

**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2801 GARFIELD ST.
TWO RIVERS**

**ADULT EDUCATION
8:30 AM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:
9:30 AM**

**920-553-1222
WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG**

unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com
Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com
Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com



IN OUR NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2019

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

"Year Twenty-Four"

I'm writing this on Saturday. It is 7 a.m. I just watched thirty-seven youth and adults leave church as they head for Clay, West Virginia. I heard beautiful laughter. I saw youth and adults caring for each other. I felt some tears.

This is our church's twenty-fourth trip to the Appalachian Mountains. For twenty years I was an insider. For the past four years I have been an outsider.

I am an outsider now. I have memories of nine to four work days. They really are work days. The weather is hot and humid. The exhaustion reminded me of the cheese factory. At the end of the day, another two hours of activities are planned to help us think about the cause of poverty and discrimination.

Some of my best memories from this church's ministry are associated with those trips to the Appalachian Mountains. I think of adults coming together to resolve work-site problems. I think of the music jams led by Wade, Jordan, Cheryl, Nicole and Keith. Our ASP youth are just a cut above normal. I think of thankful homeowners for that new toilet or that roof repair.

Have no illusions, the Appalachia Service Project is not for the half-hearted. If you are looking for all fun, go to Bay Beach. If you need rest, get a room in Door County. If you want a revival, go to Life Fest. But if you want to get outside your comfort zone, exert some energy, grow relationships, and maybe even improve the life of another human being, you might consider the Appalachia Service Project.

Every once in a while I hear about people who get their feathers ruffled by people they hardly know. They pass judgement. They argue politics. When someone chooses to go the Appalachian Mountains, they need to rise above pettiness. Let's get along for the sake of Jesus Christ.

The church could take lessons from our ASP volunteers. When people followed Jesus, he warned them, "the way is hard that leads to life." Our youth and adults earn this trip. They sold Christmas wreaths. They spent evenings in the Juza garage constructing the wreaths. And they slept on cots.

And to what end? They will sweat. They will wait in line for a shower. They will be told: this is not about you. This is about Jesus, and accepting people where they are.

And the adults work doubly hard. I can say that now as an outsider. They plan the trip. They call vendors. When youth do not show up, they make phone calls. They organize meetings. They collect insurance and legal release forms. They pack automobiles; provide extra water, snacks, and money; and even come up with games to play. And they will show youth how to laugh in healthy ways.

I was emotional as I saw the vans pull out of our parking lot. We expect more of our volunteers than some do of paid workers. ASP is part of what Jesus meant when he said, "Take up your cross, and follow me." I hope Jesus' words apply to these, "Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven."

NEWS FROM OUR MODERATOR

COMING SOON... PREVIEW OF A NEW CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At the end of June, the Constitution Committee finished drafting a new constitution and a set of bylaws for our church. Work on this began in May 2018 at the direction of the church Cabinet. A thorough review of our existing constitution resulted in rewriting the constitution and breaking out a set of bylaws. The Constitution Committee plans to host an information session for members of the church on Sunday, September 15, to be held between the two worship services. We will highlight important changes and the rationale for them, and accept feedback from people about the new documents.

We plan to make the draft available by September 1, and email it as a PDF to those who currently receive email from the church. We also will print some copies and have them available by Sunday, September 1, for people to pick up after worship. If you are unable to pick one up at the church, and need it mailed to you, please contact the church office. A copy of the current constitution may also be obtained by request from the church office.

The Cabinet has called a special congregational meeting, tentatively set for October 13, for the congregation to vote on repealing the current constitution and adopting the draft of the new constitution and bylaws. This date is flexible, in case there are significant changes determined to be needed from the September 15 dialogue.

I want to offer many thanks to the members of the Constitution Committee for their ideas, constructive criticism, and dedication to this task. The committee included Renee Anderson, Don DeBruyn, Mary Elias, Sarah Gallagher, Rev. Kim Henning, and Larry Peterson. We are grateful for helpful suggestions and research from Rev. Colie Bettivia, Treasurer Linda Justema, and heads of our Boards in response to our requests.

Don DeBruyn, Moderator

General Synod----2019 Milwaukee, Wisconsin Global Peace

From June 21-25, representatives of the United Church of Christ gathered in Milwaukee for its biennial meeting. As part of its work, our church passed five environmentally-related resolutions. We will tell you about one of these in each of our five upcoming newsletters.

The United Church of Christ's national deliberative body reaffirmed its commitment to global peace by overwhelmingly passing a resolution urging the United States to change its nuclear arms policies and to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The overwhelmingly affirmative June 25 vote flowed from the church's mission statement, which includes the commitment to "build a just world for all."

Rose Wright Scott of the Southern Conference, chair of a delegate committee that studied the resolution June 23, bore witness to the passion of the committee's members. The resolution calls for the United States to adopt five principles of the "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War" campaign:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Ending any U.S. President's ability to authorize a first strike nuclear attack;
- Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- Canceling the plan to replace the nation's arsenal with new, enhanced weapons; and
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear states to eliminate their arsenals.

During the committee's deliberations, proponent Joe Scarry observed that the destructive power of these weapons is simply too great to continue. Another delegate said, "There is no learning from nuclear weapons because there is no second chance." "It is our prayer," said Scott, that we will follow with action to create a safer world."

The Rev. Eric S. Anderson is pastor of Church of the Holy Cross UCC in Hilo, Hawaii.

CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Don DeBruyn **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Zachary Peterson
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haag
Mission & Outreach Chair, Joe DeGroot
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller
Members-at-Large, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ **June, 2019**

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	\$374,054
Pledge Income Received during June	\$31,166
Loose Offering Received during April	\$628
Sunday School Offerings During April	\$0

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

Your Gifts of Mission and Compassion (June)

Campital Campaign (Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center) \$413 (\$3655 this year!)

TREP (Food Pantry Cash Donations in June): \$625

The Crossing: \$528

A note from your Trustees: Your support of this church is valued and appreciated. Thank you for remembering to support the church even in summer, when many other demands are made on your personal budgets. Through six months, \$188,449 has been contributed toward our pledged goal of \$374,054. This is just about 50%! Bravo!

ATTENTION ELECTRONIC PLEDGE WITHOLDING CHANGE

Beginning August 1st we are changing our electronic pledge withholding vendor from VANCO to USBank. We have conducted a test run during July to make sure account numbers matched. As with any change it is important for you to be aware and double check.

WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT? First, the vendor withdrawal name will be USBank. Second, if you pledge to the church AND the camp, you will see two separate line item withdrawals. Currently it is a single withdrawal.

WHY DID WE DO THIS? Two Reasons: First, we needed more electronic access to our various bank accounts to improve efficiency in our administration and Treasurer duties. Second, this move will save the church members about \$240 a year in service fees.

We recommend you check your bank account activity in August on either the 1st or the 15th. For electronic withholding two times per month, please check on both days. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Debbie Augustine during church work hours on Tuesday or Thursday.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Greetings in the Spirit of Christ! Summer is among us which brings on travel, camping, ball games, and much more that grabs our attention. It also can pull us away from Sunday morning worship. This Summer, it was decided to only offer one Sunday morning worship at 9:30 AM. This along with our already busy schedules may draw down worship attendance. Just a friendly reminder that our financial obligations carry throughout the year regardless of worship attendance. Please remember we rely on the financial commitments provided at our annual stewardship campaign. If you're not in attendance, we ask that you still keep up with your contributions so we can keep our budget streamlined. Also, consider electronic giving so you don't need to remember each week or month to write a check or fill an envelope. As always, we are grateful for your continued support and pray that God Blesses you all with a wonderful Summer!

Blessings,

Todd Moolenaar

On behalf of the Trustees and Stewardship committee

A SOLAR CELEBRATION

Wednesday, August 13 at 1:00pm

Join us **live** at the Trost Conference Center in DeForest, or live on Facebook through the wonders of technology, for a 30-minute service to commission the solar array that was installed on the Trost Center's roof in February. We hope you can join us either in person or on Facebook for this event! No registration or RSVP is necessary.

Fun Fact: In May the solar array produced \$300 worth of electricity (and you know how cloudy it was in May!) That meant the Conference's electric bill was only \$24!

What Does it Mean to be UCC? United Church of Christ History, Polity, and Theology

A Damascus Project course

The United Church of Christ has always been an eclectic mix of theologies, traditions and practices woven together by Jesus' prayer that "all may be one." (John 17:21) This course features a survey of the diverse European and American churches that are woven into the fabric of the UCC. It will include an exploration of, shared and diverse theological viewpoints, and the covenantal polity (form of governance) in the UCC. There will be readings, conversations, and brief written papers in this ten-week online course, with face-to-face retreats at the beginning and end of the course.

Course instructor: Rev. Clyde Steckel is a retired Professor of Theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, where he taught pastoral care and counseling, ministry courses, and the history and polity of the United Church of Christ. He also served as academic dean at United. He holds degrees from Butler University, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago Divinity School. His new book, published in 2017, is *Finding the Church, a Personal Memoir*.

Course Logistics: This is a 10-week course that begins and ends with in-person retreats on **Friday and Saturday, September 14-15 and November 15-16**. We will begin at 7 pm on Friday and end at 3 pm on Saturday on both weekends. Participants will be responsible for lodging and meals on these weekends. We will be meeting in Eau Claire, Wis. on both of these weekends. In between these in-person weekends participants will engage material using an online learning platform called Moodle.

Course fees and materials: \$500.00 plus materials and lodging and food for in-person retreats. Information regarding required course materials will be provided in August.

2019-2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Starting in September, we will debut a brand-new Sunday School program! It will feature a variety of new classroom activities (Cooking! Science! Technology!) as well as old favorites (including: art, games, and storytelling) as a way to learn the important stories of our faith.

We are excited for 2 big reasons:

1. This new format will be easier for kids to “drop in” to class. Even if they haven’t been regular in Sunday School before, they can jump right into the activity and learn.
2. It is easier than ever for adults (and teens) to volunteer! Teachers teach for 3-4 weeks at a time – sign up for just a month or two, or stay on for the whole year! We also have more roles for people to work with the kids—to get to know them, build relationships, and learn alongside them—with no lessons to teach and *no prep work* to do outside of class time.

If you’d like to learn more (or are interested in volunteering), please reach out to Pastor Colie or any member of the Board of Christian Ed.

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHOIR AND HANDBELL CHOIR



The music ministry of Grace will begin rehearsals again this fall. **Grace’s Adult Choir** will begin weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 4 from 7:00-8:15pm**. **Grace’s Handbell Choir** will begin weekly rehearsals on **Monday, September 8 from 11:00-12:00am**. These are open groups. We welcome all musical abilities and any time you can give! All are welcome here.

“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” Psalm 95:2

SPECIAL MUSIC

The music ministry of Grace is seeking the talent of the congregation. Instrumentalist and vocalist are always welcome to share their talent and faith during the year at either service! Please contact Andrea Allington or Beverly Barnes Mark if interested.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talent to provide special music for the summer services!

Andrea Allington romsosa96@gmail.com Beverly Barnes Mark
bevbeemark@gmail.com



THANK YOU Expressing what we Learned!

Thank you so much! Because of your support, Beverly and I could attend continuing education workshops this summer. Here is a little bit of what we learned.

Andrea attended a national convention in Madison for UCC musicians and clergy. There were about 70 of us from all over the United States that came together to worship, collaborate, and learn how to better serve our congregations.

We began each day with a worship service led by Richard Bruxvoot Cooligan, a musician/composer who is dedicated to creating new music for our ever changing church. It was good for me to be on the congregation side of things! One thing that really stood out was the emphasis on community and using language/lyrics that reminded me that I was worshiping with people from many different places on their faith journey.

After worship we attended workshops. The two that stood out the most for me were presented by Bryan Serchio. You might recognize his name from his song, "Dream God's Dream" that we've sung in church. Bryan talked about the role of progressive Christian music in worship. He talked about key points to UCC theologically sound music and how these theological nuances impact the lyrics we sing together and why they are so important. He also shared resources and best practices for incorporating progressive Christian music into the worship service. Finding good contemporary music has been a challenge for me. I'm always looking for new songs that have some depth and will fit with the scripture. Bryan had great stuff that helped clear up some of my frustration. If you want to know more about what he had to say, just let me know.

The other part of the convention that made an impact was when we had time to talk with other musicians and clergy. I was excited to hear about what other congregations were doing and to be able to share all of the wonderful things we have going on here at Grace. I was also thrilled to find out that a group was created so we can continue our conversations and will be able to share ideas even after the convention ended.

Overall, I could not be happier with my time spent in Madison. And I am so grateful for your support! Please come see me if you want to hear more about the four days I spent at this convention.

Beverly attended the regional conference in Milwaukee for The American Guild of Organists. I am a new member of this group and am continually impressed by the resources they offer organists.

To quote from Sheri Masiakowski, the dean of the Milwaukee Chapter,

"Each generation solves problems, invents, and reviews the organ in ever-broadening ways ... the life expectancy of the instrument far exceeds our own life-span. So we gather by this Great Lake to make and renew friendships, to hone our skills by learning from every generation. We need each other's voice to sing ... We need each other's strength to life the cross ... we need each other's view to see the limits of the mind."

Each day of the conference we boarded busses that would take us to different churches, cathedrals and basilicas to attend organ recitals and workshops. I was amazed and inspired by the talent I had the opportunity to listen to and learn from. I couldn't wait to get home and practice!!!

I had the opportunity to sing in Dr. John Behnke's choir for a morning worship service that included handbells, organ and trumpet as well! All musical elements we have here at Grace!

Though the learning opportunities were many, the one workshop that influenced me the most was on the subject of "Singing Poetry" - the essence of hymns. Dr. Jan Kraybill lead us through several hymns demonstrating methods to help our worshiping communities sing this poetry - hymns! - with appreciation, artistry and enthusiasm. She encouraged church musicians to not only play our worship songs, but study them and think of ways to help our congregation hear their message. She said, "each hymn is a testimony". I believe this is true!

I am very grateful for the opportunity to have attended this conference and to glean knowledge from the American Guild of Organists community. I am looking forward to expanding my skills to enhance our worship experience here at Grace Church.

If you'd like to hear more about the AGO conference and organization please contact me! Thank you so much for your support.

EARTH CARE MINISTRY

Bill and Betsy Freiberg, Don DeBryun, Susie and Jim Miller attended the MidWest Energy Fair in Custer, Wisconsin, this past June 22. We learned that this experience (in its 30th year) is a well-organized and informative extravaganza. It is so huge that it takes a few minutes to orient one's self about what to choose and where to go. We learned about green burials, about electric cars (which you could actually drive), about locally produced cuisine from food trucks on the premise, about carbon destruction of the earth, and, from the main speaker of the day, that the price of solar and wind energy has now become lower than the cost of natural gas, which has been at the lower end for a long time. We recommend this event to anyone in the future. We will certainly go again.



To another subject, at this year's National Synod of the UCC in Milwaukee last month, there were 5 resolutions passed by an enormous margin, three of which directly affect the functioning of our ministry and for our church in the near and far future. One of the resolutions, passed by 662 to 20 with nine abstentions, is: The national deliberative body of the United Church of Christ on June 24 became the first U.S. Christian body to endorse the Green New Deal, a congressional proposal that lays out a plan for tackling climate change. It is a good match for the church's own conviction that "climate justice" concerns are linked to racial and economic ones. Rev. Jim Antal of Norwich, VT wrote the Synod resolution. Dawn Sowash of Philadelphia said, "We want to focus on the science and not lose focus on the social concerns and implications. Climate change threatens the safety, health and dignity of ordinary people. The Green New Deal calls for action now, not later." Andi Lloyd, dean of faculty at Middlebury College, has studied climate change for 25 years. She said "Climate change is real and we are the cause. This is not an asteroid hurtling toward earth. It is us. But the window is closing. We must act now, and only bold action will suffice." Further, "The urgent need to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible [recognizes the scale] and embraces the unprecedented socio-economic changes that we must effect and engage as opportunities to create fair paying jobs, secure clean air and water, redress manifestations of environmental racism and pursue a just transition to clean and renewable energy." Brooks Berndt, the UCC's Cleveland-based national Minister for Environmental Justice, said "this resolution is what love looks like, feels like, and acts like."

Even more immediately, a resolution passed 665 to 5 with 3 abstentions, is for the challenge of quitting disposables harmful to the environment. The UCC's General Synod youth program were among the advocates of the resolution against using foam cups and plates. Lucy Adkins, 15, of Frederick, MD told adult delegates, "The youth back this resolution because we believe the amount of waste on this earth and in the sea is unacceptable." Alyssa Kline, 14, of the same congregation said "One hundred thousand marine animals die each year." Styrene and benzene, used in the production of plastic foam are probable or known carcinogens; the foam breaks down into microplastics that get into the bodies of fish and humans. Non-sustaining and heavily polluting petroleum is used to manufacture plastic foam.

So, we are encouraged to avoid the use of plastic foam in food packaging and other activities within our church and church-related facilities, using alternatives such as paper products, or, better yet, ceramic or other dishwasher-safe products. Rest assured, our Earth Care Ministry will get right on this.

WOMEN OF GRACE NEWS

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Please join our Vacation Bible School kids after the service on Sunday, **August 11** for **Time After Church**. To rap up the VBS week, they will be making a presentation during the service and want you to celebrate with them by enjoying an old fashion Pie and Ice Cream Social during **TAC**. Some pies will be needed too so if you have a special recipe, please bring it on Sunday morning. Don and Ellen Lewellen are also hosting this special time.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE COOKIES

The Women Of Grace want to thank the many who stepped forward to provide cookies for ASP. Grace UCC will continue to be known as "The Cookie Church from Wisconsin". We know they enjoyed eating and sharing them during their travels and work week. More cookies were lovingly baked than they could take, so some of the extras will gratefully be used for Vacation Bible School desserts or snacks. Thank you for again providing the many delicious cookies.

\$100 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MOON BEACH OR PILGRIM CENTER CAMPERS

A host of camping opportunities are offered at our two church camps in Wisconsin including Mom and Me, Grandparent and Me, Tenderfoot, Creative Connections, Sail Institute, St. High Adventure, Family Camps, Camp AweSum (for families with children who have autism), and much more.

Your church's endowment fund will send

\$100 to the camp for each Grace Congregational Church registrant.

SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS



When our youth go to St. Louis, we underwrite the entire cost of that trip; and when they go to a Work Camp at Moon Beach we underwrite a portion of their expense. How do we do that? 1---our youth have 2-3 fund-raising activities each year. 2---they raise \$500-\$800 each year through the recycling of aluminum cans. Please support our youth and bring your cans to the container beside the garage.



The Lakeshore Memory Café will meet August 7, 2019.

Join us for a Hawaiian Luau where we will play Aloha Bingo and share in some tasty Hawaiian treats. We'll gather Wednesday, August 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Manitowoc Public Library's Balkansky Room (707 Quay St). There is no charge and all are welcome. Find us on Facebook.

The Memory Cafés welcomes those experience early stage Dementia, mild memory loss or cognitive impairment and family and friend of those affected. It's a great opportunity for lively discussions, information gathering, refreshments, camaraderie, and lots of creative fun! We have a Dementia Specialist professional on hand to answer questions and an enormous wealth of experience among participants to be shared. We'd be delighted if you would join us.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS			
1	Nicole Bryce Moolenaar		Herda
2	Becky Don Lewellen		O'Connor
4	Janet Diane Lucas Anderson	Marx Eggers Jennifer Christensen	Deb Aubrey Bruckschen
5	Lesley Charlie Mohr	Huffer Shelly	Randerson
6	Charlene Dresang Jaiden Bohman		
8	Kole Klein Owen Willis Buddy Davidson Carissa Babino	Trenten Bohman Sheila Joylyn Moore	Beyer
9	Rico Robbins		
10	Randy Taliah Seefeldt	Wilson	
11	John Brian Gallagher		Schanilec
12	Jeanne Eric Schramm	Heinsohn Cayden	Skubal
13	Linda Peterson		
14	James Taylor		
15	Jim Konitzer		
16	Joan Lincoln Loucks		Meissner
17	Ann Klein Anna Loomis		
18	Kris Klein Jack Backus	Brianna Brixius Troy Thor	
19	Randy Brey		
20	Colie Bettivia		Scott Schroeter
22	Joan Taddy		Joe Stodola
24	Brad Holtz		
25	Don Amanda Heinsohn	DeBruyn Rachel Sosnosky	Addison Bauknecht
26	Callie Mark Maddix Gulseth	Krueger Taylor Amelia	Ruth Hauboldt Sayeski
27	Aurora Jennifer Reinke	Schmid Morgen	Schmid
29	Josephine Allington		Lindsay Haack

30	Ginger Van Ells Kacie Shimulunas	Haley Linda Rosik-Bohacek	Tadych
31	Bruce Huffer Terri Scott	Kornely Linzmeier	Joanie Dan Marsha Heuer
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES			
1	Timothy & Kathy Hirvela		
4	Jeff & Sally Kintgen		
5	Kim & Fay Henning		
6	Todd & Mandy Moolenaar		
7	James & Beverly Schleif Mark & Debbie Rhein		
9	Chris & Jodi Lewis Joel & Keenie Evenson		
13	Derek and Maren Slickman		
14	Jeff & Carey Schmid Bob & Shelly Randerson		
15	Bruce & Lesley Huffer		
17	Per Karl & Cindy Schindl	& Ginny	Engstrom
18	David Kevin & Danielle Gulseth	& Karen	Loritz
19	Craig & Nancee Rysticken Matthew and Kay Olker		
20	Gary & Patty Heise		
22	Glenn & Sue Kurtz		
25	Brian Mark Todd Tom & Megan Christensen	& & & &	Kathleen Boomgarden Michelle Taylor Joyce Tome
26	Randy & Jean Ammerman		
27	Brian & Melissa Basken		
28	Chris & Laura Rozmarynoski		
30	Tom & Deb Keery		

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Kinsley Beyer is a patient at Aurora Bay Care (NICU), Green Bay.

Nicole Kellner is still at Theda Care, Neenah.

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Buddy and Barbara Davidson as they grieve the death of Barbara's Mother, Patricia Cooke.

We extend our sympathy of Charlie and Joanie Mohr as they grieve the death of Joanie's mother, Laverne Boeldt. Laverne died on June 21 and her funeral was held on Wednesday, June 26.

We offer our sympathy Sue Brull and her family as they grieve the death of her husband, Bob. a memorial service was held at Grace Congregational Church on Saturday, July 13.

We offer our sympathy to Helen Ertman and her family as they grieve the death of her son-in-law, Bob Miller. Bob was married to Chris (Ertman) Miller. He died Tuesday, July 2 and his funeral was held Friday, July 12.

Victor Richter, the father of Joylyn Moore, died on May 31, 2019 and his funeral was held on June 3 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Kiel. We offer our sympathy to Joylyn and Marv, and their family.

Mary Brisco, the sister of Jim Konitzer, died on Thursday, July 11. Funeral plans are pending. We offer our sympathy and love to Linda Justema and Jim Konitzer as they grieve and wait....

Alan Spearbraker, a member of our church since 1957, died early Sunday afternoon, July 14. A funeral service will be held at Grace Congregational Church on Monday, July 22 at 11:00 a.m..

FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL REGARD....

We have an individual who for medical reasons is confined to her home: Sarah Coenen 5922 Greenfield Lane, Two Rivers. A card or phone call would be greatly appreciated.

OUR EXPRESSION OF JOY

On Friday, June 28th Christopher and Megan Suettinger- Mauel exchanged their marriage vows in a service of worship in DePere. We extend our hopeful joy to them!

A CHILD IS BORN!

On Wednesday, July 3, Kinsley Beyer was born at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay. Kinsley's parents are Cale and Sheila Beyer.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH

Our community means to be a place where people who love the Lord know that they are welcome to practice faith in our midst. As part of that welcome, we mean to be intentional about noticing and responding to individuals who have felt pushed aside. This is not a one issue matter. An open committee of individuals is working to create a statement that our church can embrace by consensus or vote. Our next meeting is **August 26th @ 7:00pm.** in the Adult Study. We value your input. Questions? Speak to Pastor Kim Henning, Mandy Moolenaar, or Cal MacAuley

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. **August 13th CNC Links, Newton 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.



Our next Hope House host week is **August 11 – 18th.** We continue to Look for generous volunteers like you to help. Let me Thank You for your continued dedication to this project.

LAY ACADEMY---WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lay Academy is a ministry of the Wisconsin Conference that engages lay people in spiritual growth and development through theological education. Anyone who longs to grow in faith, discover new ways to serve God and their community, and deepen their knowledge of Christian tradition, ministry, and mission is welcome.

In the fall of 2019, the Lay Academy will offer Faith Foundations, Year 2. If you are interested, but haven't attended Faith Foundations Year 1, please contact Tisha Brown at tbrown@wcucc.org

Wisconsin Conference Lay Academy Schedule

September 6-7, 2019 – Christian Spiritual Practices – Rev. Vicki Wunsch

November 1-2, 2019 – New Testament Part 1 – Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn

January 17-18, 2020 – New Testament Part 2 – Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn

March 6-7 – The Church at Work in History – Rev. Dr. Julia Speller

April 24-25 – Interfaith Cooperation and Ministry – Noah Silverman, Interfaith Youth Corp

Call the Conference office for more information at 608-846-7880. Scholarships are available at the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ and at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ---Joe DeGroot, Mission and Outreach, chair.

Lay Academy Fees (\$650 shared room; \$800 private room; \$500 commuter)

Each course meets five weekends per year at or near the Wisconsin Conference Trost Center in DeForest. The weekend sessions meet from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Lodging is provided at a nearby hotel. Courses are taught by seminary professors, Conference staff and clergy with expertise in a given area. Additional requirements are designed to enhance learning.

GIVING TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS DOWN SLIGHTLY, ACCORDING TO NEW REPORT

Charitable donations to religious organizations decreased by 1.5 percent—almost 4 percent when adjusted for inflation—between 2017 and 2018, according to a newly released report.

Congregations and other religious groups received 29 percent of donated dollars during 2018, an estimated \$124.52 billion, and the largest share of the total \$427.71 billion given to charity. But that percent of total donations saw a slight decrease, too.

“This is the first time that giving to religion has fallen below 30 percent of overall giving,” states the Giving USA annual report on philanthropy, produced by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the Giving USA Foundation, and others.

The Giving USA report tracked trends in some mainline Protestant denominations. For example, in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., per capita giving increased by 4.7 percent despite a decrease in membership. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Episcopal Church saw smaller increases in giving (0.7 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively) from a smaller number of congregations and members.

Christian Century Magazine

RALLY DAY

@ NESHOTAH PARK

HORSESHOE PAVILION (22ND AND PIERCE ST)

- BRING YOUR OWN: CHAIRS, DRINKS, & FAMILY/FRIENDS!
- FUN FOR ALL!
- DESSERT/PIE AUCTION
- BOUNCE HOUSE
- BINGO

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

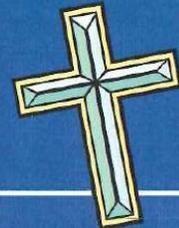
SUNDAY

September 8th

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SERVICE AT 10:30,

FOOD AND FUN TO FOLLOW!



HOT SANDWICHES & HOT DOGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EVERYONE, BUT PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO PASS!