

# The Chronicle



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



## FRESH WORD from Pastor Marty

“Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, ‘Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!’” (Mark 1.14-15)

I invite to you to watch, and then reflect upon a video that was created by the Rev. Dr. Tisha Brown—the Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development with the WI Conference UCC—about the changes we are now living through as church and culture in the midst of this pandemic. You may find the 10-minute video at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd4rjTrJSBA&feature=youtu.be>

In the video, Tisha Brown references the book, **How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You Are Going** by Susan Beaumont. Dr. Brown highlights the following learning from that excellent resource:

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### Three Spiritual Shifts

1. From Knowing to Unknowing
2. From Advocating to Attending
3. From Striving to Surrender

In her comments on these spiritual shifts, the Rev. Dr. Tisha Brown suggested three questions to consider as you ponder which spiritual shift might be one for you or your congregation to make.

### Three Questions to Consider

1. Where am I/are we stuck in my/our thinking? (Knowing)
2. Where am I/are we stuck in my/our attitude? (Advocating)
3. Where am I/are we stuck in the past? (Striving)

Since the process of making any one of these spiritual shifts is challenging, Tisha then suggested three mantras or phrases to adopt in the midst of these shifts.

### Three Mantras to Consider

1. This is interesting. I wonder what is emerging now ... (curiosity/unknowing)
2. This is where we are/where I am now. I wonder what God/Spirit is doing here... (mindfulness/attending)
3. This is normal now. I wonder what is possible in this reality? (accept reality/surrender)

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## Fresh Word (Continued)

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This process of making these spiritual shifts is challenging and it takes time. There are three things we need to keep in mind as we go through this process.

### In the process...

1. Allow yourself to be uncomfortable/feel discomfort.
2. Allow yourself to let go.
3. Allow yourself to grieve.

And above all, don't do this alone! Gather your community, your family, your support network and share this experience together.

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I'm thankful for Tisha Brown's invitation for us all to consider the change we are living into now. May the Spirit guide us into open hearts, open minds, and open hands so that we can open the spirit of our church and discuss these key questions for us in all this change: **Who are we? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to become?**

With you, learning and opening to God's change,  
*Pastor Marty*

## Moderating Words

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Last month our congregation elected a slate of new officers and committee members. Although most of the faces are the same, many have taken on different positions. I feel a sense of excitement (and fear) for the challenges of taking on different (and some unfamiliar) roles and responsibilities.

Even though I have served as moderator before, this year looks a lot different than in the past. There are so many things we **can't** do. We **can't** worship together in person. We **can't** raise funds through large gatherings. We **can't** touch or socialize in person. We **can't** fill our committees due to a declining membership.

I have never been one of those defiant types. I don't get huffy and irritated and respond with, "Don't tell me what I can or can't do! I'll show you!" Rather, I try to look at what is not possible and figure out an alternative that will yield similar results. In order to fully take-on the new challenges we are all facing, I have thought about ways and things that I (and you, too) **can** do to keep our congregation not only alive, but thriving.

We **can** be proactive. Control what will happen, rather than responding after it has happened. When tasks are identified, we **can** take ownership and follow through on the established needs. We **can** try new things. In fact, we need new ideas and approaches. We **can** reach out and ask for help. We need to remember that we are a congregation of many capable members. Embrace our diversity. We **can** define and refine our responsibilities by revising and updating our church by-laws. We **can** make a difference in the lives of others by living and teaching the Good News of Jesus in our daily lives.

I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. I hope that you, too, will face the challenges ahead by remembering to embrace the things you **can** do in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peace,  
Ruth Anne

## Prayers

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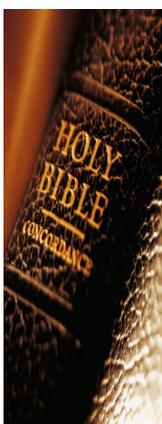
### **Christ of great compassion, speak your word of healing into these lives...**

- +Peace for Audrey Conrad, who fell, had surgery —which led to many complications— now bless her as she is now in hospice care. Bless her daughter, Sharon Ripple, and all the family that each day with Audrey will be cherished as a gift.
- +Healing for Dave (son of Bruce and Gail) and Dave’s family as they struggle with COVID-19.
- +Bless Alice as she has corneal transplant surgery, may you give her doctors wisdom and Alice peace.
- +Bless Ginny and Greg in their move to Madison, that all will be well in their travels and transition.
- +Give strength to Bonnie as she continues to recover, give her doctors wisdom.
- +Healing and hope for Jaime, close friend of Roberta. Healing in his struggle with COVID and also a severe stroke leaving him paralyzed in one arm and leg. Bless his young adult daughter, who may have infected him with the virus. Also strength of spirit and comfort to Jaime’s friends and family -Justin and family; Jaime’s his two grown daughters, and wife, Millie, peace as they go through this difficult time.
- +Give wisdom to the doctors of Al Burnell as he goes through tests, and peace for Ellen, as well.
- +Family of Bob, friend to Connie and many, who passed away this past week. May your peace surround Bob’s family and friends.
- +Margie, sister of Dorothy Burwell, whose son passed away.
- +Bless Russ’ partner Norm who has dementia (Dorothy B).
- +We are grateful that Rev. Jean has recovered from COVID after only minor symptoms.
- +Staff of New Beginnings, who help with difficult family situations, bless them with peace and strength.
- +Hope, daughter of the Burwells, peace and strength during isolation of strict safer-at-home protocols in the Netherlands
- +Be with Penny, a 4-year-old recovering from heart surgery. We are glad she is doing well and the family is grateful (Margaret).
- +Continuing comfort for David Williams and family, at the passing of his wife, Kathy.
- +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 and give her doctors wisdom.
- +Rhonda, best-friend of Linda who is now dying of cancer. Peace and strength to her and her loved ones (Margaret).
- +And, may there be wellness and wholeness in our souls and the souls of all, so that our fight against this virus might lead to wise living and hope for a future.

**With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

## Lectionary

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February 7	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany		
Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11,20c	1 Cor. 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 14	Transfiguration Sunday		
2 Kings :1-12	Psalm 50:1-7	2 Cor. 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 17	Ash Wednesday		
Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Cor.5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
February 21	First Sunday in Lent		
Genesis 9:3-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 28	Second Sunday in Lent		
Genesis 17:1-7,15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

## Communicating about Prayers of the People

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During the pandemic, communication is more complicated than before it began, I think we can say. With this new reality, we need to give each other grace and patience in this stressful time. Please forgive me if I am more scattered in this time. It would, no doubt, be true to think of me as the “absent-minded pastor” on certain days. Perhaps you might have a few of those days too?

As we communicate our prayer concerns and joys, I invite you to do so with me through text or voicemail (920.467.9126) or through email ([sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com](mailto:sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com)). Truthfully—in writing—helps me greatly to be less absent-minded.

Since communication is so different now during the pandemic, I will keep the person/situation on the prayer list until you communicate with me a change in the situation, or your desire to remove the particular prayer. Again, please communicate that with me through text, voicemail or email. Thank you. Praying with you in these difficult days.

Pastor Marty

## Community Outreach

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Update on New Beginnings APFV:

Through the generosity of Advocate Aurora, New Beginnings APFV has a new home! The medical offices located across from the old County Courthouse at 20 N. Church St. in Elkhorn, were donated to New Beginnings by Advocate Aurora and they have begun plans to move their offices to the new location at the end of February.



The building has 3 different office suites that New Beginnings now owns. One suite will be rented to the Housing Authority, one suite will be used for New Beginnings offices, conference rooms and a children’s room and the 3rd suite will (hopefully) be renovated to include 4 apartments for emergency shelter. I say “hopefully” because the organization is still meeting resistance from neighbors, and the neighbors have filed a lawsuit against the city of Elkhorn for granting a conditional use permit to New Beginnings for the building of the shelter. There are other legal issues, such as a shared driveway dispute that has delayed the building of the apartments, but that doesn’t diminish the wonderful news of the expanded office areas for the counselors and advocates.

The 30 year old building has been vacant for 7 years, so you can imagine that before moving in, a number of upgrades are necessary. In the past month, work has begun upgrading the electrical and technical equipment, installing a new HVAC unit with an air purification system, installing new ADA plumbing features and replacing the roof!

New Beginnings is so thankful for your continued prayers and support. If you would like to find out how you can volunteer or make a donation to help with the rehab, please contact Ruth Anne Morava.

## Sip N Chat

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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.



## Looking to Lent 2021

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Pastor Marty has talked with the pastors of the churches which usually participate in shared services during Lent. With those initial conversations, and with conversations in our church's Spiritual Life Committee, I think we can say that this season of Lent will be unlike any through which we have journeyed.

The pastors are now planning to decide what will work best during this time of pandemic. At this point, the planning is still ongoing. We will soon communicate with you through emails, and other means as necessary, the upcoming **Ash Wednesday Zoom Worship, February 17, 2021, TBA**, which begins the season of Lent

"Again & Again"—our theme for Lent originates in creative resources made by a creative ministry group entitled, **A Sanctified Art**: <https://sanctifiedart.org/again-and-again-lent-bundle-year-b> This year the devotional booklet and other worship resources were created by the Rev. T. Denise Anderson, the Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice with the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Again, you will receive the devotional booklet electronically through the mail. Paper copies will be available for those unable to print their own home copies.

Through this upcoming season of Lent, as always, we move through our wilderness world, toward the new life of hope as we rise in a life of love through Christ. Even though this year will be different, the good news at the heart of our faith continues to bring us hope for the future.



## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Cindy & Tom Stuhley
- 29 Cindy & Larry Rademaker



### BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mallory Beyers
- 2 Liz Beyers
- 6 Peter Puleo
- 6 Brian Wolski
- 7 Phyllis Janda
- 16 Jo Dewart
- 22 Ellen Burnell
- 23 Audrey Mathews



## Lay Leaders

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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](mailto: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](mailto:uccwboffice@gmail.com)



## February Calendar

Feb. 3	11:00 am	Sip N Chat via Zoom
Feb. 7	9:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion via Zoom
Feb. 9		Finance/Stewardship Meeting via Zoom
Feb. 10		Spiritual Life Meeting via Zoom
Feb. 10	11:00	Sip N Chat via Zoom
Feb. 11	4:00 pm	Church Council Meeting via Zoom
Feb. 14	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom
Feb. 17	11:00 am	Sip N Chat via Zoom
Feb. 21	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom
Feb. 24	11:00 am	Sip N Chat via Zoom
Feb. 28	9:00 am	Worship via Zoom

## 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](mailto:uccwboffice@gmail.com). Chronicle articles are due the 26th of each month to: [rmorava@charter.net](mailto:rmorava@charter.net). Prayer requests should be made to: [sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com](mailto:sharedministry.pastormarty@gmail.com)

Minister:  
Rev. Dr. Martin Carney  
Moderator: Ruth Anne Morava  
Assistant Moderator:  
Sara Johnson  
Treasurer: Audrey Mathews  
Clerk: Kathy Walsh  
Financial Secretary: Jim Killian  
Music Director:  
Sara Johnson

**Committee Contacts:**  
Spiritual Life: Suzi Arnold  
Finance: Alice Morava  
Building & Grounds:  
Bruce Johnson  
Memorials: Roberta Killian  
Outreach: Margaret Gregg  
Faith Formation: Roberta Killian