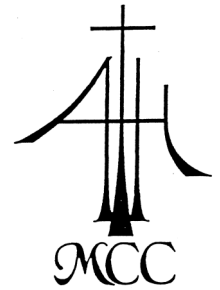


Madison Christian Community
An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA – Jerry Tews, Interim Pastor
Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA Pastoral Care, David Keesey-Berg, Interim Pastor
Community of Hope – UCC – Dan Yeazel, Interim Pastor



The Good Word



Rev. David Keesey-Berg
Advent Interim for Pastoral Care

831-8253
mccdavid@tds.net

Rev. Dan Yeazel
Community of Hope interim &
MCC Administrative Interim

239-6980
mccdan@tds.net

Rev. Jerry Tews
Advent interim

205-2240
mccjerry@tds.net

MCC continues The Road Ahead

We welcome Rev. Jerry Tews and Rev. David Keesey-Berg as they join MCC and Advent as interim pastors starting on February 1, 2015.

Their Schedule Beginning Feb 1

Jerry is serving half time and will be in the office Tuesday and Fridays. He will be preaching twice a month.

David will be providing pastoral care and preach once a month.

Dan will be in the office Monday through Thursday. Friday is Dan's Sabbath Day.

Their biographies begin on the next page.

February 2015

Of Special Interest:

- Pastor Dan & Jerry Bios [p. 2](#)
- Pastor David Keesey-Berg Bio; MCC Three Musketeers [p. 3](#)
- Lenten –Easter Schedule ; Holy Week Choir [p. 4](#)
- MCC Variety Show/ Fundraiser; Thank you from Jail Ministry; Thank you & Baby News; Doug Pagitt Event—[p. 5](#)
- Looking for One More Road Home Coordinator; Why Selma Is Not the Interfaith Movie I Was Hoping For.”, by Ulrich Rosenhagen, — [p. 6](#)
- Women's-Inspire Grp. Prairie Roots, Prayer Shawl Grp, MCC Community Grp;, MCC Film Grp; —[p. 7](#)
- Adult Forums; Java for Justice; Drop-In Shelter; Food for the Food Pantry ; Thank you MCC —[p. 8](#)
- Sunday School; Parent Hour; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Youth Event—[p. 9-10](#)
- Youth News; Family Library; MALC Annual Meeting Feb 5 —[p. 11](#)
- Advent News—[p. 12](#)
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- Larger Community News; Jen Streit and The Madison Choral Project Feb Concert [p. 14-](#)

Cancellation Policy at MCC ;
Coming Events [p. 15](#)

MCC News

Rev. Dan Yeazel, Community of Hope and MCC Administrative Interim

Dan Yeazel began serving MCC and Community of Hope as Interim Pastor on September 1, 2014. On January 1, 2015 his position went to full time to include more administrative functions within MCC.

Dan was born and raised in Madison. He served Dale Heights Presbyterian Church from 1996-2004. In the past several years Dan has served as a short-term supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Oregon, WI, Grace United Church in Fort Atkinson, WI and Middleton Community Church in Middleton WI. For the last two years Dan has served yoked UCC congregations in Mineral Point and Dodgeville as interim minister.

Dan's family is a part of the Middleton Community UCC. His wife, Monica is a pharmacist, Sarah is in her second year at UW-Madison and Adam is a senior in high school. Dan enjoys racquetball, biking, kayaking, snorkeling and travel. He also has a reputation for good pies and bad puns.

Rev. Jerry Tews, Advent Interim

I am looking forward to joining you as part of the pastoral staff of MCC. A bit about myself, my wife Lynn, and our family. Our ministry began in Nipigon, Ontario, Canada after having requested "the upper Midwest" as a potential location to begin our ministry following LCMS seminary training at Concordia in St. Louis Missouri! What a "learning" place it was to begin—about family, ministry, and of course people. After four years we moved to Ashland, Wisconsin, serving there for several difficult years before entering the Clinical Pastoral Education program (chaplaincy) at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee for two years. I experienced further growth in understanding ministry and family—particularly how I react and respond in relationships with those around me in both "families", personal and congregational.

We were blessed to serve for the next fifteen years as pastoral director and counselor of the Wholistic Health Center in Mendota, Illinois, a whole person health care adventure of the late 1970's and early 1980's organized and energized by Dr. Granger Westberg and several of your own members Don and Nancy Tubesing. This was another great learning and growing experience. After Mendota, we returned to parish ministry in the ELCA serving congregations in Elgin and finally in Glenview, Illinois until "retiring" in 2006. We then moved back to our home state—Lynn born and raised in Hortonville Wisconsin and I on a farm outside of Fremont. We have now happily settled into our home in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

Several defining interests for me in ministry have been my love for parish ministry and understanding of how pastors and congregations navigate between contentment and conflict in ministry. Studying and understanding the dynamics of the family systems theory and then applying them in my interaction with others has been freeing and energizing in both my personal and professional life. I continue to learn.

Lynn is avidly pursuing her interest in photography today while I enjoy wood working particularly wood turning. Together we are apprentice beekeepers being mentored by our Parish Nurse Sue Richards of our home congregation Covenant Lutheran in Stoughton. What an interesting adventure! Our four married sons live in the upper Midwest with our seven grandchildren—close enough for several visits a year.

Enough for now. I look forward to serving with you on the road ahead moving into a future defined equally by worship and service. Pr. Jerry

Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep spirituality and generosity...

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MCC News—

Rev. David Keese-Berg, Advent Interim for Pastoral Care

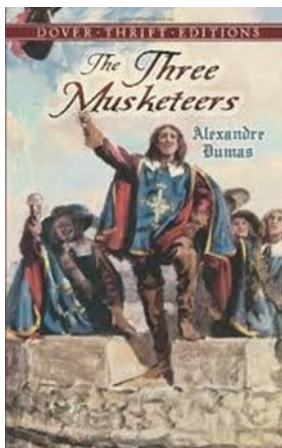
As David puts it, “I leaped out of my mother’s womb into the pastoral ministry.” By my sophomore year in high school, I knew I wanted to become a pastor! David attended Augustana Academy and St. Olaf College. After graduation, he spent 15 months in Germany teaching English at the Martin Luther Schule at Rimbach in the Odenwald. He then entered Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. He interned at Ascension Lutheran Church in Milwaukee where he met and married Beverly Hintz. David and Beverly had four children, Greg, Stephen, Randi, and Nathan. Beverly died rather suddenly at an early age.

David’s first call was to teach in the Religion Department at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. He taught Biblical Studies, Church History and Christian Ethics. David says, “I learned more in one year of teaching than in the four years of Seminary combined.” He was then called to the Colton Lutheran Parish in Colton, SD. He subsequently served congregations in Decorah, IA; Atlantic, IA; and Beloit, WI. After Beverly’s death, he left the pastoral roster of the ELCA and spent ten years in a retreat and storytelling ministry. During that time, he completed a two-year program at the Christos Center in Minneapolis in spiritual direction.

In 1993 David married Sonja Keese-Berg, which explains the Keese-Berg in David’s name. When David married Sonja he inherited two daughters Laura and Debra and their families. Together the Keese-Bergs have nine grandchildren. Sonja is a full partner in David’s ministry.

About ten years ago, David went through the process to be restored to the pastoral roster of the ELCA and then served as an emergency Interim in four parishes that were coming out of conflict. He also served as Assistant to the Bishop for Pastoral Care in the Southwest Synod of WI of the ELCA.

David is a loyal member of GEMS, which stands for “Grumpy Elderly Men.” The group meets weekly, reads cutting edge books, and has wild discussions. David loves still having opportunities to preach and to do pastoral care. He is a very grateful man!



After the picture on the front cover of this newsletter was taken, I met briefly with the pastors. I think I made a passing reference of them being our MCC Three Musketeers. Pastors Dan, Jerry and David are our Athos, Aramis and Porthos. In Alexandre Dumas’ novel, the “three” were inseparable friends who lived by the motto “all for one, one for all.” Now I can’t say for sure if this will be our Pastors’ motto, but I do know that they will support, provide spiritual leadership and keep ALL MCC members in their prayers in the months to follow. We are thankful and grateful for their presence.

Put **Sunday, February 15th on your calendar.** MCC will be worshipping together in community. We will celebrate the installation of Pastors Jerry and David as Advent’s Interim pastors, as well as bless both Call Committees.

Prairie Roots Bluegrass group, under the leadership of Jen Streit, will be playing and singing up a storm. After worship, there will be an opportunity to personally welcome Pr. David and Jerry. Hope you can attend.

The transition has begun. We are off and running at full speed. No one will be left behind. I promise to keep you posted.

Jean Einerson, Chair, MCC LT

Guiding Principle:

Work in environmentally responsible ways...

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MCC News

Lenten Schedule of Services. Our Wednesday evening services in Lent will use the Holden Evening Prayer, and each week will be a reflection on one of the Beatitudes.

- Feb 18 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – Ash Wednesday**
The service will include the imposition of ashes and communion.
- Feb 25 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – *Blessed are the Merciful***
Dan Yeazel, preacher
- March 4 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – *Blessed are Those Who Hunger***
Dave Mack, preacher
- March 11 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – *Blessed are the Poor in Spirit***
Arden Malhberg, preacher
- March 18 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – *Blessed are the Pure in Heart***
Lisa Johnsen, preacher
- March 25 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship – *Blessed are They Who Mourn***
Betty Custer, preacher
- April 2 7:00 p.m. Maunday Thursday**
- April 3 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service**
- April 5 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service, MCC**
10:15 am Community of Hope Easter Service in the Covenant Room
10:15 am Advent Lutheran Easter Service in the Blessing Room

HOLY WEEK CHOIR

It's time to save the dates for the Holy Week Choir! Howard and Jen are collaborating to choose music again - looking at how to incorporate children and chimes. Jen will be sending a Doodle sign-up. *Please sign up in advance, so that we can choose and order music accordingly.* If people are only available for one of the two services, we will try to plan rehearsals accordingly. Contact Howard Kanetzke or Jen Streit with questions.

Rehearsals:

Sunday, March 8 - 1 hour after worship
Sunday, March 15 - 1 hour after worship
Sunday, March 22 - 1 hour after worship

Services:

Palm Sunday, March 29 - 10:15am, 9am call time
Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 7pm, 6:15pm call time

Guiding Principle:

Cultivate hospitality and meaningful connections...

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MCC News

February 22nd: The Wonderful 2015 MCC All Inclusive Variety Show Fundraiser!

This after worship lunch and entertainment, sponsored by MCC High School and Middle School kids, will highlight talent and lots of laughs, by and for all ages at Madison Christian Community. The fundraiser will go towards Homeless Teens Survival Kit Backpacks, and maybe a little bit more!!!

Thank you MCC from the Jail Ministry

The Madison Christian Community supported the Jail Ministry with financial gifts of \$5,136.45. Thank you for your continued gifts and prayers in support of the work of Chaplains Julia Weaver and John Mix with the inmates and staff at the Dane County Jail. God's blessings to you all.

MCC "VILLAGE" MOM/BABY NEWS from Jackie Muehl

Many thanks to the dozen or so folks from our two MCC faith communities who responded to the November request for baby clothing and other necessities for a young Madison mom on her own.

Baby Lilith Jean arrived on January 6, and is already thriving. Her thankful mom reports that she feels well prepared to care for her newborn daughter, knowing that she already has most of what will be needed for many months. Donations included a marvelous array of gently used, carefully washed and folded outfits from newborn to toddler sizes. Grandmothers, and even one great grandmother, rounded up equipment, toys and books, accessories, and bags of clothing from their extended families. Some preferred to go on a joyful shopping spree to choose something special and personalized. Others knitted, crocheted, quilted, and embroidered some lovely items that are sure to be treasured keepsakes for little Lilith. A glider/rocking chair, two lamps, a crib, and a changing table platform completed the nursery just in time.

Thanks to Alma Hall, an Advent member who connected us and helped us help.

An Evening With Author Doug Pagitt and Musician Heatherlyn

Well known emerging church leader, pastor, and author Doug Pagitt will be sharing excerpts from his brand new book Flipped from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27th at MCC. Doug will be accompanied by musician Heatherlyn who will perform some of her original music during his presentation.

Doug Pagitt is the founding pastor of Solomon's Porch Church in the Twin Cities, and is a highly sought after Christian communicator. He was one of the keynote speakers at the UCC Wisconsin Conference annual meetings a few years ago, and his remarks at that conference were extremely well received. Doug is widely known throughout the country for the creative and provocative ways in which he invites and challenges individuals and institutions to re-frame and re-imagine the essence of what it means to follow in the Way of Jesus and to "be Church." There is no charge for this event, but Doug's books will be available for purchase and signing as the evening concludes. Please join us and bring a friend!

Guiding Principle:

Engage one another, neighbors, and the wider world in action to improve people's lives...

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MCC News

Looking for One More Road Home Coordinator

The Road Home (TRH) is a local organizations that MCC supports through our volunteer time and generous contributions. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday four weeks a year MCC volunteers provide dinner, lunch and breakfast supplies, play time, and overnight hosting at the host congregation, Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ at 1501 Gilbert Road. For each night there is also a coordinator from MCC. Since Aaron Anding moved, John Malecki and Beth Campbell have been coordinators for the three nights. It would be great to have a third member of the coordinator team again.

What does a coordinator do? Coordinators do a variety of things: provide announcements for the bulletins and Good Word; set out the signup sheets; recruit volunteers when signups are slow; attend (one of us) an Orchard Ridge coordinator meeting the prior week; communicate information about the families in shelter to help volunteers plan meals and play time; go to Orchard Ridge about 4:45 on our lead night to open the church and check the log; stay throughout the evening to help the shelter families, especially any new ones that day; and help volunteers with meals and playtime and brief the overnight hosts. We may also fill in for volunteers with last minute conflicts. We sometimes return to help with breakfast on Saturday.

What kind of training does a coordinator get?

- Each coordinator takes The Road Home training – a mix of online reading/quizzes and in-person tour/staff introduction at their day center on Olin Drive. This is the same training that the Road Home urges every volunteer to take.
- Once every three months, The Road Home holds a coordinator meeting and we try to get to these as it is an opportunity to learn from other coordinators and raise issues with staff.
- In the week before each shelter week, Orchard Ridge, UCC, hosts a coordinator meeting with TRH staff person to discuss family needs and ORUCC facility and program issues.
- You get hands-on training from John and Beth. This starts by coming to observe them for one evening. This includes a facility and equipment tour. Then, on your first night as coordinator lead, either John or Beth will visit for part of that night. It works. You learn by doing and you ask questions. We have a wonderful group of experienced volunteers – some of them have been doing this for years and most of them are just really gifted and knowledgeable in people issues.

So, think it over. Ask John Malecki (836-0376) or Beth Campbell (824-0646) any questions. Our next shelter week is March 30-April 3. It would be great to do a first-night training session that week.

On the MCC Bulletin Board (A summary and the full length article.)

On Friday, January 16, the Huffington Post included an article entitled **“The People’s Legs Are Not Praying—Why Selma Is Not the Interfaith Movie I Was Hoping For.”**, written by Ulrich Rosenhagen, Advent member and Assoc. Dir. of The Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions at the University of Wisconsin.

Guiding Principle:

Inspire gratitude, creativity, and joy...

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MCC Fellowship Groups & Activities

Inspire Thursday, February 12 @ 8pm, at Andrea Olson's home. Our discussion host is Julie Krbec. This is an evening group for MCC Women who seek to inspire and be inspired. We share deep fellowship that is rooted in deepening our faith. We take turns bringing a topic of discussion and may read a brief article or passage ahead of time. We meet the 2nd Thursdays at 8 p. Contact Kaisa at kaisaumiller@gmail.com.

Prairie Roots—is formerly known as "Prairie Reckoning. We have chosen a new name that reflects who we currently are and what we currently do: we play "roots" music (country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues) that is rooted in our Christian faith. In addition, we like the symbolism - knowing the amazingly deep and complex root systems of prairies.

MCC Worship Service led by Prairie Roots: Sunday, February 15.

Rehearsal Schedule:

Saturday, February 14 9-11 a.m.

Worship Service: Sunday, February 15 8:45 a.m. call time

The Prayer Shawl group will meet February 17, 2015, at 10:30 a.

The Prayer Shawl Creators meet every third Tuesday at the church at 10:30 a.m. We welcome anyone interested in this ministry, experienced knitter or crocheter, or beginner, or those in-between!

In addition to knitting or crocheting prayer shawls, we have expanded our ministry to include making hats, scarves and mittens. Last year we donated 48 items to Emerson School, most of them made with the yarn donated to us. We are checking into a couple of other places where these items would be useful. If you have any suggestions along this line, please let anyone in the group know. Thank you for all the donated yarn; there is a basket under the table for your contributions. We would also welcome any local coupons for yarn for the prayer shawls. If you have any questions, please call Virginia Stumbo, 695-2266

MCC Community Group

Sun., Feb. 8 - 3:00 p.m. Peking Acrobats show at the Overture Center. Cost is \$20

Community Group and any others who might like to join us!

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 P.M. is a dress rehearsal for the Madison Symphony Orchestra, with a piano soloist. The rehearsal is free, but a reservation is required. If you would like to attend, please let Gretchen Wahl (663-4928) know by Monday, February 9. I will be calling in the reservation that day!

MCC Film Group -

Lois Komai, Coordinator

Film Group will attend a movie in a theater on February 20. Please call Lois at 692-3630 for the more details.

NOTE: Wisconsin Film Festival is the 2nd Friday in April, April 10. Always a highlight, please consider joining us. We will need some hosts later in the season.

Meditation Monday for MCC Friends

Begin your week with balance and peace of mind. We welcome all who'd like to join us in the Covenant Room, 5:30-6:30 p. each Monday. We begin by listening to a brief "dharma talk" that explores different aspects of a meditation practice, and sit in mindfulness for about 20 minutes. Afterwards we may talk about our experiences (or not). Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pillow(s) or blanket. Namaste! Contacts: Mary Schmelzer and Bob Sessions.

Strategic

Directions:

Deepen people's connections to God and encourage practices that feed their spirits and equip them for their life journeys...

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MCC News

Adult Forum for February

February 1 and February 8...**"Food Patriots: A Two-Part Look at Food, Faith and Farming"**

The Bible has numerous references to agriculture, food, land stewardship, and economic justice. This two-part Adult Education forum will look at "Food, Faith and Farming"...how our faith can guide our decisions about the food we eat and the farming approaches we support. "Food Patriots" is a fun film that explores important topics: foodborne illness and "superbugs," food deserts, conventional and sustainable farming, alternative food systems and a 10% solution. You are what you eat; come and learn about "voting with your fork" on what you eat...three times a day!

February 15 –To be determined.

February 22 Sabbath: Part II

Arden Mahlberg will follow up on his January 18th talk with more observations about the importance of honoring the Sabbath. If you didn't have the opportunity to listen to the 9+ presentation (on a 9-Point-Scale), come and join for the follow-up. Persons with children at home and/or busy work-social schedules are especially encouraged.

DROP-IN SHELTER On Thursday February 4, from 7:30 - 9:30 p. the volunteers are Dorothy Brar, Corkey Custer and John Malecki. On Friday, February 5, from 5:00 - 8:00 a, Kristi & Roger Williams are the volunteers. If you need a sub, please arrange a switch with others on the list of volunteers. If you have any questions, please call Ken Streit at 231-1525.

Food Drive for Lussier Food Pantry—Sunday, February 1

Please remember to make a special effort to bring food for the pantry. Suggested items include canned goods (fruit, vegetables, tuna, beef stew, fruit juice, etc.), peanut butter, jelly, cereal. We can especially use any large grocery bags.

Please do not put pet food in with donations for the Lussier Food Pantry.

We do not have facilities to handle fresh produce. For those who prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to the Lussier Community Education Center, designated for the pantry. Dobbin McNatt, Coordinator

JAVA for JUSTICE, Susan Gruber Place your coffee order by **February 1**. Your order will be ready for pick-up on **February 8**. Coffee can be purchased in 12 oz. (\$10) or 4 lb. (\$45) bags; regular or decaf; bean, drip or perk. Make your checks payable to **Mt. Meru Coffee Project** and place them in the envelope by the sign-up sheet in the Shalom Room on the Coffee Table. Your support remains the sustaining force in the lives of many coffee-farming families in Tanzania. **Thanks for your continued support.**

Thank You Gifted Members of the M.C.C.

Once again our M.C.C. members owe a debt of gratitude to the many who were involved in the presentation of Christmas programs. Beginning with the fine service put on by our youth, continuing with lovely Christmas Eve services, and culminating in the glorious Epiphany service, we were inspired and are still basking in the glow of special worship experiences.

The Good Word—*Published Monthly by the Madison Christian Community*

Next Issue:

March 2015

Articles Due:

February 20 to the church office

Newsletter Preparer:

Sonja Keesey-Berg

Newsletter Proofing:

Jess Kaehny and Roger Buffett

Strategic

Directive:

Strengthen and build relationships within MCC

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Sunday School News —from Jen Streit

Sunday School News:

Rotation Sunday School is back in session! January has been great: we have tried a few new things within the rotation - like preparing music to sing in worship ("Sharing the Road") and "all Sunday School" games and the middle schoolers telling the story through a skit. We learned about the baptism of Jesus, Rev Dr. Martin Luther King - justice vs equality, and God, and the feeding of the 5,000.

The sign up chart is very blank, so please know that your help is needed. If many people can take on a small part, we'll be in fabulous shape! Thank you for considering. The sign up chart is available on paper at the MCC, downstairs and online through Google docs.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day

About 70 students grades 1-12 gathered at First Congregational Church to honor Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr by spending their day off from school in faith-connected service and learning! The MCC was well represented with 15 children & teens. :) Jeff Rabe from First Congo noticed that schools do a good job of talking about Dr. King, but they are not allowed to cover the faith aspect of this great man of faith.

Workshops for grades 1-5 included making blankets for homeless people; African-American step dancing; Dr. King: man of faith; first person storytelling by a 96 year old black woman who grew up in Alabama; and activities/games exploring equality and justice and the Bible (led by Jen Streit).

Middle Schoolers (led by Doug Crews-Nelson) went to a nursing home to play games with residents and clean wheelchairs. Doug led discussion with the Middle Schoolers on the bus, before heading back: "Who gets the gift when we do service?" Their response, basically, was, "All of us," understanding that it is a gift to give, as it is to receive. Amongst other conversation, I asked if they would do it again. There was a resounding, "Yes!"

High Schoolers (accompanied by Lisa Johnsen) went to Second Harvest Food Bank. They bagged 1,860 bags of beans for the hungry. They had fun with the bean bagging and some spontaneous singing was included! During lunch, one of the adult leaders read from Rev. Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech.

Both Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers even had time to have fun learning some step dance moves when they returned!

This event was planned by Jeff Rabe at First Congregational, Laura Crow at Middleton Community Church, Kathleen Owens at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Jen Streit at Madison Christian Community. **(Photos on the next page.)**

Strategic

Directive:

Care for creation and help others to do so as well

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Parent Hour *2nd Sundays from 9am-10am on Sundays*

Feb 8, Mar 8, April 12, May 10

Hosted by: Ellen Lindgren & Arden Mahlberg and Barrique's Coffee provided!

Parents of all ages are invited to animated conversations about the struggles of faith and raising children.

MLK Day:

a faith-connected day of service and learning in the spirit of Rev Dr King for grades 1-12.



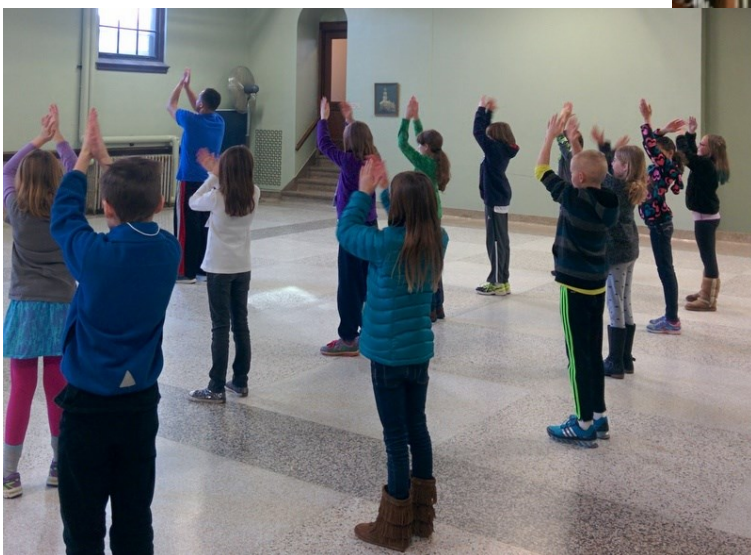
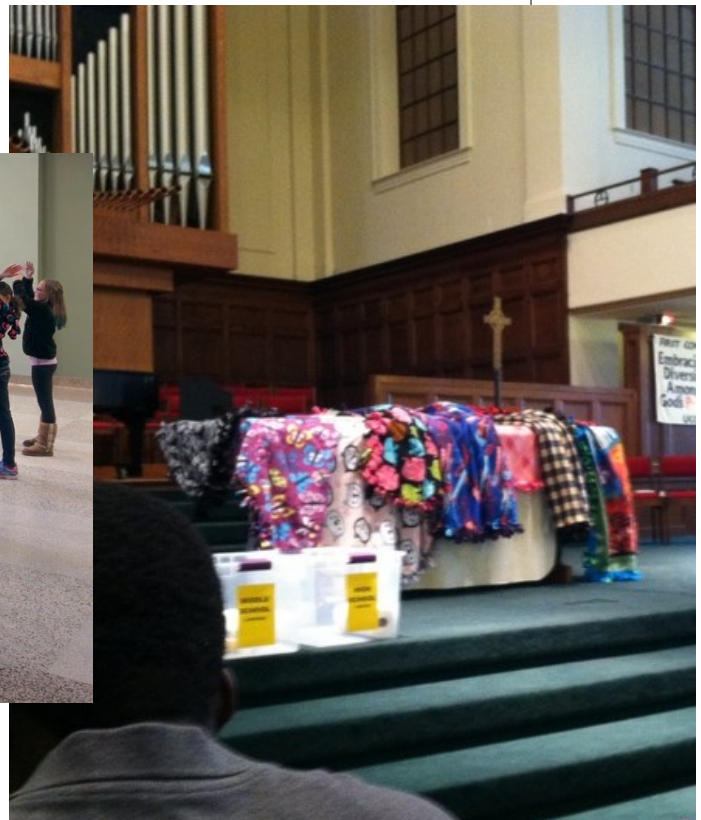
Strategic

Directive:

Care for creation and help others to do so as well

Internet Link-Back to

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MCC Youth News

MCC Youth

The MCC Youth Arts/Music/Sports Event calendar is in the alcove area of the Shalom Room. There is a water washable marker tied to the poster. Please add your favorite MCC Youth event to the poster, so folks can see Who, What, When, and Where your event will take place!

Youth News

February 22nd: The Wonderful 2015 MCC All Inclusive Variety Show Fundraiser! This after worship lunch and entertainment, sponsored by MCC High School and Middle School kids, will highlight talent and lots of laughs, by and for all ages at Madison Christian Community. The fundraiser will go towards Homeless Teens Survival Kit Backpacks, and maybe a little bit more!!!

Family Library, from Lisa Johnsen

The family library is located in the common area of the lower level. Please feel free to check books out to enjoy. Directions on how to do so are located on the top of the bookshelf with the card box.

Featured Book: 'The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christianity' by Eric Elnes

Not long ago, this little book was featured in a series of sessions at MCC. If you did not have a chance to explore it at that point, you may be pleased to learn that a copy is contained in the Family Faith Formation Library. Now's your chance! And, as MCC travels the road ahead, this might be an ideal time to explore - or even revisit - it. In this slender and reader-friendly volume, each of the twelve affirmations is presented and discussed in a short chapter. This book would be great to read in tandem with older children, and might spark some interesting discussions about how the Christian faith tradition is changing and evolving.

Madison Area Lutheran Council (MALC) Annual meeting is Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. (Snow date is Thursday, Feb 12.) The location is Good Shepherd by the Lake Lutheran Church, 1860 Highway 51, Stoughton, WI.

Each congregation is encouraged to send one lay and one clergy representative.

Jail Ministry is at the center of the work of MALC. Ministry is provided by John Mix (ELCA, full-time) and Julia Weaver (UCC, half time) and includes facilitating worship services and Bible studies, counseling, support groups, spiritual care, grief support, literacy training and connecting men and women with resources in the community for AODA issues, education, employment and parenting. In addition, our chaplains facilitate programs such as *Beginnings*, *Mosaic*, and a literacy program, all geared toward assisting individuals making a new start in life.

Strategic

Directive:

Focus on meaningful partnerships that work for justice and enhance the quality of life for people around us

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Advent Groups and News

Advent Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Friday, February 13, at 1:30 p.m.** at Oakwood Village University Woods in the Oaks Community Room, 6225 Mineral Point Rd. We are a group of women who meet two hours each month to read and discuss a Bible study, as well as share friendship and support one another. We meet on the second Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m. You are very welcome to visit us. Contact is Margaret Smith at 231-1496.

Judith Circle will meet on Tuesday, **February 10, at 9:30 a.m.** at MCC. Jean Oliversen is the hostess. Janet Sabatke is the study leader. If you need a ride or have any questions please call Jean Loichinger (836-1791) or Hildy McGown (238-8670).

OPALS Book Discussion Group meets once a month on Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m. The **February 24** meeting will be at MCC. Our book is *Orphan Train*. The author is Christina Baker Kline. Orphan trains were a historical fact between 1859 and 1929. This novel tells a story of a teenage who is helping an aged orphan train rider clean out her attic, and discovers she has many things in common with the older woman.

Third Thursday Women's Lunch Bunch – February 19

Please contact Jan Robertson (833-6312) with any questions. The group meets at the Prairie Café, 5720 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave., Middleton, at 11:30 a.m.

Advent Women Thursday Breakfast

Advent women are invited for coffee each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at **Panera Bread at 3461 University Ave.** The only agenda is sharing friendship, and there is always laughter. We do service projects several times a year, pray for one another's concerns, and celebrate joys. If you can be an early bird at least once a week, please drop by when your schedule allows!

G.E.M.S. (Grumpy Elderly Men) We have selected two books. First we will read and discuss: *Eternal Life: A New Vision: Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell* by John Shelby Spong. The second book is *Outliers: The Story of Success, by Malcolm Gladwell*. Members are retired, but not necessarily grumpy or elderly. Contact Dave Keesey-Berg (831-8253) or Jim Eastman (298-7155).

Men's Breakfast Groups

Mondays, 7:15 a. at the Lakefront on Langdon at the Memorial Union (Union Terrace in summer). Good conversation, friendship, laughter and support. Contact: Ken Streit, 231-1525.

Fridays, 6:30 a. at the Original House of Pancakes on University Ave.

It is a relaxed atmosphere to have coffee, eat a pleasant meal, talk and still have plenty of time to get to work. Join us whenever you get the chance. Doug sends email reminders for the group. Contact: Doug Crews-Nelson, 442-9468.

Dear Members of Advent Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, let me express my thanks for you generous donation of \$500 towards the ministry of the Council. Your donation will support our mission of providing high quality educational programming for clergy and lay leaders, advocacy at the state capitol on behalf of the religious community, and work towards meeting the needs of God's most vulnerable in these difficult economic times. Sincerely, Scott Anderson, Executive Director.

Advent Treasury of Love Offerings for January 2015 was \$1050.00

Rent Assistance =\$1050.00 **Balance as of 1/28/2015 = \$0.00**

Strategic

Directive:

Care for creation and help others to do so as well

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Community of Hope News

Important Dates to Remember!



Birthdays

Kevin Clark	2/04
Megan Streit	2/04
Trevor Stewart	2/08
Lois Komai	2/11
Bonnie Spindler	2/11
Nathan Powell	2/13
Joe Heinrich	2/16
Betty Custer	2/15
Stephanie Williams	2/15
Mary Hitchcock	2/20
Tina Eder	2/21
Howard Kanetzke	2/25
Nick Hartelt	2/28

Anniversaries

Art & Mary Nack	2/18
Bill Rettig (Jean Gilbertson)	2/25

Please let us know if we have missed your special day.

Hope Men: Pancakes, Puns, Proverbs and Politics

- Those are just a few of the things you will miss if you don't get to the Hope men's breakfast at the Original Pancake House on University Avenue, at 6:30 a. every Wednesday. You have promised yourself for a long time now. Mark your calendar, set your alarm, and make it!

Porchlight Thanks You

On behalf of Porchlight, Inc., I wish to thank Community of Hope for your contribution of \$150. Your support is critical to our ability to provide emergency shelter, supportive services and affordable housing to those most in need. Porchlight is a local organization and could not provide the support we do without your compassion and generosity. Thank you for believing in Porchlight and all that we do.
Jessica Pastlin, Development Dir.

Praying through the Community of Hope Directory

Community of Hope is committed to nurturing deep spirituality and generosity, cultivating meaningful connections and inspiring gratitude, creativity and joy. One of the ways we approach these commitments is through prayer. We believe a regular prayer practice deepens people's connections to God, feeds our spirits and equips us for our life journeys. This ministry of prayer also strengthens and builds relationships within our community. This month we pray for the following people and their families in our ongoing effort to pray for our entire congregation throughout each year.

Feb 1–Feb 7

Michelle Erschen & Nancy Greenwald;
Sandie Esrael & Peter Williams

Feb 8–Feb 14

Warren & Susan Exo and Freddie Feeny

Feb 15–Feb 21

Nancy Getz; Mark, Luke Geistlinger,
Kristin, Eliza & Zoe Meyer

Feb 22–Feb 28

Christine Hartelt; Tina Hogle;
Joe, Janel, Alex & Eli Heinrich

March 1–March 7

Keith Johnson & Julie Hunter; Margaret Helming; Mary Hitchcock & Michele Sawyer

CoH Women's Breakfast Group Solve the World's Problems With Us-- One Cup of Coffee at a Time.

The Community of Hope's Women's Breakfast Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of every month starting at 7:00 a. We have no agenda except to listen, learn and laugh with each other at the Hubbard Avenue Diner, 7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton. All are welcome. Email Sandra Esrael, sandraesrael@tds.net if you have questions.

Strategic

Directive:

Focus on meaningful partnerships that work for justice and enhance the quality of life for others

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Larger Community News

Jen Streit invites those who enjoy choral music to attend **The Madison Choral Project's February Concert**. In conjunction with the Madison Youth Choirs, and instrumentalists, we will perform Faure's Requiem and MacMillan's Te Deum - two beautiful and powerful choral works. Visit themcp.org for tickets.

**Saturday, February 28, 2015, 7:30pm, First Congregational Church, Madison
1609 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726**

The Lubar Institute

for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions

at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

a free public lecture

The Saint John's Bible and Making Bibles in the Middle Ages

Dr. Christopher de Hamel

Donnelly Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College (**Parker Library**), Cambridge University

*part of a symposium (see below) related to **the current exhibition of pages***

from the modern illuminated Saint John's Bible

at the University of Wisconsin's Chazen Museum of Art

7:30 pm–9:00 pm

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Conrad A. Elvehjem Building, L160 lecture hall (lower level)

800 University Ave., Madison, Wisconsin

Guiding Principle:

Nurture deep
spirituality and
generosity...

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Coming Events

Sunday February 15 ,

MCC Worship lead by Prairie Roots
Blessing of the CoH and Advent Call Committees

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.

Feb 25-Mar 25

Wednesday, Weekly Lenten Services, 7:00 p.

Cancellations at MCC

You will be able to find cancellation notices on our website. Please check there to get news of any cancellation.

MCC Mission Statement

We affirm our unity through Christ and commit to share a journey grounded in faith practices and to serve as part of Christ's presence in our world.

Our Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org.

- *Read or Listen* to **Sunday sermons!**
- **Sunday texts** are on the monthly calendar.
- **COH and Advent** members find **Worship Assistant's Schedule**
- **Weekly Announcements**
- **Good Word Newsletter**
- **Sunday School News**
- **Youth Schedule of Activities**
- **Kids in the Garden and much more.....**

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Of Special Interest:**

Our Partnership– *Madison Christian Community*

Advent Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and Community of Hope (United Church of Christ) are partners in Christ. Together we are the **Madison Christian Community** (MCC). We share education for all ages, youth activities, building space, fellowship groups and efforts to preserve the land. We worship together about 8-12 times a year. Community of Hope is an Open and Affirming congregation and Advent is a Reconciled in Christ congregation. We welcome people of all ages, denominational backgrounds, races, genders and sexual orientations. May our church be a sanctuary for all!

The Good Word

**Monthly Newsletter of the
Madison Christian Community**
*An Ecumenical Partnership of
Advent Lutheran Church – ELCA
and Community of Hope – UCC*

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Carol Jensen
Dan Streit, Co-Chair
Rolf Killingstad
Beth Campbell, Treas.
Lois Komai, Co-Chair

Advent Council
Jean Einerson, MCC Pres.
Joyce Anderson
Dennis Rhodes
Ken Johnson
Mary Rowe
Kaisa Miller
Todd Holman
Rosa Ohlrogge

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 608-836-1455
If you call our office and there is no answer, please leave a message. We will get back to you.

MCC Logo Design by Lucetta Kanetzke

CoH Search Team

Lynn Breedlove (Chair),
Don Tubesing
(Committee Chaplain),
Emily Wixson (Advent
member/Secretary),
Diane Eddings,
Avis Elson,
Donna Leet
Roger Williams

Advent Search Team

Ken Streit
Karen Schwarz
Beth Falkos
Anna Henning
Rob Olson
Nancy Getz (CoH)