

the Chimes

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MADISON

Holy Week Worship Services



Sunday, April 1 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Holy Week begins with a Celebration of Hope at all three services. At 9:30 our Chancel Choir will share their music. The Chapel Choir will sing at the Chapel Worship at 11:00. Pastor Keith's message will examine "Following the Crowd."



Maundy Thursday, April 5

An Experience of Remembrance and Hope – Seder Meal at 6 p.m.

Reservations are needed. Purchase your tickets at the Information Desk on Sunday or via the church website, www.fumc.org. This traditional experience reminds us of our roots and renews us for the present and future. *See page 7 for details.*



Good Friday, April 6

1 p.m. – Traditional Good Friday Service at Bethany UMC, 3910 Mineral Point Rd., Madison

We will join our brothers and sisters at Bethany UMC for a worship experience that will provide an important time of reflection. Our churches will share in providing worship leadership and a joint Good Friday choir will provide special music. Rev. Brad Mather will share the message, "Pilate's Yawn."

7 p.m. – "Costly, Unexpected Love," a service of music and word held in the FUMC Sanctuary

First Church will offer a very special musical and liturgical service built around some of the powerful music of *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Special guest vocalists Michael Brunner, Amanda Lang and Jonathan Schroerlucke will join a group of instrumentalists providing music to complement the words and liturgy for Good Friday in a setting adapted by Rev. Tina Lang.



Easter Sunday, April 8 – A Celebration of Hope and Resurrection

We will hold three services on Easter Sunday in the Sanctuary at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. All services will be identical except for the addition of the Chancel Choir and a String Ensemble at 9:30 and 11. *Don't forget to order your Easter Flowers, see page 7 for details.* To allow room for the Easter Community Meal setup, there will be no First Cup Café on Easter Sunday. Church School classes for children and youth will not meet on this Sunday so that families can worship together. Children are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt in the lower level at 10:40 a.m. Come celebrate this day of hope and life.

Easter Community Meal

All Welcome | Noon to 2 p.m. | Sunday, April 8

For Home Delivery Call 608-251-4407 on Saturday, April 7 between 3-5 p.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

March 18 –

"Finding Hope in Faith"

Text: John 3:14-21

8 – Worship in Chapel

9:30 – Sacrament of Holy

Baptism; Blessed Brass,

Chamber Choir

11 – Chapel Choir

March 25 –

Commitment Sunday

"Finding Hope in the Heart"

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

9:30 – Bell Choir

At each service, we will have an opportunity to bring forward our commitments to the Special Debt Retirement Appeal campaign.

April 1 –

Palm/Passion Sunday

"Following the Crowd"

Text: Mark 11:1-11

9:30 – Chancel Choir

11 – Chapel Choir

April 8 – Easter Sunday

All services in Sanctuary

"Hope in Easter"

Text: Mark 16:1-8 &

John 20:1-18

8 – Easter worship

9:30 & 11 – Chancel Choir,

String Ensemble

For children: 10:40 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt on the Lower Level.

No Sunday school for children and youth and no First Cup Café today.

Sunday, April 15

8 – Worship in Chapel

Rev. Tina Lang

9:30 & 11– Dr. John Dominic

Crossan, "Justice and Love"

9:30 – Blessed Brass

11 – Worship in Sanctuary

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

Chocolate Bunnies Aren't the Only Options for Hollow or Whole

Two unexpected words have captured my attention: hollow and whole. Until very recently, I can't imagine that hollow would have been my response as the opposite of whole, but in these first couple of weeks of the Lenten season, hollow and whole have become contrasting images for me. They are at opposite ends of a spectrum I can visualize in my mind. Maybe the image of that spectrum will be helpful for others too as we move toward Easter.

I can't define Easter because it is Grace far beyond my ability to comprehend, but I do recognize the movement toward Easter as a movement toward wholeness and I want to move in that direction. More importantly, I believe God wants me and all of creation to move in that direction. A lack of wholeness is often described as brokenness, and certainly there is brokenness in our world, but for many of us, I think it's more complicated than either broken or whole. It's more like a continuum we move along from hollow to whole as glimpses of wholeness come and go in different ways and places in our lives.

In the quest to move toward wholeness I ask myself questions that help me identify the difference between hollow living and whole living. Questions like: Am I really listening to my partner in conversation or am I busy preparing what I want to say next? Am I cherishing the earth and honoring those who labor with it or am I purchasing based on personal convenience and price point? Am I investing my resources for the benefit of others or am I conscious of only me and mine? Am I nurturing and engaging the gifts that are uniquely mine or am I just getting my work done? Am I functioning from a place of authenticity or is there a measure of duplicity in my behavior? Am I seeking out and capitalizing on glimpses of hopefulness or am I allowing myself to be seduced by cynicism?

Asking the questions is the easy part. Answering them truthfully and then making loving choices isn't so easy, but it can help move us from hollow to whole. My prayer for all of us during this Lenten season is that the hollow spaces may be filled with the Life-Giving Love that makes all things whole.

Tina Lang, Minister of Discipleship



“The movement toward Easter is a movement toward wholeness.”



Join Us For A Very Special Event



John Dominic Crossan

Crossan and I: How We “Met”

Six books authored by John Dominic Crossan sit on David’s... now my... bookshelf. Crossan’s insightful, questioning writing caught David’s attention early on. He often shared portions or insights from Crossan’s scholarly attempts to find the historical Jesus. Since this matched my favorite college course in New Testament, I was a ready audience. Much of Crossan’s writing was and is to promote biblical literacy. Much of David’s ministry was to encourage biblical literacy. Since college, my commitment was to be ever more biblically literate. We three were unified in our pursuit though two of us had never met the third.

Then David died suddenly. Others in the church who had been excited about David’s willingness for — no, encouragement of — dialogue and questioning of the grounding of our faith, the Bible, sought to keep that perspective alive through a lectureship. Who better to invite to the inaugural event than John Dominic Crossan? At the time, in my shroud of grief, I knew nothing of Crossan’s birth and schooling in Ireland, and later Chicago, Rome, and Jerusalem; nothing of his setting aside the priesthood in favor of pursuing critical scholarship not welcomed by his ordination in the Roman Catholic Church; nothing of his grief at the sudden death of his first wife; not even that he was an emeritus professor from DePaul University, Chicago. I knew only that David would have wanted to hear Crossan lecture, that I would welcome whatever I could absorb through my mourning, and that I was to join the lecture committee at a dinner to meet him.

Since that dinner, about which I remember little but Crossan’s quick humor and ready laugh, I have “met” him again and again in his writing, books now numbering more than 25. He brings real life to Jesus, stripped of the church’s later overlay. He brings fresh reason for me to be a follower of “the way.” He offers the invitation to think more broadly about who Jesus is for this day.

In Crossan’s words, “I never presume that we find the historical Jesus once and for all. I never separate the historical Jesus from the Christ of faith. Jesus Christ is the combination of a fact (Jesus) and an interpretation (Christ). They should neither be separated nor confused, and each must be found anew in every generation...”

Now I have a chance to meet Dr. Crossan again as he returns to be the 2012 Lyons Lecturer on April 14. Once again an intriguing title leads us into a new exploration, *The Power of Parable: How Fiction BY Jesus Became Fiction ABOUT Jesus*. How eager I am to meet again, in person, one of the scholars who so radically changed my faith and my life.

Judy Lyons



Lyons Lecture Welcomes John Dominic Crossan Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Dr. Crossan was the first speaker of the Lyons Lecture series in 2004, and we are honored to have him back in 2012. His most recent work is *The Power of Parables: How Fiction by Jesus Became Fiction About Jesus*, to be published this month. He will be speaking on the parables in two lectures: “Jesus’ Parables and God’s Kingdom” and “Gospels as Mega-Parables about Jesus.”

Registration for this event is \$50, which includes both lectures and a box lunch. To register, go to www.fumc.org or call 608-256-9061.

Wanted: Lyons Lecture Volunteers

We are delighted to welcome John Dominic Crossan as our guest lecturer. Each year, this weekend draws people from outside our church and city, so a well-organized event is important.

We are looking for members to greet attendees, help with registration, assist with parking directions and help with traffic flow during lunch. Volunteers are needed from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. and again from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Please contact Brenda Furlow at bsfurlow71@gmail.com or 608-238-9192 if you can help.

Crossan Books Available

Look for books by John Dominic Crossan in our church library.



Keep Our Vision Growing Appeal Update

Our *Keep Our Vision Growing* Appeal is in Full Swing!

As you know by now, our *Keep Our Vision Growing* Appeal is an important step for the future of our congregation as we together strive to pay off our building debt. Doing so will result in significant interest savings and position our congregation well for future ministry.

The Appeal Steering Team as well as many members serving as Telephone Callers and Speakers have been reaching out to communicate the importance of our Appeal.

Our Appeal will culminate with our Commitment Weekend on March 25, when we ask all our members and friends to respond with their financial commitment to our appeal. We are excited by the fact that already we have received over \$230,000 in gift commitments towards our *Keep Our Vision Growing* Appeal.

Please continue to pray that God continues to bless our Appeal. Thank you for your generous response, and thank you for your faithful support of God's ministry here at First Church.

"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



FUMC Foundation Announces Five Grant Awards

Late last year, our First United Methodist Church Foundation was pleased to award five grants totaling over \$16,000. Congratulations to all grant recipients. Each grant supports an exciting new initiative that aligns with our church's mission and vision, and addresses an area of strategic focus (Radical Hospitality, New Technology, and Leadership Development). The projects that we will see coming to fruition this year follow:

Communications Plan, \$1,500 (Connecting Ministries Team)

Recommendations from 2010 communications audit, along with a marketing and communications plan, will be implemented. Included will be integrating and streamlining electronic and print communications such as eNews, Chimes, Sunday morning PowerPoint and bulletin announcements, and building upon the church's new website and social media tools.

Connecting Kiosk, \$1,920 (Lay Leadership Committee)

A new kiosk area located in the Octagon will be created and staffed by volunteers on Sunday mornings. This effort will help people connect with our church's ministries and provide easy sign-up for participation in myriad offerings and service opportunities.

Digital Signage, \$5,570 (Scott Foss, Mary Hasheider, Susan Jeannette)

Digital signage units will be installed in the church to serve as welcoming, informational and marketing tools. Delivery of communications to visitors, pantry and outreach guests, church members and friends and community organizations using church spaces will be streamlined and improved. Electronic and print communications will be integrated, allowing us to provide information and tell our church's story in a highly accessible way.

Kurzweil Keyboard, \$4,199 (Scott Foss, Ross Cowing)

A new keyboard synthesizer will be purchased to replace one that served our church well in every major musical work and production for the past 13 years. Musical offerings and opportunities will be enhanced and contemporary musical styles accommodated.

New Leadership Model, \$3,000 (Lay Leadership Committee)

A new church leadership model will be developed with consultation by a national expert specializing in church governance and strategic planning. Outcomes include an updated future organizational structure and decision making process benefitting all church members, ministries and programs.

With these most recent grant awards, the Foundation instituted a new grant review and administration process. It includes: two semi-annual grant cycles (November 1 & May 1 application deadlines), new application forms and instructions, and new grant review guidelines and criteria. **See www.fumc.org, Search: Foundation, for more information about how to apply for a grant and giving opportunities that support FUMC's mission, vision and values.** We are blessed to have such generous members and a viable Foundation that add great value to the life of our church.

Rethinking Leadership: Empowering Ministry – Saturday, April 28

**9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Led by Dan Hotchkiss**

First Church is hosting this workshop to explore a new and innovative way of structuring leadership in large churches. We are considering this new approach for First Church in order to significantly reduce time spent in committee meetings while empowering people doing ministry, and to create a lively and broadly inclusive process for making big decisions and a more nimble and efficient process for making the smaller, routine decisions.

The workshop will be led by Dan Hotchkiss, Alban Institute senior consultant and author of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*. The workshop includes lunch and childcare will be provided on request. Major funding for this workshop is provided by a grant from the FUMC Foundation. Pre-registration is required (\$15 per person). To register call the church office at 608.256.9061. All members and interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Sabbath in Everyday Life – A Retreat at FUMC

Saturday, March 24 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We're often better at the "bigger Sabbaths" in life, like taking summer vacations or going away for a weekend. 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. The retreat will be led by Judy Nolde, a spiritual director and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Madison. Registration (includes lunch) is \$65 before March 16, and \$75 after this date. More details and registration information is available on our website, www.fumc.org.

Update on Our Sanctuary Sound System

Over the past few months, we have been receiving comments that our sound system is not functioning properly. We have experienced feedback, dead zones, unfiltered noise and other malfunctions. In response, we recently had an audio specialist do some diagnostic work. You were right. This system has not been functioning properly because several components are either not working properly or are broken and not working at all. As we investigated further, we discovered several pieces of equipment that needed to be replaced and/or updated. We were told by the audio specialist that this is not unexpected in a system that is 16 years old. It has served us well, but like any piece of electronic equipment, it now needs to be replaced with updated and reliable components.

We have re-adjusted some of the working components and bypassed some others that are not functioning, so we will have some degree of sound amplification. Please be patient with us as we move as quickly as possible to secure a reliable replacement system.

Again, your comments and observations have been helpful. Hopefully a new system will provide us with the quality of sound that we expect and need. The estimate to replace the needed components, which include an audio console, amplifier and two new speakers to enhance the sound on both sides of the Sanctuary, is \$19,228. As you might guess, this was not anticipated for in our 2012 budget. This means we will need to look for sources of financial support from outside the operating budget. Special gifts designated for the sound system will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions or desire to help, please contact Pastor Schroerlucke at kschoer@fumc.org or Scott Foss at sfoss@fumc.org.

Coffee Fellowship Needs YOU

There's nothing like coffee and cookies to bring friends together in Fellowship Hall. Sponsoring this fellowship time is a great opportunity to support one of the food ministries of FUMC, but what does this mean?

By becoming a sponsor of Coffee Fellowship Hour, you can honor someone's birthday or anniversary, the memory of a loved one, or simply contribute to the cost of the morning. Sponsorship costs \$40, and we look for two sponsors every Sunday. When you become a sponsor, you are entitled to bring pictures of the event/person, you receive recognition through the Sunday announcements and a table sign in Fellowship Hall.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, talk to Bobbi Fouch-Reynolds on Sunday mornings (you can usually find her in the kitchen!), or go to our website and click on the "I'd like to Sponsor" link under the "Get Involved" tab.



first church News

Congratulations, Sonja!

On March 1, Sonja Parr received word from the Board of Ordained Ministry that she has been approved to continue on the path toward ordained ministry and that she will be commissioned at the 2012 session of Annual Conference. Congratulations Sonja! While Sonja was a college student at UW she participated in the ministry of our congregation. After graduation, she returned to her home state of Minnesota where she worked for a year before coming back to Madison to work for four years as our coordinator of youth and young adult ministries. Sonja felt a call to ordained ministry and left FUMC in the fall of 2009 to attend seminary. She graduates from United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN this May and will be introduced to the Wisconsin Annual Conference at the end of May. Annual Conference proceedings will take place at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells and the commissioning service will take place at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 2. **The commissioning service is a worship celebration open to all so friends and supporters of Sonja are invited to participate in the service and celebrate with her.** Once she is commissioned, Sonja becomes a provisional member of the conference and will be appointed to serve a United Methodist congregation somewhere in Wisconsin. The provisional status continues for three years. After three years of effective ministry, another series of interviews, and approval from the Board of Ordained Ministry, Sonja may be recommended and then ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church, making her a full member of the Annual Conference. FUMC has been honored to support Sonja through the process of discernment and seminary training and now we celebrate her commissioning and appointment to serve United Methodist congregations of Wisconsin. Our prayers and best wishes go with Sonja into this new chapter in ministry.



Volunteer Opportunity

Our Night at the Shelter needs someone to help on Sunday mornings. If you are an early bird, this could be for you! Contact Susan Jeannette at outreach@fumc.org or 608-256-9061 for details.

UMW Deborah Circle

Tuesday, March 20

7 p.m. at the home of Iris Petersen

Rev. Joan Deming will share the story of Archbishop Elias Chacour – a Palestinian priest and Nobel Peace Prize nominee – and the Mar Elias schools he founded in Israel for students of all religions. Members of FUMC visited Archbishop Chacour and the Mar Elias schools in 2009. For additional information contact Sandra Schroerlucke at 608-298-0274. Everyone is welcome.

UMW Ruth Circle

Tuesday, April 10 at Noon

Meet at Capitol Lakes for fellowship and learning. Bring a sack lunch for yourself.

Save the Date

**Saturday, May 19, 7 - 9:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

“Sing Along for Porchlight”

Sponsored by Kathy Maldegan
(Details in April's *Chimes*)

New Member Lunch with Pastor Keith

Sunday, March 25 at Noon

Pastor Keith Schroerlucke will host a luncheon for people who are interested in becoming a member of First Church or would like more information about becoming involved in our ministries. Join us for this informal time of food and fellowship. Reserve your meal by March 21 by contacting Mary Hasheider at mhasheider@fumc.org or 608-256-9061 ext. 34.

An Invitation from the Reconciling Ministries Team

Every four years, United Methodists from around the world convene for General Conference, to be held this year from April 24 to May 4 in Tampa, Florida. General Conference is the only entity of the UMC able to make changes to the Book of Discipline which guides UM policy. As a respected advocate in the cause of full inclusiveness, Rev. Amy DeLong will attend the conference and lead a coordinated campaign for the cause. The Love On Trial team organizing the campaign is seeking to raise \$9,000 to fund materials distributed as part of the witness for inclusiveness and to help offset travel expenses for Rev. DeLong and other witnesses. Contributions may be directed to www.loveontrial.org, sent to the DeLong Defense Fund, PO Box 45234, Madison, WI 53744, or hand-delivered to Margaret Talcott, the treasurer of the organization and member of FUMC.

Israel/Palestine Pilgrimage Planned October 31 – November 13, 2012

This trip, organized by Pilgrims of Ibillin, is a listening tour which will include visits to holy sites and “Living Stones” in Israel/Palestine. Meet Pilgrims of Ibillin’s partners in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Zababdeh, and Ibillin. Hear from leaders and organizations in the West Bank and Israel who are seeking a nonviolent path to peace.

Contact Rev. Joan Deming at 608-241-9281 or jdeming7@gmail.com for more information or go to <http://tinyurl.com/6rtkjdg>.

The (Communication) Times, They Are a–Changin’

It is not an easy task to communicate to all of our church community in a way that insures everyone receives the appropriate information. Younger members don’t want to receive paper in their mailboxes, and are often concerned about what that paper use means to our environment. Older members, who have grown up reading letters, newspapers and Sunday morning bulletins, want to receive that information in the same way as in the past – often in their mailbox.

Technology offers so many different opportunities to communicate – the sheer variety can be confusing in itself!

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, First Church is changing some of our past communication practices, instituting new ones and relying on your help to keep us informed as to how they are working.

First, *Chimes* has become a monthly publication. We are moving away from it serving as our primary information sharing tool, and moving toward making it a more meaningful reading experience.

Information is being shared in several ways currently: in person via Sunday morning announcements from the pulpit, video screen and the Information Desk; on paper via various flyers and the *Chimes*; and technologically via our website, social media such as Facebook and the eNews.

The newest technology – digital signage – will be installed this spring. These screens will allow for announcements, and even video streams, to be on continual display. Not only serving as additional points for people to find information, they will allow us greater flexibility in communicating to our congregation and to visitors. Unlike a “static” bulletin board, the electronic screens can be programmed to display certain messages on certain days - or even at certain hours of the day. Acquisition of this promising technology is being made possible through a FUMC Foundation grant.

Seder Meal

On Maundy Thursday, April 5, we will share a Seder Meal and worship experience around tables in Fellowship Hall. The Seder is for people of all ages and is modeled after the Passover meal Jesus and the disciples shared in the Upper Room. It is a meal of remembrance and celebration including Hebrew foods, Passover liturgy, and traditional music. Our menu will be: Matzo Soup, Deviled Eggs, Slow-Roasted Brisket, Potato Kugel, Oven-Roasted Spring Vegetables, Charoset and Black Forest Passover Brownies. We will be blessed again this year by Klezmer music from local band Yid Vicious. The meal begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the meal should be purchased ahead of time by visiting our website www.fumc.org or the Information Desk on Sunday mornings.

Easter Flower Orders

Help decorate the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration by ordering flowers in memory or honor of a friend, mentor or family member. You are welcome to take your plant home to enjoy after the 11 a.m. service on Easter. Each plant (mums, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips) costs \$15. To place an order online go to the church website at www.fumc.org and click on the “Easter Flower Orders” link on the homepage. You can also fill out the order form from Sunday’s bulletin or contact the church office at 608-256-9061 or office@fumc.org.

Orders must be placed by Monday, March 26.

Two Special Offering Opportunities

One Great Hour of Sharing – March 18

On March 18, our congregation will join with UM churches around the world in receiving a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This is one of six church-wide special offerings we receive during the year. One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR responds to natural or human made disasters - those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

As you may know, UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of the United Methodist Church. OGHS gifts underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This allows the church to assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest. From the Gulf Coast to Sudan, from Sierra Leone to Eastern Europe, we are helping provide assistance during severe times of tragedy and suffering.

You can use the special envelope that will be found in the Sunday bulletin on March 18 or you can contribute online through our church website at www.fumc.org.

Easter Mission Offering – April 1 and 8

Three times a year, we invite people to remember the outreach and mission program of our local church. Mission offerings are received in the summer, at Christmas and at Easter. This special offering will support the mission and outreach endeavors of First Church. A few of the programs we support through these offerings include: Porchlight, Triangle Community Ministry, the "Fid Fund" Endowment of the Hospital Chaplaincy Program (in honor of Rev. Hobart "Fid" Sailor), Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Scholarship Program, Madison Urban Ministries, Dane County Jail Chaplaincy Program, Churches' Center for Land and People, our Youth Mission Trips, and the Getsemani Community in El Salvador of FUMC International Ministries. You will find a special Easter offering envelope in the Sunday bulletins on April 1 and 8. You can also support this offering online at www.fumc.org. Thank you.

Scenes From El Salvador Habitat Build



Carrie Newcomer/Parker Palmer Concert Event

Friday, April 27

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Experience an evening of song and spoken word that invites us to imagine and live into a "politics worthy of the human spirit."

Can we set free what Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature?" In an era of "the politics of rage," can we seek the common good across all that might divide us, coming together as friends, neighbors, citizens, and members of a larger community upon which we all depend? Join Carrie Newcomer and Parker J. Palmer in an evening of song and spoken word as they take us on a three-stage journey of hope:

- Celebrating "We the People"
- Exploring the power of "The Broken-Open Heart"
- Inviting us to reflect on "How Then Shall We Live?"

Ticket information will be available soon.

Next Chimes Deadline

The next issue of *Chimes* will be published **April 12**. The deadline for submitting articles is noon on **Wednesday, April 4**.

G, A, M, E, D, A, Y

Game Days:

1 – 3 p.m. in Room 208

Wednesdays, March 21,

April 4, April 18

first church Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Appeal Steering Committee - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Room 203

Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Music Room

Friday, March 16

Narcotics Anonymous - 7 p.m.

Location: Room LL05

Sunday, March 18

Confirmation Class - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Room LL06

Hopefulness/Dialogue - 10:45 a.m.

Location: Room LL05

Wind Ensemble/Brass Band Concert - 4 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Monday, March 19

Yoga for Good - 11:45 a.m.

Location: Chapel

Meditation Group - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Wednesday, March 21

Game Day - 1 p.m.

Location: Room 208

Yoga for Good - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Friday, March 23

Young Adults: Taize Service - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Holy Wisdom Monastery

Saturday, March 24

Sabbath in Everyday Life - 9 a.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 25

Debt Retirement Commitment Sunday

New Member Luncheon - 12 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Young Adults Potluck & Discussion - 5 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 26

Yoga for Good - 11:45 a.m.

Location: Chapel

Meditation Group - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Wednesday, March 28

Foundation Board - 7:30 a.m.

Location: Room 208

Yoga for Good - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Friday, March 30

Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, April 1

Palm Sunday

Youth Council - 11 a.m.

Location: LL04 Youth Room

Monday, April 2

Yoga for Good - 11:45 a.m.

Location: Chapel

Meditation Group - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Thursday, April 5

Maundy Thursday

Seder Meal - 6 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 6

Good Friday

Good Friday Worship - 2 p.m.

Location: Bethany UMC

Good Friday Worship at FUMC - 7 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Sunday, April 8

Easter Sunday

Easter Community Meal - 12 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 9

Holiday – Building Closed

**Food Pantry Closed for Holiday

Wednesday, April 11

Yoga for Good - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chapel

Saturday, April 14

Lyons Lecture Series 2012

Location: First United Methodist Church Madison

Our Night at the Shelter

Location: Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday, April 15

HS Seniors' Salon on Spirituality - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Room LL06

Sunday Faith Development Opportunities

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

The Journey – 9:30 a.m. in Room 208

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

On March 18, class members will discuss another chapter of *Listening for God*. Beginning March 25, the class will focus on John Dominic Crossan's new book, *The Power of Parable*. The class will not meet on April 15, so that all can attend the worship service, where Dr. Crossan will be preaching.

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

The class is discussing 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.

Engaging In Respectful Dialogue: Creativity, Courage and Hope –

10:45 a.m.-Noon in Room LL05, through 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.

For more information on these classes go to:

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

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries Lists Available

You will find these dates posted in Fellowship Hall on the Community Connections bulletin board. There are also copies to take with you. To request an electronic version send an email to info@fumc.org. If you would like to receive a copy by mail please call the church office at 608-256-9061.

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

Joys & Concerns

Please remember these FUMC members and friends in your prayers: **Caroline Ingram, Marge Detroy, Jean Ebersohl, Lillian Wirth** and **Kirk Luker** (Afghanistan).

Mary Hasheider's father, Werner Bremel, passed away on February 7. **Debbie Olin's** father, Henry Warpechowski, passed away February 24. Our prayers are with Mary, Debbie and their families at this difficult time. We extend condolences to **Dianne Graham**, upon the death of her father, Frank Gray.

Long time First Church member **Lola Yde** passed away on February 25. Please keep Lola's family and loved ones in your prayers.

Congratulations to **Lorimer** and **Talitha Cushman**, proud parents of new daughter **Adeline**, who was born February 21.

We celebrate with **Kevin** and **Molly Thompson** the baptism of their son **Brigham**, on Sunday, February 26. Brigham joins big brother Will.

First United Methodist Church

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all God's Children

Spring Cleaning Youth Missions Fundraiser

The snow is melted, the sun is out – that means it's time to do a little Spring Cleaning! The High School and Middle School youth will be available to help get your yard ready for summer, clean out that garage, wash some windows, do your dishes – you name it. The youth are available to help April 1 through May 15. Sign up in the Octagon between services on Sundays in March or contact Seth Schroerlucke through the church office at info@fumc.org or 608-256-9061 by March 25 with the type of work that needs to be done. There is a limited number of houses we can do, so sign up early. Thank you for your continued support!

Items Needed for Youth Missions Auction Fundraiser

Start your Spring Cleaning a little early this year! The Youth are eager to accept your new or nicely used items for their Sunday, May 13 Mother's Day Auction to raise funds for their summer mission trips. Donations of services, baked goods, craft items, or gift certificates will also be met with enthusiasm, so be creative – and spread the word. If you donate something from your own business, your name will be displayed next to your donation. Please contact Seth at youthya@fumc.org or 608-256-9061 if you have something you would like to contribute or place it in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

Young Adult Potluck/Discussion – Sunday, March 25

Fellowship Hall, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Soiree Recap



Thank you to the over 100 of you who came and supported the youth at this year's Mardi Gras Soiree. What a fantastic time, especially seeing Seth get rocked with a pie in the face! However, in addition to the prizes, the King & Queen, the deliciously delicious food, it was especially enjoyable visiting at the table with the youth, and having good discussions with everyone over dinner. It is great when our church can come together like this and get to know each other a little better. In addition to the 30 youth who helped make it happen, there were 26 adults who helped out too – isn't that amazing? *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

Children & Youth

Sunday Classes & Childcare
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:
 - March 30 – Spring Retreat
 - April 25 – Visiting worship at
Deer Park Buddhist Temple
- High School Seniors' Salon:
Room LL06
 - April 15
 - May 13

Youth Event

- Junior High Convo –
April 20-22 in Oshkosh



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