July 2024

The Good News Herald

Zwingli
United Church of Christ
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A Small Church with a Big and Open Heart!

Check out our Zwingli UCC - Paoli Facebook page! https://www.facebook.com/zwingliuccpaoli



It was such a joy to meet those of you who came to the 'Meet and Greet' and/or to the May 26 or June 23 Worship services. Thank you for your gracious and warm welcome. You lived out your motto: "A Small Church with a big and open Heart". I am looking forward to getting to know you and working with you in ministry together.

Thank you for patience as I learn names and family connections. Wearing your name tags will help me with this (as well as be very helpful to visitors who come to church). So, I invite you to keep wearing your name tags! Another way that you can help me to get acquainted with you is to put together a picture of you (and your family) and a little write up of anything you want to share with me – your work, your hobbies, your faith journey, your service and social justice work . . . I especially would like to know how you found your way to Zwingli and why you stay. I asked the search committee this question when I met with them for the first time.



You can snail mail this to the church and address it to me or email it to my inbox (pastor.zwingliuccpaoli@gmail.com).

Finally, I realized that in telling you the story of my professor Walter Brueggeman in my May 26 sermon, I forgot to say why he was pushing me and shouting 'wake up' in class! Oops! 😉 Walt was pushing me not because I was asleep. He was/is a dynamic professor and it was his dramatic way of teaching about the Old Testament prophets, who often called the Israelite people to 'wake up' to the ways they were living unjustly and not caring for the poor, the stranger, the widow . . . Jesus continued this concept of 'waking up' to a deeper truth when talking with Nicodemus (whose story we were exploring in the sermon that day – John 3:1-8) – because his focus in this conversation was on waking up to the truth that we must be born again of the Holy Spirit. As we follow in the ways and teachings of Jesus, we have the opportunity to 'wake up' to the Holy Spirit guiding and inspiring us, and so live the 'sacred dance'

(Richard Rohr) of our lives. The Holy Spirit guides us, and opens our hearts to live out the ways of justice, peace, love, mercy . . . This is the journey of 'faithing' (a concept explored in my June 23 message) as we follow and learn from Christ. Our egos cannot make these changes in us, but we can continually open to the Holy Spirit who is always ready to help us to grow in Grace during our lifetime.

My prayer for all of us is that our sojourn together will be an opportunity to support each other in our 'survival dance' (Richard Rohr) as well as our 'sacred dance', trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us individually and as a congregation. Thank you again for calling me to be your pastor. I am excited to get to know each of you and see where the Holy Spirit will lead us.

Blessings,
Karla

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes for the Council Meetings each month are available upon request from the church office. You may request a pdf via email, or a hard copy in your mailbox. Minutes for the Council meeting held on April 21, 2024 are now available.

How Are We Doing with Special Offerings in 2024?

The Christmas Fund	$100
One Great Hour of Sharing	$230
Strengthen the Church	$210

Farewell & Thank You Pastor Susan



Spend some quality time in GOD's COUNTRY!

The Wisconsin Conference is blessed with THREE beautiful locations for people of all ages and permutations to gather together for fun, fellowship and faith in the out-of-doors. There are retreats and camp opportunities all year 'round, for singles and families, grandparents, quilters, bike-riders, fishers, and seniors!

Camping brochures are available at the church, or online at www.ucci.org. There are generous (3-way) scholarship programs, making camping a possibility for anyone.



. . . to all who helped on “grubby” Sunday! So much got done. Cleaning out the furnace room; kitchen cleaned; dusting and removing cobwebs; back staircase -- totally removed so many things that were not needed any more; cleaning out basement windows, removing curtains. Outside, flowers were planted, many unsightly items got removed (rotting picnic tables), etc.

There remains much to be done to get our little church in tip-top shape!! If anyone is so inspired, some of the things that still need to be done include: going through the upstairs furnace room and large storage closet to sort and remove items no longer needed. Thanks again! --Church Council

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. . . to Culver's of Verona for the custard cups for our Sundae Celebration for graduates and also the celebration of Cash finishing his chemo a year after being diagnosed with cancer.

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. . . to Carl Miller for donating 8 bags of mulch for the landscaping in front of the church and to Sue Bovre who planted the flowers and tends to them each week.

July Fundraiser

It’s that time again for the “No Bake Sale”



What is a “No Bake Sale” you ask?

No baking on a hot summer day, no shopping for ingredients, no volunteering to work. All you need to do is send a check in the amount you wish to donate to:

Zwingli UCC-Paoli
Attn: No Bake Sale
PO Box 530
Belleville, WI 53508

OR

Drop your donation in the collection plate when you attend church on any Sunday during July. If you have been blessed and can afford to contribute more, please prayerfully consider doing so as some members may not be in a position to contribute. All amounts whether big or small when combined will help to grow our general fund for our church. Thank you for your donation.

Independence Day Reflection

Written by Rev. Ray Bagnuolo of Sayville Congregational UCC, in Sayville, NY, July 4, 2023

“'Here I Am. Send Me.' Echoes of those willing to give their all for freedom, independence. For the right to be who God created us to be.

'Independence Day! Free at last!', the revelers likely shouted, on that day of signing the Declaration of Independence, some 12+ generations ago. Did they understand? From that day forward we would be responsible for ourselves. What would that mean? Independent, responsible, caring for one another in ways that history barely records elsewhere. The United States of America, the 'Beacon on the Hill”. We, now the The Lamp' that would later be illuminated in the words of Emma Lazarus:

'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'

Shared struggles create powerful bonds. Finally able to 'breathe' when the knees of oppression are forced off our souls – we want that for everyone. We become grateful, generous, inclusive, compassionate, loving.

Maybe, maybe it’s that simple. Perhaps the foundational idea that stirs all other ideas is that we should be free to breathe, bringing oxygen and light to our bodies and spirit in the ways God has created us to be–and being with one another in such magnificently radiant prisms of light. Holding such a lamp together. Showing the way with a clear and reliable beacon of love.

If one were to start a nation with that in mind, wanting to get that message across to all who would hear, it very well might begin with these opening words of the Declaration of Independence:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all [human beings] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'

And closing with this statement from the same document: 'And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.'

Twelve+ generations from its signing, our advances have been profound, in spite of those who see freedom as a 'power of separation' from one another; a competition — for reasons that really have no reason.

'Hosanna' was not a stadium cheer for a winning independence team, but the Hebrew word for 'Please help us', cried out to Jesus over 100 generations ago, as he set his face to Jerusalem. 'Help us, we, the huddled masses yearning to be free…'

On this Day of Independence and Remembrance…May we hear the 'Hosannas';

May we lift our determined spirits in answer to the cries;

May we celebrate our legacy and participation in freedom for all, bringing our light, our soulfulness, our 'spark of the Divine' to one another and the world;

May we console as we are sickened again by another mass shooting, fortified by incomprehensible ideologies that freely comingle independence with violence and oppression.

And in response to the 'Hosannas' we hear, let us speak another Hebrew word in prayer: 'Hineni' – 'Here I am. Send Me.' And may we follow…

Friends, may the joy of our shared spirits and faith that sees the light in one another, even through the most challenging of times…be with you – and those you will call today, to wish them your love.

Yes, Happy Fourth of July, as our freedom from all that oppresses others and the independent spirit to stand for those in need continues…into this: our generation."

Celebrating our Graduates!



On Sunday, June 9, we celebrated our GRADUATES and held a reception to honor their achievements.

Pictured from left to right: Ellen Legler (graduated from UW Eau Claire), Ethan O'Dair, Seth Batker, Cash Purkapile (graduated from chemotherapy) and Interim Pastor, Susan Schneider-Adams.

Many thanks to Jill and Dave Eustice (decorations) and the Church Council members (food, set up/take down) for helping with this event.

Summer 2024

DAMASCUS PROJECT

Dear friends:

Registration is open for a variety of courses through the Damascus Project, the shared educational ministry of the Minnesota and Wisconsin conferences of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are, you'll find learning opportunities, ranging from Planned Giving in your Congregation to Native American History and the UCC, and from Reading the New Testament Letters of Paul to Sacraments and Rites in UCC Traditions.

Learn more and register.

We are thankful to those who learn with us and support us. If you haven't yet experienced our learning community, we invite you to do so soon. In the meantime, I wish you a summer full of opportunities for rest, recreation and reflection.

In faith,

Stephanie Perdew

The Rev. Stephanie Perdew, Ph.D.
Director
The Damascus Project

Items of Note

July Birthdays

Don Batker

Ian Batker

Katie Batker

Sarah Boley

Evelyn Beal

Gerald Brown

George Brown

Sandy Jo Cloud

Sarah Quade

Marly Tollefson

July Anniversaries

Dave & Katie Batker

Sarah & Ryan Boley

Brian & Yogi Brown

Sunday, June 30
Worship
Council Meeting

Sunday, July 7
Worship with Holy Communion



LITURGISTS NEEDED

Worship is a participatory event! We are scheduling Liturgists for the next three months. It would be most helpful if you would sign up now for a Sunday or two. No experience needed. Pastor Karla will give assistance as requested. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Badger Prairie Needs Network is one of the food pantries supported by Zwingli UCC – Paoli.

Most Needed Items

- Canned Tuna, Salmon, and Chicken
- Canned or Dried beans (Black, Pinto, Kidney)
- Canned Fruit
- Hamburger or Tuna Helper
- Snack or Breakfast Bars
- Sugar (3-5 lb bags)
- Flour (3-5 lb bags)
- Paper grocery bags

Any items you donate are deeply appreciated!

Contact Information for Pastor Karla

Phone: 608-618-4848
Email pastor.zwingliuccpaoli@gmail.com