



## Pastor's Notes – April 2021

This is the celebratory month. We begin with Easter Sunday and the powerful truth that love overcomes death, and God's presence is eternal. We watch the flowers start blooming, and the landscape turns from a hint of yellow green to a deep energizing green. We shed the winter coats for lightweight jackets and revel in the sun's rays. More and more our friends, families, and church members gratefully say, "I've been vaccinated!" The hope of gathering with friends and even in church is real.

Three weeks ago, one of our members asked if they could come to church for worship as YouTube wasn't working for her. Last week two more members came because they were having trouble with Facebook. It was a delight to see these people, add in the liturgist for the day, the music people and we already have ten people in the church. It almost seems time for in-person worship. We are planning to discuss the "Worship In Person" plan at the Council meeting next week and offer parking lot worship this week. When we do, these are some of the guidelines we will follow:

1. Rock County guidelines say that businesses can open at 50% capacity. That means we can have up to 45 in our sanctuary.
  2. Congregants would need to sit six feet apart.
  3. A mask would be mandatory even for those fully vaccinated.
4. Corporate singing is still not recommended inside. We will continue to have song leaders at the front of the sanctuary to sing for us.
5. There will be no social hour following worship. Congregants will be strongly encouraged to go outside immediately following the service.
6. Doors and windows will be open for cross-ventilation.
7. We will not share communion, pass the plate, or pass out bulletins. Bulletins will be available for pick up and offerings can be put in the plate next to the stack of bulletins.
  8. The nursery will not open.

9. We will continue to offer Facebook Live.

A few other local UCC congregations have returned to in person worship and are following similar guidelines. We will continue to watch the trajectory of cases in Rock County. If cases rise too high, we will return to the parking lot when weather permits. The virus is not over yet.

It has been a long year that we have been out of the sanctuary. There are moments when we have thrived and other moments when anxiety and grief were ever present. I love this poem by Christina Rossetti because it helps begin the shift from our need of God's comfort to adoration for God's unending love. As we return to some of our daily activities, there will be holes left by people who died during this past year. May the promise of the resurrection help us to find ways to not only acknowledge the loss but offer ourselves to the Holy One as a way through.

### **A Better Resurrection**

BY [CHRISTINA ROSSETTI](#)

I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is in the falling leaf:  
O Jesus, quicken me.

My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk:  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;  
My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud nor greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;  
O Jesus, rise in me.

My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;  
Melt and remould it, till it be  
A royal cup for Him, my King:  
O Jesus, drink of me.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/2 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 7 P.M.

04/4 EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

04/11 WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

04/12 COUNCIL MEETING 7 P.M.

TRUSTEES 6:15 P.M.

04/18 WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

04/22 EARTH DAY

04/24 SW ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION DEADLINE

04/25 WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

## APRIL LITURGIST SCHEDULE

4/4 - MARY LOU BEHRING

4/11 - TRACY TRONNES

4/18 CONNIE WIERSMA

4/25 EVAN/BECKY RILEY

\*IF YOU CAN'T MAKE YOUR DATE, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND LET THE OFFICE KNOW. THANK YOU!

EDGERTON CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Good Friday Worship*

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

7:00 P.M.

STREAMING ON FACEBOOK LIVE

*Easter Sunday Worship*

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

10:30 A.M. STREAMING ON FACEBOOK LIVE

ECUCC PARKING LOT (WEATHER PERMITTING)



## **A Message from Your Office and Communications Administrator**

Dear all,

I am happy to tell you all that I will be staying on with ECUCC! The pandemic has shifted the way we all live our lives; and with two small children and a husband who will likely be traveling extensively for work in the near future mine is no exception. However, we believe that with a few changes and adjustments I will be able to stay on in the role of office administrator and communications coordinator as well as maintaining the custodial duties.

In the coming months, we will work to keep a consistent in-office schedule so as to serve you all in the best way possible. Although I will be out of the office until the week of April 18, after that I will be here on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. every week and will be available for any pick-ups, drop-offs, or otherwise needed communications or tasks during that time.

I am happy to be able to continue to serve in my role here and work to help the church grow as we all continue to navigate this new normal.

All the best,  
Kathleen Matson

One of the 3 Great Loves of the UCC is Love of Creation. Earth day is coming up on Thursday, April 22nd! Here is an article to think about what we can do to celebrate. What sounds good to you?

1. **Launch a Book Group!** Use Earth Sunday as an opportunity to launch a book group to read [\*Cathedral on Fire: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis\*](#). Each chapter includes discussion questions along with suggested actions that have been tested and proven.
2. **Focus Your Worship!** The United Church of Christ has partnered with Creation Justice Ministries to produce thematic worship resources and educational materials for Earth Sunday. This year's theme is "[\*\*A New Heaven and a New Earth: Health, Environmental Racism, and Eco-Justice.\*\*](#)"
3. **Make a Call for Action!** Just as one calls the fire department to put out a fire, one of the best actions we can take as people of faith is to call upon congress to act as the present situation demands. On Earth Sunday, encourage members of your church to **call their elected officials** the very next day in order to share why their faith compels them to seek just, equitable, and ambitious environmental policies. For the love of creation, for the love of our neighbors, and for the love of our children, we need our government to reflect our values.



**Southwest Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ  
Annual Meeting: Church in the Afterscape  
Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom**

Rev. Dr. Christopher James, Associate Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, says ***congregational ministry isn't what it used to be.***

Do you agree?

Dr. James will be giving the keynote speech as he and others explore "Church in the Afterscape". In his keynote, Dr. James will draw on his research among churches in Seattle, WA and Dane County, WI to offer hope and practical wisdom for faithful ministry and mission. Other breakout sessions will include *Leadership in the Afterscape* led by Pastor Zayna Thomley, and *Mission in the Afterscape* led by Pastor Leslie Schenk. Lay delegates, ministers, and visitors are encouraged to attend. You can register online [here](#). **Registration Deadline: April 24**

## Easter Memorials and Honors

**George and Joan Lynts** - In memory of Pege Lynts

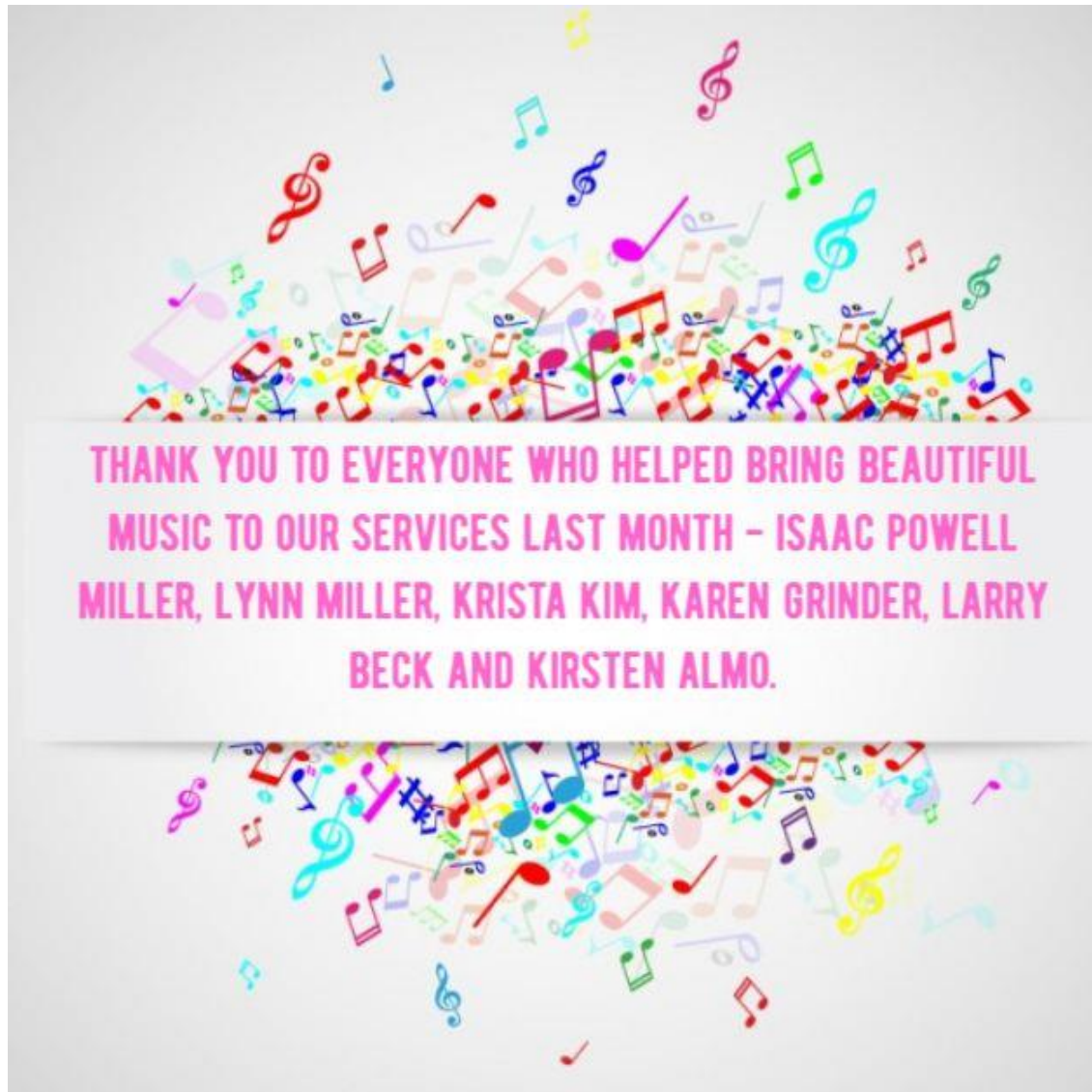
**Connie and Cal Wiersma** - In memory of their parents

**Krista and Eric Kim** - In honor of Blanche Rigert and in memory of church friends who are no longer with us

**Kathleen Matson** - In memory of her sister Amy Rankin

**Pastor Lori Powell** - In honor of Kathleen Matson and Karen Grinder for their hard work on behalf of the congregation and their April birthdays.

*Thank you to all who gifted flowers to adorn our Easter service!*



*From all of us at ECUC...*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/1 - LORI POWELL

4/3 - BRUCE MORRIS

4/4 - BRECKEN SMERCHEK

4/17 - MICHELE NINMER

4/21 - JOYCE MORRIS



## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **Monday Feb. 8, 2021**

**PRESENT:** (via zoom) Rev. Lori Powell, Lynn Miller, Bruce Morris, Connie Wiersma, Tracy Tronnes and Mary Lou Behring. Connie called the meeting to order and Rev. Lori led us in prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Tracy made a motion to except the minutes as written. Bruce seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**MINISTERS REPORT:** Rev. Lori referred to a document called “Guiding Best Practices. “ This gives churches an opportunity to think about goals and church renewal. As a council moving forward Lori stated we may need a church covenant to set goals. Mary Lou and Tracy agreed it would be tough to do groups during the pandemic.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There will be a zoom meeting on Sunday Feb. 21 from 3:00-5:00pm pertaining to the Conflict Transformation Team through the conference. Each individual will pay \$15 or a total of \$50 for more than 3. We will have to register online to get the zoom link. The church will pay for those interested. Tracy made a motion to apply for a second draw for the PPP funding. Mary Lou seconded it.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Connie reviewed the responsibilities of the council from the constitution. Our goals may be revising the constitution. There was a discussion of re approaching a leadership model, who are we ministering to? Rev. Lori mentioned monies available from the conference for social justice opportunities. We are possibly looking into starting a “Green Team”, but would need a Leader. The council is seeking the secretary position. The duties include taking the council minutes and attending council meeting on the

second Monday evening of each month.

**DIACONATE:** We sent a few cards to people. There will be communion Feb. . 14th during FB live.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Valentine packets were put together for the children to pick. They will make Valentines and send them out to Church folks. Kirsten is putting together Lenten packets for the children. There will be an adult Zoom book study starting Feb. 17th at 6:30. Books may be available at the public library.

**TRUSTEES:** The boiler is being checked. Shoveling is occurring frequently!!

**TREASUERS REPORT:** PPP loan has been forgiven. We are holding our own.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou Behring