



# NEA Reporter

Northeast Wisconsin Association of the United Church of Christ

Volume 47, Issue 1

January 2012

## "Miłość" ("MEE-woh-sh-ch" means "Love")—Connect and Shimmer"

Advent Greetings from Poland

In Poland, Protestant youth sometimes greet each other with a fist bump and a shimmer. The shimmer requires you to kind of sparkle in the air with your open hand after the bump while you're pulling your arm back.

The greeting—good for passing the peace on Advent Sundays—means "Love!"

You can pronounce it: "MEE-woh-sh-ch!"—Love!

Get that sound of electricity going through the wire that defines the Polish language going on that final "sh-ch." Pronounce both sounds fully.

Ours is a world where old divisions, searing hatreds, animosities and enmities threaten again and again to divide and destroy us. And yet, Advent hope for justice, desire for peace and rebirth of love remind us all that the return of joy is possible—even inevitable—if we have the faith to sustain that hope.

Sustaining hope takes doing - takes practicing the behaviors of love. So this Advent, keep hope and peace alive by stretching out your arms in a wide embrace and praying the whole world into heaven's open gates.

Then greet your neighbors in love: connect

and shimmer gloriously with a spirit that spreads love worldwide.

Pronounce: "MEE-woh-sh-ch !!!"—LOVE!!—with courage and conviction.

May Advent hopes for peace, love and joy truly be yours in this season of preparation and anticipation!



Shalom,

Liz and Doug Searles  
December 12, 2011

**Liz and Doug Searles** are members of Schleswig United Church of Christ, Schleswig, Iowa. Both of them serve the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland as mission workers for church growth and outreach. Liz and Doug are jointly appointed by Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

### HOLD THESE DATES!

**Thursday, March 1:** Clergy Day  
with Rev. Geoffrey Black

**Saturday, April 21:** Annual Meeting of the NEA

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### Ordination Anniversaries

#### January Anniversaries

Jennifer Dawson.....	33 Years .....	January 6
Jacob Preuss.....	24 Years .....	January 31
Laura Hawkins.....	11 Years .....	January 14
Meredith Thurk .....	4 Years .....	January 12



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	<b>9 9:30 A.M.</b> C-TEN, First Congregational Church, Oshkosh <b>1:30 P.M.</b> , Division on Local Church Ministries, Conference Call	<b>10 9:00 A.M.</b> Clergy Cluster II Church of Peace Fond du Lac	<b>11 9:30-11:30 A.M.</b> Clergy Cluster I St. John UCC Appleton Deadline to sign up for January 17 Colloquy at Lakeland College	12	13	14
15	<b>16 6:30 P.M.</b> 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Lawrence University Chapel, Appleton	<b>17 9:30 A.M.</b> Clergy Cluster III St. John UCC Sheboygan <b>5:15-8:30 P.M.</b> Mission House Colloquy; Laun Center, Lakeland College	18	<b>19 9:00 A.M.</b> Executive Committee St. John UCC, Appleton <b>1:00 P.M.</b> Periodic Support & Consultation Committee, St. John UCC, Appleton	20	21
22	<b>23 9:00 A.M.</b> Division on Wider Church Ministries, <b>9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.</b> Placement and Transition Cmte Both at St. John UCC, Appleton	<b>24</b> Founders' Day at Lakeland College <b>11:00 A.M.</b> Lecture, with Rev. Shari Prestemon <b>12:15</b> Luncheon	<b>25 7:00 P.M.</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service; St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay	26	27	28
29	30	31				

<b>Art Wille, Associate Conference Minister</b> <b>608-630-3134</b> <b>Bill Clyma, Ministries Coordinator</b> <b>920-931-5862</b>
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## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 16 at Lawrence University

The Northeast Wisconsin Association of the United Church of Christ will join with other groups to sponsor the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration. The Lawrence University Chapel, located on College Street just east of downtown Appleton, will be the site of the 6:30 P.M. event.

Dr. Dorothy Cotton, keynote speaker has worked for decades as a speaker, singer, peacemaker and a visionary. She served the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for twelve years as its Education Director. Working closely with Dr. King, Dorothy worked on his executive staff and was part of the group that escorted Dr. King to Oslo, Norway when he received the Nobel Peace Prize. She served as the Vice President for Field Operations for the Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. At the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1967, Dr. King told the assembly that, "Dorothy Cotton's bravery, insight and steadfastness have been invaluable to the Movement."

Currently she is involved in the expansion of the National Citizenship School in conjunction with Civic Organizing, Inc. of Minnesota. Dorothy's upcoming book will focus on lessons from the historic citizenship education program and her work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The celebration will also include:

- Tim and Ezra Dorsey will move audiences with their extensive vocal range which will showcase his natural gift for vocal styling;
- Lawrence University graduate (and now YMCA) Erica Hamilton will lead audiences in 'Lift Every Voice' as well as 'We Shall Overcome' with Tim and Ezra Dorsey;
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest winners will be reading their winning essays; and
- The Jane LaChapelle McCarty Unity in Diversity Award will be given to someone on this evening.

Sign language interpretation will also be available at the celebration.

**Stewardship Moments:** It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding.

*Kahlil Gibran*

## Prestemon to Deliver Founders Day Lecture January 24 at Lakeland College

Passion for Action: Intersections of Faith, Humanity, and the World's Deepest Need," shapes the theme of this year's Founders' Day Lecture by Rev. Shari Prestemon. at Lakeland College. Prestemon, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission, will deliver the lecture for the annual Lakeland event that recognizes the church's contributions to Lakeland and provides a time to reflect on Lakeland's strong tradition with the United Church of Christ. Prestemon received her Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1993 and subsequently served as an associate pastor at St. Matthew UCC in Wheaton, Illinois, and as solo pastor at Peace UCC in Stevens Point before receiving the call to Back Bay Mission. She has also served as a Global Mission Intern of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

The January 24 lecture begins at 11:00 A.M. and ends at noon, and will be held at Lakeland's Bradley Fine Arts Building. A luncheon to honor Rev. Prestemon will follow. There is no cost to attend the lecture, but there is a \$10.00 fee for the luncheon. The college asks you to RSVP by January 19 with a call to 920-565-1538.



## Church Anniversaries

### 25 Years

Our Shepherd UCC, Howard's Grove

### 110 Years

First Congregational UCC, Redgranite  
Peace United Church of Christ, Shawano  
St. John United Church of Christ, Sheboygan

### 120 Years

Peace United Church of Christ, Marinette

### 125 Years

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Kaukauna

### 135 Years

St. John's United Church of Christ, Cecil

### 155 Years

First Congregational UCC, New London

### 165 Years

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Plymouth



## Around the NEA

By Arlan and Sharon Schlundt

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Oshkosh. Pastor: RaeAnn Beebe. NEW ORGAN AT ST. PAUL'S.** The Church Council writes to the members of St. Paul's: "As many of you are aware, we had serious problems with our organ this fall. It seems that after over 50 years of service, our organ decided to go into retirement. As many of us know, when things get to a certain age, parts wear out and are no longer available and this was the case with our organ. Our keyboard was also showing signs of age, was not fully functioning, and it made sense to replace both of these items at the same time. After discussion with the council, a committee was appointed that researched what organ and equipment would be the right fit for our church. A resolution was passed by the congregation, and a beautiful new Rodgers organ, keyboard, and related equipment were purchased. We will be dedicating these instruments in the early part of 2012" (From *Tidings*)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sheboygan. Pastors: Jim and Julia Hollister.** From Pastor Jim's Journal; "As I write this, I hear sounds on our church rooftop. No, it's not reindeer! It is the sound of workmen installing solar panels. At first glance, it may seem a bit ironic that we're putting up solar panels in advance of the shortest days of the year. But in fact, it can be seen as a sign of hope . . . for we trust that the sun will rise again, and return to a higher point in the sky next spring. One day, we will be blessed again with increased heat, and light, and solar energy to assist us in our mission here at 3rd & Bluff! (Besides, we think it's time to share the sun with the southern hemisphere!)" (From *The Pilgrim Voice*)

**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Fremont. Pastor: Alex Tychkin. "THE GIVING TREE."** Located in the back of the sanctuary is our Giving Tree. We would like to adopt the Weymont Food Pantry as our charitable recipient as we focus on filling their shelves. This tiny pantry located in Weyauwega is in need of help as they serve approximately 150+ area families. The ornaments on our Giving Tree indicate items the pantry needs. When you have

fulfilled the need, please bring it to church and our youth will be at the doors collecting the donations." (From *Whispers*)

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Malone. Pastor: Keith Weiland. DO YOU ENJOY A GOOD BOOK? HOW ABOUT GOOD CONVERSATION?** Then think about joining St. Paul's newest adventure. We are forming a book club for members and non-members. Our first book club meeting will be in January. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL by Todd Burpo is the first book we are planning to read. It is a wonderful story of hope and innocence. Our first date to meet is January 16, 6:00-8:00 P.M. (From *Friendly Visitor*)

**SARON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sheboygan Falls. Pastor: Kathryn Kuhn. WISCONSIN'S NEW CONCEALED AND CARRY LAW AND SARON UCC.** The Consistory has been discussing the changes to the Concealed Carry Law in Wisconsin, as have most church governing bodies in the area. While we respect the decisions of our lawmakers, and the freedom of all who choose to carry concealed weapons, it is generally understood that church is NOT a place where weapons are desired. Unfortunately, according to the law as it is written, churches are not exempt from having to post signs for the general public clarifying our thoughts on this matter. At its November meeting, the Consistory approved the posting of 5" X 7" signs at each entrance, in accordance with the law, indicating that "Saron UCC is a place of peace." (From *The Tidings*)

**UNION-CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Waupun. Pastor: Mark Arbisi. SERVICES ON LINE.** We know you can't always make it to church and so to feed your soul for the week. We now have our services available on line, under the worship tab of our website, [www.uccwaupun.net](http://www.uccwaupun.net), or on a CD. CDs are also available in the fellowship hall. (From *The Pilgrim Messenger*)

**Stewardship Moments:** You become what you love.

## Lakeland College Hosts *Living the Faith of Jesus* January 17

Pastors and laity are invited to Lakeland College's colloquy series *Knowing the Faith, Living the Faith, Sharing the Faith of Jesus* hosted by the College's Mission House Center.

*Living the Faith: Being Christian in a Challenging World* will be held on January 17, 2012. A light buffet supper will be served starting at 5:15 P.M., and the program will run from 6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

The event will be held in the David and Valerie Black Room of the Laun Center at Lakeland College. The colloquy will engage a "collection of witnesses," who sought to live out the faith of the Church in challenging times, as a means of inspiring participants to do the same today. Reverend Dr. Richard L. Christensen will open the program with "Lessons from the Past and for the Present."

Reverend James Gorman will discuss the Reformation Years with a presentation entitled, "Caged in Muenster: A study of the Anabaptist martyrs in Muenster." Reverend Dr. Frederick L. Trost will discuss the struggle and witness of the community at Le Chambon-sur-Lignon during Second World War. Finally, Reverend Bonnie Van Overbeke will speak about the present-day witness taking place in Palestinian communities through the Christian Church in Bethlehem. After engaging these brief vignettes of inspiring service, participants will be invited to consider and discuss the ways in which our churches may offer a faithful witness to the gospel in our own times of challenge. Reverend Dr. Karl Kuhn, Associate Professor of Religion at Lakeland, will moderate this closing conversation.

Attendance is limited to 80 persons. Please pay your \$10.00 (drafted to Lakeland College) registration fee by January 11, 2012 to guarantee a place. There is no other fee. The event is funded by generous gifts to the Mission House Center.

For more information, contact Colleen Darling at [darlingca@lakeland.edu](mailto:darlingca@lakeland.edu) or 920-565-1538.

**Bad Weather:** If the weather is inclement, please check your email and/or the Lakeland College website for cancellation notices. If this event is postponed due to the weather, it will be re-scheduled for February 2, 2012.

## Shari Prestemon to present *Founders' Day Lecture* At Lakeland College January 24

Associate Conference Minister Art Wille will be among ecumenical leaders participating in a service celebrating Christian unity on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The service, which begins at 7:00 p.m., will be held at Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral, 139 South Madison Street, Green Bay. In addition to Rev. Wille, other leaders include: Bishop Russell Jacobus, Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac; Bishop James Justman, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. Gordon Lind, District Superintendent, Nicolet-Winnebago Districts, United Methodist Church; Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes, Associate Executive Presbyter, Winnebago Presbytery; and Bishop David L. Ricken, Roman Catholic Diocese of Green Bay. Laity and clergy in the Northeast Association are encouraged to participate in this Christian Unity Service on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and in Unity Services planned by local clergy associations.



## Churches In Transition

**St. John UCC—Black Creek:** Rev. L. Gail Irwin Interim Pastor.

**Ebenezer UCC—Chilton:** Rev. Kathy Rust, Interim Pastor.

**St. John's UCC—Elkhart Lake:** Rev. Robert Hamilton, Interim Pastor.

**Our Shepherd UCC—Howards Grove:** Rev. Ernie Huntzinger, Interim. Search committee reading profiles.

**Immanuel UCC—Plymouth:** Rev. Margaret Richardson Zedan (Presbyterian), Interim Pastor

**First Congregational UCC—Ripon:** Rev. Greg Smith, Interim Pastor

**Stewardship Moments:** We are living in a time of great abundance, perhaps the greatest ever. Why do we act like it is a time of scarcity? Are we ruled by fear rather than love?  
*Ken Neher*