



The Good Word

March 2009

Dear friends:

Our annual observance of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25 at our 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service. This is always a very moving service and offers us an opportunity to remember the limits and boundaries on our own lives and abilities and to claim our identity as Christian.

This service also ushers us into the season of Lent – 40 days, not counting Sundays, when Christians are invited to walk with Jesus as he makes his way to the cross and overcomes death on Easter morning.

Some view Lent as a time to fast or choose to refrain from certain foods or activities as a way of examining their lives and renewing their commitment of discipleship. Others use the season of Lent as a time to deepen their spiritual journeys or experience new ways of praying or worshipping as a way of growing in discipleship and faith. However you choose to observe Lent this year, I pray God's peace and grace will be upon you. If your inclination is to try something new, multiple opportunities are available for MCC members to worship and pray together as we journey with Jesus and with one another. I would invite you to consider one of these opportunities for yourself as a Lenten discipline. Here are the rich and varied options:

Worship: In addition to our Sunday morning worship services there are two opportunities every week for you to add a Lenten Worship discipline to your observance of Lent.

***Wednesday evenings,** March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 at the MCC we will begin with a simple soup supper and

conversations about our History at 5:30 and join in worship at 7:00 p.m.

***Sunday evenings,** March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at the Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S. Gammon Rd. a contemplative service of prayer and song in the style of Taize will be offered. This is a cooperative effort of 5 west-side congregations. All are welcome.

Prayer Groups: The Spiritual Growth and Development Working Group, a joint venture between Advent and Hope, is offering small group prayer opportunities during Lent. Groups will meet for the 6 weeks of Lent beginning the week of March 2. Sign up in the Shalom Room for the group that best fits your schedule. Options are: Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Fridays, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. All groups will meet at the MCC. Contact Tisha with questions. Sign up no later than Sunday, March 1.

Observing Lent at Home: for those who would prefer to observe Lent at home and with their families, Heather Putnam, Director of Children's Ministries at the MCC, has prepared a booklet titled "Table Talk: Growing Faith at Home." There is more information about that later in this newsletter. Copies are available at the MCC.

Opportunities abound for us to deepen and grow along our spiritual journeys during Lent. These are a few of those opportunities but I am confident that there are others. I pray your journey in Lent is a time of reflection, contemplation, simplification and new life. Blessings on the journey.

Tisha

Of Special Interest:

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- Habitat for Humanity— p.5
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MCC News

Lenten Soup Suppers and 40th Anniversary Conversations

This year our Wednesday evening Soup Suppers during Lent will feature conversations about various topics from our 40 years of life together as the Madison Christian Community. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these informative events. Each week will feature a different theme. Folks from the MCC who were leaders in these areas will be present to share their stories, answer questions and to hear your own stories on these themes. Supper and conversation begins at 5:30 and worship follows at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4 – MCC Participation in the Sanctuary Movement/Resettling Refugees

Wednesday, March 11 – MCC efforts in Social Justice/Community Outreach/Mission

Wednesday, March 18 – Christian Education for all ages, including youth ministry

Wednesday, March 25 – MCC Worship Services

Wednesday, April 1 – Stewardship of our Land and the Environment

Taize Worship During Lent from Tisha

Every Sunday evening in March (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) there will be a Contemplative Service of prayer and song in the style of Taize at the Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S. Gammon Road. Worship begins at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. Questions: contact Tisha Brown

Community Taize Services in Lent From Jen Streit

Every Sunday night in March from 5 - 5:45pm at the Lussier Community Education Center. In case you are not familiar with Taize, it comes from a monastery in France that seeks to welcome people and traditions from across the globe. The music emphasizes simple phrases that are repeated to aid meditation and prayer. There are also gorgeous instrumental lines that float over the singing.

If you are an instrumentalist who would like to participate, please come at 4:30p to rehearse (except on 3/1 - please come at 4pm). If you need music ahead of time, please contact Tisha Brown or Jen Streit.

If you are a singer or a worship participant, please come at 5pm.

Personally, I have been deeply spiritually touched by this style of worship. Hope you will have similar experiences at these services. ~ Jen Streit

The Women of Advent will be hosting the annual Salad Supper on April 22nd beginning at 6 PM.

All women of the MCC are invited to attend and your guests are also welcome. Our program will be Dr. Linnea Smith, medical director of the Yanamono Medical Clinic in the remote Amazon basin of Peru. Dr Smith is the author of La Doctora (which is available from the Dane County Library Service). You may also want to visit the Amazon Medical Project website at www.amazonmedical.org An offering will be taken to support Dr. Smith's work in this medical project. Please join us for an interesting evening! Thanks! Rita

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

Eckhart Tolle's latest book, *A New Earth*, excited over 2 million readers with the Oprah Book Club. His work prompted Oprah to host a 10-week on-line course conducted by Tolle. So, what's the buzz all about?

The Theological Discussion Group will read this book for the March and April discussions, the first half for March and the second half for the April conversation. This selection provides almost endless discussion for the Group regarding Tolle's critiques and Christian convictions.

What is it about this book that so many bloggers warn readers about Tolle's claim that he is not promoting a "belief system"?

"He argues that there is no ultimate distinction between humans and God since all is one. From this monistic perspective, Tolle scorns common Western usage of the term God: 'There can be no subject-object relationship here, no duality, no you and God.'" (James A. Beverly)

The Madison Public Library has 98 copies of this book. Place a hold on it and check it out. There is no "membership" in this reading group. Read; then come and join the conversation.

The Theological Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday of each month. The March 18 discussion will be after the Lenten service. After Easter, the April 15 discussion will be at the usual 7 p.m. time.

MCC Film Group

March 20 at McNatt's to view *A Family Thing*, starring Robert Duvall, who discovers African American relatives in his family heritage.

April 3 Wisconsin Film Festival

Contact Lois Komai if you would like to be on the email reminder list for the Film Group.

MaD Küt! pronounced: mad cute!) Mommies And Daddies, Kids Under Three are playing the first Sundays of the month from 3 :00-4:30p. downstairs in the nursery. If you also have older children, they are welcome to come and play together in the Youth Room. Hope to see you on 3/1, 4/5 &/or 5/3. Contact Jen Streit with questions or comments.

Choir Opportunities at the MCC

Howard Kanetzke and Jen Streit will be joining forces during Lent to provide some choral opportunities for you to enjoy. We have three opportunities for you to sing over the next several weeks:

1. March 22, Advent - a simple SATB piece for Lent in Advent's service on 3/22.
2. Palm Sunday, April 5 - a Palm Sunday piece for a joint service on 4/5.
3. Easter Sunday, April 12 - a celebratory piece, which includes some African drumming, for Easter to be sung in both congregations on Easter Sunday.

We will have short rehearsals in the Blessing Room right after church on March 1, 8, 15, & 29. We will also rehearse at 9:15 a. on the Sundays that we sing in church. We ask that you commit to a minimum of two rehearsals.

Please contact Jen or Howard with questions. We are looking forward to making beautiful music together!

ACTIVITIES FOR MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

On Sunday, March 22, Community Group will have a potluck/spring & summer planning/games meeting at McNatts, 7012 Park Shores Ct., Middleton, following church services. All those interested in Community Group are invited to come.

MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a. at the Prairie Cafe in Middleton, across from Cops Grocery Store. Good fellowship and no agenda.

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MCC News

JAVA FOR JUSTICE:

March is here so order your personal order PLUS the extra, a coffee needed for St. Patrick's Day celebrations and gifts. Order decaf or regular; bean, drip or perk; 12 oz (\$9.00) or 4 pound (\$40) bags. Make your check out to *Mt. Meru Coffee Project*. Place order by March 1st ready for pick up on March 8th. Justice never tasted so good.....and thanks for helping the coffee farmers in Tanzania become sustainable.

Bring Your Recyclable Light Bulbs and Batteries to MCC

The place to deposit your recyclables is to the left of the library counter and Sonja's basket. There is a sign posted letting you know the cost of recycling the items. Please put your donation in the small container labeled *Donations*. There is a list of places in the Madison area that also accept these items.

Prayer Shawl Group Starting

People interested in starting a prayer shawl group are encouraged to contact Candi Bloedow or Kristi Willams. This is an equal opportunity group open to anyone with an interest in prayers and making things for others to enjoy. Meeting dates and times to be set by the group.

The Jarvis Family is moving this summer to the Twin Cities.

We are sad to leave all of you after 19 years, but our work takes us there now. Our home at 4917 Tokay Blvd., near Segoe Rd and Tokay, will go on the market in mid March. We have scheduled an open house to be held by the realtor on Sunday, March 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p. Anyone is welcome, even the simply curious. We were fortunate to have a lot of beautiful remodeling done by the late Kevin McGinley, including the kitchen and 2 bathrooms.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Hour Sunday March 1 — The MCC at 40.

This session will be the last of the series of learning more about the history of MCC and sharing our personal stories as they are related to MCC.

Sunday, March 8 Haiti Trip Report

Brian Sirchio led a delegation to Haiti in February to learn about reverse mission and the plight of the people in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Roger Williams and Tisha Brown also made the trip and will join Brian in sharing their updates on mission initiatives and their impressions.

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Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Karen Schwarz

Newsletter Collators: David Keesey-Berg and Doug Johnson

Newsletter Mailing Ready: Eileen Bolstad, Doris Roberts

MCC News

Habitat for Humanity – Volunteer Organizers Needed Submitted By John Rowe

Several MCC members have asked what it is like to work on a Habitat for Humanity house. Is it hard? Are special skills needed? Can Habitat use people with two left hands? The short answers: – no, no, and yes! Each volunteer is asked to do only what he/she feels comfortable doing. In building a house there is a wide range of jobs – while some jobs require carpentry skills, many do not.

And the returns? Learning new skills. Sharing your talents. Getting to know other MCC members better. Enjoying being outside and discovering muscles that have grown slack. And above all – seeing the smiles of the families providing “sweat equity” as they work on the house they will soon own!

During 2008, 36 MCC members and some of their friends volunteered in groups on ten different days. They worked at framing interior walls, building stairways, guiding truss rafters into place, hanging sheet rock, shingling, installing soffits, painting, and even cleaning windows and vacuuming just in time for a house blessing! While this work

was a big contribution in helping HFH complete 18 houses in Dane County last year, the biggest reward had to be working with other volunteers on a worthwhile cause.

After serving as the main organizer for the MCC work groups over the past two years, I want to share the organizational duties with others. I am looking for volunteers who are willing to organize one or more Habitat workdays during 2009. Your job would be to work with the Dane County Habitat volunteer coordinator, Lisa Delaney, during the next month to reserve a workday and then recruit a crew of six to eight. I will continue to work with the groups as a crew leader. As mentioned above, last year the MCC had crews working on ten different days; in 2009 the number of days will depend on how many day-coordinators step forward. The building sites for this year are in McFarland, Sun Prairie, Oregon, and on Northport Drive. The days available are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week.

The Habitat for Humanity website <http://habitatdane.org/home.cfm> provides more information on volunteer opportunities and the families who will soon become homeowners.

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Coming Events	
March 1	Order Mt Meru Coffee
March 1	Mad KŪT Play Group, 3:00 p
March 1,8,15,22,29	Taize Services at Lussier Ctr, 5:00 p.
March 4, 11,18,25, April 1	Lenten Soup Suppers and 40th Anniversary Conversations
March 6, 7, 8	MCC Women's Retreat at Bethel Horizons
March 8	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
March 13	Middle High Movie Night
March 15	Food Pantry Donation Sunday
March 20	High School Paint & Redecorate, Part 2
April 5	Palm Sunday - No Sunday School
April 8	Indoor Labyrinth is open to the public 9a-6p.
April 12	Easter Sunday 7:00 a. Sunrise and 10:15 a. Worship

MCC News

EARTH DAY SPECIAL – Spring is on the way!

Ready to compost and mulch your garden and flower patches? Consider purchasing **Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost.**

This award-winning soil conditioner is organic, recycled, weed seed free and odorless! It is a natural blend of cranberry pulp, duck doo and leaf compost (to improve moisture retention) which helps increase both nutrients and beneficial microbes. The product is wonderful for all of your gardening, mulching and planting needs. This organic compost breaks up clay and adds nutrients to the soil.

To reserve bags, sign up before April 22nd. We have ordered 4 pallets (360 bags) ready for pick-up at MCC on April 22th or after....until all the bags have disappeared and are enriching the earth. To guarantee your order, sign up on the sheet on the coffee order table and place your check in the envelope provided. Check should be made out to **MCC-Duck's Doo.**

How much to order: One 20-quart bag will cover the following area:

- 1" – 8 square feet
- 2" – 4 square feet
- 3" – 3 square feet
- 4" – 2 square feet

(When applying Father Dom's Duck's Doo Compost as mulch to eliminate the need to weed, 2-3 inches of compost is suggested.)

Order some for your indoor plants as well to mix with your potting soil or to place in the holes when planting new plants.

Price per bag is \$7 for one or 3 for \$20.

All profits go to charity both at MCC (summer garden and other environmental projects) and for the company (after taxes and expenses, all profits go to benefit peoples of all races, religions, nationalities, lifestyles and creeds across America,

through God's Good Earth Foundation, Inc., especially people with disabilities and children with cancer).

Thanks for caring about the planet, our lakes and water supply, MCC's garden project as well as helping people with special needs.

The Environmental Task Force – Working for the good of the planet!

Meeting Minutes are available in the book on the library counter in the Shalom Room.

If you are interested in minutes from Community of Hope, Advent and MCC meetings, you can find them in the large black book on the library counter in the Shalom Room.

Re: Recycling

The "Send It Now" store on the west side also takes styrofoam (blocks and 'peanuts'), bubblewrap, etc. for reuse as packaging. It's at 630 S. Whitney Way, in Whitney Square near the Half-price Book Store, across from Westgate.

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MCC News

MCC Adult Canoe Trip Planning Meeting March 8th, after worship

If the photos on the Art Wall piqued your interest in a wilderness canoe trip this year, join us after worship in the Blessing Room on Sunday March 8th to plan this year's trip(s). One trip to Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) has been scheduled for the last week in August, leaving Sunday August 23, returning Monday August 31. At the 3/8 meeting, we will discuss options for a more challenging second trip, dates and destinations to be determined, perhaps into the Quetico. The first trip will be relatively easy, good for beginners. It's in the southeast part of the BWCA, starting at Brule Lake with relatively easy portages up to scenic Cherokee Lake (and perhaps beyond) and back to Brule. There are still openings in this trip; the permit limit is 9 persons.

Typical MCC adult canoe trips are for 7 days/6 nights with a driving day on either end, and cost \$350 or less for everything. The adult trips are open to those age 19 to 99. First-time campers and canoeers are welcome! You should be able to sleep comfortably in a tent and walk a mile carrying 40 pounds over rocky terrain. The MCC or its members have most of the equipment needed, and if necessary, we can rent the rest in Minnesota. We have set up a "wiki" (an interactive web site) with equipment lists and other information; to join the wiki, send an

email to bbick@juno.com and we will respond with an invitation to join the wiki. Come join us for beautiful scenery, great swimming, camaraderie, cozy campfires and peaceful moonrises.

For more information, contact Barb Bickford or Candi Bloedow.

The Art of Parables

Saturday, April 18, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational, UCC in Watertown

Dr. Charles McCollough has written a striking new book on *The Art of Parables: Reinterpreting the Teaching Stories of Jesus in Word and Sculpture*. Drawing from scripture, Dr. McCollough has sculpted a group of works depicting the parables from Matthew, Mark and Luke which Jesus taught, providing commentary and dialogue questions.

This will be a full day of exploration and inspiration coordinated by the Arts Committee of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. For more information and a registration form go to www.wcucc.org

Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

- Read or Listen to Pastor Jeff and Pastor Tisha's **Sunday sermons** on the web!
- **Sunday texts** are on the monthly calendar.
- **COH and Advent** members find **Worship Assistant's Schedule** and Task Descriptions.



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.

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MCC News

Guidelines for Intentional Prayer Groups

Introduction

The following guidelines are meant to help those interested in forming or participating in a prayer group begin with this spiritual practice. These guidelines are based on the practice of the Community of Hope's Friday Morning Women's Prayer Group. Groups should feel free to develop their practice in the way that is most meaningful for them.

Start with a time-limited endeavor – 6 weeks, 8 weeks or three months. Meet once per week for agreed-upon time frame and then either disband or decide to continue in some way for another time-limited period.

The ideal group size is 6-8 people. Group meetings should last approximately one hour. It is important for group members to monitor themselves in relation to time to make sure all group members have time to share.

Groups can choose to meet at any location. Quiet, private places are ideal so that group members feel free sharing their thoughts and prayers and don't have to talk over a lot of noise. The MCC building is available for use by contacting Sonja in the office (836-1455) to make arrangements for a space.

Group members may decide to bring Bibles or any other book of prayer that the group decides to use and journals to each meeting. Journals are useful for recording insights from the readings and prayer requests from the group.

Guidelines for Group Meetings

1. Begin with an opening ritual - light a candle, ring a bell, play a singing bowl, or anything else agreed upon by the group.

2. Conduct a spiritual check-in - each member of the group talks briefly about where they are spiritually at this time. Where are you in life, on your spiritual path, in this moment? Groups may choose to use a talking stick or rock or simply go around the circle.

3. Read Scripture and Share reflections - spend a few moments reading a scripture passage or other inspirational reading. Groups could be creative with the source for these readings or read from the book of Psalms or other books of the Bible. Share brief reflections on how this reading touches one's life and journey. What words of encouragement, instruction, guidance or insight are offered there?

4. Share intercessory prayer requests - anyone may share prayer requests for the group to pray for as the meeting concludes and in the coming weeks.

5. Closing prayer - Settle in, close eyes, hold hands (optional) and pray with and for one another in silence or out loud. Initially, it is probably best for one person to begin and end the prayer, allowing time for others to pray if they wish to.

6. Pray for one another in between meetings - Group members commit to taking time each day to pray for one another between meetings.

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Faith at Home

Lenten Conversations Booklet Available NOW

By Heather Putnam

Lent is a time for introspection and conscious additional attention to our faith lives. This can be tough to accomplish in the midst of our crazy schedules, but *Lenten Conversations* offers an easy way to achieve this without adding to our burdens.

Lenten Conversations includes a different story, activity, or topic to discuss for each of the 40 days in Lent. You will learn about Holy Week in Guatemala and the history behind the Hallelujah chorus in George Frederick Handel's *Messiah*. You will also get to solve a Hebrew code and make your own pretzels. And that is just the beginning!

If your family includes an elementary school-age child, you should have received a copy of *Lenten Conversations* in the mail.

Even if your kids are younger or older, or if you don't have kids at all, we invite you to use *Lenten Conversations* as a tool to add meaning to your Lenten experience. If you would like a copy, extra copies are waiting for you at MCC on the table at the back of each sanctuary.

Sample Page from Lenten Conversations

Hospitality

Hospitality refers to opening our homes to other people. Sometimes we will know the other people and sometimes they might be strangers. Hospitality can include offering food, a place to sleep, a place to get warm, a place to talk, or a place to meet. It is easy to get caught up in our own lives and not reach out to invite others into our homes. It is also easy to convince ourselves that we don't have anything to offer. And we rarely push ourselves beyond opening our homes to people that are already good friends.

This Lenten season, challenge yourself to broaden your perspective on hospitality. Don't let yourself believe that you have nothing to offer. A fancy (or even clean) house, gourmet meals, or special guest rooms are not at the center of hospitality. Rather, the focus is the simple act of being willing to reach out and extend an invitation to someone.

Choose one person you don't know very well to invite into your home this year- perhaps someone at church, a neighbor, a new child at school, or someone that you think might be lonely.

Prayer

Father/Mother God, Holy Spirit
 The Arabs used to say,
 When a stranger appears at your door,
 Feed him for three days
 Before asking who he is,
 Where he's come from,
 Where he's headed.
 That way, he'll have strength enough to answer.
 Or, by then you'll be such good friends you don't care.

Prayer by Naomi Shihab Nye, in Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon, eds. *Prayers for a Thousand Years*.

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MCC Youth News

Every Wednesday at 6:30p. Guitar Club
Every Wednesday at 7p. Lenten Worship

Sat, 2/28 MS 5 8:30p. FAST-FOOD PROGRESSIVE DINNER Back by popular demand! Cast your votes by Evite. We will go to the top four winners for a tasty and fun 4-course fast food dinner. Bring \$ for dinner.

Sunday, 3/8 MS HOPE CONFIRMATION

Fri, 3/13 MS 6-10p. MOVIE NIGHT

Pizza, popcorn, and a movie maybe even some capture the flag, if there's time. Please RSVP and vote for a movie by Evite, so that we know how much pizza to buy and which movie to rent. Bring a munchie, sweet treat, or drink to share. It will either be fun or disaster. After all, it is Friday the 13th. Come if you dare! Ah-hahaha

Fri, 3/20 HS 6 -10p. PAINT & REDECORATE, Part 2 It's about time we finished the *new* high school room! We will eat some pizza, finish painting the blue wall, and repaint the red wall and more. Bring your ideas, decoration, and scrubby painting clothes!

Sat, 3/28 MS/HS (Potential) MT. OLYMPUS FUN DAY!!

Check the bulletin for details. We are still working this out with Mt. Olympus. Mt. Olympus has 9 indoor water slides and an indoor amusement park (Aspen says it has an awesome roller coaster!). Cost would be under \$10.

Looking ahead: HS BWCA Trip Tues, June 16 - Mon, June 22

HS Wyoming Trip Sun, July 26—Sat, August 8

MS Mississippi Mission Trip Sun, July 5 - Sat, July 11

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Advent News

LEAD 2009 “Living Out Our Callings, Sent by the Word”

I invite you to join me for the South-Central synod of Wisconsin’s annual Leadership Education and Development event on Saturday, March 14, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie. The day will include a Bible study led by Bishop Burnside, a keynote address by Beth Lewis, the CEO and president of Augsburg Fortress, and her husband Pastor Rick Rouse, a wide variety of workshops, with a special emphasis on the ELCA’s Book of Faith Initiative, and lunch.

This LEAD event is scheduled to begin with registration from 8:30 – 9:00 and will conclude with the third workshop from 2:15 – 3:15. The cost to attend is \$20.00. Contact me for further information. Jeff

Treasury of Love 2009

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	\$1,129.86
Rent & Eviction Prevention	761.00
Greyhound Bus Tickets	167.00
Gas Voucher	20.01
Clothing	80.86
Auto Repair	50.00
Expenditure	\$1,078.87
Balance as of 01/23/2009	\$50.99
(\$30 postage for packages to soldiers)	

Lenten Journey 40 Days with the Lord’s Prayer

When asked to teach his disciples to pray, Jesus said, “Pray in this way,” and then he taught them what we have come to call the Lord’s Prayer. In Matthew’s telling of the prayer in the NRSV it is only sixty-two words in ten lines. It has only seven petitions. It is a short prayer; yet, as Tertullian, a third-century theologian once declared, it is a summary of the whole Gospel.

If Jesus’ teaching can be summed up in the Lord’s Prayer in only sixty-two words, then some interpretation is in order. There is a lot of meaning packed into these ten lines, and it needs to be unpacked if the prayer is to be our roadmap on the journey into a deeper relationship with God through Christ. Who will do the unpacking for us? All of the pastors who are members of MCC preached at the Wednesday Lenten services in the past two years. This year those who noted a willingness to preach a sermon on their time and talent forms were invited to preach a sermon during Lent.. Jeff Wild will preach the Ash Wednesday sermon and the people who will be preaching the following Wednesday evenings are: Barbara Bickford, Betty Custer, Chuck Pfeifer, Don Falkos, and Arden Mahlberg. Please pray for each of these people as they prepare a meaningful message to share with us.

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Advent News continued

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on March 12 at 7:00 p. in the Tower Apartments-Party/Meeting Room on the third floor at Oakwood west campus.

We are a group of women who meet two hours each month at Oakwood to read and discuss a Bible study, as well as exchange friendship and support one another. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p. You are very welcome to visit us. Call Phyllis Ermer with questions.

GEMS – The Grumpy Elderly Men!

The Grumpy Elderly Men meet at 10:30a. on Tuesdays at the MCC. Join the men and enjoy their relationships, food, time, sharing and study.

Advent Giving Goal

The giving goal for February is historically lower than most months of the year. Fortunately, members of Advent gave as generously as they do most months. The giving goal was \$27,000 and Advent members faithfully contributed \$31,735 to fulfill its mission. Thank you.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, March 24, we will meet at 1:30 p.

The book is *Madame Secretary* by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward. The discussion leader is Alice Ohlogge.

Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride.

New members always welcome.

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 9:30 a. at MCC in the Shalom Room. All are welcome for fellowship and study.

If you need a ride or have any questions please call Jean Loichinger.

Advent Women Thursday Breakfast Gathering

Advent women are invited for coffee each Thursday at **7 AM at PASQUAL'S in Hilldale Shopping Center**, directly across from Metcalfe's Sentry. 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 when your schedule allows!

Pray Daily

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



Community of Hope News

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 22, 2009

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" from Matthew 6:21 is the theme for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Your gifts to OGHS support our ministries of education, support and justice in the US and around the world in places like the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Uganda, Darfur, Afghanistan, Indonesia and others. These important ministries respond to natural and man-made disasters and make a difference in people's lives. Please prayerfully consider your gift and make an offering in worship on Sunday, March 22.

Thank you for your generosity

In February, Community of Hope received a letter from David S. Moyer, Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference, UCC. This letter was sent to all the churches in the Wisconsin Conference thanking us for our generosity in support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) in 2008.

Wisconsin churches gave a total of \$2,122,375 to support OCWM, which exceeded the budgeted amount of \$2,100,000. We also gave a total of \$390,906 to the four Special Offerings of the UCC.

David Moyer writes: "These gifts are remarkable for a very difficult economic year in 2008, and on behalf of all of the Wisconsin Conference, our four Associations, Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center, and all of our mission partners... I give you thanks, and I give thanks to God for you."

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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 the next newsletter please contact Tisha at the church office.

- Those who are unable, for health reasons, to join us in worship on a regular basis but whom we love: Mary Beth and Steve Udvari, Kathy Alexander, and Ardie Manser
- All military personnel and their families all over the world but especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Our college students – Jamie Custer, Ian Jarvis, Hannah Hunter-Johnson, Rose Gear, Quinn Clark, Josh Ryan; Tristan Breedlove (graduate studies); Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies).
- These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

Feb. 24-March 3 Nancy Greenwald;
Theresa/Steve Haffner Stearns;
Christine Hartelt

March 3-10 Margaret Helming;
Keith Johnson/Julie Hunter

March 10-17 Bruce/Alison Jarvis;
Howard/Lucetta Kanetzke;
Rolf Killingstad

March 17-24 Lois/Hirochika Komai;
Laura Komai;
Sachi Komai

March 24-31 Donna Leet; Bill Long

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Roger Williams	3/3
Chuck Pfeifer	3/4
Josephine Putnam	3/4
Tisha Brown	3/6
Theresa Haffner-Stearns	3/8
Dorothy Brar	3/8
Nancy Zabel	3/12
Heather Putnam	3/13
Ken Ono	3/20
Eliza Meyer	3/20
Lucetta Kanetzke	3/23

Anniversaries

Martha McCurdy	3/18
Barbara & David Dueholm	3/24

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

Hope Men: Pancakes, Puns, Proverbs and Politics

- Those are just a few of the things you will miss if you don't get to the Hope men's breakfast at the Original Pancake House on University Avenue, at 6:30 a. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. You have promised yourself for a long time now. Mark your calendar, set your alarm, and make it! This is a practice. It was easier to start in the summer, when it was already light by 6:30 a. Now you will say, "I don't care how deep the snow will be, I'm going!"

The group is called "Hope Men," but we welcome visitors. Just ask Tisha.

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Larger Community News

Could You Help with Sustainable Travel to Worship Month?

Susan DeVos is the coordinator of Sustainable Travel to Worship Month, which takes place every year in May. The MCC has participated for the past two years and received awards for our level of participation. Susan's Madison-area volunteer coordinator recently resigned and she is in need of a Madison-area volunteer assistant who could help her develop a database of Wisconsin churches and provide her with some transportation since she doesn't drive. If you are interested in finding out more or think you might be able to help, please contact Susan directly at atwfus@tds.net. Thank you.

Lafollette Class of 1974

If you or anyone you know graduated from Lafollette in the class of 1974, please have them contact Candice Patterson at 608-438-6310 as they are planning their 35th class reunion.

NATIVE PLANT SALE – Friends of the Arboretum.

Check the website (www.uwarboretum.org/foa) or call 608-263-7760 for information on the plants available through this sale. Orders are due by March 20th available for pickup prior to the on-site sale, May 7th. Native shrubs, trees and vines along with native savanna and prairie garden and rain garden plants are available. Proceeds go to the Arboretum....a fabulous resource in the Madison area.

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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*

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:
sonja@madisonchristiancommunity.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:
**Tisha Brown, Pastor
Community of Hope,
UCC**

hope@madisonchristiancommunity.org

**Jeff Wild, Pastor
Advent Lutheran
Church, ELCA**

advent@madisonchristiancommunity.org

**Dan & Jen Streit,
Youth Ministry**
mccyouth@tds.net

**Heather Putnam,
Children's Ministry**
mcc.children@madisonchristiancommunity.org

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

**MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke**

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

**Beth Wild and
Jean Oliverson
MCC Custodians**

**Community of Hope
Steering Committee**

Diane Bougie
Bill Long
Donna Leet, Moderator
Betty Custer
Tina Eder
Sandie Esrael
Roger Williams

Advent Council

Bob Schneider
Julie M. Walsh,
President
Brian Kuhn
Edd Hellmer
John Malecki
Marily Crews-Nelson
Gretchen Wahl

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:**

Brian Kuhn, Chair
Donna Leet
Roger Williams,
Chair Elect
Julie M. Walsh
Tisha Brown
Jeff Wild



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