



The Good Word

April, 2010

As I was sifting through the copious emails that greeted me after being away on vacation, I almost deleted the "Keeping you e-posted" email that comes each week from the United Church of Christ. I had my pointer on delete when a voice said, "wait, take a look at that email and make sure you didn't miss anything important while you were away." So I opened it and right in front of my eyes was an advertisement for a new book - Toward a Hopeful Future: Why the Emergent Church Is Good news for Mainline Congregations by Phil Snider & Emily Bowen. I could not believe my eyes! This is the book I've been looking for ever since I first encountered the emerging church. I instantly purchased a copy and it arrived earlier this week.

I've only read the introduction so far but already I can tell this is the book that's going to help me clarify my own thinking about the experiences I've had exploring the world of the emerging church, thinking about what is emerging in this community and in the wider world of the established church and even dabbling in the Progressive Christianity movement through reading and preaching on The Phoenix Affirmations: A New vision for the Future of Christianity by Eric Elnes.

I am also really excited to report that Phil Snider and Emily Bowen happen to be the two pastors of Brentwood Christian Church, DOC in Springfield, MO. I have been in touch with them this week about the possibility of visiting their congregation as part of my sabbatical time and they have enthusiastically welcomed me to come and be a part of their community. They have a worship service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. called The Awakening. On their website (www.brentwoodchristianchurch.com) they describe the Awakening as "the place

where progressive theology meets progressive worship. The Awakening offers a new, emerging worship experience in the Springfield area for those seeking an open and inclusive approach to the Christian faith that values both the mind and the heart. We are committed to social justice, peace and the welcoming of all people; and these commitments are at the heart of our worship and our community of faith." I am really looking forward to visiting them and learning about how this existing congregation is embracing this new avenue of ministry within their community. I wonder what we will be able to learn from their experiences.

In the coming weeks I will continue to put a plan for my sabbatical into place, which will include making some suggestions to the whole Madison Christian Community before I leave about some things you might do while I am away so that together we are beginning a process of discernment that will help us think creatively and listen for how the Holy Spirit is calling us to respond to those in our community who are yearning for a spiritual home. It's possible that Snider and Bowen's book may be a helpful resource for all of us as we engage in this process of discernment.

I am more and more excited about my upcoming sabbatical journey with every passing day. I'm looking forward to meeting people and experiencing the innovative and creative ministries of the congregations I'll be visiting. I have so many questions and a lot of curiosity and I am excited to learn and experience and question. But most of all I am looking forward to the journey once I return to the

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MCC News

Madison Christian Community in the fall. I can't wait to see where our own efforts to faithfully follow Jesus in community will take us and how the experience of this sabbatical time and our past and present stories will lead us toward our own hopeful future.

P.S. Each week I am writing an update of what is happening with my sabbatical planning and what I am thinking about that week on my blog <http://dancingrev-thoughtsandreflections.blogspot.com>. If you're curious about how my thinking and this sabbatical experience is taking shape, I urge you to check out my blog and also to ask questions or make comments.

Tisha

April Earth Day Activity at MCC

Workers of all ages, you are invited to our annual Earth Day intergenerational cleanup of the gardens, grounds and prairie on Sunday, April 25 during the Sunday School time (9:00 to 10:00 a.m.). Dress for outside work, bring gloves if you have them, and pitch in to get our land ready for the growing season.

Meet downstairs in the Sunday School area, where we'll have a list of chores to divide up among the workers. We will provide a light snack, so just bring yourselves, your smile and your muscle power! (If the weather forces us inside, we'll have games and activities to fill the hour.) Hope to see you there!

Pennies for Peace

Keep those pennies coming! The total in the Pennies for Peace Account is \$277.35. Please do not put damaged coins or non-coins in the jar as the bank's coin counting equipment will jam.

Come to an Earth Day event that will last all year!

Well-known UW professor and food activist, Jack Kloppenburg, will keynote the fourth annual "Food, Faith, and Earth Day" on April 25, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Meeting House, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison. "Eating is perhaps the most intimate way in which we engage with the world around us," says Kloppenburg. "The manner and substance of our eating should reflect our spiritual and ethical values, and a positive relationship with the Earth." At this event, members of more than 20 congregations including Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist faiths, and Native American traditions, will gather together to explore "The Sacred Act of Eating."

The afternoon will include music, workshops and exhibits, and culminate in a community meal featuring locally-grown food prepared by Chef Barbara Wright of The Dardanelles restaurant in Madison.

The event is open to anyone interested in turning discussions about sustainable practices and locally-grown foods into action. It is free except for dinner which is \$8 with an advance reservation or \$12 at the door. For more information or to make dinner and childcare reservations, go to www.foodfaithearthday.org.

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.

Pray Daily

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Fellowship Groups & Activities

MCC COMMUNITY GROUP

Wednesday, April 7, 10:00 a. Musical Memories, "Sinatra: the Capitol Years" at the Overture Center. \$5 or \$7 charge. Meet at "the altar" in the lobby by 9:30 a. Please call Myrna McNatt if you are going.

Monday, April 26, noon lunch at The Blue Spoon in Middleton, then go to see Don Tubesing's workshop and sculptures.

MCC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knitters will gather in a MCC classroom on April 6 at 7:00 p. We plan to knit together for an hour and a half the first Tuesday of every month. New knitters or those preferring to crochet are welcome to join us. Call Karen Kuhn or Kristi Williams if you have questions.

Save the Date!!

What: The Annual MCC Camping Weekend at Bethel Horizens

When: August 20-22 (Note DATE CHANGE from previous years)

Where: Bethel Horizens Campground
This is an invitation for EVERYONE - young, old, in-between, single, married, families - to join together for a weekend of camping, camp fires, singing, eating, swimming, hiking, canoeing, fellowship. Join the group for 1 or 2 nights of camping, and/or the day Saturday (we spend the afternoon at Governor Dodge State Park at a beach and potluck Saturday night back at the campground!). Any questions contact Karen Kuhn.

MCC FILM GROUP — 2010

Lois Komai, coordinator

We meet on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 p. Let the host know if you are going to come/or can't come. Bring a treat to share, the host will provide the beverage.

DATE

Friday, April 16—Wisconsin Film Festival

Friday, May 21 Movie in a theater and out for dinner.

Will the Real Apostle Paul Please Stand Up?

The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan is the next selection for the Theological Discussion Group.

"Paul is second only to Jesus as the most important person in the birth of Christianity, and yet he continues to be controversial, even among Christians. How could the letters of Paul be used both to inspire radical grace and to endorse systems of oppression—condoning slavery, subordinating women, condemning homosexual behavior? Borg and Crossan use the best of biblical and historical scholarship to explain the reasons for Paul's mixed reputation and reveal to us what scholars have known for decades: that the later letters of Paul were created by the early church to dilute Paul's egalitarian message and transform him into something more "acceptable." They argue there are actually "Three Pauls" in the New Testament: "The Radical Paul" (of the seven genuine letters), "The Conservative Paul" (of the three disputed epistles), and "The Reactionary Paul" (of the three inauthentic letters)." (Front flap description)

Come for a discussion of the "Three Pauls". The Theological Discussion Group is an informal group interested in each other's reading perspectives. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.. On April 21, we will discuss chapter 6, 'Justification by Grace through Faith' and May 19, chapter 7, 'Life Together in Christ'. The Madison Library System has seven copies of this book. Pick up a copy and join the group to learn more about the Apostle Paul during our Year of Paul. For further information, contact Fran Grugel.

MCC Women's Lunch Bunch

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

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MCC News

Betty Harris Custer has been chosen as one of this year's YWCA Women of Distinction honorees, awarded annually by Madison's YWCA to recognize women for their community service, professional achievement, integrity, leadership, dedication to the lives of others and to the quality of life for all, as reflected by the YWCA's historic mission and socially progressive agenda. Nominees were solicited from area civic clubs, community groups, YWCA members, and past Women of Distinction honorees, and selected by a committee of YWCA board members and community leaders. **The awards luncheon is Thursday, May 27, at the Madison Concourse Hotel.** If interested in attending, contact the YWCA's Kristy Lust at 257-1436, go to <http://www.ywca.org/site/lookup.asp?c=IkJZjd04F&b=2576423> to register online, or contact Margaret McEntire at Custer Financial Services, Margaret.McEntire@lfg.com or 238-8388 x 174, who's organizing tables on Betty's behalf.

Dane County United Update –

DCU's Spring Listening Campaign: Forty-eight people turned out to be trained by Mark Fraley, Lead Organizer of Common Ground in Milwaukee, on how to organize and lead listening sessions. Many of these individuals signed up to host or lead listening sessions or to bring people to listening sessions in their institutions. Since February, DCU has held nearly 25 such conversations. We are hearing many painful stories about how the current economic downturn is impacting families at all socio-economic levels – everything from difficulty managing credit card debt, to facing foreclosure on homes, to persistent unemployment, to parents helping their adult children cover day care costs or health care or even pay mortgages. It is clear that the state of our economy is creating hardship for many, many families. The question remains how we will respond to what we are hearing in concrete action to create greater justice for those who are struggling.

Sunday, April 25, During the Adult Forum (Education)

How is the current economic situation impacting you and the people you love? Mark your calendars and plan to share your stories about how the economy is impacting you and your community as we listen to one another. You are not alone in your struggles and we want to hear your story. When we know the struggles that people are facing then we can begin to think about how to creatively address those issues for the good of all.

Adult Forum in April

Spirituality and Work will be the topic of the adult forum on Sunday, April 11, 18 and 25. Jeff Wild will lead a discussion on "God as Vocational Director" on Sunday, April 11. This session will emphasize that our various occupations are, in fact, a way of living out God's calling in our lives. Basically, God wears six different vocational hats and God works through us as our lives are aligned to one of these vocational callings.

The session for April 18 is in the process of being planned, but there are two possibilities: First, invite someone to come and talk about Wisconsin's economy and its impact on the job market. Second, provide a way to talk about our own struggles with work.

Our session on April 25 will be led by Tisha. Tisha will be drawing on her skills as a leader in Dane County United to gather us into small groups and discuss the impacts the economy has had upon our personal lives and the lives of others we care about.

Food, Faith & Earth Day, 2010

The Sacred Act of Eating

Sunday, April 25, from 2:00–6:30 p.

First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Workshop, Exhibits and a meal at 5:30 p. Reservations are recommended. Visit www.foodfaithearthday.org Free will offering for Harvest of Hope and Grace Episcopal Food Pantry.

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Food Drive for Food Pantry—Sunday, April 21

Please make a special effort to bring food for the Lussier Food Pantry on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Suggested items include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew, fruit juice, etc.), peanut butter, jelly, cereal. We can especially use any large grocery bags. We do not have facilities to handle fresh produce. For those who prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to the Lussier Community Education Center and designated for the pantry.
Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

JAVA FOR JUSTICE: Order your Mt Meru Coffee, Sunday, April 4.

Place your order on the form in the Shalom Room. The order is faxed to Milwaukee on the first Sunday of every month and will be ready for pick-up on the coffee cart by the second Sunday of every month. You can order 12oz bags (\$9.00) or 4# bags (\$40) in regular or decaf, bean, drip or perk. Building relationships and sustainability is what this project is all about. Justice never tasted so good.

DROP-IN SHELTER

The date is Thursday, April 1. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Shalom Room. Four people are needed from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and two people are needed from 5:00 - 8:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Ken Johnson.

4th Annual Quilt Auction & Pie Sale To support Madison Area Lutheran Council Jail Chaplaincy Program

Saturday, April 17, 2010 – Noon
Christ Lutheran Church
220 S. Main St., DeForest
More than 40 quilts and wall hangings up for bid! (view them at www.malc-online.org)
Pie sale at 12:00 noon - Quilt Auction at 1:00 p.m.

Cash and Check accepted for payment
Matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Lyons Lectures by Bishop John Shelby Spong - “The Crisis in Believing—What does it Mean to Call Jesus Divine?”

Saturday April 10, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Madison. Contact FUMC at 256-9061 or www.fumc.org for registration information – space is limited, cost is \$50.00.

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.

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The Good Word

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Coming Events

- April 1 **Maundy Thursday**, service at 7:00 p.
- April 2 **Good Friday**, service at 12:00 p.
- April 3 Music Rehearsal 10:00a.-1:00 p. in the Blessing Room
 1:00 p. set-up for Easter breakfast
- April 4 **Easter Sunday**
 6:00 a. Easter morning fire
 7:00 a. Easter Sunrise Worship
 8:00–9:30 a. Breakfast served by our youth
 10:15 a. Advent worships in the Blessing Room, with communion
 10:15 a. Hope worships in the Covenant Room, with communion
- April 20 **MCC Women's Salad Supper**, 6:00 p.
- April 24 MCC Gardens Open
 CoH and Advent Confirmands Service Project
- April 25 **Earth Day Events**, 9a.-10a. and following worship.
- May 24, 26 & 28 **The Road Home/IHN Family Shelter**

MCC Bulletin Board

Member News: Read about Kathy Stone, Betty Custer and Rob Wixson

Larger Community News:

- ~**Luther College Jazz Orchestra** at St Luke's on April 25, 6:00 p.
 A free-will offering will be taken
- ~**West Koshkonong Church Fund Raiser for Haiti, a Variety Show**, April 11, 2p.
 1911 Koshkonong Rd, Stoughton. A free-will offering will be taken for the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund.
- ~**Love Comes Along, The Capitol**

Chordsmen Chorus, Saturday, April 24, 7:00p. at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$20. Groups of ten or more call Mike McCowan at 243-3161 for discounts.

~**Celebrate 25 years of ONA with the UCC Coalition—National Gathering 2010: Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body**, San Diego, July 14-17, 2010.

~**Church Women United, April 9**, Forum and Dinner. *Living on the Edge in the Current Economic Environment*, Edward Lee, Speaker, Fitchburg Memorial UCC.

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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Salad Supper

Training for the Madison Marathon and Running for Haiti—from Tisha

Since the first of February I have been training to run the Madison Marathon on Sunday, May 30, 2010. I am really excited about this effort and what it means for my own personal fitness and sense of confidence and self-esteem. I have never challenged myself in this way before and have found even the training effort to be a wonderful personal and spiritual growth experience. I am also running this marathon to raise money for the earthquake survivors in Haiti. I have made an appeal to my family and friends to support me in this effort by making a donation to our Haiti Partners ministry and many have already responded. I estimate I've raised close to \$1,000 for our Haiti Partners ministry so far.

I know that the Madison Christian Community gives faithfully and generously in support of Haiti Partners already. Our efforts are remarkable and they make a difference for our Haitian partners. If you are so inclined to make an additional gift in recognition of my marathon training and fundraising effort, I would be honored. I would also appreciate your prayers and encouragement as I continue in this effort.

Since I began training I have been writing a weekly blog about my training efforts, including updates on what is happening with our partners in Haiti and my own reflections on the connection between my training efforts and what I imagine life to be like in Haiti after the earthquake. I am also memorizing Psalm verses as I run and write some about that experience and the insights that come with this effort. You can find this blog at <http://dancingrev-runningforhaiti.blogspot.com>.

MCC Youth News

April 1 - MS Rafting deposits and permission slips due

Sunday, April 4 - **Easter Breakfast - MS/HS**

The tradition continues! We need people to set up (Sat 1-3p & Sun 7-8a), serve (8-10a), clean up (9:00-10:00a & 11:30-12:30p), and to donate food - like egg dishes, bread, fruit, and juice. There is a way for everyone to contribute - Let us know how you can help. There will be a sign up sheet in the Shalom Room.

Saturday, April 24 - **Confirmation Service Project #3 - 9a-noon**

All confirmation students from Advent and Community of Hope will join together to serve the earth at Tenney Park. We will meet and pick up at the MCC. Wear "work outside" clothes and dress for the weather - this happens rain or shine!

Sunday, April 25 - **Talent Show - MS/HS** (Show @ 6:30p)

Get your act together - be it silly or serious! This show is a fantastic mix of talent and untalent, so let's have fun and put on a show. If you don't want to be on stage, we need your help setting up (after church), serving dessert (6-7p), and cleaning up (7-8p).

Sunday, May 2 - **Community of Hope Confirmation Service**

Saturday, May 8 - **Hike & Play at Devil's Lake - MS 10a - 4p**

Bring a bag lunch with plenty of water & be ready for fun adventures at Devil's Lake! We will hike (and stay faaaar away from the edges) and play on the beach and rocks - maybe even swim if we're daring enough to brave the chilly water! Adult drivers needed.

Sunday, May 16 - **Advent Confirmation Service**

Friday, May 21 - **Outdoor Movie - HS 8-11p**

Bring your sleeping bags, your friends, and a munchie or drink to share. We'll watch a movie outside on the big screen - projected on the outside of the church.

Looking ahead...

BWCA Trip - HS - June 14 -21

Rafting Trip - MS - June 24-27 Deposits and permission due April 1.

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Advent News

Advent Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on Thursday, April 8 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 Margaret Smith for directions.

OPALS Book Discussion Group

OPALS meetings are held once a month in the afternoon at MCC. On Tuesday, April 27, we will meet at 1:30 p. to discuss the book, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini about a woman in Afghanistan under the Taliban.

Call Mary Maxwell if you have questions or need a ride. New members always welcome.

Treasury of Love 2010

Beg. Bal & Love Offerings	3920.70
Rent & Eviction Prevention	1,130.00
Utility Assistance	741.05
Haiti Relief/Thrivent Matching	1310.00
Postages for pkgs. to soldiers	83.65
ELCA Disaster Relief	250.00
Security Deposit	250.00
Moving Expense	75.00
Haiti Partners/Relief	15.00
Prescriptions	35.00
Expenditure	\$3889.70
Balance as of 3/23/2010	\$31.00

Advent Giving Goal

This newsletter is being sent out before the fourth Sunday in March meaning that it is too soon to report on the giving goal for the month. The report on March giving goal will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, April 4.

G.E.M.S.

GEMS continues to meet at the church on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to noon. GEMS welcomes men who are retired, about to be retired, or who wish they were retired and who are looking for stimulating conversation and friendship. We will be starting a new book, *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption*, by William Kopp Moyers. The book is a memoir about a terrible disease and one man's journey through it. If you have any questions, call Al Heggen.

Judith Circle

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 13, 9:30 a. at MCC. Dotty Brugge is the hostess. All are welcome for fellowship and study. If you need a ride or have any questions please call Jean Loichinger.

Please mark your calendars for April 20th for the salad supper. Also remember that Judith Circle has the important honor of being in charge of clean-up!

Advent Women Thursday Breakfast

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!

Advent's 50th Anniversary

The Advent Council wants to get the ball rolling to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the congregation. You are invited to be involved in two ways: First, if you have any ideas as to how we best commemorate the anniversary, please share them with a council member. Second, if you would like to serve on the anniversary task force to plan a celebration please contact a council member or Jeff Wild. The council hopes to recruit a task force of members that represents each decade.

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Advent News Continued

Dear Advent Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gifts totaling \$2,110.00 to ELCA Disaster Response, designated for relief and recovery work in Haiti following the devastating earthquake.

Through the ELCA, 100% of your gift will go directly to the relief and ongoing recovery efforts in Haiti. This is possible because of the support we receive through the weekly offerings of members shared by congregations.

The facilities of the Lutheran World Federation in Haiti were not harmed by the quake and the team there was able to launch an immediate response. Your gift provides food, clean water, medical care, and emergency supplies to people affected by this disaster. As recovery progresses, we will help the Haitian people piece their lives and livelihoods back together and continue

our efforts to help families overcome extreme poverty.

For years, ELCA World Hunger has helped communities in Haiti to increase production of crops and livestock, protect soil and water resources, develop sustainable livelihoods and promote peace and human rights. Despite political strife, natural disaster, and the ongoing crisis of extreme poverty, faithful ministry continues in Haiti. Your gifts make this possible.

Please continue to hold our sisters and brothers in Haiti in your prayers. Thank you for your generous gift of help and help.

*In Christ's service,
Rev. Daniel Rift, Director
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal*

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Community of Hope News

Sabbatical Preparation and Update

In the past month I have decided to shift focus slightly to include existing congregations that are trying new things in ministry to reach out to the Spiritual but not Religious and to respond to what is emerging in the world around us. I have found one community so far, Brentwood Christian Church in Springfield, MO. I am also trying to get in touch with Eric Elnes, author of [The Phoenix Affirmations](#) about the possibility of visiting the congregation he now serves in North Dakota. I am excited about this shift because it brings a different sense of balance to this effort. I will now have the opportunity to explore ministries in churches that are new within the last 10 years and congregations that have existed for a long time but are trying new things in ministry.

SAVE THE DATE — Community of Hope Congregational Retreat, October 15-17, 2010, featuring our own Bryan Sirchio

This will be a time for us to have fun together, to share our experiences of the sabbatical period using a wonderful stepping stones exercise, and to begin thinking about and planning for our future. It's going to be awesome. Don't miss it!

Those who are able and who know they will be attending the retreat, please consider registering and paying a \$100 deposit by March 14. Contact Mary Schmelzer to register and get more information.

Community of Hope News

Counting down to a new campaign

Written by Gregg Brekke
March 16, 2010

The United Church of Christ is just a month away from the viral launch of the next "God is Still Speaking" commercial called "The Language of God."

The April 16 debut is a first for the UCC, relying exclusively on social networking and the church's best communicators, its own members, to spread the message.

"Yes, a new Stillspeaking ad is coming," says the Rev. Felix Carrion, coordinator of the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry, "and what makes this debut so significant is that we are counting on the moxy of our million-plus supporters to spiral this viral message around the world."

"We're asking people to set aside that morning – April 16 – for unparalleled texting, Twittering, Facebooking and emailing of this new spot," he says.

"Marketing data now shows that our target audience is now more likely to be found sitting in front of a computer screen instead of a TV screen," says the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's director of communications. "Just as we found it important to take to TV in 2004 and 2005, we're taking to the internet on April 16 like no denomination has ever done before."

In preparation for the launch, a [webpage with instructions on how you can help spread the word April 16](#) has been posted in addition to changes to the UCC's [home page](#) (<http://www.ucc.org/>). "We want the excitement of this new ad, and its potential for invitation and awareness, to reach every corner of the church - including cyberspace," says Connie Larkman, the UCC's strategic media coordinator.

"Mindfulness in Recovery: Healing & Acceptance in the Here & Now" will be held at UW's Pyle Center from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon (non-residential), **July 16-18, 2010**, in Madison, co-led by Cheri Maples & David Haskin, with Hal Dessel. Accepting ourselves as we truly are and making wise decisions about our lives are requirements for healing and successfully recovering from addiction. The meditative practice of Mindfulness trains us to accept life – and ourselves – as they truly are in this moment. We will explore Mindfulness on the road to recovery; the retreat is appropriate both for beginners to Mindfulness and experienced practitioners.

Sponsored by The Center for Mindfulness & Justice <http://www.mindfulnessandjustice.org>

The 2010 Camps and Retreats Catalog is here!

Look for these colorful blue catalogs in the Shalom Room and check out all the options available this summer for campers and families of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Spring Meeting of the Southwest Association

Saturday, April 24, 2010, at Windsor, UCC 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Theme: Congregations Working Together: Dreaming, Planning and Celebrating. Information shared at this meeting will help us prepare to refocus, restructure and re-imagine ourselves as a collaborative community in ministry.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Tisha.

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Community of Hope News

Praying for our Community

Community of Hope is an ever more caring community that values prayer as a way to connect with God, grow in faith and care for one another. This month we pray for the following people and their families.

- The people of Haiti as they continue to recover and all the people in the world who are responding with compassion and caring.
- Kathy and Robin Alexander as they prepare for an upcoming move.
- Ron Williams, brother of Roger and Kristi Williams as he continues to recover from a farm accident.
- Dan who has terminal lung cancer and his wife Deedee.
- Sef VanKan, Luke Geistlinger and Damien Ryan and their families as they celebrate and begin living into their baptismal promises.
- 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. Especially those in Iraq, and Afghanistan.
- Everyone who's lost a job, is struggling to find work, has lost a home or is in foreclosure, or who has inadequate health care coverage.
- College students from our community – Jamie Custer, Rose Gear, Hannah Hunter-Johnson, Quinn Kirkland-Clark, Sarah Hunter-Johnson (graduate studies). These people and their families as we pray our way through the church directory:

Mar. 30-Apr. 6 Jan Manser;
Tom & Joan Matthews
April 6-13 Martha McCurdy, Sef & Marcella; the Murphy family
April 13-20 Art & Mary Nack;
the Ono family
April 20-27 Chuck & Jean Pfeifer;
Lori, Toni and Isaac Powell
April 27-May 4
Bill, Heidi & Josephine Putnam; Bill Rettig & Jean Gilbertson

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Lori Powell	4/1
Beth Simmons	4/6
Peter Williams	4/7
Morgan Eder	4/7
Beth Campbell	4/11
Roger Buffett	4/13
Margaret Helming	4/18
Luke Geistlinger	4/20
Sage Ono	4/23

Anniversaries

Aly & Steve Van Der Weide	4/25
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Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

CoH Women's Breakfast Group

A new breakfast group is starting for the Community of Hope women. Please join us at 7:00 am on the first and third Wednesday of every month. We meet at the Hubbard Avenue Diner in Middleton. Come join us for coffee and conversation. Please contact Sandra Esrael if you have questions.

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!

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

Pray Daily

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

Lussier Community Education Center

From Jill Pfeiffer, Development Director at LCEC

As we breathe a collective sigh of relief with the coming of spring, it's time to get some dates on the books. I hope that you can join us and get involved in the following events.

- 1. LCEC Annual Development Meeting - April 29th, 8:00 - 9:30 a. at the LCEC**
Drink some coffee. Eat a scone. Share your ideas!
- 2. The Annual Children's Plant Sale - Friday, May 7th (2-6p.) and Saturday, May 8th (9-2p.)**
Donate some plants. Buy some plants. Make your mother happy on Sunday!
- 3. The JMM Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team Better Life Walkathon - Saturday May 15th.**
Grab your shoes. Bring three friends. Come join us for the walk and a day of family fun! Learn more at www.spartanservice.org/better5k

p.s. Don't forget to join us at Madison **Movie Mania, April 1st at the Orpheum Theater** for a whole day of movies just for kids. Learn more at www.lcecmadison.org

Wisconsin Council of Churches—www.wichurches.org

The Future of Ecumenism - April 12

Presenter: The Very Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopolous, retired Dean of Trinity Cathedral, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan cathedral in New York City.

Program: 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Speaker, respondent panel and lunch. 2010 marks the 100th year of the modern ecumenical movement. Respondent panelists: Rev. Dr. Jerry Folk (ELCA), former Director of WCC; Dr. Thomas Ferguson (Episcopal), interim Ecumenical Officer of the Episcopal Church USA; Judith Longdin (Roman Catholic), Ecumenical Officer, Milwaukee Archdiocese; and Rev. Gretchen Lord Anderson (Presbyterian Church, USA), former Associate Director, WCC.

This event is co-sponsored by WCC and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison, WI.

Registration: \$20 includes lunch and program. Call WCC at (608) 837-3108 for registration. [Online registration](#) with payment by check or credit card.

Eco-Justice in the Hebrew Bible – April 17 at Edgewood College

Presenter: Dr. Ken Stone is Professor of Bible, Culture and Hermeneutics at Chicago Theological Seminary explores Biblical texts that link God's role as creator and sustainer of the environment to God's concern for humanity and social justice. The event is open to pastors and lay people interested in how the Hebrew Bible supports "eco-justice."

Workshops run from 9:00 a. to 3:00 p. Registration and lunch is \$65 by April 7 after April 7 \$75.

2010 Washington Island Forum June 21-25

"Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church"

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Daily Topics:

"Somebody Save Me!: Youth & the Quest for a Passionate Church", "Youth & the Church of 'Benign Whatever-ism'", "Going Viral for Jesus", "Recovering a Missional Imagination: Why Generational OMG is the Theological Stimulus Package We Need" AND "Generation OMG and the Currency of Hope"

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Madison Christian Community
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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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 608-836-1455
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:

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Jeff Wild