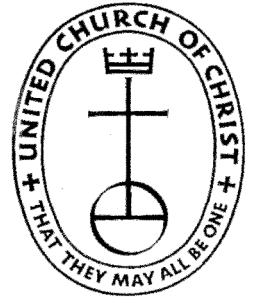


the Pilgrim Visitor

Congregational United Church of Christ April 2010
300 Maiden St. Mineral Point, WI 53565 * (608) 987-2025
www.mpucc.com



From the Pastor:

“We must practice resurrection, and this is an everyday practice.”

These are the words of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Zen Buddhist monk and teacher. Thich Nhat Hanh has been my companion throughout the season of Lent via the book, *You are Here*. He writes, “In order to love you must be here. Being here is not a difficult thing to accomplish. It is enough to breathe and let go of thinking or planning. Just come back to yourself, concentrate on your breath, and smile. You are here, body and mind together. You are here, alive, completely alive. That is a miracle.

“Some people live as though they are already dead. There are people moving around us who are consumed by their past, terrified of their future, and stuck in their anger and jealousy. They are not alive; they are just walking corpses. We must practice resurrection. With an in breath, you bring your mind back to your body. In this way you become alive in the here and now. Joy, peace, and happiness are possible. You have an appointment with life, an appointment that is in the here and now.”

Easter proclaims that God has the power to raise us from the dead, to bring us back to life. On our zombie-like days this can be difficult to believe. On those painful days, when our hearts are broken, or our bodies are broken, this can be difficult to believe. And yet, it’s true. Love is, and always will be, more powerful than we know.

We can practice resurrection. We can intentionally live into the reality of this resuscitating love. This resurrection practice is also known as prayer. It’s as important as exercise. It’s as important as counting calories. It’s more important than television.

Sit down and close your eyes and notice your breath. Be mindful of how good it feels to simply breathe. Be mindful of the gift of each breath. Enjoy the gift of breath. Enjoy the gift of deep relaxation. Enjoy the gift of being alive. Take in the gifts that surround you. Take that gratitude with you into your day and into your relationships. Practice once a week, or a few times a week, or every day.

God will overcome all that is sinful and destructive to invite us back to life.

The world needs people who are truly alive.

We are resurrection people!

Interested in officially joining the church?
Contact Pastor Todd tslippert@mhtc.net or 987-2025

When the Chickens came to Sunday School



Gregg Wilson brought his chickens to Sunday School to introduce the Heifer Project to all of us. We learned that needy families could be helped with a gift of chickens or other animals. The children are deciding what to do with their offerings this year. The rooster had things to crow about during the church service that morning.



New Orleans 2011

The 2011 mission trip to New Orleans has been scheduled. We will depart on February 12 and return on February 20. This will likely be the last opportunity to make this life-changing trip. The South Central Conference Disaster Ministry—New Orleans will be out of funds by the end of 2011.

“In a little over four years the ministry initially cleaned out 847 homes. Since rebuilding began 57 projects have been completed from complete rebuilds to more minor repairs. The goal as it always has been, is to assist a family to return to a safe secure comfortable home” (www.ucc.org/disaster/south-central-conference-8.html)

If you are interested in more information, please contact the church office. There is a limited number of 20 volunteer slots.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Flood Assistance June 13, 2008, the Cedar River crested to its highest level in Cedar Rapids history, 31.12 feet. The previous record reached only 20 feet. The flood waters penetrated 10 square miles or 14 percent of the city. This monumental flood impacted 7,198 parcels, including 5,390 houses and dislocating more than 18,000 residents. More than 300 City facilities were damaged by the flood, including the Central Fire Station, Police Headquarters, Public Library, Historic Paramount Theatre, City Bus Facility and the Veterans Memorial Building, which served as the home of City Hall.

Extensive building support is taking place April 12 through May 21. If you are interested in more information, please see Chuck Steudel or contact the church office at mpuc-christ@gmail.com or 987-2025

Prayers Requested

Patty Johnston's son, Jerry, is going through stem cell treatment. Prayers and cards are welcome. There is also a caring bridge link: www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerryjohnston/journal

Stanford Hospital
300 Pasteur Drive
Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Unit
Jerry Johnston, Rm # E123
Stanford, CA 94305

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting March 2010

Date: March 9, 2010

Members Present: Nancy Schmit, Todd Lippert, Greg Wilson, Karen Tennessen, Kandy Keuler,
Jim Bennett, Lisa Howard

Absent: Fritz Aschliman, Marla Martin

Note: This meeting was originally scheduled for March 20. It was changed at the last minute to March 9 because of several meeting conflicts on the 20th.

- 1 Greg called the meeting to order.
- 2 Todd gave the opening prayer.

Financial Report and Bills Payable

There was no financial report this month.

February Council Minutes

February council minutes were reviewed. Jim moved to accept the minutes. Kandy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Todd provided us with an update on his sabbatical plans, specifically pulpit supply. The Rev. Twink Jan McMahon has been tentatively selected to provide pulpit supply during Todd's sabbatical. We will get a chance to meet her at the Yoke Council meeting on April 21. At that time we will also sign her contract. Todd's last Sunday is May 16. He will return to us on August 9 and will be in the pulpit on August 15. Five of Todd's colleagues have agreed to help with pastoral emergencies.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

Kandy said we turned in a claim for the east side of the building. We need to get a cost estimate for awning removal and replacement although we are still not sure if it will be replaced.

Worship Committee

Did not meet.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit

The next Finance Meeting is March 23.

Membership/Fellowship

There will be a breakfast on Easter Sunday.

Youth Group reported by Karen Tennessen

The Mineral Point Youth Group will have a meeting March 14.

Upcoming events are as follows:

- 1 April 10 Garage sale at Cheryl Smeja's shop. Please bring donations there or to church.
- 2 April 11 Pancake Breakfast at the Catholic center. Time will be announced on posters.
- 3 April 24 Service Project is planned for helping people with raking and other yard work. More details will be announced.

In May we'll see the flamingo fund raiser. See a youth group member to be part of this.

June 19-27 Mission trip to the Denver Urban Ministry (adults include Chuck Tennessen, Fritz Aschliman, Chuck Steudel, Patti Johnston, Laurie Heimsoth, and Sandy Trollop).

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting (con't)

Christian Education reported by Karen Tennessen

- 1 Sunday school is going well with about 12 children each week and good teaching support. We are learning about the Easter story and events from the Bible.
- 2 On March 7 Gregg Wilson brought in 4 chickens for our gathering time. He told us about the Heifer Project and how we can help. For example, with a \$25 donation, a poor family receives 25 chickens. If you are interested in donating, see Gregg.
- 3 On Easter Sunday there will be a family brunch for all Sunday school children, their families, and all members of the church. This will replace Sunday school that day.
- 4 We will have a special Earth Day celebration on April 24 in Sunday school.
- 5 Our last Sunday school class will be on Mother's Day.
- 6 Any children finishing third grade may receive a Bible. Call or see Karen Tennessen.
- 7 Confirmation class will be held in the fall for grades 7 and 8 and perhaps 6th grade as well. See Pastor Todd or Karen Tennessen about this.
- 8 The Ecumenical Children's Choir will practice on March 14 (1-2:00) and 21(4-5:00). Their performance is March 24 at 7:00. All are welcome.
- 9 Information about church camp is now available. Look for the display. Please make requests for camp scholarships in writing and submit them to Todd.

Other Business

- 1 The new date for the council retreat is April 11.
 - 2 Todd informed us the next Association Meeting is on April 24 at 9:00 a.m. in Windsor
- Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting. Kandy seconded the motion. Everyone agreed it was time to go home.
Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Schmit.

Mission/Partnership Notes March 2010

One Great Hour of Sharing: this year's offering was taken on March 4th, \$274.00 was received to go to OGHS, this ministry of the UCC provides in part for emergency relief such as for the recent earthquake in Haiti. It's not too late to share your offering, please earmark for OGHS and forward to Marla. Thank you for your support.

Food Resource Project: Our final net proceeds for the 2009 project year were \$1895.00, Great job! This was from the sale of two steers hosted by the Mary Dunn farm, and sale of soybeans hosted by the Robert and Jill White farm. This amount is sent to the Food Resource Bank, and will be 100% used for helping farmers in third world countries get started in their own farm venture, by supplying local water sources, tools, seed, and knowledge. Our 2010 project is getting underway, we are looking for donations for crop or animal projects. Please contact Rev Beryl Melcher or Dick J if interested or with any questions.

Heifer Project International: 2010: A recent visit to worship by some assorted poultry from the Wilson family kicked off our Heifer Project campaign for the Lenten and Easter season. We ask that you consider making a pledge to help the children of our Sunday School raise funds to purchase animals for small farmers to be able to get their own herd started. Please contact Greg W for more information.

Feed My Starving Children: A group of 17 from our congregation volunteered for a meal making session at the Feed My Starving Children project hosted at Hidden Valley Community Church on March 25th. Donations to help offset the cost of food for this project were collected at our church during March. Many positive comments were heard about the experience working together and learning about a massive amount of hunger in our world---18,000 children die-each day- from starvation.

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Childcare provided				1 7pm Maundy Thursday ser- vice	2 Good Friday Service	3
4 Easter Sunday 9:00a Breakfast	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Council Retreat	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 6:30p Finance 7:00p Yoke Council (Ply)	22	23	24 Association meeting
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Ushers & greeters

4 Don Bennett	Bill Buckingham	Lois Buckingham	Virginia Noble
11 Maxine Tibbits	Carol Wasley	Mary Sue Radtke	
18 Karen Tennesen	Chuck Tennesen	Jessie Potterton	
25 Dan Ivey	Bruce Ivey	Deb Ivey	

Lay Readers

4 Teresa Gibbons
11 Barb Fitzsimmons
18 Jessie Potterton
25 Chris Heins

You are welcome here

Phone: 608-987-2025
E-mail: mpucchrst@gmail.com
Website: www.mpucc.com

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**
300 Maiden St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565



CUCC- MP Staff

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Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
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Maintenance

Don Huxtable
Council Chair
Greg Wilson

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Sienna Crest Asst
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987-7456

Merton & Alice Baker
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St Charles, IL 60174
(630) 524-5248

Bob & Evelyn Ivey
730 Center St
Mineral Point, WI
53565
987-2116

Marge Johnson
Mineral Point Care
Center
109 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI
53565

Food Pantry:

Specific needs include boxed desserts,
peanut butter, beans, canned tuna,
canned chicken

Our mission at the Congregational United Church of Christ is to celebrate God's love. As disciples of Jesus Christ we celebrate that love by responding to the needs of our congregation, community and the world through worship, education, fellowship, and service to all.