

February, 2024

Zwingli
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Chimes



416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello, Wisconsin 53570

Inviting ALL to follow Jesus in faith & action

SEARCH ME,
O GOD,
AND KNOW
MY HEART.

PSALM 139:23, NRSV

Zwingli

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

416 E. Lake Ave.
Monticello, Wisconsin
608-938-4369

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February
Chimes





CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Ted Drewsen
Interim Minister
Until February 4th

Cindi Ritter
Coordinator of Caring Ministries
care4zwingli@gmail.com

Roann Austin
Church Secretary
zwinglira@gmail.com

Denise Pinnow
Financial Secretary
Chime Choir Director
wakkywoman@yahoo.com

Nancy Karlen
Church Treasurer

John Gierhart
Property Maintenance



Interested In **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

If you are interested in joining Zwingli UCC, please contact the Church Office. All are welcome to become part of this faith community.



Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–12 p.m.
Closed Holidays
These are scheduled open office hours.
Other hours are available by calling
608-938-4369.

Important Online Offerings For You



<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@ZwingliUnitedChurchofChristMon/](https://www.youtube.com/@ZwingliUnitedChurchofChristMon/)

This is our **YouTube Channel**. Most of the videos we have recorded are found here! If you subscribe to this channel, you will get email notifications of newly posted videos. Many smart TVs are able to stream this channel as well.



www.zwingliucc.com – This **Website** has all you need to know about Zwingli United Church of Christ, programs offered, current newsletter and videos, and devotionals as well as information on all things Zwingli!



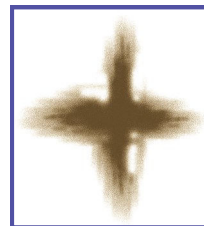
Zwingli United Church of Christ (Monticello) – Type this in your **Facebook** search bar and enter the world of Zwingli UCC. Our timeline has had all manner of things and ideas that are Zwingli related posts!

Zwingli UCC Stream – Type this in your **Facebook** search bar to watch the Livestream @ 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



Email us @ zwingliuccmonticello@gmail.com

CROSS OF ASHES



On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving Church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

Thinking Out Loud

James Finley, one of my teachers from my sabbatical said, *"Why do I live on the outer circumference of the inner depth that is my life?"*

I think this is an excellent question. Lent is a season for deep reflection. How is it that I sabotage myself from experiencing the depth of my life? I think that this is part of the human condition and why we need to be intentional about our life in the Spirit.

My goal for my life is to show up for it. I find myself sleep walking through life and not even paying attention to the beauty and wonder that it is to be alive. How often do we say **TGIF**? Is it bad when, culturally, we say it is okay to not live most of the week and the weekend is the only time that it is worth experiencing? Then we go out and self medicate...then we can't remember how much fun we just had. It is challenging to show up for life.

I think that the spiritual journey is not a journey up to heaven, but a journey down into the depths of my own life and experience. This is a journey of **LETTING GO**. The scriptures for Lent have lines like,

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life . . . will save it" (Mark 8:35) or

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24).

The journey of radical transformation that Jesus is pointing to is a journey down into the depth of life, into the depth of our experience. It is a journey of letting go. Letting go of the **ME** centered life. Letting go of who we think we are. Letting go of the need to be right. Letting go of the need to be successful. Letting go of the need to be in control. Letting go into Jesus and God.

Do we get frightened staring into the depth of our life? In my experience, looking into the depth of life looks an awful lot like staring into nothing, darkness, emptiness, void. When I really experience life . . . it's not all shimmery and bright with angels

singing in the background saying, **"Don't be afraid!"** But in fact, it is pretty . . . I don't know . . . normal and maybe even boring. What do we do when we experience this normal or boring experience of life? Do we run from it or embrace it? I believe that when we experience that darkness, that emptiness, and boredom, what we are experiencing is infinite expanse of LOVE. Since it is infinite, we don't have a reference point for it, so it is difficult to hold on to it. So our experience is darkness. St. John of the Cross says that this darkness is in fact an infinite light, which is God. When we are in a dark room and we open the blinds really fast, the light can be so intense that the room appears dark. The light of God is so bright that it seems dark. And it is infinite that we have no way of perceiving it with our normal senses. So the infinite love that we call God is experienced as darkness and emptiness. This can be frightening and hard to stare into and might make us try to distract ourselves from this reality.

In Christ,



Pastor Ted



My Time is About Up

Dear Zwingli Family,

Thank you for embracing me so generously and allowing me to become part of your Church Family. I have felt warmly welcomed and very appreciated. It has been my privilege to be your Interim Pastor for these past three months. My last Sunday at Zwingli will be February 4th, 2024.

Zwingli will be in my prayers as you move on to new pastoral leadership. Thank you!!

Pastor Ted

Caring Ministry Moment

Last month I challenged you to choose a word to guide you throughout 2024. If you need to catch up and still need to choose a word, consider what resonates most with you.

- ♦ What goals speak to you?
- ♦ Do you want to Believe and Abide?
- ♦ Rejoice and Remember?
- ♦ Dream and Envision?
- ♦ Clarify and Focus?
- ♦ Grow and Prosper?



Now, choose a word that will help you meet that goal.

When I choose a word to guide me through the year, it has given me a solid foundation to come back to when I get so busy that I lose sight of the purpose behind what I am doing. As Care Coordinator, I am given the opportunity to guide others as they provide Caring Ministries. My word keeps me grounded so I don't lose sight of the ministry.

Cindi Ritter, Coordinator of Caring Ministries
care4zwingli@gmail.com 262-993-5435

In Need Of Prayer???

Contact the Zwingli Caring Ministry
at care4zwingli@gmail.com or call
the Church Office at 608-938-4369.

Daily Bible Reading

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Romans 5:1-21 | 16 Mark 4:35-41 |
| 2 Luke 2:41-52 | 17 Genesis 11:1-9 |
| 3 Genesis 3:1-24 | 18 Romans 15:1-13 |
| 4 Romans 1:1-17 | 19 Romans 15:14-29 |
| 5 2 Corinthians 10:1-11 | 20 Isaiah 1:1-20 |
| 6 Exodus 24:3-8 | 21 Leviticus 10:1-20 |
| 7 Philemon 1-25 | 22 2 Chronicles 27:1-9 |
| 8 Acts 6:1-7 | 23 Matthew 28:16-20 |
| 9 John 3:22-36 | 24 Genesis 22:1-19 |
| 10 Romans 6:1-14 | 25 Titus 2:11—3:11 |
| 11 Romans 6:15-23 | 26 2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11 |
| 12 Hebrews 5:1-10 | 27 Job 2:1-10 |
| 13 Psalm 103 | 28 Romans 16:17-20 |
| 14 1 Peter 1:1-16 | 29 Philippians 2:1-11 |
| 15 1 Peter 1:17-25 | |

Zwingli Church Family,

I am feeling so indebted and grateful to you for all of the wonderful cards and messages I have been receiving from you over the past year. Your Get Well greetings have boosted my morale so much when I was hurting. The Christmas cards reminded me of the importance Jesus plays in my daily life. He's always at my beck and call. The Birthday cards reminded me that I am not a Spring Chicken any more. Thanks for that! It has been a wonderful life though, and I appreciate the part you have played in making it so.



Love you all! Lois Hopkins

Blanket Sunday



February is the month we buy **blankets** to share with those in need. We will be taking monetary donations on Sunday, **February 4th.**

Share the Warmth & Love of Christ.
Blankets cost \$10 each.
Send your donations to Zwingli Church.
Blankets are distributed by **Church World Service.**
Help us change the world!

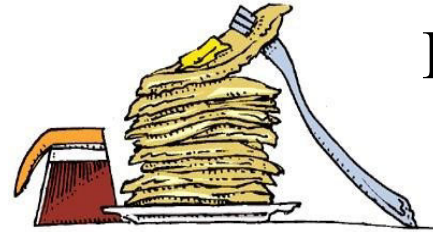
Souper Bowl Sunday is February 11th!!

On Souper Bowl Sunday, many congregations around the country collect cans of soup to be donated to local food pantries. Zwingli Church has been a faithful participant in this effort for several years.

Please help us in this effort by donating cans of soup by **Sunday, February 11th.** All cans brought to Zwingli will be donated to Green Cares Food Pantry. Thank you for sharing!!!



SOUPER BOWL Sunday



Brotherhood Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 11th
from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon
in Fellowship Hall

Pancakes
Sausage
Applesauce
Maple Syrup
Beverage



Come for good food and fellowship!!

Free-will Donation Supports Brotherhood Projects

Big Thank You

Zwingli UCC, Monticello, is a very generous congregation. Thank you for all the cards and gifts that I received over the Advent/Christmas season. I feel very appreciated!

Thank you so much, Pastor Ted





Tuesdays at 2:00



Lenten Study with Cindi
held in the Zwingli Church Library.

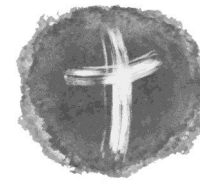
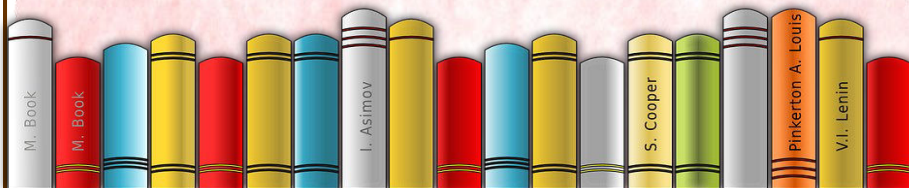
We will be viewing a video and then
have a discussion this Lenten season
February 13 - March 26.

The video is based on the book

*The Chosen Book One:
I Have Called You by Name*
By Jerry B. Jenkins

**You do not need to read
as we will watch videos.**

For those who prefer to read; books are
available through the Monticello Library
for personal check out. Also available
through Kindle and Audiobook.



Ash
WEDNESDAY

COMMUNITY SERVICE

7 p.m., February 14th, in the
Zwingli UCC Sanctuary

Sponsored by
Zwingli UCC and Washington Reformation

Valentine's Day Jokes For Animal Lovers

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?
They are very scent-imental creatures.

What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!

What did one bee say to the other?
I love bee-ing with you, honey!



Have you ever wondered how to operate the dishwasher in the Zwingli Kitchen?



Paul Rieder is willing to show us his
tips and tricks to making light work
out of doing the dishes.

Join him in the Kitchen after Worship
Services on **Sunday, February 18th.**

Wednesday Lenten Soup and Service
At Washington Reformation
And YOU Are Invited!!



Meet in the **Washington Church Fellowship Hall** at 6 p.m. for supper and remain in the Fellowship Hall for worship at 6:30 p.m. If you want to come only for worship, just come at 6:30 p.m.



Lenten Soup and Service
will happen on Wednesdays:
February 21 & 28, March 6, 13, & 20.

Wednesday Lent theme this year is the disciples of Jesus. Come to meet some unexpected disciples and make a connection to them through the season of Lent.

**Come for supper, fellowship, and worship
all in one compact hour!**

The Next Super Sunday
Is February 25th!!

The interactive programs are wrapped around stories of the Bible and include crafts, activities, and FELLOWSHIP!!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Kids - bring an adult & join us for this special event!

Join us
After
Worship

**Welcome Table Community Meal
Don't Eat Alone - All Are Welcome!**

Join us for fellowship the last
Monday of every month for the
Welcome Table Community Meal.



Our next meal is on
February 26th with
the blessing promptly at **5:30 p.m.**
in Zwingli's Fellowship Hall.



February Meal is hosted by the **Lita & Elyse Appel Families**. They will be serving BBQ Sandwiches, Homemade Potato Salad, Coleslaw, and sides. We appreciate the donations of Delightful Desserts.



All free-will offerings go to the Zwingli Church Community Fund.
Thank you to Zwingli Women United & Team Leader, May Burgy, for hosting in January.



To volunteer, contact Cindi Ritter at
care4zwingli@gmail.com or 262-993-5435
or call Roann in the Church Office 608-938-4369.

Search Committee Updates

Happy New Year!

Starting off the New Year is a good time to update everyone on our search for a new Pastor. As you know, we have been providing periodic updates during the Church Service throughout the early months of this process. This is a good time to update everyone and all those who are unable to hear those announcements during the Church Service.

One of the comments that I have been asked is, "Why is this process taking so long?" and "Why don't we have a Pastor by now?" These are great questions and it is important to remind everyone that the committee must follow a process that is in place from our UCC Conference. We started this process in May and we have just finished the first leg of this journey with the community and membership surveys. The process included: developing those surveys, getting them out to the different groups and the membership, allowing for return time, and then compiling all the information. We were still receiving surveys in December, but are now compiling all your information, ideas, concerns, suggestions, and vision which the committee will review. We received back about 30% of the surveys. *Thank you to everyone who returned their survey, we appreciate your responses.* This information will assist the committee in moving into the next phase of this process which is writing the Church Profile.

The Church Profile was revised, by the UCC Conference, and is a very detailed document requiring much more information from the Church and congregation than in the past, to reflect the future vision of this Church and draw together pastoral candidates interested in applying for the position here at Zwingli. Once the profile has been completed and sent into the UCC Conference, interested candidates' profiles will be



reviewed, referenced, and background checks completed, interviews conducted, sermon tapes reviewed, etc. The time this process takes will be determined based on the number of applicants the committee receives.

Once a small number of candidates is selected, the committee will prayerfully select final candidates to present to the congregation for a final vote.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the Search Committee: Deb Broge, Chairman; Doc Davis, Dave Gietzel, Denise Pinnow, Cindi Ritter, and Paul Rieder.

We will continue to do our best to move this process along keeping the vision of Zwingli UCC at the forefront in the selection of a new Pastor and provide updates as we can. The committee thanks you for your support and patience as we prayerfully move through this process. We continue to ask for your prayers and, with God's guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful new Pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Zwingli Search Committee



Thank you to ALL who donated items
for the College Care Packages.

10 Packages were sent out!!!

Thank you to the following Caring Ministry
College Care Package Team Members:



Lita Appel

Rosemary Avery

Patty Blumer Riesen

Carolyn Hilliard





01 Linda Christen
Theresa Sawle
02 Elizabeth Burgy
Clare Gietzel
03 Porter Brandl
04 Alton Sherman
Kris Zanoya
05 Derek Gilbertson
Norma Lehne
06 Jinelle Kubly
08 Zoe Endres
Jesse Wahl
09 Preston Berg
Joseph Janisch
Jessica Yaun
12 Nancy Briggs
Hailey Kolasch
13 Tyler Dahl
15 Lindsay Brockert
16 Aaron Hefty
Michael Janisch

18 Brian Grossen
19 Garrett Grossen
Jakoya Janisch
20 Jacob Aquino
21 Cheryl Zimmerman
22 William Gempler
Barbara Wayland
23 Devin Erickson
Paul Hefty
Brian Sherman
24 Lori Thompson
25 Isaac Smith
26 Ron Holcomb
Lauren Schilder
27 Haylee Holcomb
Bryce Pickett
28 DuWayne Fenner
Joni McNeill
29 Marian Karlen



18 Dave Gietzel & Barb Duerst
20 David & Amy Lehr
22 Alan & Gloria Bacher



It's that time of year to seek out the Spring Cheer Bag Donation Tree!

Look for it near the East Entrance of the Sanctuary starting **2/18 through 3/17.**

Please consider donating to this important ministry. It is easy to do.



1. Take a tag.

2. Return items listed on tag to the basket located by the tree.

We would appreciate the congregation's assistance in delivering the 41 bags the week of March 24th.

Please thank the volunteer team of:

Deb Broge

Anna Marie Davison

Kay Dickson

Kris Zanoya





March Blood Drive

The first
Monticello Community Blood Drive
for **2024** will be held on
Friday, March 1st, 2024, in
Fellowship Hall at Zwingli United
Church of Christ in Monticello
from **12 noon to 5 p.m.**

An appointment is strongly recommended. For an appointment, call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)** or visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and use Sponsor Code: **MonticelloWI**. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using **RapidPass**. Eat foods high in iron prior to donating. Remember, each donation can help three people. Stay safe and well. The current blood supply is very low so we encourage all who are able to consider being a donor in March. The need for blood is always ongoing. Thank you for being a donor.

ANNOUNCING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE UNITED CHURCH CAMPS INCORPORATED IGNITE GENEROSITY APPEAL!

Thanks to the exceptional support, the ambitious goal of fundraising **\$175,000** was met and surpassed; raising a total of **\$231,250**.

Funds raised through **Ignite Generosity** will significantly enhance the ability to carry out our ministry and continue the preservation and enhancement of **Moon Beach, Daycholah Center**, and **Cedar Valley**. More financial assistance and scholarships to campers, and long-awaited maintenance and improvement projects are now possible. Visit **UCCI.org** for the **2024 schedule of camps, retreats and events**.



A New Perspective

I have a knack for making most tasks bigger than they need to be. Whether it's my go-getting nature or overcompensating "JUST IN CASE," I often complicate the simplest of activities. When asked to bring a potluck side dish, I bring two. What if someone has an allergy? Or I join two Bible Studies because I don't want to offend either facilitator.

Jesus understands people like me.

"For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light," he says in Matthew 11:30 (NLT).

In *The Soul's Slow Ripening*, Christine Valters Paintner explores various Bible-based and spiritual practices. While reading it, I began adopting her insights into the rhythm of my own life. But without a filter or prayerful consideration of what God wanted me to discern, I just kept adding — creating an unnecessary burden.

"Your call may not be to change anything in your life other than your perspective," Paintner concludes. That provided newfound freedom. Of course, our good Savior — whose burden is light — will help us navigate decisions and commitments. The only takeaway may be a much-needed shift in our perspective.

Janna Firestone

Church Cancellation Policy

On various occasions it may be necessary to cancel Sunday morning activities of the Church (Worship and Sunday School). Such cancellations will generally be the result of weather conditions including heavy snowfall (often with associated high winds), extreme cold, or icy road conditions.

1. The Congregation President – in consultation with the Pastor – will be responsible.
2. The decision to cancel will be made by 6:45 A.M. on Sunday morning.
3. Either the Pastor or the Congregation President will notify the local radio station (WEKZ) and Channel 15 to make a public announcement regarding the cancellation.

Guidelines regarding a decision to cancel:

Heavy blowing and blinding snow (whiteout conditions).
Extremely icy roads, Parking Lot, or walkways.
A wind chill warning. Any announcement by the National Weather Bureau deeming conditions to be hazardous.

(Reviewed by the Consistory January 8, 2014)

You can also check our Facebook page for a cancellation notice.

Several Ways To Give To The Church

Set up your Church giving contribution using your **Bank's online bill pay feature!** You decide the amount, the date you want it sent, and finish making the contribution.



**ONLINE
GIVING**
Made Easy

Information you will need:

Your Checking Account Number

Make Payment To:

Zwingli United Church of Christ

Your Giving Envelope Number

416 E. Lake Ave., PO Box 97

Monticello, WI 53570 608-938-4369

Email: zwingliuccmonticello@gmail.com

Website: www.zwingliucc.com

OR - Go to our **Website** and click on the hand to bring you to the **giving page**.



Credit/Debit - Click on **Give** button below for **Credit/Debit options**.

GIVE



OR - Checks Can Be Mailed to:
Zwingli United Church of Christ
PO Box 97
Monticello, WI 53570

OR - Drop off your Donation in the Drop Box at the East Entrance to the Church.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of Zwingli United Church of Christ.

