

Lay Coordinator ★ December 2008

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This will be my first Christmas as a grandma! I am already thinking up new traditions to start. Eight-month old Olive Louise may not remember the first day after Thanksgiving when we made lollipops together but I will, the first of many!



Our churches are very busy with celebrations and many of these involve cookies! **New Glarus Swiss, Madison Lake Edge, McFarland UCC** and **Fitchburg Memorial** are all holding Holiday Cookie Sales Dec 6. **Monroe St John's** and **Monticello Zwingli** will hold theirs Dec 13. The cookie sale at **McFarland UCC** will be followed by a Live Nativity 2:00 to 4:30. The cookie sale at **Madison Lake Edge** will be preceded by a number of scheduled cookie-baking workshops.

Monticello Washington Reformation will hold an old-fashion family Christmas celebration Dec 20 with a spaghetti supper followed by the story of Jesus' birth where everyone will have a chance to be a part of the story.

Reeseville First will host "Repeat The Sounding Joy", a night of carols and singing, on Dec. 6. Pastor Lois says, "If you can't carry a note in a bushel basket, just come for the joy if it all!"

The book group at **Platteville First Congregational** is reading *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris this month. It is reported to be an irreverent, laugh-out-loud experience!

Winter is just beginning and **Madison Community of Hope** wants to get the jump on cabin fever. Laughter Yoga has started up again, after the service, the first Sunday of every month. I smile just thinking about this!

Congratulations to **Windsor UCC** who netted over \$10,000 dollars on their Fall Festival- a tremendous effort with much to be proud of!

Two interesting ideas- **Madison Orchard Ridge** has an Elder(s) of the Month page in each of their newsletters, an in depth feature on an older member of their congregation. The nominating committee at **Madison Plymouth** holds a Job Fair during coffee hour to introduce the members to the different volunteer positions in the church.

Madison First Congregational now has pagers for parents of young children. A system has been installed in the nursery so staff can contact parents if they need to.

There is now a Meditation Room at **Madison Orchard Ridge** that is open for all whenever you are looking for a quiet place to think or pray. Near the Sunday morning Coffee Cart they also have a Meditations Resources Cart where you can borrow any book of meditations and return it when you are through.

Monticello Washington Reformation held a flu clinic after services one Sunday so members could get their flu shot. Pneumonia and Tetanus were available too.

In addition to the new traditions that I will start this year as a new grandmother, there is also one I want to continue from last year. I had the good fortune to attend Christmas Eve services at the medium security prison at Fox Lake as part of the Prison Ministry Project. As Pastor Jerry Hancock says, "Much of this ministry is just being present." If you are interested in being a part of this special worship experience, contact Jerry at 608-658-6630.

In this time of cookies, carols and celebrations, many do not forget that mission can never be set aside. **Verona Salem** is putting together gift bags for needy children in the Verona School District. Members can pick up a gift bag with the age and gender of the recipient and return it the following Sunday filled with goodies. **New Glarus Swiss** is busy putting together boxes of food that will be delivered to households with special needs.



I invite you to take some time during these busy holidays to give a thought to how you would like your new year to look. I leave you with these words from **Monticello Zwingli**.

"I have yet to use all the capabilities of my laptop computer and my cell phone. I am content to say, someday, when I have more time, I'll sit down and figure them all out. Only realistically, they will probably wear out long before I figure out all their functions!

Let's not let this happen with our lives. Although we do not have the same abilities, each of us has been given many wonderful gifts and talents. Let's not miss the opportunity to develop and share them for the glory of the One who has bestowed them upon us we are not as easily replaced as a laptop or a cell phone.

Happy Holidays, Go and Serve.

Nancy