



April
2015

Good News!

United Presbyterian Congregational Church
214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-3093



*From the
Pastor's
Desk
- and his*



A Toast for Life

The green paper hats have long been put away, and the parades and parties of St. Patrick's Day are month-long memories. But echoes of the melodies of that green spirit still linger in these Irish toasts: "May you live to be a hundred – with one extra year to repent", and (one of my favorites), "Here's to your coffin: may it be made with hundred year old oak trees, which I will plant tomorrow!"

Both of these, like so many good drinking toasts, are about a long and happy life. To toast someone with that wish seems only natural. But how many people really want to live to such an advanced age?

The commanding officer of the Fourth Battalion, Queen's Regiment of the British Army in 1811 was badly wounded in the battle of Alburna. As he lay battling death, he called out to his men as they fought on, "Die hard, men, die hard!" Today we give the name "diehard" to those persons who refuse to give up on an issue, even when it is clear that they have lost the fight. Our own George Washington, at his death, is reported to have said, "I die hard, but I am not afraid to go."

Today it is not fashionable to "die hard." We prefer to have those of advanced age slip out of sight and quietly conclude their existence without a fuss. We live in an age of enforced retirement and comfortable senior citizens' communities. Once, there was great pride in dying "in the harness," to use a phrase from the old days. We often say here in the Midwest that someone passed "with his boots on."

The heart of the issue isn't retirement or non-retirement. Rather it is a strong passion to live life to the fullest. Who wants to live to be one hundred if our years are devoid of vitality and life? The lust of the spirit for life isn't something to acquire at sixty-five or

seventy. The passage of time has the power to intensify a person's life attitudes. As a result, you can take whatever you are at age thirty-five and double that attitude in its expression, and you will have a fairly accurate picture of the person you will be as a senior citizen.

If we wish to live to be a hundred – to die hard – then we must learn how to live today with gusto. We must resist the daily tugs of the angel of death and keep the heart of a child. Then whether or not we live until the oak trees grown for our coffin reach the century mark, we will be ready. Jesus promised he would give his disciples life in great abundance. But it is the depth at which we dare to live rather than the length of our lives that brings about the fullness of that promise.

Peace,

Bill





What's Going On?

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school kids will be singing during the worship service on April 19th.

The Annual Earth Day garbage pick-up will be held on Sunday April 26th during Sunday school hours.

The picture includes Ida and Seth Johnson with the 31 Operation Christmas Child Boxes contributed by the congregation last winter.

LYRA CONCERT

The Russian vocal group Lyra, from St. Petersburg, Russia, will be performing in our sanctuary on Friday, April 24th at 7:30 pm. They are a community of professional musicians, most of whom are graduates of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and sing in churches and musical theaters throughout the city. They represent different musical professions, including choral conductors, opera singers, instrumentalists, and music teachers, and it is their passion for ensemble singing that unites them. Their spring 2015 tour is bringing an ensemble of two ladies and three men to the Midwest and West coast, where they will present more than 50 concerts between April and June.

FILL THE BOX!

The large wicker box in the Narthex of the church is empty! Let's fill it!

On the second Sunday of each month, please bring a non-perishable food item to worship. The children will help collect the items during the Children's Chat and bring the items to the front of the sanctuary to help fill the box. The items will be taken to The Brick for the food pantry.

PRAYER CHAIN Please contact Bill Handy or the church office through April 10th with your prayer concerns. Mary Hymans, who is our Prayer Chain Coordinator, will be out of town. The Office will try to be the conduit for the prayer chain until she returns.

THANK YOU

It is with a happy heart that I'm pleased to report Peter (Hudack) is wrapping up his deployment and will be stateside by the end of April. Thank you to everyone who has kept Peter and us in your prayers and sent messages, cards and packages to him. *Wendy Hudack*

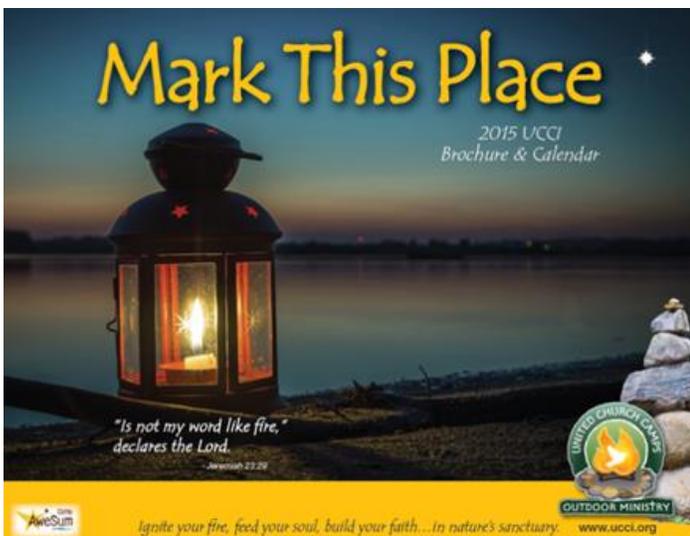
THANK YOU to our Pastoral Nominating Committee, who are just beginning the journey and work in the service of this church to find a new pastor.

FAITH-IN-ACTION NEWS

Faith In Action is having a spring fundraiser at the Alley Restaurant on Monday, April 13th from 4:00-8:00 pm. There will be a pizza buffet for \$11, which includes pizza, pasta, salad, and chicken wings. In addition, there will be a raffle of some really nice gift baskets - something for everyone. Take a night off from cooking and support Faith In Action.

Seasonal Help for Seniors

Spring is sprung and the chore list is long! Faith In Action is taking requests from senior citizens for help with spring yard work, shopping, light housekeeping, transportation, respite, fix-it jobs, lamp repair, arts/sports Buddies, friendly visits, and more. New volunteers will be needed to fill all the spring and summer requests, so sign up today! 715-682-4414 x 3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org



Go to: www.ucci.org – then click on Moon Beach Camp for 2015 Summer Schedule!

Women's Association News



Donations for the Women's Association can be left in the Granny's Attic room. The craft and quilting supplies are in the room between Grannie's Attic & the Confirmation Classroom. Everything is labeled. Any question, you can talk to Kat Whitten or Bea Hayen. Did you know they collect school supplies, Campbell's Soup labels, used postage stamps, and sewing supplies for Appalachian Mission? Not to mention a basket for the local ministry – non-perishable food items. Check it out!



Listed below are several mission opportunities in which you can participate. We are planning to have a "shower" for the New Day Shelter sometime in April. Some items on their wish/needs list are: dry cereal, cake mixes, canned soups, coffee, tea; laundry and cleaning supplies; and toiletries such as diapers and feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, etc. A complete list is posted on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway. There will be a box in the Granny's Attic room if you would like to drop something at any time.



In addition to the above project, there will be a "shower" for the church kitchen in the near future. Inventory is being taken to find out what items are needed. More information on this project will be available later.



Another project involves Haiti, which is still recovering from the 2010 earthquake. A recent article in the *Duluth Tribune* described a couple missions the churches in River Falls are undertaking, one of which is building a 14-room school for 650 students, and another is making dresses from pillowcases (for which we have the instructions) for young girls. To go along with this, they are asking for donations of new girl's underwear, for ages 2-16, that will be sent with the dresses. If you would like to help with this project by purchasing some underwear, there will be a box in the Granny's Attic room. We would like to get them to River Falls by May, which is when they plan to take items down. This is an easy project to do, and we know our donations will go to those in need.

Finally, there are lap robes ready to sew, and the craft basket for sewing and craft items for Kentucky.

Thanks to everyone who supports these missions!

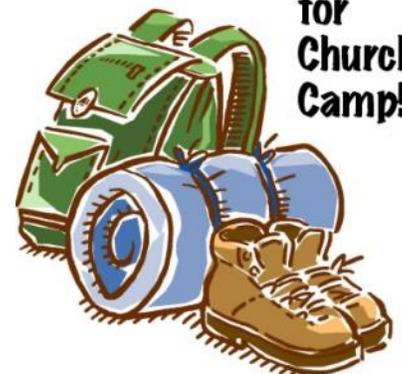
Youth News...

Sign up
for
Church
Camp!

Youth..... Youth.... Youth.....

Check out Summer Camp Possibilities!

The church will help with scholarships towards camp fees. Contact Pastor Bill, Rebecca Crumb-Johnson, or the church office for more information!





Pastor Nominating Committee Report...

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO SURVEY CONGREGATION

The Pastor Nominating Committee is embarking on a task that is new territory for many members of this congregation – the search for new pastoral leadership. This is the first time in 32 years that the United Congregational/Presbyterian Church has had to carry out this duty, and it has taken some time to comprehend the magnitude of the task ahead.

Before the committee can direct its attention to reviewing candidates for the spiritual leadership of this community of faith, a bit of self-analysis is required to ensure that we get it right. A lot has changed over the last three decades in our community, church, and the faith of each of us. We are not the same congregation that called our last pastor. The church needs to ensure that our next spiritual leader will meet the needs and expectations of the current and future generations. This congregation, along with the Pastor Nominating Committee, need to do a bit of soul-searching to determine our purpose as a church, our mission in the community and world, our vision for our future, and the characteristics and competencies desired in a new pastor.

To help answer these questions, the Pastor Nominating Committee has established a goal of surveying all members of the congregation. It is important that the Committee receives a response from everyone who worships and participates in the life of this church. The Committee needs to hear from you on what you likes and dislikes about the United Congregational/Presbyterian Church are, what you seek from your affiliation with this fellowship of the faithful, your vision for this church, and your expectations of a new pastor.

To accomplish this goal, the Committee will be utilizing a number of techniques to survey our members. A typical question and answer survey will be compiled and distributed. Discussions will also be scheduled with various groups and programs that use our facilities. Members will be invited to participate in discussion groups, perhaps over a cup of coffee and treats, to share views on opportunities available to our congregation, identify challenges we may be facing, our mission in Ashland and the world, and the vision we have for the future of the United Congregational/Presbyterian Church.

Invitations to participate in the survey will be distributed in May. When received, please give it the attention that you would of any important personal task. Participate in our future. Review the questions, contemplate what you would like our church to be, pray over the appropriate responses, and respond at the earliest opportunity.

The Committee thanks you for your assistance and guidance and commitment to the life of this church.

Synod School 2015



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and grace

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and your faith

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personally renewed

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1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

A Future with Hope

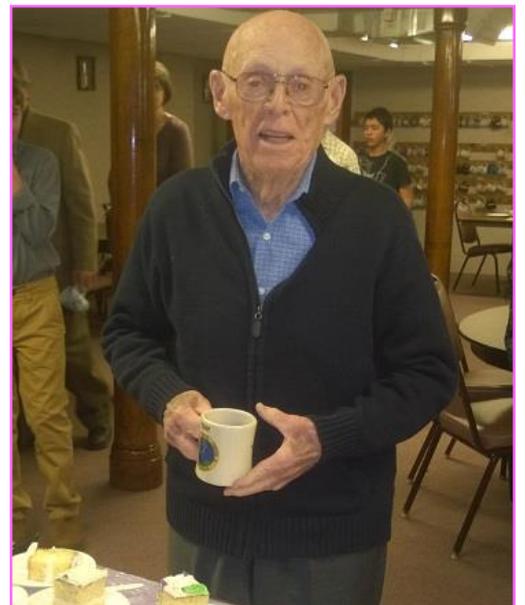


Calendar

- April 1st: 1:00 pm - Women play canasta in Dining Room
5-6:30 pm – Middle School youth meet
- April 2nd: 7:00 am – Men’s Bible study meet in Lounge
10:00 am – Mom’s playgroup in Ed wing nursery
7:00 pm: MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship service in Dining Room w/communion
- April 3rd: 6:30 pm – GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SEVICE at Salem Baptist Church
- April 5th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
8:30 am – Youth Sunrise Easter worship Service
9:00 am - Men providie Easter Breakfast for members
10:30 Easter Worship with Communion
- April 7th: 6:00 pm – Grief Support Group meets in Dining Room
- April 8th: 5-6:30 pm – Middle Schoolers meet
5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Dinner
- April 9th: 8:30 am – Women’s Bible study meet in lounge
10:00 am – Mom’s Playgroup in Ed wing nursery
1:30 pm – GAME DAY at Court Manor
- April 11th: 7:30 pm – Northland College Choral & Orchestra Concert
- April 12th: 7:00 pm – Sunday Night Live for High Schoolers
9:30 am – TEAM Meeting
4:00 pm – Endowment Fund Meeting
- April 14th: 4:00 pm – Stewardship meeting
5:00 pm – Buildings & Grounds Meeting
6:00 pm – Grief Support Group meet in Dining Room
- April 15: 1:00 pm – Women play canasta in dining room
5:30 pm – Session Meeting
5-6:30 pm – Middle Schoolers meet
- April 16: 7:00 am – Men’s Bible Study meet in Lounge
8:30 am – Women’s Bible Study meet in Lounge
10:00 am – Mom’s playgroup in Ed Wing Nursery
- April 19: 7:00 pm – Sunday Night Live for High Schoolers
1:00 pm – Mary Martha Circle meet
7:00 pm – Deborah Circle Meet
- April 21: 6:00 pm – Grief Support Group meet in Dining Room
- April 22: 5-6:30 pm – Middle Schoolers meet
5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Dinner
- April 23rd: 8:30 am – Women’s Bible Study meet in Lounge
10:00 am – Mom’s playgroup meet in Ed Wing Nursery
- April 24: 7:00 pm – RUSSIAN LYRA Concert in Sanctuary
- April 25: 6:30 pm – Chamber Music Concert in Sanctuary
- April 26: 7:00 pm – Sunday Night Live for High Schoolers
- April 26: 10 am Connie Cogger bread-making, rug-braiding class in dining room
- April 28: 6:00 pm – Grief Support Group meet in Dining Room
- April 30: 8:30 am – Women’s Bible Study meet in Lounge
10:00 am – Mom’s Playgroup meet in Ed Wing Nursery



Congratulations!





APRIL NEWS

Good News!

Happy Birthday!

1	Alice Evenson, Jacob Bretting
2	T. Jay Jones, Curtis Holevatz, Janelle Hammond
3	David K. Mahnke
4	Joanne Malmberg, Jaretta Mrdjenovich, Morgan Meyers
7	Sheila Urling, John Bennett, Kim Czapiga
8	Katelyn Rogers
9	Drew Minor
10	Linda Gilbertson, Anthony Bressette, Sheila Mitchell
11	Connie Cogger, Anna VanPernis, Erin Hmielewski
12	Terri Perry, Paula Moyer
13	Bob Mrdjenovich, Jacob Van Pernis
14	Carole Lindstrom, Andy Hamp, Michael Drevlow, Wayne Mercer
15	Kathy Whitten
16	Danielle Penney
17	J. Ryan Gilbert, Bill Hagstrom
19	Pat Robertson, Betty Yankee, Don Reynolds
22	Morgan Anderson
23	Kathy Beeksma, Wyatt Nyara
27	Kerry Kline, Jessica Setzke, Anthony Mrdjenovich
29	Lori Mahnke, Lorrie Guski
30	Tim Fridsma, Elaine Kirke, Sue Guenard

April Schedule

Recording/Radio (played at 10:30 am 1400 AM)	
5	T. Jay Jones
12	Chuck Gottschall
19	Bruce Beilfuss
26	Dick Whitten
Acolyte Schedule	
5	Molly MacGregor & Seth Johnson
12	Hope & Marshall Swanson
19	Bella Roman & Lucie Habas
26	Tony & Trista Richardson
Children's Chat Schedule	
5	Katherine Swanson (Easter)
12	Robert Mahnke
19	Bill Handy
26	Dani Penney
Usher Schedule	
5	Hal and Marty Liphart, Doug Liphart and Beth Reed
12	Middle/High Youth
19	Barry Jacobs and Mollie Schonberg and Family
26	Mark and Sara Sneed and recruit
Lay Reader Schedule	
5	Dorothy Whiting
12	Curt Holevatz
19	Linda Fish
26	Kay Despard

JUST FOR LAUGHS:

Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?

A: A bee comes after it



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Contact Information

Bill Handy Interim Pastor	682-3093	williamhandy18@gmail.com
Kate Bernardo Secretary	682-3093	tbpresbych1@presbych.com
Allison Radke Youth Minister	682-3139	upccyouth@gmail.com
Cindy Johnson Treasurer	682-3093	blueharley@centurytel.net

Moving or new email address? Please give all information for your address or email change to the church office.

Information for the church newsletter. Please forward your information for the February issue of *Good News!* To leadams@centurytel.net by April 22nd.



Ben Cogger



Our Vision:
"To be a welcoming family of God that joyfully embraces the servant life in Christ."

LOG ON at:
<http://www.presbych.weebly.com>
