

THE BEACON

OPEN & AFFIRMING MULTICULTURAL-MULTIRACIAL ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Lent: A Time of "Renewal"

During Lent, many of us take on Lenten Disciplines, which can sound like one is taking on a "difficult and challenging spiritual task" designed to make one "right" with God. Traditionally, Christians have given up something for Lent as their discipline which can be "difficult and challenging." On the other hand, if one gives up a habit that's not healthy for one's body, mind, and soul and then develops a new habit that is, that can actually be freeing and "renewing." For example: what if one decided to give up sweets or sugar for Lent and then eat more vegetables every day? Probably most of us would agree that that could lead to more healthful living and a greater sense of well-being. I've also found that when one gives something up that has become a focus in our lives, it can encourage us to re-focus on our relationship with God, which is fundamental to our faith journey. Another example: What if a person gave up TV or Facebook or another habit that's become an obsession? How would we use the time to re-new ourselves spiritually? Giving up something can be a challenging exercise during Lent, but it can also be a "discipline" that leads to "renewal".

It's been my philosophy that "giving up" during Lent can lead to "taking on" a spiritual discipline that can lead to a renewed sense of well-being and purpose. On Ash Wednesday – as we have done for years – we will gather to reflect together (younger and older) on our relationship with God and our walk with Jesus the Christ. We'll receive the imposition of the ashes to remind us that of our humanity and that our lives are dependent on God. We'll share communion to remind us that we are followers of Jesus and One in Christ. And we'll "give up" and "take on" as we claim our Lenten Discipline's individually and together. Please join us on Ash Wednesday and plan to take on Spiritual Discipline during Lent that is renewing.

On the Journey of Faith with You,

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."

Ash Wednesday Meal and Worship

6:15 pm Pot luck dinner in Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Communion, Prayer, Imposition of Ashes
and Spiritual Discipline invitations

The Council "Minute"...

by Chris Chance, Council President

Pastor Tim had prepared a long list of goals for himself for this transition year and asked the executive committee and council to reflect and comment, ranking the top three pastor's activities for 2018. After discussion and also considering some conversations with congregation members, council felt that the pastor's primary activities for this year should be

- worship,
- pastoral care and membership, and
- updating and strengthening the B-B Constitution and by-laws.

In preparation for the Congregational Meeting Jan. 28, budget amendment discussions centered around allocating the decreased Kurth Fund Grant this year (\$1,000 gratefully received) and whether the Pastoral Compensation Package for a new pastor should be amended. The council recommendation that we will take to the congregation will be to allow the compensation offer to stand as formulated jointly by the Finance, Endowment and Executive Committees. If an amendment is indicated once we have a candidate, it can be re-considered at that time.

In property news, the kitchen electric and plumbing updates are completed, and painting of the walls has begun. The sink and dishwasher will be connected and functional in February. The church front door continues to stick open; one repairman has come by, and another is planned. If you walk out of any of the church doors expecting them to lock behind you, please check before you walk away. And I'm sure you have noticed the beautiful Bethel conference table was heroically moved from the Parish House to the Fellowship Hall by some strong volunteers, where it will serve as our serving table as well as our council table. We are also moving forward with remodeling the lower level of the Parish House—please volunteer your time and your muscles in February (see dates below).



The Evangelism Team reported that the Second Sundays of Service are a big success, with more than two dozen red baby hats knitted and crocheted for infants born in February to be distributed by the American Heart Association as part of Little Hats, Big Hearts heart health awareness month. Also, 160 Sandwiches were made for Guest House in January by many willing hands. Finally, our new coffee hour coordinators are Karin Haug and Maris Fried. Please contact one of them to sign up to host coffee hour.

The pastoral transition planning continues, with the Congregational Profile Team hard at work, and will be ready to post our pastoral job opening in February. Council is looking toward the future also by discussing development of a standing Stewardship Committee to manage and plan stewardship initiatives.

And finally, moving into a new year, we are still searching for a volunteer to take responsibility for scheduling Urban Immersion weekends for our church friends



from around the state. The UI Coordinator is a great opportunity for someone with organizational and communication skills. The role consists of being the person who interested youth group leaders will contact for information about the program, and scheduling weekends by checking for availability with the Urban Immersion B-B volunteers (guides), and our partner organizations (Guest House, St. Ben's, Islamic Center, Mt. Sinai COGIC). It can be mostly email and phone work, since we already have a committed group of volunteers who guide the youth while they are here. If you think you might be interested, ask Kent Hadley how it works, as he was the former coordinator, or talk to Pastor Tim.

Parish House Work Days

Saturday, February 17

Packing and moving books, boxes and furniture out

Saturday February 24

Painting walls & carpet removal



February 11
after worship



Interfaith Begonia Sale—We will again have begonia plants for sale for \$5 each. All proceeds go to Interfaith/ NW Older Adults programs.

Come Play BUNCO—It is a simple dice game. (You must be able to read the spots on the dice and count to 21--not too hard!). There will be prizes. It will last about 1 1/2 hours. Players will be asked to donate money each month toward one of our outreach programs. This month the money will go to **The Guest House**.

Please see Karin Haug or Maris Fried if you have any questions.



Bethel-Bethany Food Pantry & Friedens Community Ministries Food Pantry

The Evangelism Committee of Bethel-Bethany has made the decision to shrink the size of our church's pantry. We currently have sufficient stock for 2 families and a some extra so an order can be modified to individual taste. Excess donation and stock that may expire soon is donated to Zion Rock Pantry at 102nd and Fond du Lac Avenue. This is one of the four Friedens Ministries pantries in Milwaukee.

We do not have any pressing needs for food at Bethel-Bethany. However, Zion Rock pantry has an ongoing shortage of bread/buns/bagels. They fly off the shelf as soon as they are stocked. Due to limited shelf life, there rarely is enough for more than a couple of days. If you can bring any of this food group to church on Sundays, I will take it to the pantry on Tuesday evenings. I took in several servings this past Tuesday and they were gone with the first few customers.

Thank you for your continuing your assistance in providing food for the hungry in our community.



Paul Fried for the Evangelism Community

Tri-Block Community Dinner



Community Dinner

February 7, 2018
6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall

Can you help make dinner, make desserts, and/or help serve or clean up from the dinner?

Dates for 2018 Community Dinners:

May 16 Aug 8 Oct 24

Urban Immersion

Feb 9-11: First UMC from
Madison, WI



Mar 16-18: Hope UCC—Sturgeon Bay, WI

Talk with Pastor Tim, Dave Redemann, Mark Plumb or Robert Zimmermann on how you can participate in this life-changing weekend for young people.

Confirmation

During Lent, the Confirmation Class will

- meet on second and fourth Sundays after church from 11:30 to 1:00 (Feb 11 and 25, Mar 11 and 25)
- view the movie “The Gospel of John”
- read selections from the Gospel of Mark
- are encouraged to participate in the Ash Wednesday Service on February 14 (Pot Luck at 6:00. Worship at 7:00)
- are invited to take on a Spiritual Discipline for the 40 days and Sundays of Lent.
- will create the “Walk Through Holy Week” experience, a tour of the important scenes from Holy Week (Temple, Garden of Gethemane, Upper Room, Golgotha, the Tomb) to be presented after church on Palm Sunday, March 25.

For more info, please talk with Pastor Tim Perkins, Rev. Meredith Anderson or Scott Bennett.

Kids’ Rock

Kids’ Rock meets 2nd –5th Sundays during worship—children start worship with their families and are invited to join their teachers at the back of church for lessons in the Fellowship Hall Classroom.

We meet:

February 11

February 18

February 25

If you have questions about Kids’ rock or would like to help lead classes, please talk with Scott Bennett or Val Sauvè.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Adult Faith Formation is expanding at Bethel-Bethany. In the last year, our Wednesday morning twice a month bible study has been a launching point for a Great Courses group on opposite Wednesdays and a second bible study on Sunday mornings (seasonal).

Due to popular request, both the Wednesday morning groups will be duplicated in the evenings on Wednesdays for those who are busy on Wednesday mornings. Sunday morning Bible Study is returning for Lent, our Spirituality Group is beginning again on Thursdays, and we are looking at a Book Discussion, a Day of Silence Retreat.. and more? Look for the “*Faith Formation for Life*” flyer in this newsletter or at church for full descriptions—and “take on” a Spiritual Discipline starting Ash Wednesday that will nourish you throughout the year.

Common Ground



Core Team Meetings
are now on First Mondays!

Monday, Feb. 5 at 5:45

Monday, March 5 at 5:45

For more info, please contact
Dave Redemann or Lynne Woehrlé

Men’s Breakfast

**Faith, Food &
Fellowship**

8:00am – Sat., February 17

at El Greco Restaurant

(91st St. & Appleton) Ave.)

Community-Building “Retreat”

Saturday, Feb. 10 | 9 am to 1 pm

**Community Event room at Glendale Lakes Condominiums
1600 W. Green Tree Rd, 2nd floor**

Please join us for a relaxing morning where you will be able to –

- ◇ Work with others to help create and finish two new Lenten banners for the sanctuary (no particular skills necessary)
- ◇ Make or simply write messages on greeting cards to send to folks on our prayer list – or anyone in your life who needs a card
- ◇ Delve into the concept of a spiritual legacy, and think about what yours might be
- ◇ Take some time out for quiet meditation or prayer, if you wish
- ◇ And more...

Our time together will conclude with pizza!

If you'd like to come, please let Marsha Poulsen know by Wednesday, Feb. 7.

e-mail: tgfgrace@gmail.com cell phone: 1-414-404-1066

Dear White Christians:

*A Path toward Racial Justice
with author Dr. Jennifer Harvey*

- A Mutton Lecture

Dr. Jennifer Harvey, author of *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*, will be in Wisconsin to speak and share conversation on the subject of the church and racial justice. Harvey, Professor of Religion at Drake University in Des Moines, specializes in encounters of religion and ethics with race, gender, activism, politics, spirituality, justice, and other aspects of social life. She has spoken and led workshops for faith communities and academic audiences around the nation. She is also a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and keeps her own blog: formations.livingattheintersections.com

Fri., Feb 9, 7-9 pm

at Fountain of Life Covenant Church
633 Badger Road, Madison, WI

Sat. Feb 10, 10am to noon

at Calvary Memorial UCC,
4515 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa

She will offer largely identical presentations at two sites, one in Madison on the evening of February 9, and one in Wauwatosa on the morning of February 10. Advanced registrations are welcome through the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ at www.wcucc.org. Persons are also welcome to register at the door. The cost is \$10.

Jennifer Harvey's appearance in Wisconsin is sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with the Mission Team of the Southeast Wisconsin Association of the UCC.

Recent Prayers

*If we've missed your birthday,
please contact the Church Office
so we can update our
Database.*

Lectionary Readings

Feb 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Cor. 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Feb 11 Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Feb 14—Ash Wed

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

Feb 18 Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Feb 25—Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;
Psalm 22:23-31;
Romans 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-38

Pick up a copy of the
Spiritual Disciplines 2018
starting on February 14.

February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
				1 February 7:00 Choir	2	3
4 10:00 Worship, Communion, Nursery 11:15 Fellowship 	5 5:45 Common Ground Core Team Meeting	6 7:15 p Capital Campaign Mtg	7 9:00 Bible Study at Parish House 6-8 pm Community Dinner  Community Dinner	8 11:00 SPARC 5:30 Cong. Profile Team 7:00 Choir	9	10 9-1 Lent Retreat 10-12—Dear White Christians Lecture <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Urban Immersion—First UMC— Madison, WI Feb 9-11 </div>
11 Transfiguration 8:30 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Kids' Rock, Nursery 11:15 Fellowship, Second Sunday Mission—BUNCO, Begonia Sale 11:30 Confirmation Pastor's Class 	12	13 6:30 Council Meeting	14 9:00 Great Courses at Parish House 6:15 Ash Wednesday Pot luck 7:00 Worship	15	16	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast Parish House Work Day— Clean out!
18 8:30 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 Worship—Kids' Rock, Nursery, 11:15 Fellowship	19	20 6:00 Pastoral Care Mtg	21 9:00 Bible Study at Parish House 6:30 Evening Great Courses	22	23 5:30 Spirituality 7:00 Choir	24 Parish House Work Day— Paint
25 8:30 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 Worship— Kids' Rock, Nursery 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Confirmation Pastor's Class	26	27 5:30 Evangelism	28 9:00 Great Courses at Parish House 6:30 Evening Bible Study	1 March	2	3

Start your Spirituality Discipline

Ash Wednesday—February 14

join us for a potluck meal at 6:15 pm with worship following at 7:00 pm. As we start our Lenten journey together, we take time to

“*create* a clean heart” and “*renew* a right spirit”.



Feb 14 6:15 Potluck 7:00 worship and thenStart your Spiritual Discipline

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

Church Staff

Kas' Whitmore
 Caryn Redemann Kathy Reed
 Holger Foersterling Ric Kory-kroh
 Thomas Derenne Steve Komes

Council-at-large

President Chris Chance
 Vice Pres. Maris Fried
 Secretary Karin Haug
 *Treasurer Kevin Wolf
 *Finance Sec. Jeanne Fehr
 *Finance Asst. Brian Klabunde

Church Leaders

Return Address Requested

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

