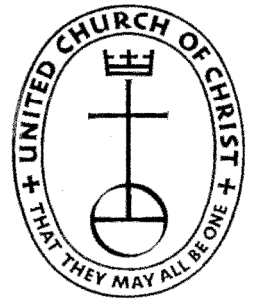


the Pilgrim Visitor

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

September 2010
www.mpucc.com



From the Pastor:

I've given a brief sabbatical report to both councils, and I want to do the same for you. First, I want to thank you again for the gift of time. It was a time of rest, study, and new insight.

I did some things and I didn't do some things. What I didn't do was write or deliver any sermons (cue "Hallelujah Chorus"). I needed this break, and I have some new energy for this central part of my ministry.

What I did do was visit 6 churches in 5 different states - Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Harmony Bible church in Danville, IA, MarsHill in Grand Rapids, MI, Solomon's Porch in Minneapolis, MN, House of Mercy in St. Paul, MN and Countryside UCC in Omaha, NE. All do church well, all do church differently. Holy Wisdom Monastery is a modified Catholic Mass that has become a refuge for frustrated Catholics, plus they have an extraordinary ecological mission that flows naturally from their faith. Harmony Bible church is a rural Bible church that draws 700-1000 people to worship. People drive from the city (Burlington, IA) out to the country for worship. MarsHill is the church of Rob Bell, of Nooma Video fame. Worship there felt like a rock concert. Solomon's Porch is led by Doug Pagitt who led a young clergy retreat I helped organize. Their worship space was filled with couches and chairs and felt like a cross between a coffee shop and a church youth room for adults. House of Mercy is a new church start that filled the sanctuary of an old Lutheran church. There were 200 people there on a Sunday night in July, and it felt the most like a community of any church I visited. Their music sounded like the Johnny Cash band. We sang "washed in the blood" gospel tunes. It was one of the weirdest church experiences I've ever had, and it completely fit that place. Countryside had a traditional service followed by a Jazz Service, and they were going to be starting a more experimental service at 5:00p.m.

All the services combined good music with good preaching, but each church had a distinct culture and feel. What I was able to see clearly is that churches reflect the personalities of their leaders, and their particular history as congregations. All of the churches were experimenting with the style of worship - only one collected an offering during the service, only one had a children's sermon, only one of three in a liturgical tradition read more than one scripture passage, announcements were done differently everywhere.

What I took from these visits is that worship can be done well in a variety of ways. Variety, creativity, and innovation will be key. We're coming from a time when the church has duplicated one way of being church in many different places. This is what denominations have done best, and it's why any Lutheran church feels Lutheran and any Episcopal church feels Episcopalian.

Continued on pg 2...

From the Pastor continued...

We're moving toward a time where individual congregations will be more and more unique. Fewer models will be replicated and more innovation will be happening to fit the needs of particular people in particular places. This is a trend of our time and can be seen in other institutions as well, education is a good example. Think about how charter schools and alternative schools and homeschooling are adding variety, meeting unmet needs, and encouraging reform.

Our task remains the same: to ask a simple question and respond to it as energetically as we can. The question is, "who is God calling us to be as a church?" I think two answers are emerging at our two congregations. In Mineral Point, we are known in the community as the church that serves youth. We provide life changing experiences through the high school youth group, we have renewed energy and success in the Sunday School program, and there's an ecumenical choir concert every year. In Dodgeville, we are known in the community as the peace and justice church. We've hosted forums and conversations on justice issues, members are heavily involved in volunteering at the Free Clinic, and there's new energy being directed toward serving the local Hispanic community. There are places where these identities overlap, of course. Mineral Point has had a strong commitment to the New Orleans trips, and Congregational UCC also has a strong mission committee. Meanwhile, Plymouth has been doing Sunday school differently, but well, on a small scale, and the Family Resource center is using space in the building. Also, a few members of both churches are working with Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin to hold a series of forums on the issues facing youth in our communities.

I believe the Spirit is calling us to throw our energy in these directions. Let's be the church that serves youth and children. Let's be the justice and mission church. And let's look for places where we can work together on these issues as churches. This energy will provide the seeds of revitalization. If we allow these identities to become central, unique and distinct ways for being church will emerge for us too.

May God continue to bless and continue to renew our ministries as churches.

Pastor Todd

Confirmation

Confirmation will be beginning soon. All middle school age students (ages 11-14) are welcome. We will plan on a meeting with parents and students October 6th at 7:00p.m. at Congregational UCC in Mineral Point. Classes will begin Wednesday October 13 at 7:00p.m. and will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00p.m. throughout the year. I'll be mailing more information to students and their parents soon.

Pastor Todd

Council Minutes Date: August 17, 2010

Members Present: Nancy Schmit, Todd Smith-Lippert, Greg Wilson, Karen Tennesen, Kandy Keuler, Fritz Aschli-
man, and Lisa Howard Also Present: Marla Martin

Absent: Jim Bennett, Chuck Steudel

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

Financial Report

Marla presented the financial report. Income for the month of July was \$4,543.92. July expenses were \$7,787.28. Kandy made the motion to accept the financial report. Karen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Bills Payable

The Bills payable report shows \$6,930.03. Lisa made the motion to pay the bills. Kandy seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

July Council Minutes

The July council minutes were reviewed. Lisa moved to accept the minutes. Kandy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Todd shared with the council some of the activities he did while on his sabbatical. See Todd's article in the newsletter.

Confirmation will be held this year for middle school grades 6-8 on Wednesday evenings. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6 with parents and the confirmands.

Todd reminded all of us that our Worship time will be changing to 9:00am starting September 12.

Building and Grounds reported by Fritz Aschliman

Continued discussion on the flower garden. On September 18, volunteers will be needed to help work on repairs.

Mission/Partnership reported by Karen Tennesen

Check out the Mission/Partnership column in the newsletter.

Worship Committee reported by Nancy Schmit

Did not meet in July.

Religious Education reported by Karen Tennesen

Bible Camp was a huge success. Fun was had by all.

The first day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, September 12 starting at 9:00am.

Sunday School will be held during the worship service stating right after the children's message.

Membership/Partnership

Did not meet in July.

Kandy will create a coffee fellowship sign up poster to hang in the chapel.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit

The committee has started working on the 2010 Stewardship Packets.

Other Business

- Our first pasty sale of the season will begin on Saturday, September 11. We can use lots of help making pasties.
- The Harvest Auction is being held on Wednesday, October 20. The Youth Group will start serving dinner at 5:00pm and the Auction will start at 6:30pm.
- The Beef Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 9.

Our next Council Meeting is Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30pm
Fritz made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Kandy seconding
the motion.

Beginning Balance:	\$67,019.50
Income:	4,543.92
Expenses:	7,787.28
Ending Balance:	\$63,776.14

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Howard

Bills Payable:	\$6,930.03
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Mission/Partnership Notes

Partnership: There is a travel opportunity in development for 2011 with the UEK partners, details will follow as they develop.

There will be a German Choir visiting in September, hosted by the Wisconsin Conference, see announcement elsewhere in the newsletter, the nearest stop will be Swiss UCC/NewGlarus on Sept 22nd.

Iowa County Food Pantry, our collection basket continues to be located in the Chapel, We will be placing a focus on collection in October with the Sunday School, watch for details.

Habitat for Humanity: A current project is underway by the Lower Wisconsin River group in Lone Rock doing a rehab on a dwelling that had been damaged in the Spring Green flood. We recently made a \$50 donation that will be matched by another party.

Neighbors in Need: This special offering of the UCC will be received on October 3rd. This special collection supports the Justice and Compassion ministries of the UCC.

Pakistan Relief: Continued Prayers for the people of Pakistan are needed, also disaster relief for the extensive flooding is needed. Gifts for relief may be earmarked and placed in the offering or forwarded to Marla. In addition to Wider Church Ministries, Church World Service is in need of baby and hygiene kits. Announcement will be made at Worship.

Fair Trade / Equal Exchange: Thank you for continued support with your purchase of Equal Exchange products, particularly, coffees. If you have a special request for beans or ground coffee, or questions about other products, please contact Dick J.

Concert Venues – German Choir

Date	Concert Venue	Contact	Date	Concert Venue	Contact
Sun Sept 19	Our Savior's UCC Ripon	Rev. Mark West revmark@charter.net 343 Scott St. Ripon WI 54971-1546	Sat Sept. 25	First Congrega- tional UCC Waukesha	Rev. Deb Howland fcw.pastor@gmail.com 100 E. Broadway Waukesha, WI 53186-5009
Sun Sept 19	Grace UCC Wausau	Rev. Wayne Drucek wayne-graceucc@verizon.net 535 S. Third Ave. Wausau, WI 54401-4608	Sunday Sept. 26	Grace UCC Milwaukee	Rev. Wanda Washington revgrace4920@sbcglobal.net 4920 Sherman Blvd Milwaukee, WI 53209
Mon Sept 20	St. Stephen's UCC Merrill	Rev. Scott Hawker pastor-hawker@verizon.net 903 East 2nd Street Merrill, WI 54452	Sunday Sept. 26	First Congrega- tional UCC Sheboygan	Rev. James Hollister jim@fccsheboygan.org 310 Bluff Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53081-2872
Wed Sept 22	Swiss UCC New Glarus	Rev. Bill Wineke RevBill-Wineke@swisschurch.org Swiss UCC P.O. Box 97 New Glarus, WI 53574-0097	Mon Sept. 27	Grace UCC Two Rivers	Rev. Kim M. Henning khenning@lakefield.net 2801 Garfield St. Two Rivers, WI 54241
Friday Sept 24	Calvary Me- morial UCC Wauwatosa	Rev. Lori Wenzel lor-wenzel@yahoo.com 4515 N. Mayfair Road Wauwatosa, WI	Tues Sept. 28	The Cedar Com- munity	Rev. Susan Kolb skolb@cedarcommunity.org 5595 County Road Z West Bend, WI 53095

Reader Schedule

Please be sure to make note of which Sunday you are scheduled. If you find that you have a conflict, please let Heather know (987-2025) or mpucchrist@gmail.com

Sept

- 5 Chuck Steudel
12 Phil Crawford
19 Nancy Schmit
26 Holly Allen

Oct

- 3 Linda Griffiths
10 Chuck Tennessen
17 Greg Wilson
24 Nancy Schmit
31 Karen Tennessen

Usher Schedule

Sept

*5	Nancy Schmit	Tom Schmit	Chris Heins	Dan Ivey
	Karen	Chuck	Jessie	
12	Tennessen	Tennessen	Potterton	
	Linda	Mary Sue	Fritz	
19	Griffiths	Radtke	Aschlimann	
	Warren			
26	Howard	Lisa Howard	Greg Wilson	

Octo-ber

3	Dorothy Noble	Phil Crawford	Karen Crawford
	Bill	Lois	
10	Buckingham	Buckingham	Mary Sue Radtke
	Marvin	Phyllis	
17	Hanson	Hanson	Maxine Tibbits
24	Dan Ivey	Bruce Ivey	Deb Ivey
	Phyllis	Duane	Barb
31	Bennett	Fitzsimmons	Fitzsimmons

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

Prayers Requested

Patty Johnston's son, Jerry, is recovering at home after going through stem cell treatment. There is also a caring bridge link:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerryjohnston/journal

Bob & Evelyn Ivey
Bloomfield
Dodgeville, WI 53533

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

Pasty Sales

Our first sale will be September 11. Please check and/or change your standing order for this year on the sheets in the chapel. We will need your help in making the pasties, so remember to sign up for your favorite pasty work station. It takes about 30 people each shift so your help is most appreciated. On Friday, Sept. 10, we need help with making the crust and peeling potatoes around 8:00. Call Karen Tennessen 987-3835 or Deb Ivey 987-3597 with orders or questions.

Harvest Auction October 20

5:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Auction.
While you are getting your garden done, and making jam, jellies, or breads, make a couple extra for the Harvest Auction.

Food Pantry:

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

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10:30	6	7 5:30 pm Worship Committee	8 7:30 pm Council	9	10	11 Pasty Sale
12 Worship & Sunday School 9:00 am	13	14	15	16	17	18 Garden Work Day
19 Worship & Sunday School 9:00 am	20	21	22	23	24 Alumni Pasty Luncheon	25
26 Worship & Sunday School 9:00 am	27	28 Yoke Council Meeting 7:30pm	29	30		

Ushers & greeters

*5	Nancy Schmit	Tom Schmit	Chris Heins	Dan Ivey
12	Karen Tennessen	Chuck Tennessen	Jessie Potterton	
19	Linda Griffiths	Mary Sue Radtke	Fritz Aschlimann	
26	Warren Howard	Lisa Howard	Greg Wilson	

Lay Readers

5	Chuck Steudel
12	Phil Crawford
19	Nancy Schmit
26	Holly Allen

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



MPCUCC Staff

Pastor

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

Maintenance

Don Huxtable

Council Chair

Greg Wilson

Please Contact Us

If you, or another member of the congregation is in the hospital, or is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office or notify Pastor Todd – 341-8931. Thank you.

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.

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