 for more information.

11 X 15 Campaign: A Call to Reduce WI Prison Population

Monday, Feb. 20

11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church
Noon at the Capitol

Join policy makers, spiritual leaders and professionals to hear more about incarceration and alternatives in Wisconsin (11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal) and to participate in a press conference kick-off event (noon at the Capitol) for the 11 X 15 Campaign. The campaign challenges Wisconsin to cut the prison population to 11,000 by 2015 for a safer, healthier state. WISDOM, a consortium of over 60 Wisconsin faith-based organizations affiliated with the national network of Gamaliel is organizing the campaign.

Gamaliel is a grassroots network of non-partisan, faith-based organizations in 18 U.S. states, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Gamaliel organizes to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives. To learn more and take part in the 11 X 15 Campaign, visit www.prayforjusticeinwi.org, email wisdomwi@sbcglobal.net, or join others for the presentations on February 20.

A Suggestion from the Homelessness Task Force

"How can I respond when someone approaches me asking for money for food or other necessities?" The best response is to give the person contact information for resources where they can get food or other assistance. The Information Desk has wallet size cards listing our Food Pantry's hours and the United Way help number. The next time you pass through the Narthex, help yourself to some of them to carry with you so we can offer help to our neighbors in need.

Sunday Faith Development Opportunities

Bible Study – 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

(Note: This class will not meet on February 12.)

The Journey – 9:30 a.m. in Room 208

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

The class is studying *The God Problem: Alternatives to Fundamentalism* by Nigel Leaves. Lively discussion guaranteed.

Engaging In Respectful Dialogue: Creativity, Courage and Hope –

10:45 a.m.-Noon in Room LL05, Sundays, February 26-March 25

This Lenten series is designed for anyone interested in improving old and learning new skills for engaging in respectful dialogue with a person who holds a different opinion.

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

The class will begin a study of the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan for the Lenten season.

Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement –

February 19, 11 a.m. in Room 203

For more information on these classes go to:

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

Explore What God is Calling You to Do Through *Faith Alive*

Why did it take me so long to attend the Faith Alive program? I finally signed up for Faith Alive two years after I heard a presentation about the program. And am I ever happy I went, because it changed my life in so many ways. Over the years, I've heard about really interesting issues, but never did anything about them. I would just tuck away the issue for another day. Now, I pounce on some of the issues with a passion. And my passion is contagious as I talk to others about helping me.

Curtis Wittwer, FUMC member

Experience your own faith transformation during a two-year study of theology, the Bible, and ministry in today's world. The first weekend session is September 14-16. To learn more about the program, including how to register, pick up a *Faith Alive!* brochure at the Information Desk.

Sign Up for Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

"What does God want for us in our marriage?" God wants you to know there is a greater purpose to your marriage. We are a visible sign of God's love in the world and we have certain gifts that are made available to us. During this weekend retreat you will come to understand these gifts and how to use them to bring more happiness and joy into your marriage.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter-United Methodist Weekends in Wisconsin:

- February 17 - 19, 2012, Comfort Suites, Oshkosh, WI
- October 5 - 7, 2012, Bishop Rader Retreat Center, Westfield, WI

For more information, call 866-633-3862 (toll free) or visit www.encounter.org.

Next Chimes Deadline

The next issue of Chimes will be published March 15. The deadline for submitting articles is noon on Wednesday, March 7.

Warm Hearts Make for Warm Hands

Your generous donations of mittens, gloves, scarves and hats are off to their new homes. Thank you to the many members of the congregation who, during Advent, brought in donations of winter accessories to keep people in need warm. The items brought in for the Mitten Tree filled four large plastic bags. Recently several members of the United Methodist Women packed the items into two BIG boxes and sent them to Northcott Neighborhood House and United Methodist Children Services, two church mission projects in Milwaukee.

A special thanks to the knitters and crocheters in the church who lovingly made so many beautiful items. There were 28 handmade pairs of mittens, 19 scarves, 18 hats and a pair of bed socks. Other thoughtful donors purchased 77 pairs of mittens and gloves, 8 scarves, 91 hats and two pairs of earmuffs. The boxes were packed full and the people who will receive your gifts at the other end will be very grateful this winter!

Thank You Note Excerpts

Growing Local Food Networks

The Churches' Center for Land and People (CCLP) is extremely grateful for the generous gift from the Outreach Program Council and the many wonderful and faithful people of FUMC. The CCLP's mission to focus [attention] on the issues of economic justice for our area food producers and the care for Creation cannot be accomplished without faith communities such as yours, translating the messages of the scriptures into tangible acts for our faithful members to embrace and to live out. FUMC continues to demonstrate that our faith lives do not start and end with Sunday worship.

On behalf of the entire CCLP Board I thank you for this thoughtful and generous gesture of support for our mission and look with great hope to walking side by side with you on the road to Emmaus for all the seasons God affords us together.

Humbly and most gratefully yours, *Tom Nelson*, Chair
Churches' Center for Land and People Board

Building Communities

Thank you for supporting Habitat's Global Village Program. Your support has been credited to the El Salvador event.

David Minish, Director
Global Village Department
Habitat for Humanity

Supporting Future Leaders

Thank you for your generous scholarship gift to Garrett Evangelical Seminary. I am working towards my candidacy in Wisconsin on the deacon track while working full time as the Camp Assistant at Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne. I pray for your congregation and your ministries in Madison.

Peace,
Erin Kruger

Joys & Concerns

Please remember these FUMC members and friends in your prayers: **Marge Detroy, Jane Wendricks, Andrew and Suzie Coleman, Jean Ebersohl, Lillian Wirth, Kirk Luker** (Afghanistan) and **Alec Johnson** (grandson of Bill and Jane Johnson).

We celebrate with **Bryan Olson** and **Becky Hoyt Olson** the baptism of their daughter, **Anja Cheryl Olson**. Anja was baptized on Sunday, January 29 wearing a gown that has been in her family for 100 years. Looking on were proud grandparents **Jim and Cindy Hoyt** and older brother **Calvin**.

FUMC Building Open Hours

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - noon

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

First United Methodist Church

Phone: 608.256.9061 Fax: 608.256.6633 Website: www.fumc.org

Staff Members

Keith Schroerlucke, Lead Pastor.....kschroer@fumc.org
Tina Lang, Minister of Discipleship.....tlang@fumc.org
Susan Jeannette, Director of Outreach Ministries.....outreach@fumc.org
Scott Foss, Director of Music.....sfoss@fumc.org
Seth Schroerlucke, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.youthya@fumc.org
Mary Hasheider, Coordinator of Connecting Ministries.....mhasheider@fumc.org
Judy Lyons, Coordinator of Homebound Ministries.....jlyons@fumc.org
Karen Andro, Administrative Manager.....kandro@fumc.org
Kathie Nichols, Business Administrator.....knichols@fumc.org
Bev McCulloch, Financial Assistant.....bmcculloch@fumc.org
Tricia Hillner, Publications Specialist.....chimes@fumc.org
Dennis Anderson, Lead Custodian.....danderson@fumc.org
Bobbi Foutch-Reynolds, Food Ministry Coordinator.....breynolds@fumc.org
Music Staff: Ross Cowing, Organist Dan Woolpert, Director Blessed Brass
Digital Arts Specialists: Max & Laura Wendt Graphic Designer: Dana Craft
Weekend Custodian: Ron Burrows

CHIMES (USPS 559180) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2105.

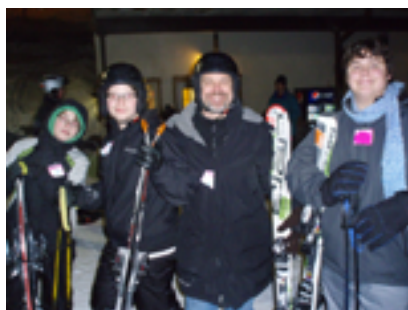
Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chimes, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2105.

all God's Children



Confirmand & Parent Retreat Recap

The retreat was a bonding time where Confirmation students and their parents came together to share with each other meaningful experiences from their faith journey and discuss the most significant ways they connect with God and each other. After sharing, the families found ways to practice more regularly the things that bring them closer together. After a reflective walk of the labyrinth, the kids took on their parents in a raucous game of “tush-ball.” You’ll have to ask them who won!



Youth Ski Trip Recap

Awesome times. Thank you to all the adult leaders and youth who came to make this such a fun event!

Young Adult Cross Country Skiing Recap

Well, snow finally came, allowing us to do some skiing together, if you could call it that. Most of the gang were beginners, but everyone struggled through with a lot of laughter and of course, hot chocolate at the end!

Young Adult Potluck/Discussion – Sunday, February 26

Fellowship Hall, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Children & Youth

Note: No Sunday School for Preschool through Grade 8 on February 26. Come to Family Worship in Fellowship Hall.

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:
 - February 19 – Room LL06
 - March 11 – Visiting Worship at Mt. Zion Baptist Church
 - March 30 – Spring Retreat
- High School Seniors’ Salon (2nd Sunday): Room LL06
 - February 12
 - March 11



203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703
www.fumc.org • 608-256-9061
Electronic Chimes Request: chimes@fumc.org

Periodicals

February 2012

Periodicals
Postage
Paid at
Madison, WI

Save the Date

Ninth Annual David P. Lyons Lecture with

John Dominic Crossan



April 14, 2012

Jesus and the Power of Parable:
How Fiction By Jesus Became
Popular Fiction About Jesus

John Dominic Crossan is regarded as a leading
historical Jesus scholar. He is Professor Emeritus of
Religious Studies at DePaul University, Chicago.



203 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703
608-256-9061
www.fumc.org