

OF CHRIST



CHURCH STAFF

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Interested In CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you are interested in joining Zwingli UCC, please contact the Church Office. All are welcome to become part of this faith community.



Sunday, May 9th

Church Office Hours Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Closed Holidays

These are scheduled open office hours. Other hours are available by calling **608-938-4369.**

Important Online Offerings For You

https://www.youtube.com/channel/



UCzwwZLdGT03Us3IFvINLibg?view_as=subscriber – This is our YouTube Channel. Most of the videos we have recorded are found here! If you subscribe to this channel, you will get email notifications of newly posted videos. Many smart TVs are able to stream this channel as well.



www.zwingliucc.com - This Website has all you need to know about Zwingli United Church of Christ, programs offered, current newsletter and videos, and devotionals as well as information on all things Zwingli!



Zwingli United Church of Christ (Monticello) – Type this in your **Facebook** search bar and enter the world of Zwingli UCC. Our timeline has had all manner of things and ideas that are Zwingli related posts!

The Pastor is in – Call 828-817-9055 to speak with the Pastor!!!! You can also text message at the same number! **Email: mtpreach.59@gmail.com or zwingliuccmonticello@gmail.com**

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in need of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much" (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note



or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts. At times, we all require extra grace.

Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend to us and then through us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God's grace and love with people who need it.

Janna Firestone



Hoorah!!!!

It has been over a year now since we have had the ability to worship in our Sanctuary together. The COVID-19 virus and its deadly symptoms have kept us worshipping at home and in our cars! It has been challenging to be away, but during this time we have

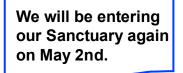
found new ways to reach our Church Friends and Family. During isolation, we have built a very large online following. Online YouTube videos have expanded our reach and many people



who were not a part of any worship community now join us each Sunday! Zoom programs have allowed us to meet in fellowship and study with people who have moved far from the Church geographically. These programs have allowed them to reconnect with their

Church Family. God has watched over us and brought us technology that has allowed us to worship in ways we never dreamed of. We are finding more ways to reach out to the community that surrounds us through the World Wide Web.

It is with great joy and relief that we will be entering our Sanctuary again on May 2nd. Like all fasts, one must take special care when breaking the fast. We must remember to care for ourselves and, even more importantly, for others



as we begin to gather again. We will not be able to flip a switch and return to the way we worshipped before COVID-19. There is



still great risk in gathering together. Even with Vaccines and Social Distancing we cannot totally guarantee total safety of our parishioners. The number of COIVD-19 cases in Wisconsin has actually risen a bit as I write this note. We are still learning how to effectively combat this virus.

This "Opening" of the Sanctuary to worship services will need to be taken in steps. On the



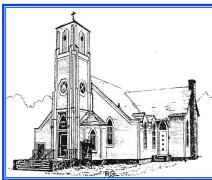
next few pages, we have a list of guidelines and requests that we are asking all of you who attend to follow to attempt to insure a level of safety. Through this pandemic, we have been blessed that our congregation has suffered minimal cases and very few severe cases of this virus. God has given us knowledge and creativity to overcome the devastation that could have tak-

en many of us. With that being said, we are weighing all the information that we know about COVID-19 and as we make our plans to come together, we will use all the gifts and knowledge that God has given us! Please review the guidelines that have been compiled by members of the Safety Committee. We ask that you abide by them as we enter into our worship together to continue to keep us all safe and healthy.

Although vaccination does not make us totally immune to the virus, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated to protect not only themselves, but our entire Zwingli Family.

We know that these restrictions conflict with the very purpose and function of worship. Worship is meant to be "The place

where the body of Christ meets." But we must view this as a step in the direction of returning to our community. We will continue to have Drive-In Worship on the third Sunday of each month in an effort to serve everyone. Please remember, this is definitely a step on the road to "Wellness" not the destination. We are carefully



monitoring the situation and reviewing the recommendations from the CDC, WI Conference of the UCC, and WI Council of Churches. Please be aware that each step is temporary and that we will be changing and adding new ways to interact and connect with each other as we walk through this time of COVID-19.

May we feel the blessings that the Creator is continually showering us with!

Peace, Pastor Lance

Reopen Safe Sanctuary Practice Guidelines To Follow

- Access will be limited to the East Entrance door only. In this way, we can serve everyone in our Church Family. We will enter and exit with the same door so that we can control the flow of our parishioners.
- Please review the questions below prior to coming to Church and act accordingly.

Three Questions before attending In-Sanctuary Services at Zwingli UCC

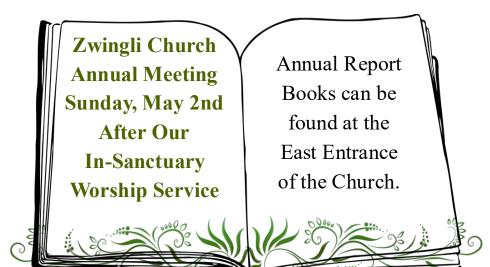
- Have I experienced any COVID symptoms? Persistent Cough, Loss of Taste, Fatigue, and Headache.
- Have I tested positive in a COVID test?
- Have I been in known contact with someone suffering from COVID?

If you answer yes to any of these, please consider joining us through a video worship experience or our FM Parking Lot Broadcast.

- Masks will be mandatory for people over two years of age. We will provide disposable paper ones for those who come without a mask.
- Hand sanitizing stations are readily available and use is encouraged.
- Ushers will lead people to their seats where they must remain until they are led out of the Sanctuary.
- Church hymnals, Bibles, paper, pencils, envelopes, and notepads have been removed from the pews until further notice.

- We will discontinue congregational singing, responsive readings, and passing of the peace as well as coffee hour and social times until further notice.
- Soloists, as well as recorded music, will be used in worship.
- Offering will be received in a drop box at the exit/ entrance.
- Communion will continue to be served in individual containers which can be picked up on entry. Disposal of spent containers will be apparent on exit.
- Our Maximum Attendance for the Sanctuary with Social Distancing is 80 people.
- The worship service will be broadcast on the FM Transmitter so that the Parking Lot, as well as rooms in the Church, will be available for people wishing more isolation or if we exceed Maximum Capacity with our Social Distance Practices.
- Video of the service will be taped and made available by Monday evening on our YouTube Channel.
- The Sanctuary is cleaned before and after the worship service. Disinfectant wipes will be used on handrails, doorknobs, and all touchable surfaces.







GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021

Please send us a photo of your Graduating Seniors and a short bio that shares their goals, dreams, future plans, and any awards they have received.

We will be recognizing these accomplishments as part of a worship service.

Please email info to mtpreach.59@gmail.com by May 17.

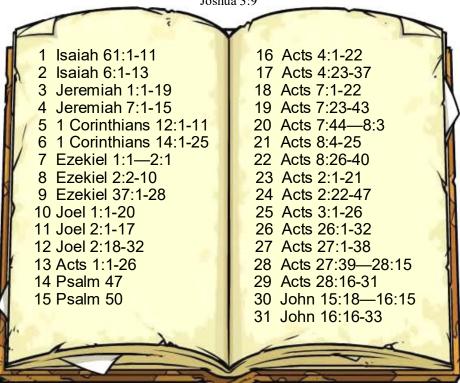




"The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today," says Priscilla Shirer. "Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now."

∽ Daily Bible Reading ∾

"...Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God." Joshua 3:9





01 May Burgy Cal Derendinger Aric Karlen 02 Holly Emberson Cathie Laeser Matt Tomczyk 03 Brad Freitag Audrey Saxer Graves Schmalbeck 04 Dorothy Schlapbach John Zuber 05 Darin Erickson 06 Sheena Erickson Michael Garfoot Connor Grossnickle Gracelyn Willson 07 Callisa Briggs Harry Turner Jr. 08 Deborah Disch Denise Klassv 10 Chris Caldwell 11 James Gempeler James Grossen 13 Ava Aasve Ashley Appel Elyse Appel Linda Lehne Sally Roe Mark Wittenwyler 14 Becky Kammes Kody Klitzke



15 Nathaniel Lederman 16 Jeannette Broge Caleb Laeser 17 Tim Kolasch Carol Leck Barbara Pluss Ashley Wichser Gilbertson 18 Addison Turner 19 Sandy Trumpy Cohen Wiesenberg 20 Karen Pfeuti 21 Katherine Hauser 23 Doris Disch 24 Travis Balleine Jenny Blumer Logan Ringhand 25 Mary Field 26 Bryce Aquino Jean McMannes Ethan Rupp Sue Sinnett Rebecca Workman 27 Eric Stenbroten Morgan Thompson 28 Stephanie Beckwith Ken Gempeler 29 Jonathon Wettach 30 Lori Blanke Birthday





04 Ralph & Marian Gempeler Bruce & Angela Quade 17 Rosco Wiesenberg & Erica Appel-Wiesenberg 18 Lawrence & Pansy Balleine 21 Stanton & Jeannette Jorenby 23 Gary & Denise Gilbertson **Terry & Karen Wichser** 25 Brian & Kim Vogt





Dear CHIMES Readers,

From *AN ANGEL AMONG US* – Here is an excerpt of a scene which occurs during the auction of Sid's cattle. It should be noted that Alfred is Sid's neighbor and good friend.



"I want you to know right away," Alfred said to Sid. "I bid on Daisy Mae and I got her."

Sid, looking a little dismayed and hurt that his good friend would buy his favorite animal, said to Alfred; "You what?! Why would you ever want to do that? You and I both know her milk production hasn't been up to snuff. And you said yourself a few days ago: 'My present herd is all that I can handle.'"

"Sid, I bought her so I could give her back to you."

"What?" said Sid in amazement. "You can't do that."

"I know how much Daisy Mae means to you – really, to us. I'll never forget the night you called over to our house. Dr. Vittle was gone. You needed help with her birth. Bessie, her mother, was struggling to birth her. Thankfully we were able to get her out. After she was born you were about to call her Midnight, but then you said that there's a flower on her head and you decided to call her Daisy. But then you also said: 'It's May; let's call her Daisy Mae.' And I know she's been your favorite ever since."

Turning to Michael, Sid said: "I always gave our calves names. My Dad used to tell me that when you gave something a name, you took responsibility for it. Dad said that idea goes way back to Adam; that God instructed Adam to



give all the animals a name, and when he did, he was assuming responsibility for them. And I'd like to think I was responsible for all the cattle we've ever owned.

I have been spending some time writing a variety of pieces, including a five part series of novellas that trace the sabbatical journey of Michael Lattimore who travels to the dairy farming regions of Wisconsin.

Michael is seeking to determine how the changes in culture are affecting the family farm. Along the way, he meets numerous people facing a variety of circumstances. These lead Michael into interactions that he never would have foreseen prior to his departure. The first volume – *ENTERTAINING ANGELS* – is a story of change, loss, and healing; the second – *AN ANGEL AMONG US* – is a tale of change, brokenness, and reconciliation; and the third – *ANGELS IN DISGUISE* – is a story of change, loss, and new beginnings. Volume four – *ENCOURAGING ANGEL* – is presently at the publisher and is a story of change, fear, and encouragement. Volume 5 is still under construction and will be called *ANGELS TO THE RESCUE*. (Obviously, the "angel" theme carries throughout the series.)

The series includes plenty of drama, some humor, and each volume seeks to offer an abiding "Christian" principle or lesson.



I trust that this series has special appeal for anyone who is interested in rural Wisconsin and its culture, or who has ever farmed or is still farming.

I have several copies of volumes one, two, and three available. Retail cost for volume one is \$9.95. Volumes two and three are \$16.95 each. Any profits from the sale of these books goes to a mission in east Ten-

nessee that has been established by the publisher (Parson's Porch Books). They are also available on the Amazon Books Website. If you desire to purchase them from me, I can offer you all three for \$40. Again, any profits beyond the publishing costs go to the mission. Just call me at 938-4367 or email me at balleine@tds.net and I will send or deliver them to you.

In gratitude, Larry Balleine





Pentecost Sunday is May 23rd!

We celebrate the *"Birthday of the Christian Church"* by remembering the Holy Spirit falling upon the early followers of the Christian faith.

It is also the time we ask for the special Mission Offering called "Strengthen the Church." This offering helps grow the UCC's future by funding new churches and renews other churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation. If you would like to contribute, send your check (with Strengthen the Church in the memo line) to Zwingli Church before the end of May.

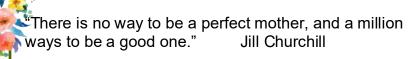
Please join us for our inspirational Pentecost Worship Service on May 23rd! Remember...*God is still speaking!*

A Shared Experience

What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire, and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.



The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on Pentecost, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises, and joy?



"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway." Erma Bombeck



Breath of God, inspire me by your Word. Fire of God, kindle in me a passion for serving others in your name.



Creation-wide Praise Chorus



"All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!"

These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only "young men and women alike, old and young together" (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: **"We human beings ... should recognize that** we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest."

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join "all creatures of our God and King" in worship?

Heidi Hyland Mann



Several Ways To Give To The Church

Set up your Church giving contribution using your **Bank's** online bill pay feature! You decide the amount, the date you want it sent, and finish making the contribution.



Information you will need: Your Checking Account Number Make Payment To: G Zwingli United Church of Christ Your Giving Envelope Number Sy 416 E. Lake Ave., PO Box 97 Monticello, WI 53570 608-938-4369 Email: zwingliuccmonticello@gmail.com Website: www.zwingliucc.com

<u>OR</u> - Go to our Website and click on the hand to bring you to the giving page.



Credit/Debit - Click on Give button below for Credit/Debit options.

GIVE





<u>OR</u> - Checks Can Be Mailed to:

Zwingli United Church of Christ PO Box 97 Monticello, WI 53570

<u>OR</u> - Drop off your Donation in the Drop Box at the East Entrance to the Church.

If you are using Online Banking or Credit/Debit please call Susan Hefty at 608-938-9039 and let her know!! Thank You So Much!!!!

