

## **Thinking about Food at Mt. Pleasant** *by Brian Langendorf*

One of the great blessings of our congregation is that we are comprised of many diverse backgrounds, viewpoints and interests. However, it's safe to say that there is one thing we all agree on; we like food. Even though we may eat and view our food choices differently, we all understand that food plays a significant role in our daily lives. Some of us may take it for granted. Some are acutely aware of what and why we eat and others worry about where and when their next meal will come.

At Mount Pleasant, a week does not go by without hearing about how food is incorporated in our mission. When we grocery shop we buy extra to contribute to the food pantry. We share our harvest and bounty from our gardens for Joseph's Granary. Some of our members faithfully serve the elderly food needs by helping with Meals on Wheels and we serve our brothers and sisters in the community meal programs at Our Savior's and St. Patrick's churches.

Now, we all have an opportunity to participate in a new and exciting food venture. Wild Root Market is a food co-op that will be serving the Racine community. Wild Root Market's mission is to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of southeastern Wisconsin through the sustainable operation of a full-service, cooperatively owned grocery store serving its community, employees and owners while working as a part of a stronger local food system.

Some of the goals that the co-op hopes to accomplish include:

- Providing as much local and fresh food as possible at a full service grocery store open to the public
- Promoting a more sustainable community where our resources are not depleted, polluted or destroyed
- Keeping money in the local economy by supporting local farming and other locally produced goods & services
- Offering good jobs with honest wages for local residents
- Growing a large community of member-owners who, in turn, invest their money in a growing economy

Some of you may have belonged to a co-op in a different area. I know Pastors Dave and Christine were members of the Marquette Food Co-op while living in northern Michigan and would be happy to share the benefits of membership. Please feel free to also contact my wife Camela (past board member) at 498-4075 or myself, 498-7621, with any questions. I also suggest you check out [wildrootmarket.com](http://wildrootmarket.com) for more information.

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