

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

**ADULT EDUCATION
8:30 AM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:
9:30 AM**

**920-553-1222
WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG**

unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com
Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com
Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com

JULY 2019



Sunday, July 7

Adult Education at 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Worship at 9:30 a.m. at Woodland Dunes
2 Corinthians 8:1-7 – Extravagant Generosity

Sunday, July 14

Adult Education at 8:30 a.m.

Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Acts 2:37-47 – Intentional Faith Development

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

IN THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS!

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26-27)

What does the ‘best of all worlds’ look like? In the best of all worlds, I would hope for people to give themselves time to relax at places like Moon Beach. In the best of all worlds people would say more often, “I love you” and “I’m sorry.” In the best of all worlds we would attend gatherings where we could listen, think and share ideas with each other. In the best of all worlds.....”

I was thinking about the best of all worlds last week when fifteen people spent five days with me at Moon Beach. This was billed as a work camp; and work, we did! We raked leaves, shoveled dirt and lobbed branches off trees; we dug a trench, planted flowers, and split wood. But the most important part of a work camp at Moon Beach was not the work; the most important part is the time we spent with each other, and learning things we somehow never get to talk about.

Each evening after dinner at Moon Beach, we organized a small worship service. How can a group be at Moon Beach and not worship God? We sang a lot. We read from the Bible. We prayed. And then we talked about the scripture. Our youth talked. Our adults talked. And there was an amazing experience of sharing our thoughts and our beliefs about God together. In my mind, those evening times together were the best of all worlds.

On Monday I read Matthew 6, and then I briefly talked to them about Jesus’ teaching on anxiety. In a subtle commandment, Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life.” Jesus seemed to indicate that anxiety is a lack of trust in God. But here’s the pinch: everyone worries.

So I asked our youth, what are you worried about? Did you know that our youth spend a lot of time thinking about the end of life? Did you know that they are afraid of losing their friends? Did you know that when things don’t go well between Mom and Dad they don’t sleep well? Did you know that seventh graders are caught between childhood and adulthood; and they’re not quite sure who they are? Did you know that our youth are bothered by the hatreds they hear voiced by our politicians?

So I asked our adults, what are you worried about? Did you know that our adults are scared of being alone? Did you know that our adults fear that our children are more connected with electronics than they are with each other? Did you know that one of our adults started crying when she talked about the evils that are aggressively ‘out there’? Did you know that our adults are bullied too? Did you know that our adults told our youth that they pray for them? Did you know they loved them that much?

In Matthew 6, Jesus taught his listeners that God cares very much for people. He said that if they had any inkling of God’s presence in nature, they could well be assured of God’s presence in their lives. Jesus said that if God in God’s mercy cares for birds; God in God’s mercy could counted upon to care for each of them.

It is interesting to think that the people who came to Jesus years ago were no less anxious than you and I tend to be. Jesus’ response? Oh, you of little faith! “Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be yours as well.”

TIPS FOR LIVING

**Jean Vanier, a leader in the development of L'Arche communities,
who died last month, had ten rules for living.**

- Accept the reality of your body.
- Talk about your emotions and difficulties.
- Don't be afraid of not being successful.
- In a relationship, take the time to ask, "How are you?"
- Stop looking at your phone; be present.
- As people, "What is your story?"
- Be aware of your own story.
- Stop prejudice: meet people.
- Listen to your deepest desire.
- Remember that you'll die one day.

Tablet, September 14, 2018

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH

Our community means to be a place where people who love the Lord know that they are welcome to practice faith in our midst. As part of that welcome, we mean to be intentional about noticing and responding to individuals who have felt pushed aside. This is not a one issue matter. An open committee of individuals is working to create a statement that our church can embrace by consensus or vote. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 26 at 7 p.m. in the Adult Study. We value your input. Questions? Speak to Pastor Kim Henning, Mandy Moolenaar, or Cal MacAuley

2019-2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Starting in September, we will debut a brand-new Sunday School program! It will feature a variety of new classroom activities (Cooking! Science! Technology!) as well as old favorites (including: art, games, and storytelling) as a way to learn the important stories of our faith.

We are excited for 2 big reasons:

1. This new format will be easier for kids to "drop in" to class. Even if they haven't been regular in Sunday School before, they can jump right into the activity and learn.
2. It is easier than ever for adults (and teens) to volunteer! Teachers teach for 3-4 weeks at a time – sign up for just a month or two, or stay on for the whole year! We also have more roles for people to work with the kids—to get to know them, build relationships, and learn alongside them—with no lessons to teach and *no prep work* to do outside of class time.

If you'd like to learn more (or are interested in volunteering), please reach out to Pastor Colie or any member of the Board of Christian Ed.

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:

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ

May, 2019

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	\$374,054
Pledge Income Received during April	\$30,057
Loose Offering Received during April	\$773
Sunday School Offerings During April	\$16

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 (April)

Capital Campaign (Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center) \$280
(\$3242 this year!)
Hope House: \$451
Eden Seminary: \$623

LAY ACADEMY---WISCONSIN CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lay Academy is a ministry of the Wisconsin Conference that engages lay people in spiritual growth and development through theological education. Anyone who longs to grow in faith, discover new ways to serve God and their community, and deepen their knowledge of Christian tradition, ministry, and mission is welcome.

In the fall of 2019, the Lay Academy will offer Faith Foundations, Year 2. If you are interested, but haven't attended Faith Foundations Year 1, please contact Tisha Brown at tbrown@wcucc.org

Wisconsin Conference Lay Academy Schedule

September 6-7, 2019 – Christian Spiritual Practices – Rev. Vicki Wunsch
November 1-2, 2019 – New Testament Part 1 – Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn
January 17-18, 2020 – New Testament Part 2 – Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn
March 6-7 – The Church at Work in History – Rev. Dr. Julia Speller
April 24-25 – Interfaith Cooperation and Ministry – Noah Silverman, Interfaith Youth Corp

Call the Conference office for more information at 608-846-7880. Scholarships are available at the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ and at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ---Joe DeGroot, Mission and Outreach, chair.
Lay Academy Fees (\$650 shared room; \$800 private room; \$500 commuter)

Each course meets five weekends per year at or near the Wisconsin Conference Trost Center in DeForest. The weekend sessions meet from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Lodging is provided at a nearby hotel. Courses are taught by seminary professors, Conference staff and clergy with expertise in a given area. Additional requirements are designed to enhance learning.

NEWS FROM OUR MODERATOR

WALKING TRAIL ESTABLISHED ON NEW PROPERTY

Recently a trail was cleared with a brush cutter on the new church property to the north. It follows a portion of the old Vita exercise course created years ago by the City and sponsored by the Two Rivers Clinic. You will pass some of the exercise stations along the path. You can enter this loop trail at either end of the north parking area (where Pastors Kim and Colie park on Sundays). Hopefully we can keep the trail mowed this summer to allow people to access and enjoy the new property. Most of the land is vegetated with red-osier dogwood shrubs, non-native bush honeysuckle, and some ash and buckthorn trees. There is a huge cottonwood tree just north of the parking lot in a small wetland. You may flush deer on your walk and see a variety of birds. Watch your step, however, as there are some ruts and shallow waterways crossing the trail.

We cut some of the non-native honeysuckle and some dogwood back along the trail and also some buckthorn trees to the west of the trail this past spring. More removal of invasives will be delayed until fall and winter, when cut stems take up herbicide better as the plants carry sugars from leaves to store in the roots.

Last fall the hillside extending west from the crosses to Garfield Street was sprayed with a selective herbicide to reduce the everlasting pea vines, which were taking over (they have the pink flowers). Wildflower seeds were then scattered in that area just before snowfall, in hopes of improving the diversity of flowers. We will monitor this area over time to see if this experiment is successful.



Our Earth Care Ministry has volunteered to care for the new property and the un-mowed hillside, with oversight from our Board of Trustees. We may enlist help from members of the congregation and others to help remove invasive species and establish more diverse native plants. We are grateful to Woodland Dunes Nature Center for advice and for the use of their brush cutter.

Our next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9 at 6 pm.

Submitted by Moderator Don DeBruyn

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT ITINERARY

July 13-20th a group of 39 of us will be leaving Wisconsin and heading to Clay County West Virginia to spend a week serving ASP (the Appalachia Service Project). We will be sleeping in classrooms, sharing 4 showers with two other churches, eating sandwiches and your cookies to keep us going as we make homes warmer, safer and drier for families.



July 7 we will be worshipping at Woodland Dunes at 9:30am, so come out and join us! Please bring a chair and invite friends to come along. This is an opportunity to see the practice work we have done to prepare for our trip that we have done the past 10+ years at Woodland Dunes.

July 12 from 6-6:30pm we will be loading trailers at church. Those going on the trip check your email for packing instructions.

July 13— 5:30am arrive at church, check in, distribute forms/health kits/cookies etc— follow with devotion before we head out by 6AM.

July 20th we will return around supper time or later. We don't have an exact time as stops for meals and bathrooms take time, as does traffic. Youth will be in contact with their parents as we get close.

*** THANK YOU to our church family! It's with your support that we are able to serve ASP. You purchase our Christmas wreaths. You make us homemade cookies to help supplement our sandwiches and snacks. We are grateful for your support, prayers, and the mail you send to encourage us each year. Blessings to you for the example you give us.



WOMEN OF GRACE NEWS

COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES!

It is once again time to make sure Grace keeps the status as The Cookie Church from Wisconsin. The ASP team, numbering about 37 youth and adults, heading to West Virginia in July need cookies from our congregation. The cookies are a delicious reminder from home that our kids are loved, and they in turn share the cookies with others during their work week.

We need a lot of cookies. Watch for the sign-up sheet and ice cream buckets on the information desk. The Women Of Grace ask that you:

- fill the buckets with your choice of packable cookies
- include type of cookie with list of ingredients (exact recipe not needed)
- note if any type of nuts the are included
- return buckets by noon, Thursday, July 11 when we will be organizing the buckets

ALSO NEEDED ARE MORE ICE CREAM BUCKETS WITH LIDS.

The Women Of Grace and ASP team thanks you for your continued support in this loving project.

Have a great summer and please remember, that all women of Grace Congregational are members of WOMEN OF GRACE! Blessings, Amy LeGreve and Pamela Van Ess.

\$100 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MOON BEACH OR PILGRIM CENTER CAMPERS

A host of camping opportunities are offered at our two church camps in Wisconsin including Mom and Me, Grandparent and Me, Tenderfoot, Creative Connections, Sail Institute, St. High Adventure, Family Camps, Camp AweSum (for families with children who have autism), and much more.

Your church's endowment fund will send

\$100 to the camp for each Grace Congregational Church registrant.

SAVE THOSE ALUMINUM CANS



When our youth go to St. Louis, we underwrite the entire cost of that trip; and when they go to a Work Camp at Moon Beach we underwrite a portion of their expense. How do we do that? 1---our youth have 2-3 fund-raising activities each year. 2---they raise \$500-\$800 each year through the recycling of aluminum cans. Please support our youth and bring your cans to the container beside the garage.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Alexandria Handl
2 - Carrie Curcio
 Laurel Stodola
3 - Adam Schanilec
 Brian Shallue
4 - Collin Wagner
5 - Katie Holschbach
6 - Mike Mueller
8 – Jane Lohmeyer
9 –Abby Brixius
 Yvonne Holzer
10 - Alan Spearbraker
 Emilee Rysticken
11 – Sophia Allington
 Mike Weier
12 - Richard Dewey
 Bill Heinsohn
 Lynn Rysticken
13 –Tod Pauly
14 - Julia Joerger
 Richard Halsey
15 - Bergen Schmid

Teresa Fish
16 - Mandy Moolenaar
 Barb Herrmann
17 - Hannah Lewis
 Nan Jagemann
 Bob Randerson
18 - Jamie Tadych
 William Mueller
 Linda Erickson
20 - Jean Ammerman
23 – Ella Schroeder
24 - Chad Kakes
 Martha Rasmus
25 - Kyra Kornely
 Jennifer Laurin
26 - Lawren Schlosser
27 - Jackson Mueller
 Mary Bergene
28 – Hope Boudnik
 Lily Buchholz
29 - Mark Kimmes
 Nicole Kellner
 Diane Krish

Sandy Scheer
30 - Ryan Blashka
 Robin Bryant-Stoeger
31 - Bill Gruetzmacher

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Tom & Lynn Rysticken
9 - Jamie & Karen Tadych
 Pat & Bonnie Wichlacz
11 - Joe & Colleen Collins
13 – Scott & Jenny Schroeter
15 – Abby & Brianna Brixius
17 - Frank & Chris Bauknecht
17 - Jeff & Ruth Harding
17 - Joe and Jackie Hilke
18 - Ron & Lynne Krizek
 Mel & Mary Jean Erickson
21 - Ken & Robin Bergman
23 Nick & Rebekah Mueller
24 - Jon and Kelly Flickinger-
Ruhbusch
30 – Don & Ellen Lewellen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, AUGUST 5-8

After listening and learning, singing and dancing, exercising their artistic side, our kids attending VBS have to eat, right? The meal planning is underway and many items will be needed, **and** many helpers will make the daily task easier. We plan for about 100 or more because adults get to eat too!

A complete food list will be available as we near the VBS date but if you want to take advantage of sales, these items can be purchased any time:

- Ground beef, chuck, or round (80/20%), Ground turkey
- Chicken Drumsticks, skin on
- Ground Italian sausage, mild or sweet
- Sliced Cheddar, Provolone, Jack
- Shredded Cheddar or Cheddar/Jack combo
- Parmesan Cheese

Please label the food with your name and VBS, and if meat is purchased place in freezer.

Closer to the date we will need fruits, veggies and many other items.

Some items are best if I purchase them, so to save yourself a shopping trip monetary donations are very acceptable and needed. Please mark your check, or an envelope that it is for VBS Food.

Volunteers: Many volunteers are needed, mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Those comfortable in the kitchen can help with the food, others may want to set up or clean up the tables or help wash dishes. Help for any day(s) and time(s) will be welcomed. Please think about what time you can give to this valuable program and contact me at: anij.kleman@gmail.com

Each and every form of donation, whether it is your time, food or monetary is gratefully appreciated.

Annie Kleman

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Doug Charles was hospitalized earlier in the week of June 9.

Sarah Coenen is a patient at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay.

Nicole Kellner is a patient at Theda Clark in Neenah.

OUR SYMPATHY

On Friday, May 24, Ralph Pleier died, and his funeral was held on Wednesday, May 29th of this past week. Ralph was the father of the 'soon-to-be' priest in Two Rivers, Father David Pleier. Cards of sympathy may be sent to: 1121 N. 14th Street, Manitowoc.

Mildred Doleys, formerly of Mishicot, died on April 30. A memorial service will be offered on Thursday, June 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Klein and Stangel Funeral Home.

Eldon Riha died on Sunday, June 9. A funeral service was held here at Grace Congregational Church on Friday afternoon. We offer our sympathy to Eldon's daughters, Audrey (John) Sitkowitz and Linda Riha-Damrow, and their family.

FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL REGARD....

We have an individual who for medical reasons is confined to her home: Sarah Coenen 5922 Greenfield Lane, Two Rivers. A card or phone call would be greatly appreciated.

THE CHRISTIAN BAPTISMS OF ZOE SOPHIA and Jax Sandy COENEN

Zoe, & Jax daughters of Andy & Ali Coenen, were baptized June 23. Their grandparents include Sarah and Keith Coenen, and Wendy and David Russell. Chosen as godparents for Zoe were Amanda Rohan and Jared Litersky. Godparents for Jax are Amanda Rohan and Randy Russell.

INVITATION

St Peter's UCC – Kiel
invite you to our Picnic in the Park & the
Kiel Municipal Band Concert on
July 3rd in the Kiel City Park.

A BIRTH TO ANNOUNCE

Willow Lynne Joyce, daughter of Destiny Krizek and Brody Joyce, was born on May 10. Willow's grandparents are Kevin and Marla Krizek; and her great-grandparents are Ron and Lynn Krizek.

Maya Jean Poterachas, daughter of Andy and Cassandra (Heuer) Poterachas, was born on Thursday, May 30. Maya's grandmother is Marsha Heuer.

THANK YOU

FROM THE PETERSON FAMILY

A heartfelt thank you to our Church Family for all of your prayers, love and support during David's recent cancer diagnosis and surgery. There were so many "hidden blessings" during this time. Surgery was successful, the large tumor and his kidney were removed and no further treatment is necessary. We truly felt the miracle of the power of prayer.

God Bless You All.

David and Heather, Shane, Zak, Minda, Auden, Ashton, Averick, Larry and Kathy

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. **July 9th Ring of Fire- Shoto 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.



Hope House
of Manitowoc County

HOST WEEK

Hope House Thank you to all our volunteers who helped the **week of June 23-June 30th**. We continue to look for generous volunteers like you to help. Let me Thank You for your continued dedication to this project.



Diaconate Outing

What: Church picnic and afternoon at Bay Beach Amusement Park

When: Sunday, July 28th after church

Where: 1313 Bay Beach Rd, Green Bay

Join our Grace family and celebrate the glorious summer weather at **Bay Beach on Sunday, July 28th**. Families with kids; this is your chance to make use of surrogate grandparents to help you keep track of the little ones. Older folks, come and enjoy the day.

Admission and parking are free. Ride tickets are still only \$0.25 each with most rides requiring only one or two tickets per rider. With 23 rides to choose from, there is something for everyone from toddlers and families to active seniors and even thrill-seeking teens.

Leave right after church and bring a picnic ... or grab a burger, brat, or slice of pizza at the park for lunch. Breezes from the bay will keep you cool as you enjoy the rides and the shady park for the afternoon. Plan to get together with everyone at 3PM for ice cream in the main pavilion.

Wear something red to identify you as part of our church family while in the park. We will have a limited number of red bandanas available as well. Wear your picnic clothes to church that Sunday so you don't have to go home to change.

We will have a sign up sheet at the information desk two weeks in advance if you would like to carpool. Put down your name if you need a ride or can offer a ride to someone. Since many of us will be going to Bay Beach directly from church, getting a ride will be very easy.



RALLY DAY

@ NESHOTAH PARK

HORSESHOE PAVILION (22ND AND PIERCE ST)

- BRING YOUR OWN: CHAIRS,
DRINKS, & FAMILY/FRIENDS!
- FUN FOR ALL!
- DESSERT/PIE
AUCTION
- BOUNCE HOUSE
- BINGO

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

SUNDAY

September 8th

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UCC

SERVICE AT 10:30,

FOOD AND FUN TO FOLLOW!



**HOT SANDWICHES & HOT DOGS WILL BE
PROVIDED FOR EVERYONE, BUT PLEASE
BRING A SIDE DISH TO PASS!**