

The Chronicle



March 2020
United Church of Christ (Congregational)
46 Stam Street, Williams Bay, WI 53191
Sunday Worship at 9:30
www.uccwb.org Facebook@UCCWilliamsBay
262-245-5426



Minister's Musings

It Seems to Me

One of the loveliest pieces of scriptures is found in the Letter to the Hebrews. It was written to encourage the early church to remain steadfast despite the challenges and persecution they faced. The writer recites a long litany of faithful people from the Hebrew Scripture and then enjoins the readers, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:2).

Two weeks ago in church our moderator mentioned that "great cloud of witnesses" while making an announcement about the recent deaths in the family of a church member and the illness of last interim. She said that she hoped the affected families were aware of the great cloud of witnesses who surrounded them with their love and prayers. We, too, need to be aware of the great cloud of witnesses that surround us because we need perseverance to run the race that is set before us.

There was a newspaper article about Georgene Williams, a middle-aged woman from Cleveland, Ohio, who decided she wanted to be in better shape for the second half of her life. She started to train for a half-marathon (10 miles). On the day of the race, she was stretching and just a bit nervous, so when she heard the horn calling the runners, she joined the pack heading to the starting line and was off! After 8 miles she realized she had entered the Cleveland Marathon (26 miles). The half marathon was to start fifteen minutes after the first had begun. Twenty-six miles later, she crossed the finish line. The longest she had run previously was eight miles. It is reported that when asked what went through her mind as she faced the challenge, she replied, "This is not the race I trained for. This is not the race I entered. But for better or worse, this is the race that I am in."

It seems to me, that sometimes life does not feel like the race we trained for, or the race we entered, but for better or worse, this is the race we are in. We can persevere and finish because we are surrounded by a great cloud of faithful witnesses.

Thank you for being that cloud for others. See you in church. Kendell

Inside this issue:

- 1-Minister's Musings
- 2-One Great Hour of Sharing
- 3-Lectionary, Birthdays & Anniversaries, Prayers, Sip & Chat
- 4-Moderator's Moment, In Memorium
- 5-Socialites, Spiritual Life, Community Outreach
- 6-Search Committee, Building & Grounds, Winter Weather, Volunteers Needed
- 7-Lenten, Holy Week, Easter Schedule



Please Give to One Great Hour of Sharing

On Sunday, March 22, our church will receive its annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This is one of the four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

It started in 1946. Following the Second World War, Europe was facing a critical challenge with the danger of mass starvation, unrest caused refugee resettlement and the need to rebuild the economies of the various countries. In that year, Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherril set a goal to raise one million dollars in one hour for World Relief. By 1949 church leaders from a number of denominations began working together on this effort. A major network radio show, called "One Great Hour" was broadcast on Saturday, March 26. It featured President Truman, along with popular actors and musicians. It ended with an appeal for the listeners to make a generous gift in their own churches the following Sunday. While there is no record of how much was collected, it is estimated that over 75,000 churches participated, including the predecessor denominations of the United Church of Christ.

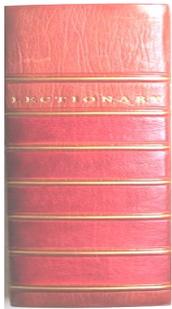
Over the years the aid effort has expanded so that it covers but the nation and the world, but it continues to focus on disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid. Every project funded by One Great Hour of Sharing through Church World Service, is carried out in partnership with local churches and relief agencies.

Your giving through the church is the wisest use of your benevolent dollar. On the average, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents for interpretation materials. The associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Support. To get an idea of the scope of the projects funded by OGHS, check out the website ucc.org/oghs_stories.

Our 2020 offering will be received on Sunday, March 22. Let's make it a truly one great hour of sharing.



Lectionary



March 1	Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5:12-19	Matt 4:1-11
March 8	Gen 12:1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9
March 15	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 22	1 Sam 16:1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
March 29	Ezek 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

Birthdays and *Anniversaries

- 1 Donald Robison
- 2 Jesse Robison
- 5 Joan Carlson
- 11 Linda Schreiner
- 12 Catherine Morava
- 14 Laura Coates



- 15 Sharon Watschke
- 19 Dana Watschke, Jeff Wolski
- 26 Marilyn Slocum
- 28 Pam Westberg
- 30 Carole Hauptmann
- 31 *Donna & Sam Fredrickson

Daylight Savings time begins Sunday March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed!



We Offer Prayers For:

- Family & friends of Rev. Kathy Rust, who went to be with the LORD.
 - The sick and ailing members of our community and church family
 - Our country and the world with their leaders, domestic and foreign
 - The men and women in our military
 - Those who face personal struggles
- God in your mercy, hear our prayers.



Sip & Chat



Please join Rev. Kendell at The Green Grocer in Williams Bay on Wednesdays* from 11 AM —1 PM for coffee, fellowship, and outreach. Stay for a brief time or two hours to enjoy conversation, lunch, or a beverage. This month's dates are March 4, 11, 18, and 25. *These days have changed during Lent.

Moderator's Moment

Moderating Words

It is funny. There are times when what strikes you in worship isn't exactly what the minister has said, but something else that claims the space in your head, illuminating why you came to church. Apologies to Rev. Kendell; this past week I was struck by the lyrics in the sermon hymn with its call to accept and embrace the inevitability and the nature of change. Really, words to live by.

We are in the midst of change as Rev. Kendell designs worship to reflect his ministry different from Rev. Kathy. We are in the midst of change in this season of Lent as we are given the opportunity to gather as this singular faith community each week on Wednesday where we will lay the spiritual ground work for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. We are in the midst of change as the newly elected church officers and committee members work their way into the tasks of those offices and committees.

We are in the midst of change as well as we continue to explore the possibility of shared ministry. Church Officers and representatives of the Search Committee are scheduled to meet again in early March to discuss specifics. There are challenges to talk through so your prayers of support and care are very welcome!

It might seem clear that I mostly like change and its effects. Everything above is change in a good way. Yay for us UCC Williams Bay!

So, while being a regular supporter of change, unexpected change is harder. The death of Rev. Kathy Rust on 2/13/2020, ranks right up there with unwelcome, unexpected, change – that is a change that we must inevitably embrace. Our prayers are with her family, friends and all who have been touched to be her cloud of witnesses – living out her legacy. The celebration of life for Rev. Kathy will be on March 8th at 1 PM in Waukesha. We will car pool from church that day. Call the church to join us – 262-245-5426.

In Peace,

Margaret

The following is an abbreviated version.

In memoriam:

Dear UCC friends and colleagues,

As many of you are now aware, we are mourning the death of the Rev. Kathryn Rust. Kathy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on February 4th and died just nine days later, February 13th, at the age of 73. Kathy had just purchased a camper with great aspirations of traveling the country. She is survived by her two sisters and brother, nieces and nephews and many dear friends. ...

Kathy was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While working in the office at Greendale Community United Church of Christ, she began attending classes at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She was ordained in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and served congregations in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, Fort Meyers, Florida and Galesburg, Illinois. She then received full standing in the United Church of Christ to do intentional interim work, for which she was very gifted. Kathy served many interims over the years, most recently Redeemer UCC in Sussex, First Congregational UCC in Lake Geneva, and Congregational UCC in Williams Bay.

Kathy was beloved to many - a straight shooter with a wonderful sense of humor and a kind heart.
With sympathy and in Christ,

Franz

Franz Rigert
Conference Minister
Wisconsin Conference UCC
frigert@wcucc.org



Monday, March 23rd
4:30 pm to 5:30pm
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST, WILLIAMS BAY
46 Stam St, Williams Bay

The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative Committee for Walworth County will be providing a Dementia Friends educational program. The session will review how dementia affects a person physically, emotionally, and mentally. The goal is to help the church and its members with dementia not to be denied the significant relationships they have through their faith due to this disease. Please come and join us for this free program. Light refreshments will be available. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

**To register on or before March 18th: E - m a i l uccwboffice@gmail.com o r
Call the church office at 262-245-5426**

Spiritual Life

Spiritual Life has been working on the church activities for the Lenten season. Along with Rev. Kendell, we have planned for a weekly Wednesday night 6:00pm service, beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 26. We will be participating in a Maundy Thursday, April 9, Soup Supper at 6:00pm, followed by service at 7:00pm. We are invited to Easter Sunday early service at the Lutheran Church followed by breakfast, with our regular service at 9:30am.



Community Outreach

A Tisket, a Tasket, We're Filling Easter Baskets!



Easter is a time for celebration! A time for families to come together to rejoice in the good news of Jesus' resurrection. But for some families, it is difficult to celebrate anything with the threat of violence and uncertainty in their daily lives. It is so important for children living with violence and sadness to feel a sense of normalcy. A sense of joy and togetherness at this most holy time of year.

Once again this year, we are helping the families at New Beginnings APFV celebrate the season by collecting candy and goodies for Easter Baskets. The Women's Domestic Abuse Support Group meets every Monday at New Beginnings. Our hope is to collect enough items for the moms to be able to fill an Easter Basket for each of their young children.

Please bring your bags of candy to church by Sunday, April 5th (Palm Sunday). The Outreach Committee would also be happy to take your monetary donation so that we can purchase the baskets and extra bags of candy.

Thank you again for your continued support of New Beginnings, APFV!

Search Committee



The Search Committee has completed the Local Church Profile! It has been a difficult task, but an important part of discerning who we are as a congregation and where we are hoping to go. A copy of the profile will be available for you to read as soon as it is accepted by the Southeast Association.

The “normal” chain of events after completing the profile is to list our pastoral vacancy in the national document, United Church Employment Opportunities. However, our work as a Search Committee has been two-fold. We have also been working with the officers of this church to explore the concept of Shared Ministry with another church in the area. (See Margaret’s Moderator Moment)

During the next few weeks as the details of the Shared Ministry are worked out, our pastoral vacancy will not be publicized as is the usual procedure when searching for a new minister. Further discussion is needed at this point to work out the details of the trial period. We will keep you informed of further progress. Please feel free to contact any members of the search committee with questions. We continue to ask for prayers of unity, spiritual strength, wisdom and endurance for the search committee, the church officers and the entire congregation.



Building & Grounds

Probably the phenomenon most salient to the Buildings & Grounds committee has been the recent snow. Neighborhood children have dispensed with their technology and emerged from their warm snug homes by the score to sled down our church’s berms and inclines. Shrieks of youthful joy greeted me on a number of occasions when I had business at the church. Busy kids moved saucer sled loads of snow about to construct moguls and high-banks for a more exciting trip down the slope. It made my heart glad.

Winter Weather



Reminder: Let the weather decide if you can attend Sunday service. We want you here and would miss you, but we care for your safety.

Please check WTMJ TV for possible closure of UCCWB. You can also call church: 262-245-5426.



Please consider volunteering for Sunday Ministries. Check the sign-up sheet during coffee hour.

OUR LENTEN, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE FOR 2020

Midweek Services (6 pm)

February 26—Ash Wednesday

Midweek Themes

Leading to Easter: Searching the Soul

The season of Lent is a season for searching the soul. As we study Matthew 26–28, we will search our own souls through the lenses of the people closest to Jesus in his last hours.

March 4—Worship and Bible Study: The Woman Who Anointed Jesus

March 11—Worship and Bible Study: The Dinner Guests of God

March 18—Worship and Bible Study: The Disciples Who Slept in the Garden

March 25—Worship and Bible Study: The Faces of Failure (Peter, Judas and Pilate)

April 1—Worship and Bible Study: The People Around the Cross

Holy Week

April 5—Passion/Palm Sunday (no communion)

April 9—Maundy Thursday with a Simple Soup Supper at 6 PM followed by a brief service and sharing of communion around the dinner tables.

April 10—Good Friday Cross Walk. You are invited to gather at Edgewater Park at 9:30 and process behind the cross to Chapel on the Hill. The walk will end with a light luncheon and worship at the Chapel.

Easter

7:00 AM—Gather for an Easter Sunday breakfast and worship at the Williams Bay Lutheran Church.

9:30 AM—Celebration of the Resurrection at our church with Holy Communion.

Sundays in Lent

What if we could see practicing Lent as more than giving up chocolate? What if we saw a Lenten practice as anything we do during Lent that opens us up and brings us closer into God's presence? The sermons for Lent will try to help us do exactly that—exploring those practices which build us up and make us spiritually stronger.

March 1—"Saying Yes to the Best"

March 8—"Bless You!"

March 15—"See You in Church"

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

Address Correction Requested



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

46 Stam Street
Williams Bay, WI 53191
www.uccwb.org 262-245-5426

March Events

01-Service 9:30 AM and coffee hour 10:30 AM
04-Sip & Chat @ Green Grocer 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
04-Lenten midweek service 6:00 PM
06-World Day of Prayer
08-One Great Hour of Sharing Daylight Savings Time
Service 9:30 AM and coffee hour 10:30 AM
09-Spiritual Life Meeting, Finance/Stewardship Meeting
10-Spiritual Life Meeting 5:00 PM
11-Sip & Chat @ Green Grocer 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
11-Lenten midweek service 6:00 PM
12-Church Council Meeting
15-Service 9:30 am and coffee hour 10:30 AM
18-Sip & Chat @ Green Grocer 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
18-Lenten midweek service 6:00 PM
22-Service 9:30 AM and coffee hour 10:30 AM
23-Dementia Friends Training 4:30-5:30 PM
25-Sip & Chat @ Green Grocer 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
25-Lenten midweek service 6:00 PM
29-Service 9:30 AM and coffee hour 10:30 AM

Interim Minister:

Rev. Kendell Nordstom

Moderator: Margaret Gregg

Asst. Moderator: Pam Westberg

Treasurer: Jim Killian

Clerk: Kathy Walsh

Financial Secretary: Pam Westberg

Music Director: Sara Johnson

Committee Contacts:

Spiritual Life: Gail Johnson

Finance: Alice Morava

Bldg. & Grounds: Bruce Johnson

Memorials: Roberta Killian

Outreach: Ruth Anne Morava