September 2024

The Good News Herald



Zwingli
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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

Worship Joys

This summer Zwingli has been blessed with some special moments:

When Petra and Larry's granddaughter, Sabrina, visited, she learned how to acolyte and joined Jason in acolyting! We look forward to her acolyting as often as she visits us with her Mom, Carrie! Pastor Karla was delighted to meet Sabrina, and to again see Carrie (she served as Carrie's youth pastor at Orchard Ridge UCC).



The Brown family had a reunion and joined us one Sunday morning! They are pictured here in front of the window given in honor of Jerry, George and Dotty's parents: George and Grace (Strasburg) Brown. The Brown family has been longtime members of Zwingli! It was wonderful welcoming those who have moved away but returned for this reunion and a visit to Zwingli.



FROM OUR PASTOR

As we turn the calendar to September, we will also be moving from Summer into Fall. For some, that means going back to school as a teacher or student. For others it means harvesting the crops. For all of us it means cooler temperatures, less daylight, and changes in nature. Years ago, I was blessed to know Pat Hitchcock, a local farmer who gave her farmland to the county to help create Donald Park (if you haven't been there, I encourage you to go). I took many university students out to her farm for workdays on the farm.



Pat gave me a poem written by her friend, Elizabeth Rooney (another southern Wisconsin native), author of several poetry books (www.Brighamfarm.com). Every September I remember that poem -- it is a reminder to me to take the time to soak in September (and October) -- in preparation for the cold winter ahead. I want to share it with you today as we turn the calendar to September, in hopes that it will remind you to prayerfully store September:

You asked me what I did today;
I could pretend and say 'I don't remember'.
But, no, I'll tell you what I did today --
I stored September.
Sat in the sun and let the sun sink in,
Let all the warmth of it caress my skin.
When winter comes, my skin will still remember
The day I stored September.
And then my eyes -
I filled them with the deepest, bluest skies
And all the traceries of wasps and butterflies.
When winter comes my eyes will still remember
The day they stored September.
And there was cricket song to fill my ears!
And the taste of grapes
And the deep purple of them!
And asters, like small clumps of sky ...
You know how much I love them.
That's what I did today
And I know why;
Just simply for the love of it,
I stored September.

Blessings, Karla

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For all my labors, that they be fruitful for your sake, I pray, O God.

For those who labor daily, may their work reward them and give them dignity and joy.

For those who seek work without finding, give them hope and dignity, and sustain them.

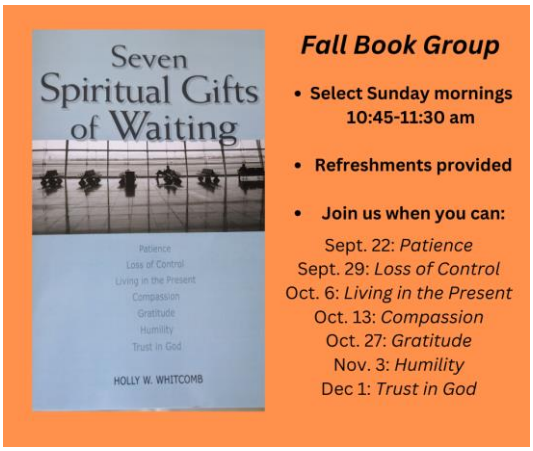
For those who cannot work, for incapacity or injustice, help them to know that they too are part of your great work in healing the world.

For those who toil unrewarded, who are underpaid, exploited, enslaved or abused, give them blessing and life and bring about justice.

For all oppression of those who labor give me courage, O God, to work for justice, to set free your children from the slavery of Egypt.

Keep me mindful, Holy One, that my worth is not in my labor but in my being, in my rest as well as my toil, by your grace. Give me faith to practice sabbath and rest in your great Belonging that is given, not earned.
Amen.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net



How do you feel about waiting? Most of us do not like to wait. Yet, every stage in our lives involves some new form of waiting. What are you waiting for right now? Would you like to explore the spiritual gifts in waiting? This Fall, Pastor Karla will be leading a discussion on the book, Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting and you are invited to join us. The author, Wisconsin UCC pastor, Holly W. Whitcomb, writes:

"Waiting presents an enormous challenge.
We are impatient, I-can-fix-it kinds of people,
Yet if we can welcome waiting as a spiritual discipline,
waiting will present its spiritual gifts."

This book will not only support us in the waiting we each do in our individual lives, but as we move into Advent in December, a liturgical season of waiting, we will be well prepared for the waiting of Advent!

You can order the book yourself, or you can pick it up at the church (we will be ordering a batch from Amazon -- help us know how many to order by contacting Karla asap if you would like us to order one for you). The cost is $11.93 (make checks out to Zwingli UCC). If cost is a barrier, contact Pastor Karla.

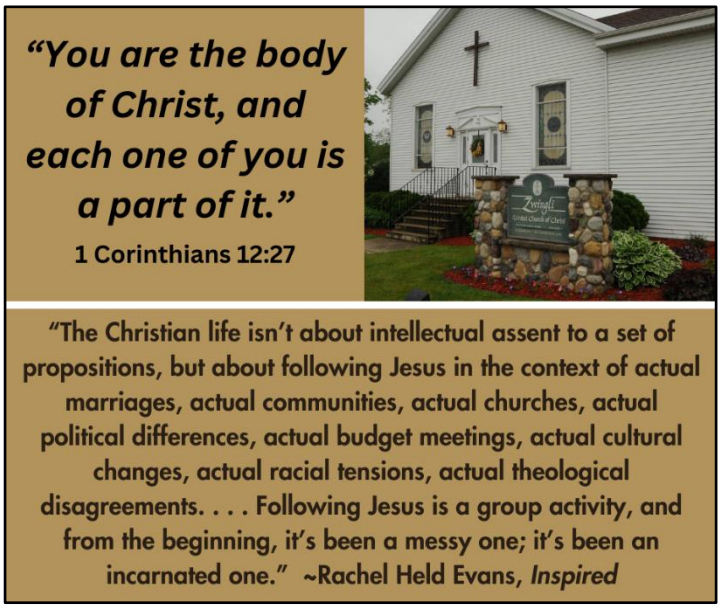


Another Worship Joy!

Marly Tollefson joined us for Worship on her 91st birthday, with daughter Michelle!

Sunday Worship Sept. 1
Church Stories!

We will conclude our *Inspired* series on Sunday Sept. 1 reflecting on *Church Stories* in the New Testament. Since it is the first Sunday of the month, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper. In our UCC tradition, all are welcome at the Lord's Table. Our communion elements include grape juice and delicious gluten and dairy free bread (made by church members) to be inclusive of dietary needs some may have. I hope you can join us at 9:30 am Sunday!





Fall Welcome Sunday

September 8, 2024

Mark your calendar and bring your favorite entrée, special salad, amazing dessert, or whatever you feel like making. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, but if you change your mind that's okay!!

Bring your family and friends with you to church or invite neighbors if you'd like. There is always enough food.

Items of Note

September Birthdays

Ethan Beal
Cole Leystra

September Anniversaries

Don & Judy Batker
Jack & Linda Everson

Calendar

Sunday, September 8
Worship followed by
Potluck dinner

Deadline for Pine Ridge
Reservation donations

Sunday, September 22
Book Group meeting
10:45-11:30

Sunday, September 29
Book Group meeting
10:45-11:30

Contact Information for Pastor Karla
608-572-4557
pastor.zwingliuccpaoli@gmail.com

Donations for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Member of Zwingli UCC, Jeanette Bossingham, and her son will leave for Pine Ridge Reservation on September 12! Jeanette thanks the congregation for past donations and once again requests donations of clothing, school supplies, first aid items, etc. (but no large items). When you bring them to the church, please use garbage bags and label with Jeanette's name (please bring them to the church by Sunday Sept. 8). If you have questions, contact Jeanette at 608-345-7266. She is soooooo grateful for your support!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Monthly minutes of the Council Meetings are available upon request.
Contact the church office to request a pdf via email, or a hard copy in your mailbox.
Minutes of the July 21, 2024 Council meeting are now available.

The September/October Upper Room devotional booklets are now available. An updated Membership Directory is also available. Both can be found in the gathering area near the mailboxes.

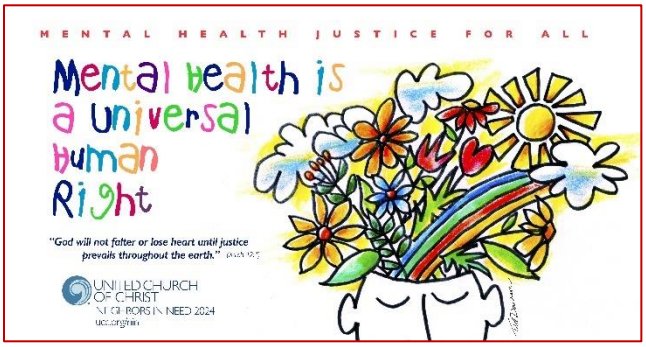
Pastor Karla's Installation Service



On Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 pm, we will have a Service of Installation for Pastor Karla to officially designate her as our pastor and teacher. She has already demonstrated her skills in both areas, but this will be an opportunity for us to commit to supporting her in her ministry with us as she promises to serve us in this role. Our Associate Conference Minister, Rachel Bauman, will be with us to represent the SW Association Church and Ministry Committee.

This will be an extraordinary worship time as a former student at The Crossing (where Karla worked the last 22.5 years) Rev. Jen Petricca Bloesch, will be offering the Message. Another former student at The Crossing, Quintin Bovre (whose name may ring a bell!!) will be with us to offer special music! This is truly going to be a wonderful service of worship and a celebration! And, of course, we will have food afterwards (more on that later). All of the churches of the Association will be invited to attend so we have a chance to welcome other pastors and lay people to Zwingli UCC.

(P.S. Anyone interested in joining our Zwingli Singers for the service please contact Petra).



UCC Neighbors in Need Offering

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is “Mental Health Justice For All!” This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive through September and dedicate on October 6, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the national Love of Church Unit, https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

Zwingli invites you to contribute to this offering through the month of September and early October using the envelopes provided in the bulletins on Sunday mornings OR mailing a check to Zwingli with your contribution (be sure to write NIN in the subject line). We will dedicate these offerings in church on Sunday Oct. 6. Of course, donations can also be received any time during the year. Zwingli appreciates the opportunity to make a difference with this NIN offering. Thank you for your contribution.

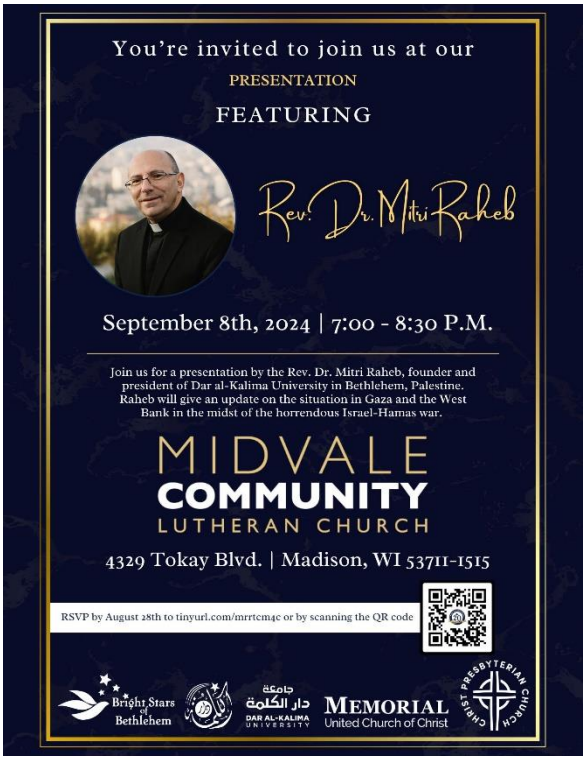
Covid On the Rise

With COVID rates on the rise, even higher than some of our wintertime spikes, it's time to refresh the basics. If you're experiencing respiratory symptoms like sneezing, coughing, sore throat, and/or runny nose - Stay home. Mask up.

While washing hands and sanitizing surfaces is *always* a good idea, those tools alone will not protect us from airborne illness. Getting vaccinated, and wearing a high-quality, well-fitted mask in crowded spaces, combined with testing and staying home when symptomatic, are some of our best tools for limiting the transmission of COVID and other respiratory diseases.



Lutheran Pastor from Bethlehem to Speak



Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is returning to Madison and speaking on Sept. 8! He is a Palestinian Lutheran Pastor from Bethlehem, a friend of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, and the founder and President of the Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem -- investing in the future of young Palestinians. He will be giving an update on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank in the midst of the horrendous Israel-Gaza war.

If you would like to attend and missed the pre-registration, you can register at the door. It's free! You can also watch it live streamed or a recording later from the Midvale Lutheran Church Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/midvalelutheran.
To hear his Oct. 22, 2023 two minute talk giving history and info on Christians in Gaza, go here.

WISDOM & WELLNESS

DEMENTIA SEMINAR

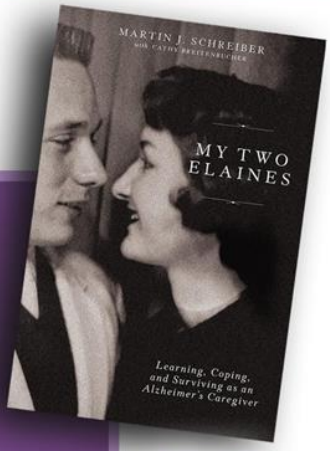
Hosted by St. John's United Church of Christ in cooperation with the Southwest Wisconsin ADRC.
Featuring former Wisconsin Governor Martin J. Schreiber and author of *My Two Elaines*
and Bonnie Beam-Stratz, ADRC Dementia Care Specialist.



- Martin J. Schreiber

Saturday, September 28th
10:00am - 12:30pm
St. John's UCC
Fellowship Hall
1724 14th St.
Monroe, WI 53566

Join us as former governor Marty Schreiber guides us through his decade-long journey as a caregiver in his acclaimed book *My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*. Drawing reference from personal experience, Marty will share insights, perspectives and valuable lessons about navigating the challenges that those affected by Alzheimer's and their caregivers face.



Available for purchase at event ($20 ea.)

CAREGIVING, DEMENTIA 101 AND RISK REDUCTION FORUM WITH BONNIE BEAM-STRATZ

Participants will learn and better understand:
Types of Dementia & the 10 Warning Signs
'Normal' vs. 'Not Normal' Aging of the Brain
Risk Factors & Reduction/Prevention Strategies

Light lunch provided. RSVP appreciated but not required.
For more information and to RSVP please call 608-325-2165.

ADRC
Aging & Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin
Serving Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties