

March-April 2019



## Groundcover



PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF A NEW COMMON GROUND Vol. 2 Issue 1

### SPRING IS HERE: WITH EARTH DAY & GARDEN WALL HANGING PLANS



It began with mid-winter Makers' Sessions, first using brown shipping paper layouts, then cut patterns, than hand painting and sewing of four Garden Wall Hangings that illustrate four lines from Dorothy Frances Gurney's lovely poem, "God's Garden." The poem was originally written in Lord Ronald Gower's visitor's book. It was inspired by his exquisite garden at Hammersfield Penshurst according to a copy handwritten in England on an envelope (c. 1925) found in a book on the Church of England's Liberal Evangelicals in 2010. And no wonder the poet was so inspired. The Penshurst Gardens in Kent, in the Southeast of England, are simply stunning. The Gardens are one of the oldest privately owned in the world, dating back to 1341 in English History, still providing peace and comfort to global visitors and garden-lovers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *(continued)*



#### MISSION STATEMENT

A New Common Ground is a farm-to-table dinner community where people make spiritual connections together. It is a regional interfaith community welcoming all traditions. Rooted in universal principles of faith and action, it provides an environment of trust and care. Its programs offer education and nurture for the human spirit and enlarge awareness of sustainable earth practices. As a center for soul-care and earth-care it promotes the constant hope of peace through justice and is a 21<sup>st</sup> century ministry of Emmanuel UCC.



Our periodic newsletter is called *Groundcover* in honor of sustainable spiritual and earth care practices. Our programs cover a lot of ground--in ethics, belief systems, issues of our days and tasks we are called to perform--within our abilities and resources, individually and as a group.

#### Garden Wall, continued

The gardens helped King Henry VIII provide a comforting divorce settlement for his 4<sup>th</sup> wife, Anne of Cleves. Pictured (above left) Amanda and Tyler are among twelve who used every sort of creativity employed by the team: ideation & materials gathering & cutting, sewing & sketching; computer graphics & stencil production; drilling & measuring & fabric painting on four cloth panels. The completed four panels will be hung in April in the large room that overlooks current gardens. They are meant to help cast the vision of larger gardens where people will come to visit, walk and mediate, finding the Divine in the green and blooming or resting native gardens of A New Common Ground at Emmanuel UCC, near Dousman. Finished four Wall Hangings will be part of the spiritual celebration of Spring, Earth Day, Easter, and Passover. *Information at 262-684-5193.*

### April for Children

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In a Wednesday evening Gathering program dedicated to providing legal regulations and non-profit help we lit our five candles--- because five children die every day in the USA of child abuse. Please light five candles in your home and pray for our children in harms way, of every color and background and culture.



#### Prayer for Our Schoolchildren

*by Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund*

Live child – no matter what!  
Don't let anybody or anything stop you.

Like the flowers in the crannies squeezing life as ivy, ferns, molds, and yellow buds stretching towards the sun rise from the rocky soil... cling to the naked bumpy walls... work your roots into the tiny crevices, nooks, and crannies of the unfriendly walls of race and class and gender that try to block your way. Live no matter what lapping up sun's warmth and rain's drops, bend with the wind and dance with the breeze, crawl up and down and all around. Cover the stone walls with your green coverlet going on with your life.

#### Wed. Eve. Supper Gatherings

**Spring-Summer at 6:30 PM**  
36821 Sunset Drive, HWY 18, near Dousman, WI 53066

**Call 262-684-5193 or click:**  
[pastorsimone@centurylink.net](mailto:pastorsimone@centurylink.net)  
[www.anewcommonground.org](http://www.anewcommonground.org)

**And Like Us on Facebook**

**Q: Do I pay to get in?**

**A: Just Free Will Offerings!**