

Lay Coordinator ♣ April 2010

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Celebrate-April showers bring May flowers! Easter, spring, and my granddaughter Olive's second birthday, all in the same month, how could April get any better! Well, lets take a look!



"Celebrate Spring with Turkey Ala King" at the **Lake Mills First Congregational UCC** on Wednesday, April 28, 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Adults are \$8 and Children 6-12 are \$4.

Good food abounds in the spring in the Southwest! **Juneau St. Stephen's** will hold their Chili/Potato Soup Supper on Saturday, April 24 and **Monticello Zwingli** will hold their famous Kalberwurst Supper (and Silent Basket Auction) on April 17, 4:30 to 8:00. Put it on your calendar now- **Brodhead Congregational UCC** will hold their annual Fish Boil Fundraiser on May 1 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Their goal is to successfully serve 400 people in 2.5 hours and clear \$3,000!

Both **Fitchburg Memorial** and **Paoli Zwingli** will be holding their Annual Garage Sales on Saturday, April 24.

The Stamping and Scrapbooking Group at **Monticello Zwingli** meets the second Saturday of every month. To stay connected they have started a Green County Scrapbooking Group on Facebook. Are you a scrapbooker? Well, check it out!

April 18 at 7:00 pm there will be a Unkalung Choir Concert at **Middleton Community UCC**. If your are like me, I bet you wonder who the Unkalungs are! They are a group of 20 people who sing and play the unkalung, a bamboo instrument originally from Thailand.

Madison First Congregational will play host Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 pm to author Melanie Synder. Melanie wrote *Grace Goes to Prison*, a great new book about Restorative Justice. The following Friday morning Grace will attend the Spiritual Discipline group in prison, a part of The Prison Ministry Project of Madison First Congregational.

Speaking of books, I can't resist giving you some of the newest titles I see in our area newsletters. **Windsor UCC** has been reading *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. **Fitchburg Memorial** is recommending the two books of Sarah Miles, *Take This Bread* and *Jesus Freak*. In April **Verona Salem** is reading *Broken* by Lisa Jones.

Here is a thank you from one of our newsletters. "Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Palm Sunday event. It was great not to have to beg." We can all relate to this I think! Good thing to remember too when someone comes calling!

Monticello Washington Reformation, Madison First Congregational and Paoli Zwingli will once again work together on a Food Resource Bank Project. They plan to have farmers' markets at each of the churches, sell firewood and raise hogs and then raffle the meat off this fall at a barn dance/fall festival. Last year they raised \$2500.

The Green Team at **Madison Orchard Ridge** is sponsoring a weekend Green Spirit Retreat at Pilgrim Center April 10-11, a chance for rest, renewal and re-creation.

Sauk City First Congregational will be having a Brat Stand and Bake Sale both Friday and Saturday April 9 and 10 at the Piggly Wiggly to raise money for their trip down to Back Bay in Biloxi.

Janesville First Congregational is planning their trip down to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum for May 19.

Brodhead Congregational UCC has their Leaders and Believers Retreat on Sunday, April 18. 11:30-3:00 p.m. All church members who serve on a committee or have a leadership role in the church as well as newer members are invited. The theme will be: "Meeting The Spiritual Needs of the Community" and they will explore the topic of hospitality and outreach.

Well known UW professor and food activist, Jack Kloppenburg, will keynote the fourth annual "Food, Faith and Earth Day" on April 25, 2:00 to 6:30 pm at the First Unitarian Meeting House, 900 University Bay Drive in Madison.



I am going on vacation soon and I have been very busy getting everything in place so I can leave! In the Monticello Washington Reformation newsletter, Pastor Mary Gafner shares the following words from the book Before the Amen. Although they are about entering Lent- I couldn't help but think they spoke to me in all my busyness! Maybe they do to you too.

Loving and holy God, as we enter into the season of Lent, we consider what it means to be tempted. When we hear your words of faithful promise, but are tempted not to believe, forgive us. When we listen to voices of the crowd and the false promises of advertising, call us back to your steadfast path. When we cannot quiet our minds or our lives long enough to be aware of your presence, invite us once more to pause in the green pastures and visit the still waters. Forgive us, O God. Have mercy on us. And receive us into your light and love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Easter Blessings, go and serve.

Nancy