

U-C-C See What's Up

Edgerton Congregational United Church of Christ July – 2017



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !



**Edgerton
Tobacco Heritage Days
July 14 – 16, 2017**

Bake Sale and Food Cart

This is a money making event for the church, please consider making time to volunteer to help the church. Many hands make small work.

Please sign up on the sheets on the back table. If you have questions, ask Mary Lou Behring for further information.

July 2	9:30 AM Summer Worship
July 9	9:30 AM Summer Worship Reception for Porter Family
July 16	9:30 AM Summer Worship Heritage Days – Lunch Cart
July 23	9:30 AM Summer Worship Jump around Madison
July 30	9:30 AM Summer Worship

Reminders:

For July:

Greeter/Ushers – Ninmer Family
Deacon Providing Elements –
Mary Lou Behring

Attendance Reports

May 28 – 20
June 4 – 52
June 11 – 43
June 18 – 42



Sunday School Heifer Project update.....

The children have earned enough money now to pay for a sheep and a water buffalo.

If you would like to help the children continue to buy animals, their piggy bank is located on the back table.

Once again, thank you your support.



July Birthdays

2nd Peter St. John
 6th Erin Smerchek
 12th Lori Shaw
 13th Connie Wiersma
 16th Lukas Jensen
 17th Todd Campbell
 19th Joel Smerchek
 21st Julie Lyerla
 22nd Jessica Lyerla
 26th George Lynts
 26th Jonathan Webb
 26th Cindy Morris
 29th Olyvia Crumbliss
 29th Adam Morris
 31st Nick Spors

Please take a moment to wish these people the best on their birthdays.



July Anniversaries

July 12 - Dan and Cassandra Granger
 - Tyler and Robyn Davis
 July 21 - Robbie and Sarah Lanham
 July 28 - Gary and Mary Lou Behring

Please take a moment to wish these people the best on their anniversaries.



Mow 'n' Go

Lawn Service Call for a free estimate

Reece Porter- (608) 628-6412
 Luke Norland – (608) 774-5168

- Dependable
- Quality work
- Friendly service
- Good value

– Save the dates! – Up-coming Family Fun Events

July 13th – Miniature golf at Mid-City
 Golf @ 6 p.m.
 (Hwy 51 south across from the
 Rock County Airport)

July 23rd – Jump around Madison,
 Leave after church

Aug. 3rd – Beloit Snappers Game
 Tickets about \$5.00 each
 Tailgating in church parking lot
 and caravan to game. Bring your
 own tailgating items. Christian
 Ed. will furnish the hot dogs.

Aug 27th – Henry Vilas Zoo trip
 Leaving from church and
 having a picnic lunch prior to
 entering the zoo. Bring your own
 picnic gear and food. We will
 leave following the church
 service.

May 8, 2017
7:00 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.

PRESENT: Lukas Jensen, Julie Norland, Bruce Morris, Rev. Lora Whitten, Erin Smerchek (Christian Education), and Norma Thompson.

ABSENT: Tracy Tronnes, Robyn Davis, and Krista Kim (Diaconate).

CALL TO ORDER: Julie Norland called the meeting to order and Lukas Jensen led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 10, 2017 Council Minutes were approved with no changes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Joan Ganger currently purchases hospitality supplies for the church and wants to step out of that position. Rev. Lora will ask Diane G. to check the hospitality supplies and let us know what needs to be bought.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Membership rolls: The following individuals will be sent a letter by the church office stating that they are being moved from the active roster to the inactive roster: Eric/Julie Lyerla children (Jessica, Ryan, and Rachael), Nick Spors, Matthew Tronnes, and Stephanie Wilson. The listed individuals have not attended church in at least three years.
- Julie N. reminded the Council that a discussion of Rev. Lora's and the congregation's performances will be conducted on May 17 at 6:00 p.m. Julie N. will provide pizza and Rev. Lora will provide dessert.
- Committee descriptions were handed out to Council members to be placed into the church's Guideline Manual. Council reviewed and discussed the updated descriptions covering the Diaconate Committee and the Memorial Committee. Julie Norland updated the Memorial Committee's description.

MINISTER'S REPORT: N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER:

- The Peanut Committee donated \$6,108.16 to the church's budget this year. The Council wants to express its appreciation to the Peanut Committee for its yearly donation.

TRUSTEES:

- Trustees are waiting for an update regarding the roofing project - hopefully in a few weeks the roof will be repaired.
- The asphalt/handrail project is being looked into. Cal Wiersma is going to ask Connie Wiersma to look into the ADA Compliant Guidelines. (There is no estimate yet.)
- Julie asked for an official quote for carpeting be obtained. Erin and Joel Smerchek will coordinate details to get the quote.

DIACONATE: No meeting was held in May.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- No Vacation Bible School will be held this summer. Instead, 3-5 family fun days will be scheduled throughout the summer, such as: Church pot luck, zoo trip, tie dye day, etc.
- Julie N. will check with Rev Lora to see when Baccalaureate Sunday is going to be held.

OTHER COMMITTEES (e.g. Memorial, Fellowship, Floral): N/A

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Thompson



This Weather is Hell

Howard dies and waits in line for judgment. He notices that some souls go right into heaven, while Satan throws others into a burning pit. But every so often, instead of hurling a poor soul into the fire, the devil tosses it aside. Curious, Howard asks Satan, "Excuse me, but why are you tossing them aside instead of flinging them into hell with the others?"

"They're from Seattle," Satan replies. "They're too wet to burn."

**THINK TANK
MINISTRIES**

Join Rev. Lora at "The Depot" in Edgerton on
Wednesday, July 12th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
as we use a "Think Tank" method to explore new ways
of doing ministry in the greater Edgerton community.
Come be the church through exploration and conversation.

Membership Classes Scheduled

Are you interested in becoming a church member at ECUCC?

If so, what a wonderful blessing for the church body and for you as well.

There are two classes which are required for church membership.

Class #1: "What is the United Church of Christ" on August 13, 2017 after worship.

Class #2: "Who is Edgerton Congregational U.C.C.?" on August 20th, 2017 after worship.

Each class is about an hour long and gives you the opportunity to ask questions.

New Members will be introduced and welcomed into the ECUCC Body of Christ

During our worship hour on August 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Please register for the classes by sending an e-mail to Rev. Lora at revedgcong@yahoo.com

LITURGIST WORSHIP TRAINING & VOLUNTEERING

Each element of worship is a chance for you to be in ministry with God.
From the announcements to the benediction our worship hour has various
opportunities for you to touch lives in the Spirit of God.

One of those important elements are the worship liturgists.

Have you ever thought of being the worship liturgist but your fear or doubt in
yourself keeps you from this important ministry?

Join Rev. Lora in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, August 23rd
from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. as she leads a training session on being a
worship liturgist. The only requirement is being able to read, that's it.

If you wish to be a worship liturgist for the 2017 – 2018 church year,
please register for this class by e-mailing Rev. Lora.

In a warm up to General Synod, Wisconsin Conference becomes 'Immigrant Welcoming' with an overwhelming vote

Being 'Immigrant-Welcoming' is an important extension of our identity as the extravagant-welcome, Open and Affirming, 'no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here' body of Christ.

The Rev. Leslie Schenk, pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC,
Madison, Wisc.

June 16, 2017

Written by **Connie Larkman**

Congregations of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, which believe that publicly proclaiming love for their neighbors aligns with their mission, vision and values, overwhelmingly passed a resolution on June 10, becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Conference.

"Creating initiatives for welcoming the stranger in our time is critical in a political environment when fear and misunderstanding causes divisiveness and confusion over life and death matters facing refugees, undocumented immigrants, and even our own citizens who practice the Muslim faith," said the Rev. Tanya Sadagopan, pastor of Janesville UCC First Congregational Church. "These 'others' have become the scapegoats for our own frustrations. This is not right. Banning Muslims, reducing the number of refugees we will welcome, and blindly deporting those who have been living and working peaceably in our country is against our calling as Christians. We are called to love our neighbor and seek justice for the oppressed."

The conference began investigating the idea in November 2014, in a conversation about the circumstances immigrants and refugees are facing in this country. A group of lay leaders and clergy formed the Immigration Working Group (IWG) to stay informed on current issues affecting immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, to share information and resources with congregations, and to encourage a faith-filled response. They learned the Minnesota Conference was in the process of becoming Immigrant Welcoming and decided to join the movement, initiating a year of discernment and study during its annual meeting in 2016.

"We feel that being an Immigrant Welcoming congregation, Conference, and denomination is an important extension of our identity as the extravagant welcome, Open and Affirming, 'no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here' body of Christ," said the Rev. Leslie Schenk, pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Madison. "We see our mission and ministry efforts to help our immigrant and refugee neighbors as an embodiment of the Great Commandment, and of the prophetic call to 'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.'"

The resolution in Wisconsin required that 66 congregations study the issue of immigration in order for a vote to be taken at the 2017 annual meeting. 80 churches got involved, with four voting to become Immigrant

Welcoming Congregations and more than 30 congregations becoming actively engaged in resettling immigrants, refugees or asylum-seekers or providing support to those doing that work.

The people of **Janesville UCC already have three initiatives in process**, working with community leaders to be trained and ready to resettle refugees in Janesville; providing educational opportunities for members of churches and communities on issues of faith and immigration including an Immigration & Faith Panel Discussion this fall; and implementing a "Radical Hospitality Project" that is offering micro grants to immigrant high school students who have little resources. The church has just approved two micro grants for two immigrant high school students — one a refugee and another an emancipated minor.

Plymouth Congregational decided to take on immigration as a 'strategic mission focus' in 2017-2018 and has already hosted an advocacy workshop for the community, becoming more active with other organizations and ecumenical partners to extend a helping hand, advocating for the rights of immigrants and refugees. The church also takes a monthly special offering that goes to help house and feed Syrians in refugee camps in the Mediterranean region.

"While our resolution was in process, our Board of Directors voted to **co-sponsor a resolution being brought to General Synod this summer on becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church**," said Lisa Hart, associate conference minister, and staff person guiding the immigration issue in the Wisconsin Conference. "We are excited about this action and look forward to the work that lies ahead as we work with congregations to help them live into this designation."

"We knew the timing was crucial, leading up to Baltimore, so that was part of our commitment in passing this resolution prior to General Synod," said the Rev. Franz Rigert, conference minister. "What I appreciated most was the way the delegates dealt with an amendment to the original resolution (that overwhelmingly failed). Its purpose was to state that we are (essentially) law abiding citizens — implying there are no situations in which the Church recognizes a higher moral authority. The floor was gracious and appreciating of differing opinions, but unequivocal about our response to the Gospel imperative to be compassionate and welcoming people of God."

"My passion for raising awareness about the situations facing immigrants, and seeking to find ways to respond, grew out of my sabbatical experience on the Arizona/Mexican border at Nogales in January 2014," said Hart. "We were exposed to the realities faced by those desperate enough to risk their lives to cross the desert to enter the United States. It was a life-changing experience...becoming aware of what was really happening at our borders, I knew my faith called me to respond. My work as staff on the two resolutions is one response to that call."

"As the National UCC we have taken the lead on issues of social justice in the past," said Sadagopan. "The time is now for us to use our Christian faith to make it clear where God is calling us to stand — alongside of our immigrant brothers and sisters, because we were once immigrants in this same land and we were welcomed, sheltered, and protected."

CHURCH APPEAL

Reasons people give for attending church or other place of worship Source: Gallup Poll

Printed in: Christian Century, June 21, 2017

Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not A Factor
76%	16%	8%
Sermons or talks that teach you more about scripture.		
75%	16%	8%
<i>Sermons or lectures that help you connect religion to your own life.</i>		
64%	21%	15%
Spiritual programs geared toward children and teenagers.		
59%	27%	13%
<i>Lots of community outreach and volunteer opportunities.</i>		
54%	28%	17%
Dynamic religious leaders who are interesting and inspiring.		
49%	36%	14%
<i>Social activities that allow you to get to know people in your community.</i>		
38%	36%	25%
A good choir, praise band, cantors, or other spiritual music.		

(What do you think ECUCC? Does that sound accurate for your reasons?
Would you ask different questions of people? What questions would you ask?
My ears are always ready to listen. Let me know what you think. Rev. Lora)

Join the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Albion in a special service at 11 a.m. to celebrate their 175th Anniversary on Saturday, July 15th, in conjunctions with Edgerton's Tobacco Heritage Days. A light lunch and informative tour and a scavenger-hunt type challenge, will follow the service. We are a small congregation that meets despite having no regular minister for several years. We do this by having caring people with in the church and communities, especially Edgerton and Janesville. For more information on the Albion SDB Church, call 608-561-7450 or e-mail albionsdb@gmail.com or Gay McRoberts, deaconess, at 608-201-0148 or e-mail gmgcrbts5254@charter.net.

JAZZ FOR THE JAIL *Ministry*

CONCERT

Join Chance Allies for a fantastic night of jazz in support of the **Madison Area Jail Ministry**

Celebrating 50 years ~ 1967-2017



Madison Area Jail Ministry

Saturday, July 15, 2017

Good Shepherd Lutheran

5701 Raymond Road

Madison, WI 53711

Church and community outdoor events are planned prior to the concert:

- ♪ 1-3pm Basketball tournament
- ♪ Food Cart and/or BBQ cooking contest
- ♪ Bhutanese singing and dancing
- ♪ Other plans in the making
- ♪ 6-7pm Outdoor Music Duo 7-8:30pm
Jazz for the Jail Concert in the Sanctuary
with Free Will Offering
- ♪ Dessert at intermission



Come join us at Good Shepherd for an afternoon and evening of fun, food and music

Find more information at www.madisonjailministry.org

Looking for... Sunday School Teachers

We have two children's Sunday School classes that begin
on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 a.m.,
the Little Lights, 3 years old – 1st grade and
the Good Samaritans, 2nd grade – 6th grade.

The Christian Education team is currently looking for a teacher
for each group. If you are interested, please speak with
Robyn Davis; Connie Wiersma; Michele Ninmer; Erin Smerchek; or Rev. Lora.

Looking for...

A new teen, or adult nursery worker!

Our church has been so very fortunate to have had Sophie Granger
as our nursery attendant for the past few years.

Her dedication to this ministry will come to a close as she heads off
to college to start a new life adventure.

The salary is \$20.00 each Sunday from 10:15 – noon.

If you are interested in applying, please speak with the
Christian Education Team Leader Robyn Davis, or Rev. Lora.

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTES:						1
2 Worship Service- 9:30am Script order due	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship Service- 9:30am Reception following the service for Grayce Brenhaug & the Porter Family	10 No Meetings	11	12 Think Tank Ministries 6-7 pm at "The Depot"	13 Miniature Golf - Mid-City Golf 6 pm	14 Heritage Days Bake Sale 5-6 pm	15 Heritage Days Bake Sale Lunch Cart Jazz for the Jail Ministry
16 Worship Service- 9:30am Heritage Days Lunch Cart/Parade @ noon	17 Guitar League 7-9 p.m.	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship Service- 9:30am Jump around Madison	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship Service- 9:30am Rev Lora - VAC	31					