

Lay Coordinator ♦ October 2010

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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 and Neighbors in Need Sunday both being celebrated October 3, a good day to remember our blessings and the earth we share with all.



Janesville First Congregational knows how to celebrate fall! They will be having a Fall Intergenerational Family Fun Event on Sunday, October 16th with pumpkin carving, corn maze, and chili cook-off!

There will be a Harvest Dinner and Auction at **Mineral Point Congregational** on October 20. They will be auctioning off homemade jams, jellies and breads among other things.

Madison Community of Hope will hold a Congregational Retreat at Pilgrim Center October 15-17. On Friday night they will explore the “big rocks” of their faith and on Saturday they will build on the “stepping stones” of their spiritual journey. Bryan Sergio will provide music and there will be activities for all ages. The retreat is being designed to help grown-ups and kids deepen their faith, build community and have fun!

October 16th is the big Swing N’Swine, barn dance and pork auction to top off the Food Resource Bank project that **Paoli Zwingli UCC, Madison First Congregational and Monticello Washington Reformation UCC** have been involved in all summer. This fantastic project not only brought urban, rural and big and small congregations together but all the proceeds go to sustainable agricultural projects in Cambodia. If you are interested in attending the big Swing N’Swine, (Which sounds like a really good time!) more details are available from any of the three churches.

The Mission Committee of **New Glarus Swiss UCC** has a new youth project. They have formed the PB & J Singers (Peace, Bread and Justice). The new youth choir will learn and perform fun songs about hopes for peace and justice for all of God’s people.

Speaking of **New Glarus Swiss UCC**, a major milestone happens for them on October 6. That is when they will vote to disband the Swiss Church Ladies Aid that has served this church and this community for over a hundred years. I was deeply moved when I read this- I remember well the many things the Ladies Aid has done over the years. Times change along with demographics and culture-this is an end but as I read the Swiss UCC newsletter and see all the wonderful things they are doing, I have to remind myself, this is a beginning too.

Reeceville First UCC has started a Bible Buddies program. Each child receiving their Bible for the first time will have their own Bible Buddy and every month the church newsletter will give an overview of what the children are learning about their Bibles so their Bible Buddy can encourage them.

Columbus Olivet will hold their Fall Festival Swiss Steak Dinner on Friday, October 22nd.

Lowell First UCC held a school supplies drive this fall and they filled a big box for the local grade school. This was a project that came out of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations classes that the church went through along with their sister church, **Juneau St Stephens**. On another note- mark your calendars now; the big **Lowell First UCC** Family Style Chicken Dinner is November 14th.

And, if you are marking your calendar ahead, the **Belleville First UCC** Annual Church Dinner with turkey, ham and roast beef is Saturday, November 13th.

Brodhead Congregational UCC will be holding their Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale along with Soup and Sandwich Lunch on October 8, 9:30 to 6:00. There will be plenty of homemade baked goods along with jams, jellies and honey for sale and homemade soup and sandwiches you can purchase for lunch- sounds like you can't go wrong!

The Association meetings are usually held in **Madison Plymouth UCC** so I have watched the progress of raised bed gardens behind the church all summer. Since it is a dense residential area I assumed that they belonged to one of the neighbors but I just learned they were built, planted and cared for by the folks of Plymouth. These beautiful beds have offered up over 200 pounds of produce this summer that the church has been able to donate to the Goodman Community Center!

Cornelia Mt Zion UCC will hold their Turkey Ham Supper on Sunday, October 3.

Halloween falls on a Sunday this year! **Platteville First Congregational** will have trick or treaters wear their costumes to church and will have a creepy potluck following the service with gummy worms, dirt cake and other creepy goodies! Of course, they will trick treat for Unicef too!



I have been reading all these newsletters for a number of years now and I didn't think anything surprised me but when I saw **Middleton Community UCC** celebrated Undie Sunday last month I did a double take! They had all their members bring underwear, pajamas or socks to donate to the Middleton Outreach Ministry.

Speaking of reading church newsletters, I will be writing only two more Shalom columns since I will be leaving my position as Lay Coordinator at the end of the year. Will miss my monthly "visit" to all of our churches but I leave knowing the good work of all our congregations will continue. And in the new year I will have more time to visit all those church suppers and bake sales I have only been reading about- I get hungry just thinking about it!

Go and serve.
Nancy