

Lay Coordinator ❁ June 2008

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Traditionally we think of weddings and graduations in June but I have discovered in our churches it means the end of Sunday School, new summer service schedules and special music opportunities for those summer choirs!



Whitewater Congregational, like many others, is thinking summer youth opportunities. Their kids are busy selling car wash tokens, sponsoring a rummage sale and hosting a Sunday noon meal all to raise funds so they can attend the National Youth Event in July.

Speaking of rummage sales, **Fort Atkinson First Congregational** will sponsor their All-Church Rummage Sale June 27 to 29. In addition to bargains there will be sandwiches, chips, desserts and drinks available too. They are celebrating the beginning of June with an Appetizer Sunday. Everyone in the congregation is invited to bring an appetizer to share in fellowship time after the service.

There is a big celebration coming up Friday, June 13 at **New Glarus Swiss UCC**. A pig roast with all the "fixins" and special music, fellowship and a program will be held to honor Rev Tom Nielsen for his years of service there and to give Tom and Joan a special goodbye as they leave for San Antonia Texas.

Madison Lake Edge UCC is holding a Windfall Potluck Dinner on Sunday, June 8. They will gather together to share a meal and to pledge a portion of their windfall income tax stimulus checks for outreach. They are encouraging their members to tithe but welcome even larger gifts to help them help others.

What would summer be without a brat fry! **Fort Atkinson Friedens** will hold an outdoor worship service followed by the chance to purchase burgers, brats and homemade desserts on Sunday, June 22. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will go to the Jim Varah Spinal Injury Fund and fifteen percent will go to PADA (People Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse).

The newsletter of **Fort Atkinson Friedens** has acquired a whole new look (which, by the way, looks fantastic) thanks to used (but new to them) printing equipment they purchased from Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Madison. They found the equipment on www.freecycle.com. Everybody is a winner when something used finds a great new home!

Paoli Zwingli wins the award for planning ahead! They have already started on the cookbook they will be putting together for their 100th anniversary in 2013. I'm sure it will be great! They are also once again working with **Madison First Congregational** this summer on raising funds to fight world hunger. One Sunday a month folks from Paoli will sell their extra produce after the service in Madison and another Sunday a month the folks from Madison will sell in Paoli. All proceeds will go the Foods Resource Bank.

Mineral Point Congregational is involved with the Food Resource Bank as well. This season they have two projects; they are growing 2.7 acres of corn on one farm and raising two bull calves on another. Total cost of doing the project is around \$2,000. They received a grand of \$750 from the Southwest Association for "seed money"!

Other folks are "gardening for good". **Belleville First UCC** is planning a food pantry garden this. Members will volunteer to plant, weed, harvest and transport the fruits of their labor to their local food pantry so others can enjoy fresh, nourishing produce.

Columbus Olivet has a visiting program called Friendly Faces. This group makes visits to the church's members who are homebound, in assisted living facilities or in nursing homes. They bring a smile in their regular visits to folks who are often lonely.

I am always looking for good book suggestions. **Madison Lake Edge** recommends *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* by Timothy Keller and is currently reading *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. **Belleville First UCC** is reading and reflecting on *The Phoenix Affirmations: a New Vision for the Future of Christianity* created out of the work of Rev Eric Elnes in Arizona.



With the lazy days of summer it is easy to forget that as church people we have our work cut out for us. I leave you with these powerful words from Pastor Mary at **Monticello Washington Reformation**.

"It is time for us to work especially hard to overcome issues that plague our society. The issues of race, injustice to the poor, the divisiveness of the culture, the greediness of the elite, and our lack of care and concern for our planet, these all become objects for our ministry in Christ's name. How can we as a church use our collective gifts to cultivate God's kingdom here on earth? It is a challenging question but one that needs to be asked. We are gifted as the body of Christ let us with our time and talent and treasure look to the kingdom's goal and do what we can to meet the challenges of Jesus' teaching and commands.

Go and Serve.

Nancy