



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

It's That Time of Year

September's here, the new football season's upon us, and people near and far are buying game tickets, planning tailgate and watch parties, and holding their fantasy football league drafts.

I'm one who falls into the latter category of football season preppers. Starting out decades ago in a league in Madison, I now play fantasy football with a bunch of guys from this area, who know a lot about pro football, its teams and players. They know the depth charts of all 32 NFL teams by heart. They remember statistics and injuries of individual players. If you want to know how many touchdown passes the third string wide receiver for the LA Rams caught last year, they can tell you without batting an eye. They know where the football pundits predict each team will finish in their division. This thorough knowledge of the league and its players is born of their: love for the game; immersion in all things NFL; ability to watch hours and hours of ESPN and the NFL Network, and a desire to win our league's championship.

While I know a bit about league starters and the good teams and bad teams that inhabit the league, I am not one to dig deeply into the stats and projections. I'm not one to binge-watch the sports channels or spend countless hours, pouring over the thousands of fantasy football websites that guarantee to place me at the top of the standings in my league. Because I don't do this, I usually find myself playing in the league's Toilet Bowl (aka, the consolation bracket for the bottom four teams in the league).

This story of the standings in the league shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone, however. It makes sense that the more the team "owners" know, the more they're likely to win. The more complete their understanding of the players in the NFL, the more likely they're able to make roster adjustments quickly and with success.

It also shouldn't come as a surprise that this principal applies to other aspects of our lives. The more we know about our life's work, the more likely it is that we'll succeed in our careers. The more we study and immerse ourselves in subject matter at school, the more likely we'll understand concepts, ideas and skills that should lead us to success—or greater enjoyment—while in school. If we keep learning and studying and focusing on the task, subject, hobby or skill at hand, year after year, it stands to reason that our experience will be richer as a result.

The same is true of our spiritual lives. The more we seize opportunities to learn about Christ, study his word, immerse ourselves in the practice of Christian living—the deeper our relationship with Christ becomes. The more we're intentional about letting the Spirit invade our lives, the more likely it is that we'll follow God's lead or answer God's call. The more we pray, engage in discussion about God's word and presence in our lives—the more we worship, praise and thank God, the richer our lives will be because our primary focus in life will be the source of life, love and blessing now and always.

As we begin this new program year at the church, I pray you'll seize on opportunities that lead to growth in your relationship with Christ, as well as immersion in the habits, practices and rituals of faith that leads to blessing, joy and a life that relies on the Source of life.

In Christ,
Pastor Sharon

Celebrating a New Year!



Rally Day is just a heartbeat away! Celebrate the start of the KFC and program year, Sunday, September 9. It's going to be a great day kicking off a great year!

KFC Kids: Let's learn great things about our amazing God! We'll "Wild & Wacky" it at 8:45 am Rally Day as we find out about Abraham, and why he's so important to God and all of us.

Rally Day worship, we'll celebrate Christian Education ministry! The KFC kids will sing. All of the kids in KFC and Breakfast Club will receive a special book during the service. Landon Wendorf will receive his

Bible from the congregation, and we'll "commission" into service for God's glory all the adults who are engaged in the education ministry of the church.

Rally Day is Backpack Blessing Sunday

It's back-to-school time! Rally Day Sunday, September 9, there will be a special blessing of all school-aged children and their parents as part of our regular worship service.

If you have a backpack you take to school, bring it along to church that day for a special Backpack Blessing Event. During the service, kids and parents will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing.

Let's send the congregation's kids—and their friends—into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! Be sure to join us and to include all of our young people in your prayers as they go back to school.



What We're Learning! Abraham was God's chosen leader from which he'd build his people. The KFC kids will learn his story—why God picked him; why God gave Abraham and Sarah a son so late in their lives; why Abraham's so important for us to know. The main Bible Point for the unit is, "God Will Provide." The Bible Treasure Verses are: "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you." Genesis 17:1b-2a.

Cheering on the Green and Gold!



Let's help the Packers celebrate kick off their 100th year by cheering them on at our annual Tailgate Party, Sunday, September 23. You, your family and friends are invited to join us for food, fellowship, great games like corn hole, Ladderball and Jenga. The game kicks off at noon.

We'll make this an indoor tailgate party, so if you'd like, please bring your own lawn chair and a dish to share. Grilled brats, burgers and hot dogs, along with "whet your whistle" drinks will be provided by the Outreach Team.

Sunday, September 30

9-9:30 am

The Upper Parking Lot

Let's thank God for all the critters in our lives!

On Sunday, September 30, at beginning at 9 am, you're invited to bring your animals to a blessing service outside in the upper church parking lot. If you can't bring your animal to the service, we'll bless you so you might extend that blessing to your best buddies from the animal kingdom. If you've lost a beloved animal, you may bring along a photo of that pet.

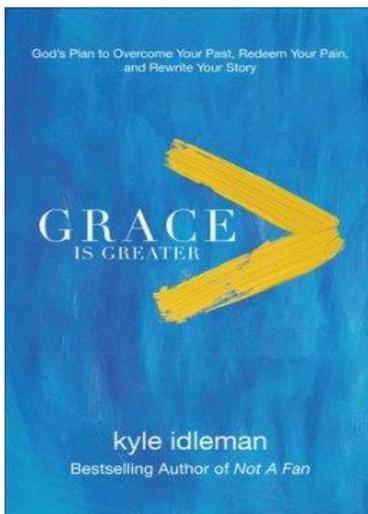


We'll be outside, unless the weather's crummy. If it is raining, we'll gather in the sanctuary.

Please know that the traditional worship service will also be held at 10 am that morning.

KFC will begin at 8:45 and then we'll join in the blessing of the animals service.

God's Amazing Grace!



Grace Is Greater: God's Plan to Overcome Your Past, Redeem Your Pain, and Rewrite 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 love and forgiveness. 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 class 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 the God'

Interested in digging deeper and learning more about God's grace? You can sign up on the narthex bulletin board or let Pastor Sharon know of your plans to attend the class. Please know that paperback copies of *Grace Is Greater* are \$10, and e-book copies are \$9.39.

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!





Thinking of Christmas? Already?

Unless you're a 365-Day-A-Year Christmas observer, it might seem a bit early to think of the upcoming holidays. But it is time to begin planning and preparing for the float the congregation enters in the Christmas parades in Hartford and West Bend.

Won't you join the team that will build an entry that will help tell the true story of Christmas to our neighbors in

Washington County?

Planning begins with a meeting, September 9 immediately following the worship service. We'll brainstorm design ideas for the float that will match the theme for each parade. The Hartford parade theme is "Christmas Lights" and will step off at 3 pm on Saturday, November 10. The West Bend theme is "Christmas Magic." That parade will begin at 5 pm on Saturday, November 25. Because the parade's later in the day, lights are required on the float.

Once a design's decided on, we'll let everyone know if there are things needed to build the float; when we'll be working on it. We hope to be working at Jim & Bev Melius' home again. We already know that we will need lots and lots of individually wrapped candy to hand out along the parade route.

If you have any questions about the brainstorming meeting or working on the float, please talk to any member of the Outreach Team: Rob Schowalter, Beth Miller, Merrilee Lehman, Alan Lehman, or Pastor Sharon.

Love

If scripture commands, "love your neighbor as you love yourself." [Lev. 22:39]

of Neighbor

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
God is still speaking.
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2018
ucc.org/nin

Then who is my neighbor?

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.

What's Happening With Church Repairs. . . .

The Consistory's been charged with the task and responsibility of determining repairs that need to be made at the church, and then prioritizing those repairs.



Those building-related projects include: resealing or redoing the parking lots; repairing or replacing the narthex entrance doors to the church and the old entrance doors under the bell tower; grading around the exterior of the church and addressing basement windows so water leakage in the basement can be prevented; lowering the Fellowship Hall ceiling and replacing lighting to improve brightness and energy conservation; repair or replacement of the cement steps and landing leading to the old bell tower entrance; repair or replacement of the cement sidewalks leading to the church entrances; improvements in audio and visual equipment for use in the sanctuary, and new outdoor signage that is easily changed and easy to read from the roads.

Building Committee and Consistory members have started approaching businesses to get a clearer picture of the scope and cost of these projects. They'll let you know how their work is progressing and will bring proposals to the congregation when they've completed their work so we can work together to set work priorities and a plan to pay for the work that's needed to be done.

If you have questions about any of the repairs, or have suggestions about the work to be done, please be in touch with any member of the Consistory. Their contact information is at the rear of the newsletter!

We Give Thanks to God For. . . .



Jim and Bev Melius for hosting Mini Vacation Bible School. We know Gerald Nicholas, Wesley Gordon, Emily & Elizabeth Melius and Samariyah Martinez all had a blast learning about Esther.

Ike and Shelly Mayer for opening up Folk Song Farm for the church picnic, and for providing all sorts of great things to make the day an outstanding one—from food to games to ADA approved port-a-potty. The Gospellers were an added treat!

Beth Miller, Rob & DiAnn Schowalter, Alan & Merrilee Lehman and Bryan Herther for helping organize, prepare and set up for the church picnic.

Thanks to Cathy Schmidt for leading music while Rita was on vacation.

Rob Schowalter for preparing all sorts of food and transporting supplies for the retreat.

Marilyn Nadelhoffer for welcoming and assisting the supply pastor this month

The Worship Team for leading worship while the church campers were away for a weekend.

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.

Sunday Worship Leadership Responsibilities

Altar Guild: Jim Sachse & Christa Wendorf

Communion Servers, September 2: Alan Lehman, Jim Melius, Wendy Schauer, Linda Hautala

Date	Reader	Acolyte	Ushers	Bell Ringer
9/2	Alan Lehman	Aaron N	Carl & Marilyn Schmidt	Tom N
9/9	Reuben Schowalter	Landon W	Barb Meyer, Reuben Schowalter	Mike Sachse
9/16	Barb Meyer	Patrick Melius	Karen Nehm, Carol Wagner Curtis Nehm	Jim Sachse
9/23	Christa Wendorf	Ashley Nadelhoffer	Dick, Dennis, Ike, Dylan Mayer	Alan Lehman
9/30	Jenni Gordon	Aaron N.	Jim, Chris, Jamie, Patrick Melius	Rob Schowalter

June 17th Consistory Meeting -

Pastor Sharon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's report – Committee liaisons were discussed. Jim S moved to accept, Jim M seconded.

Treasurer's report – Alan moved to accept, Linda seconded

Pastor Sharon discussed her activity in the life of the church.

Cassie Mayer approached Pastor Sharon to have her co-officiate her wedding with Pastor Dave and Pastor Kris. Jim S moved to approve the invitation of both Dave and Kris for the wedding. Linda seconded. Approved.

Old Business –

Building and Maintenance issues -

Parking lot upkeep – JJ is willing to get bids for this project

Basement ceiling & floor – Kevin is not able to do the project due to other commitments. Jim M can talk to his cousin and Jim Genz about moving forward.

Main entrance doors – the doors cannot be sanded down as the doors are coated with a veneer.

Fire extinguishers – Karen took the extinguishers in to be serviced.

Door Kick Plate — The plate fell off, we will investigate replacing all.

The Building & Maintenance team will need to meet to place these items in priority order and present recommendations to the congregation.

New Business –

Alan moved to accept Ashley Kuhaupt into membership. Jim M Seconded.

Next meeting – August 5th after church

Rob moved to adjourn; Jim M seconded.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 pm Mayer/Stewart Wedding
2 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10 am Worship w/ Communion 11 am Coffee Fellowship	3 HAPPY LABOR DAY	4	5 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 9 am Outreach Team @ Fussy Feebie's, Campbellsport
9 Rally Day 8:45 am KFC 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship w/ Back Pack Blessing; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11 am Xmas parade float mtg	10	11 6 pm KFC Leadership Team Alan Lehman's Birthday	12 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	15 1 pm Neuburg/ Grudzinski wedding
16 8:45 am KFC 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11:15 am Consistory	17	18	19 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 Ralph Bartel's Birthday
23 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11:15 am Packer Party	24	25 Katelyn Neuburg Grudzinski's Birthday	26 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Bill Nehm's Birthday	29
30 8:45 am KFC; 9 am Blessing of the Animals service; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; Aaron Nadelhoffer's Birthday	Please Mark Your Calendars Oct. 3 @ 6:30 Grace Bible Study begins Oct. 7 World Communion Oct. 20 Chili Supper Oct. 28 All Saints Sunday Nov 21 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Nov. 25 Advent Decorating following worship Dec. 2 Advent Begins					