



Faith United Church of Christ – October 2018
www.faithslinger.org

Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Christ has made this relationship to one another eternally permanent. Whether or not we want to admit it, all of us are joined together by God, through Christ, with every single living, breathing soul on earth.

But these days, if we gaze out over the landscape of our world, and consider how we fare with others, near and far, we'd never know we're related at all. We snarl and yell at "those people" who disagree with us or don't do what we think is right. We judge and demean the others, portraying them to be some kind of monsters.

The recent wrangling over the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's accusation of sexual assault by the judge, provides certain evidence of the gulf that stands between people of different points of view just in this country alone—a gulf that we keep filling up with more hatred of and threats against those people whom we identify as "the other"—idiots, evil, a threat, demons that must be stopped at all costs.

Facebook and other social media websites provide convenient ways for us to further vilify other individuals and groups of people who don't agree with our way of thinking. On these platforms, false accusations are difficult to distinguish from the truth, and without checking on trusted websites that make it their work to fact check stories or rumors making the rounds on the internet, we forward on the stories that affirm our point of view and put down others who hold different ideas. All of these actions, quite frankly, are sinful and heartbreaking.

If we claim the name Christian this behavior has to stop. If we say we are disciples of Christ, and then treat others with disdain and hatred—if we hope for their "come-uppance," or delight in their demise because we've decided they're no good—we are far from following Christ's commands, and revealing Christ's better way, to the world.

Paul, in his first letter to the church at Corinth, speaks of that better way of living—the way that follows the example Christ set for us while he walked this earth. Check out the famous "love chapter"—chapter 13, and we're reminded that Christ's better way of living in relationship with one another is all about loving others selflessly. Jesus set the standard for this lifestyle. Time and again, Jesus reached out to or engaged with those deemed to be the society's bottom dwellers—the ill, the beggar, the orphan, the foreigner, the child, the widow. Time and again, when Jesus had a beef with the religious leaders of his day, he was found engaging in conversation with them. He taught. He preached. He led by example. He treated all with respect because all were precious children of God, and members of his clan.

It might be tough, at times, to remember that when Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave us some major-league responsibilities. We're to share his story, teach his Gospel and bring others to faith in him. He promised the Holy Spirit would make it possible for us to do what he asked. The Spirit's power would enable us to love and live as he did. The Spirit would enable us to live joyfully and hopefully in the face of difficulties and challenges. The Spirit would give us the words and the ability to share love and build up and strengthen the bonds of community within our family—those who live close by, and those who live around the globe. That building up in Christ should help alleviate the divisions and rancor that none of us like and should help usher in the Spirit-driven day when we can live together as God's beloved children.

It's a challenge, to be sure, but one I hope we all can commit to taking on, in Christ's name, and for his sake and the sake of all God's children.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Pastor Sharon

We will be honored again!



Mark Behle, a United Church of Christ missionary to Lesotho, will be visiting us again, on World Communion Sunday, October 7. Please join us for news of the United Church's work of sharing the Gospel overseas. The morning's schedule:

8:45-9:05 am KFC Kids

9:15-9:45 am Power Point Presentation for Youth & Adults in the sanctuary

10 am Worship

11 am Informal Meet and Greet during Fellowship Time

Since Mark was last with us, he's changed positions in Lesotho, and now serves as the Planning Officer for the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa. His work covers a number of areas, one of which is coordinating and implementing church projects funded by the United Church's Global Ministries. Those projects include building classrooms and toilets for church-related schools, as well as furnishing and supplying those classrooms with books and materials. Supervising health care building projects is another responsibility in Mark's portfolio, along with a project that provides motorcycles to pastors who serve in the mountains.

Please join us!

Faith to Share Christ's Love Through Operation Christmas Child

Won't you join in sharing the message of Christmas through Operation Christmas Child? Once again, Faith members are invited to fill a shoebox with toys, hygiene items and school supplies for children around the world. They suggest beginning with one "Wow" gift and then fill in with smaller items.



Some gifts they'd suggest you might wish to include in the gift box include: doll; a deflated soccer ball & manual air pump; stuffed animal; outfit of clothing; small musical instrument; comb; hairbrush; adhesive band-aids; washcloth; bar soap; shoes; socks; underwear; sunglasses; tote bags; shirt; pants; shorts; coloring books; coloring pads; manual pencil sharpener; playdough; notebooks; jump rope; slinky; personal notes. For more ideas, please visit the following website:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

Please do not include the following items in the shoebox: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

The shoeboxes are being ordered, and should be at the church mid-month. When you pick up your box, you'll receive more details about filling the boxes and deadlines for returning the boxes. Details will also be included in the November newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Remembering the Saints of God



The saints of God have, through their living and loving, serving and sacrificing, provide evidence of God's love and power in the world. On All Saints' Sunday, October 28, the congregation will give thanks to God for the lives of: all the saints we know; those who have died to this world and joined the church triumphant, and those who live and love in our midst on this side of heaven.

During this time of worship, we'll also celebrate with thanksgiving, the life of Annette Bartel, Karen Groth and Audrey Nehm, who died to this world and joined the saints in heaven this year, as well as others whom we hold dear in our memories.

Before the worship service that Sunday, you'll have the opportunity to make an addition to our All Saints banner that hangs in the sanctuary. Before worship, members of the worship team will be in the elevator room with materials so you can add to the banner that remembers saints who are currently serving Christ and neighbor, as well as those who have died to this world and joined the church triumphant.

Stocking the Food Pantry Shelves



We want to help keep the Slinger Food Pantry shelves stocked with plenty of food throughout the year. The Mission Team encourages your gifts of non-perishable food items to the food pantry, especially on the first Sunday of the month, when donations will be received in the sanctuary and dedicated during the worship service. If you have groceries to give, please just set them with the other food in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary prior to worship. The Mission Team will make sure your gifts get to the pantry!

Faith to Share the Bethlehem Story



Christmas is coming soon, and so are the Christmas parades in Washington County. It's time to begin work on the float that we'll be entering in both the November 10, Hartford, and the November 25, West Bend, parades.

At the initial float meeting it was decided that "Jesus, the Light of the World" would be a slogan that would fit both the "Christmas Lights" theme in Hartford and the "Christmas Magic" theme in West Bend.

Work begins on the float Saturday, October 6 at 1 pm at Jim & Bev Melius' home. We'll work every Saturday afternoon with the exception of October 20. It's a great time building a float that will remind everyone that the real meaning of Christmas has everything to do with a baby who was born in a manger in Bethlehem a little over 2000 years ago.

We are also in need of someone who would be willing to drive the float in the West Bend parade.

Could you please consider making a contribution toward the float? It would be grand to have:

Tons of candy to hand out on the parade routes

Bare trees

Battery operated votive candles

Small, shallow terra-cotta-looking pots that look similar to the ones below. They do not have to contain candles or citronella

Bales of hay

Strings of white mini lights



Donations may be placed in the donations tub in the narthex.

Questions? Please contact Beth Miller, Rob Schowalter, Bev or Jim Melius, Alan or Merrilee Lehman, or Pastor Sharon

"Stewardship" Theme of KFC Unit

God Gives! We Share! The Bible Point for the second unit of KFC reminds us of all the good gifts God gives and entrusts to us their wise care and keeping. Because God gives so generously to us, God expects us to share those gifts with others so they, in turn can be touched and transformed by God's love.

Being good stewards of all God's gifts will be the KFC focus in October and November. The Bible treasure verse is found in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure that you give, will be the measure you get back."



KFC Kids to Become Shepherds!

"Like shepherds, tend the flock of God among you. Watch over it. Don't shepherd because you must, but do it voluntarily for God. Don't shepherd greedily, but do it eagerly. Don't shepherd by ruling over those entrusted to your care, but become examples to the flock."

1 Peter 5:2-3 CEB

The KFC Leadership Team is always seeking God's guidance to enhance the kiddos' Christian education experience. They sense a call to begin helping the kids develop additional Christian leadership skills, and one of those Christ-mandated responsibilities is to serve one another. That's why they're introducing the idea of "shepherds" to the Sunday morning KFC experience. Shepherds are designated leaders on assigned to help on specific Sundays throughout the year. Two children will be partnered each Sunday and will be asked to help with tasks such as:

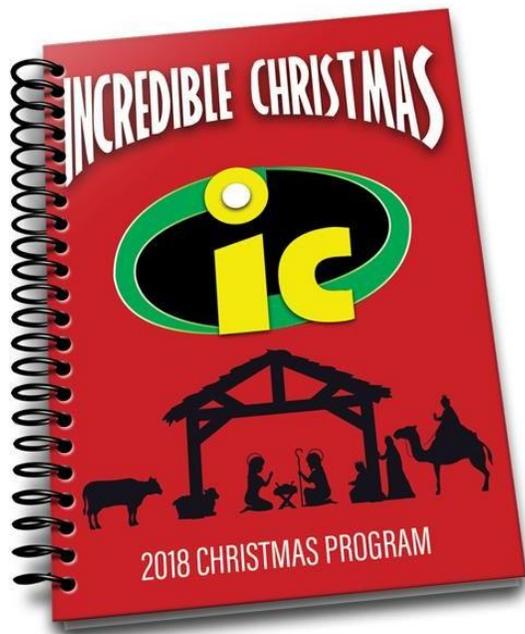
- Setting an example for the other kids as we all learn together;
- Encouraging other children to participate in the lessons;
- Helping set out supplies as requested by the leaders;
- Helping with clean up as requested by the leaders;
- Serving as team leaders on those days when games are played;
- Assisting in leading the opening worship time, which includes collecting the offering;

- Handing out class or take-home materials;
- Assisting with distributing snacks;
- Reading, if able, for the class or a small group

The shepherd leadership assignments for the next few months are:

Aaron & Miley:	September 30; November 4; December 9
Ashley & Samariyah:	October 7; November 11; December 16
JJ & Emily:	October 14; November 18; January 6
Landon & Wesley:	October 21; November 25; January 13
Elizabeth and Aric:	October 28; December 2; January 20.

If parents have any questions about shepherding, they are asked to please be in touch with one of the KFC Leaders: Beth Miller; Christa Wendorf; Jenni Gordon or Pastor Sharon.



***Incredible Christmas* to be Presented by KFC**

A Superhero themed program that tells the Christmas story in a new way, will be presented by the KFC kids and leaders during worship on Sunday, December 23.

A mysterious figure known as the "Looker-Outer" is sent to call a girl named Kim to become a super hero. Although Kim is gifted with amazing powers, she finds it hard to believe an ordinary girl like herself can do anything great. The Looker-Outer points Kim to the Christmas story and the story of Jesus over and over, showing her that she can do incredible things and teaching her about the incredible gift God gave us in Jesus.

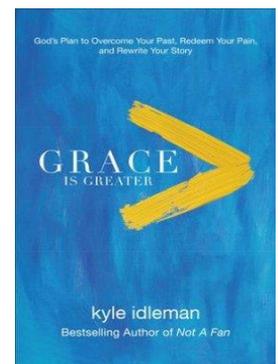
Many beloved Christmas carols will be sung throughout the program. Christmas goodie bags will also be distributed that day.

Sewers are needed to help with the program this year. We are in need of some adult-sized costumes for the nativity scene characters. If you'd like to start sewing, please contact any KFC leadership team member for more information.

God's Amazing Grace!

Grace Is Greater: God's Plan to Overcome Your Past, Redeem Your Pain, and Re **write Your Story** is Kyle Idleman's book and Bible study speaks the story of God's great love for us. You're invited to join us as we use Idleman's materials to explore the way God loves and forgives. The class, held on Wednesday evenings, October 3 through November 14, features dinner and discussion beginning at 6:30 pm. The aim is to have each class session wrapped up in time for choir members to head to rehearsal.

The study materials feature the following discussion of God's grace, "The writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, 'See to it that no one misses the grace of God.'" Over the centuries much ink has been spilled on the subject of grace. Yet perhaps nothing is as hard to *explain* as God's grace. *It doesn't make sense. It's not fair. It can't possibly cover over what I've done.* The best way perhaps the only real way--to understand it is to *experience* it. But too often in our churches we're not getting grace across and grace is not experienced.



“Bestselling author and pastor Kyle Idleman wants *everyone* to experience the grace of God. Through the powerful medium of story, *Grace Is Greater* leads readers past their hang-ups toward an understanding of grace that is bigger than our mistakes, our failures, our desire for revenge, and our seemingly impossible situations. No sin is so great, no bitterness so deep that God's grace cannot transform the heart and rewrite your story.

Interested in digging deeper and learning more about God's grace? Please know that if you wish to pay for the books that accompany the class, paperback copies of *Grace Is Greater* and an accompanying journal is \$20. E-book copies of *Grace is Greater* are \$9.39 while the paperback copy of just the book and not the journal, is \$10. Please make payment to the church and earmark it for Bible study materials.

Chili Supper/Silent Auction News!

The Chili Super Committee met and has decided to have the Chili Supper and Silent Auction. This will be the 22nd year. The Silent Auction will be in need of baskets this year. If you do not care to make a basket, would you please consider donating items for a basket? Silent Auction committee members will put the basket together. Items for a bird-type, Halloween, Christmas, a child's basket all would be great! Use your imagination! There will be a tote in the narthex in which you can place the auction items.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 20th. We will need everyone's help with the Chili Supper to make this a success. If you know of anyone that's a friend of the congregation, and would like to help, please sign them up or let the committee know. There will be a sign up poster in the narthex.



Let's Chat!



Sunday Morning Fellowship gives members and guests a great chance to visit, get to know one another better, and build community. Hosts for this time are always appreciated. If you'd like to be one of those hosts, you can talk with Rob Schowalter or reserve a date to host on the calendar posted on the narthex bulletin board.

Time to Take a Shower.

The church would love to have a shower of the following items to restock the supply shelves. Most needed of these supplies are 30 or 13 gallon trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels and silverware. Dessert and dinner size paper plates; napkins; food storage bags; old magazines (ones with lots of pictures work best for KFC); juice-size and coffee-cup sized paper cups will also be gladly received. The KFC kids would also appreciate microwave popcorn and bottled water. Please place any donations in the tub in the narthex. Thank you!



Faith Women's Guild Mission



VENTURES IN PEOPLE
FOUNDATION, INC.
Helping Haitians Help Themselves

One of the missions Faith's Women Guild continues to support is sponsoring a child with Ventures in People. This year the child is Chiloae Jeanvier who lives in Mirebalais, Haiti. The Guild's gift of \$160 is for education for the 2018-19 school year.

The Guild recently received a thank you for being so faithful to Ventures in People's education program.

What's Going on with Church Repairs

The Consistory and the Building Maintenance Team continue to work on determining all the building and grounds-related repairs and/or upgrades that need to be included on the church's "to do" list.



The teams are working on getting a clearer picture of the scope and cost of these projects.

Later in October, Consistory and Building Maintenance Team along with the custodians will meet jointly to go through the list of repairs to be made. They'll also make suggestions to the congregation about the projects that may need to be higher priorities than others. When they have a clearer picture about the work that needs to be done, they'll also offer ideas about the way the congregation can pay for the work that needs to be completed.

The two groups continue to invite your questions about the repairs or suggestions of work that needs to be done. Please be in touch with any Consistory or Building Maintenance team member about those ideas or questions. Their contact information is at the rear of the newsletter!

Congratulations!

We offer our best wishes to:

Marshall Mayer and Veronica Stewart who were united in marriage at the church on Saturday, September 1, 2018



Dakota Grudzinski and Katelyn Neuburg who were united in marriage at the church on Saturday, September 15, 2018.

We pray God's rich blessings upon them as they answer God's call to enter into this covenant relationship!

In Our Prayers: Prayers are asked for healing for Jed Dolnick, Darlene Endres, Edna Schall, Dianne Wiedmeyer, Greg Ruchi, Bruce Miller, Beth Miller, Judy Schowalter, Elizabeth Melius, Dick Mayer, Jean Happel, Ami Cooper (Dick & Marilyn Mayer's granddaughter), Amy Meyer, Don Jackson, Annette Egan, Orlyn Mayer, Kathy Baumgart, (friend of Nancy & Mark Cardinal), Julie Stier, Laurie O'Farrell (Pastor Sharon's sister-in-law and sister), Ivan Schall and Abby Fisher (a member of Bethel UCC, Eden). Please remember the homebound members of the congregation including: Edie Pickhard and Don & Sandy Jackson. Also remember Lance Corporal Josh Zehner as he serves in the Marine Corps overseas.



Thank You God for:

- Karen Reinders, Marilyn Nadelhoffer, Reuben Schowalter, JJ Markiewicz, Beth Miller, Dan & Sandy Neuburg and Rita Melius for their leadership and hospitality offered at Marshall and Veronica Mayer and Dakota and Katelyn (Neuburg) Grudzinski weddings;
- Laurie Stretz for inscribing the presentation Bible;
- Beth and Bruce Miller for setting up and cleaning for the weddings;
- Barb Meyer, Linda Hautala; Marilyn Nadelhoffer and Karen Reinders for hosting coffee fellowship;
- Rob & DiAnn Schowalter; Beth Miller; Alan & Merrilee Lehman for coordinating the Packer Party;
- JJ Markiewicz and Jim Genz for installing a kick plate on the main exterior church doors;
- Jim Genz for installing grab bars in the women's bathroom;

Pastor Sharon also received the following note from Rev. Wilke who filled the pulpit on August 26:

Dear Sharon,

I just wanted to let you know that I don't think I've ever experienced such extravagant hospitality from a congregation at which I've filled the pulpit, as I did at Faith on August 26. Several people greeted me at the door and helped me get acclimated to the church, even sharing about the two buildings/congregations being merged. They offered me coffee and a snack, and provided water for the pulpit. Marylin was exceptional at getting me acclimated to the chancel and order of worship. I appreciated this so much, because as you know, our congregations are not all the same so as a visiting minister I don't always know what I'm supposed to be doing.

In addition to all of this, I received a warm welcome from all of those who attended and great feedback on my sermon. I also learned that I attend the same congregation as Ruben Schowalter's brother Dan (Emanuel in Hales Corners). After worship, I followed Ruben in my car, so I could see the steeple from the church that sits in someone's back yard and the old cemetery. Finally, before I left, someone presented me with two complimentary tickets to the Chili Supper (which my husband and I hope to attend).

I appreciate everyone's kindness and welcome.

Peace and joy!

Christine

Christine Wilke, M.Div.
SEA WI UCC Mission Team, chair
SEA WI UCC webmaster
My pronouns are: she/her/hers

Address Changes:

Dylan Mayer
1255 LaCrosse Street
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Amber Hautala
1412 Charles St
LaCrosse, WI 54603

Essex
LCpl Zehner
BLT 3/1 India Co. Weapons Old
Unit 89501
FPO, AP 96610-5100



Neighbors in Need Special Offering

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 7th, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. 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). Historically, forebears of the UCC established church and worked with the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM, which is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Sunday Worship Leadership Responsibilities

Altar Guild: Elaine & Sherry Burg

Communion Servers, October 7: Alan Lehman, Jim Melius, Linda Hautala, Rob Schowalter

Date	Reader	Acolyte	Ushers	Bell Ringer
10/7	Karen Reinders	Landon W	JJ & Barb Markiewicz, Sue Nehm	Dick Mayer
10/14	Reuben Schowalter	Patrick M	Dan Neuburg, Bill Nehm, Joyce Herther	Dan Neuburg
10/21	Cathy Schmidt	Ashley Nadelhoffer	Carl & Marilyn Schmidt	Rob Schowalter
10/28	Nancy Schilling-Genz	Aaron Nadelhoffer	Barb Meyer & Reuben Schowalter	JJ Markiewicz

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 1 pm Christmas Parade Float Building @ Jim & Bev Melius'
7 8:45 am KFC; 9:15 am Mark Behle power pt. in Sanctuary; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 Worship w/ Communion; 11 am Coffee Fellowship	8 PPR	9	10 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 6 pm wedding rehearsal Sue Nehm's Birthday	13 1 pm Christmas Parade Float Building @ Jim & Bev Melius' 4 pm Mayer/Strupp wedding
14 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; Chili Supper set up	15 Paul Gordon's Birthday	16	17 6:30 pm Bible Study	18	19 Chili Supper Prep Amanda Klein's Birthday	20 Chili Supper
21 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship;	22	23 6:30 pm Worship Team meeting	24 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal Mark & Nancy Cardinal's Anniversary	25	26 Amber Hautala's Birthday	27 1 pm Christmas Parade Float Building @ Jim & Bev Melius'
28 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11:15 am Consistory/ Building Maintenance Mt	29	30	31 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	Please Mark Your Calendar November 10: Hartford Christmas Parade & Habitat for Humanity's Fall Celebration November 21: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St. Luke's church November 25: Advent Decorating Party immediately following worship; West Bend Christmas Parade		