



Monthly Newsletter of Mt Pleasant Lutheran Church Racine, Wisconsin

Online Worship & Devotions—on facebook live! @spaceshipchurch

Worship—Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (until further notice)

Devotions—Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (until further notice)

Sunday Morning Schedule (currently suspended)

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Education Hour for age 3—grade 12

10:00 a.m. Adult Ed

10:00 a.m. Little Lambs

Church Office Hours

The church office and the building are currently closed. During this time, staff members are available by email and phone—voicemail is checked regularly. Our phone number is 262-634-6704.

Our Website

spaceshipchurch.org

On facebook

facebook.com/spaceshipchurch



Virtual Offering Plate

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of MPLC in this challenging time. The most helpful way to give your offering these days is online ([click here for a link](#)), but we're also grateful for offerings mailed to the church: 1700 South Green Bay Road, Racine, WI 53406.





From Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone

I'm so grateful. I'm grateful that in the midst of challenging times, God's people are stepping up.

- You are staying home, even though it's hard on all of us not to do as we've always done. Even though we miss being together and doing what we want to do, we're keeping our distance for the greater good.
- You're wearing cloth masks in public. What an important, visible witness that you love your neighbor to always wear a mask when you're outside your home! You communicate concern for others' well-being even before you say a word, a visible sign of love.
- You're checking in on each other. Members calling members, friends touching base with each other, neighbors and families and small group members looking out for each other.
- You're praying for each other. I know many of you are praying for our [list of members and friends on the "front lines"](#) of this pandemic. Others are on our prayer chain email list. And many add your prayers in our online worship services on Sunday mornings.
- You're helping others. Our now twice-monthly dropoffs for the Holy Communion Food Pantry have resulted in large contributions of both food and monetary gifts. Some are sewing face masks for others. Some are picking up groceries for people who can't. You're doing what you can, which is all we can do.
- You continue to worship God at home, watching our online service videos, following our Worship-at-Home service orders, or finding/creating other ways to give thanks to God when we can't gather in person.
- You're continuing to give. Some of you have had to cut back, due to reduced income. Some of you have stepped forward to help make up the difference. Some have given generously to God's work through other organizations, feeding, healing, and helping people in need.

Church, I know you're weary. I am, too. I know you're eager for things to "get back to normal". We're not anywhere close to that yet, and the timing is largely out of our hands. In the meantime, we're still God's church. We still have a mission and our callings from God to give our hearts to, and the promise of Jesus to be with us always. Keep at it, church! Thanks for sharing this journey with me!

Gratefully, *Pastor Beth Ann*

Worship with MPLC and the Days Ahead

We hope you've already found a way to continue to worship with MPLC in this time of physical distancing. We know many of our members--and many new people!--are joining us on Facebook for our livestream services at 8:30 AM on Sundays. This week, we've added a "late service" "Watch Party" on our Facebook at 6:30 PM Sundays, where those who missed the AM service can interact with others online while viewing the morning's recording together. Many people who are not on Facebook have also been watching the recorded livestream service later, finding the link through [our church website](#). And our members without email addresses are being sent regular mailings of a Worship-at-Home service order to use along with a personal Bible. (If you would like to receive those mailings and have not been getting them, please contact the church office and let Becky Litwin know to add you to that mailing list. They can also be found on our [Online Church Links page on our website](#).)

Pastor Beth Ann, Pastor Krista, and Michael Becker continue to explore ways to make these online services even more effective because online worship may become a permanent offering of our church's ministry. They are taking precautions themselves when in the sanctuary to protect each other from unknown viral threats, carefully wiping down all surfaces, frequently washing their hands, and keeping distance as much as possible. They hope to begin to include others in worship leadership in the future as technology and safe practices allow, but for the time being, they will continue to be the only on-site leaders.

We keep learning more each day about Covid19, a virus that is as contagious and deadly now as it was six weeks ago before we stayed at home. In the days/weeks/months ahead, all of us will need to make

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careful risk/benefit calculations for all of the activities we used to take for granted. Until there is a widely available, effective vaccine against this coronavirus, those calculations will need to be made by each person before attending in-person worship or any gatherings outside the home.

Your pastors and church leaders are paying attention to the advice of medical experts, health officials, and judicatory leaders of all faiths as we walk through unknown territory. We will NOT be rushing into anything because God and this faith community have entrusted our leadership with the task of stewarding this church--caring for, guarding, protecting, and uplifting God's people and God's mission here. Know that they do so with profound love for you and for the God we serve. We will get through this together in spirit, and we will take our time to do it right.

Click here to read a pastoral letter from our synod bishop, Paul Erickson: <https://milwaukee-synod.org/blog/2020/04/23/a-pastoral-letter-from-bishop-paul-erickson-greater-milwaukee-synod-on-the-extension-of-the-safer-at-home-executive-order/>

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A Message of Thanks and the Importance of Connections From Pastor Krista

Before we left the church building due to coronavirus, we were asking for a few in kind donations. They have not been forgotten! Here's an update on what has been done with those donations.

East Egg Hunt Candy: We were asking for Easter Egg Hunt donations for the egg hunt that was supposed to take place on Palm Sunday. Thank you to those of you who gave! We ended up putting them together as Easter goodie bags with pencils, stamps and candy to give to the food pantry! They handed these out to their guests who were SO excited to receive them! Several said, "Oh thank you! My kids were hoping they would get something for Easter!"

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Foot Care Clinic: Pastor Krista, along with leaders from several other local churches (Covenant Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, and St. Luke's Episcopal, all in Racine) were planning a Foot Care Clinic for guests at The Hospitality Center on Maundy Thursday. Although they were all disappointed the event could not go on as planned, your donations did not go to waste. Many pairs of socks, foot powder, foot warmers, nail clippers, lotion and more were still given to Hospitality Center to hand out to their guests. Thank you for your donations! A special thank you to our High School Sunday School class who pooled their money and went shopping for most of these items on March 1st!

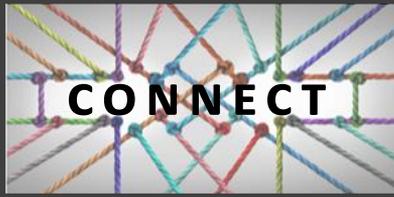
MPLC Buddies—Thank you! We would also like to extend a special thank you to the 19 members who have volunteered to be buddies during this time. These buddies have been calling those who are elderly and/or who don't have access to the internet. We are very thankful for the important ministry that these companions are doing! They call their buddies every week to see how they are doing, chat, pray together and more. It's a wonderful effort to make sure that we care for each other as a church community while we are separated physically but together in spirit!

Can we help you connect? We've been hearing some great stories about people connecting over the phone, by mail, by social media, checking in on each other and staving off loneliness in this time of social distancing. If you're missing someone from church and don't have their contact information, feel free to call the church office and we can get you connected! Or log into your Realm account if you're online!

Troubles Navigating Social Media? If you find yourself becoming confused or frustrated when trying to connect with us online via Facebook or Zoom, please reach out to us! Email [Julie Rossman](mailto:Julie.Rossman@spaceshipchurch.org) or leave her a voicemail at church, and she'd be glad to help!

<https://spaceshipchurch.org/worship/online-church-links/>

Please visit this page on our website for all information/links relating to online programming via Facebook and Zoom. You'll find links to past facebook events, as well as a schedule and links for upcoming events. There's also information and links for helping different organizations in our community. Please take a look!



JOIN A “CROSS-GROUP” IN MAY!

Do you miss get-togethers at church? Do you feel like your faith could use a “pick-me-up”? We’re trying something new! You are invited to try a 4-week long, weekly, online, faith-centered, cross-generational small group...a “Cross Group”, for short. Participants will receive advance instructions to log into a Zoom session at your selected time. You’ll be asked to read a short document or watch a short online video before your first session. At the appointed time/date, you log in to your Zoom meeting, check in with your Cross Group members, and talk about what you’ve read/seen. The next week...you do it again! After four weeks, you’ve learned something, met some new people, and grown in your faith. Win-win-win!

Possible Cross Group meetings/times:

- Mondays at 1 PM, May 4, 11, 18, 25
- Mondays at 6:30 PM, May 4, 11, 18, 25
- Thursdays at 6 AM, May 7, 14, 21, 28
- Saturdays at 10 AM, May 9, 16, 23, 30
- Saturdays at 2 PM, May 9, 16, 23, 30
- Saturdays at 6:30 PM, May 9, 16, 23, 30
- Sundays at 10 AM, May 10, 17, 24, 31
- Sundays at 2 PM, May 10, 17, 24, 31
- Sundays at 7:30 PM, May 10, 17, 24, 31

[Click here to select a Cross Group meeting](#) that suits your schedule. If you don’t have internet access and would like to join with a Cross Group meeting by calling in on your phone, please leave a message for Becky Litwin at the church office to let her know (262-634-6704).

Rummage Sale News

The Rummage Sale Committee has decided to cancel the 2020 Rummage Sale due to the uncertainty of the Corona Virus. We hope to have a bigger and better one next year!



Dial-a-Devotion at MPLC

With our friends in mind who don't have internet access, you can now call into the church any time and listen to a devotion led by one of our pastors. New devotions will be recorded every Wednesday. To listen in, call the church office at 262-634-6704; when you hear the greeting begin, press 113 for the Dial-a-Devotion extension. (Note, there will be a short delay before the devotion begins).

Wednesday Evening Devotions on Facebook Live

Join our various staff members for a short, 15-minute devotion time on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, led from the staff member's home. The videos can be found later on our Facebook page, @spaceshipchurch. Hope to see you there!

Meet our new Digital Sign!

Back in February, MPLC signed a contract with Michael's Signs of Racine to produce a beautiful and much-needed replacement for our church sign. This past week it was installed, and we're so glad to be able to raise this sign of moving forward in ministry with our community, even in a time of global pandemic. Many, many thanks to those who donated to make this possible, and to all of our members for your ongoing support!



MPLC Trivia Night—Online Zoom Version! Saturday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

If you attended our Trivial Pursuit event last winter, you know how much fun it can be! Now we're moving our Trivia Night to Zoom! Participants will be formed into teams, will contemplate their answers in a team "breakout room", and submit their answers to the TriviaMaster, Scott Reske for calculation. To sign up and [get an event reminder email, click here](#). Or just [click on this link to join](#) the event on May 2 at 6:30 PM. The password for this event is "Scott"!

Facebook Storytime Readers Wanted!

Have you seen Pastor Krista or Pastor Beth Ann lead Storytime for kids of all ages on Facebook Live? We're moving to one Storytime a week, on Fridays at 10 AM, and we'd love to feature guest readers from the congregation. If you can record a video of yourself reading a story or two and "interacting" with viewers, we'd like to feature it on a future Friday Storytime. Videos should be under 15 minutes long and include a faith component. To volunteer, please contact Pastor Krista to work out the logistics (kzimmerman@mplc.us).

Fun Time! with Vicar Chip on Facebook Live

You'll find our own Vicar Chip Lutz and his sidekick, Buddy Lee, in a quirky weekly feature at 10 AM Thursdays. Fun for all ages! If you missed it, find it later on our Facebook page, @spaceshipchurch.

Saturday Morning Bible Study—with Vicar Chip

Saturday, April 25th, 9 AM - Bible Study with Vicar Chip via Zoom - sign up here: <https://calendly.com/chiplutz/mplc-saturday-bible-study>
We're currently studying the book of Proverbs. Join us!

Pandemic Pen Pals!



Do you prefer to communicate with a pen and paper instead of a keyboard? How about a Pen Pal? If you'd like to be matched up with another MPLC member to communicate by U.S. Mail for the next several months, please call the church office and leave a message for Becky Litwin (262-634-6704).

MPLC Financial Update

From Church Treasurer, Larry Berger

Following is an update on our giving and our spending for January – March 2020.

January – March 2020

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Giving	Actual Ex-penses	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Giving – Actual Expenses
Ministry and Missions	\$206,000	\$182,000	\$162,000	\$182,000	+\$44,000
Mortgage Retirement	\$24,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	-\$2,000

Through March, we contributed \$206Thousand toward ministry and missions, \$13Thousand more than the first three months of 2019 and \$24Thousand greater than the 2020 budget for this first quarter.

Expenses for the three months were \$162Thousand, \$20Thousand less than budget and \$13Thousand less than last year. Expenses were down versus budget and last year in many of our expense categories reflecting cautious spending, particularly in March, in anticipation of the impact of the virus on church programming, services and events. Comparing income and expenses, we had a surplus of \$44Thousand for the first three months.

Giving toward our mortgage retirement was \$24Thousand through March, down \$2Thousand versus the same period last year, versus this year's budget and versus our required mortgage payment.

A significant portion of our strong first quarter results was pre-virus. Having this early advantage is important as we continue through this period of uncertainty. While expenses are being carefully managed, so much of our financial stability is based upon the continued strength of our giving. Please be generous in your giving.

If you have any questions on the financial update, please contact Larry Berger, the Council Treasurer at lwkberger@gmail.com. Thanks.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

High School Summer Mission Trip Cancelled

On April 9th, we were notified by Appalachian Service Projects, the organization we were working with for our mission trip, that all summer mission trips were being cancelled due to covid-19 precautions. While this was no surprise and in the best interest of everyone's safety, we were disappointed that we won't be able to go to Kentucky to repair houses as planned. We will miss going on this servant adventure together. However, I'm pleased to say that we will be donating the money that we fundraised for the trip, to Appalachian Service Projects so that they can continue their mission in the ways they can. They are a year- round organization and the fees we have already paid will go to continuing their home repair operations in ways that they can with their staff and local subcontractors this summer. It will also make sure that they can continue their 51 year old ministry for the future. When hopefully we will be able to serve with them some other summer.

Thank you for supporting our youth through the babysitting night in December, the Trivial Pursoup/ Soup Cook Off in February and purchasing SCRIP all year. Even though we are unable to go and serve, we are still able to help them in a way that we can through our financial contribution. A staff member from Appalachian Service Project called Pastor Krista and told her, "Please tell your group and your congregation- thank you and we promise to be good stewards of the money you have given us."

COMING SUMMER 2021...

*See next page
for more!*



2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

ELCA Youth Gathering Parent / Student Informational Meeting

Any MPLC members going into grades 8—12 in the fall of 2020, are invited to join us in Minneapolis June 29-July 3, 2021 for the ELCA Youth Gathering! Registration will be opening in early September 2020—so the time to start thinking about it is now! Join Pastor Krista for an informational meeting for youth and their parents/guardians on Zoom, Thursday, May 28, from 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m Sign up for the Zoom meeting on [Sign Up Genius](#). You will get an email prior to the meeting, with Zoom login information.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

OPEN TABLE UPDATE

We are sorry that we continue to be unable to offer our Open Table ministry to the community that has come to love it. As of this writing, we are cancelling the May 31 event and continue to monitor conditions to determine when we might resume. Our hope is to figure out new ways to connect with the Open Table community around us until such time as we can meet again around the table. Thank you for your continuing support for this ministry of outreach and love.

Racine ELCA Cluster Community Meal at Living Faith Lutheran Church—May 10

May 10 is the next date for MPLC to provide the Community Meal at Living Faith, a ministry we help to provide along with several other ELCA congregations in Racine on Sunday afternoons. Since Covid19, this meal has shifted to “to go” meals provided to people who walk up. If you could help provide part of the meal for May 10 (chicken and noodle bake, corn, rolls) or help to put meals together, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094cafa829a4fc1-community9> Donations for the meal should be brought to Living Faith Lutheran Church (2915 Wright Ave) between 3:45 and 4 PM on May 10. Volunteers should wear their own face mask—gloves to be provided. Questions? Contact Vicar Chip Lutz at vicarchip@mplc.us. Thanks to everyone who helps provide this meal!

Holy Communion Food Pantry Update

Food Pantry Parking Lot Drop off at MPLC

The 2 dates we offered for food pantry donation drop off at MPLC (April 8 and 15) were spectacular! In those 2 one hour periods, we filled 2 car trunks, one full back seat plus \$1,200 in financial donations! Sharon, the food pantry director is THRILLED and so thankful! Several have asked when



we're doing it again. The Care/Serve Team decided 2 times/ month- the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays until further notice. **The dates for May are: May 6 and 20 6-7 pm.**

NO CONTACT FOOD DONATION DROP OFF! Just pull up to the MPLC parking lot, you'll see Vicar Chip in his vehicle. Put your donations in the trunk. He will get it to the food pantry the next day!

You can still bring donations TO the Holy Communion Lutheran Church Food Pantry at 2000 W 6th St., Racine, Monday—Friday from 9—11 a.m. Go to side door marked food pantry.

CURRENT NEEDS:

canned pasta (with meat preferably like Spaghettios), tuna, tomato soup

chicken noodle soup, mac and cheese, pancake mix, syrup, jelly , spaghetti sauce, side dishes, pork and beans, bar soap, disinfectants. **In addition**, they need brown paper grocery bags and cloth grocery bags. They cannot accept plastic grocery bags.

Monetary Donations Welcome. Click here to donate online: <http://hopeonahill.org/give/give-now/> Then choose "Food Pantry" in drop down menu.

Checks should be made out to:

Holy Communion Lutheran Church (food pantry in memo)
and sent to:

Holy Communion Lutheran Church, 2000 W 6th St., Racine, WI 53405

Helpful Handiwork from our Members

Several weeks ago, MPLC member Julie Lang put out a call for hand-made face masks to donate in our community. MPLC, you responded! Julie Lang collected donated the pictured masks to the following organizations: South Shore Fire/EMS; St. Monica's Assisted Living; Frontina Assisted Living Group - Kenosha; Elite Home Health Care. Thank you to Julie for your efforts in organizing this project and thank you to all who sewed these masks!



CONGREGATION NEWS



Our sympathy and prayers go to: Jude Mahnke on the death of her husband, Bill, on April 7; to Brian and Denise Keller, Michaela and Erin, on the death of father and grandfather, Arthur Rode, on April 7; and to Karen Christensen on the death of her husband, Glenn on April 11.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ross Larson, Ray Nellis, Ben Poulsen, Dick Jonas, Sharon Polak, Barb Mains, Betty Breiwick, Mark Zimmerman, Trina Larsen, Julie Segoe, Nancy Holtz, Danny Anderson, Lila Berge



Newsletter Deadline—MAY 17

If you have a submission for the **June Mt Pleasant SPIRIT** Newsletter, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 17.** Please email your articles by the end of the day on the 17th, to Julie Rossman (jrossman@mplc.us). Thanks!



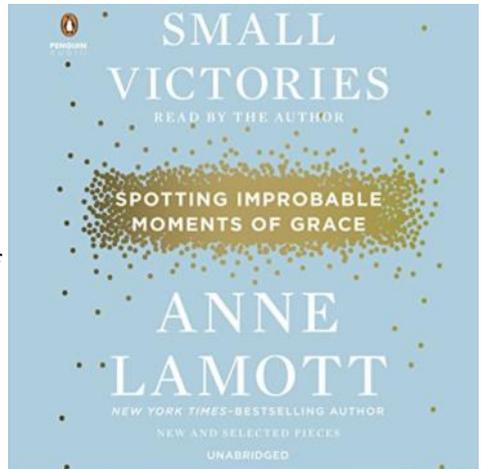
Please keep the following young adults in your prayers as they prepare to graduate from high school and move on to the next stage in their lives, under very unusual circumstances.

Ben Brussat
Annika Christensen
Christopher Fish
Julia Graves
Calie Gulbrandson
Evan Holle
Tiffany Johnson
Emma Knoell

Devin Luehr
Nick Maraccini
Larry Olson
Samuel Reynolds
Parker Smith
Olivia Stuebe
Ethan Weishoff

A Book in a Pandemic!

- Book Discussion with Holly Hess, Director of Serving Ministries.
- Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
- The book is: *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*, by Anne LaMott. (Please get the book on your own)
- Sign up [here](#) so you can get the zoom link and password via email, just prior to May 28.
- Join us, All are Welcome!



MPLC BIRTHDAYS!

May 1
Tricia Randelzhofer

May 2
Nora Hatcher
Lauren Longrie-Robinson

May 3
Debbie Heaps

May 4
Pam Thomey

May 5
Don Phillips
Josh Baclawski
Jude Mahnke
Cindy Weiss
Stew Nagao

May 6
Kristi Gilkerson
Jamie Rauth
Kathy Heyse

May 8
Sue Buffham

May 10
Lewis Malczewski

May 11
Jerry Daanen
Yolanda Lewis
Karen Stein
Paige Murdoch

May 12
Brian Wolf
Cheri Ujcich
Debbie Wesley
Jean Richio

May 13
Sharon White
Bruce Lingsweiler
Jim Myhre
Paul Taylor
Kim Janicek

May 14
Georgia Heffel

May 15
Tim Cunningham
Josh Jordan
Peggy Sczepanski
Nancy Oslund

May 16
Malary Reynolds
Candy Zicarelli
JoAnn Goodyear
Lynne Santalucia

May 17
Tami Mikell

May 18
Bob Trendel
Peggy Prince
Marilyn Wikner
Jean Richter
Naomi Miller

May 19
Michael Ramig
Barb Hubmann
Jeannine Basley

May 20
Jackie Dresen
Amy Zuelke

May 21
Denny Martin

May 22
Farrell Fisher

May 23
Vicki Sell
Kurri Cecchini

May 24
Louise Larsen
Sophia Main

May 25
Vony Langlieb
Chris Aho
Ken Campbell
Andrew Luehr

May 26
Stephanie McCready

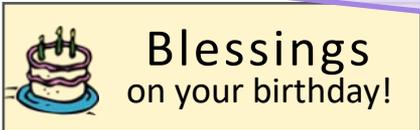
May 27
Kathy Ball

May 29
Ethel Malvasio

May 30
Teresa Jacobs
Joan Jansen
Garrett Meader

May 31
Shaun LaCanne

*Extra Special
Birthday Wishes
go to
Georgia Heffel,
whose 100th
Birthday is
May 14.
Happy Birthday,
Georgia!
God Bless You!*





1700 S. Green Bay Road
Racine WI 53406
Phone: 262.634.6704

spaceshipchurch.org

Staff

Beth Ann L. Stone (bastone@mplc.us)	Senior Pastor
Krista Zimmerman (kzimmerman@mplc.us)	Pastor
Chip Lutz (vicarchip@mplc.us)	Vicar
Eduardo García-Novelli (egarcianovelli@carthage.edu)	Sr. Choir Director
Michael Becker (michael@mplc.us)	Organist
Sue Cawley	Assistant Organist
Greg Schroeder (gschroeder89@gmail.com)	Bell Choir Director
Holly Hess (hollyhess@wi.rr.com)	Director of Faith & Life
Becky Litwin (blitwin@mplc.us)	Dir. Of Parish Services
Stephanie Buchanan (sbuchanan@mplc.us)	Business Manager
Julie Rossman (jrossman@mplc.us)	Director of Communications
Cindy Green	Meal Coordinator/Sexton
Rick Sill	Sexton
Jasmine Cherry	Nursery

Congregation Council

David Santalucia (262-664-1867 or dsantalu@alumni.iu.edu)	President / Worship & Music
Chris Ryshkus (945-8403 or chris.ryshkus@gmail.com)	Vice President / Welcome
Yolanda Lewis (262-498-3906 or coyolewis@yahoo.com)	Secretary/Learn
Tricia Randelzhofer (262-930-2628 or trandelzhofer@gmail.com)	Financial Secretary
Larry Berger (456-4779 or lwlkberger@gmail.com)	Treasurer
Kristi Barrett (3262-880-5730 or kbarrett81@gmail.com)	Learn
Ed Jacobs (262-770-3032 or egjacobs@outlook.com)	Property
Steve Ketterhagen (456-6542 or stketterhagen@gmail.com)	Safety
Dennis Martin (262-994-7048 or nitramshell@wi.rr.com)	Serve
Erin Donaldson (262-914-0674 or den.donaldson@yahoo.com)	Do Justice
Joanne Swartz (770-289-0143 or joannefswartz@gmail.com)	Care
Carol Wiechers (262-880-6170 or cjh1210@aol.com)	Serve