



Middleton Community UCC

The Communicator

February 2012

As I write this, I am still feeling good feelings from our Annual Meeting on January 22. We again celebrated the very positive results of last year's capital campaign which generated nearly \$1.5M in pledges. We heard the good news from our Board of Finance about a very favorable offer to refinance our church mortgage, resulting in substantial savings over the next five years. And we saw the impact that those savings had on our budget, allowing us to increase line items we were forced to cut in prior years. We even had a modest surplus we were able to set aside in a rainy day fund! While we still need to be prudent regarding our finances, we no longer need to be preoccupied by them, as had been the case over the last several years.

So, with that concern largely behind us, we can begin to ask "what's next?" Where can we apply our attention and energy in the future? How is God calling us? What future does God have in store for us? And what steps do we need to take to get to that future?

Over the last few months, I have been sharing with you plans for a visioning and planning process that will help us answer those questions. As part of that process, we are participating in the Church Renewal Program of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Using the book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" and related materials, we'll be holding a series of sessions during which we will address each of those practices (radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity), learn what they are, see how our current practices compare to the ideal, and share ideas of how we can move forward. Your responses will form the basis for a church strategic plan that will come together in the coming months.

The subjects and dates of the sessions are as follows:

- Hospitality Monday, January 30
- Worship Monday, February 27
- Faith Development Tuesday, March 20
- Mission & Service Tuesday, April 24
- Generosity Tuesday, May 8
- Next Steps Tuesday, May 22

The agenda for each meeting will be as follows:

- Welcome, introductions, and prayer
- Bible study and reflection
- Understanding better what the practice means
- Determining where we stand now
- Discussing possible future steps
- Closing prayer and reminder of upcoming sessions



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Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Nursery care available

Refreshments
and fellowship
after worship**Very Cool
Sunday School**(ages 3 years-5th grade)
9:45 am**Office Hours**Office hours are 8:00
am to noon, Monday
through Thursday. The
church office is closed
on Friday.**Be Our Friend!**

MCC now has a Facebook page! If you're a Facebook user, add our site to your list of friends. Search for "Middleton Community United Church of Christ."

**Visit our website:**www.middletonucc.orgWe welcome
your comments,
thoughts, and
suggestions!**Worship in February****February 5****5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Psalm 147:1-11; Mark 1:29-39

"What We Came Here to Do"

Jesus' ministry has only just begun, and already the crowds were making demands of him. Still, he seeks to remain true to his purpose. What is it? And how does that impact our ministry and mission?

February 12**6th Sunday After Epiphany**

Psalm 30; Mark 1:40-45

"For You Have Drawn Me Up"

In the ancient world, leprosy was more than just a disease. It made the sufferer an outcast, unfit for human society. Who are the lepers of our day and age? What difference can the church (and Christian disciples) make?

February 19**Last Sunday After Epiphany**

Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

"Transfigured"

Jesus climbs a mountain with some of his disciples. There at the summit, his true identity is revealed: the Son of God!

February 26**First Sunday in Lent**

Ephesians 2:11-12; Luke 7:36-50

"I Was a Stranger"

What does hospitality mean? Is it just being friendly, or does it go deeper? During Lent, we will explore each of the themes that are part of the Church Renewal Program, beginning with radical hospitality on this Sunday (see pastor's column for more detail).

Ash Wednesday Worship—February 22

Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. We begin our Lenten observance with a worship service, beginning at 6:00 pm.

This service will include prayers of confession, the receiving of ashes as the sign of our re-



pentance, and hearing words of comfort and the assurance of pardon. The service will also include a short message, songs of faith, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Make this worship service a part of your Lenten observance!



Worship

Inquirers' Class Begins February 12

Interested in joining Middleton Community Church? Or do you want to know more about MCC? Then come to the inquirer's classes that begin on Sunday, February 13. The schedule is as follows:

February 12

"Getting to Know You"

We introduce ourselves to one another and get introduced to Middleton Community Church.

February 19

"Sharing the Faith"

We get to know one another better by telling stories about ourselves. We also will talk about the basics of the Christian faith and the heritage and identity of the United Church of Christ and Middleton Community Church.

February 26

"Life and Ministry at MCC"

Learn more about the ministries and programs that MCC has to offer and ways in which you can participate in them!

All class sessions will be held in the sanctuary, shortly after the conclusion of morning worship. New members will be received into the church in March. Childcare will be provided if requested.

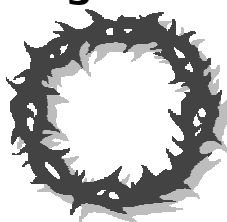
Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to participate, or if you have any questions, contact Pastor Jim (831-4694 or jiliff@tds.net).



Wednesday Night Worship in Lent

Join us for a time of fellowship and reflection on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning February 29.

The evening begins at 5:30 pm, with a soup supper served in Fellowship Hall. At 6:00 pm, we move to the sanctuary



for a time of worship and reflection based on the Psalms. Worship will conclude by 6:45. Childcare will be available following supper. Make Wednesday night a part of your Lenten observance.



Coffee Hour Hosting

Your help is needed to provide an important part of our church's ministry of fellowship: coffee hour!

Light snacks and refreshments create a welcoming environment for members and guests.

Thanks to all who have already volunteered for this ministry. Won't you consider taking part as well? Check the sign-up sheet on the coffee hour table for available dates.

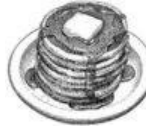
Daily Bible Reading Guide For February

1.....	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
2.....	1 Corinthians 14:1-25
3.....	1 John 2:1-17
4.....	1 John 3:1-18
5.....	1 John 4:7-21
6.....	John 3:1-21
7.....	John 3:22-36
8.....	John 4:1-42
9.....	John 4:43-54
10.....	John 5:1-18
11.....	John 5:19-47
12.....	John 6:1-24
13.....	John 6:25-71
14.....	John 7:1-24
15.....	John 7:25-52
16.....	John 8:1-30
17.....	John 8:31-59
18.....	John 9:1-41
19.....	John 10:1-21
20.....	John 10:22-42
21.....	Psalm 23
22.....	Psalm 51
23.....	John 13:1-20
24.....	John 13:21-35
25.....	John 14:1-31
26.....	John 15:1-17
27.....	John 15:18-16:15
28.....	John 16:16-33
29.....	Mark 12:28-44

For these daily readings sent right to your email box, go to www.americanbible.org, click on "Bible Resources," then "Daily Bible Reading." Daily devotionals are also available at www.ucc.org.

Mardi Gras Pancake Extravaganza!

It's become a tradition—the annual Mardi Gras Pancake Extravaganza from **5:30-7:00pm** on **Tuesday, February 21**.



Mardi Gras (also known as Shrove Tuesday) is the day before Ash Wednesday and has been a time of celebration and fellowship before the more somber season of Lent.

Come for the food, and stay for the entertainment! After dinner,

there'll be a chance to "let your light shine." We're looking for people with talent—if you have a good joke to tell, a song to sing, an instrument to play, or have any other "talent", this is your shot at stardom! Volunteers to help with food preparation and clean up are also needed. Please see sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Happy Anniversary!

Steve and Barbara
Weber

John and Sheila
Manderino

Did we miss yours?
Call the church office
and let us know.

Men's Group Meets February 11

What is your deepest fear? Are there particular fears that beset the Christian male? While men traditionally keep such things safely locked up inside, at Men's Group we will break with convention and confess our dreads, phobias, and terrors openly. Whether it be spiders, loneliness, global pandemics, or the flames of hell, come make light (as only men can) of your buddies' serious attempts

at meaningful communication. Come prepared for another of our famous, unfettered, free-ranging discussions.

MCC Men's Group meets on the third Saturday of every month, September through May, for conversation, fellowship, food, and prayer. All are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jim in the church office (831-4694).

Coffee & Conversation—Sins of Scripture

Coffee & Conversation is currently reading John Shelby Spong's "**Sins of Scripture**." Spong provides a provocative discussion of how certain texts within the bible have been used—and MISUSED—throughout history.

C&C meets from 8:00-9:00am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings of each month at TNT Coffee &

Café, Old Sauk & High Point Rds., Madison. **All are welcome!** Join us for a cup of coffee, pastry treat, breakfast sandwich, or a FABULOUS WAFFLE. A reading schedule is available in Fellowship Hall.

For more information, contact Laura Crow at crows@chorus.net or 831-4694.

Tuesday Night Fellowship Reads “Love Wins”

Tuesday Night Fellowship continues its discussion of Rob Bell’s important but controversial book Love Wins. In it, he addresses the question of salvation: who will be saved? Have some been destined for salvation and others for damnation? How can God be both just and merciful? What does

our belief regarding salvation tell us about our beliefs about God? The study will conclude February 14.

Each session begins at 6:00 pm with a soup supper. The discussion will begin around 6:30 and will conclude by 8. All are welcome to attend!

Tuesday Study Group

The Tuesday Study Group continues discussing the book, “The Worst Hard Time” by author Timothy Egan. In a few weeks we will finish this book, so bring your suggestions for the next book for the group to discuss.

In case of inclement



weather, please call the church office (831-4694) after 8:30a.m. for that Tuesday.

Everyone is welcome and we meet from 9:30a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the church. Questions? Please call Rose Ann Sprang (831-6486) or Carrie Doersch (238-2386).

Souper Bowl of Caring

It’s time for a new challenge! It’s time for us Packer fans to surpass a goal set by a mere Bears fan!

Last January, Laura Crow (the Bears fan) issued her “Extreme Make-over Challenge” to MCC to raise money and food for Middleton Outreach Ministry for the Souper Bowl of Caring. She offered to wear a Packer jersey if we hit certain goals—250 points (dollars and/or pounds), wear it for one quarter; 500, wear it for two quarters, etc.). She even agreed to have a “G” shaved in the back of her head if we scored 1,000 points and to do it again for the first Packers-Bears game if we hit 1,500.

Well, we far surpassed those goals! We collected \$2,645.44 and 365 pounds of food for a whopping **3,010 points!** Congratulations!

This year, it’s Pastor Jim’s turn! **He’s challenging you to surpass Laura’s total in dollars and pounds again this year.** All food collected from January 15-February 5 and all money contributed through Super Bowl Sunday will be counted toward that goal.

If we don’t exceed that goal, Pastor Jim will have to wear a Bears jersey in church on Super Bowl Sunday.

Spare him the humiliation by being generous in your contributions. But even more, show you care for those in need in our community. Let’s prove that nobody beats us in compassion and generosity. Let’s meet (and beat) a super Souper Bowl challenge on February 5!

Happy Birthday!

Zachary Acker
 Nicholas Cupery
 Linda Fehling
 Sam Gessler
 Lori Hilgers
 Stephanie Iliff
 Marie Jackson
 Ralph Jackson
 Tim Marshall
 Lars-Oluf Nielsen
 David O’Neal
 Leah Patullo
 Kristi Peiss
 Tom Richner
 Elaine Schultz
 Haley Schwenn
 Danielle See
 Ted See
 Matthew Sund
 Aubrey Tank
 Esther Tinglum
 Jacob Ubersox
 Thatcher Wallace
 Dick Wilson

Did we miss yours?
 Call the church office
 and let us know.

Dates to Remember:

- **February 4**—Board & Committee Training
- **February 5**—Souper Bowl of Caring
- **February 21**—Mardi Gras Celebration & Pancake Supper
- **February 22**—Ash Wednesday
- **March 3**—God LOVES Science!
- **March 18**—Children SING in worship
- **March 28-30**—Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack—Dodgeville
- **April 13-14**—Middle School Lock-In
- **April 22**—Amazing GRACE
- **April 29**—Confirmation Sunday
- **May 3**—Middleton Outreach Ministry's Construction
- **May 6**—Youth Sunday
- **June 18-22**—Summer Servants
- **August 6-9**—Vacation Bible School: Arctic Adventure

Very Cool Sunday School

Very Cool Sunday School continue our theme of Leaders & Followers by looking more closely at Jesus' life and the lives of some of his followers, both then and now! Friends and visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

DVD copies of the Christmas pageant are still available. A \$5 donation per copy is requested.

And mark your calendars NOW for these summer programs...

- SUMMER SERVANTS (ages 10-14) will be June 18-22.
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (ages 3–finishing 3rd grade) will be August 6-9.

Look for information & registration materials coming soon!



God LOVES Science!

"God Loves Science" is an ultra-cool science fair for kids of all ages! This event was co-hosted for the first time in 2010 by First Congregational UCC in Madison and Middleton Community Church. We are planning to co-host this again on Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 1-3 pm.

We are currently seeking teachers, scientists, engineers, medical professionals, etc. willing to put

together and staff a display. Past exhibits included a wide variety scientific disciplines and a variety of hands-on exhibits.

This event aims to show how people of faith can also be people of science. It is a chance for those inside and outside the church to meet, learn, and ask questions! If you want more information, please contact Laura Crow. THANK YOU!

Faith Five for February

"Faith Five" is a method for personal or family devotions that focuses on relationship—nurturing our relationships with one another and with God. It is a great tool for growing together in faith and exploring the connections between Faith and Life!

Gather everyone together at bedtime (or any time that works for you!) and simply follow these five steps:

1. **SHARE** the highs & lows of your day or week.
2. **READ** together the appointed bible passage.
3. **TALK** about how the verse relates to your own experience

4. **PRAY** for one another and the highs and lows that were shared.
5. **BLESS** one another by reminding ourselves that we are all beloved children of God.

Start today by using these passages for personal or family reflection...

- Jan 29-Feb 4: Luke 4:1-2

- Feb 5-11: Isaiah 49:10

- Feb 12-18: Luke 8: 1-3

- Feb 19-25: 1 Corinthians 13:8

- Feb 26-Mar 3: Luke 10: 36-37

Learn more at: www.faithink.com.

February Youth Group Activities

The last two months, our youth groups have been busy helping others. This month, we take a little break and endeavor simply to hang out and have some FUN!

Friends and classmates are always welcome, so extend an invitation and join the party!

- **HS Youth Group on February 12 @ 6:00pm** Movie & Munchies! This pretty well describes what is on tap for our next HS Youth gathering. And don't forget the smelly fish (a.k.a. "sardines")!
- **MS Youth Group on February 19 @ 6:00pm** All 6th-8th grade students are invited for game night! Bring your favorite board games, handheld electronics or Wii games to play with friends!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack Event at Hidden Valley Community Church, Dodgeville. March 28-30, 2012. Volunteer registration is now open, but Laura will be gone this week! So, if you are interested in leading this wonderful event, please let Laura know asap. This is a GREAT activity to bring a friend!

Amazing GRACE 2012—Run much like the popular, Emmy-winning TV show, teams of church youth follow clues to make their way around the greater Madison area. This is hosted by First Congregational UCC and will take place on Sunday, April 22. I am hoping we can enter both a high school AND a middle school team!

Questions? Ideas? Contact Laura Crow to learn about what's happening with our youth programs.

CANSTRUCTION 2012

What can we do with all the food and \$\$ that we are collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring?? Besides keeping Jim from having to wear a BEARS jersey, we can BUILD SOMETHING!!

Yes, Middleton Community Church is forming a TEAM to compete in Middleton Outreach Ministry's CANSTRUCTION 2012. We are looking for a co-captain and an engineering advisor to work with Laura Crow and

help with the building planning and logistics. We are also looking for creative ideas and designs of WHAT to build!

Along the way, we will be seeking donations of items and volunteers to help test-build our awesome structure. The CANSTRUCTION event is Thursday, May 3 at KEVA Sports Center.

Contact Laura at 831-4694, 616-2325 or crows@chorus.net for info.



Don't forget...
the 1st Sunday
of the month is

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY!

Please bring:
Hearty Soups

(chili, beef stew)

or check out Middleton
Outreach Ministry's "**Top
Ten List**" at

www.mompop.org

Questions? Contact the
church office (831-4694).

Next IHN Hosting Week:

Feb. 5 – Feb. 12

Our next hosting week for Interfaith Hospitality Network is approaching! There are lot of ways to get involved—preparing and serving meals, playing games or reading books with the children, helping with set-up, tear-down, and laundry. Please check the sign-up board and join us in this important and fulfilling ministry!

Remember that homelessness never takes a vacation. Please help Middleton Community Church extend its concern and compassion to families in need.

Camp Balsams Sign-Up Begins February 19

Don't forget Camp Balsams when planning your summer! The initial lottery sign-up is on Sunday, February 19, after worship, when members of the church can sign up for one cabin for one week.

If you're not familiar with Camp Balsams, it's our retreat in the north woods, 5 miles east of Eagle River, Wisconsin. The camp is on Bass Lake, just east of the Chain of Lakes and just west of the Nicolet National Forest. The four cabins have from one to four bedrooms and range in price from \$150 to \$350 per week (Saturday noon to Saturday noon). It's a wonderful place for an affordable family vacation while sharing fellowship with other members of your church community. Weekly rates for 2012 are \$150 for cabin 2, \$300 for cabin 3, \$275 for cabin 4, and \$350 for cabin 5.

Please note that sign up is in person and a \$50 non-refundable deposit is required.



The schedule for sign-up is as follows:

Sunday, February 19 Camp Balsams Lottery Sign-up

Members of the church may sign up for one cabin for one week.

Monday, March 5

Members of the church may sign up for one cabin for one additional week.

Monday, March 19

Members of the church may sign up for any cabin for additional weeks.

Monday, April 30

Members of the church may sign up for individual days for any cabin.

Contact Bill Richner or the church office if you have any questions.

Looking for a Change?

Middleton Community Church has added four new diaper changing tables! Special thanks go to Ron Dorsch and his family for providing a memorial donation to purchase the tables and to Stan Scheel & Steve Weber for completing the installation.

The new changing tables are located in the handicapped stalls of both men's and women's bathrooms near the sanctuary, as well as the

men's and women's bathrooms by the church office. A fifth diaper changing location, complete with supplies, is available in the bathroom between the nursery and pre-school classroom.

On behalf of all who take care of the young ones in our congregation, we greatly appreciate this added convenience.

We Are God's Witnesses Today!

February invites us to look at RADICAL HOSPITALITY, the first of the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." The "God's Witnesses" board will feature some information, stories, and reflections on this topic. There is even a NEW completely unscientific poll question for you to answer!

In your prayer time this month, consider these questions... How did you become connected to the Body of Christ? Who invited you or

brought you to church? What made you feel welcome? What difficulties/apprehensions did you have to overcome?

Be sure to check out the "Witnesses" bulletin board in Fellowship hall today! To share a picture, a story, or to make a suggestion, please contact Laura Crow (831-4694 or crows@chorus.net) or Barb Snell (835-5209 or b.snellzer@yahoo.com).

Sound Operators

Have you ever wondered about our sound system? Are you just dying to try experimenting with all those tiny knobs? Or maybe you just want to practice with a microphone, before doing a solo or reading scripture? Or you think you might be willing to vol-

unteer at the sound board, adjusting volume levels during the service? Well, the friendly sound team is happy to talk to you, and show off the equipment. Just contact Bill Love (831-2776) or Andy Phelps (833-0562) or any of the sound operators.

The Crossing Gala Dinner

You are invited to come to an inspirational and fellowship-filled evening at the **SPRING GALA to support THE CROSSING** – a vibrant campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, committed to service, peace, social justice, the celebration of diversity, and environmental consciousness.

The Monona Terrace will be buzzing with stories and testimonies from university students who have participated in Quest Trips to Kenya, Costa Rica, Cambodia, the Badlands, and the Everglades. Students will share their life-changing experiences and remind us all that hope is alive and well in the universe. All proceeds from the Gala will be used to support this vital ministry.

THE FACTS:

- CROSSING SPRING GALA DINNER
- APRIL 13, 2011
- Social Hour, 5-6 pm
- Dinner and Program, 6-9 PM
- Location: Monona Terrace, overlooking Lake Monona
- TICKETS are \$55/person (or "sponsor a student")
- Chicken and Vegetarian entrees available
- Dinner Music by Tisha Brown & David Allen Jazz Duo

For reservations or more information, contact Jody (257-1039, ext 2, or jody@crossingministries.org) or go to www.crossingministries.org.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT Saturday, February 4

9:00 am to noon

New and continuing members of MCC's boards and Church Council are invited to a morning of worship, hearing about major initiatives for 2012, and organizing our boards for the new year. An invitation with more details of the morning's events will follow shortly.

Stay Connected With MOM

Join the e-mail list for MOM's monthly eConnections newsletter! Find out about their monthly needs as well as other fun ways to get involved in serving the community. Go to www.mompop.org and look for the "Join MOM's eConnections!" box. You can also send MOM an email at econnections@mompop.org. Join now!



2012 Offering Envelopes

are available on the tables outside the sanctuary.

Please pick yours up or contact the office to have them mailed to you.

Cancellation Policy

Winter weather can be unpredictable. A sudden snowstorm can force a last-minute change of plans. This is true at the church as well. Last winter, we were forced to cancel Sunday School and worship because of a blizzard. It may be necessary this winter as well!

When such events occur, the following policy determines who makes the decision to cancel and how that decision is communicated:

1. The Moderator, Moderator Elect, and Pastor will consult with one another if it appears necessary to cancel worship or other activities and are empowered to make the decision if, in their judgment, the situation warrants cancellation.
2. Following the decision to cancel Sunday morning events, the following people will be contacted:
 - a. Faith Formation Director
 - b. Music Director
 - c. Children's Choir Director
 - d. Accompanist
 - e. Custodian
 - f. Person/group in charge of coffee hour
 - g. Hospitality Team
 - h. Confirmation teachers
 - i. Chairs of church boards
 - j. Any others with Sunday morning responsibilities
3. Each of these persons will contact others, as appropriate (Music Director—Choir; Faith Formation Director—VCSS teachers, Confirmation teachers—Confirmation class, etc.)
4. For all other cancelled events, the appropriate person(s) or group will be consulted and/or contacted.
5. Notices of cancellation will be posted in the following places:
 - a. the church telephone voice-mail system (831-4694)
 - b. the church website (www.middletonucc.org)
 - c. WISC-TV (www.channel3000.com)
 - d. WMTV-TV (www.nbc15.com)
 - e. WIBA-AM (www.wiba.com)
6. Emails to MCC members and friends for whom we have email addresses, if possible.
7. Members and friends may call Pastor Jim Iloff (215-8924) to check on the status of worship services and other events.

Keep this policy in mind before venturing out for a church event during bad weather.

MCC Parent & Child Play Group

Middleton Community Church hosts a weekly gathering of parents and children ages 0-5 years at the church for socializing and play on Wednesdays from 9:30am - 11:00am. This 90-minute weekly event offers parents a chance to socialize and commiserate and children a chance

to make new friends and play. The group is free and open to the public, so please spread the word to your friends and family with young children both within and outside the church. If you have questions, contact Tricia Reed at 608-577-8096 or trit1@gmail.com.

The Road Home Bulletin

Case managers and families of The Road Home are always working on long-term goals to help families move forward. Volunteers are often part of this team. "Cassie" has been in stable housing for over two years and recently completed her GED after several months of studying and preparing. This was a huge accomplishment for Cassie, who had been homeless for over 6 months and experienced several traumatic events.

A volunteer was there to help tutor and support Cassie the entire way. The Road Home staff sent Cassie a card congratulating her on reaching her goal, and when her case manager visited Cassie's home the following week, the card was hung proudly on her wall. Cassie can now hold her head higher, be a good example for her kids to never give up, and model how important education is to them. She



had employment during her time in the Second Chance Apartment Project, but now the range of opportunities for employment has greatly increased. Cassie takes pride in her accomplishment, and she is also thankful for the staff and volunteers who helped make this goal a reality.

The Road Home has a way for everybody to get involved if they choose.

Perhaps you like to cook and could bring a dish for families in shelter? Or maybe you'd like to tutor a child or adult? If you want to share whatever special talent you have with homeless or formerly homeless families, The Road Home would love to connect with you. Come learn more about how you can help by attending a Homes for Families Tour. Dates and times can be found on our website at www.trhome.org.

Warm Thanks!

Thank you! Thank you for the generous donation of winter outer wear! With the dip into colder weather, the timing is perfect and very much appreciated! A huge delivery was made to Kromrey Middle School. As School Social Worker, I work in three schools—Kromrey, Elm Lawn, and Northside Elementary. I will have my "elves" sort the outer wear and distribute to each of the three schools.

Thanks again for the heart (hands and head!) warming gifts!

Cindee Schultz
School Social Worker

(Continued from page 1)

Each session will begin promptly at 6 pm and will conclude no later than 8:30. Light refreshments will be served. Copies of the book and study materials will be provided. Childcare will also be provided, if requested in advance.

For this process to produce a plan that we can all get behind, we need our whole congregation to be involved. People involved in each of the above five areas, whether through board involvement or ministry participation, will be specifically invited to attend. But we do not want to leave anyone out! If you would like to take part in one or more sessions, you are more than welcome to do so. There will be some study materials available prior to each session that you can make us of. Or you can also just show up and join in the discussion. I look forward to your participation.

As we move through this process, we will be sharing with you the results of these sessions and encouraging your response. Your insights, ideas, and suggestions will be key to making sure we produce a plan we can all get behind.

In future columns and in special mailings, I will keep you up-to-date on this work and let you know of our future plans. Together, we can "see visions and dream dreams" for our congregation and the ministry that God has entrusted to us.

See you in church!

Thank You for Your Support!

Dear MCC,

Thank you so much for your incredibly generous donation to assist in my medical volunteer trip to Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

My experiences and memories will truly last a lifetime and I sincerely appreciate your contribution.

Kind Regards,
Leah Patullo


MIDDLETON COMMUNITY
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 645 Schewe Road
 Middleton WI 53562

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 Address Service Requested

Middleton Community Church Vision Statement

As a faithful church, we will provide opportunities for growth in our witness to the grace and love of God through worship, fellowship, education, and outreach.

<p style="text-align: center;">Middleton Community UCC 645 Schewe Road, Middleton, WI 53562 <i>(2 miles west of the Beltline, at the corner of Old Sauk and Schewe Roads)</i> 9:30 am Worship Service & Very Cool Sunday School <i>Nursery Care Available</i> <i>Handicapped-Accessible</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Staff</p> <p>PastorJames Iliff Director of Music Bob Mirshak Faith FormationLaura Crow Children’s Choir DirectorMindy Nelson-Bergman Keyboards Barbara Brown SecretaryEsther Edgar Custodian..... Irvin Dennis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How to Reach Jim Iliff</p> <p>Church office: 831-4694 Cell Phone: 215-8924 Email: jiliff@tds.net</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m. to noon (Closed Fridays)</p> </div> </div>