

**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2801 GARFIELD ST.  
TWO RIVERS**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:  
8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
9:15 AM ~ 10:15 AM**

**920-553-1222  
[WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG)**

[unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com)  
Pastor Kim [khenning1956@gmail.com](mailto:khenning1956@gmail.com)  
Pastor Colie [pastorcolie@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcolie@gmail.com)

**APRIL 2019**



### **HOLY WEEK**

**Maundy Thursday, April 18**—Soup Dinner at **6:00 p.m.**;  
Worship at **6:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 19**—Worship at **6:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, April 21**-- Sunrise Service: **5:50 a.m.**

**Easter Sunday, April 21**—

**Resurrection** Worship with Holy Communion: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**  
Breakfast: **9:00 – 10:15 a.m.**; Egg Hunt: **9:45 a.m.**

### **Reflecting Together**

**Kim M. Henning**

### **WRESTLING WITH A DIFFICULT TEXT**

“Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.”’ Luke 14:25-30

Every once in a while I muster the courage to wrestle with a difficult text. This story from Luke begins: ‘now large crowds were traveling with Jesus.’ I have a feeling those numbers dwindled after listening to Jesus that day.

Jesus said that discipleship is not easy. First he said that our love for God must surpass our love for family. Then, “whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Are you still reading?

Someone in a study class once said, “I wish Jesus had not used the word ‘hate’ in this story.” Maybe the word hate is hyperbole, but not too much. Jesus is clear that our commitment to God must rise above all other commitments. When Jesus said those words, I suspect some said, “You’re expecting too much Jesus!”

I’ve listened to TV preachers who say that all a Christian needs to do is believe in God. Surprisingly, Jesus didn’t say that. He said the way is hard that leads to life. He also said, “the first will be last and the last will be first” and “whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for the gospel will find it.”

Christianity is more than just believing. Ask the rich young ruler who walked away from Jesus. Or ask Zacchaeus who said when encountering Jesus, ‘half my goods I give to the poor.’ Or ask Peter or Andrew who left their father and a thriving business. The practice of Christianity would be simple if we just had to believe in God. “You can go home and do whatever else you want.” But that’s not Jesus.

Every day I hear some sort of conversation about the changing face of Christianity. Every denomination I know has adjusted to dwindling financial resources. We see fewer cars in church parking lots and more at shopping malls.

What I do know is that we cannot make following Jesus easy. That would be heresy. Jesus taught that there is a cost to Christian discipleship. And each of us has to make decisions about how we choose how we spend our time and our money and our opportunities for service. Thank you for those critical decisions you have made that show forth your love for our Lord Jesus Christ. I’d like to hear your thoughts!

## **Thoughts from Pastor Colie**

### **PREACHING THE RESURRECTION**

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20:15-18)*

On the wall in my office, next to the clock and beneath a photo of my son, hangs an icon of Mary Magdalene. The title of this piece of art is "Mary Magdalene Announces the Resurrection." Mary, dressed in all red, stands in front of the 11 disciples huddled together (11 because this is after the crucifixion - Judas is now gone). She has just experienced the risen Jesus, and now she has rushed to find the disciples. She is speaking, they are listening. Behind them is the city of Jerusalem, above their heads is a rainbow - a symbol of resurrection and a reminder of God's promise of life.

I bought this art piece a couple of years ago after a conversation with a colleague pointed out to me something that I had never quite noticed before: Mary Magdalene was the first preacher of the resurrection. The first to see and know Jesus after he was resurrected, she was also the first to tell of her experience, to proclaim the truth of God's actions in the world: "I have seen the Lord!"

It's no secret that for centuries, the Church (here with a capital C to mean Church universal) has denied the leadership of women. In the United Church of Christ, we celebrate that one of our ancestor denominations, the Congregational Churches, ordained the first woman into Christian ministry. The Rev. Antoinette Brown was called to serve as a pastor in 1852 to a Congregationalist church in New York. It was not until much more recently that more denominations began granting the status of ordination to women; I am sure you know that in many churches, women are still not allowed to serve as pastors.

Last fall, there was a visitor who wandered into our church between services one Sunday. A member greeted him and he asked to speak with a pastor. I was in the Fellowship Hall at the time, one of you brought him to me and I sat with him at a table to talk. He told me that he felt God was calling him here, to our church, to give us a message: our church - and specifically our church leadership - was living sinfully by allowing a woman to be pastor and preacher here. He made it clear that I would be the one held most accountable for leading others astray.

He and I spoke briefly about the Bible, and how we interpret it. I assured him that I wasn't just ignorant of the Bible -- I know there are scriptures that some people claim deny pastoral leadership and authority to women. I have studied these texts, I am not ignoring them. But we have arrived at different places in our understanding of what they mean in our lives today. As I spoke with this person, it became clear to me that the conversation wasn't going much of anywhere. We both stood convicted in our understanding. He reiterated that he "didn't like" the message he was bringing, but that God had called him to bring it. I shrugged and said that I knew God had called me into this work. We shook hands, and he left.

I hang this icon of Mary Magdalene on my wall as a source of strength and inspiration, a reminder that though some would seek to challenge my authority or position, I am in a long line of strong women of faith, called by God to preach and share the Good News.

I know that I am not a perfect person. I know that I am not a perfect pastor. But I do believe that God has called me to this work, and I will stand strong in my faith to proclaim: "I have seen the Lord!"

### **FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY**

12 children in our congregation have been learning and talking about communion in preparation to take their first communion on **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. These children will be participating within the worship service, and we will be taking extra time to help all of us think more about what communion means to us and why we do it together. Come to support our kids, and come to deepen your own faith!

## CONFIRMATION UPDATES

**April 3:** (Class: 5:00-6:10 p.m.) Faith journeys and testimony

**April 10:** (Class: 5:00-6:10 p.m.) End of the year celebration. This is the final class for 1st year students

**April 24:** All 2nd years at 6p.m. with Parents rehearsal for 2nd years and Parents

**Sunday, April 28:** Confirmation Sunday, 10:30 am.

### SUMMER TRIPS:

Moon Beach Work Camp—June 9-13

St Louis Trip—June 16-20

## LENTEN OFFERING

### **Painting Pathways, Morija Theological Seminary, CP Center**

(Offering Envelope Enclosed)

It is a tradition of our church to receive an offering during Lent. Why do we receive a special offering during Lent? Well, Christians believe Christ gives us unsurpassed hope and life. The climax of our religious experience happened on Good Friday and Easter. Some of us choose to express our gratitude through a second mile offering.

Your Mission and Outreach Board has chosen three agencies to receive our church's gifts this year: 1- Painting Pathways in Manitowoc; 2-Morija Theological Seminary in Lesotho, Africa; and 3- the CP Center, here in Two Rivers.

**Why Painting Pathways?** Because they provide a community of support and encouragement for those who struggle with mental health?

**Why Morija Theological Seminary?** Because this seminary serves the Lesotho Evangelical Church in a Third World Country in Africa and their financial resources are sparse. (Besides a Bible, students rarely possess any other books.)

**Why the CP Center?** Because right here in Two Rivers they provide respite care and activities for the vulnerable in our community.

## NEW MEMBERS' CLASS AND MEAL

On **Sunday, April 28 at 9:25 a.m.**, Pastor Kim Henning will lead a class for new members in our High School Youth Room (located off the Fellowship Hall). The class is the first step of church membership and will last about 45 minutes. We will focus our time on our Christian beliefs (Apostles' Creed; UCC Statement of Faith; Baptism; Lord's Supper), our church's history (Puritans; Pilgrims; Congregational Church; Evangelical and Reformed Church; United Church of Christ; establishment of church in Two Rivers), our service opportunities (Hope House; Habitat for Humanity; Confirmation Mentors; Adult Mission Trip; Appalachia Service Project; Moon Beach Work Week; Two Rivers Ecumenical Food Pantry), and your questions.

The **second step** of church membership occurs on Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 A.M. when the Cabinet will host a meal for new members and their families. The purpose of the meal is to provide an atmosphere we hope will deepen our relationships with each other. After this meal Moderator Don DeBruyn will introduce our church's leadership to the new members, and allow each a short introduction. Sponsors will then introduce our new members to the church's leadership. We should be on our way home by about 1 o'clock.

The **third step** of our process for receiving new members into our midst occurs during a service of worship on May 12 or some Sunday following. New members will be introduced to the church by designated sponsors. After the introductions, new members will be asked to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

If anyone has questions, they may be directed to Pastor Kim Henning at church 553-1222 or at his home 553-2888. A personal home visit will be made if that would be helpful.

## CHURCH CABINET

**Moderator**, Don DeBruyn **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias  
**Financial Sec**, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar  
**Diaconate Chair**, Zachary Peterson  
**Board of Christian Ed Chair**, Katie Ver Haagh  
**Mission & Outreach Chair**, Joe DeGroot  
**Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair**, Jeff Harding  
**Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair**, Jim Miller  
**Members-at-Large**, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

### Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ:

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	<b>\$374,054</b>
Pledge Income Received during February	<b>\$29,585</b>
Loose Offering Received	<b>\$594</b>
Sunday School Offerings During February	<b>\$38</b>

**Please Note:** Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

### **Your Gifts of Mission and Compassion (February)**

<b>Campital Campaign (Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center)</b>	<b>\$328 (thank you!)</b>
<b>TREP</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Eden Theological Seminary</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>What If? Foundation (Haiti---Advent Offering)</b>	<b>\$60</b>

### **December Expenditures:**

<b>\$2,532---Seiler Brothers, Snow Removal</b>
<b>\$664---Wisconsin Public Service, Utilities</b>
<b>\$656---Hubbatt Electric (electrical problems in sanctuary)</b>
<b>\$114---Luisier Plumbing, backflow inspection</b>
<b>\$216.68---Warner Press, Inc. – quarter supply of worship bulletins</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CABINET

The Diaconate and Cabinet are hosting a Meal for New Members on May 5 following the second worship service. Persons interested in joining are invited to attend a New Members Class, which will be held in the youth room adjacent to the fellowship hall on **Sunday April 28** between the worship services.

Our Lenten Offering will be divided this year between three recipients: Morija Theological Seminary in Lesotho, Painting Pathways clubhouse in Manitowoc, and the CP Center in Two Rivers. Members of the Board of Mission and Outreach will be introducing you to each of these organizations during the announcements at worship services.

The Women of Grace will host a soup supper 6:00pm in the fellowship hall before the Maundy Thursday worship service .

An Easter Sunrise service will be held at 5:50 am at the beach pavilion at Neshotah Park, led by Pastor Colie.

Easter Breakfast will be served by Generation G in the fellowship hall from 9-10:15 am. Buy your ticket at the door.

Sunday school classes will not meet on Easter Sunday, but a special activity for kids will be led by the Board of Christian Education between the church services. Teachers will have this Sunday off.

Planning is well underway for Vacation Bible School, which will be held on August 5-8, 2019. The theme will be "God Invites You". Many volunteers will be needed and signups for volunteers will begin soon.

Our delegates to the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting on April 5-6 will be Betty Becker and Adrienne Ewald.

Jim Miller was elected by Cabinet to fill the remaining year of Karl Kuhn's term on the Pastor/Parish committee for Pastor Colie. Auden Peterson was elected to serve as youth representative on the Diaconate.

Brianna Brixius is a new at-large member of Cabinet. Zak Peterson will serve as chair of Diaconate. Joe DeGroot is the new chair of the Board of Mission and Outreach, and Katie VerHaagh is the chair of the Board of Christian Education.



## **EARTH CARE MINISTRY: GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Second annual Earth Care Festival  
UWGB, Manitowoc Campus (705 Viebahn Street)

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Featured Speaker: **Titus Seilheimer,**

Wisconsin Sea Grant, Fisheries Outreach Specialist **(10:30 – 11:30 a.m.)**

All of last year's festival exhibitors are returning this year. Activities for children include crafts, art work, singing and prizes.

This is a free event open to all who are concerned about our earth. We would welcome help with set-up on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. Also, we would appreciate some volunteers, especially with the kid's crafts. A clean-up crew would also be appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Visitor Center. Questions? Contact Jim and Susie Miller (684-4862).

### **WOMEN OF GRACE HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH @ 9AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

The Women Of Grace will be sponsoring the **Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on April 18th, 2019**. The meal starts at 6:00pm and will lead right into the service at 6:30pm. We will be serving 3 kinds of soup, cheese, crackers, coffee, milk and water for this event. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for this meal - it is free. Please come for all are welcome to attend!

We are also making plans for our third annual visit to Hands On Art Studio in Fish Creek in May or possibly June. On our day trip to the studio, we will also visit the Waterfront Bakery in Algoma and the Door Peninsula Winery in Sturgeon Bay. This is always a great day for being creative, sharing laughter and fun, and being with family and friends! Anyone is welcome to come with us. More information will be in the May Newsletter and upcoming church bulletins.

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Debbie Augustine will be leading a **Women's Bible Study called "Women Of the Bible"** which looks at the lives of 52 women in the Bible. Each chapter is an independent study so you can participate even if you can't attend weekly. Day and time to be determined by the majority - either Wednesdays @ 10:30am or Thursdays @ 5:30pm. Sign up sheet is at the Information desk.

**If you haven't been to our meetings, please come and enjoy fellowship/friendship with us! Remember that all women of Grace Church are members of Women Of Grace!**  
**Peace In Christ, Amy LeGreve**

### **GENERATION G / APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT**

Wednesday night's from 7-8pm come join us in the youth room (off the fellowship hall) as we discuss the book of Matthew! 8th graders are invited to come join us the Wednesday after their confirmation.

Generation G will be hosting Easter breakfast from 9am-10:15am in the fellowship hall. For \$8/adult and \$5 for children ten and under we will make pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast sausages, juice, coffee, and milk— we'll even do the dishes! The money raised by our high school youth group goes into the Generation G account to support retreats, to send mail to our college and military personnel, and to support the youth group.

Event for the whole Congregation from the Diaconate: **April 27th at 3pm** we will be going to see the movie Breakthrough at the AMC theater! Tickets will be \$4.99 and concessions will be available for purchase. Anyone interested in Culvers after the movie— is welcome to meet us there for some food and discussion. More information will be coming!

The next **ASP meeting will be Monday April 8 at 6:30 pm**. Please bring your insurance card— and a parent if you are under 18 as we will be doing our notarized forms for the trip!

Peace to you, Nicole Herda [nlherda@yahoo.com](mailto:nlherda@yahoo.com)

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Maria Hillmer  
2- Ron Meissner  
Destiny Krizek  
Collin Gamble  
3 - Joseph Reinke  
4 – Mary Sayeski  
5 – Aiden Schanilec  
Michael Duvall  
6 - Joe DeGroot  
Al Augustine  
Heidi Springstube  
7 - Anne Reichel  
ShayHampton-Gregory  
Kim Larson  
8 - Aaron Buchholz  
Cale Beyer  
9 - Jeff Stoeger  
Elijah Holschbach  
12 - Lori Hansen-Stein  
Drew Loomis  
Landon Kakes  
13 - Garrett Ruhbusch  
Debbie Augustine

15 - Marilyn Grover  
Joan Schmid  
Charles Grumann  
16 - Ginny Engstrom  
Barry Grimmer  
Laurie Burke  
Casey O'Connor  
18 - Debbie Spindler  
19 - Amy LeGreve  
Theresa Terp  
Renee Anderson  
Tracy Smith  
20 - AudraHampton-  
Gregory  
Ellen Lewellen  
21 – Debbie Rhein  
22 - Jacque Linzmeier  
Karl Schindl  
23 - Norette St Pierre  
27 - Rick Inman  
Dylan Wichlacz  
Alexis Veleke  
Jessica Schroeder  
28 - Michele Hearley

Jessica Sayeski  
Melissa Dupke  
29 - Shirley Spindler  
Catherine Stein  
Greg Moreau  
30 - Sue Geroso  
Kathryn Ruhbusch  
Jack Stradal

## **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

7 – Tim and Ann Klein  
15 – Rodney and Teresa  
Fish  
19 – Barry and Diane  
Grimmer  
24 – Aaron and Lynn  
Buchholz  
26 – Randy and Jeanne Brey  
26 – Gary and Kay Fencel

## **QUITTING FACEBOOK**

A study showed that quitting Facebook has positive effects on participants' happiness and life satisfaction, and it reduces anxiety and depression. Deactivating Facebook accounts freed up about an hour of time each day. Those who returned to Facebook decreased their time on this social medium by 23 percent (Pacific Standard, February 8)

## **WHAT HOLOCAUST?**

Between 1985 and 1995 some of the most populous states in the United States, covering about a third of the nation's population, passed laws requiring that information about the Holocaust be taught in public schools. Yet two-thirds of millennials do not know what Auschwitz was, half cannot name one concentration camp, and about 40 percent think fewer than 2 million Jews were killed. Responding to such data, Connecticut and Kentucky have recently passed laws requiring teaching about the Holocaust. The Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect has gotten commitments from legislators in 20 states to introduce laws that mandate Holocaust education (History News Network, February 12).

## **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION, HAPPINESS, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

25% of religiously unaffiliated say they are very happy;  
25 % of religiously inactive say they are very happy;  
36% of religiously active say they are very happy.

39% of religiously unaffiliated belong to at least one nonreligious organization  
51% of religiously inactive belong to at least one nonreligious organization  
58% of religiously active say they belong to at least one nonreligious organization.

48% of religiously unaffiliated always vote in national elections  
59% of religiously inactive always vote in national elections  
69% of religiously active say they always vote in national elections.

Source: Pew Research Center

## GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

### HOSPITALIZED

Bev Urben has been released from Aurora Medical Center and continues her rehabilitation at Rivers Bend in Manitowoc.

Tabitha Seefeldt had surgery at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan February 20th, and is continuing her recovery at home.

Coral Rose Curkeet was a patient at Aurora Medical Center week of March 4.

Rein Elias is a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Pat Wichlacz had surgery on Wednesday March 13 of this week at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay.

Bailee Seefeldt had surgery Friday, March 15 at Holy Family Hospital.

Dick Ertman has spent recent weeks in the rehabilitation unit of Hamilton Home and has recently returned to his home on Highway 310.

Bob Stephens has moved to Northland Lodge, Room 328.

### OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to Jim and Susie Miller as they grieve the death of Susie's brother, Phillip E. Hutchinson. Phillip died on February 25, and a funeral was held on Saturday, March 2 at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Rev. Harley Tretow of Oshkosh died on Friday, March 14. Harley served churches in Belvidere, IL, Dale, WI and Our Savior's United Church of Christ in Ripon. His funeral was held on Friday in Ripon.

### WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. **April 9<sup>th</sup> we are going to be at Dali's in Manitowoc at 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.



**Maundy Thursday, April 18**—Soup Dinner at **6:00 p.m.**;  
Worship at **6:30 p.m.**

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**Resurrection** Worship with Holy Communion:  
**8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

Breakfast: **9:00 – 10:15 a.m.**; Egg Hunt: **9:45 a.m.**

### “ A Senior Get-Together at Grace Congregational Church”

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**When:** Tuesday, **May 7, 2019**

**What:** Luncheon at 12:30 pm

**Bingo:** 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Hope to see you there....

Any questions/Need transportation

Call 553-4051 (Marsha Heuer)



Hope House The **next host week is May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Looking for generous volunteers to help. Let me Thank You in advance for your continued dedication to this project.

**Help Wisconsin SHINE - General Synod 32**  
**June 21-25, 2019**



**The Wisconsin Conference** is hosting UCC General Synod in Milwaukee and you are key to helping Wisconsin SHINE! There are many opportunities to assist the 3,000 expected visitors during event. At the same time, you'll meet people from across the country, hear inspiring speakers and learn more about the many ministries of the UCC. Here are some of the opportunities to volunteer:

**Hospitality** – at the airport, train station, at registration, the exhibit hall, or as a guide at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

**Childcare and Children's Ministry** – Care for the youngest or lead activities for older children during Synod.

**Mission** – Assist with tours of specific social services in Milwaukee.

**Word Processing and Tech** – Use your skills to help edit resolutions or assist attendees with the Synod App.

**Worship** – Usher or serve communion during worship services.

**Outdoor Festival** – Guide visitors and help set up the Sunday Festival at Frank Zeidler Square.

**And More** – Assist during plenary sessions, support volunteers, be on-call for needs as they arise, and probably a few other things too!

Here's how to get involved:

- Read more at [WCUCC.org/about-wcucc/the-general-synod/](http://WCUCC.org/about-wcucc/the-general-synod/)
- Use the link there for volunteer registration, read about the opportunities and then schedule 6 or more volunteer hours to qualify for a reduced Synod registration fee. When this process is complete, you'll receive the Synod code.
- Then go to [Synod2019.org](http://Synod2019.org) to register for Synod.
- You will receive information about any training and where to report to volunteer. We'll be in touch!

***Many thanks for participating in this exciting opportunity.***



# WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UPDATES

- **Help Wisconsin SHINE** - General Synod 32 The Wisconsin Conference is hosting UCC General Synod in Milwaukee and you are key in helping. Volunteers are needed. Please watch for inserts in the bulletin or [WCUCC.org/about-wcucc/the-general-synod](http://WCUCC.org/about-wcucc/the-general-synod)
- **Catalyst** - consists of nine persons: two from each Association, elected by the Conference to a two-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms, and one representative of the Board who shall be appointed by the Board. The team mission is to resource and encourage vital and innovative ministries that transform lives.
  - We are many things, however one of our responsibilities is to review requests for funding of various innovative ministries. One of the funding requests that came to the Catalyst Team was the Baking Buddies which follows:
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## Baking Buddies

Baking Buddies is a baking class where students with special needs are paired with a youth peer or adult and bake together. This program was initiated by a youth group member as a school rojectand was so well received that they wanted to expand the program. While students are waiting for everyone to arrive, they are introduced to their buddy and participate in a fun educational table activity. Once everyone is there the baking begins. While items are baking, the students play Bingo with prizes. Once the item is baked, they can take it home to share with their family and friends. Each new student is given a set of measuring cups, spoons, spatula and liquid measuring cup along with a binder and the recipe from class, so they can make the baked good again at home. A new recipe is given each class. Parents can have a cup of coffee, get a bit of respite time, or interact/network with other parents of kids with special needs while their student is baking.

## Who is the program for

Those with special needs in middle school through age 21. Volunteers are teens through adults. The program is offered 2 nights 3 times a year.

## Catalyst Funded

\$450 was received from Catalyst and the money was used to buy mixers, mixing bowls, measuring cups spoons and ingredients..

## What are the results of Baking Buddies

The results are awesome!! Parents, students and volunteers love this program!!! When a date is established and email is sent to everyone for sign up. By the end of the day Baking Buddies is usually full. Here is a condensed list of results.

- People with special needs interact with those who do not have special needs and vise-versa which helps all to understand we are more alike than different!
- About 23-25 students with special needs are in the program and new students join every time.
- One of the special needs' students found a job because while they were baking, parents could network!
- Some of our Baking Buddy students with special needs attended our Vacation Bible School with a Bible BUddy (their Baking Buddy)

## Will the Baking Buddies Program continue?

Absolutely!!!

The next Baking Buddies has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4th. Mary Ann from Evangelical and Reformed United Church of Christ, in Waukesha has extended an invitation to whoever would like to either observe or volunteer to work with the Baking Buddies. This is so exciting anyone want to go and figure out if Grace could do this? We will pick one of the nights. **Contact Mickey 920-609-8964**