

Lay Coordinator ♣ May 2010

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Spring has sprung, the grass is green, prettiest time that I've ever seen! What a joy to be blessed with green grass, spring flowers and leafy trees, finally! Celebrate Spring!



May is Sustainable Travel to Worship Month. **Madison First Congregational** is encouraging their members to "be creative" in how they celebrate new modes of travel- not just bikes and feet, we also have roller skates, skate boards, buses....how will you celebrate?

Madison First Congregational will also be holding *Don't Throw out the Bible with the Bathwater* 1:00 to 3:00 May 1. This is a program for parents to learn how to read and use the bible with their young children birth to 5th grade. **Belleville First UCC** will hold four 1-hour sessions called *Parenting for Faith Expression*.

Mineral Point Congregational kicked off their Heifer Project with a visit by assorted poultry from one of their member's farms. They had lots to crow about that morning in church!

When **Reeseville First UCC** confirmed one of their youth this spring his aunt and his grandmother came all the way from Alabama to be there for his big day. What an affirmation of the importance of this milestone.

Monticello Washington Reformation will hold their Church Farmers' Market again this year. Members may donate homemade items, produce and fresh flowers to sell at the church every Sunday. The funds raised will go towards mission projects.

Madison Orchard Ridge will begin their annual sale of Duck Doo Organic Compost. It will be for sale for \$8.00 a bag Sundays through May. The proceeds will support the youth trip to Alamosa, Colorado this summer.

Many of our churches participate in The Road Home (Interfaith Hospitality Network). Did you know that they have a new cookbook available? *From Our Home to Yours* is available for a suggested donation of \$15.00 and you may call Theresa at The Road Home office at 608-294-7998 to learn how to get your copy.

Bible for Beginners classes will be held at **Madison Orchard Ridge** May 23 and 30.

Madison Plymouth UCC will hold a spring work camp at Moon Beach Camp Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 30, May 1 and May 2. They are also excited to be welcoming Laura Yurs, daughter of Verona Salem Pastor, Mark Yurs, as a summer intern. Laura is in her second year of studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Second thru fourth graders and their parents at **Belleville First UCC** are invited to *The One Bread, One Cup Communion Conversation* to learn about the symbols used in communion, learn communion hymns and make their own chalice and bread basket.

Lets hope for a sunny day Saturday, May 15! Habitat for Humanity will be holding its fifth annual Bike 4 Habitat fundraiser starting in New Glarus. **Monticello Zwingli UCC** will hold their Bike Rally to benefit Haitian Earthquake Relief starting at their church. There is enough room on the Sugar River Trail for everyone, two great causes. A Bryan Schiro Concert will be after the Bike Rally at **Monticello Zwingli**.

The Mission Committee at **New Glarus Swiss UCC** will be holding a Fundraiser Sunday, May 16. They will meet at Flannery's Supper Club and have a light lunch, entertainment and a silent auction.

A group at **Platteville Congregational** has been meeting regularly to plan intergenerational faith formation gatherings- activities where all ages can come together.

Verona Salem UCC is adding a pictorial directory to their church website. What a great idea!

A new youth choir is forming at **New Glarus Swiss UCC**. The Peace, Bread and Justice Singers is for children second thru sixth grade and is being initiated by their Mission Committee as a way to involve youth in understanding and promoting mission service. They will learn fun songs that embrace our Christian passion for peace and love in the world. **New Glarus Swiss** is also celebrating Youth Sunday May 2.

Verona Salem Women's Guild will provide \$100 scholarships for each child attending summer Bible Camp.

Many of our newsletters list the birthdays of their congregants each month. I like these words in the **Platteville Congregational / Cornelia Mt Zion** newsletter. *A birthday is a time to celebrate life, to feel good about your accomplishments and to enjoy the feeling of being someone who is making a difference in the lives of others.*

May 2 is Pay it Forward Sunday at **Belleville First** or is it Pie it Forward Sunday! They invite those who are able to pay their weekly pledges a few weeks ahead to cover summer expenses and they celebrate after church with homemade pie, yummy!

As I read our SW newsletters, I can't help but be impressed at the creative and exciting ways our churches are reaching out to young people and parents! Keep up the great work!



The wise words I found in one of our newsletters this month, Judge not! Remember, just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car!

Don't just stand in the garage, go and serve!
Nancy