

The Chronicle



January 2021
United Church of Christ (Congregational)
46 Stam Street, Williams Bay, WI 53191
Sunday Worship at 9:00 am
www.uccwb.org



FRESH WORD from Pastor Marty

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good.” *Genesis 1.1-4, New Revised Standard Version.*

The creation of life as a “formless void” has always intrigued me. Perhaps because I am an artist who always begins with a blank canvas, this reality of life beginning in the void—the chaotic emptiness—amazes me. I especially like the Hebrew phrase that is here translated as “formless void”—*tohu va bohu*. *Say that fast... it's a fun little tongue-twister!*

Actually, that is part of the poetry of Genesis 1. The author holds the *tohu va bohu of life's chaos within the blessing of God's creativity that is “good” and “beautiful.” That Hebrew word is tov. So there is a play on words between the tohu va bohu and the tov. God's good beauty, here in these verses the light shining in the darkness, emerges, paradoxically, from the chaotic void of darkness.*

To me, as we continue through a dark winter of this pandemic, life feels like one great big pile of *tohu va bohu*, doesn't it? *I'm glad to hear that the Spirit of God is moving within all this darkness and chaos to bring something good and beautiful—the tov of God—from within it all!*

With you, looking for the *tov in the tohu va bohu*,
Pastor Marty

Annual Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the United Church of Christ (Congregational) of Williams Bay, WI will be held via Zoom Video Conference immediately following the 9:00 worship service on Sunday, January 24, 2021

Inside this issue:

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- 3-Prayers, Lectionary
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Moderating Words

Throughout 2020, we had to work hard to readjust to a reality informed by the COVID pandemic. While there have been things that we lost like in person worship and greetings that include hugs, there have also been benefits like being able to share worship with long distance members and friends through the Zoom and working with the Shared Ministry Transition Team and Church Council paving the way to affirming the Shared Ministry Covenant with the First Congregational United Church of Christ Lake Geneva.

The beauty of beginning a new year (2021!!!) is that we have an opportunity to reset our goals and expectations. It is with great hope and anticipation that we, the United Church of Christ (Congregational) Williams Bay, officially welcome Pastor Marty to be our settled part-time minister starting February. As has been noted in our past, we are a small AND mighty congregation. With Pastor Marty, we have an opportunity to develop the nature and future of our ministry here in Williams Bay.

In 2021, we start with our Annual Congregational Meeting that is scheduled for January 24th. Here we will share the annual reports of our working committees, address any questions from the membership, and vote our support for new members nominated to serve in officer and committee positions. Plan to join us for this new beginning!

With Hope and Peace,
Margaret

Annual Reports

Reminder for all committee chairs and church officers: Your 2020 annual report is due by January 8th. Please submit your report in the form of a Word Document to either Jim Killian or Ruth Anne Morava. The report will be emailed out to all those with an email address on file and mailed (on request) to those with no email access.

Thank You!

- ◆ Our lay leaders in December: Suzie Arnold, Margaret Gregg, Roberta Killian & the Morava family
- ◆ Sara and David Johnson for their special gift of music on Christmas Eve
- ◆ All our hard-working committee members and officers
- ◆ The Spiritual Life committee for decorating the church for the Advent season
- ◆ All who donated money and/or time this holiday to assist those in need
- ◆ Pastor Marty for leading Sip N Chat gatherings discussing daily devotionals from *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas*

Announcements

Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin should be sent to the church office by the Thursday prior to the worship. Email to uccwboffice@gmail.com.

Articles for The Chronicle should be emailed to rmorava@charter.net by the 26th of each month.

Specific prayer requests can be sent to Pastor Marty by phoning the church office 262-245-5426 or by emailing him @ sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com

Prayers

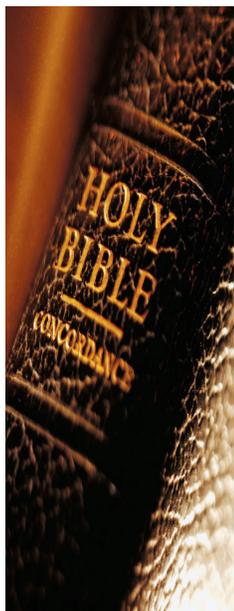
God, shine your light into the darkness of these in their need.

- +Bonnie Kitzman, bless her recovery at home after being in the hospital
- +Staff of New Beginnings, who helping with difficult family situations, bless them with peace and strength.
- +Continuing healing for Margaret after her two cataract surgeries.
- +For a friend of Margaret, Joan and her family, we ask peace and comfort as they grieve the death of Bruce, who passed away this week.
- +Hope, daughter of the Burwells, peace and strength during isolation of strict safer-at-home protocols in the Netherlands
- +Be with the family of Gail in a difficult situation.
- +For a friend of Kathy, Heather, restore health after a brain aneurism.
- +Be with Penny, a 4-year-old recovering from heart surgery. Bring health and recovery to her.
- +Healing for Pastor Marty's aunt Emma Jean, who is struggling with COVID.
- +Continuing comfort for David Williams and family, at the passing of his wife, Kathy.
- +Comfort for the family of Susie Hatch, who passed away on Christmas Day.
- +For Sandi Conrad and family, continuing to grief the death of their beloved, Dave.
- +For Wilda, comfort and strength in her struggles with her health as she continues in the rehab unit of Froedert Hosp. and give her doctors wisdom.



We pray in the beautiful light of the Christ Child, with gratitude, Amen.

Lectionary



Sunday, January 3rd	2nd Sunday after Christmas		
Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:10-18
Sunday, January 10th	1st Sunday after Epiphany		
Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19: 1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Sunday, January 17th	2nd Sunday after Epiphany		
1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139:1-6,13-18	1 Corinth.6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Sunday, January 24th	3rd Sunday after Epiphany		
Jonah 3:1-5,10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinth.7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Sunday, January 31st	4th Sunday after Epiphany		
Deut.18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinth.8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

For the New Year 2021...

A FRESH WORD | “Doesn’t Wisdom cry out and Understanding shout? Atop the heights along the path, at the crossroads she takes her stand. By the gate before the city, at the entrances she shouts: I cry out to you, people; my voice goes out to all of humanity” (Proverbs 8.1-4).

A Prayer for a New Year: “A Year of Living Wisely” by Bruce Sanguin

We arrive with New Years determination, and disciplined resolve: to get off sugar, be more generous, find a new job... all good intentions, each with its own track record. Help us to remember, O Holy One, an intention to walk the path of wisdom this year, the way of the of the open-hearted sojourner. We seek gnosis, a knowing that our souls awaken only to projects that are soul-sized—ones that overshadow the desperate dramas of ego— like awakening to wonder, and to our unity with All That Is, and to seeing the face of Christ in the stranger, in the exiled, and in those who are often too close to see with sacred vision, especially ourselves. Soften our determination to do more. Relax our resolve and release us from the wiles of willpower, ego’s happy servant. Enroll us in Wisdom’s Academy, to sit as pupils at Her feet, so that our own might be led by Sophia, Lady of Wisdom, “into the mystic.”* Amen.

*Van Morrison, “Into the Mystic,” Moondance (Warner Bros/Wea, 1990).

Community Outreach

A HUGE THANK-YOU to everyone who contributed money for Christmas gift cards for the clients at New Beginnings

We were able to give a total of \$900 in Kohl’s and Target gift cards so that families could purchase presents. The love and generosity of this congregation never ceases to amaze me!

Thank you also to those who helped ring the bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Your presence made a difference.

Ruth Anne



NEW YEAR WISHES JUST FOR YOU
HAPPINESS AND PEACE IN ALL YOU DO
MAY GOD BLESS YOUR HOME AND FAMILY TOO
MAY HE BE WITH YOU THE WHOLE YEAR THROUGH.

www.wow4u.com

Spiritual Life

The Spiritual Life Committee wishes all a very happy new year! We continue to support all efforts for Zoom meetings, and look forward to transitioning to in-church services as soon as safely possible. In the meantime, we have been very pleased to be able to see people who have joined us in Zoom services, who would not otherwise be able to. So, dark times sometimes do bring unexpected blessings! We hope to be able to continue offering Zoom participation even when in-person attendance will be possible.

Finance/Stewardship

The Finance Stewardship Committee reminds everyone to please complete your Faith Promise (yearly pledge) Card and return to the church office. We have received a total of 20 Faith Promise Cards so far, with projected 2021 giving pledges down about \$11,000 from last year.

Because we are not having in-person worship at the church, the loose offerings and Coins-for-Mission donations for 2020 are also much lower than budgeted. We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2021 Faith Promises and remember your church in your year-end donations.



Sip N Chat

Join us on Zoom, Wednesdays at 11.00am as we catch up with one another and share what's happening in our lives and how we imagine God might be up to something in our world. Zoom invitations are sent out via email early in the week.



January Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Cindy Stuhley
- 5 Gail Johnson
- 6 Connie Reader
- 8 Ian Spolarich
- 9 Becky Lemke
- 15 Cindy Rademaker
- 21 Bonnie Kitzman
- 21 Bruce Johnson
- 22 Wilda De Fur



Lay Leaders

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Sunday morning worship service via Zoom. If you would like to volunteer to lead the prayers and/or read the lectionary, please contact Pastor Marty at the church office @ 262-245-5426 or email him @ sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com



Please note: All in-person worship has been suspended. To receive a zoom invitation for Sunday worship, please email: uccwboffice@gmail.com

January Calendar

Jan. 3	9:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion via Zoom
Jan. 6	11:00 am	Sip N Chat
Jan. 8		Annual Reports Due
Jan. 10	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom
Jan. 13	11:00 am	Sip N Chat
Jan. 14	2:00 pm	Church Council Meeting via Zoom
Jan 17	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom
Jan. 20	11:00 am	Sip N Chat
Jan. 24	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom 2021 Annual Meeting
Jan. 27	11:00 am	Sip N Chat
Jan. 31	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom

Minister:
 Rev. Dr. Martin Carney
Moderator: Margaret Gregg
Assistant Moderator:
 Open
Treasurer: Jim Killian
Clerk: Kathy Walsh
Financial Secretary: Open
Music Director:
 Sara Johnson

Committee Contacts:
Spiritual Life: Gail Johnson
Finance: Alice Morava
Building & Grounds:
 Bruce Johnson
Memorials: Roberta Killian
Outreach: Ruth Anne Morava
Faith Formation: Roberta Killian