



NEA Reporter

KNOCK, KNOCK: God's At the Door It's a Middle School Thing!

Church is an adventure!
Open the door and let it begin!

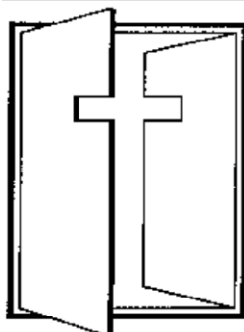
November 18-20, 2011
Pilgrim Center

Start your 6th-8th graders on an adventure called **CHURCH**. Open the **DOOR** to energized Youth Ministry.

Friday 7:00 P.M.—Sunday 11:30 A.M.

AT KNOCKKNOCK, YOUR GROUP WILL:

- **Discover love and acceptance as the true experience of the church**
- **Connect faith to THEIR most pressing concerns:**
 - * **Dealing with peers ("Friends")**
 - * **Family Relationships ("Family")**
 - * **Violence/Bullying ("Hurt")**
 - * **Media Temptation ("Influence")**
- **Do hands-on workshops and Bible study...not just sitting around and talking**
- **Be inspired by our High School Drama Team**
- **Learn how they can keep opening doors back at home**
- **Bryan Sirchio will provide Musical Leadership at Knock Knock 2011!**



It's a Group Thing!

Come to KnockKnock together. Start a new group or fire up the one you've got, like your youth group or confirmation group. Don't come alone! Bring a least half the interested Middle Schoolers in your church, plus one adult leader for every five kids. The leaders go through the workshops with the youth. Your group will feel the impact for a long time!

GROUP LEADERS, PLEASE NOTE:

- **Register as a church group. Please send the individual registration forms together. You may add participants, as space will allow.**
- **register through the Conference Office**
- **for more information contact: Lisa Hart, Coordinator for Youth Ministries, at the Conference Office, 608- 846-7880 ext 206 or Lhart@wcucc.org.**
- **Important: All adult youth leaders and chaperones will be asked to sign a covenant of disclosure and authorize the Conference to run a criminal background check on them. This is part of the Safe Sanctuary Policy of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. You will receive information upon your registration.**

The Drama Team

These High School students and young adults are gifted authors and comedians, using their talent to bring across the content of KnockKnock. They are mature youth and young adults with a desire to grow and share their faith. They can be good role models for the younger students and will do relational ministry in a way adults just cannot do with youth.

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Cost: \$135.00

(Early-bird rate—\$125.00, if registration is postmarked by October 11th!)

Registration deadline: October 31, 2011

Mail your registrations to:

P.O. Box 435, DeForest, WI 535332-0435

Forms on the Wisconsin Conference Website at:

www.wcucc.org (click on the KnockKnock link in the center column for all the forms you need.)



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Art Wille, Associate Conference Minister 920-585-0185 Bill Clyma, Ministries Coordinator 715-735-6483					1
2	3 9:30 A.M., CTEN First Congregational Church, Oshkosh	4	5	6	7	8
NEA-NWA Clergy Retreat; 5:00 P.M. Sunday through Lunch on Tuesday at Moon Beach Camp						
9 3:00-6:30 P.M. All-Church Leadership Banquet at Lakeland College	10 9:00 A.M. Division on Wider Church Ministries, St. John UCC, Appleton	11 9:00-10:30 A.M. Clergy Cluster II Church of Peace, Fond du Lac	12 9:00 A.M. Clergy Cluster I St. John UCC, Appleton	13 9:30 A.M. Retired Clergy Day, Cedar Landing, Elkhart Lake	14	15
16	17 1:30 P.M. Division on Local Church Ministries St. John, Appleton	18	19	20	21	22
Art Wille on vacation from October 16 through October 23						
23	24	25	26	27 10:00 A.M.-Noon Placement and Transition Commi- tee, St. John UCC, Appleton	28	29
	Art Wille attends meeting of UCC Placement Ministers in the Great Lakes region, October 24-26					
30	31					



Special Events in NEA Churches

Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 12, 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Candy and Baked Items, Rummage Room, Raffles, Crafts, Gifts, and Quilts. Lunch Available—

Immanuel United Church of Christ
Corner of Doty and Oak Streets
Neenah, Wisconsin

Don't Forget!

\$15.00 scholarship for all youth from NEA Churches attending Knock-Knock the weekend of November 18-20

See Page 1

The Scholarship will be deducted from your fee automatically!



Churches In Transition

First Congregational UCC—Appleton: Rev. Nicholas Hatch began serving as Associate Pastor on August 29.

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. Virginia Pych, 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



Ordination Anniversaries

David Rumpf.....	41 Years.....	October 17
Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder.....	37 Years.....	October 27
Robert Laubenstein.....	32 Years.....	October 7
Tom Schroeder.....	32 Years.....	October 28
Carol DiBiasio-Snyder.....	29 Years.....	October 31
Stephen Savides.....	23 Years.....	October 16
Karen Gygax Rodriguez.....	22 Years.....	October 8
Alex Tychkin.....	17 Years.....	October 9
Ashley Nolte.....	2 Years.....	October 11

Adult M.A.D.D. Camp: New Event at Moon Beach October 28-30



Have you always wanted to dip your toes into some aspect of the performing arts in a place where you can feel comfortable?

Moon Beach Camp is offering exactly this kind of opportunity at its first ever Adult M.A.D.D (Music, Art, Dance, and Drama) Camp the weekend of October 28-30. The Friday dinner hour to Sunday brunch event costs \$149.00—meals, lodging, and workshop included. Call Moon Beach at 715-479-8255 or e-mail them at mbc@ucci.org to get more information or register for the event.

Bernie Hupperts and his staff will offer workshops on writing, litany, drumming, liturgical dance/yoga, and vocal and instrumental music. Other times will be set aside for storytelling, yoga, and wellness exercises.

Stewardship Moments

"I have asked many pastors, "Pastor has a parishioner ever come to you on any occasion and said, 'Father, you have over-thanked me for my generosity?'"

"Never ever has a pastor said they that this has occurred."

Craig Gibson

Irish Pilgrimage by First Congregational UCC of Appleton

by Bill Clyma

When Rev. Jane Anderson returned to her duties from a sabbatical leave, she found that a new group had grown up at First Congregational UCC of Appleton while she was gone. Anderson, the church's pastor of congregational life, fascinated some members with her travel in Europe and her studies of labyrinths, ancient religious communities, and Celtic Christian spiritual life. They studied Philip Newell and other writers who wrote about spirituality. They asked her to lead them in a spiritual journey to the Iona Community in Scotland.

So they traveled to Iona in 2006. Then they went to France in 2008. The two journeys served to whet their appetite for more travel exploring spiritual life. From August 28 through September 8, 23 people—most of them members of First Church—visited Ireland. They visited sites considered sacred in Irish Christian culture and attempted to experience the Irish landscape, lore, music, and myth.

Irish Christianity in its original form was less influenced by the Western Church than places in England or continental Europe. The Celtic culture native to the British Isles had a strong influence on Irish faith and practice. Anderson believes that the Celtic influence made Irish Christianity more holistic, with a “full integration of body, mind, soul, and spirit.”

The group visited ruins of homes, walls, castles and abbeys hundreds, and sometimes thousands of years old. They visited abbeys that are still active and gardens that reflect Irish spiritual life. They visited pre-Christian religious sites connected to Saint Patrick. They climbed big hills on rainy day and forded streams on foot.

Dave Hogan, a tour guide recognized by the National Geographic society for the quality of his work, guided the group through all of these places in western Ireland. A fluent Gaelic speaker, Dave is also a fine historian, geologist, and ecologist. Also a musician, Hogan gives his listeners an excellent grasp of how the land shaped Irish culture and community life.

The rich faith that grew up in a varied land-

scape and unfavorable climate impressed Anderson and her group very much. The land was either very lush with grass or barren stone, often right next to each other. The monastic communities on islands and in other isolated places fascinated her; in those places, communities of faith had grown up in places where just getting enough food was a daily struggle. The warm hospitality of village-dwelling Irish amazed the travelers from Wisconsin.

The group enjoyed several meals in pubs, which offered good food and some wonderful entertainment by musicians and dancers from that area. One evening featured two superb dancers who were all of fourteen years old. Another evening brought them together with a storyteller who looked quite a bit like an elf (short, with lots of hair and a beard). He regaled the group with stories about life in village Ireland.

Irish songs fascinated Anderson. Most of these songs begin as a lament but end with themes of joy and dancing, and the movement from one frame of mind to the next runs deep in Irish culture. The songs bring words to deep yearnings that are much more than an intellectual discourse on lament in the Psalms. Anderson suggests that American Christians would benefit from a deeper focus on lament in their worship life.

The 23 strong group, originally planned to be about 30, was unable to stay in one place, as Irish Bed and Breakfast establishments in small villages can't accommodate such a large group. Anderson wished they could have stayed in one place, so that the entire group could enjoy all its worship times and storytelling sessions in common. But the large group made the trip more affordable for the people who took part in it. The cost of forming smaller groups would have prohibited many from coming. However, a respected tour organizer put together this trip for First Church, which freed Anderson to lead worship and enjoy the group life.

First Church's spirituality group hopes to make similar trips in the future.



Rev. Diane Rew, Steve Hirby, and Dave Hogan cross a stream at Mámean

A Skinny Newsletter

When I became editor of the *NEA Reporter* almost a year ago, I thought that our newsletter should be shorter and more concise. But I didn't plan on a newsletter of less than five pages!

I invite suggestions for newsletter items. Many of our congregations would love to know about the special events in your churches. I've tried to include these events and some "want ads" in the *Reporter* as the months have gone by.

I apologize for the absence of *Around the NEA* in this edition. We're still getting accustomed to communicating with each other in a different way after the Conference restaffing. Arlan and Sharon Schlundt never got the word about the deadline for this edition. I will make sure that this deadline is published more thoroughly in the future.

The Executive Committee and I have had a good conversation about items for the front page of the *Reporter*. We hope to bring you some items of importance from key leaders about the ministries of the Northeast Association and their focus. A couple of them are in the works already.

Please get any items for the November newsletter to me by Wednesday, October 26. Send them to bill@neaucc.org.

Peace and prayers

Bill Chyma



Church Anniversaries

45 Years

Bethany UCC, Oshkosh

115 Years

St. Paul's UCC, Oshkosh

Salem UCC, Plymouth

120 Years

St. John UCC, Manitowoc

Emmanuel UCC, Oshkosh

125 Years

Bethel UCC, Fond du Lac

130 Years

Hope UCC, Sturgeon Bay

140 Years

St. John's UCC, Black Creek

Hancock UCC, Hancock

145 Years

First Congregational UCC, DePere

155 Years

St. Mark's UCC, Cleveland

160 Years

Congregational UCC, Neenah

Grace Congregational UCC, Two Rivers

165 Years

St. Paul UCC, Malone

175 Years

Union Congregational UCC, Green Bay