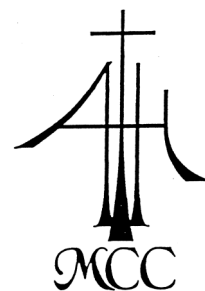


Madison Christian Community is an Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA and Community of Hope – UCC
608-836-1455
7118 Old Sauk Rd, Madison WI 53717



The Good Word

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10 this year. This (approximately) 40 day season is a time for spiritual “spring cleaning,” for focus and renewal. The traditional “disciplines” of Lent are prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and repentance. Besides extra midweek worship and community-building together, Pastor Sonja and I want to let you know a bit of what we’re up to and invite you into the observance of Lent with us.

Ministries in the Holy Land—and particularly our connections with Lutherans—have become very important to me in past years, and a major focus of my Lenten practice has been supporting the Poor Fund at Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. (On a tour scheduled for late October, I hope to share these ministries and sites with you firsthand!) I was passionate to give donations, knowing that those funds provided both essential medical care otherwise unavailable for Palestinians, while also fostering efforts for justice amid the occupation.

This year, as I’m beginning among you at MCC, I will continue that past effort, even as I’m exploring ways you have been committed to works of charity and almsgiving for those around you. I’m excited that already this week, Pastor Sonja and I get to visit the Food Pantry at the Lussier Center with our confirmation class. I’ve seen Treasury of Love and Harvest of Hope checks come in and know what they can accomplish. I’m excited we host Just Bakery. I’m eager to learn more about Haiti Allies. So much good stuff! I’m grateful, then, for devotion and discipline of the season of Lent to reinvigorate my (and our) benevolent giving.
Pastor Nick

Among the many books I brought with me to Madison are family Bibles from three generations. They are worn and shabby, clearly as well-loved as the Velveteen Rabbit. Although I’ve had these books for a few years now, they’ve just sat on a shelf. For some reason they drew my attention when I took them out of the moving box. I noticed a motto on the presentation page of what must have been my dad’s confirmation Bible from 1944: “Jesus Never Fails.” I can see that motto alive in him over seventy years later, deeper even than his dementia. That piqued my curiosity. What Word communicated by our spiritual ancestors through scripture caught the attention of my biological ancestors? How was this mirrored in their witness of faith? What about me? What passages are my “go to” reading? How have these impacted my own witness of faith?

I feel called to pick up this line of reflection as a spiritual practice during Lent. I plan to spend time poking through these family Bibles, looking at what’s underlined and dog-eared, and hanging out with God around these questions.

The season of Lent is a great opportunity to focus attention and intention on our journey with the Holy. What spiritual practice is calling to you? Whatever it may be, Pastor Nick and I encourage you to accept its invitation and see where the road leads.

Blessings,
Pastor Sonja

February 2016

Of Special Interest:

- Palestinian Pastor, Israeli Journalist Share 2015 Palme Peace Prize; Thank you to the MCC Gardeners [p.2](#)
- MALC Celebrates 45 Years of Service; MCC Choir; Cancellation Policy [p.3](#)
- Drop-In Shelter; The Road Home; ON Wednesdays in Lent; New Way to Serve: MCC Greeter [p.4](#)
- MCC Community Group; MCC Parent Hour; MCC GEMS; MCC Coffee Klatschers [p.5](#)
- MCC Film Group; JAVA for Justice; Lussier Food Pantry; MCC PURLS; MCC Inspire; Meditation Monday [p.6](#)
- Join a Yahara 2070 Discussion Circle; Is Your Name Tag Missing?; Pheasant Branch Conservancy Phonology Calendars available [p.7](#).
- Refugee Resettlement Opportunities from Jackie Muehl; [p.8](#)
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- [Coming Events: February–May](#) [p.15](#)

Pastor Nick Utphall
Advent Pastor
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MCC News

Rev. Mitri Raheb is pastor at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, and this is quite an honor! It will also help him to continue his work for peace. We (Joyce L. Anderson and Susan Gruber) had the privilege to worship and talk with him on our recent trip to Palestine.

From: Blake Rohrer <blaker@midvalelutheran.org>

Subject: Mitri Raheb wins Olof Palme Prize

Date: January 19, 2016 at 2:45:08 PM CST

Here is the press release about the prize that Pastor Mitri received. A great commendation for his work and life!

Palestinian Pastor, Israeli Journalist Share 2015 Palme Peace Prize

The 2015 Olof Palme Prize is awarded to the Palestinian Pastor Dr. Mitri Raheb, and the Israeli journalist Gideon Levy, for their courageous and indefatigable fight against occupation and violence, and for a future Middle East characterized by peaceful coexistence and equality for all. By their work they both give a ray of hope to a conflict that has plagued and continues to plague millions of people and to endanger world peace.

As Pastor in the Lutheran church, Mitri Raheb sends a clear message to the young generation of Palestinians: "We want you to live, not die, for Palestine." In a Bethlehem confined on three sides by the walls of the occupying Israeli power, and with Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture that he founded and his innovative artistic education in film, art, and drama, Raheb has made it possible for young people to investigate their Palestinian identity, to nurture beauty, and to invest in a culture of life as tools for a creative resistance against suffocating confinement and towards nation building.

Gideon Levy is working for peace and reconciliation by means of a passionate search for truth and a fearless faith in the victory of reason in a region infested by prejudice and violence, propaganda and disinformation. With parents who were forced to emigrate from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, and as a true patriot, he has made reconciliation with the Palestinian people the mission of his life. Constantly criticized, and having his life threatened, Levy wants to remind us of Israel's moral blindness to the consequences of war and occupation, which he sees as a danger to Israel itself.

The prize, worth US\$75,000, was created in 1987 in memory of late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who was assassinated in 1986. Award ceremony is scheduled Jan. 29 in Stockholm. Both winners are expected to attend.

Dear MCC Gardeners,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful produce you donate to the Food From Friends program at Lussier! We are so grateful for your support and families really appreciate the fresh and healthy items. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks! Rachel, Annie, Linda and the LCEC Staff.

Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity

Internet Link Back to

[Of Special Interest:](#)

MCC News

The Madison Area Lutheran Council Celebrates 45 Years of Service

The Madison Area Lutheran Council, also known as MALC, began providing chaplain services to the Dane County Jail in 1970. Over the past 45 years the Jail Ministry Program has grown in both scope and size. When the MALC Jail Ministry Program was first established, a part-time volunteer chaplain was serving a population of approximately 100 men and women. Today, more than 800 people serve time each day in Dane County Jail. MALC serves the needs of this ever-growing population through paid two chaplains (both part-time), a Secretary, and a Volunteer Coordinator.

Julia Weaver and Christa Fisher are the MALC Chaplains. They are the pastors of the Dane County Jail. Chaplains Julia and Christa care for the spiritual needs of incarcerated men and women through one-on-one spiritual care, support groups, worship services and the distribution of Bibles and journals. They also care for the families of the incarcerated, the men and women who work in the Dane County Jail, and they serve as spiritual touchstones for people after release.

MALC's Secretary, Penny Duane, manages the MALC financial records, keeps minutes of all MALC Board Meetings, and coordinates MALC's correspondence. Additionally, Penny has served MALC for four years and brings with her a wealth of institutional knowledge. Christa Fisher also serves as the Volunteer Coordinator. In this role she supports the many volunteers working in the jail as well as MALC's Congregational Liaisons. More than 200 people serve as volunteers in the jail each year. Through their service, incarcerated men and women have opportunities to participate in Bible studies, addiction recovery programs, life-skills training, and literacy tutoring among other things.

The services MALC provides are essential to an individual's recovery process. From one-on-one Spiritual Care to warm clean socks, literacy training and addiction recovery, MALC is prioritizing the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our community. To learn more about MALC, including how you can help support this important ministry, please visit the MALC website at (madisonjailministry.org).

MCC Choir

Attention singers—regulars and newbies!

We are gathering a choir to sing during the shared MCC worship on February 14—when we will celebrate and welcome as a whole community the arrival of our new pastors!

Rehearsal Schedule:

Sunday, February 7 11:30 am—12:30 pm

Sunday, February 14 8:45-9:15 am ; Sing during worship

Please plan to attend all rehearsals.

Cancellations at MCC

You will be able to find cancellation notices on our website or by calling the church for a cancellation message after 8 am on the day in question.

Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep
spirituality and
generosity

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Interest:](#)

MCC News

Guiding Principle:

Work in
environmentally
responsible ways

DROP-IN SHELTER in February 5

On Friday, February 5, from 5:00 - 8:00 am, the volunteers are Linda and Chuck Pils, Dorothy Brar, Ken Johnson and Ken Streit. Please call Ken Streit at 231-1525, to volunteer with this ministry.

The Road Home Week is Feb 14-20

The Road Home is a partnering of local religious groups to shelter 4-5 homeless families while they receive support to find homes. MCC is a "buddy church" to the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ which hosts the families four weeks a year. MCC is responsible for the nights of February 15 and 17. During these nights we need cooks to buy, make, and serve dinner for the families, activity hosts to play with the kids, shoppers to shop for breakfast/lunch/baby supplies, and overnight hosts to spend the night at ORUCC. Beth Campbell and John Malecki are coordinators for the MCC commitment. One of them is present for the evening and will provide you information about the number and ages of the families you might be feeding, playing with, or otherwise helping. Signup sheets will be in the Shalom Room or you can contact Beth Campbell (824-0646) or John Malecki (jkmalecki@tds.net).

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On Wednesdays! - Lenten Edition, beginning February 17

Wednesday evenings in Lent we will gather for a simple meal and a reflective worship service for all ages. The service is based on "Hidden With Christ," written by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, who wrote the unofficial MCC theme song "Sharing the Road."

The meal will begin at 5:30 pm, and we invite those who are able to show up a few minutes early to help set up tables and chairs. Our shared meal will lead into the service, which will conclude by 7 pm. The service will include a time for conversation, meditation, and a children's activity, creating some of the same feeling of the ON Wednesdays we enjoyed this past summer.

Check this out: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E044FA5AA2DA31-soup

Recipes will be available, as will reimbursement from a freewill offering.

We look forward to this journey with you!

New Way to Serve! – MCC Community Hosts

Whether they've arrived to meet a friend, come looking for Advent or Hope in particular, or simply stepped in to visit a church that seemed friendly, visitors often need some help navigating the Shalom room on Sunday mornings. Greeting visitors unfamiliar with the MCC offers us a chance to practice hospitality and share one of the benefits of our unique partnership—the variety of worship opportunities available. The MCC worship committees would like to invite members of both Hope and Advent to consider serving as community hosts on Sunday mornings this year. Your job would be to linger near the front door for the 15-20 minutes before services start and help visitors find where they're going, choose a service to attend, or even learn a little bit about the MCC. We're especially looking for volunteers who can speak to the spirit of both congregations and the partnership between us when the opportunity arises. If you are interested in being an MCC Greeter but did not sign up on the Time and Talent form please call the church office (836-1455) and Sonja (skb) can add your name to that list.

MCC News

MCC Community Group—Sunday, February 17

"Chocolate: The Bitter & the Sweet" at Bolz Conservatory, Olbrich Gardens on Wednesday, February 17 — come along with Community Group, all are welcome. Carpool from the MCC at 10:00 a.m.

MCC Parent Hour – February 7, 9:00 am-10:00 am Meet in the Preschool Area

Animated, organic conversations about our faith, and the challenges of raising children. Attendees are invited to bring topics of interest. Thought provoking DVDs will also be utilized. Discussions will focus on the role we all play as adults in helping our youth (and each other!) on their faith journeys. All are welcome, as all share in this responsibility! Hosted by: Ellen Lindgren & Arden Mahlberg

MCC G.E.M.S. (Grumpy Elderly Men)

Members are retired, but not necessarily grumpy or elderly. They meet at MCC on Tuesdays at 10:30 am to discuss books chosen by the group. The current read is by **Eric Hoffer** (25 July 1902 – 21 May 1983) who was an American writer on social and political philosophy. His first book, *The True Believer: Thoughts On The Nature Of Mass Movements* (1951) is widely recognized as a classic on mass-movements and the psychological roots of fanaticism. Despite rising to fame with the success and popularity of his writings, he continued to work as a longshoreman until retiring at age 65. Contact Jim Eastman (298-7155).

LOOKING FOR MCC COFFEE KLATSCH MEMBERS

What is a coffee klatsch? “A social occasion where people have conversations about unimportant things.” OR “A social gathering for informal conversation where coffee is served.” OR “A casual social gathering for coffee and conversation.”

Common themes abound: it is social, informal, interactive and coffee is the prize. The MCC Personnel committee and Leadership Team have decided to have volunteers make coffee. We are looking for 8-10 members to start the coffee at 8:30 AM on Sunday and clean up following the services. You will be given instructions on how to brew the coffee. A schedule will be maintained and shared with members making coffee.

This is a great opportunity for groups, families or a couple of friends to “Klatsch” and catch up. If you are interested, please contact Jean Einerson. ainerward@tds.net
831-8394



Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections

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MCC News

MCC Film Group Schedule—February 19, 7:00 pm

We will watch *My Afternoon with Margarite*, a delightful story when an illiterate laborer meets an elegant elderly lady in a park and strikes up a conversation. A deepening friendship develops. Bring a snack to share. Komai's are hosting at 625 Hilltop Drive. Call or email Lois if you plan to come: 238-2503; lois.komai@gmail.com.

JAVA for JUSTICE — Place your coffee order by **February 7**. Your order will be ready for pick-up the second Sunday of the month. Coffee can be purchased in 12 oz. (\$10) or 4 lb. (\$45) bags; regular or decaf; bean, drip or perk. Make your checks payable to **Mt. Meru Coffee Project** and place them in the envelope by the sign-up sheet in the Shalom Room on the Coffee Table. Your support remains the sustaining force in the lives of many coffee-farming families in Tanzania. Thanks for your continued support, Susan Gruber.

Food Drive for Lussier Food Pantry—Sunday February 7

Please remember to make a special effort to bring food for the pantry and place it in the basket located by the guestbook table. Suggested items include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew, fruit juice, etc.), also peanut butter, jelly, and cereal. We also need large paper grocery bags.

Please do not put pet food in with donations for the Lussier Food Pantry.

We do not have facilities to handle fresh produce. For those who prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to the Lussier Community Education Center, designated for the pantry. Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

MCC Purls meets the third Tuesday of the month, February 18 at 10:30 am, at MCC

We welcome anyone interested in this ministry, experienced knitter or crocheter or beginner or those in-between. We make prayer shawls, hats, mittens, scarves and headbands.

We are accepting any yarn you care to donate. Please mark your bags "PURLS" and leave by the guestbook table. If you have any questions about our group, please call Virginia Stumbo, 695-2266.

Inspire Thursday, February 11 @ 8 pm, at Alyssa Sellwood's

This is an evening group for MCC women who seek to inspire and be inspired. We share deep fellowship that is rooted in deepening our faith. We take turns bringing a topic of discussion and may read a brief article or passage ahead of time. We meet the 2nd Thursdays at 8 pm. Contact: Kaisa Miller at (kaisaumiller@gmail.com).

Meditation Monday for MCC Friends

Begin your week with balance and peace of mind. We welcome all who'd like to join us in the Covenant Room, 5:30-6:30 pm each Monday. We begin by listening to a brief "dharma talk" that explores different aspects of a meditation practice, then sit in mindfulness for about 20 minutes. Afterwards we may talk about our experiences (or not). Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pillow(s) or blanket. Namaste! Contacts: Mary Schmelzer and Bob Sessions.

Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

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MCC News

You Are Invited to Join a Yahara 2070 Discussion Circle

What's your vision of a positive future for water and people in our community?

We are seeking participants for a unique opportunity that focuses on this very question.

Madison Christian Community is working with the Water Sustainability and Climate Project at UW-Madison to help them pilot a discussion guide that facilitates conversations about the future, the development of a shared vision for the future, and a plan for realizing that vision.

The ultimate goal of this discussion guide is to support or catalyze efforts among groups like ours to help build a desirable future for our region and its communities.

If you are interested in participating in the discussion circle, please contact Jenny Seifert, science writer/outreach coordinator for the Water Sustainability and Climate project, via email at jseifert2@wisc.edu or phone at 608-890-2137. She will provide you with more details on what participating will entail. Learn more about her project at <https://wsc.limnology.wisc.edu/>.

Guiding Principle:

Engage one another, neighbors, and the wider world in action to improve people's lives

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Is Your Name Tag Missing?

As we welcome two new pastors to our community, they would appreciate our effort to wear our name tags as they will be making an effort to get to know each of us. So please be sure you have a name tag. If you need a replacement name tag, Sonja (the Administrative Secretary) would like to print you a new one.

Pick up your Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Phonology Calendar They are on the coffee order table in the Slalom Room. Make your check out to FoPBC for \$10.00. Place it in the envelope next to the calendars. Enjoy seeing what to expect in nature each month and record what you observe. A great way to keep track of the seasons.

The Good Word—*Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community*

Next Issue: **March 2016**
Articles Due: February 20 to the church office
 Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg
 Newsletter Proofing: Mary Rowe

MCC News

Refugee Resettlement Opportunities

The MCC has supported refugee resettlement many times in the past 3+ decades. Volunteers have not only donated material goods, but have also been mentors, advocates, and friends to people in these life-changing transitions. During the church year seasons of Advent and Epiphany, we are reminded that Jesus and his parents were refugees, as they were forced to flee to Egypt to protect the life of their child, remaining there until Herod's death. Jesus practiced radical inclusiveness and hospitality in his life and ministry, challenging his followers to do the same.

Recently, when Eileen B. and her family decided to donate many of her household possessions to LSS, a group of Advent members sorted, packed, and delivered furniture, lamps, linens and bedding, kitchen items, rugs, and cleaning equipment/supplies to apartments being prepared for refugees. Three families from Iraq gratefully received necessities and niceties from this 90 year old beloved, generous grandmother of Norwegian descent—with a lifelong appreciation for diversity and inclusion.

Right now as the world experiences unprecedented numbers of displaced, desperate people who need a place of safety and security, our faith community can respond with similar generosity. The need has never been greater—both in sheer numbers and because of misconceptions, fears, and controversy about refugees.

Madison has had a long tradition of welcoming and supporting refugees. Our city mobilizes human and material resources to enable them to find their place in our neighborhoods, schools, work places, and way of life. In turn, refugees have enriched our community by sharing their stories, their traditions, and their gifts of courage, determination, and resilience. During the past year, local LSS staff and volunteers have resettled refugees from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Iraq, and Hmong people living in camps in Thailand or Laos. Many have experienced trauma, deprivation, and years of delays.

The pace of resettlement in Madison has increased significantly in the past 4 months, and this trend is likely to continue. However, since there are people who are strongly opposed to resettling refugees in Wisconsin—in particular Muslims who come from Iraq, Afghanistan, or Syria—it is important to demonstrate that there is sustained support for welcoming them here.

We invite you to consider how the MCC—and you—might participate in resettlement. A good place to start is to read the enlightening and compelling online materials on the following link:

http://www.lsswis.org/LSS-Files/Refugee/Refugee_Resettlement_Info_Pack.pdf

Then stay tuned for the next steps in organizing a meaningful, mutually beneficial, and sustainable response at the MCC. The LSS Refugee Resettlement Task Force, of which I am a new member, will welcome and support us in this ministry.

Contact Jackie Muehl (231-2927) to volunteer and with any questions.

Guiding Principle:

Engage one another, neighbors, and the wider world in action to improve people's lives

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Sunday School News —from Jen Streit

We're off to a great start in 2016! In January, we learned about the Faith Practices of "Working for Justice" and "Keeping Sabbath." In February, we will learn about "Blessing and Letting Go" (forgiveness) and "Giving and Receiving Hospitality."

Keep signing up to be station leaders: Though the chart is looking much fuller, there are still MANY openings!

PARENTS, please note that children will be invited to sing during the shared worship celebration on Sunday, February 14.

Upcoming Family Events:

Sunday, February 14 12:30-3:30 pm Tobogganing at Lutherdale Camp, Elkhorn
\$5/person or \$15/family
includes pizza and hot chocolate

Saturday, March 12 5-8 pm Movie Night: *Inside Out*
\$5/person or \$15/family
includes giant sub sandwiches!

Sunday, April 24 after worship Earth Day Clean Up
BYO lunch

ALSO, now is the time to start thinking about Summer Family Camps!

Moon Beach, Lutherdale, & Sugar Creek have great Family Camp offerings that can accommodate most busy schedules.

Remember all those quarters! Here is what all those quarters did to help others.

5 Goats! (\$120 each)

1 Flock of Hope (chickens, ducks, or geese) (\$20 each)

2 Flocks of Chicks (\$20 each)

\$10 Where it is needed most!



MCC Youth News—from Lisa Johnsen

It is an exciting time for the Youth at MCC as Pastors Sonja and Nick arrive. An important component as we move forward will be purposeful involvement on the part of families. For example, the high school youth have expressed an interest in Social Hour continuing; so, there is an immediate need for parents/guardians to step into the role of chaperones. (Sunday morning from 9 – 10 am is not an easy time for pastors to be away from their churches.) If you would like to help chaperone the High School Social Hour or are willing help with other Youth events, please contact Karen Kuhn or Kristin Meyer. Also, if you are willing to make an extra effort to encourage youth to attend events in the next few months, it will greatly help the “getting to know you” process between the youth and the new pastors. Thank you!

Faithbook: Youth have questions, you have insights! Look for the notebook with a green cover on the end table in the cozy nook in the Shalom room. Feel free to write a response to one of the questions inside. Each month, the book is taken to the High School Social Hour to be shared. Current question: ***How do you know God is forgiving to you, or has forgiven you?***

Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

Internet Link-Back to

[Of Special Interest:](#)

Family Library Article (from the inside cover)

The book is *Accidental Saints, Finding God in All the Wrong People*, by author Nadia Bolz-Weber. Nadia is the founding pastor of **House for All Sinners and Saints** in Denver, Colorado. She is author of the New York Times best-selling memoir *Pastrix*. Nadia has been featured on CNN, the BBC World Service, and NPR's *Morning Edition*, and in the *Washington Post*, *Bitch Magazine*, *More Magazine*, and the *Daily Beast*.

In *Accidental Saints*, Nadia invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls “a religious but not-so-spiritual life.” Tattooed, angry, and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop, and a gun-toting member of the NRA.

As she lives and worships alongside these “accidental saints,” Nadia is swept into firsthand encounters with grace—a gift that often feels less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit by a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn't have been on their own.

In a time when many have rightly become disillusioned with Christianity, *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike.

Told in Nadia's trademark confessional style, *Accidental Saints* is the stunning next work from one of today's most important religious voices.

Note from David Keesey-Berg

The GEMS have begun reading and discussing this book and the initial impression has been very positive. Chapter five is particularly interesting to us because it describes the close friendship that developed between Nadia and our former Bishop Bruce Burnside. In chapter sixteen we hear of her contacts with our own Pastor Nick, who was a colleague of Bruce's at St. Stephen's Lutheran in Monona. If you get past her profanity, this is certainly a

Advent News

From the Wisconsin Council of Churches

Dear members of Advent Lutheran Church,
On behalf of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, let me express my thanks for your generous 2015 donation of \$1,000 towards the ministry of the Council.

Your support for the Wisconsin Council of Churches also enables us to be a voice for the voiceless as we seek to be faithful to Christ's calls to serve "the least of these, our brothers and sisters".

We know that in this coming year critical decisions will be made about the future direction of our state. The Council believes that those of us in the Christian community can play an important role in bringing the values of community and love of neighbor into the public square.

Thanks again for your gift!
Sincerely,
Rev. Scott Anderson. Executive Director

January 2016

Dear Reconciling in Christ Congregations,
May the peace of the Lord be with you during these Epiphany and (pre) Lenten seasons.

I am a longtime member of Luther Memorial Church (ELCA) in Madison, a published poet and a gay man.

It has been a dream of mine to edit and publish an anthology of poetry and short prose—even hymn stanzas to a well-known tune—written by LGBT people. There are anthologies written by people of faith in the Christian community, but few are by Lutherans and none that I know of by L members of ELCA churches.

My dream has reached the planning stages, and I ask your help. I seek women and men who belong to synods and parishes around the country who have written poetry or short prose and would like to share it. *The work can be LGBT or faith-themed or both.* If you know persons who have not written anything yet, but may be interested, please tell them their work is welcomed.

Potential contributors do not have to be LBGT themselves. Allies are most welcome and, indeed, would lend an element of pride to the collection. Pastoral perspectives, in fact, would be especially good.

As soon as I have enough contributors, I will circulate a synopsis among appropriate publishers. Such a collection could be used for congregational education, and maybe even in worship settings.

I would be grateful to receive names, addresses and/or email addresses in order to send a complete description of the project and submission details. At this stage, anonymity is respected and guaranteed.

Can you help me?

Lewis Bosworth
2829 Barlow Street
Madison WI 5.3705-3621
608-238-3648 lewisbosworth@gmail.com

Strategic

Directive:

Care of creation and help others to do so as well

Internet Link-Back to

[Of Special Interest:](#)

Advent News

Morning Bible Study—February 9

The MORNING BIBLE STUDY group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September through June, from 9:30-11 am, in the lower level at church. We call ourselves the Judiths and we are a friendly group of around 8-10 women who enjoy stimulating discussion, a good cup of coffee and getting to know other MCC women better.

Contact Person: Jean Loichinger 836-1791

Afternoon Bible Study—February 12

The second Friday of the month throughout the year, 1:30 - 3:30 pm at Oakwood West Campus (aka University Woods), the Elizabeth circle of women share a Bible study from "Gather" magazine, support one another, and financially assist projects in and out of the MCC. Contact person: Margaret Smith 231-1496

Third Thursday Women's Lunch Bunch—February 18

Please contact Jan Robertson (833-6312) with any questions. The group meets at the Prairie Café, 3109 Pheasant Branch Rd., Middleton, at 11:30 am.

OPALS Book Discussion Group—February 23, 1:30 pm

OPALS meets the fourth Tuesday each month at MCC. The February book is *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. The book is subtitled "Medicine and What Matters in the End". Doctors want quality of life for patients, and the author, a surgeon, offers more socially fulfilling models.

Advent Women Thursday Breakfast

Advent women are invited for coffee each Thursday at 7:00 am at **Panera Bread at 3461 University Ave.** The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by when your schedule allows!

Monday Men's Breakfast Group, 7:15 am at "**Shannon Sunset Lounge**"—the entrance to the Union Theater overlooking Lake Mendota. In the summer we meet on the Union Terrace. Good conversation, friendship, laughter and support. Contact: Ken Streit, 231-1525.

Advent Treasury of Love 2016

Love Offerings (\$837 offering + 125)	
(one returned check of \$125)	\$962.00
Community Pharmacy	12.00
Auto Parts	125.00
Rent & Eviction Prevention	<u>835.00</u>
Expenditure	\$962.00
Balance as of 1/25/2016	\$0.00

Guiding Principle:

Work in
environmentally
responsible ways

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Interest:](#)

Community of Hope News

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Birthdays

Kevin Clark	2/04
Megan Streit	2/04
Sonja Ingebritsen	2/06
Trevor Stewart	2/08
Lois Komai	2/11
Bonnie Spindler	2/11
Nathan Powell	2/13
Joe Heinrich	2/16
Betty Custer	2/15
Stephanie Williams	2/15
Tina Eder	2/21
Howard Kanetzke	2/25

Anniversaries

Bill Rettig (Jean Gilbertson)	2/25
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Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

Hope Men: Pancakes, Puns, Proverbs and Politics — Those are just a few of the things you will miss if you don't get to the Hope men's breakfast at the Original Pancake House on University Avenue, at 6:30 am every Wednesday. You have promised yourself for a long time now. Mark your calendar, set your alarm, and make it!

Hope Women's Breakfast Group ***Solve the World's Problems With Us--*** ***One Cup of Coffee at a Time***

The Community of Hope's Women's Breakfast Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month starting at 7:00 am. You are invited to talk, listen, learn and laugh with us at the Hubbard Avenue Diner, 7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, 831-6800. All are welcome. See you in the morning!

Praying through the Community of Hope Directory

Community of Hope is committed to nurturing deep spirituality and generosity, cultivating meaningful connections and inspiring gratitude, creativity and joy. One of the ways we approach these commitments is through prayer. We believe a regular prayer practice deepens people's connections to God, feeds our spirits and equips us for our life journeys. This ministry of prayer also strengthens and builds relationships within our community. This month we pray for the following people and their families in our ongoing effort to pray for our entire congregation throughout each year.

Jan 31—Feb 6

Michelle Erschen & Nancy Greenwald;
Sandie Esrael & Peter Williams

Feb 7—Feb 13

Warren & Susan Exo and Freddie Feeny

Feb 14—Feb 20

Nancy Getz; Mark, Luke Geistlinger,
Kristin, Eliza & Zoe Meyer

Feb 21—Feb 27

Tina Hogle; Joe, Janel, Alex & Eli Heinrich

Feb 28—March 5

Keith Johnson & Julie Hunter;
Margaret Helming

Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep
spirituality and
generosity

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Interest:](#)

Larger Community News

The
Lubar Institute
for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions
at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
**Reporting on Religion: Media, Belief,
and Public Life**
Monday, March 14, 2016
University of Wisconsin–Madison

America's religious landscape is shifting, and, as a result, news coverage of religion has never been more important.

"Reporting on Religion: Media, Belief, and Public Life" will give journalists and the general public an opportunity to explore one of the most important, sensitive, and controversial topics in contemporary America.

The one-day conference will feature journalists and scholars who will help participants gain a deeper understanding of the role religion plays in public life and how religion is — and isn't — represented in the news media today.

The conference will culminate in a 7:00 pm keynote address, free and open to the public, by television journalist [David Gregory](#), former moderator of NBC's *Meet the Press* and the author of *How's Your Faith? An Unlikely Spiritual Journey*.

Gregory understands the demands of journalism at the highest levels and, more recently, has grappled with the role faith plays in his own life. He brings a perspective to the covering of religious issues from someone who understands how journalism works and from someone who has thought deeply about religious questions.

**[Registration](#) is required for the day-long conference.
\$30 for general admission, free for students with a college ID.
Register by March 4, 2016 and a boxed lunch will be included.**

No registration is necessary for David Gregory's free 7:00 pm keynote presentation. All events at

Upper|House 365 East Campus Mall, Suite 200, Madison

**Follow this link for more information:
reportingonreligion.wisc.edu**

Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality
and meaningful
connections

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Interest:](#)**

Coming Events

Feb 10	Ash Wednesday and Indoor Labyrinth is open 9a-4p.
Feb 14	Family Fun Party-Sledding
Feb 17	On WEDNESDAYS, Lenten Edition, begins
March 20	Palm Sunday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter
April 19	MCC Salad Supper, 6:00 pm With UW Professor Emily Auerbach as our speaker.
May 15	MCC Confirmation
May 22	Last Sunday of Education until Fall
May 29	Summer Worship at 9:30 am

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MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

- *Read or Listen to **Sunday sermons!***
- **COH and Advent** members find **Worship Assistant's Schedule**
- **Weekly Announcements**
- **Good Word Newsletter**
- **Sunday School News**
- **Youth Schedule of Activities**
- **Kids in the Garden and much more...**

Our Partnership– *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the **Madison Christian Community** (MCC).

We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land.

We worship together about 8–12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation.

We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, genders and sexual orientations. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

Staff:

Pastor Sonja Ingebritsen
Community of Hope, UCC
mccrevsonja@tds.net

Pastor Nick Utphall
Advent Lutheran, ELCA
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Jen Streit,
Children's & Family
Ministry
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Sonja Keeseey-Berg,
MCC Administrative
Secretary
mcc@chorus.net

Tom Matthews,
MCC Maintenance
mctom@tds.net
Fourez Kerbache

MCC Custodians
Jean Oliveresen
Community Support Network
Clients

Community of Hope Steering Committee

Bill Stewart
Joanne Kirkland
Carol Jensen
Dan Streit, Co-Chair
Rolf Killingstad
Beth Campbell, Treas.
Lois Komai, Co-Chair

Advent Council

Jean Einerson, MCC Pres.
Joyce Anderson, Sec.
Dennis Rhodes
Ken Johnson
Mary Rowe, President
Kaisa Miller
Todd Holman
Rosa Ohlrogge

MCC Leadership Team

Members of both the Community of Hope Steering Committee and the Advent Council

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Phone: 608-836-1455

If you call our office and there is no answer, please leave a message. We will get back to you.

MCC Logo Design by
Lucetta Kanetzke

Personnel Committee

Ellen Lindgren
Todd Holman
Linda Pils
Lynn Breedlove

MCC Pastoral Support

Nancy Getz
Al Heggen
Dorothea Torstenson