

Lay Coordinator ♦ October 2009

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Fall is here, my favorite time of year! Pumpkins, corn shocks, harvest, fall colors, bittersweet and wood smoke- these are the things that help us remember what a beautiful, bountiful world we live in. We start the month out with World Communion Sunday October 4, a good day to remember our blessings and the earth we share with all.



It must be fall, the knitting group has resumed meeting at **Madison Orchard Ridge!** Their first fall meeting will be Oct 5 at 1:30 in the church lounge.

Lake Mills First Congregational UCC will hold their 3rd Annual Harvest BBQ in Lake Mills Commons Park on Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Only \$6.00 a plate includes a tasty pork BBQ sandwich, baked beans, chips, pickle, and beverage. Free for children aged 5 and under and there is a homemade bake sale table too! This event will help fund the church's Mission Trip to Ecuador in April 2010.

Monticello Washington Reformation UCC will sponsor a team in the Green County Expedition Scavenger Hunt 09, a fundraiser for Green Haven.

Baraboo First Congregational has been celebrating the fall bounty with a Farmers' Market table, everyone is encouraged to *"take what they need and donate what they can"*. The proceeds go to the Baraboo Food Pantry.

They are kicking off a new program at **Middleton Community UCC** with a potluck on October 11. Dinners for 8, where members host a group of 8 in their home, is being offered to build fellowship and community among the friends and members of MCC.

Platteville Congregational UCC is planning ahead! Their Annual Holiday Bazaar will be Nov. 7 and they are meeting Oct 1 to start making their famous fruitcakes! **Monroe St John's** is even more proactive on the holidays; they will hold their Alternative Holiday Fair on October 17 in conjunction with their Autumn Fest. Visitors will have the chance to make donations in someone's honor to different Church World Service projects. They must know what they are doing; their Ice Cream Social raised \$1000 for both Habitat for Humanity and the St John's Building Fund!

Do all the middle schoolers in your church know about the Knock Knock Retreat coming up November 20-22 at Pilgrim Center? This retreat is sponsored by the Conference and is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Get more information on the Conference web site. Everyone I know who has attended this retreat has loved it!

The men of **Madison Community of Hope** gather at the Original Pancake House on University Avenue at 6:30 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month to discuss pancakes, puns, proverbs and politics!

"You never know what you are going to get at a potluck except good food, good friends and good conversation!" Potluck people at **Madison First Congregational** (that is anyone in the mid years of their life journey) meet the second Sunday of every month after the late service to share a meal and conversation.

The Lay Life and Leadership Division of our Association recently gathered after a summertime hiatus. This Division has the mandate to nurture the lay leaders in our churches. After a stimulating discussion about what was happening in their own churches, they decided they should learn what others are excited and challenged by before they plan any activities for lay leaders in our **Association**. **Please share the following questions with your laity and ask them to email me their responses to nancylpotter@gmail.com.**

- 1. What are we excited about as lay leaders as the fall season begins?*
- 2. What are we challenged by as lay leaders as the fall season begins?*

Throughout the summer and into the fall you can find me every Saturday at my booth at the Madison Westside Community Farmers' Market selling Potter's Crackers. Once I get over the part about getting up at dawn on a Saturday, I LOVE market day. I see the little kids munching on green beans and dancing to the live music, I see the seasons unfold as the produce selection changes, so many happy faces and beautiful displays. It is such a good day and then it has a perfect ending - along come the smiling church folk collecting the unsold produce to deliver it to our local food pantries! Come visit me sometime and see for yourself, they say your are close to God in a garden, farmers' market is not far behind!



I leave you with this humorous bit from the newsletter of Monticello Zwingli. When the church custodian quit, the pastor asked the organist if she would be able to clean the church sanctuary. The organist replied, "Do you mean that now I have to mind my keys and my pews!"

Go and serve.
Nancy