



Faith United Church of Christ –November 2018
www.faithslinger.org

Have you noticed it?

Have you noticed all of the head shaking and the “tsk, tsk,” clicking going on these days?

These visible signs of dismay accompany conversations about the unfortunate divisions that separate neighbors, families, communities, government, faiths and country these days. There’s plenty of name calling, shouting, bullying and even violence being expressed in the public square, on social media platforms, through advertising that we see on television, and it’s not a good thing at all.

I believe all of this is born of the Evil One because these words, this behavior flies in the face of Jesus’ faith-foundational command to love God with heart and mind, soul and strength, and our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

I don’t know about you, but my heart just hurts from all of the arguing and name-calling—the threats that we utter to the “other” among us—the immigrant, the poor, the orphan, the homeless and powerless. The way we demonize our brothers and sisters who do not look like us, or look at the world in the same way we do—the posts we put up on social media accounts are vile as we spew horrible words of hate that are seen world-wide—is just heartbreaking.

Instead of trying to understand one another, we pass judgment against those we disagree with—judgements which we have no right to level. After all, we’re sinners just like every other person on the planet and are, as a result, reliant on God’s love and Christ’s sacrifice for redemption, too. This judgment that we pass on others, only leads to more heartache and hatred. And that hatred’s become so intense that, of late, people have been murdered at yoga class, the grocery store, even in synagogues where people gather to worship the God and Father of us all.

When will we stop this, because we must stop this? When will we embrace the truth expressed in a Facebook posting by a friend, that said, “You will never look into the eyes of someone God does not love. Always be kind.”

My prayer is that we all can get back to Christian basics, and, relying on the Holy Spirit, act on the commandment to love neighbor as much as self. May we remember and follow the example of love set forth by Christ—who was and is and always will be Love incarnate—and express selfless and generous love to one another just as he did.

Pastor Sharon

Finishing Touches Being Put On the Parade Float

The church's float for the Christmas parades in Hartford and West Bend is almost done. There are just a few more tasks to finish on the parade float for the Hartford and West Bend parades. We'd love to have some helping hands Saturday November 10, beginning at 11 am, at Jim and Bev Melius' farm. If you come to lend a hand and have the following tools in your workshop, please bring them along: hammer, screwdriver, staple gun and staples

Supplies still needed as of this writing: individually wrapped candy to hand out during the parade. If you have any candy to share, please drop it off at Jim and Bev's home or bring it to the church on Sunday morning.

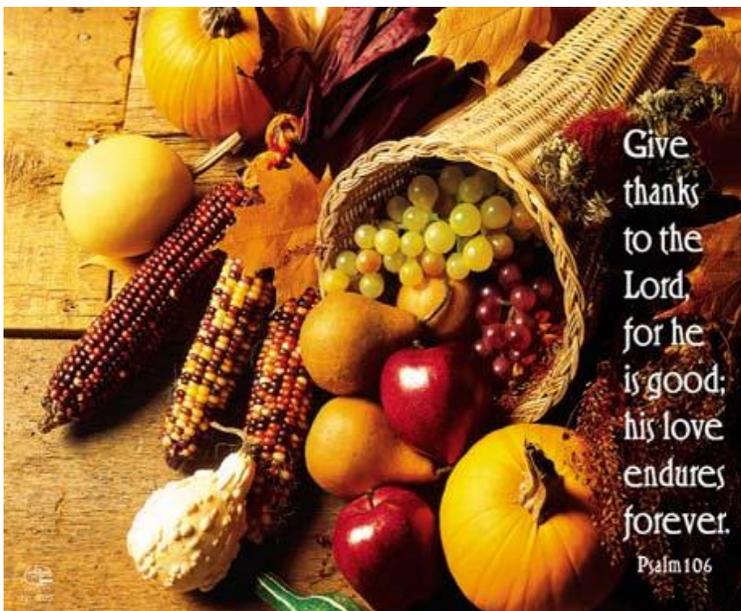
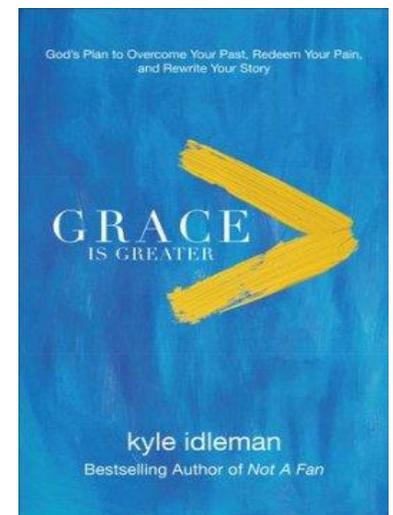
We also need some folks to hand out candy and walk alongside the float during the parades. If you can help out, please let Beth Miller or Pastor Sharon know of your interest.

On parade days, November 10 and November 25, we'll need some assistance getting the float in order prior to and following each parade. Watch the Sunday bulletin and your email for details about these final touches.

God's Amazing Grace!

Grace Is Greater: God's Plan to Overcome Your Past, Redeem Your Pain, and Rewrite Your Story is Kyle Idleman's book and Bible study that we continue to study through November 14. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to the study even in these last weeks of the class. Dinner and discussion begins at 6:30 pm. The aim is to have each class session wrapped up in time for choir members to head to rehearsal.

After November 14, there will be a study hiatus for the holidays, and then we'll pick up studying again in the New Year. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to further explore your relationship with God.



Giving Thanks to the Lord!

Thanksgiving Worship at Faith

Sunday, November 18
10 am

Slinger Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 21 7 pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Gifts of non-perishable food or cash will be received for the Slinger Food Pantry.



Preparing the Church for Advent Sunday, November 25

The symbols of Christmas are rich in meaning and beauty and remind us of the miracle of Jesus' birth. The Christmas trees, candles, lights, wreaths, that fill the church speak of God's eternal promises fulfilled through the birth of the Savior.

Please join in preparing the church for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, November 25, following the worship service. Lunch will be served.

Just as the Magi shared gifts with the Christ Child. . .

Faith Church has a rich tradition of sharing gifts with those in need. Opportunities for second mile giving through church ministries include:



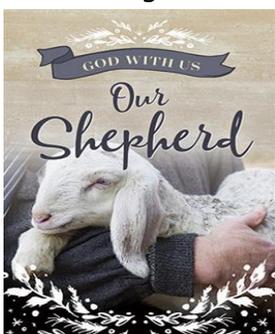
Operation Christmas Child: The shoebox gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child are now available at the church. If you wish to participate in this gift-giving to children in need, you can pick up a shoebox and fill it with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies for children around the world. For gift-giving guidelines, please visit the following website:
<http://tinyurl.com/SamPurseGuidelines>

Slinger Food Pantry: Gifts of non-perishable food, or cash, will be given to the Slinger Food

Pantry. These offerings will be received November 4, November 18 and November 21.

The Giving Tree: Gifts to help families in Washington County will again be received this Christmas. The Giving Tree will soon be up in the Narthex. When the tree goes up, please take a few minutes to look through the ornaments, on which will be listed gift items for these families. Please watch for instructions and deadlines when taking ornaments from the tree so we can get gifts returned to the county's Giving Tree leaders on time.

Advent Coin Folders: These folders present the congregation with an opportunity to support any number of ministries like The Giving Tree, the Love Offering, Faith Family Fund and the like. The folders will be available for pick up in the narthex beginning November 18. Each confirmed member or couple will receive a folder for this offering.



Isaiah Paints a Picture of the Coming Messiah

Advent worship this year will focus on the word pictures Isaiah used to describe the coming Messiah. Each week will focus on a different word picture.

December 2: Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes us according to his will.

December 9: Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.

December 16: Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.

The theme verse for the entire series is: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23).

December 23: Incredible Christmas will be presented by the children of the church. The story of Christ's birth will be shared in a new way, as a mysterious figure known as the "Looker-Outer" is sent to call a girl named Kim to become a super hero. Although Kim is gifted with amazing powers, she finds it hard to believe an ordinary girl like herself can do anything great. The Looker-Outer points Kim to the Christmas story and the story of Jesus over and over, showing her that she can do incredible things and teaching her about the incredible gift God gave us in Jesus.

During worship, we'll be singing lots of beloved Christmas carols, and "Goodie Bags" will be handed out.

Advent: A time to prepare hearts and minds for Christ's birth!

A time set apart. The season of Advent is a season of reflection. It's a time set apart by the church, to think on the gift of our friend and Savior, Jesus. Several devotional materials are available for your use during this season of preparation.



God With Us is a book of daily devotions for Advent. It focuses on the ways in which God is with us through Christ. Each week of Advent the devotional focuses on a different word picture of the coming Christ—pictures found in Isaiah's prophecy. The devotional will help us think about the ways God continues to reveal himself to the world as our Potter, Shepherd and Living Branch.

The devotionals will be available for pick up in the narthex and office entrance to the sanctuary.

One Starry Night is an Advent calendar for the kiddos and their parents. The calendar helps kids learn the story of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. Each family with kiddos who are 18 and under, will have advent calendars set aside. To pick yours up, please see Beth, Christa, Jenni or Pastor Sharon.

A Cookie Tradition!



Attention Parents of College Students! Please be sure Barb Markiewicz has your student's current address to which Christmas cookies can be sent. They will be shipped out the first week of December.

Attention Cookie Bakers! Please help Barb by baking cookies for college students. Barb will pack the boxes on Saturday, December 1 at 1 pm. The church will be open at 8 am on December 1.

Thank you in advance!

Barb Markiewicz

"Stewardship" Unit Wraps Up and Christmas KFC Unit Begins

God Gives! We Share! The Bible Point for the second unit of KFC reminds us of all the good gifts God gives and entrusts to us their wise care and keeping. Because God gives so generously to us, God expects us to share those gifts with others so they, in turn can be touched and transformed by God's love. The Bible treasure verse is found in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure that you give, will be the measure you get back."



It's amazing to know that God sent Jesus to save us. That's great news that we want the kids to remember, along with the truth that "Jesus was born for everyone!"

We'll start discovering all sorts of things about Jesus and Bethlehem beginning November 18. We'll remember the

Bible treasure verse from Luke 2:8-9a—"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them."

The shepherd leadership assignments for these next two months are:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Aaron & Miley: | November 4; December 9 |
| Ashley | November 11; December 16 |
| JJ & Emily: | November 18; January 6 |
| Landon & Wesley: | November 25; January 13 |
| Elizabeth and Aric: | December 2; January 20. |

Time to Gather the Goodies!



Its Christmas Bag treat time! Faith has a long-standing tradition of giving goodie bags, filled with all kinds of delicious treats, to the children of the congregation. Family members also reserve goodie bags for other family members and friends, too. The bags are handed out during the "Carol Sing" during Sunday worship, December 23.

Reserving a bag is easy. Please give the names of the bag recipients to Christa Wendorf, Jim Sachse or Ruth Schowalter no later than December 9th.

A contribution toward purchasing the goodies for the bags will be gratefully received. If you wish to make your donation by check, please write the check out to Christa or Jim.

Keeping God's House in Shape

The Consistory and members who have been working on building maintenance met together at the end of October to talk about the various maintenance projects that need attention. Those projects included:

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|---|---|
| Parking Lot patching and resealing | Parking Lot replacement and repaving |
| Concrete sidewalk replacement on east side of church | New downspout drains |
| Steeple soffit repair and painting | Relocating/replacing outdoor conduits |
| Removal of old oil burner pipes | Anchor window wells |
| Guards for Fellowship Hall heating elements | Fellowship Hall Ceiling replacement |
| Fellowship Hall Lighting Replacement | Installation of commercial dehumidifying unit |
| Replacement of the narthex and office doors | |
| Removal or repair of concrete at the closed steeple entrance of the church | |
| Removal of steeple doors and bricking up that old entrance to the church | |
| Establish a Contingency Fund for future repair/replacement of the church water tank and septic system | |
| Grading and tuck pointing on the north side of the church to prevent water seeping into the basement | |



After discussion, the group thought it best to give priority to the following projects in 2019: grading and tuck pointing on the north side of the building; parking lot patching and resealing; Fellowship Hall ceiling and lighting replacement.

Those gathered are working on gathering more information and bids for these projects, and will bring all the information and recommendations to the congregation for approval. Watch for more details in the newsletter and bulletins in the upcoming months. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Consistory: Wendy Schauer; Rob Schowalter; Alan Lehman; Jim Melius; Jim Sachse; Linda Hautala, or those working on building maintenance: JJ Markiewicz; Beth Miller; Jim

Genz; Nancy-Schilling Genz.

Bits and Pieces for Our Life Together. . .

Have an article for the newsletter? That's GREAT! Please send it to Pastor Sharon at sstier@outlook.com on or before the 20th of each month for publication in the next newsletter.

Giving has never been easier with online donations! Simply visit <https://easytithe.com/faithslinger> to set up a free account to begin offering your gifts to the church securely using your checking account or credit card. See Alan Lehman if you have any questions.

In Our Prayers: Prayers are asked for healing for Jed Dolnick, Darlene Endres, Edna Schall, Dianne Wiedmeyer, Greg Ruchi, Bruce Miller, Beth Miller, Judy Schowalter, Elizabeth Melius, Dick Mayer, Jean Happel, Ami Cooper (Dick & Marilyn Mayer's granddaughter), Amy Meyer, Don Jackson, Annette Egan, Kathy Baumgart, (friend of Nancy Mark Cardinal), Julie Stier, (Pastor Sharon's sister-in-law), Abby Fisher member of Bethel UCC, Eden) and Ivan Schall. Prayers for Christ's presence and God's protection for Marine Lance Corporal Josh Zehner who is currently deployed. Please remember the homebound members of the congregation including: Edie Pickhard and Don & Sandy Jackson. Also remember with prayers for comfort for the family and friends of: Orlyn Mayer who was laid to rest here at the church Friday, October 19; and Edward Wolf, Marilyn Mayer's brother, who died to this world and joined the church triumphant, October 24.

Congratulations!



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We offer our best wishes to Al Strupp and Cassie Mayer who were united in marriage at the church on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

We pray God's rich blessings upon them as they answer God's call to enter into this covenant relationship!



A Care Package for Josh! Lance Corporal Josh Zehner will soon be heading to Kuwait with his unit. While there, he'll be celebrating his birthday, December 9. Since it takes almost 2 months to get packages to him, we'd love to accept donations for a Birthday/Christmas care package for him. Mom, Michelle, says he'd love: non-chocolate candy; hydrocortisone cream; aloe infused socks. Other ideas can be found at:

<https://themilitarywifeandmom.com/awesome-military-care-package-ideas/> or <https://www.military.com/deployment/what-to-send-someone-who-is-deployed.html>

The websites say that great packages include: drink mixes; trail mix; crackers; gum; batteries—AA and D are in demand; cookies; non-perishable beef jerky (USDA labeled). We'll have a tote to receive these donations in the narthex. Donations will be received through November 11.

A Sunday Reminder: Life can get pretty busy for folks. To help remind folks of Sunday morning worship responsibilities, reminder texts and/or emails will go out to those who are scheduled to lend a hand in the coming week. If your schedule has changed and you can't serve as assigned, please find a substitute who will take care of the duties! Thanks!

We give thanks to God for. . . .

- Wendy Schauer, Sue Klein, Barb Meyer, Cathy Schmidt and Bev Melius for providing portions of the meal for Wednesday Night Bible studies;
- Marilyn Nadelhoffer, Elaine and Sherry Burg for decorating the altar for World Communion Sunday;
- Bryan Herther for providing fall decorations for the sanctuary and narthex;
- Merrilee & Alan Lehman; Beth Miller; Reuben & Ruth Schowalter; Wendy Schauer, Gerald Nicholas, Jim, Bev, Chris, Jamie, Patrick, Emily and Elizabeth Melius; for their work on the Christmas parade float throughout the month
- For EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! who helped with the Chili Supper! And thanks, too, to the organizing committee. They work hard and they make it fantastic.
- Karen Reinders, Marilyn Nadelhoffer, Reuben Schowalter and JJ Markiewicz for their ministry on wedding days here at the church. Karen & Marilyn are marvelous wedding hosts who attend to the needs of the bridal party and their families. They make sure everyone gets down the aisle at the proper time, has their corsage, knows where to find things. They also clean up after the service. Reuben and JJ direct traffic so we can squeeze in all the wedding guests safely. They are awesome as they serve.
- Alan and Merrilee Lehman who have done a wonderful job organizing and formatting, stuffing and folding Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletter. They've done a fantastic job! We thank them for serving in this role these last months. We are grateful for their ministry.

General Synod 32 - Volunteering 101

Milwaukee, June 21-25, 2019

The Wisconsin Conference is excited to host the 32nd General Synod of the UCC! Three to four hundred volunteers will be needed throughout the five days of General Synod next June and we will need your help! Here are some FAQ's

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What & Why: General Synod is the bi-annual gathering of the United Church of Christ drawing delegates and visitors from across the nation, and abroad. We gather to remember who we are as a denomination, to explore and reignite our call to ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ, to learn, to worship, to reach out to our brothers and sisters most in need of our advocacy and compassionate presence and to attend to the business and leadership needed for the denomination.

Who: Volunteers will be engaged through the Local Arrangements Committee, (LAC), whose ministry it is to assist the National UCC staff for General Synod 32. Can you stand, sit, walk or run? Volunteers from congregations in the Wisconsin Conference will fill a variety of positions. You will be asked to provide at least 4 hours of volunteer time. Note that some positions will require a background check - such as anyone working with children or youth.

When: Volunteers will be needed throughout General Synod Friday, June 21-Tuesday, June 25. Some additional help will be needed in the months, weeks or days before General Synod. *Please note that delegates will not be able to volunteer during Synod.*

Where: General Synod's plenary business sessions, worship, workshops and exhibits will be held at the Wisconsin Center (400 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee) . wisconsincenter.com . Volunteers will also be needed at delegate hotels, the Intermodal Station in downtown Milwaukee and Mitchell Airport.

How: In January 2019 Volunteer registration will be available on-line through the Wisconsin Conference website page for General Synod (wcucc.org/synod). Information with the link will also be emailed to local congregations. **All registrations for Volunteering will be done electronically using the on-line form** which will include the positions available and the dates/times volunteers are needed.

Once you are confirmed as an **Official Volunteer** by the LAC you will receive a code and can then register as an attendee on the UCC General Synod website. Volunteers attend the Synod at a reduced cost of \$60. *DO NOT Register on the Synod website until you have been confirmed by the LAC and have received the code.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Brief descriptions of volunteer positions available are listed here. More information will be available when you sign up in January:

Extravagant Hospitality and Welcome: Welcome and direct delegates and visitors at Mitchell Airport, the Intermodal Station downtown (bus and train) and at the hotels.

Registration Table : Assist with the check-in process at the Wisconsin Center.

Guides and Greeters: Provide information and an extravagant welcome to delegates and visitors at the doors and throughout the Wisconsin Center.

Special Accommodations : Assist those with motorized scooters, or who need other accommodations,

on site at General Synod.

Childcare and Children's Ministry: Provide adult supervision and program teachers for age-appropriate child care and children's ministry activities throughout Synod for infants through the age of 12. This includes on-site care and programming as well as possible "off-site" field trips. All volunteers in this area will have a background check. Help will also be needed in procuring, delivering and returning equipment needed.

Word Processing for Education and Committee Process: Use a computer to maintain edits and changes in the language of Synod pronouncements to assigned committees.

Floor Stewards: Assist voting delegates throughout plenary sessions to make sure they have information needed.

Exhibit Hall Support: Direct visitors to exhibits, answer general questions, and help to clear the hall of people at worship and closing time.

Worship Ushers : Provide ushering services during the various worship services of Synod. Welcome, hand out materials, collect offering, distribute communion, etc.

Volunteer Service Support: Support volunteers before and during General Synod.

App-bassadors: Help delegates and visitors as needed to access and use the app which provides all General Synod information

Outdoor Festival: Direct and assist attendees at the Sunday Festival to be held at a nearby park. Enjoy food, fellowship and entertainment. All members of Wisconsin Conference Congregations are invited to attend the festival.

Flexible On-Call: On-call volunteers will cover needs which arise unexpectedly during General Synod.

And More: If other opportunities arise, more volunteers may be needed. We'll keep you posted!

Consider how you and others in your congregations can volunteer at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! Watch for more information and sign up in January!

Sunday Worship Leadership Responsibilities

Altar Guild: Karen Reinders & Jenni Gordon

Communion Servers, November 4: Rob Schowalter, Wendy Schauer, Linda Hautala, Jim Sachse

| Date | Reader | Acolyte | Ushers | Bell Ringer |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| 11/4 | Karen Reinders | Landon W. | Karen Nehm, Carol Wagner Curtis Nehm | Mike Sachse |
| 11/11 | Paul Melius | Patrick Melius | Dick, Dennis, Ike, Dylan Mayer | Dan Neuburg |
| 11/18 | Ellen Dolnick | Ashley Nadelhoffer | Jim, Chris, Jamie, Patrick Melius | Tom Nadelhoffer |

| November 2018 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 1 pm Float Building @ Jim & Bev Melius' |
| 4 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship w/ Communion; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11:15 am KFC Leader-ship Team | 5 | 6 | 7 6:30 pm Grace Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal Scott Nehm's Birthday | 8 | 9 Dylan Mayer's Birthday | 10 11 am Float Builders meet at Melius' home; 2:15 Float participants meet @ parade lineup; 3 pm Hartford Christmas Parade; 5 pm HFH Fall Celebration @ WB Mutual |
| 11 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship | 12 | 13 | 14 6:30 pm Grace Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal | 15 | 16 | 17 9 am Outreach Team meeting @ Rolling Meadows, Fond du Lac Jake Cardinal's Birthday |
| 18 Thanksgiving Sunday 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship with Melius Baptism; 11 am Coffee Fellowship | 19 | 20 | 21 7 pm Slinger Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church | 22 Blessed Thanksgiving! | 23 Reuben Schowalter's birthday | 24 |

November 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--|
| 25 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship w/ Communion; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11 am Advent Decorating; 5 pm West Bend Christmas Parade | 26 | 27 | 28 8 pm Choir Rehearsal | 29 | 30 | Dec. 1 Student Cookie donations received beginning @ 8 am |