

# U-C-C See What's Up

## Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ October – 2015



October 4	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School <b>Communion</b>
October 11	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School
October 18	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School
October 25	10:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School <b>Reformation Sunday</b>

10:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service  
9:30 AM Sunday School



*September 6-33  
September 13-45  
September 20-49  
September 27-42*



*No anniversaries listed for October.*

*Best Wishes!*

*HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!*



**Maryon Range-October 1  
Madelynn Leahy-Whitten-October 1  
Norma Thompson-October 3  
Bonnie Baehr-October 5  
Ruth Wille-October 13  
Dave Nelson-October 14  
Eric Lyerla-October 16  
Reece Porter-October 23  
Olivia Krohn-October 28  
Alan Carrier-October 29**

# OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  Maryon Range Madelynn Leahy-Whitten	2	3  Norma Thompson
4 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:30am Communion	5  Bonnie Baehr	6	7 Peanut Processing 8:30am	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:30am	12 Trustees-6:15 pm Diaconate-6:30 pm Council-7:00pm	13  Ruth Wille	14 Peanut Processing 8:30am  Dave Nelson	15	16  Eric Lyerla	17
18 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:30am	19	20	21 Peanut Processing 8:30am	22	23  Reece Porter	24
25 Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:30am Reformation Sunday	26	27	28 Peanut Processing 8:30am  Olivia Krohn	29  Alan Carrier	30	31  

## UCC ACTIVITIES

## October 12<sup>th</sup>- Monday - 6:15 pm Trustees Meeting

## 6:30 pm Diaconate Meeting

## 7:00 pm Council Meeting

[illegible]

## IT'S PEANUT PROCESSING TIME AGAIN

# UCC HAS THE BEST! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.



Wednesday mornings, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>-8:30am

[illegible]

## Financial Fact – October 2015

I am Tracy Tronnes, your church Treasurer. Each month, I'm going to include information about our church's finances in a short paragraph. If you have something you would like to know, please contact me. My email address is [tntronnes@charter.net](mailto:tntronnes@charter.net) and my cell phone number is 608 774 6150.

September is “back” month...back to school, back to church, back to regular schedules. While we were sleeping in, taking vacations and generally relaxing, the church was “here”. We are coming “back” to our minister, our office administrator, our organist who were “here” for us all summer. And, unfortunately, our monthly bills were “here” too. To meet our expenses we just transferred \$5,000 from our investment account. As we work to catch up with our budget, I’m glad we are “back”.

**XX**

## REMINDER TO



Very easy to do and help the church while shopping for your daily needs. Piggly Wiggly, Kwik-Trip, Subway, Walmart just to name a few. Contact Evan Riley if you have any questions.

## BROKEN OPEN AND LAID OUT BARE

Rev. Lora A. Whitten

September 8, 2015

As I reflect on my life, where I've been, where I am, and where I am going, broken open seems like the only phrase which really fits. In conversation with others who have "peeled back the layers" of their lives to unpack what they have so neatly compacted they refer to themselves as an onion because onions have layers. My experience of life doesn't fit that neatly together. I see layers as having a core with applied sheaths of substance around the core until layer after layer creates something that can be named, such as an onion. I see my life experience as more of a breaking or chipping away at something. Where experiences of life have eroded or created weaknesses in an object that has changed over time, always losing something in the process but also revealing hidden gems that were once concealed.

I liken my life experience as more of a rock tumbled by experiences of life that have impacted and uncovered the bareness of who I am in this day. Just like a rock that is part of a greater created order I am exposed to the elements of a natural life. When I am that rock teetering on the edge of a prairie stream I feel the warmth of the sun and the cool refreshment of gently moving waters. When I am the rock that creates a boundary edge for the fast paced water pushing through the canyon I can feel the washing away of my rough edges in the process of erosion. When I am that rock that is shaken loose from high altitudes by a hiker or the violent shaking of the earth I can feel every impact with other solid materials on my way down the slope and into the valley below. Each point of contact chipping away at my exterior to open up a new area that was previously concealed, and protected, within my structure.

Yes, I am more like a rock than an onion. I have a core that is strong yet can be melted by extreme heat; eroded by constant exposure; and chipped while tumbling through life's experiences. I am the smooth stone that you pick up at the lake's edge which tempts you to skip it across the water. I am part of a break wall that attempts to hold back the tides of life's rough seas. I am that rock that pushes its way up from the ocean in red molten splendor to create islands in the middle of the abyss.

I am the substance in which dynamite is used to extract my treasures and exploit my weaknesses. I am the historic remains of drilled out bluffs that support your roads.

(Con't)

I am one of the strongest substances on the periodic table and yet, I can be broken open; eroded; chipped and laid bare. Dirt hides my beauty, but baptism in the waters of life reveal the true colors of my inner soul the crystals of quarts; amethyst; and opals that are concealed by my hardened exterior. You wouldn't know the treasure I conceal unless I am broken open; eroded; chipped; and laid bare.

Is it opportunity that drew you to me, or your desire to move me out of the way that caused you to pick me up and give me a second look? Was it something you saw in me, or something that I reminded you of that beckoned to a place deep within your soul? Am I of value to you, or will you choose to skip me across the water and wish me well? Tenacity is my middle name and my value does not rest with your rules. I am the foundation upon which you build and live, succeed or fail. I am not peeled apart in layers, but rather I am broken open; worn with erosion; chipped away; and laid bare.

[illegible]

## **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Financial Secretary**

This volunteer is responsible for taking the weekly worship offerings; recording them in a ledger and depositing them in the church bank account.

This volunteer is asked to attend  
The monthly council meetings  
and to be mindful that all financial  
transactions between congregants  
and the church are strictly confidential.

Please pray about this opportunity and if you feel that God is leading you to this ministry within ECUCC, please speak with Holly Gould or Connie Wiersma.

### **FLOWER POWER**

The altar flowers create a beautiful backdrop for our worship experience.  
We are currently looking for volunteers to provide floral arrangements for one month at a time, which comes out to  
only four arrangements. The sign up sheet is located on the back table, just sign up for any month that is open.  
Arrangements can be silk; live; or whatever your imagination can create.

### **HOSPITALITY TABLE HOST**

It would be wonderful if we had a leader for the hospitality table who could make coffee; set out treat donations before worship and clean up the table after worship. This is an important relationship building ministry within the church, can you help by being the Host Coordinator?

**SEPTEMBER, 2015**

### **DIACONATE TEAM MEMBER**

The diaconate team is looking for one more volunteer to help with their important ministry within the life of ECUCC. This person will help serve communion once a month; be part of the care-share ministry to our congregation; and help with special preparations for church holidays. If you have a caregiver's heart then this opportunity is for you. The team meets once a month for a 30 minute meeting to touch base and plan communion tasks. If this sounds like something you would be interested in becoming a part of then please speak with Norma Thompson, Chair of the Diaconate Team.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM MEMBERS

The Christian Education team is looking for two volunteers who are passionate about education. The responsibilities of this team are to plan educational opportunities for the life of the church.

This person will help the team discuss and plan educational opportunities, and will have the option to become a teacher or substitute teacher when needed. This person will also help support the team with the VBS event during the summer; and special events with the children during the church year. This team meets once a month to discuss upcoming events and touch base on the educational life of the church. If you are interested in becoming a part of this team, please speak with Rev. Lora.

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### *Who Do I Talk To About This and That?*

With communication being so vital to the life of any relationship it is important to know that you have a voice and a listening ear.

These are the people who want to listen to you.

When something at the church needs repaired or a maintenance issue needs reported who will listen to me?

Trustees Chair – Lukas Jensen, 608-884-0556

When I have an idea for a church event or a new church ministry, who will listen to me?

Rev. Lora – 608-884-6514

When I have a positive comment or a concern about a church employee, who will listen to me? Council Moderator – Connie Wiersma & the Human Resource Committee. 608-884-4465

When I have a question about the church's finances, who will listen to me?

Treasurer – Tracy Tronnes 608-774-6150

When I want to express feelings of appreciation or to express feelings of discontentment with our pastor, who will listen to me? The Pastoral Relations Committee: Eric Lyerla – [eric.lyerla@gmail.com](mailto:eric.lyerla@gmail.com); Connie Wiersma 608-884-4465; Tracy Tronnes 608-884-8878.

What about these questions or comments, who will listen to me?

- Christian Education? Rev. Lora; Becky Riley; Michele Ninmer; Tammy Campbell; Krista Kim; Robyn Davis.
- Church Memorials? Joan Lynts; Julie Norland; Norma Thompson

- Human Resources? Lukas Jensen; Robyn Davis; Josh Bartz; Connie Wiersma
- Diaconate/Care Share Teams? Norma Thompson; Mary Lou Behring; Tammy Campbell; Joan Lynts
- Altar Flower Needs? Connie Tronnes
- Church Historian? Joan Lynts

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## LITURGIST SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER-2015

October 4<sup>th</sup> - - - - -Becky Riley

October 11<sup>th</sup> - - - - -Julie Norland

October 18<sup>th</sup> - - - - -Evan Riley

October 25<sup>th</sup> - - - - -Tammy Campbell

Thank you!

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The  
**Pumpkin Prayer**

Dear Jesus,  
As I carve my pumpkin, help me pray this prayer:  
Open my mind so I can learn about you;  
Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do.  
Open my eyes so your love I will see;  
I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose at what  
you've given to me.  
Open my ears so your Word I will hear;  
Open my mouth to tell others you're near.  
Let your light shine in all I say and do!  
Amen.

***The LORD is my light and my salvation.***  
*Psalm 27:1*

Share your faith with your friends and neighbors  
as you tell them about your special pumpkin!

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## Wisconsin Conference UCC-Franz Rigert

*"We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners. I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descended from immigrants." Pope Francis, speaking to the US Congress on September 24, 2015*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us have been drawn to the coverage of Pope Francis' visit to the US and his challenge to address the issue of immigration through the biblical principles of justice and hospitality.

Yesterday, over a dozen of our colleagues gathered at the Trost Center to explore ways we might respond to the global migrant crises as well as immigrants who populate our own communities. Many have crossed our southern border and remain undocumented, yet play key roles in our economy and are immersed in the community life. God calls us to treat them with compassion, dignity and as our "brothers and sisters" in Christ.

Our **Immigration Working Group** invites you and your congregation to engage in this critical and timely issue. Here are some ways you can become involved:

1. Share immigration stories within your own congregation as a way to awaken sensitivities and remind people of our nation's welcoming history. For example, many of us could tell stories of our grandparents emigrating from Europe. Others remember the movement to resettle Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970's.
2. Engage in small group studies and conversations that connect our biblical imperatives with real "hands on" commitments to welcome the sojourner among us (see attached study guide).
3. Take a special **Migrant Relief Offering** (send your check payable to the Wisconsin Conference UCC and we will forward it directly to Church World Service).
4. Share any Immigration resources that would benefit other congregations. (email [lhart@wcucc.org](mailto:lhart@wcucc.org))
5. Consider hosting a refugee family through your congregation.
6. Address these issues in the public square (advocate for a public policy of hospitality and justice with legislators and in partnership with the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries).
7. Volunteer to help organize our online Conference Immigration resource and network hub! (email [dsimon@wcucc.org](mailto:dsimon@wcucc.org))
8. Join our Immigration Working Group! (email [frigert@wcucc.org](mailto:frigert@wcucc.org))

We offer this document entitled **Becoming Welcoming Communities** (Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith), produced a few years back by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, in anticipation of the push for immigration reform. It is an ideal study guide for your congregation. Our thanks to Scott Anderson, Director of the WCC.

Finally . . . a prayer, written anonymously, for you:

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you live deep in your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people and the earth so that you will work for justice, equality and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer so you will reach out your hands to comfort them and change their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so you will do things which others say cannot be done.*

The peace of Christ be with you,

Franz

# **Come-Down-to-the-Lakeshore Writer's Retreat**

**A sacred space for writers words and wonder**

Menu

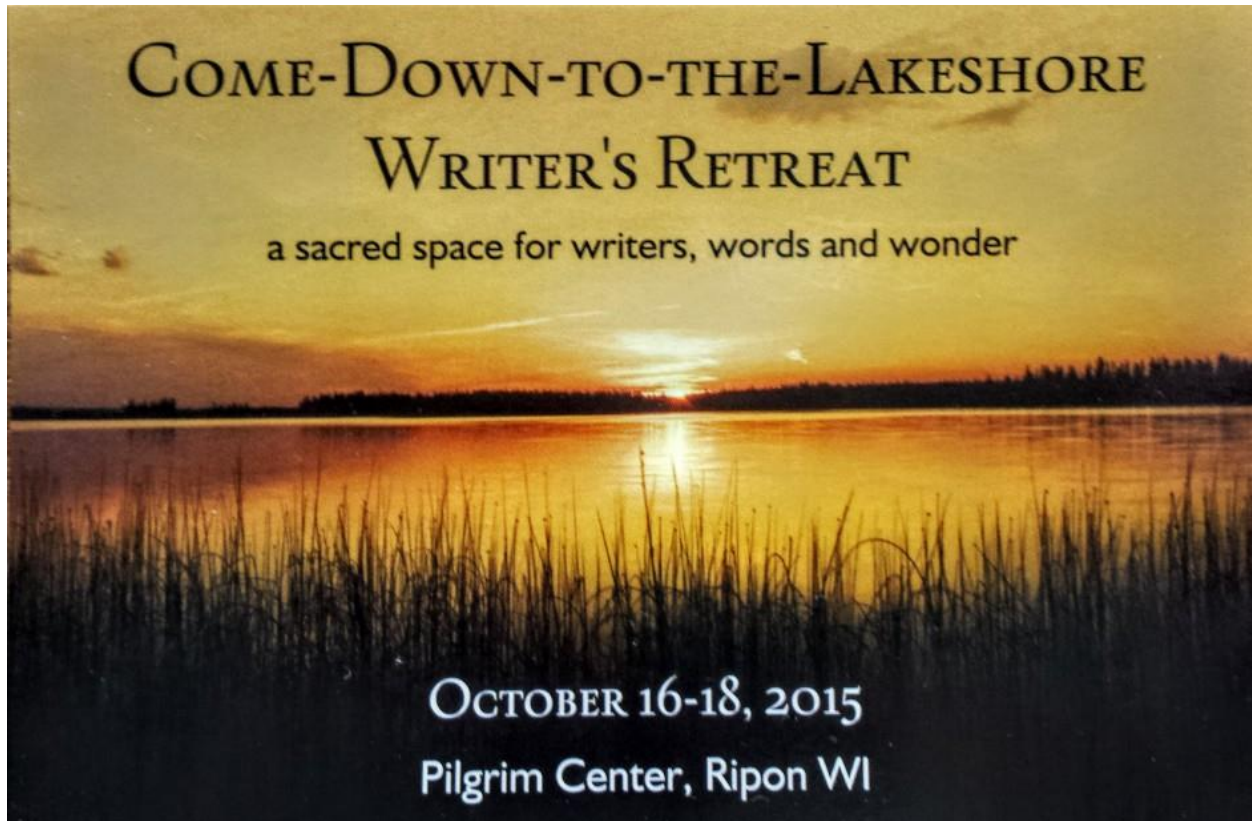
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## **OCTOBER 16-18, 2015**

**Come down to the shores of Wisconsin's Green Lake for a weekend of writing in a relaxed and Spirit-filled setting.**

**Whether you are just starting out or have been writing for years, you are welcome!**

**Whether you are writing a magazine article, mystery novel, newsletter, poem, devotion, journal, blog or Christmas letter, you are welcome!**

**No matter where you are on your writing and faith journeys, you are welcome to Come-Down-to-the-Lakeshore!**

**Come-Down-to-the-Lakeshore, where everyone's muse will come alive through the community's binding ties of writing and faith.**

Please visit [www.comedowntothelakeshore.com](http://www.comedowntothelakeshore.com) for more information and registration.