

Rally for Peace

Since the tragic events in Sherman Park during the weekend of August 12 - 14, members and friends of the church -- including UCC clergy and their congregations -- have been asking what we can do to help bring "peace" into Sherman Park. I am (we are) grateful for the outpouring of support for our church and our neighbors and will continue to explore ways that we can partner with others to address the issues that confront us.

Unfortunately, as we all know, there are no easy answers. What happened in Sherman Park is a painful witness to the tension and frustration in our city and around the country. The causes are many, however, racism, economic inequality, family breakdown, educational challenges, and mistrust of institutional policing and government are certainly contributing factors. Though understanding the personal and systemic causes of the problem is essential, I believe that taking personal responsibility for being part of the solution is key. For Christians, that means simply and profoundly living into the commandment "to love one another."

As our church is called to "celebrate and share God's Love", I would like to invite everyone who receives this newsletter to "Rally for Peace" on Sunday, September 11 during our 10:00 worship service. On that Sunday, we will hold our traditional "Rally Day" service, when we come together to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday morning Kids' Rock Program (Sunday School and faith formation). We will also commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11 and explore how we can work both individually and as a community of faith be a "positive force for good" in our daily lives, in the life of our Sherman Park neighborhood, and in the world.

Throughout the Beacon, there are opportunities for personal growth (children and adults), Christian service, and systemic change that we hope you will take advantage of through Bethel-Bethany and in the larger community.

Let us "Rally for Peace" on September 11 and Everyday of the Year.

Pastor Tim

Our Mission

"To celebrate and share God's Love through dynamic worship experiences, meaningful spiritual programs, and nurturing leadership opportunities as an inclusive Christian church serving the urban and global community."



Rally for Peace

Sunday

September 11

**10:00 AM Worship for all ages
Prayers for Sherman Park,
Milwaukee, and the world,
and Kids' Rock Kick Off**

11:30 AM Ice Cream Social /Fellowship

INVITE FRIENDS & SHARE GOD'S LOVE!

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Adult Education

Sharing the Journey

The Adult Education program at BB provides opportunities for members and friends to explore the Bible, faith, spirituality and mission. Programs are offered at various times of the week and before or after church on Sundays.

Here are some scheduled programs and developing programs for the fall. Additional times and opportunities are always a possibility (talk to Pastor Tim).

Bible Study

On first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:00 - 10:30 at the Parish House, members and friends gather to reflect on the Lectionary texts for the following Sunday with Pastor Tim or on a topical study.

Wednesday "Great Courses"

Pastor Tim would like to bring interested members and friends together on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month to study a course with a well known seminary or college professor via the Great Courses series (www.thegreatcourses.com). Possible topics include an overview of the Bible, Christian ethics, Christian history, and Biblical Archeology. Tim will be conducting a poll to determine time, interest, and subject area via the bulletin, e-mail, and conversations.

Spirituality

On alternate Thursdays beginning in October, we will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 with a light dinner to explore spiritual disciplines and to reflect on our spiritual lives. We will begin in October on a Thursday to be announced.

Retreats

A retreat schedule is being developed that includes a Women's Retreat, seasonal Contemplative Day Retreats at Cedar Valley, and afternoon retreats (i.e.: walking the Labyrinth at Calvary Presbyterian, writing liturgy).

Discussion Group on Race

Joya, Pastor Tim, and others are in conversation with the C.E. Committee and other UCC leaders about possible study materials on race. These discussions will challenge participants to reflect together on the impact of racism and white privilege and to develop individual and congregational action steps to build a more inclusive church, neighborhood, and world. More in October.

Kids' Rock

Kids' Rock starts officially for fall on Sunday, September 11. Lessons are 2nd—5th Sundays (first Sunday of the month we are in church). We are using the Whirl! video curriculum again. Your Christian Ed team is looking for teachers and assistants for each class—so 4 people each Sunday, (plus two people in the Nursery!)

Talk to Scott Bennett or Val Sauve' for more information and to help lead lessons. All lessons can be prepared online at home. Please share your love of God with a young person this year through Kid's Rock.

Confirmation Class

This fall, we will be developing a new Confirmation Class that engages Middle School Youth in exploring their faith together. More information to follow.

Youth Group

Middle School and High School youth are invited to participate in Christian Service projects throughout the year, both as a church community and in partnership with UCC youth and young people from our EPiC partner churches.

The UCC is offering a series of retreats including the MLK Jr. Retreat and the Fast that Lasts. Our Middle School age youth will also be encouraged to participate in one of the UCC Confirmation Retreats. In addition, we will plan social events for youth and begin looking ahead to a summer service trip for next year.

REVIVING PEACE

INSPIRATION,
EDUCATION,
AND ACTION
FOR CHANGE

September 24-25, 2016

Plymouth UCC and the Armin & Shirley Limper Program in Christianity & World Religions at Eden Seminary

Sunday September 25 at Plymouth UCC

9am—4pm lunch included

Adults \$30, Youth/Student \$10

The Reviving Peace conference is open to all ages. This conference will provide attendees with opportunities for deeper learning and to make new personal and community connections for Peace Work. We aim to inspire people from many spiritual traditions and those who do not identify with any tradition to:

- Create space for honest discussions of what divides and connects us
- Broaden our understanding of diverse religions and spiritual practices
- Move forward together in mutually respectful ways to wage peace

People will leave with tangible ideas of how cultivating more personal peace, more peace in our communities and on the global stage. Register at <http://www.plymouth-church.org/>

Common Ground



The next Common Ground Core Team is September 7 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Members of the Core Team are also involved in the Common Ground SPAN Team (Sherman Park Area Network) which has been focused on Center Street and an effort to build an outdoor athletic facility at Washington High School.

Our Church and four other Common Ground congregations in this section of Sherman Park (51st to 60th, Center to Burleigh) are also working in partnership with the Sherman Park Community Association (SPCA), the Non-profit Center, and other organizations and neighbors – to develop a collaborative effort to build a healthier and more peaceful neighborhood. The Make a Difference Day on Sunday, October 23 will be our first action step of our cooperative effort. Look for more info in October.

Cathedral Center Coordinator Needed

Bethel-Bethany is looking for someone who has a passion for the mission of the Cathedral Center and its outreach to women and children and who loves to bring people together to serve.

Under the "passionate, able, and joyous" direction of Fran Hadley, our church members and friends serve dinner six Saturday evenings a year. Fran is more than willing to coach a new coordinator and will continue to volunteer, but she needs to pass on the oversight responsibilities to one or two other people.

Our next volunteer night is scheduled for a Saturday in November. Four to six people usually serve. 19 people are currently on Fran's volunteer list who help provide food or serve or both.

For more information, please talk to Fran.... and please give Fran a BIG THANKYOU for her Good Work!!

Kid's Club

The leadership of the Kids' Club program met this summer to review last year's program and to begin developing the program for this coming year.

We begin again mid-October, meeting one afternoon a week to provide a Safe Place for children (3rd grade through Middle School). The focus will be on relationship building, mentoring, and community service, with art and cooking projects being a key part of the program. Stay tuned for more details.

Transition Advisory Team Update

The Transition Advisory Team (Steve Coleman, Steve Grabow, Karin Haug, Sara Johnson, Brian Klabunde, Pastor Tim, and Bart Versteegh) has been meeting faithfully over the summer reviewing models for transition as the church prepares to move forward from a long term pastorate to the next phase of our mission and ministry together.

The Team will be meeting with the Church Council on Tuesday, September 13 to present two or three possible models to be introduced to the congregation for further discussion this fall. The goal is for the congregation to agree upon a model for transition at the January 2017 "State of the Church" Meeting.

Properties Update

Over the summer, members of the church have been working diligently to prepare the Parish House for resident guests upstairs and Sunday School, Church, and Community activities downstairs.

This Fall, the apartment upstairs will need:

- additional tiling in the bathroom shower
- painting in the back bedroom
- Additional bedroom furniture
- A refrigerator

Downstairs, we will be moving forward with making our Church and Community Center:

- redevelopment of the computer lab
- carpeting or flooring
- continued organization

In addition, please check out the wonderfully organized side room off Fellowship Hall and the new stainless steel carts that were installed in the kitchen.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and donated to the cause. (Special thanks to Maris and Paul Fried who donated a new lawn mower.)

Talk to Bart Versteegh, Properties Chair, if you would like to help with a project.

*Note: new electronic door openers will be installed at the church this fall!! Thanks to our donors: Louise Versteegh and Carol Rotgers

Adopt-A-Classroom

Thanks to everyone who responded so generously to the Adopt-a-Classroom program for Sherman School and Patricia Klabunde.

Patricia is very grateful both to Bethel-Bethany members and the members of St. Peter's UCC in Saukville for the generous support. There was a mountain of supplies donated. Patricia and Pastor Tim are continuing to explore additional ways that we can help supply students and teachers at our neighborhood school. Other opportunities including volunteering at the Resource Room and tutoring are also being investigated

Memory Keepers

Memory Keepers meets on 2nd Saturdays—come and join us! Meet us at Fran Hadley's home on Saturday, September 10 from 9am - 1pm. Questions? Call Cindy Krause.

Men's Breakfast

Faith, Food & Fellowship
8:00am – Saturday, September 17
 at El Greco Restaurant
 (91st St. & Appleton Ave.).

Capital Campaign Update

Close to \$440,000 has been donated so far to the "Mission Accessible" Capital Campaign.

It's estimated that we still need to raise, \$240,000 in order to "burn the mortgage."

Your faithful and generous contributions are GREATLY APPRECIATED!!

In Celebration—The Capital Campaign Team (Bonnie Andrews, Chris Chance, Linda Oleson, Brian Klabunde, and Robert Zimmermann)

Recent Prayers

Update on Joya

We're pleased to announce that Joya Colon-Berezin will be back with us beginning in October about ten hours a month. She will be with us regularly the first Sunday of the month with additional hours spent throughout the month. During that time, she will continue to preach and lead worship and will be doing some teaching and group facilitation.

Joya spends the rest of her time continuing to work at Middleton Community UCC, administering their Christian Education program. We are happy to share Joya's time and welcome her back with us on Sunday, October 2.

Condolences to:

the family of Earl Klabunde, who passed away in August. Visitation will be held Tuesday, September 6 at Church and Chapel Funeral Home (7626 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis) from 4-6 PM with a Memorial Service at 5:30 PM.

the family of Ron Ballew and Marian Wasierski—their daughter Emily and son-in-law George recently lost their second child late in pregnancy.

The family of Lyle Dobberke, neighbor of Charles and Carolyn Pauls, who passed away in late August.

Prayers of healing for:

Rich Pine, Margaret Hitz, Flo Holland, Nicola Smith, Norm Hanson, Sean Dixon (Zee Lucas' husband), Holger Foersterling and Lynne Woehrle, Erich Cincotta, Kenny and David (Steve Coleman's brothers-in-law), Kas' Whitmore's mother, Michael (Val Sauve's nephew), David Stolpe (son-in-law of Fran & Kent Hadley), MJ (friend of Fran and Kent Hadley), Pastor Con Saviero (retired pastor of Bay View Baptist Church)

Prayers for

Michel Erdman, Nick Kory-Krohn, Charlie Sexton, Mike Thurk, Shirley Klumb, Lucinda Gordon, Trinaka Jamison-Finger, Yolanda Coleman

Prayers for Our Pastoral Care Team: Kathy Reed, Rev. Shai Wise, Rev. Meredith Anderson, Cindy Reed, Cindy Krahenbuhl, & Pastor Tim

September Birthdays

Steven Grabow	1	Theresa Dawson	13
Judith Steinke	1	Vie Anna Lucas	13
Cindy Krahenbuhl	2	Sydney Plumb	13
Rachel Cincotta	3	Michael Thurk	13
Linda Ostermeyer	3	Marcy Reed	16
Peggy Grabow	5	Paul Fried	17
Jessica Jines	6	Ashley Porter	17
Lori Krueger	6	Rhunette Humrich	23
Eric Plumb	6	Barb Klabunde	23
Randy Staeven	6	Margaret Hitz	25
Charlie Sexton	9	Karen Kraft	25
Ruthann Kasta	10	Mason Earhart	27
Ed Neuenschwander	11	Emily Earhart	30

September Calendar

Sept 4—10am Worship-Communion, Nursery, Fellowship

Sept 9 —9 am Bible Study
5:30 Common Ground Core Team Meeting

Sept 8—11:30 SPARC meeting at Beth Jehudah (52nd and Burleigh)
5:30 Transition Advisory
7 pm Choir

Sept 11—10am Worship—Rally for Peace Sunday, Nursery, Kids' Rock kick off, Ice Cream Social

Sept 13—6:30pm Council

Sept 15—7pm Choir

Sept 17 —8am Men's Breakfast

Sept 18—10am Worship—Rev. Shai Wise, Nursery, Kids' Rock, Fellowship

Sept 20—6 pm Pastoral Care Meeting

Sept 22—7 pm Choir

Sept 25—10am Worship, Rev. Shai Wise, Nursery, Kids' Rock, Fellowship

Sept 29—7 pm Choir

Oct 2—10am Worship —Joya Colon-Berezin preaching

Office Hours

Office Closed on Mondays. Open Thursdays 9-4
and by Appointment *rest of the week*



Choir starts weekly rehearsals on Sept.8 at 7pm.

Contact Debbie Cincotta for more information and to let her know your availability.

Church Staff

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