

Lay Coordinator ♥ February 2009

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Super Bowl, Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day- the calendar moves on, lets hope frigid temperatures and snow do too!



McFarland UCC will once again be serving up bowls of hot soup and tasty Swedish Rye Bread after worship on Sunday, Feb. 1st. The Youth, with the help of the Mission Committee, are preparing the soup and will help serve. The cost of this delicious meal will be \$6. All of the proceeds will go the **McFarland Food Pantry**

Speaking of **McFarland UCC**, on Sunday, February 15 during their service of worship they will have a renewal of vows for all of those couples within the church that want to participate. **Madison First Congregational** is collecting old Valentine cards for the inmates at Oakhill Prison who will use them to create cards of their own. The youth at **Orchard Ridge UCC** will selling home baked goodies right after their service on February 8, sweets you can buy for your sweetie!

The Sharing from our Hearts project at **Portage Trinity UCC** was a big success! They collected 334 pounds of food for the **Portage Food Pantry!**

The Board of Concerns at **Madison Plymouth UCC** says that two necks, 16 heads and 15 pairs of hands are warmer this winter thanks to donations to their mitten tree!

The Women's Fellowship at **Cornelia Mt Zion UCC** provided each of the families in their congregation (with children older than three) with a copy of The Family Story Bible.

Mark your calendar now, Women's Guild Chili Day is being held at **Monticello Washington Reformation UCC** on Saturday, February 7 11:00 to 3:00. In addition to a big bowl of chili, you can get homemade pie and if that isn't enough to attract you, they will have Limburger cheese sandwiches!

Couples from the congregation at **Madison First Congregational** will take part in their Fifth Annual Newlywed Game. Participants and audience members alike can win prizes and this fun time is followed by a lunch. Proceeds from the event will support their Senior High Youth Summer Mission Trip to Camp Courageous in Iowa, a year-round recreational and respite care facility for people of all ages with disabilities.

Pastor Lee Zortman of **Columbus Olivet UCC** graciously agreed to teach a unit on the liturgical year to our youth at the Confirmation Retreat this past fall. When he shared this with members of his church there were so many folks interested in learning more that the seasons of the church will be the theme of their winter term of adult study.

Platteville First Congregational is reading *Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish as their February book group selection. **Madison Orchard Ridge** is listening to *Repossessing Virtue*, a series of audio reflections exploring the moral, spiritual and practical aspects of the economic downturn. It is produced by NPR's Speaking of Faith radio program.

Madison Lake Edge UCC is offering a vesper service every Wednesday evening, 6:00 to 6:30 that is open to all. Just the ticket to help some of us through a cold, long winter.

Madison Community of Hope has a special group of members who make up The Anchors. Anchors are available to listen, pray and provide support for members and friends of the church. Their names and phone numbers are published in the newsletter and members can contact them if ever they feel the need to.

In recent newsletters **Fort Atkinson First Congregational** have been featuring a column, My Confirmand. Confirmand mentors have written an article introducing their confirmand to the congregation so folks can get to know them better.

Was one of your New Year's Resolutions to "Go Green"? Styrofoam can be dropped off at the Madison Home Concept store (on the Beltline) where they will recycle it!

Folks at **Madison First Congregational** will be serving an after-worship dinner to 40 students February 8 at the Crossing (formerly Madison Campus Ministry).

Congratulations to **Sauk City First UCC** who will be celebrating 150 years of ministry this year!



I leave you with a chuckle from the **Monticello Zwingli UCC** newsletter. A young pastor tried to comfort a widow as they stood looking at her husband's body in the casket. "I know this is very hard for you," he said. "But we Christians have hope. The body is only a husk. It is only the shell. It is what we see. But the nut that was in the shell has already gone to heaven!"

Keep warm, Go and Serve.

Nancy