October 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

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

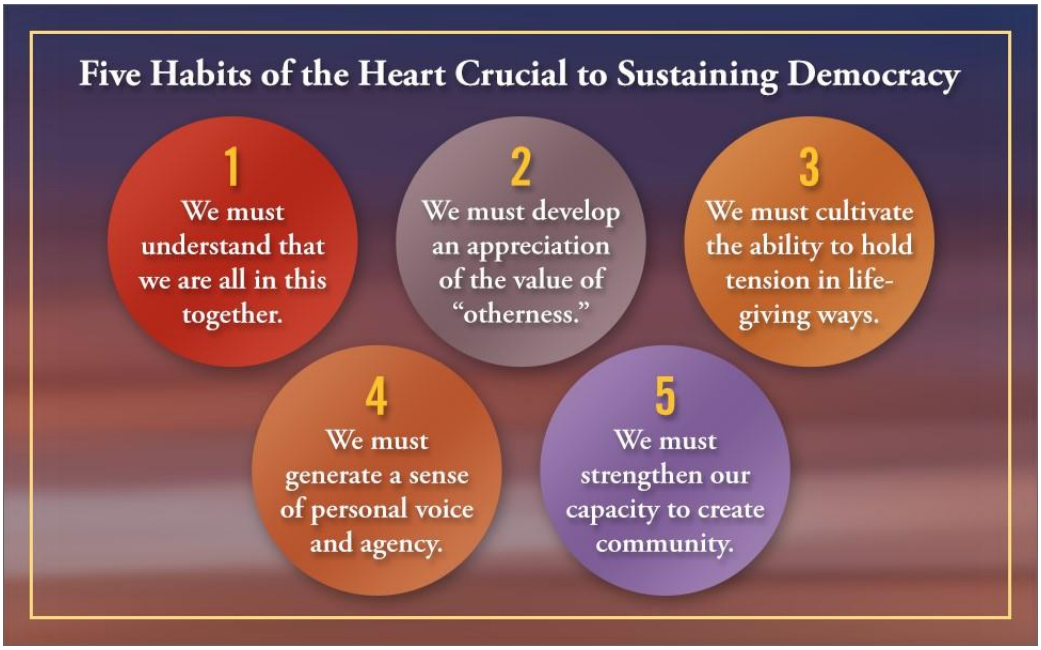
There is nowhere to go these days to escape the tension of our political divide right now, as well as fears you may have about the upcoming election. In these times, it is important to remember to turn to God when we are distressed. The Wisconsin Conference of Churches has given us a prayer tool that I hope can be helpful to you.

I also want to share that Madison author Parker Palmer has written a book about our Democracy entitled *'Healing the Heart of Democracy'*. He quotes Terry Tempest Williams: "The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up - ever -trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?"

For anyone who is interested, Palmer's book is a powerful read coming from his own seasons of personal and political heartbreak. For now, I share from him what I hope can be helpful to all of us in this election season:

"I believe in the power of the human heart to do evil as well as good. The heart leads some to become terrorists and others to serve the hungry and the homeless. The heart leads some to blow up federal buildings in order to 'bring down the government' and others to see that we are the government and must work together to fulfill democracy's promise. The heart is a complex force field, no less complex than democracy itself, a maelstrom of conflicted powers that we ignore, sentimentalize, or dismiss at our peril. . . The human heart, this vital core of the human self, holds the power to destroy democracy or to make it whole. This is why our nineteenth-century visitor, Alexis de Tocqueville, insisted in his classic Democracy in America that democracy's future would depend heavily on generations of American citizens cultivating the habits of the heart that support political wholeness."

In introducing the Five Habits of the Heart, Palmer writes: "If I were asked for two words to summarize the habits of the heart American citizens need in response to twenty-first-century conditions, chutzpah and humility are the words I would choose. By chutzpah I mean knowing that I have a voice that needs to be heard and the right to speak it. By humility I mean accepting the fact that my truth is always partial and may not be true at all -- so I need to listen with openness and respect, especially to' the other,' as much as I need to speak my own voice with clarity and conviction. Humility plus chutzpah equals the kind of citizens a democracy needs. There is no reason, at least no good reason, why our number cannot be legion. . . . Here are five interlocking habits of the heart -- the first three related to humility, the last two to chutzpah. Such habits are deeply ingrained patterns of receiving, interpreting, and responding to experience that involve our intellects, emotions, self-images, and concepts of meaning and purpose. These five habits taken together, are crucial to sustaining a democracy."



I invite each of us to read more about and consider practicing one or more of Palmer's 5 Habits of the Heart during the coming weeks (here are some short videos as he reflects on democracy and these 5 habits of the heart).

Pastor Karla

Stewardship Sunday Nov. 17

This year our Council has decided to recognize Stewardship Sunday on November 17. In late October you will receive a mailing from our pastor sharing more information about Stewardship Sunday. This will include a *Time and Talent Form* inviting you not to sign up for anything, but to indicate your interest in learning more about opportunities to share your talents with Zwingli. There will also be pledge cards for those who would like to make a pledge for the coming year. Pledges are very helpful to the Council as they set the budget for the coming year.



This is not fun or exciting news, but the Council wanted everyone to know we are now heading into negative territory for the year in the checkbook. This is also not unexpected, as we went into hiring a 3/4 time pastor (and we're very happy we did!) knowing that the current budget would not sustain the cost. We had some expenses over the summer, like paying Pastor Susan for vacation time that she didn't take, increased utility bills due to the hot weather and paying half of our OCWM for the year.

The Council tossed around the idea of fund-raisers, but we didn't think that was the way to go, as they take lots of time and energy and resources from the congregation. So, like the No-Bake Bake Sale (which was very successful, thank you!), we're asking you to consider whether at this point you are able to make an extra gift to the church. We know that everyone would like the church to continue to thrive and be a presence here in Paoli, so if you're able to make an extra gift it will be put to good use! We are calling this a First Fruits offering because the Old Testament teaches that people gave the first, and often the best, of their harvest to the work of the Temple, to God.

Thank you very much for considering this request. We do have investments to cover our expenses, but we're hoping to keep the withdrawals to a minimum. We also decided to include a pledge card this year with our stewardship materials to enable us to plan for next year's budget.

Again, thank you for all the ways you support Zwingli United Church of Christ here in Paoli!!

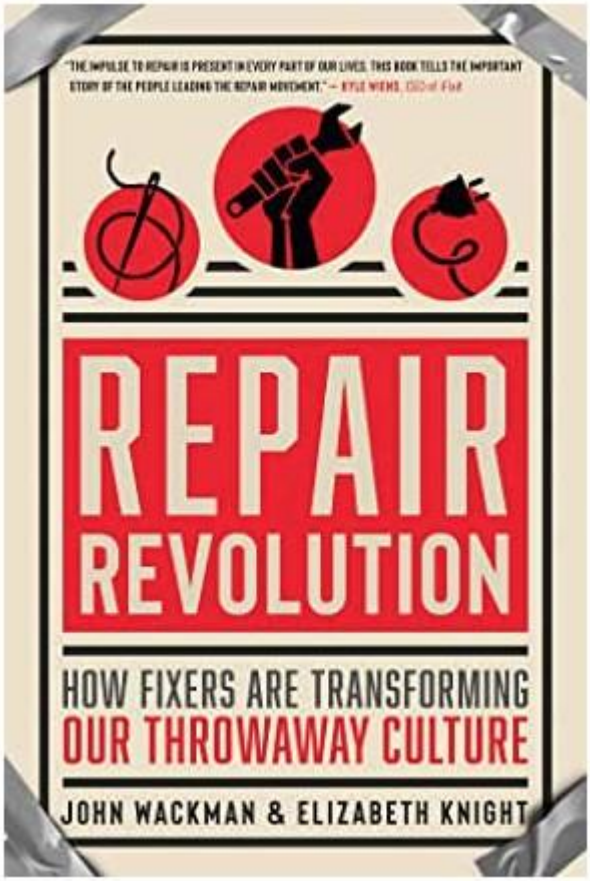
Church Council President
Petra Streiff

Dessert Buffet for Karla's Installation November 10



An installation service is an occasion that the entire Association celebrates together. All of the churches of the SW Association will be invited to attend, clergy and lay people. We don't have any idea how many people will come of course, but we want to be prepared.

The Council decided that a Dessert Buffet would be a good way to welcome our guests after the service. We know from potlucks that we have incredible bakers in the congregation! So, please mark your calendars and make one of your favorite recipes (or pick up something from your favorite bakery) for the reception after the service. It would be helpful if the desserts came on Sunday morning so the Search Committee can get them ready to serve before the service. Thank you all!!



Repair Cafe Ministry Idea

Zwingli Council has been exploring the possibility of developing a new ministry known as a *Repair Cafe*. There are over 2,500 *Repair Cafés* worldwide. We throw away vast amounts of stuff, including things with almost nothing wrong, which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is many people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves and so much just gets thrown into landfills! So, the *Repair Cafe* is here to bring together those who are good at fixing things with those who have broken items. To learn more check out their website and their book.

Are you interested in being on a Zwingli Team to explore the possibility of developing a *Repair Cafe* ministry at Zwingli (as a way to reach out to the local community with skills to fix their broken items and save them from landfills)? We are looking for those who like to plan and organize such a venture, as well as those who like to fix things (coffee pots, vacuums, furniture, electronics, mending clothes . . . .). If you are interested in one or both of these opportunities, contact Sue Bovre and/or sign up on our *Time and Talent Form* coming out in October! Please note you are simply expressing an interest in getting more information -- and can then decide if this is a ministry you want to be involved in. We are excited at the possibility of creating this ministry and making Zwingli known as a place people can come to (when our *Repair Cafe* is scheduled) for help in needed repairs -- and to be in community with others! If you have questions, contact Sue, Petra, or Karla.



Annual Crop Walk

This year's CROP Walk is **Sunday, October 20**. We will again join up with our sister church - First UCC in Belleville, 130 E. Church Street. Registration is from 12:30 to 1:00 pm. The walk begins at 1pm.

Non-walkers can pledge money per mile or just a flat amount to Zwingli UCC Paoli CROP walkers! If you have questions, contact Kriss Ace at 608-575-3355.

Thanks for your support whether walking, pledging or just in spirit to this greater community cause to end hunger!!



Love at The Ballot Box

With the election season upon us, the United Church of Christ offers members a chance to reflect on the importance of voting -- and the motivations behind our votes. In a recent letter to churches, Rev. Franz Rigert wrote: "This year the UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, led by the Rev. Michael Neuroth, is encouraging us to participate in the election with an initiative called Our Faith Our Vote. The theme Vote with Love is resonating with many churches and individuals who want to engage in the Nov. 5 election not through a partisan filter but through the lens of UCC values. What if, this year, we promoted voting based on the gospel of love as modeled by the life and ministry of Jesus?"

Check out the above links and go here to read the entire letter of Rev. Franz Rigert. And if you are not registered to vote, you can go here to learn more about how to register -- your vote matters!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the August 25, 20224 meeting are now available in the wall pockets near the mailboxes.
Contact the church office to request an electronic copy.



October 6 NIN and Worldwide Communion Sunday

Join us on the first Sunday in October to dedicate our Neighbors in Need offering and to celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations.

Zwingli Security Opportunity

Unfortunately, we live in a time when we must be concerned about security, even in churches. Zwingli Council is setting up a free consultation with a security advisor who works with the government to protect places of Worship (which includes grants to help make churches more secure). He will do a security assessment and consult with the Council in November. If you have any concerns, you would like us to share with him, please contact Karla, Sue B, Cindy H, Larry S. or Jerry B. before Nov. 5.

Items of Note

October Birthdays

Seth Batker
Gail Bauman
Brian Brown
Linda Everson
Rich Legler
Kathy Schaller

Calendar

Sunday, October 6
Choir rehearsal - 9am
Book Group meeting
10:45-11:30

Sunday, October 13
Choir rehearsal - 9am
Friendship Time - 10:30 am
Book Group meeting
10:45-11:30

Sunday, October 27
Book Group meeting
10:45-11:30

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



Our Zwingli Singers will practice for Karla's Installation Service before worship on October 6 and 13. Please arrive at church at 9:00. We'll have plenty of copies of the music and the song is a round so all are welcome to join us.

2nd Sunday
Friendship Time
begins October 13!



The Council has decided to offer a time for worshipers to gather for refreshments and friendship the 2nd Sunday of the month. We hope you will stay after Worship and join the community. If you are interested in volunteering to provide or prepare refreshments, please sign up on the bulletin board near the sanctuary (or contact Sue Bovre). Coffee and other drinks will be served along with goodies!



Rich and Ruby

As you remember, Pastor Rich and Ruby left us and retired in the midst of Covid. The Council then planned a very nice send-off, but it had to be held outside and it couldn't be the personal time of thanks that would have been appropriate. Now we are able to have the worship and party that they deserve!

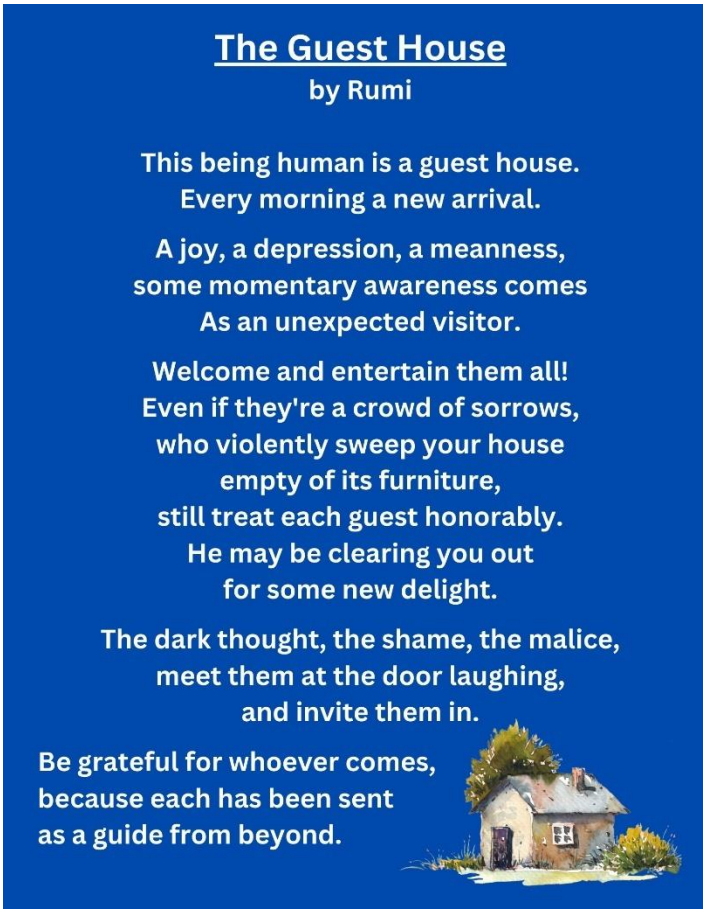
They will be with us in worship and for a potluck on Sunday, December 29. What a great way to end the year!! More details will come later but be sure to save the date and come to catch up with the Plevas and thank them for the ministry they shared with us so graciously.

Waiting . . .

The Book Group met recently to discuss the Intro and Chapter 1 of 'Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting' by Holly W. Whitcomb. We had a wonderful discussion about waiting and the spiritual gift of patience (which we admitted can be hard to develop). Thank you to all who participated and to Sue for providing refreshments. We missed those who couldn't be there and look forward to seeing you when you can make it. This is a 'come when you can' group!

In her introduction, the author shares the famous poem by Rumi known as 'The Guest House'. She then writes, "Waiting is an important guest to honor in the guest house of our humanity." That's not usually how we think of waiting! Our Book Group will be reflecting on the spiritual gifts that waiting brings us. We invite you to join us (contact Pastor Karla for more info).

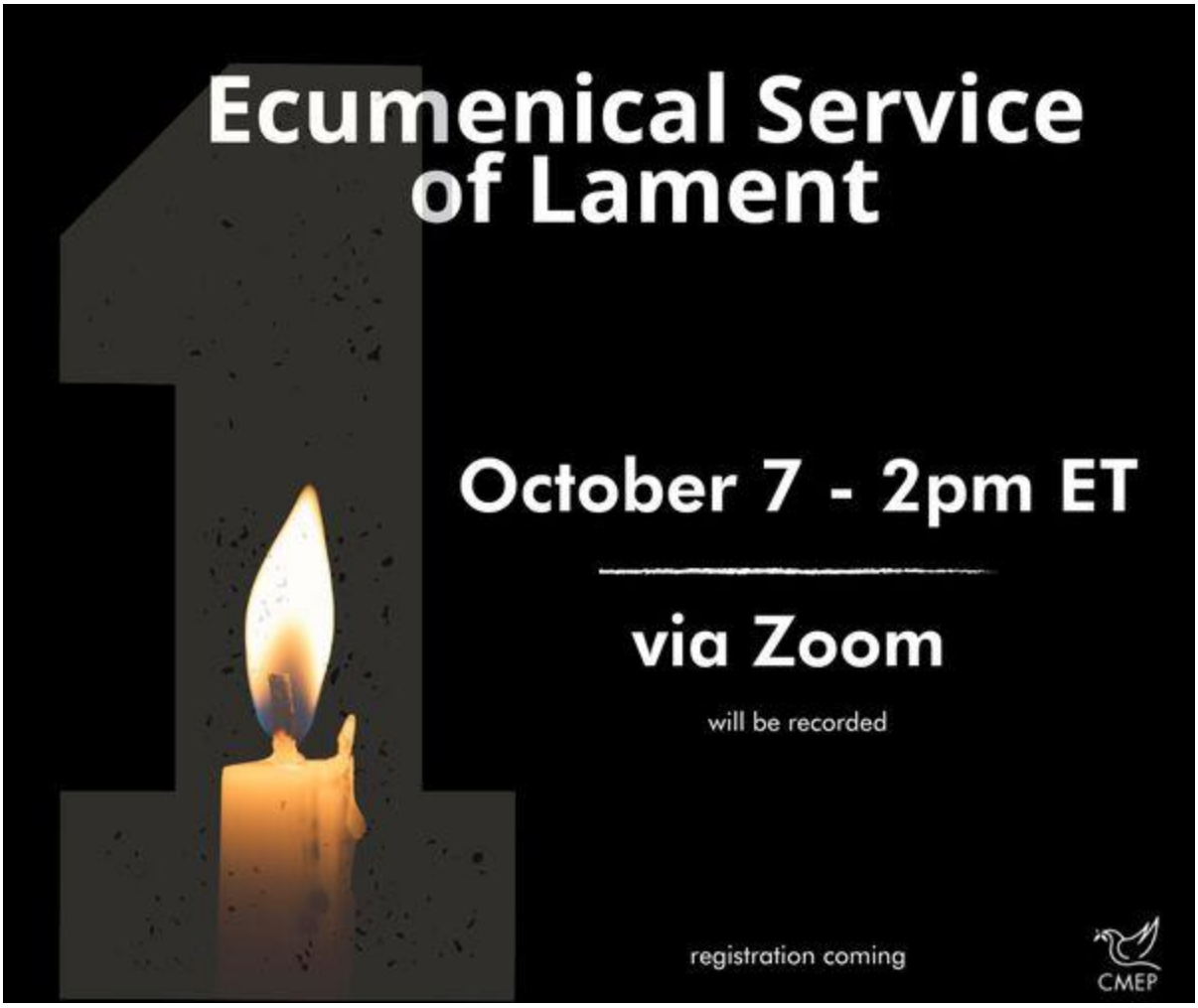




DIGNITY • RESPECT • KINDNESS
BADGER PRAIRIE NEEDS NETWORK

Most needed items

Canned Tuna, Salmon & Chicken
Dried Protein Beans such as Black, Pinto, & Kidney
Canned Fruit
Hamburger & Tuna Helper
Sugar (3-5 lb. bags)
Flour (3-5 lb. bags)
Snack and Breakfast Bars
Paper Bags



All who wish to recognize the suffering and grief of the last year for both Palestinians and Israelis, you are invited to join Churches for Middle East Peace at 1:00 PM CST on October 7th, for a communal space of worship, lament, and prayer. This service will be virtual. Please go to this page to learn more and to register for the Zoom event.

Co-Sponsored by: *American Baptist Church USA; Church World Service; Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ; Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; National Council of Churches; Pax Christi USA; United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society*