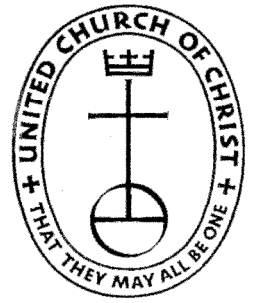


the Pilgrim Visitor

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



From the Pastor:

Lent is almost here. I'm not ready for Lent either. I mean that literally. But I saw a sign today that I'm repeating to myself. The sign read, "Everything works out in the end. If it's not working out, it isn't the end." I think that has something to say about our journey through the wilderness, to the cross and to resurrection.

But, we know our basic schedule. We will have the opportunity to gather as churches for joint mid-week gatherings. Get ready for some potluck parties!! We'll worship on Ash Wednesday and on Maundy Thursday. In between we'll gather for a potluck meal and we'll watch a "Nooma" video and have some discussion. The Nooma videos are short films produced by a pastor from Grand Rapids, Michigan named Rob Bell. The videos are cool, I promise. Rob Bell is so hip, clergy didn't want him to be a pastor – thought he would ruin our image.

As we approach Holy Week, we'll have a "Jesus Movie" night. The details aren't worked out yet, but we'll have a few Jesus movies to choose from, you'll go to the house that is showing the movie you want to see, and then we'll watch movies. Popcorn will be required, of course. We'll have an age appropriate option for people with young children, like me.

We'll eat, we'll pray, we'll talk and spend time together, and we'll watch movies! Lent is coming, bring it on!

Our Midweek Lenten Schedule is as follows:

February 17th – Ash Wednesday worship, 7:00p.m. at Cong.UCC in Mineral Point

February 24 - Potluck followed by a "Wow, I Can't Believe this is Church!" Nooma video selection , 6:00p.m. at Cong. UCC in Mineral Point

March 3 – Potluck/Nooma, 6:00p.m. at Cong. UCC in Mineral Point

March 10 – Potluck/Nooma 6:00p.m. at Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville

March 17 – Special St. Patrick's Day Going Green edition of the Potluck/Nooma 6:00p.m. at Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville

Week of March 24th – Jesus Movies! Locations, selections, dates and times to be announced.

April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00p.m. Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville

Interested in officially joining the church?

Contact Pastor Todd tslippert@mhtc.net or 987-2025

Who says Lent can't be fun?

Peace,

Pastor Todd

New Orleans in a Nutshell

As most of you know a group of twenty volunteers recently returned from a mission trip to New Orleans. We thought it important to convey a few thoughts on our accomplishments while there as well as bring you up to speed the status of future trips. In addition to this we would like to express our gratitude for the financial assistance, donation of vehicles, equipment and well wishes that so many provided to make this trip possible.

Our troupe was made up of seven women and thirteen men from a handful of churches as well as other area residents eager to pitch in. We were able to make substantial progress toward the completion of two houses. One house was in New Orleans' West Bank and the other in an area known as Gentilly. The work in the West Bank home owned by an unemployed school teacher, consisted mainly of painting. Flooring, trim, water & electric still need to be installed before Cheryl is able to move into her "new" home. The work in the Gentilly home was quite varied. A new laminate floor was laid, a great deal of headway was made toward completion of door installation, room trim, painting and staining. A porch was re-screened and painted as well as some exterior rehabilitation of windows and trim. Both homeowners were clearly extremely grateful for our help. As Cheryl stated, "I finally feel like I'll be coming home".

New Orleans continues to be a city challenged with infrastructure problems though progress is obvious. Streets are in great need of repair. A recent four day cold snap has wreaked havoc on plumbing throughout the state and frozen water mains burst throughout the region. A state of emergency was declared by Louisiana's Governor Bobby Jindell. Water flowed out of the street across from the Gentile home for the entire week we were there. New home construction is happening. I think we can all take solace in the fact that those new homes are being built to new standards, which include elevated levels more capable of enduring water levels that are typical of hurricanes.

The continuation of future efforts like ours is in question at this point. The only certain thing is that the UCC's South Central Disaster response effort has funding in place for another year. Efforts by several other denominations have already discontinued or are winding down as we speak. Aid for such rebuilding will primarily come from the federal level in the future according to Alan Coe, the UCC's response coordinator in New Orleans. That does not mean missions like ours must grind to a halt. In a sense we were proving the value of faith based work during our week's stay. The current presidential administration is monitoring such efforts in order to evaluate the possibility of continuing them.

Almost as soon as we started our week we were discussing ramping up our efforts next year knowing that it could be our last chance to work under the programs current construct. We are considering two trips for next year and encourage all who would like to participate to think about when you are available. A longer fundraising period and more flexibility in trip timing should open the door for more folks to join the effort. We haven't quite tallied all the cost of this most recent trip, but we are certain that extra funds will be available, which we are likely to pass to the Haitian relief effort.

Once again thanks to all for their generosity. It was a week well worth while and we look forward to future journey's . Thanks, The NO Mission Team.

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting January 2010

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting

Date: January 6, 2010

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

Also Present: Marla Martin

- Nancy Schmit called the meeting to order.
- Todd gave the opening prayer.

Financial Report and Bills Payable

Marla presented the financial report and the bills payable. The council reviewed each report. Lisa moved and Jim seconded a motion to accept the bills payable. Lisa moved and Karen seconded a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was approved unanimously. Marla informed us of a recent donation to our church. Nancy will send a Thank You note.

December council minutes were reviewed. Kandy moved to accept the minutes. Fritz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- Todd commented on the energy in the congregation through Advent including the Sunday School Christmas program.
- He is taking a vacation December 29 - January 3.
- The next yoking meeting is January 14 at 7 p.m. in Dodgeville.
- Todd is beginning to work on Lenten activities, perhaps Lent at the movies.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

Fritz reported that Matt McKuen will take care of the snow for us. Greg reported the awning on the east side has a huge dent, probably as a result of ice falling from the roof. The construction of the awning is not in jeopardy. We will wait until spring to take a closer look. Greg dropped the chandelier to the floor and replaced the light bulbs. There are some loose tiles in the kitchen; Fritz will ask Mark to repair them. (Update: We heard Mark did an excellent job, and he may be asked to fix just a couple more.) Fritz submitted the report for the Annual Meeting.

Mission/Partnership

In addition to all our Christmas Benevolences, Dick, Phil, and Theresa delivered 7 food baskets. Check out the Mission/Partnership column in the Newsletter for their activities.

Worship Committee

Did not meet in December.

Continued next page...

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

Christian Education reported by Karen Tennessen
Karen turned in her update for the Annual Report.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit
The Finance Committee did not meet.

Membership/Fellowship
Did not meet.

Other Business

- We approved the Pleasantview 4-H Club to hold their monthly meeting in the church basement. Group Leaders and members are part of our church family.
- Nancy covered the constitution changes that will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- We will hold a beef luncheon after the Annual Meeting.

Our Next Council Meeting is February 10 at 7:30
Fritz moved to adjourn the meeting, Greg seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Schmit

Beginning Balance	23,129.67
Income	95,929.23
Expenses	57,733.71
Ending Balance	73,355.19

Visiting Card List

Mae Kinsman
Sienna Crest Asst Living
210 Copper St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-7456
Merton & Alice Baker

975 N 5th Ave #107
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

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

Food Pantry:

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

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Childcare provided	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 6:30 pm Fi- nance/MP 7:30pm Council	11	12	13 Pasty Sale
14 6:30 pm Youth Group meeting	15	16	17 Ash Wed Ser- vice 7pm MO	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Lenten Potluck 6pm @ MP	25	26	27
28						

Ushers & greeters

7	Dan Ivey	Bruce Ivey	Deb Ivey	Dick Ivey
14	Sandy Weitzel	Marvin Hanson	Phyllis Hanson	
21	Nancy Schmit	Tom Schmit	Chris Heins	
28	Duane Fitzsimmons	Barb Fitzsimmons	Maxine Tibbits	

Lay Readers

7	Nancy Schmit
14	Phil Crawford
21	Chuck Tennesen
28	Chuck Steudel

You are welcome here

Phone: 608-987-2025
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Website: www.mpucc.com

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



CUCC- MP Staff

Pastor

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert
office 987-2025
home 935-0001
Email tslippert@mhtc.net

Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
Office 987-2025
Email mpucc@gmail.com

Maintenance

Don Huxtable
Council Chair
Greg Wilson

Pasty Sale

Thank you to everyone who worked at the January pasty sale and to those who purchased pasties. We are very grateful to the many youth group members who helped since our church work crew was smaller than normal.

The next pasty sales are scheduled for February 13 and March 13. Your standing order will be in effect unless you call Heather at 987-2025 (mpucchrist@gmail.com) or Deb at 987-3597 to change your order. Please mark your calendars and make plans to pick up your pasties before 10 am on the 13th.

Workers are needed for the February pasty sale. Workers are welcome at any time between 5 am and 9 am on Saturday. Even if you have never worked before, we will find a job for you. Contact Deb Ivey at 987-3597 and let her know if you can help. There is also a sign up sheet at the church.

Thank you,
Karen Tennessen and Deb Ivey; Pasty Sale Organizers