



The Good Word

Iraq, Three Years On... A Service of Lament "Blessed are they that mourn"

We may differ in our opinions as to whether a timetable for bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq should be established, but it is unimaginable that the war in Iraq does not weigh heavily upon every one of us. Advocates of contemporary worship tell us that lighthearted songs of praise are what brings people into our sanctuaries. But I wonder how a worshipping community can be so cheerful given the gruesome realities and terrible cost of this war. A worship service of lamentation is being planned for Sunday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. The practice of community lamentation, expressing our sorrow in the context of worship and prayer, is grounded in the Book of Lamentations, and Psalms from the Old Testament.

An offering will be taken and will be given to The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CVT exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture on individuals, their families, and communities and to stop its practice. CVT works locally, nationally and internationally to build healing communities where torture survivors feel welcomed, protected and healed. For more information about CVT log onto the webpage at cvt.org. You may find an article of special interest from the New Yorker about how an internal effort to ban the abuse and torture of detainees was thwarted.
Jeff Wild

Holy Week and Easter at the Madison Christian Community

This year's observance of Holy Week begins with combined MCC worship on Palm Sunday, April 9. Join us as we process from the Covenant Room to the Blessing Room and mark the beginning of Jesus' journey to the cross.

Our Holy Week observances continue on Maundy Thursday, April 13 with worship at 7:00 p.m. Tisha will preach and communion will be served. Our Good Friday worship begins at 12:30 p.m. on April 14 in the Covenant Room. Jeff Wild will be preaching.

Easter Morning Sunrise worship begins at 7:00 a.m., Sunday April 16 in the Covenant Room, with Katrin Wuest preaching. Easter Morning Worship is at 10:15 a.m. with Community of Hope worshipping in the Covenant Room and Advent worshipping in the Blessing Room.

HUG Please

Save for the MCC-WRNC Gardeners:
Plastic grocery bags
Plastic 5 qt. ice cream pails

There will be a garden basket in the Shalom Room for your bags and pails.

HELP US GROW !
Thank you !

April 2006

Of Special Interest:

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- Gardeners Needed, April IHN Week – p.5
- Java for Justice, the Environmental TF information on rain barrels, Global Connections – p. 6
- Letter from Craig and Alli Pierce, Article on Iraq project – p. 7
- Letter from Haiti , Coming Events – p. 10
- Adult Education at MCC – p. 11

Inserts: Father Dom's Duck Doo and Confidential Flocking Form

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MCC News

2006 Pictorial Directory

We will be producing a new pictorial directory this September. Please plan to have your picture taken. Since many families vacation in August there will be early opportunities for scheduling your appointment and you will be able to schedule your appointment online.

MCC Art Exhibit by Jerome H. Kamps

Jerome H. Kamps, a retired art teacher from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, taught art at the Beaver Dam High School for thirty-four years. He graduated from Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, in 1956, and earned a masters degree in art education from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Although he has produced art in a variety of media, his emphasis of study was printmaking. Jerry is a charter member of the Beaver Dam Area Arts Association and has served on the Board of Directors. Now, in his retirement years, he devotes much of his time as a member of the BDAAA Exhibit Committee to the production of major exhibits at the Seippel Homestead and Center for the Arts in Beaver Dam. He also assists in the general management and maintenance of the Center. His interest in the arts and history is reflected in his many years of participation in the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre as a set designer and in his active membership at the Dodge County Historical Society Museum where he assists with displays.

Memorials for Kevin McGinley may be sent to *McGinley Children's Education Fund* c/o Daniel McGown, 3051 Stratton Way, Madison, 53719.

Thank you from the Spencers!

Two years ago MCC gave Rita and me a gift certificate for Louisianne's in Middleton. We've never mentioned that. The truth is that we misplaced the certificate for a couple of years. Recently we did find it and decided to save it for a special occasion. On International Women's Day and Rita's birthday we used it and were very pleased by the meal and the experience. Thanks very much to the MCC for this wonderful gift.

Action Wisconsin Phone Canvassing Opportunities

This month's UCC sponsored phone canvasses are taking place on Monday, April 10 (sponsored by Orchard Ridge, UCC), Tuesday April 18 (sponsored by First Congregational, UCC) and Sunday April 23 (sponsored by Memorial UCC, Fitchburg and Lake Edge, UCC). If you are interested in participating in any of these phone canvasses, please contact Justin Sweet at 441-0143 ext 306 or Justin.sweet@actionwisconsin.org.

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The Good Word

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Next Issue: May 2006

Articles Due: April 20 to the church office

Newsletter Editor: Sonja Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Jack Benjamin

Newsletter Collators: Linda Lorentzen and Brad Spencer

Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad and Doris Roberts

Fellowship Groups & Activities

MCC Knitting Circle/Scrapbooking Club

Work on your creative pursuits while being in fellowship with other MCC members!

April 7, Scrapbooking at MCC,
6:30-10:30 p.m.

May 12, Knitting at Sue Young's
house, 9-11:30 a.m.

June 2, Scrapbooking at MCC,
6:30-10:30 p.m.

Questions? Call Debra Greene at 238-5542 or Sue Young at 849-4678.

GEMS*

The MCC GEMS meet at 10:30 every Tuesday morning for coffee, treats, fellowship and great discussions. They are beginning a new book, *Life Together-The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. All GEMS* (Great/Grumpy Elderly (and not elderly Men) are welcome!

MCC Film Group

The MCC Film Group will meet at 7:00 pm

Apr. 21, 2006 *Wings of Desire*
(1987 German film about angels in streets of Berlin) at Komai's

May 19, 2006 *Some Like It Hot*
(1959 comedy; #14 on AFI Best 100 films) location TBD

June 16, 2006 *Blowup*
(1966 film about photographer; nom. for 2 Oscars: Best Dir., Best Writing, Story) location TBD

If you would like more info. on these films, I suggest going to www.imdb.com. Mark your calendars, and I hope you can attend. Call Larry Eriksson at 222-1815 for more information.

The Theological Discussion Group begins discussion of their new selection, *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan to be discussed during April, May and June. This book follows many of the Borg and Crossan discussion points you may have heard in the Living the Questions series, the MCC Adult Education topic.

In the preface, the authors write, "we do not in this book intend to attempt a historical reconstruction of Jesus' last week on earth. Our purpose is not to distinguish what actually happened from the way it is recorded in the four gospels, which proclaim it as 'good news' (gospel). We intend a much simpler task: to tell and explain, against the background of Jewish high-priestly collaboration with Roman imperial control, the last week of Jesus life on earth as given in the Gospel According to Mark".

The Theological Discussion Group meets every third Wednesday of the month (April 19, May 17, and June 21) at 7 p.m. in the MCC downstairs.

For further information or a copy of the book, contact Fran Grugel, 829-1618.

MCC Community Group

On Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m., we will attend the Overture performance of "The Madhatters" (UW Men's "fun" singing group).

Mark Monday, May 15 on your calendars for the trip to the Kohler Center at Kohler, WI. We will carpool, or maybe take a van or bus, from the MCC at 6:30 a.m. Any MCC members and friends are welcome to join this trip---there will be a sign-up later.

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Youth News & Activities (Check Out the Youth Page of our Website)

Time for Flamingo Flocking...

Have you noticed the Fun Flaming Facts in the bulletin the last several weeks? Did you catch the "sneak peak" of the plastic flamingos at the Dessert and Talent Show? Are you curious?!

Well...the flamingos are here to help us with our last big fundraiser for the San Antonio Youth Gathering. We have 20 plastic flamingos that can't wait to flock your yard, your pastor's yard, your Sunday school teacher's yard, or the yard of a special friend. A flock of 20 flamingos is a great gift to send for a birthday, anniversary, or just to say "Thinking of You!". Flamingos will be sent flocking starting April 1 and will continue to flock thru June 1.

Here's what you have to do to send the Flamingos flocking...

Fill out a confidential flocking form in the Shalom room and attach cash or a check for \$20 starting now through May 14th. The flamingos will flock the friend's yard of your choice. If you have a specific date you want your friend to be flocked, add a \$5 rush flocking fee. You may flock as many yards as you want.

Here's what will happen if you get flocked...

You'll wake up one morning to 20 beautiful Flamingos flocking in your front yard. You can say a quick prayer... something like, "Thank you God for flamingos!". There will be a little card at your front door explaining the gift of flamingos you have received. The flamingos will be removed from your yard in 3 days at no charge. OR you can choose to have the flamingos removed immediately and sent on to flock a friend for \$25.

Happy Flocking!

Middle High:

April 22nd Boulders- 2pm Meet at Boulders off of Stoughton Road. Wear comfy clothes and bring \$15.

April 24th Campfire 7-8 @ MCC

May 5th Bogey's Middleton 5p-Bring\$10

Senior High:

BWCA Registration forms due to Alli with a \$50 deposit by April 1st.

April 19th- Parents Upstairs, Youth Downstairs 7pm at the Lorentzens. Please RSVP to Dave and Linda by 4/12.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp week for MCC youth of all ages is July 9-14.

Extra brochures are in the Shalom room. Get your registrations sent into camp ASAP to reserve your spot. Craig and Alli will be there for the beginning part of the week.

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Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

Read Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's Sunday sermons on the web!

Sunday texts are on the monthly calendar.

On the Home Page find Weekly Announcements and the Newsletter. If you decide that you no longer need the newsletter delivered in the mail, please call the church office to let us know.



Check out the new calendar, new pictures of CoH Men's Breakfast Group, MCC Film Group and Advent Thursday Breakfast Group. Coming soon, pictures from Iraq.

Please let the Website Committee know if you are not finding what you need or have other suggestions. The Website Committee: Tom Matthews, Edd Hellmer, John Brugge, Carrie McGinley, Jeff Greene and Sonja Keesey-Berg. Contact the Website Committee at office@madisonchristiancommunity.org.

MCC News

Gardeners Needed

Gardeners to team with Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Children to plant, tend, nourish and harvest.

Must:

- Be willing to play in the dirt
- Enjoy sharing budding ideas
- Be looking for fun in the sun and the rain
- Help others branch out and explore new ground
- Provide opportunities for others to grow
- Contribute to produce, produce
- Help young people develop roots in their communities

No experience necessary!

This summer MCC begins a third year friendship with children (grades 1 – 5) from the summer camp program at Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center (WRNC). Small and tall gardeners meet in the gardens for two hours every Monday and Thursday morning for eight weeks (middle of June through the middle of August).

The MCC-WRNC garden components include fostering youth development, cultivating intergenerational relationships and promoting sustainable, environmental practices.

If you want to hear first ear, first word about our garden experiences, successes, fears and follies, talk with Eileen Bolstad, Jan Robertson, Art Nack, Jeff Wild, Hildy McGown, Beth Kemp, Annie Grugel, Nan Wild or Fran Grugel.

Please consider sharing some of your summertime with the MCC-WRNC garden program this year. Come and enjoy the sun-

shine with good friends, heavenly harvests, and unforgettable teamwork. For further information, talk with one of the gardeners listed above or call Fran Grugel, 829-1618.

IHN Week is April 23-30

Were You There?

A few years ago Ken Streit and Reed Cooper called our MCC fellowship to come forward and make a commitment to IHN, International Hospitality Network. Many of us stepped forward and made a promise to help out. MCC's position is being a buddy to Orchard Ridge UCC Church on Gilbert Road in Madison. They house up to 15 guests and we help by serving food, playing with the kids, doing some necessary shopping and spending the night. Have we forgotten? The need has actually increased and is still a valuable service. I, myself, have had many pleasurable moments this year just remembering playing with a little four-year-old girl. I don't remember her name but I see her face and feel her touch as we played itsy bitsy spider over and over again while her mom was in a meeting with a psychologist and other moms. This can happen to you! Sign up and offer your time, your precious time. You will come away with the gift that I did. Remembering that face, the face of someone that ended up giving to you!

The next time we are asked to sign up. Do it and give yourself a gift!
Jean Loichinger

Interfaith Hospitality Week is April 23 – 30th. Once again, we will be feeding and sheltering 4 to 6 homeless families with children for three nights that week. Please see the sign-up in the Shalom Room which also contains job descriptions for each volunteering opportunity. Feel free to call Aaron Anding with questions at 831-0539.

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MCC News and Activities

JAVA FOR JUSTICE

It's April and time to place your coffee order. You might want to add a bag or two to your order for Easter or to donate to the troops in Iraq. Place your order by April 2nd, ready for pick-up on April 9th. When placing your order, make your checks out to the *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*. The Tanzania coffee farmers are becoming sustainable, forming a coop and revitalizing a 450-acre diocese farm. Their forward progress has been spurred on by this coffee project. They feel hope once again because of the Fair Trade price they are receiving from their coffee. Thanks for your support.

Rain Barrels- A nice way to start saving water.

Dane County is blessed with a wealth of water resources. This bounty includes 37 lakes, 475 miles of streams and 14 miles of the Wisconsin River. As a county, we make ample use of our water supply consuming an astounding 42 million gallons a day! A look at your water bill reminds us this consumption comes at significant financial cost, but it also has an environmental impact. A nice way to start conserving is by installing a rain barrel to collect rain water for garden and landscape use. Rain barrels collect water that is naturally softened and can be delivered to garden soil through irrigation or soaking hoses. Barrel systems come with diverters that redirect flow back to the gutter when the barrel is full. Currently, SustainDane is accepting orders for rain barrels and they will install them! Barrels will be delivered on May 6th and 13th and cost \$99 for a single and \$150 for a double barrel system. More information, including a set of frequently asked questions about rain! Barrels can be found at http://www.sustaindane.org/main/rainbarrel_right.htm or by calling 608-819-0689.

April Global Connections Events

Save April 7th---7:00 p.m. Join Andrew Wild and Chelsea Johnson: share their year in Thailand, teaching English in a K-12 school (@4000 students!) in Chiang Rai. Chiang Rai is the capital city of the Northern-most province in Thailand. It lies about an hour Southwest of the intersection of Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and Thailand, otherwise known as the Golden Triangle. Over the course of the year, they worked with students of nearly all the ages represented at the school. The most rewarding activity was leading a 5th and 6th grade English club. Andrew had the opportunity of working with the concert band and Chelsea stayed an extra month to work with a Thai printmaker at Chiang Mai University. They also traveled in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam during their summer break in April and May last year. Thailand has some distinct cultural characteristics, the most obvious being the incredible hospitality, friendliness, and generosity of the Thai people to foreigners (farang). Chelsea and Andrew will share Thai food (yum!), pictures and stories of their joys and challenges. Plan to join the Global Connections Task force and bring your questions and comments. We are in for an evening of adventure and sharing.

Save April 30th, 11:30

Kajsiab: Finding Relief from Worry for the Hmong in Dane County.

Did you know that Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the country? Join Doua Vang and Dean Krahn on Sunday, April 30th after church for an introduction to the Hmong culture and the experiences that led them from Laos to Dane County. Hmong food will be shared.

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MCC News continued—

Dear MCC Members,

As you may already know, Allison and I will be leaving Madison. It is with bittersweet excitement that we share this news with you. We are excited to be closer to our families and to start a new chapter of our lives. At the same time, we are sad to be leaving our friends and the MCC. You have touched our lives and welcomed us in. We both agree that the hardest part of leaving Madison will be no longer working with the youth and participating at the MCC. We will continue our duties as MCC Youth Directors through July, and we can't wait to go with the youth to San Antonio.

We have both accepted positions with the Houston, Minnesota School District. We will be working both on site and as a part of their online school. We look forward to the new challenges that our positions will bring us. It seems as though the stars are aligning in making this transition possible. We have already found a new home south of La Crosse. It is in beautiful bluff country and has plenty of acreage for our horse and pets. It is only a few miles from the place where I proposed to Allison on the Mississippi River. Most importantly, it is only a stone's throw away from our family.

We are truly grateful for the past three years that we have had to share in the MCC community as your Youth Directors and friends. Please pray for us in our transition as we pray for you.

-CRAIG & ALLISON PIERCE

URGENT: Hope Confirmation Mission Trip needs a minivan from April 8-15. (you may have a Camry in trade).

Roger Williams and Dave Manion are driving to Mississippi for a mission trip with Jeremy and Josh Ryan. The vehicle they were planning on using can no longer be used.

Thanks, Kristi Williams. Please call her at 839-4758.

Dane County United Delegates Assembly on Wednesday, April 26, 7-8:30 p. at First Baptist Church, 518, North Franklin Ave. Who should come? Leaders of Dane County faith and community organizations involved or exploring involvement, in Dane County United's work. Each organization is encouraged to send a team of 3-10 leaders, including 2-3 delegates, who have prepared together to participate in the assembly. **Why come?**

*To hear reports from DCU's action teams on their ongoing work in early childhood and other issues;

*To learn of new opportunities to act on your values through DCU's work;

*to reflect and converse together with other people of faith and good will on how we express our voice and values in public life. Questions? Call 843-6470 or organizer@danecountyunited.org

Second Chance NIH Coordinator just sent these requests for our family:

1. a (used) vacuum (theirs just died)
2. a (used) bicycle for the 8 year old
3. a (used) tricycle for the 16 month old
4. a (used) dvd/vcr player or dvd player or vcr player

Could you please announce these request in the Sunday bulletins and/or news letter. If someone has any of these items available and are able to donate them, that will be wonderful. Our family will really use and appreciate these items.

Contact Ann Bolger at 824-9049.

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MCC News continued

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MCC News Continued

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MCC News Continued

Haiti Partners— Dear Ann Bolger,

By grace and the divine love of God which filled our lives, I greet you in the most respectful way. How are you and everyone in the family doing? I know God's will is to see his children live, and being well, that reference inspires me that everyone and everything is going well in your family. I was glad that you described everyone in the picture for me. Your family is looking lovely. I can assume that you are feeling so good having successful kids and watching your grand children growing. I surely would like to learn more about your children and grand ones when we are having much time to write. I felt good getting to recognize them in pictures. I send my best and luck to your son in-law Jeff. I know God will protect him in Iraq and bring him back home to his wonderful and loving family and love ones.

You mentioned about skiing. Are you sure about such a challenge? That don't exist in my country, but I see it on television. I am thinking you are probably too old for such practice if I am not mistaken. I am thinking maybe you won't have to slide down from the top of a mountain. I guess I am saying that is dangerous since I am not use to it. What ever you do be very careful my Dear Sponsor.

Daily, I am thinking about life hardship to see how I can make a success with my life. I am thinking the best thing is to

work hard to have a different life comparing to many people who are considered poor. In my view, there is no other way. I want to finish high school so I can enter the world of professionalism and aim some thing to live on.

My family and I are living day by day and take life as it is. The good thing is that we are not ill. I think that's a very good blessing from God comparing to many others at the hospital or living a much more difficult life.

I am glad that we have an elected president in Haiti now. I am thinking that we might see some changes on this government; who knows? I am sure only God knows what is next. I heard many people criticized the Bush's government for many things he had done wrongly which endanger and worrying the American nation. I know everything has an beginning and an end; Bush will be gone soon so that Americans can feel safer.

Thank you for your loving encouragement. That is one of the reasons I admire you. You are always a good friend when most needed and your encouragement brings comfort.

I'm looking forward to hear from you again. Take care of yourself and your love ones as you always do. You stay in my prayers and I send you much love.

God bless you, Peterlee.

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Coming Events

- April 5 Lenten Soup Supper at 6:00 p. Lenten Service at 7:00 p.
Sign up on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room to bring soup, bread or dessert for the Soup Supper.
- April 7 Global Connections, *Journey to Thailand* with Andrew Wild & Chelse, Johnson
- April 9 Palm Sunday – no education hour, worship at 10:15 a.
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.
- April 14 Good Friday Service at 12:30 p.
- April 16 Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service at 7:00 a. Advent and Hope worship services at 10:15 a.
- April 23 Earth Day events at MCC
- April 23-30 IHN Week
- April 30 Global Connections, *Hmong Community* is here to share with us.
- Sept 14-16 New Pictorial Directory Pictures will be taken.

MCC News

Sunday Morning in the Covenant Rm April will continue to be an exciting month for *Sunday Morning in the Covenant Room*.

Bonhoeffer will be featured for the 9:00-10:00 time on April 2 and 9. We will continue to use the format of watching a portion of the documentary about his life and then having small group discussions around specific questions that arise from the materials. Jeff and Katrin will continue to lead.

Reviewing: *Living the Questions: Sessions 1-4*. Because of conflicts with other opportunities, many MCC members have asked for an opportunity to watch the DVD of the first four Living the Question Sessions that we watched during the 9-10 period in January and February. Because the DVD presentations just demand to be watched in a group setting, we are going to schedule a second

chance opportunity.

On April 2, after worship, we will watch the sessions titled: "An Invitation to Journey" and "Thinking Theologically." On April 9, after worship, we will watch "Creativity and Stories of Creation" and "Restoring Relationships." For those of you with children, let's see if we can arrange for some child care.

April 16 is Easter: No Sunday Morning in the Covenant Room.

April 23 is Earth Day and we will have an offering in the Covenant Room but assume that many current participants may want to be outdoors helping. *Living the Questions: New Sessions* April 30 we will return to the format we used for LTO in January and February. The topic is "Evil and a God of Love: The Place of Suffering" and we will finish that session on May 7. Hope to see you.

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Advent News

Welcoming visitors in our midst

Have you looked in the bulletin at the list of people serving in worship on Sunday mornings and wondered, "What on earth is an advocate?"

While it is everyone's job to welcome those who are worshiping with us for the first time, the advocate is encouraged to be extra watchful for first-time worshipers on Sunday mornings. The advocate also has a specialized role – to make a follow-up phone call to first-time worshipers early in the week to welcome them, once again, and to see if they have any questions about Advent or the MCC.

Currently, our list of volunteer advocates is small and we'd like to lengthen the list. The task is not time-consuming, and it's especially fun for those who enjoy meeting new people.

The main tasks of the advocate are:

1. Spending time in the Shalom Room before worship on Sundays, beginning at 10 a.m., to watch for those worshiping with

us for the first time and make them feel welcome.

2. Making follow-up phone calls to first-time worshipers later on Sunday or early in the week.

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please call or e-mail Debra Greene at 238-5542 or debra_greene@sbcglobal.net. She will be sure to get you on the advocate schedule.

If being an advocate is not for you, please help the advocate do his or her job by introducing first-time worshipers you might meet to the advocate for that Sunday. Please encourage first-time worshipers to sign the guest book and to fill out our new "welcome" cards, which will be coming soon.

Thank you for helping to make Advent a welcoming place!

Community of Hope News

Praying for Our Community

Please pray for the people and situations listed below as well as our entire community in the coming month. If you have prayer requests you'd like to be included in next month's newsletter please contact Tisha at the church office.

- For those who are unable, for health reasons, to join us in worship but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari and Wilma Sanks
- For all military personnel and their families
- For the family and friends of Kevin McGinley as we all grieve his loss
- For Neil Kanetzke and family

For these people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

- Mar. 28 – Apr. 4 Bill Long, Dave Manion, Jan Manser, Tom & Joan Matthews
- Apr. 4-11 Kathryn & Clare Mazack, Doug Wubben, Martha McCurdy, Sef & Marcella
- Apr. 11-18 The Murphy family, The Ono family
- Apr. 18-25 Art & Mary Nack, Rebecca Payne, Laurie O'Reilly
- Apr. 25-May 2 Chuck and Jean Pfeifer, the Powell family

Hope Men's Breakfast Group

We have breakfast together on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 6:30am, at The Original Pancake House, 5518 University Avenue, where we enjoy good fellowship, good food and interesting conversation. At our last get-together, Rolf Killingstad regaled us with tales of his adventures "sailing, sailing, over the bounding main." Cap'n Rolf skippered a crew of seven in a 49-ft sailing vessel in the Caribbean. We also talked about the importance of spending time with our grandchildren. Our April breakfasts will be on April 5th and 19th.

Birthdays

Lori Powell	4/1
Beth Simmons	4/6
Peter Williams	4/7
Morgan Eder	4/7
Roger Buffett	4/13
Bill Feeny	4/14
Margaret Helming	4/18
Luke Geistlinger	4/20
Wilma Sanks	4/21
Silke van der Weide	4/23
Sage Ono	4/23

Anniversaries

None for April!

Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

New Prison Ministry Project

On February 1, First Congregational, UCC of Madison, with the support of the Wisconsin Conference, the Southwest Association, Lake Edge UCC and Memorial UCC began a new Prison Ministry Project and called Jerry Hancock to be its ordained project director. This is a pastoral ministry of word and sacrament for prisoners inside prison walls. It is a ministry of help for their families; a resource for local pastors and congregations and a ministry of advocating for prison reform. For more information, contact Rev. Jerry Hancock at 658-6630 or jhancock@firstcongmadison.org.

- Pray Daily
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- Respond as Stewards
- Serve at MCC & Beyond
- Cultivate Spiritual Friendship

Advent News



Judith Circle

The Judith Circle will be meeting on April 11, 2006 from 9AM to 11AM at the home of Myrna McNatt. We will have a social hour followed by a Bible study. We will be working on our task for the coming year: to select officers for the Women of Advent starting January 2007.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meets the third Thursdays of the month all year long. We meet at 7:00 pm on the lower level of the church. New members are welcome.

The April book is *Dear James* by Jon Hassler. After a long career as teacher and principal, Agatha McGee faces the closing of St Isidore's and the rest of her life. Storm clouds gather over Staggerford and N. Ireland as she rebuilds a friendship and love.

Please join us at our meeting at 7 pm on April 20th in the youth room-lower level of the church.

Treasury of Love thru Mar24 , 2006

Beginning Balance	651.00
Love Offerings to-date	1567.65
Wexford Women	45.00
Income	2,263.65
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1,072.00
Security Deposits	500.00
Utility Assistance	50.00
Iraq Postage	214.25
Car payment	200.00
Court Mandated payment	100.00
Registration Fee Trust	<u>65.00</u>
Expenditure	2,201.25
Balance as of 3/24/2006	\$62.40

\$45 of the \$62.40 is designated for Wexford Women. So far no address to send it to.

Confirmation Schedule for Second Year Students and Mentors

Sunday, April 2, Lunch will be served following worship. Dave Mack will lead our session on forgiveness.

Sunday, April 9, We will meet from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Katrin recruited two personal trainers from where she works out ("religiously") to work with us, and we will talk about the Body-Mind-Soul connection. Dress comfortably.

Sunday, April 23, Lunch will be served after worship. Peter Bakken will lead us in a study on "Hunger in Wisconsin," that he recently wrote for the Wisconsin Council of Churches. We will also plan our time at IHN April 26.

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Would you like to mingle with a great church circle without having to house clean? Elizabeth Circle meets every second Thursday of the month at Tabor Oaks at Oakwood Village West at 7:00 pm. We share our prayer needs, discuss a Bible lesson from the now very well-written *Lutheran Woman*, and truly enjoy each other's company. We'd be happy to welcome you, too. Call Margaret Smith if you want more information.

Advent Women:

Come for Thursday Coffee!

A lively group of "church ladies" meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Atlanta Bread Co, 3250 University Ave.

The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by!



- Pray Daily
- Worship Regularly
- Study God's Word
- Respond as
 - Stewards
 - Serve at MCC & Beyond
 - Cultivate Spiritual Friendship

Community of Hope News continued

Health Care for All!

If you are interested in seeing our nation move in the direction of ensuring that all American citizens receive adequate, affordable health care you are invited to complete a survey for the Citizen's Health Care Working group. Surveys are available in the Covenant Room on April 2, 9, 16 and 23rd. Please take the time to complete one of these surveys and place it in the envelope provided. All complete surveys will be mailed to the Citizen's Health-care Working Group, which has been charged by Congress to Engage Americans in a public debate about shaping a health care system that would "provide every American with the ability to obtain quality, affordable, healthcare..." and present recommendations to Congress and the President in the fall of 2006.

UCC TV Ad Wins Major Award

The UCC's "bouncer" television commercial, which aired nationally in December 2004 and March 2005, has received one of the advertising industry's most significant honors.

The Association of National Advertisers awarded the United Church of Christ its 2005 Multicultural Excellence Award. The 30-second commercial emphasized our denomination's welcome to all, insisting that "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we."

Tisha gone in April

Tisha will be gone April 24-26 to attend the final session of the Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process. She will return to the office on Thursday, April 27. Pastoral care needs can be directed to either Katrin Wuest or Jeff Wild.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Coordinator Needed

The congregations of the MCC work together in ministry with Orchard Ridge, UCC and the Interfaith Hospitality Network to provide food and shelter to families that are homeless four weeks each year. Community of Hope is in need of a coordinator to work with Aaron Anding from Advent to recruit volunteers during our week of service and to provide volunteer coordination at the shelter one night during our week. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Mark Geistlinger or Aaron Anding.

Association Spring Meeting – "Bearing One Another's Burdens"

We will gather on April 22 at First Congregational UCC in Janesville from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will hear reports from folks who have been assisting with hurricane relief, some who will report on working with our mission at Back Bay. We will also hear a report from those who traveled to Bethlehem and our partners at Christmas Lutheran Church. Officers will be elected for the coming year. If you are interested in attending this meeting of our Association, please contact Tisha by Friday, April 14.

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Our Larger Community

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

We are once again looking for college-aged students to come spend their summer at camp. If you are interested in more information on summer employment and an application, go to our website at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org or call Kim Hovde, Program Director at 608-734-3113.

Learn how to reduce "Caregiver Stress"

Caring for a seriously ill family member or close friend is often rewarding, but it can also be stressful. Caregiving can take a considerable emotional, physical and financial toll on the caregiver. Research has shown that family caregivers experience stress-related illnesses at a much higher rate than the general population. Learn how to take care of yourself while you take care of others at Hospice Care's next question-and-answer seminar, "Caregiver Stress." This free seminar will offer participants strategies to help cope with the changes, losses, and life transitions that come with serious illness. Participants will pick up tips for self-care and learn how to create a positive caregiving experience. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. –8:30 p.m. at the Don and Marilyn Anderson Hospice Care Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway in Madison. Registration not required.

Oakwood Service League Information:

An Oakwood Service League General Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18 – 11:30 am at Oakwood Village East. All Service League members are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. Lunch will be served and a free-will offering accepted. Sweepstakes drawing will be held following lunch. Call Lori at 230-4264 to make your reservation.

The Resale Shop will be open Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 – 4:00. Great bargains on furniture, linens, jewelry, household items, kitchen accessories, glassware, books, knickknacks and more! The Resale Shop is located at Oakwood Village West, 6203 Mineral Point Road.

Oakwood Volunteer Opportunities:

Oakwood Village East and West needs computer volunteers to assist staff or residents a few times a month or once a week. Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at 230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net for more information.

Church Women United in Madison April 7, Forum

The program: *Visitors from Lodi: How Lodi Churchwomen Work Together.*

9:00 a. Coffee
9:30 a. Welcome
10:00 a. Program

Location: Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd.
Hostesses: United Methodist Women

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A Word About Our Partnership— *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the *Madison Christian Community* (MCC). We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land. We worship together about 8–12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation. We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, gender and sexual orientation. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

The Good Word

Monthly Newsletter of the
Madison Christian Community
*An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA
and Community of Hope – UCC*

Staff:
Tisha Brown, Pastor
Community of Hope,
UCC
hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Jeff Wild, Pastor
Advent Lutheran
Church, ELCA
advent@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Katrin Wuest, MCC
Associate Pastor
ad-hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Craig & Alli Pierce,
MCC Senior & Middle-
High Youth Directors

Sonja Keesey-Berg,
MCC Administrative
Secretary
office@madisonchristiancommunity.org

Tom Matthews, Secretarial Assistant AND
MCC Maintenance
mccfixit@tds.net

Frank Parker,
MCC Custodian

Community of Hope
Steering Committee
Martha McCurdy
Petra Streiff
Ann Bolger
Barbara Dueholm,
Moderator
Marcus Murphy
Corkey Custer
Bruce Jarvis

Advent Council
Doug Johnson
Jack Benjamin
David Canon, President
Sarah Zutz
Jim Muehl
Joanna McDonald
JoAnne Streit

MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you call our office and there is no answer, please leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Are you still interested in receiving our newsletter?

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office and let us know.

MCC Executive Committee:
Fran Grugel, Chair
Doug Johnson
Martha McCurdy
Petra Streiff
Tisha Brown
Jeff Wild

MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

Madison Christian Community
7118 Old Sauk Road
Madison WI 53717-1099

Phone: 608-836-1455
Fax: 608-836-7658
Email:
office@madisonchristiancommunity.org

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