

## A Church Inspired by Hope

The famous British author Charles Dickens began his novel, “Tale of Two Cities” about the French Revolution with the following wisdom, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of time, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...”

At this moment in human history, such seems to be the state of the world. When one looks around there are so many things that are better than they used to be: technologies and medications that heal, opportunities for women and people of color, advances in transportation and communication and food production. At the same time, one could point to each one of those aspects of our present day world and their failures and their limitations; not to forget the continuation of war and poverty and disease and environmental crisis in many parts of the earth.

In our country we are troubled by Executive Orders that ban immigrants and refugees from predominately Muslim nations, by walls that divide geographically, politically and emotionally and by the continued evidence of racism, homophobia and sexism. For some it can seem like the best of times and for others, the worst of times. For some it is the winter of despair ...

We who follow Jesus the Christ are called to be Missionaries of Hope and Children of Light in the Darkness!

Our mission and ministry demands that we offer the hungry something to eat, the thirsty something to drink, welcome to the stranger, clothing for the naked, comfort to the sick and compassion to those in prison. (Matthew 25)

Within this month’s newsletter –and every month–there are opportunities to gather with others to grow in spirit and in personal mission. Our church is a community of HOPE that encourages and seeks to empower individuals and groups to build a better neighborhood and world for ALL!!

Prayerfully open yourselves to be a Missionary of Hope and believe that God will guide us and strengthen us to BE instruments of Peace and Justice,

Pastor Tim (One Disciple of Hope Among Many)

### 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.”

### In this Issue:

Pastor’s Article	1
Adult Education	2
Kids’ Rock and Kids’ Club	2
UCC Retreat	3
Mission & Community	3
Common Ground	4
2017 New Leaders	4
Reading together	5
Prayers and Birthdays	6
Readings	6
Calendar	7
Caring about Immigration	8

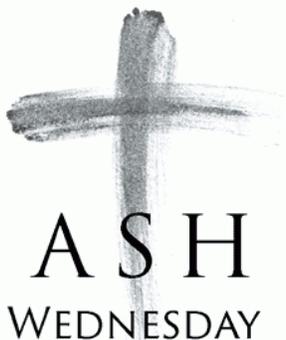
## Adult Education

### Bible Study

Join us on February 1 and 15 from 9:00 - 10:30 am at the Parish House as we conclude our study of the book "Contagious Community: living beyond yourself." Materials provided. We will take Wednesday March 1 off and resume on the Ides of March (March 15) with a new study

### Wednesday "Great Courses" Series

Join us on Feb 8 and 22 from 9:00 - 10:30am for our Great Courses series as we explore "The World of Biblical Israel" with Cynthia Chapman from Oberlin College. During the course of our study together, we will also hear occasional lectures on "The Old Testament" from Prof. Amy Jill Levine.



**6:00 pm on March 1**

Join us for a simple meal at 6pm followed by worship with communion, Imposition of Ashes and the commitment to Lenten Disciplines at 7:00pm.

## UCC Retreat February 18-19

All middle school and high school students are invited to go with Pastor Tim to the Plymouth UCC Witness and Justice Retreat from 9:30am on Saturday through worship back at B-B on Sunday. We will be doing service projects, and watching "MKE 53206", a documentary that chronicles the lives of those affected by incarceration. Several group discussions before and after these events will make for some great in-depth conversation about our neighborhoods. Info packets are available at church or talk with Pastor Tim.

## Kids' Rock

On Sunday, Feb. 5, children are invited to join their families at the communion table and in worship. After communion, we will be creating care packages for college students and young adults who are living away from home.

On Feb 12, 19 and 26, children join their teachers partway through service for a lesson on each Sunday's scripture lessons.

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



## Kids Club

We meet weekly on Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall of the church. We are off on February 2 and meet the next three Thursdays.

If you would like to help with cooking, a special project or chaperoning a field trip, please let Pastor Tim know.

Special thanks to our leadership team including: Thomas McAlister, Jessie Hausch, Tyler Deringer, and Patricia Klabunde.

# A church that cooks and bakes together... ... serves together

In recent years, Bethel-Bethany members and friends have been cooking meals for the women and families at Cathedral Center, serving lunch at UWM Lunch Bunch and dining with our neighbors here in our part of Sherman Park. We've also made sandwiches for Guest House at B-B and through the Urban Immersion Program. In addition, we've stocked our B-B Emergency Food Pantry and helped to support Frieden's Community Ministries, the Sherman Park Pantry, & the Food Distribution Site at Calvary Memorial. **WE'RE A CHURCH THAT COOKS** and seeks to provide food for those in need.

Last year, Fran Hadley stepped back from coordinating our regular meal at the Cathedral Center. Her efforts and the efforts of her cooks and servers (members of BB and friends) have been greatly appreciated.

Knowing that there's still enthusiasm for cooking and serving, the Evangelism Committee is seeking to coordinate four to six Tri-Block Community Meals and two meals each at Guest House, Pathfinders (a ministry to teens), and Cathedral Center. (There's also been interest in providing a meal for Ronald McDonald House.)

Are you interested in helping to prepare and serve a meal for our neighbors, the homeless, and those in need? Please contact Pastor Tim at [Perk-Drews@aol.com](mailto:Perk-Drews@aol.com) or leave a message with Lisa in the office at 414-442-1281. More soon from the Evangelism Committee. (Steve Coleman, Paul Fried, Fran Hadley, Karin Haug, Nick Kory-Krohn, Cindy Krause, Nealy Roth, and Pastor Tim).

*Next UWM Lunch Bunch is March 29.  
Talk to Katy Ferguson for more info.*



**Community Dinner and  
Targeted Investment  
Neighborhood (T.I.N.)  
Presentation**

**5:00-7:00pm**

**CommunityDinner**

**Wednesday, February 15**

**Men's Breakfast  
(Faith, Food & Fellowship)  
8:00am – Sat., February 18**

at El Greco Restaurant (91st St. & Appleton Ave.).

## Can you Lead?

Are you interested in leading groups in our Urban Immersion Program? Talk with Pastor Tim on how you can participate in this life-changing weekend for young people.

Our upcoming groups:

First Congregational from Menomonie Feb 10-11

Bethlehem UCC from Kiel Mar 3-4

Immanuel UCC from Kaukauna Apr 21-22



## Common Ground



Our B-B Common Ground core team is switching days and will meet on Thursday March 2 and Thursday April 6 at 5:30 pm during Lent. Recent discussion topics include our goal of turning the Parish House into a neighborhood house and discussion about the upcoming Spring Delegates Assembly (April 25)

Coming up in Common Ground:

**Thurs., Feb 9, 6:30-8pm**—Do Not Stand Idly By meeting at Invisible Realities (52nd and Center)

**Mon., Feb 13 from 6-8pm** We will be sending some of our leaders to the Common Ground Core Team Leaders meeting at Invisible Realities Ministries (52nd and Center).

Please speak with Lynne Woehrle or Dave Redemann for more information.

## Cultivating Neighborhood!

On Sunday, Feb. 19 from 1:30 - 3:30 at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, neighbors, congregants from religious communities, and organizations all living and serving in the neighborhood bordered by 51st (east) and 60th (west), Center St (south) and Burleigh (north) are invited to gather to formalize our mission and our goals for the coming months. We have been focusing on projects that nurture neighborhood gardening and environmental enhancement, as well as projects related to general safety, housing, economic development, and safety. For more information, please talk to Pastor Tim, Lynne Woehrle or Chris Chance

Please join us as we seek to "cultivate the neighborhood" together! Your input is important!

## 2017 Nominating Report

### Council

*(terms are 2 years with max of 2 consecutive terms)*

Karin Haug (secretary) first term 2017-2018  
Chris Chance (president) first term 2017-2018  
Holger Foersterling first term 2017-2018  
Ric Kory-Krohn first term 2017-2018  
Kathy Reed first term 2017-2018

### Committees: (New Appointments)

*(terms are 3 years with max of two consecutive terms)*

#### **Properties**

Chair - Bart Versteegh second term 2017-2019

#### **Finance**

Cindy Krahenbuhl second term 2017-2019

#### **Endowment**

Bart Versteegh first term 2017-2019  
Nealy Rothe second term 2017-2019

#### **Christian Education**

Chair - Valerie Sauv  second term 2017-2019  
Amber-Sky Brown first term 2017-2019

#### **Worship**

Bonnie Andrews second term 2017-2019  
Thomas Derenne (Comm. Rep) second term 2017-2019

#### **Evangelism (No open slots requiring filling)**

#### **SE Association Delegates (for 2017)**

Paul and Maris Fried

#### **WI Conference Delegates (for 2017)**

Meredith Anderson and Marsha Poulsen

### Nominating Committee 2018

*Terms are one year.*

Mark Plumb  
Meredith Anderson  
Bart Versteegh  
Theresa Dawson

# A church that reads together...

## ... serves together

Many of us are struggling to find a way forward lately, as we experience feelings of bewilderment, anger, frustration, helplessness and even hopelessness. Consider joining with others who are grappling with similar feelings to talk about the book "Hope in the Dark" by Rebecca Solnit. Originally published in 2004, now with a new foreword and afterword, Solnit's influential book shines a light into the darkness of our time.

One reviewer said this:

*"Hope In the Dark changed my life. During a period of pervasive cynicism and political despair, the first edition of this book provided me with a model for activist engagement that I have held dear ever since. Today, as movements for climate, racial, and economic justice sweep the globe, its message is more relevant than ever. In her inimitable and inspiring way, Solnit reminds us that social change follows an unpredictable path. Despite all the obstacles, we must not lose sight of the fact that profound transformation is possible. This book's compact size belies its true power. It provides succor and sustenance, fuel and fire, for those fighting for a more just world."*

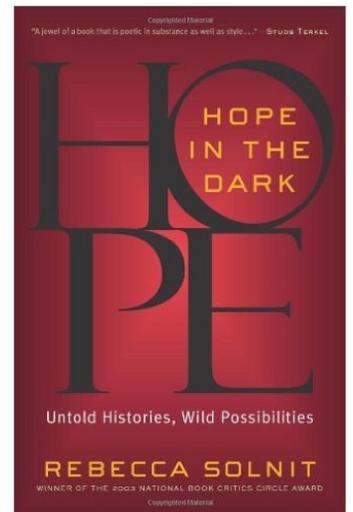
Let's see if we, too, can find in her book some inspiration and a kick-start to refocusing our energies in a positive direction.

The discussion will take place on Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 in the Bethel-Bethany Parish House. Because conversation is always better with food, there will be soup and salad to sustain us.

The book is available at local bookstores and online at Amazon and elsewhere. Books will also be available for sale or loan at church on Sun. Feb. 5.

Please RSVP if you'd like to participate. If you live far away, we'd love for you to contribute your thoughts (a book review?) by email.

You can send them to me, Marsha Poulsen at [tgfgrace@gmail.com](mailto:tgfgrace@gmail.com), or to Pastor Tim at [perkdrews@aol.com](mailto:perkdrews@aol.com).



### Begonia Sale

Sunday, February 12

\$5 for a gift for your valentine

All proceeds go to Sherman Park/NW Interfaith Program-  
for Older Adults.

**Lectionary Readings**

**February 5**

Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9  
1 Cor 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20

**February 12**

Deut.30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Cor 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

**February 19**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23 Matt 5:38-48

**February 26**

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

**March 1—Ash Wednesday**

Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Cor 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:16-21

**THANK YOU!**

The words seem so small.

Thank you for all the years you joined in the Cookie Pack. I thank every one who shared their cookies and gave up their time during the Christmas Season and to those who helped spread the joy to others with those beautiful cookies over the years.

It was hard to give up the Cookie Pack, but I thank each one of you. You always have a special place in my heart for your kindness.

Thank you—Barbara Brown.

**Office Hours**

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

2866/2878 North 54th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53210

Phone (414) 442-1281

Email [bethelbethanyucc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelbethanyucc@gmail.com)

Website [bbucc.org](http://bbucc.org)

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
29 10:00 Worship—Nursery, Kids' Rock	30 Office closed	31 5:30 pm Evangelism meeting 7:00 pm Worship	1 February 9:00 Bible Study	2 7:00 Choir	3	4
5 10:00 Worship/Communion —Joya Preaching Nursery 11:15 Fellowship	6 Office closed	7 5:30 Community of Practice	8 9:00 Great Courses at Parish House	9 4:30 Kids' Club 7:00 Choir	10	11 <i>No Memory Keeps this month</i>
12 10:00 Worship—Nursery, Kids' Rock 11:15 Fellowship  Begonia Sale for Interfaith	13 Office closed	14 6:30 pm Council	15 9:00 Bible Study  5:00 Community Dinner and T.I.N. presentation	16 4:30 Kids' Club 5:30 Book Read discussion and dinner 7:00 Choir	17	18 8:00 Men's Bkfst  9:30 am—UCC retreat for High and Middle School students at Plymouth UCC
19 10:00 Worship—Nursery, Kids' Rock 11:15 Fellowship  1-3 pm Cultivating Neighbor- hood meeting at Mount Calvary	20 Office closed	21 6:00 Pastoral Care Mtg	22 9:00 Great Courses at Parish House	23 4:30 Kids' Club 7:00 Choir	24	25
26 10:00 Worship—Nursery, Kids' Rock 11:15 Fellowship	27 Office closed	28	1 March Ash Wednesday  No Bible Study  6pm Simple Meal and Worship	2 4:30 Kids' Club 5:30 Common Ground Core Team Mtg. 7:00 Choir	3	4

Urban Immersion—First  
Congregational of Menomonie



## A Church that Cares about Immigrants:

### Interested in Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church and Conference?:

This summer when the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ gathers for our annual meeting, Marsha Poulsen, Rev. Meredith Anderson, and I will be delegates to this important gathering of the church. It's the hope of the Conference that congregations like ours will make an effort to be engaged in a pre-conference conversation about what it would mean to be an Immigrant Welcoming Conference. In light of the recent Executive Order banning immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries and recognizing the world refugee crisis, I believe it's

important for congregations like ours to participate in that holy dialogue and to consider how we can support innocent people seeking asylum and hope in our country. Please go to the Wisconsin Conference website ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)) for more information. I will bring the effort to the leadership of the church for consideration and will look forward to talking to members and friends about the initiative.

May we be Welcoming to the Stranger and may the Stranger Become Our Friend,

Pastor Tim

**Church Staff**  
Pastor Rev. Dr. Tim Perkins  
Ministers All Members  
Music Director Deborah Cincotta  
Admin. Asst. Lisa Quinn

**Church Leaders**  
President Chris Chance  
Vice Pres. Sara Smith  
Secretary Karin Haug  
Treasurer Kevin Wolf  
Finance Sec. Jeanne Fehr  
Finance Asst. Brian Klabunde  
Council-at-large  
Vieantay Lucas Maris Fried  
Holger Foersterling Ric Kory-Krohn  
Kathy Reed

**February Edition**  
Return Address Requested

**Bethel-Bethany UCC**  
2866 N. 54th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

