

Northwest Word

Northwest Wisconsin Association
United Church of Christ

November 2023

Community UCC—Medford Installs New Pastor Nov. 5

Licensed Minister Tamara Cox will be installed as the new Pastor of Community United Church of Christ on in Medford on Sunday, November 5, during the congregation's 9:00 A.M. worship service. The Rev. Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister, will preach at the festive service. The church, located at 510 East Broadway Street in Medford, invites all its Northwest Association friends to join them for the celebration and then enjoy a light lunch following the service.



Tamara Cox

Clergy are invited to bring robes and stoles to participate in the procession. Those planning to do so should arrive up to half an hour early.

Cox is a graduate of the Wisconsin Conference's Lay Academy and has worked in the church's youth ministry for many years.

A Note About This Edition

This edition of the Northwest Word comes to you as a PDF file instead of an e-mail because the editor's wi-fi connection where he lives is working very poorly. Parts are on order and the wi-fi should be working correctly in two or three weeks.

You can contact the editor, Bill Clyma, by phone at **763-415-0779** or e-mail him at pastorbill111@outlook.com.

Congregational UCC—Sparta Installs New Pastor Dec. 3

Licensed Minister Priscilla Hemmersbach will be installed as the new Pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Sparta on Sunday, December 3 during the congregation's 9:30 A.M. worship service. The Rev. Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister, will preach for the occasion. The church, located at 201 North Water Street in downtown Sparta, invites all its Northwest Association friends to join them for the celebration and then enjoy a potluck lunch prepared by the congregation's good cooks.



Priscilla Hemmersbach

Clergy are invited to bring robes and stoles to participate in the procession. Those planning to do so should arrive up to half an hour early.

Hemmersbach spent most of her adult life in the United Methodist Church before accepting the call to serve the Sparta congregation. She has served as a United Methodist Lay Leader, Lay Speaker, and as a Parish Nurse in her local church. In her professional life she worked as a nurse in a hospice setting and a Veteran's Administration. In addition to her work at the Congregational UCC in Sparta, she serves as a Chaplain in the Assisted Living unit at Morrow Home in Sparta.

She is married to Jeff Hemmersbach, and is the stepmother of two adult stepsons and the grandmother of three girls.



The Reverend Nathan Holst was installed as Pastor of St. John's UCC in LaPointe on November 15. Joining the celebration at the Madeline Island congregation were (from left to right): Rev. Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Charlotte Franz, Peace UCC of Duluth, Rev. Holst, Rev. Stacy Craig, Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Rev. Lawrence Scott, Pastor at Bayfield Presbyterian Church.

From the Desk of Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister

The NWA/NEA Clergy Retreat was held October 1-3 at Moon Beach Camp. This was my first time staying at Moon Beach for a retreat. What a beautiful and sacred place! As a first timer, I had the opportunity to experience everything that Moon Beach has to offer with newness and intrigue. I had never walked the trails, nor had I sat by Moon Lake. I had never rocked in a rocking chair in the comfort of the lodge, nor had I eaten the delicious food made by the staff. I had never walked the labyrinth, nor had I walked to Vesper Point. What sacred spaces! I am thankful that I spent those two days at Moon Beach with wonderful colleagues and the committed staff. It was a blessing, and I truly felt connected to God and all that is sacred! Thank you to the staff of Moon Beach for all that you did to facilitate this time away for our clergy.



The Reverend Herbert Perkins (Pastor Okogyeamon) was installed as Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Ellsworth on September 29. Pastor Okogyeamon is pictured front and center. Behind him to the left is Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins. Rev. Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister, is pictured at left, and Rev. Chris Myers, Chairperson of the Division on Church and Ministry, is at the right.

I know that many of you have had years of experiences at Moon Beach and at the other camps of UCCI (United Church Camps, Inc.). You have had the opportunity to experience what I listed above and much more. Thank you for the support of the camps over the years and for the ways that you will continue to support them as UCCI works to adapt to the changing culture around outdoor ministries.

If you are an authorized minister and have not experienced one of our camps like Moon Beach, or if you have but need a break and time away, UCCI offers a Clergy Respite Program: <https://ucci.org/clergy-respite/>. I recommend taking advantage of this program. We all need a break every once in a while, especially with the demands of ministry.

If there is any way I can be of assistance to you as your Associate Conference Minister, please don't hesitate to be in contact with me. I have valued getting to know so many of you and your churches. The Northwest Association is blessed to have so many committed and hopeful people!