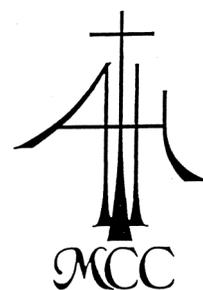


Madison Christian Community is an Ecumenical Partnership of  
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA – Interim Pastors: Jerry Tews and David Keesey-Berg  
Community of Hope – UCC – Dan Yeazel, Interim Pastor  
608-836-1455  
7118 Old Sauk Rd, Madison WI 53717



# The Good Word

## Dedication Sunday—November 8

In worship on Sunday November 8th, both Advent and Community of Hope will dedicate pledges for 2016. Members of Advent also covenant to be active members of the congregation for the coming year. Stewardship packets were sent out recently with pledge forms and time/talent sheets. This year the time and talent form may be completed online. (There is a link on our web page. [www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org)) As we look forward to 2016 and begin our budget plans, please plan to bring your stewardship pledge card on November 8th.

## SOUL CORNER

### “The Gospel According to Oprah”

David Keesey-Berg

Recently Sonja and I discovered the spiritual treasures being offered in the evening on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The program is called “Soul Sunday.” Each week Oprah interviews a well-known figure in the field of spirituality and religion and so far, every program we have watched has been interesting and helpful. Oprah has bumped “Madame Secretary” and NFL football from our Sunday evening TV watching. My favorite episode was an hour long interview with former President Jimmy Carter. It was an inspiring journey into the mind and soul of this amazing man whose faith shines through even as he battles a dangerous cancer that may soon end his life. His sunny outlook on life and his faith practices put most of us to shame.

This week, the evening show featured an episode around the theme of “Belief.” Oprah is exploring belief as practiced in a wide variety of faith traditions. Some are very familiar but many are quite obscure, at least to most of us.

Imagine a young five-year-old Aboriginal boy being taken by his aged grandfather on a several-hundred-mile journey through the Outback following the storypaths his people have walked for thousands of years. The journey is for the purpose of teaching that young boy the stories, the songs and the dances that are absolutely essential for the preservation of their way of life. A few days after the grandfather died, the young boy was inaugurated as the new spiritual elder of his people. Like the boy Jesus in the temple, the mantle of spiritual leadership now rests on his shoulders. What do we believe is absolutely necessary to the survival of our faith and way of life?

Oprah seems committed to trying to discover why these faith practices have such enduring power in the lives of those who practice them. In a world so divided around issues involving religious belief and practice, it seems worthwhile for us to know more about the various ways people understand and practice their faith. It also becomes an opportunity for us to look honestly at how important our own faith is in shaping our lives and the life of our family.

Thank you Oprah for helping to make available for all of us real quality TV programming!

**Rev. David Keesey-Berg**  
Advent Interim for Pastoral Care

831-8253  
[mccdavid@tds.net](mailto:mccdavid@tds.net)

**Rev. Dan Yeazel**  
Community of Hope Interim &  
MCC Administrative Interim

239-6980  
[mccdand@tds.net](mailto:mccdand@tds.net)

**Rev. Jerry Tews**  
Advent Interim

205-2240  
[mccjerry@tds.net](mailto:mccjerry@tds.net)

## November 2015

### Of Special Interest:

- News from Pastor Dan & Pastor Jerry [p. 2](#)
- Leadership Team; Epiphany Choir [p. 3](#)
- MCC Quilters; New Way to Serve-MCC Community Hosts; MCC GEMS; [p. 4](#)
- Java for Justice; Lussier Food Pantry; MCC PURLS; MCC *Inspire*; Meditation Monday [p. 5](#)
- Food Pantry Garden update [p. 6](#)
- [Sunday School News](#) [p. 7](#)
- Parent Hour; It's Never Too Late to Begin Thinking Positively [p. 8](#)
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- Coming Events [p. 18](#)

## MCC News from Pastor Dan

### Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity

**“COME VISIT OUR CHURCH”** is an important invitation to share with our friends and neighbors. As we enter this holiday season, I would encourage each one of us to think of someone who might be interested in visiting and worshipping with us. Try to think of someone who might like to join in one of the youth activities or the adult education series, or book study. Maybe you know someone who might say yes to joining you for the Thanksgiving service (with pie!) or one of the Christmas Eve services. A personal invitation is a wonderful way to introduce someone new to our family of faith. Think of someone who might like to experience some aspect of our faith life and invite them to join you sometime!

As we come to Thanksgiving, there is much to be thankful for. We are each blessed with an abundance from God. There is a richness in relationships, and blessings in the gifts we each have. Let us all give thanks for these. The season of Advent begins this month. While Advent is sometimes referred to as a time of waiting, I like the sense of Advent being a time of anticipation. Memories of holidays in the past mix with our hopes for this year and it all combines to fill our hearts with imagination and wonder. What will this next year bring? At least one visitor, one who comes bringing peace.

Grace and Peace,  
Dan

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## MCC News from Pastor Jerry    The Power of a Story

Have you ever noticed how impressions—for better or for worse—change once you have heard another person’s life story? We do not have to hear very much and our appreciation or caution for who the person “really is” begins to emerge.

Our story is who we are. It is the “product” of our life meshed with the lives of many other individuals. Our lives intersect at particular times in history. The “product” is possibly marred by unfortunate accidents of a physical or relational nature. The “product” has a memory bank filled with powerful celebrations. There are guided by commitments made to a select few people as well as unwavering principles and values. Our story is who we are. When we are able, and willing to share that story with others, a deeper understanding becomes possible.

So too with God. The time we spend focused on the Bible—in our worship, in our conversation, in our private and communal study—allows God to become known to us. The favorite few pieces of Scripture, like John 3:16, the Christmas story, Psalm 23, and the Easter resurrection miracle, begin to paint the picture of who God is and our knowledge of that existence. The more time we spend with God’s story the deeper our appreciation can grow.

I don’t know about you, but I frankly connect more with the “lesser” known characters and groups of people depicted in God’s story. They help me in my understanding of my relationship with God. I identify with the people standing in the crowds to whom Jesus spoke, the ones fed on the mountain, those swirling around during the trial and eventual death. Others, with whom I also can identify, come out of history—Jacob, Ruth, Joseph’s brothers, even Queen Esther! The whole of God’s story, told through the lives of real people, tells me who God is and what my relationship with God can be.

There is beauty in our story and in God’s story. My encouragement is to become aware of both. When these two stories come together there is hope, comfort, challenge, and the potential of receiving the ultimate gift—peace.

Pastor Jerry

## MCC News

### MCC Leadership Team Update

The MCC leadership team met October 1<sup>st</sup>, and will meet again Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Discussion items included:

1. Reports from the various MCC committees. These include both Call/Search committees, Children and Family Ministry, Middle and High School Ministry, MCC Worship, MCC Planning and Building Assessment and MCC Personnel. The LT appreciates these reports as they keep us informed on what is happening within and among members. It allows us to make informed decisions moving forward. These committees are the pulse of MCC; much thanks to those who participate and serve. You will be able to read reports from these committees in the newsletter.
2. We are beginning to plan the 2016 budget. Thanks go to John Rowe and the MCC Financial team for leading us through the process. There are some unknowns as we move forward in our planning. The main ones being our 2 new pastors. We are trying something new this year. One Stewardship packet will be mailed to all members in the beginning of November. This is keeping true to The Road Ahead principle of planning future needs together.
3. Pastors Dan and Jerry provided updates on their work and pastoral activities. We are indebted to all our interim pastors (including pastor David) as they have guided us through this transition. It is wonderful to see new members join both congregations!
4. The MCC annual meeting will be Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars.

The LT will keep you posted on issues that relate to MCC operations. Should you have questions or suggestions, please let a leadership team member know.

Jean Einerson  
MCC Leadership Team Chair

#### Guiding Principle:

Work in  
environmentally  
responsible ways

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### MCC Epiphany Choir

This year, we will explore Christmas/Epiphany music from around the world. We will have some reprises of past favorites as well as some new treasures. The theme is *Homage*.

#### SCHEDULE:

*Retreat!* Saturday, November 21 from 9am-3pm  
Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 27, Jan 3 - 11:30 am-12:30 pm  
(or one hour from when we start!)  
Saturday, January 9 - 9 am-noon Dress Rehearsal  
Sunday, January 10 - 8:45 am call; 10:15 am Choral Service

Our primary note-learning time will be during the 11/21 retreat. If you are unable to attend, please commit to learning your parts on your own. Out of respect for the team, please attend a minimum of 5 rehearsals.

## MCC News—

The **MCC Quilters'** year wrapped up (no pun intended) on Saturday, October 10 when John Rowe, Rich Olson and Hildy McGown delivered 69 apple boxes to the rail yard on E. Johnson Street. Those apple boxes, filled with 207 quilts, represented 12-months' work by the 18 MCC Quilters plus yards and yards of fabric donated by all you generous MCC members. Thank you!

If you missed church on Oct. 4 you missed the annual "Holy Comforter Sunday" when we spread those beauties over every horizontal surface in our sanctuary. Pastor Dan even wrapped himself in a quilt, as he officially blessed them on their way to families on the other side of the world who are in desperate need of their warmth. I don't know about you, but I thought this year's quilts were some of the most colorful/gorgeous that we have ever produced. Professional quilters (and MCC members) Carol McDonald and Laura Komai thinned their stashes this year and we were the beneficiaries. Oh, have we had fun with those fabrics!

Carol Korf, who had been a faithful Quilter since the very beginning of this project, died in 2014 and has been sorely missed. Georgia Grahn & Eileen Bolstad, two more charter Quilters retired in 2014, Thank goodness these three stalwarts were replaced when "youngsters" Jan Libby, Emily Wixson and Rita Olson joined our ranks. We can always use more hands. Anyone who can tie a knot can become an MCC Quilter. We meet the first Tuesday of every month on the lower level of MCC. Hours are 9 am-2 pm or any part thereof.

As for donations, we accept used but clean sheets, curtains, tablecloths, mattress pads and all fabrics except terrycloth, t-shirt knits and slippery dress goods. Just drop off donations in the closet in the hallway on the way to the lower level restrooms.

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### 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're interested in helping out, this new service position (**MCC Greeters**) will be included in the Time and Talents form this year, and you can sign up there.

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### 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. September 8 began the fall schedule. The book they are beginning is *Between the World and Me*. This book addresses the issue of race from a very personal view. Contact Jim Eastman (298-7155).

### Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections

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### MCC Community Group– November 11

Visit the Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton, 277 W. Main Street. Carpool from MCC at 10:00 am. Contact Myrna McNatt with any questions, 831-5759.

## MCC News

**MCC Film Group Schedule—Lois Komai, Coordinator**—The host for the November film is Hildy McGown. The film will be *Imitation Game* .

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### Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

**JAVA for JUSTICE, Susan Gruber** Place your coffee order by **November 1**. 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.**

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### Food Drive for Lussier Food Pantry—Sunday November 1

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

**From the Lussier Community Center** “Thank you so much for everything you are doing

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### MCC Purls (formerly The Prayer Shawl Ministry group) meets the third Tuesday of the month, November 17 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 to make hats, scarves, mittens and headbands. Please mark your bags “PURLS” and leave by the guestbook table. If you have any questions about our group, please call Virginia Stumbo,

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### Inspire Thursday, November 12 @ 8 pm, at Andrea Olson’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 at ([kaisaumiller@gmail.com](mailto:kaisaumiller@gmail.com)).

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### 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.

## MCC News—Food Pantry Garden Update

### MCC Food Pantry Garden Mission: To Connect our Community with God's Creation

Sadly, the garden has been put to bed for another season, but what a successful and fun season we had! The Green Team harvested and delivered food to M.O.M. and Lussier for 25 weeks, that's almost a half a year. And that doesn't count the weeks of planning beforehand. Thanks to all Green Team members who continue to be dedicated servants to this ministry: Ann Ward, Emily Wixson, Susan Gruber, Joyce Anderson, Rich Olson, Jan Robertson, Roanna Brazier, Colleen Cobey, Hildy McGown, Yvonne Gern, Sarah Zutz, and our garden coordinator, Terra Theim. Twenty-five weeks of work cannot be done alone; it takes a community. Here is the 2015 take-a-way of 25 ways the MCC Food Pantry connects to our community and God's Creation.

1. We meet early as a team to plan the season. Fellowship with one another is good.
2. We purchase seeds based on the food pantry clients we serve. i.e. collards, okra, mustard greens. We grew 52.5 pounds of collards and 27 pounds of okra this summer.
3. The Green Team works among 50 other community gardeners. A wonderful way to share our property and church story.
4. We tend and care for the soil. All were on hand to spread several tons of manure to prepare and enrich the soil for next year. The manure came from a dairy farmer west of New Glarus.
5. Speaking of nurturing soil, we compost almost all our organic material; just ask Emily Wixson. We got used compost bins from a Madison Elementary School and they are working out very well.
6. We picked and delivered 798 pounds of fruit to the food pantries. Strawberries accounted for 288 pounds. Food pantries cannot get enough fresh fruit, they love it.
7. The hoop house was "mouse proofed" through efforts of an Eagle Scout and his scout team. We'll see how well the project worked is this winter.
8. We try to have regular "Garden Parties" to celebrate our success and hard work.
9. We connect, share and care for the Lussier Children's Program. Many MCC volunteers helped coordinator, Becky Hustad, plan and implement a very successful 8 week program.
10. The MCC Sunday School planted potatoes in late spring and harvested them in September for "God's Work Our Hand's" Sunday. We had a nice crop of 2 potato varieties.
11. Lindy Wilson helped the Lussier children make 7 GREAT scarecrows this summer. We had no problems with birds or pests. Thank you, Lindy!
12. We continue to educate the Lussier Food Pantry helpers on the difference between collards, chard and kale.
13. Since the garden is so large, we are assigned a section to weed. When someone is gone or ill, another team member will step in to help. A real example of TEAM-WORK.
14. The Green Team appreciated the time John Rowe gave in building a new gate. It works perfectly.
15. We gave several garden "tours" over the summer. One was for the Lussier Community Education Center Board of Directors, another for a group of pre-school children.
16. We used organic mulching paper for the first time. The product is on a roll which makes it much easier to apply. There is no sign of the paper; it has degraded into the soil.
17. Emily Wixson planted and grew a beautiful cutting flower garden. Flower arrangements were enjoyed by MCC members during worship services and by the Lussier Center.
18. We plan to retire the current strawberry and asparagus patches over the next 2 years. As a result, we planted 75 new strawberry plants and 25 bare root asparagus plants. We may need help picking berries next June.

**Continues on the next page.**

### Guiding Principle:

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

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## MCC NEWS

19. The Food Pantry garden primarily used rain water from the 2500-gallon tank which is connected to the surface irrigation system in the garden. Little water was wasted.
20. Thanks to Linda Pils who took seasonal pictures of the garden. The pictures have been posted to the MCC website.
21. A few Green Team members met with a couple from High Point Church exploring the possibility of establishing a garden mentor program.
22. We welcome our neighbors as they stroll through the gardens and visit the chickens.
23. The gardens served as a focal point for the Wednesday summer evening services.
24. The Green Team planted, grew, harvested and delivered 2800 pounds of fruits and vegetables to M.O.M. and LCEC food pantries. Both were delighted with the variety of food we brought.
25. We are already planning for 2016. We invite you to experience the fun and delight of serving others by joining the Green Team.

With Gratitude,  
Jean Einerson, Green Team Member

### Strategic

#### Directive:

Focus on meaningful partnerships that work for justice and enhance the quality of life for people around us

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## Sunday School News —from Jen Streit

### For your calendars: Sunday School Family Fun Dates!

Sunday, November 1 - 11:45 am **Family Fun Party at the Streits**  
Bring your favorite taco topping to share. Wear costumes if you want!

Saturday, December 12 - 10 am  
**Christmas Pageant rehearsal followed by Gingerbread House making**  
Bring candy for house decorating.

Sunday, December 13 - 10 am  
**Arrive for Christmas Pageant; service begins at 10:15 am**

Monday, January 18 - 8:30 am-2 pm  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Service Day**  
@ First Congregational, Madison; grades 1-12

Sunday, February 14 - 11:45 am **Family Fun Party - Sledding!**

THANK YOU to the over 25 people who have volunteered with Sunday School so far!

Julie M Walsh	Cindy Kamp	Hildy McGown	Betty Stucki
Kiera Woodward	Tina Eder	Morgan Eder	Anna Bauer
Wendy Stewart	Debra Greene	Yohana Ohlrogge	Iris Ohlrogge
Gina Utrie	Maria Ohlrogge	Rosa Ohlrogge	Ann Miller Holman
Natalie Hellmer	Doug Crews-Nelson	Nicky McElfresh	Rita Olson
Eddy Hellmer	Julie Krbec	Bob Sessions	Sarah Zutz
JoAnne Streit	Alyssa Zellwood	Lindy Wilson	Yvonne Gern

# Let's fill the remaining holes through January!

## Rotation Sunday School Volunteer Sign Up

Click here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tphg20pMCTNDhEtb62J40YuRbQUTw\\_dD0cCOQLdAbyk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tphg20pMCTNDhEtb62J40YuRbQUTw_dD0cCOQLdAbyk/edit)

	Faith Practices & Scripture	8:45 am SNACK  (Giving & Receiving Hospitality)	9:15-9:30 am MOVE  (Playing Joyfully)	9:30-10 am STORY  (Encountering Scripture)	9:15-9:30 am MUSIC  (Living Joyfully)	9:30-10 am CREATE  (Experiencing Beauty)
WEEK 4A: 11/1	Blessing and Letting Go	Geistlinger/Meyer	Morgan Eder	11/1		
WEEK 4B: 11/8		Betty Custer		Betty Custer 11/8		
WEEK 5A: 11/15	Ritual - Worship (CHRISTMAS Pageant planning)	Julie Krbec			Jen Streit, Sarah Zutz, Beth Falkos	
WEEK 5B: 11/22		Wendy Stewart				
NO CLASS 11/29						
WEEK 6A: 12/6	Discovering Gifts				ALL SS pageant music rehearsal	
NO CLASS: 12/20-1/3						

## JANUARY 2016

WEEK 7A: 1/10	Working for Justice			
WEEK 7B: 1/17				
WEEK 8A: 1/24	Keeping Sabbath			
WEEK 8B: 1/31				

### MCC Parent Hour – November 1, 9 am-10 am

Animated, organic conversations about our faith, and the challenges of raising children. Attendees are invited to bring topics of interest, and 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

### It's never too late to begin Thinking Positively!

If you've been curious about the group meeting at MCC on Monday at 7:00 pm to discuss Norman Vincent Peale's book *The Power of Positive Thinking* but figured it was too late to join, we have good news for you. These are discussions you can join at any point. The chapters do not build on each other so much that you'd feel lost without "catching up." The group will meet again starting November 2. Contacts are Doug Crews-Nelson ([dougwcn@gmail.com](mailto:dougwcn@gmail.com)) or Don Falkos ([don@blessedbythespokenword.com](mailto:don@blessedbythespokenword.com)).

## MCC News - Adult Forum

### "Let's Have that Conversation About Race"

Some of us are old enough to have had our "formative years" during the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. A middle generation did not witness marches (or riots) on media, but participated in integrated schools, workplaces, etc. Bi-partisan efforts jump-started mass incarceration around 1990 and racial disparity in educational outcomes have grown over the past several decades. (Wisconsin is 4th in the nation in educational racial disparity of graduation.)

Adult Forum in the Covenant Room will have a five-part unit to talk about race.

Nov 1: For hundreds of years, the concept of race has been part of how we separate ethnic groups into social hierarchies. Race is embedded in our thought and language but is not biologically valid. Tom Johnson (COH), emeritus professor of Anthropology UW-Stevens Point, will discuss current answers to the question **What Is Race, Anyway?**

Nov 8: Ken Taylor of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families will present the results of a year-long data study of racial disparities experienced by children and adults in Madison and Wisconsin.

Nov 15: We will use the "Wired Word" small group study process to explore what the Bible says about racism and our corporate and individual response. We will use archived sessions that Wired Word developed around the issues of Black Lives Matter or similar topics.

Nov 22: Still in development as far as possible speaker(s) depending on outcomes from the prior Sunday. But at least half of the time will be in small groups making individual commitments to ourselves and each other as far as outward actions within our communities that we will take over the following six months.

Nov 29: A second Wired Word session.

Dec 6: Greg Jones, President of the Madison Urban League, will discuss what it has been like for civil rights advocacy over the past few decade and views of what

#### Strategic

#### Directive:

Deepen people's connections to God and encourage practices that feed their spirits and equip them for their life journey

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

Next Issue: **December 2015**

**Articles Due:** **November 20 to the church office**

Newsletter Preparer: Sonja Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing: Lucetta Kanetzke and Carrie McGinley

~ **SAVE THE DATE** ~

**Guiding Principle:**

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

**Internet Link-Back to**

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
4 PM**

**Freewill offering accepted to raise funds for the  
Matt Gear BWCA Scholarship Fund.**

**PRAIRIE ROOTS** is group of MCC musicians who have a fun time playing primarily roots music - bluegrass, old time, folk - and more!

## MCC Youth News and Family Library Article—from Lisa Johnsen

### Sunday, November 1

High School Social Hour, 9 am at Panera on Junction Road; if you are able, please bring a box cake mix, container of frosting, or birthday candles for the Lussier Food Pantry. We will also be taking a moment to remember loved ones we have lost.

AND Raking Service Project/Fundraiser, 2 - 4 pm; meet at Ellen Lindgren's (6621 Maywood Avenue in Middleton). Cider and doughnuts will be provided!

### Sunday, November 15

Prairie Roots fundraiser for BWCA Matt Gear Fund - Look for additional details in this newsletter.

### Saturday, November 21

Middle School Fast Food Progressive Dinner; meet at MCC by 6:30 pm

### November 21 - 22

High School Overnight Retreat - Watch for important emails about this event, looking for your feedback.

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### 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. Inside, you will find questions from youth about faith issues. Please consider taking a moment to write a response. Each month, the book is taken to the Social Hour, where the youth have an opportunity to read your responses. Youth can submit more questions downstairs where they will find paper, pencil, and an envelope on the bulletin board outside the office used by Lisa and Doug.

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### Family Library Article

The family library is located in the common area of the lower level. Please feel free to check books out to enjoy. Directions on how to do so are located on the top of the bookshelf with the card box.

Highlighted Book: ***The Busy Family's Guide to Spirituality: Practical Lessons for Modern Living From the Monastic Tradition*** by David Robinson. First of all, if there has been one book I've reviewed so far that I would say, "Don't miss this one," it would be this book. One of the questions discussed in small groups during On Wednesday summer events was, "Who planted seeds of faith in your life?" The majority of folks responded that it was someone in their family who had planted the deepest seeds. But how can families living at today's hectic pace mindfully create some "sacred space" for spiritual growth? Take a page (or two) from St. Benedict's book that has guided life in many monastic communities for centuries. Robinson provides some simple questions for reflection about your family's current life together. He shares wisdom gleaned from the ways monastic communities live together mindfully, and outlines simple exercises that you can easily incorporate into your family life. This book brings together so many elements that have been touched on at MCC in the recent past, from the Parent's Hour discussions about hospitality last year to the Sunday School children currently learning about spiritual practices. Truthfully, I'd be interested in getting a small group together to read and talk about this book. If that sounds interesting to you, please contact me (mclisa@tds.net).

### Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy

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## Advent News

### Advent Council FAQs

#### Call Process

*What happens after the call committee selects a pastoral candidate?* The recommendation is submitted to the council for approval.

*And if the council approves?* A “meet and greet” is scheduled to introduce the congregation to the candidate and a special congregational meeting is called to vote on extending a call to the candidate.

*What is required to approve the call?* A 2/3 majority of members present and voting at the meeting. No proxy or absentee ballots are allowed and a quorum is 26 members (10%).

*Then what?* A letter of call with a contract spelling out duties and compensation is prepared and the candidate has a 30 day discernment period to decide whether or not to accept the call.

#### Constitution and Bylaws

*Why do we need to revise our constitution and bylaws?* As a member of the ELCA, we are required to keep our local constitution in concordance with the national model. A new model constitution was adopted in 2013 so we need to update.

*What has changed?* Mostly more specific language regarding possible thorny issues such as withdrawing from the synod, dismissing a pastor, property ownership. Also more inclusive language, adding a teen member to council, ability to contract with a minister from an ecumenical partner denomination.

*Why do our bylaws need to change?* They are not numbered in accordance with synod requirements and they include items that are already spelled out in the constitution such as the teen member. We also needed to clarify that people who select dual membership with the Community of Hope retain full rights and privileges as Advent members.

*When will we vote?* At a special congregational meeting November 15 at the end of worship services. Notice of the meeting and copies of the documents will be sent to all electronically. A copy of the current constitution annotating the changes is available for your perusal. Contact Mary Rowe.

*Does the new constitution and bylaws take effect immediately?* No, they must be submitted to South Central Synod of Wisconsin office for approval.

#### Budget

*How are we doing?* We are concerned even though we are very generous people.

After a very strong first half of the year, our income took a nose dive the past quarter with over half of the congregation falling behind on pledges, and we are now over \$20,000 behind budgeted income for the year to date. The council will need to make some hard decisions on what to trim if this trend continues.

*What do you mean by “a very generous people?”* In reviewing annual reports of several congregations in the Madison area with similar sized budgets, benevolences averaged 6% of budget. Advent gives 19% of its budget but also has several ongoing unbudgeted benevolences such as Treasury of Love, Lussier Food Pantry, Haiti Allies which add another \$30,000.

#### Strategic

#### Directive:

Care of creation and help others to do so as well

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# Advent News

## Morning Bible Study—November 10

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—November 13

Second Friday of the month throughout the year, 1:30 - 3:30 pm at Oakwood West Campus (aka University Woods). 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

**Guiding Principle:**

Work in environmentally responsible ways

## Third Thursday Women’s Lunch Bunch – November 19

Please contact Jan Robertson (833-6312) with any questions. The group meets at the Prairie Café, 5720 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave., Middleton, at 11:30 am.

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## OPALS Book Discussion Group – November 24, 1:30 pm

OPALS meets the fourth Tuesday each month. They meet at MCC. Our November book is *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman. This is a novel telling the story of a lighthouse keeper off the Australian coast who finds a boat washed ashore with a dead man and a living baby.

## 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!

**Men’s Breakfast Group Mondays**, 7:15 am at the Lakefront on Langdon at the Memorial Union (Union Terrace in summer). Good conversation, friendship, laughter and support. Contact: Ken Streit, 231-1525.

## Advent Treasury of Love 2015

<b>Love Offerings</b>	<b>\$7,498.00</b>	Partial Dental Fee	100.00
Car Repairs	488.00	Partial Water Bill	250.00
Gas Voucher	20.00	School Expenses	100.00
St John’s Emergency Fund	55.00	Storage	220.00
Shut-Off Prevention/Utilities	1,725.00	Rent & Eviction Prevention	<u>4,010.00</u>
Moving Assistance	280.00	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$7,498.00</b>
LCEC Emergency	100.00	<b>Balance as of 10/26/2015</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Tools for Employment	150.00		

## Community of Hope News

### *Important Dates to Remember!*



#### **Birthdays**

Julia Weaver	11/09
Mark Geistlinger	11/11
Tony Powell	11/17
Nick Grout	11/20
Mary Nack	11/20
Mary Beth Udvari	11/25

#### **Anniversaries**

Wendy & Bill Stewart	11/05
Kevin Clark & Joanne Kirkland	11/15
Joan & Tom Matthews	11/19

**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.

#### **Nov 1- Nov 7**

Bill Rettig & Jean Gilbertson; Hollis Rudiger and Gus & Fritz

#### **Nov 8- Nov 14**

Mary Schmelzer, Bill, Nick, Katelyn and Olivia Grout; Dan, Jen, Megan & Lucie Streit

#### **Nov 15- Nov 21**

Bob & Chris Sessions; Bryan & Meg Sirchio; Bonnie & Gene Spindler

#### **Nov 22- Nov 28**

Bill, Wendy & Trevor Stewart; and MaryBeth Udvari;

#### **Nov 29- Dec 5**

Julia Weaver; Roger & Kristi Williams

#### **Guiding Principle:**

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity

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## Larger Community News

### The Tales from Planet Earth Film Festival Friday, November 6 to Sunday, November 8, 2015

#### University of Wisconsin–Madison

**This film festival explores how we arrive at our environmental beliefs and the ways our beliefs spur and sustain environmental action across the globe.**

Produced by the Center for Culture, History, and Environment, in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, this University of Wisconsin–Madison program brings to Madison movies and guest speakers addressing subjects of environmental and social justice. This year's festival has a core theme:

**Belief.** Grounded in religion and experience, spirituality and science, beliefs profoundly shape environmental perceptions, understandings, and action. Our 2015 festival highlights the subject of belief, curated around five themes: resilience, sacrifice, retreat, belonging, and knowledge. The 2015 roster includes films set on six different continents and over 20 countries, with genres from documentary to drama—and even musicals: both an opera and a rap film. Joining us will be filmmakers, activists, and scholars exploring the intersections of faith, science, and the environment from all over the world.

**All Festival events are free and open to the public. Learn more at [nelson.wisc.edu/tales](http://nelson.wisc.edu/tales).**

One of the **Yoga classes at MCC** is with Kiro Kopulos, [ifyoga.com](http://ifyoga.com), 692-9172

Therapeutic hatha yoga with natural flow to enhance strength, flexibility, alignment, balance, freedom in movement and peace of mind. Every class includes energy awareness techniques, guided imagery, relaxation and meditation.

Kiro Kopulos B.S.,C.C.H. Over 25 years teaching yoga, injury-free, 19 years in medical setting.

**Wednesdays:** Introduction to Hatha Yoga 5:30 pm and Continuing Hatha Yoga 7:00 pm

**Thursdays:** 9:00 am Morning Yoga and Extra Gentle Yoga at 10:30 am

**8 week session.....\$96 Drop in.....\$13 Unlimited pass (good for all locations).....\$160**

#### Greetings MCC Members

We'd like to invite you to the Fall Thursday Night Yoga Series with Kelly Otto, here at MCC from 6:15 pm until 7:30 pm. Being in this season of transition, this 8-week series will focus on restoring and grounding. The class includes breath practice, pebble meditation, anatomy, standing and seated postures, and relaxation. This class is gentle, slow moving, and suitable for all levels of experience. Please join us. For more information, please contact Kelly at [kottoyoga@gmail.com](mailto:kottoyoga@gmail.com)

**The MadWest Winter Farmers' Market**, sponsored by Willy Street Co-op, will be held at the Lussier Community Education Center November 14 – December 19, on Saturdays. From 8 am until 12 pm there will be coffee, live music, high-quality, locally produced goods and much more. The Market accepts EBT and offers plenty of convenient parking. Make sure to come November 14th for the free Community Breakfast!

#### Strategic

##### Directive:

Strengthen and build relationships within M.C.C. and foster an open and welcoming environment

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## Larger Community News

### Churches' Center for Land and People Celebrates 25 Years

Join a Harvest Celebration at St. John United Church of Christ, Monroe, Wis., 3-8 pm. Saturday, Nov. 7. The public is invited to this event celebrating 25 years of Churches' Center for Land and People serving local farmers, food enthusiasts and the local food economy. Sister Miriam Brown, OP, former director and founder of the organization will open the celebration with the keynote of "Soil and Spirit." Plans include: workshops; a dinner of delicious, local food prepared by Misha Long, sous chef at Epic Systems; and an after-dinner address given by Allen Philo of Midwestern Bioag. Register for the event online at [www.cclpmidwest.org/events](http://www.cclpmidwest.org/events) or contact Carolyn Kennedy via email at [fffnetworkdirector@gmail.com](mailto:fffnetworkdirector@gmail.com) or by phone at 608-712-6142.

The cost is \$25 if registered by Nov. 2 or \$30 if after or at the door.

#### Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections

### Norwegian Baking Workshop on Sat., Nov. 7

The Sons of Norway, Vennelag 513 Lodge of, Mount Horeb is having a Baking Workshop at the Community Building. Come at 8:30 for heart waffles, coffee, milk or juice. The workshop will start at 9:00 am. There will be six stations, with demonstrators, showing how to make lefsa, rosettes, flatbrod, krumkaka, sandbakkelse and rommegrot. You will get a chance to make all of these and take "goodies" home. **The fee is \$20.00 per person.** You can get an application for the workshop at Open House Imports or an electronic copy at [rogrechee@mhtc.net](mailto:rogrechee@mhtc.net). The deadline to enroll is October 30th.

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Pastor Jerry and Lynn Tews are leading a group on a **Splendor of Norway with a Taste of Iceland trip July 24-August 3, 2016.** You are invited to join them to see the truly spectacular scenery of these two countries and taste of bit of the culture near and dear to many. Friends and family are welcome to come along! Brochures describing the trip are available at Madison Christian Community. You can also view this brochure online at [www.regonline.com/072416TEWS](http://www.regonline.com/072416TEWS)

### Habitat Bakers Wanted

Looking for bakers interested in providing snacks for our hungry volunteers. Each job site is equipped with water, coffee, and snacks for morning break time (things like cookies, muffins, chips, etc.) Homemade snacks are favorites for our volunteers. It is always a struggle to provide enough food for the full week, and we would love your help in the snack department.

We average 30 volunteers at each of our build sites, and we have four locations in Dane County. That's 120 volunteers that need a mid-morning snack each week. We have storage and refrigeration in the office, but not on site. We are looking for snacks that can stay fresh for at least a few days without refrigeration, ideally up to a week or more. Some snacks only last a few days, some can take up to two weeks to get completely devoured. Individual snacks are best (cupcakes instead of cake), and the less gooey the better!

Please contact Erin if you are interested in becoming a Habitat Baker, and providing snacks for the construction site. Ideally we would like snacks delivered to the office on Wednesdays, but we are flexible.

Contact Erin Rieser, Volunteer Manager at 608-255-1549 x 104 or [erieser@habitatdane.org](mailto:erieser@habitatdane.org)

## Larger Community News

**Harvest of Hope** sends their thanks to Community of hope and Advent for their continuing support. Harvest of Hope receives quarterly giving from each congregation used to address the needs of farm families in Wisconsin.

### Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections

### MOM—Preventing Homelessness , Ending Hunger

Donations to our Food Pantry and Clothing Center are critical to preventing homelessness and ending hunger in our community. Thank you so much for partnering with us with your generous support. Find out more at [momhelps.org](http://momhelps.org).

### From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church— Feed My Starving Children MOBILEPACK

At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, West Campus on November 13 & 14, volunteers will produce 100,000 meals for God's children around the world. Feed My Starving Children, (FMSC), is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization working with volunteers to produce MannaPack Rice, a scientifically formulated food formula that is culturally acceptable worldwide. Organizations in nearly 70 countries around the world distribute these meals to children in greatest need.

500 volunteers are needed and 22 cents for each meal—\$22,000 total—for this MobilePack.

**Volunteers:** Adults and children will measure and scoop ingredients, seal bags, and prepare boxes for shipping. Registration will be live November 2 at [fmssc.org/mobilepack](http://fmssc.org/mobilepack).

**Donations:** To help meet the \$22,000 goal, please consider taking a special offering or making a personal donation.

Donations may be submitted online at [fmssc.org/mobilepack](http://fmssc.org/mobilepack) or mailed to

Feed My Starving Children,  
ATTN: MobilePack #1511-148EA,  
401 93rd Ave NW  
Coon Rapids MN 55433.

Checks should be payable to FMSC, memo line MobilePack #1511-138EA

You can also contact Robyn Zimmerman at 608-271-6633 or [rzimmermn@gslcwi.com](mailto:rzimmermn@gslcwi.com)

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### Dear MOSES Congregation,

Thank you to Advent Lutheran for your 2015 payment of \$200, received in March. Your continued support allows MOSES to build upon the successes of last year, as we continue to strive to follow the example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice in Madison, Dane County, and throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Moses meetings are usually held from 10 am to 12 noon on the first Saturday of the month, with time for fellowship before the meeting beginning at 9:30 am. Meetings will be held November 7 and December 5. Check the MOSES website at [mosesmadison.org](http://mosesmadison.org) for the location of each meeting.

### From Porchlight, Inc.

Thank you to Advent for the contribution of \$800 for Hospitality House and \$800 for the Men's Drop-In Shelter. Your donation is deeply appreciated by the many men, women and children who use our services and live more independent lives. Your support is critical to our ability to provide emergency shelter, supportive services and affordable housing to those most in need.

## Coming Events

<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>Daylight Saving Time ENDS</b>
Nov 4	Confirmation Extravaganza at the Alliant Energy Center
Nov 5	The Road Home free fundraising breakfast at the Alliant Energy Center, 7:30-8:30 am
Nov 8	Indoor labyrinth is open to the public, 1:00-2:30 pm
Nov 11	Indoor labyrinth is open to the public 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Fest
Nov 29	First Sunday in Advent

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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](http://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:**  
**Dan Yeazel,**  
**Interim Pastor**  
**Community of Hope,**  
**UCC—**[mccdand@tds.net](mailto:mccdand@tds.net)

**Jerry Tews,**  
**Interim Pastor**  
**Advent Lutheran**  
**Church, ELCA**  
[mccjerry@tds.net](mailto:mccjerry@tds.net)

**David Keesey-Berg**  
**Advent Pastoral Care**  
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**Jen Streit,**  
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**Doug Crews-Nelson**  
**MS Youth & Family**  
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**Lisa Johnsen**  
**HS Youth & Family**  
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**Sonja Keesey-Berg,**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Tom Matthews,**  
**MCC Maintenance**  
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**MCC Custodians**  
Jean Oliverson  
Alma Hall  
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**

### CoH Call Committee

Lynn Breedlove, Chair  
Don Tubesing, Chaplain  
Emily Wixson,  
Advent member/Secretary  
Diane Eddings  
Avis Elson  
Donna Leet  
Roger Williams

### Advent Call Committee

Al Heggen  
Joyce Anderson  
Karen Schwarz, Spiritual Guide  
Beth Falkos, Communication  
Anna Henning, Chair  
Rob Olson, Secretary  
Nancy Getz,  
CoH Representative