

Lay Coordinator ♦ February 2008

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Most of our church annual meeting season is behind us and more snow is still ahead! According to the newsletter of **Reeseville First UCC**, to dig out a 50-foot double car driveway after a four-inch snowfall, you have to remove four tons of snow! Good thing that in just a few days we will begin our Lenten Season and the road to spring!



Speaking of **Reeseville First UCC**, they will have Thursday evening services throughout Lent along with a simple soup supper. Their services will focus on a Scripture passage and a different Nooma video each week. The Nooma videos are short, contemporary videos with a Christian message.

In addition to Wednesday Lenten services, **Madison Community of Hope** will hold contemplative Taize worship services Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 5:30 during Lent.

Monticello Washington Reformation will open their Lenten journey with an All Church Mardi Gras Party after their worship Sunday, Feb 2. They are going to have a potluck and all will join in making floats for their Mardi Gras parade. The theme for the floats is Bible Stories and the floats are all the size of shoebox!

Not everyone is starting out with a party! **Fort Atkinson First UCC** is holding an All Church Retreat. It will be a daylong program designed by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and facilitated by our own SW Association pastor, Rev Winton Boyd. **Madison Plymouth UCC** will observe Ash Wednesday with a sacrificial rice meal at 6:15 pm before their service at 7:00 pm. Throughout Lent their Sunday School always collects for a mission project; this year it will be for Heifer International.

Have you ever wondered where your offerings go? **Madison Orchard Ridge UCC** is hosting a family-friendly bus tour right after their worship service on February 17 to visit sites around Madison that ORUCC supports. What a great way to develop connection!

It is nice to have some fun activities to break up these dark days of winter. **Brodhead Congregational UCC** is hosting a family bingo night February 16. They start out with a light supper and then get on to the games. Everyone attending is asked to bring a prize (value up to 2.00) so there are a lot of prizes to go around and they take a free will offering for camp scholarships. **Madison First Congregational** is hosting The Newly Wed Game after worship on the 10th. **Portage Trinity UCC** held a candle making class for its members as a way to enter into Lent.

Madison Lake Edge is asking their members to mark their calendars now for a getaway Craft Retreat at Pilgrim Center April 4th and 5th.

Juneau St. Stephen's UCC is holding a Chili/Potato Soup Dinner February 9th and a Fish and Chicken Dinner March 7th.

Always great when you can mix fun and mission together! **Fitchburg Memorial UCC** is holding a Gumbo Dinner and Concert to benefit Back Bay Mission on February 16. The price is \$30.00 and all proceeds go to Back Bay. **Belleville First UCC** confirmation class is selling sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday to raise money for their mission trip to Milwaukee this month. You can pick-up or they will deliver!

Madison Orchard Ridge will hold a four-week course on global warming Sunday evenings beginning February 10th at 7:00 pm. Their own Environmental Task Force will put it on. On a lighter note, they will hold three sessions of "Laughter Yoga" on three upcoming Sundays after worship. For more information on Laughter Yoga you can check out www.laughinglutherans.com, I'm not kidding!

Portage Trinity UCC has an active adult study group that reads and discusses books on Sunday mornings before worship. They always have such interesting and thought provoking selections but I have to say I got a kick out of two recent titles. They just finished up *Oil and Water* and have moved on to *Asphalt Jesus!*

Don't forget, important dates that are coming up. The last in our Living the Call series will be Thursday, February 28 at **Madison Orchard Ridge UCC** at 7:00 pm. The topic couldn't possibly be more timely for us today, Immigration and Hospitality. I hope to see you there.

On Saturday, February 23 there will be a conference on Prison Policy and Reform at Edgewood College 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information about this you can contact Rev Jerry Hancock at jhancock@firstcongrmadison.org.

For the 4th consecutive year, bicycle riders of Team COMMA, organized in Madison and Middleton, will be riding across Iowa in RAGBRAI XXXVI. From July 20-26, they will join with approximately 10,000 riders to pedal over 450 miles from the Missouri River to the Mississippi in this weeklong trip. Registration is open through March 31. For more info, contact Thomas Pugh of **Madison First Congregational UCC** at tdpugh@charter.net.



I am so jealous, Kathleen Sulzer of **Monticello Zwingli UCC** held classes to teach others how to make her Pear Bread, a classic Swiss holiday bread, and I missed it! There was so much interest that she had to hold two different sessions! What a great idea, passing on your traditions, having fun and building community all at the same time.

I leave you with the words of Rev Heide Walker of **Belleville First UCC**. "2007 was a year of great blessed ministry. The Great 2008 will build on these blessings and Christ will continue to shape our ministry together."

Happy Winter! Go and Serve.