

January 2018

NorthWestWord

Transitions

Rev. Ed Stigen will be retiring on Sunday, Feb. 18. Ed has been serving First Congregational UCC, Tomah for twenty five years. Ed and his wife Cathy have been great gifts to the Tomah church and community. They are widely known for their welcoming presence, their compassionate attention to young and old, and their love of the outdoors – fishing, hunting, boating. Their future plans are still in process, for now they will continue to live in their home outside of Tomah and spend time with family.

It is with deepest gratitude that we give thanks for Rev. Stigen's ministry, and Ed and Cathy's faithfulness to the love of God. Blessings to you both.

Churches receiving pastoral profiles: First Congregational UCC, Rhinelander; St. Stephen's UCC, Merrill (Associate Position); United Church of Christ, Osseo.



Received into Member In Discernment standing: JaNae Westrich, she is a member of First Congregational UCC, River Falls.



Stacy Craig is one of our NWA MID's and she is also our first participant in the WI Expo project. She has covenanted with St. John's UCC, La Pointe, WI on Madeline Island to do an internship/WI Expo experience that began Jan. 14. Stacy does not live on the island, in the winter when Lake Superior is frozen one can drive over to the island on the ice road or take the Madeline Island windsled called Angel. The picture is Stacy taking Angel to the island for Sunday worship. Rev. Marina Lachecki is the pastor at St. John's and is supervising Stacy during her internship.

A First Hand Account--Doing Street Ministry in Eau Claire

The Chippewa Valley Street Ministry started in 2012, when Rev. David Huber of Plymouth United Church of Christ introduced members of a church workshop on community service to Pastor Mike Henry. Pastor Mike had street ministry experience in Chicago and wanted to start a street ministry in Eau Claire that "seeks to meet the needs of those who are not able to find housing, clothing, and other...needs to survive." Today, the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry has volunteers from many churches and other institutions.

Anyone interested is invited to "shadow" Pastor Mike as he reaches out and listens to those

April 4th - 6th Unite to End Racism

The Wisconsin Council of Churches invites you to join us in a transformational journey, beginning this April.

We are sponsoring bus departures from four cities to events taking place in Washington DC on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Unite to End Racism is both a rally and a call to action, organized by the National Council of Churches with partners the National African

living on the streets, see www.chippewavalleystreetministry.org. We are fortunate to have Cindy Halfen, from the Northwest Association's Division of the Mission of the World describe the powerful experience that led to her passion for this ministry. Read on...

Elizabeth Hazel, chair DMCW

Chippewa Valley Street Ministry

August 17, 2017 · (poster to FB)

We are available to support our friends in other places beyond the street. Please read on:

Chippewa Valley Street Ministry Journal Note 08-2017

We first met D the week before Easter this year. She had been on the street for 3 days, she had left her home in order to feel safe due to a conflict with another tenant. She had a black eye and small laceration with sutures above that same eye from a recent fall. With chronic respiratory problems and recent homeless, this middle aged woman was obviously distressed, overwhelmed and in need of immediate help. The Street Ministry provided a night's motel stay. The next day when she went to Urgent Care to have her sutures removed, she was hospitalized for her chronic respiratory problem due to a flare up of her symptoms.

After a week of hospitalization, she moved to a local rehab center where she lived until about a week ago, when she moved into her new apartment that she found through a local housing agency. As I helped her move in that day, seeing her confidence, ability to list off all the tasks she need to follow up on during this transition and the general "calm" she exhibited made my heart leap for joy. Her face beamed with the "pride" of a person who has overcome obstacles and arrived at a "better place".

Karen and I kept contact with D throughout her recuperation process. Karen went to several "care planning" meetings at the hospital and the rehab center. She walked D through some of the paperwork and other steps she needed to take to find housing. At these meetings, Karen advocated for D and pointed out of the challenges that our friend was facing (including the complexities of getting a portable oxygen system delivered to someone living on the street not to mention the ability to be able to use her nebulizer machine in a shelter).

American Clergy Network, Conference of National Black Churches, Sojourners, Franciscan Action Network, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and its member communions.

Unite to End Racism Rally: Buses will depart **Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton and Eau Claire** on April 3rd to travel overnight to Washington DC. On April 4th we will join people from around the nation for an Interfaith Service of Prayer and Preparation at the Lincoln Memorial and a Rally on the National Mall. At the end of the day, buses will return, driving overnight to arrive back to their home cities.

Cost: \$250 plus most meals on your own.

We are also offering an option for people to register for **Unite to End Racism + Lobby Day**. The Lobby Day bus will depart from Madison, and follow the same rally plan as the other buses. Instead of heading home on the 4th, participants will stay an extra night in Washington DC (with hotel lodging), and head to Capitol Hill for legislative advocacy on April 5th. We'll load buses late in the day and return to Madison with an overnight drive, arriving on the morning of April 6th. *Cost: \$450 plus most meals on your own.*

Participants will be blessed and sent. We will be neighbors and kin, building beloved community along the way. Let this be a transformational experience. Come prepared for the work of building community. We are looking for people who represent the great diversity of Wisconsin and our faith communities, to build connections across the lines that typically divide us. We are looking for people willing to dream together about what comes next. When you commit to this trip, we pray that you will commit to an ongoing conversation! Register soon; space on the buses is limited, and reservations are first-come, first-serve.

Be part of the nationwide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination and be part of this clarion call to the nation!

My role was to find a few articles of clothing for her, but mostly to stop by to visit her. D liked to sit outside on nice days so whenever I would go by I'd look for her and if she was outside we'd chat for a while.

Thank you all for everything you do to help our neighbors that need our love and support.

Cindy, R.N.

From FEMA

Guide for Developing HighQuality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship

Many people think of a house of worship as a safe area where violence and emergencies cannot affect them. However, violence in houses of worship is not a new phenomenon. In addition to violent acts, fires, tornados, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and arson also affect houses of worship. With many incidents occurring with little to no warning, many houses of worship are developing and updating plans and procedures to ensure the safety and security of their congregations, staff, and facilities. . . .

Click [here](#)



WHAT DOES OCWM MEAN FOR US?

Why do we have an offering called "Our Church's Wider Mission," where 75% stays in the Wisconsin Conference and 25% funds our national structure, its projects and work overseas?

We give to OCWM so no pastor or church, no person in trouble has to go it alone. We use funds collected for OCWM so no pastors have to go it alone when things arise in their new church they never experienced before, ins and outs they never thought about, points of view that never occurred to them. We fund Our Church's Wider Mission so no churches have to go it alone when searching for a new pastor or a shift in members changes the character of the church, or when a church finds its pastor has whole areas of personality that is not at all the same as their previous pastor, or when disaster hits the town or community of which they are a part.

We fund a larger church so no child misses how much fun it is to experience God in spectacular places (like Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center), with colorful programming tailored just for them. No

Registration deadline March 1

For more information and registration

Upcoming Dates

Details on the [WCUCC calendar](#)

January 27th, Piuctyure the Bible Workshop, River Falls

Feb 3rd, Licensed Ministers Retreat, St Stephens UCC, Merrill

Feb 9 and Feb 10th

Dear White Christians: A Path toward Racial Justice with Dr. Jennifer Harvey

Feb 19th, Retirement Retreat , Cedar Valley Retreat Center

Feb 23-25, Youth Faith Formation Retreat, Pilgrim Center

Feb 23-25, Winter Wild Women's Retreat, Moon Beach

March 2-4, Youth Faith Formation Retreat

March 2-4, Winter Wild Women's Retreat, Moon Beach

March 17th, Retirement Workshop, Grace UCC, Wausau

young person has to miss the sheer joy of playing and worshipping with children from many different churches or participating in Young Adult Service and leadership opportunities.

No one has to miss knowing that there is a larger community out there that has the expertise and experience to come along side and help figure out what to do when there is a bump in the road because there is staff like the Conference Ministers, teams of volunteers trained by staff, support, training and learning programs like Lay Academy, all carefully thought out and put in place. No one has to go it alone because there is a wider structure called the United Church of Christ that makes it possible for churches and pastors to keep in touch and get to know each other, connect with churches of other denominations around the world, support 9 Wisconsin health and human services as well as our missionaries abroad.

No one has to be treated as if they don't belong or don't deserve respect or don't deserve the opportunities everyone else has because OCWM funds a far-reaching social justice network that passionately works on their behalf. We can thank God that we have a wider church structure that shelters us. And if that structure fell apart, then we'd have no distribution system to let people know by our actions that God and church really cares about them, We'd be like the people who loaded up trucks to send to disaster areas but the food and necessities just sat there and rotted because there was no system to distribute them. So please contribute to OCWM and help make it possible for your church to be recognized for its contribution to the 5 for 5 offerings at Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting.

If you would like more detail about Our Churches Wider Mission, its programs, personnel and opportunities, I would suggest the video by our own Conference Minister Franz Rigert at on [YouTube](#). A lot of material about OCWM has crossed my desk in the years I have been in ministry, but in my opinion, this is one of the best.

Clergy/Spouse Retirement Retreat

February 19, Cedar Valley Retreat Center, 9am-3pm

or

March 17, Grace UCC, Wausau, 9am-3pm

Starting to think about retirement? Or recently retired?

Do you have questions about how to best navigate this transition?

Attend this event to learn how to plan for healthy and transformational steps in your retirement journey. Through a combination of presentations, access to resources, and dialogue, you will have an opportunity to ask your pressing questions and share concerns and possibilities with other participants. Clergy and their spouses/partners who are beginning to think about, nearing and/or recently retired are encouraged to attend.

Here's a sampling of questions on the minds of past participants:

- "I am going to be retiring in two years. I don't want to start retiring too fast, but I don't want to move too slow either."
- "We are going to be staying in town following retirement. How do we navigate friendships with church members, avoid being the meddling former pastor, respond when church members ask me to do weddings or funerals?"

Please note that this retreat will include some information regarding financial planning, but is not meant to replace attendance at a The Pension Boards workshop and/or work with a financial planner.

The fee includes lunch, snacks and materials. The cost is \$25 per person, or \$41.50 per couple (pastor and spouse/partner with one set of materials per couple). Dietary accommodations can be made for vegetarian and allergy needs if specified at the time of registering.

Cedar Valley Retreat Center, West Bend

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018, 9am-3pm

Registration deadline February 1.

(Note: If attendees would like to spend more time at the retreat center it is possible to make overnight reservations by calling Cedar Valley at 262-629-9202)

Registration

Grace UCC, Wausau

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 9am-3pm

Registration deadline March 2.

Registration

Questions? Contact **Rob MacDougall**, ACM, Wisconsin Conference UCC, 715-308-6120

Recommended Reading - Finding The Church: A Personal Memoir, Rev. Clyde Steckel, Pilgrim Press

North West Association Pulpit Supply List January, 2018

also available on the NW Association website

Churches should be fair and forthright in agreeing upon honorarium and travel expenses for persons they invite to provide pulpit supply. The WI Conference Division of Church and Ministry suggests a minimum of \$125 plus mileage reimbursed at the IRS current rate; for 2018, that would be 54.5 cents per mile. Where a church has two points and two services, you should consider a minimum of \$175 plus mileage.

Conference staff persons serve the local congregations in a variety of ways in the normal performance of their duties. Honoraria are not accepted, and travel costs are covered by the Conference travel budget. Except in emergencies, Conference staff cannot provide pulpit supply; however, the staff welcomes opportunities to preach for special occasions or to meet with members of the congregation.

Please note: Persons licensed to the NW Association and ordained pastors are authorized to administer the Sacraments.

EAU CLAIRE TO TWIN CITIES AREA:

Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, 1060 Marian Lane, Park Falls, WI 54552 (will drive 3 hours)

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Rev. James Mohr, 35 Hewett St., Neillsville WI 54456,

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to any place South of Wausau, East of La Crosse, and Southeast of Eau Claire.

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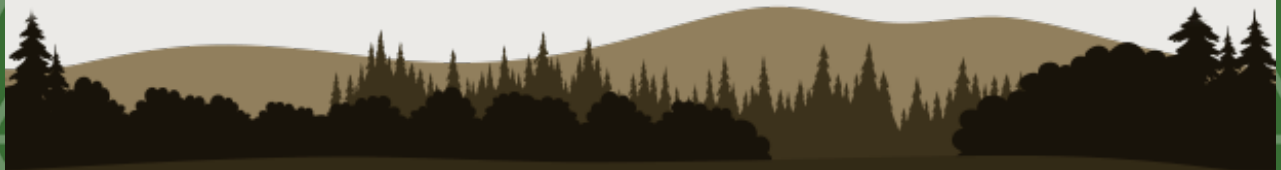
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Northwest Wisconsin Association UCC

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