

United Methodist Church
PO Box 94
804 St. John St.
Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



...YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF...

LEVITICUS 19:18

Newsletter of Boyceville, Faith and Grace United Methodist
Churches
Pastor Shannon Mattison
Parsonage: 715-749-6351 Church Office : 715-643-2331
Prairie Farm: Faith Worship Service 8:30,
Boyceville Worship Service 9:45,
Wheeler: Grace Worship Service 11:00
Welcome

The Gleaner
February 2019

January 23, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we have transitioned from the Christmas season into normal times, a time between Christmas and Lent, we have been considering gifts in our worship services. We have been using 1 Corinthians 12-13:31a as our text. 1 Corinthians was about the earliest writing of the New Testament. It was written during a time that the people were trying to determine how to follow Christ in their context and how to be the church.

In many ways, this is what has been happening today as well, especially in mainline denominations. The United Methodist Church is not immune to this. At the 2016 General Conference, the Bishops were tasked to form a Commission on a Way Forward to develop possible plans for the future of our church. As has been reported in various United Methodist News Services as well as in other regular news outlets, three major plans have been proposed and will be voted on at the Special General Conference coming up in February. As was noted in bulletins and the Gleaner, there were opportunities to attend listening sessions throughout the state last fall. Delegates from our conference have used these to guide them as they prepare to attend the Conference.

As the Special General Conference is fast approaching, we are called to pray for the delegates who will be coming together to do the tough work of ahead of them.

Included in this issue of the Gleaner is the latest Soul Food writing from our Bishop. No matter where you stand on the issues facing the United Methodist Church, please take the time to read what he has written to us, if only because he is our Bishop, and as such, deserves the respect to be heard.

Christ's peace be with you as we journey through normal times towards Lent, moving forward with Christ's commission to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Pastor Shannon

Pastor Shannon's Office Hours

Office hours will be by appointment

Pastor Shannon will be on vacation February 12-18.



Why Our Church Needs Unity

I Corinthians 12:12-26

One of the greatest challenges to our United Methodist Church is currently under global consideration. We will gather as a worldwide denomination in February in St. Louis to truly determine our collective future. Our ability to fulfill our mission of disciple-making for the transformation of the world, and our witness to the world of the saving grace and loving compassion of God is at stake.

Spiritual leaders throughout our church are calling United Methodists everywhere to make a commitment to the unity of faith in Jesus Christ and the continued positive impact of our theological and missional work in the world. To the consternation of many, our “unity” has become a topic of debate and division. This indicates a deep misunderstanding of “unity” as used in our Christian scriptures. The Greek word *Ενότης* (*enotita*) is more rich and complex than the English translation unity. By applying simplistic modern definitions to the word unity, we can deny the scriptural intention, which has great power to help us through our current challenges.

Many opponents to the idea of unity in The United Methodist Church incorrectly say it implies full agreement, lack of disagreement, regimented acceptance of a narrow set of moral standards, or homogenized sameness for all believers and members. Interestingly, this is almost the opposite of what Paul and Jesus taught in our New Testament.

While Paul calls those who claim Christ as Lord and Savior to be of one heart and mind, and to proclaim the faith with one accord, his intention is that Christ followers would choose to unite around those things most important, and to set aside those things over which they disagreed. Repeatedly, Paul acknowledges that there will be disagreements. It is not disagreement that is the problem, but how we address our disagreements that is most important. No matter how vehemently we disagree, our baptism, our belief in the risen Christ, and our proclamation of the love and grace of God is more powerful. We do not choose unity; we are already made one with Christ, one with each other, and one in service by God’s redeeming act through Christ. We do not unite to honor God; we honor God by recognizing the unifying work of God in our lives through our faith. Once again, we do not choose God; God chooses us! What we choose is how we will live this unity together.

This is the elegant and beautiful intention in Paul’s teaching in I Corinthians 12. We ARE ONE BODY – the body of Christ. Many parts, many functions, many differences, but still all one. No part of the body may judge and reject any other part of the body. And it is not our task to merely tolerate the other parts of the body, but to come to recognize their value and to honor those we struggle to accept.

Some say that Jesus said he did not come to bring peace, but to bring a sword of division and dissolution. This is a skewed interpretation. The division that Jesus brought was from one paradigm to another – a fundamental and defining faith different and separate from that which was the accepted norm. People were forced to choose to remain in the old paradigm or to bravely and boldly risk entering a new paradigm. The reality was that this would divide families, tribes, communities, and cultures. It was not a justification of splitting over disagreement, but an honest acknowledgment that an “either/or” decision was demanded.

In our context, we are trying to decide which Christian brothers and sisters are acceptable and which we will not accept. This is not our decision to make; it belongs to God and God alone. Our decision is how we can live faithfully with those who are different; how we can honor the sacrament of baptism and what God has done for all of us, not just some of us; and, how we can witness to the world that when

Christ is truly in our hearts, we navigate disagreement and division in ways very different from our dominant culture.

Our unity is a gift and grace to us from God. God makes us one. We can always choose to separate and go our way, rejecting what God has done for us, but we do not have the right to tell someone else they do not belong. John Wesley offered the simplest and most helpful wisdom when he wrote, schism is "...evil in itself. To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians with whom we were before united is a grievous breach of the law of love. It is the nature of love to unite us together, and the greater the love the stricter the union...It is only when our love grows cold that we can think of separating from our brethren. And this is certainly the case with any who willingly separate from their Christian brethren. The pretenses for separation may be innumerable but want of love is always the real cause." (On Catholic Spirit, John Wesley)

Let us pray that our General Conference delegates might discern and embrace the sacred gift of unity that is the core characteristic of our identity as the Christian church, and that we might honor God by being the body of Christ for the transformation of our world.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
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Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time will be Sunday, February 10 and February 24. Carol Cherney and Marguerite Blodgett will serve on the 10th and Mindy Nelson is looking for someone to serve with her on the 24th.

Boyceville Ushers

February ushers are James & Jennifer Hall



Scripture Readers and Greeters for Boyceville

	Reader	Greeter
February 3	Kim Silvius	Dawn Rogers
February 10	Merlyn Jones	Jerod Nelson
February 17	Earl Blodgett	Makayla Nelson
February 24	Steve Silvius	Elaine Grutt
March 3	Kim Silvius	Delphine Danovsky

Greeters: If you are unable to be at church on your Sunday, please find someone to trade with. If you can't find someone, call Dawn Rogers, 643-2116. Thank You.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, February 19th
Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-265-7710 or
rtsmnelson@hotmail.com with your news. Thanks.

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Angie Thomas	Jean McIntyre	Larry Smith
Megan Johnson	Dawn Rogers	Karen Smith
Lucas Edwards	Sonya Zebro	Rob Schmidt
Loraine Blodgett	Anita Harvey	Lloyd Larrieu
Rosanne Wurtzler	Pam Rosen	Cory Goodell
Relief Workers	Bill Canfield	Samantha Christian
Brad Stevens	Shelby Bauer	Jerry Wyss
Butch Schaffer	Coat Closet	Victims of Violence
World Peace	Missionaries	Food Harvest Ministry

Victims of Natural Disasters
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

There is power in prayers to God.

A reminder: Please remember our shut-ins with visits, calls and cards.

Please keep our prayer list current by letting Tammy know when names should be added or removed.

Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

1 - Bridgett Kahl	17 - Frank Dummer
2 - Ashlee Hanson	19 - Jessica Zobel
2 - Jeremy White	20 - Cory Dunn
10 - Gilbert Krueger	20 - Katie Kegen
11 - Kyle Smith	23 - Jean McIntyre
15 - Linda Miller	25 - Skipper Ford
15 - Jerod Nelson	25 - Glenise Thomas
15 - Doreen Olson	27 - Julie Hiben
16 - Gary Knutson	28 - Ray Cherney

Food Harvest Ministry News

The next distribution will be from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, February 16th at 1002 Main St., Boyceville, WI. Aluminum cans can also be dropped off at this location.

Packing for the Weekend Food Program

All of the churches in this charge have made food ministries a priority. Boyceville UMC joins with other churches in the area taking turns in packing backpacks for the WestCAP Weekend Food Program. The next packing date is February 20th. Two or three volunteers are needed to pack. Please let Pastor Shannon know if you can help.

Honduras Mission Update

from Sister Alegría



Thank you for your December donation to Amigas del Señor.

*Back in 2014, Sister Confianz and I visited the US, receiving just over \$5,000 in donations. Almost immediately, the motorcycle of the county supervisor of health promoters needed repairs. We had helped pay for parts and repairs before. (For more detail of Cooper's job and motorcycle repairs, see page 320 of our book *Giving Up Something Good for Something Better*.) Well, this time it became clear that this motorcycle was effectively dead. We spent the \$5,000 to replace it. It gets hard use, covering the whole county with NO paved roads, sometimes carrying two people up and down very steep hills. In November 2018, it needed the motor replaced. Cooper could still travel, but only slowly. They mayor would pay for the labor, but the parts cost 10,000 lempiras, or \$417. We paid for that in December, thanks in part to your donation. The first replacement part was ready to go, but one part had to be shipped from Mexico. It has now arrived and the motorcycle is ready to go again full strength.*

Thank you for your support of the important work of the Public Health Clinic in Limón, Honduras!

Amigas del Señor Monastery
Limón, Colón
Honduras



Creamed Chicken Dinner

Grace United Methodist Church, Wheeler, WI

Thursday, February 7th
3:00-7:00 p.m.

Creamed Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed
Potatoes, Coleslaw, Cranberries, Desserts and
Beverages

Free Will Offering

SPRC Training

- **SPRC Training #1 – Saturday, February 16, 2019 @ 10:00AM – 1:00PM**

Hayward United Methodist Church, 285N Olker Rd., Hayward, WI 54843

- **SPRC Training #2 – Sunday, February 17, 2019 @ 2:00PM – 5:00PM**

Hudson United Methodist Church, 1401 Laurel Ave., Hudson, WI 54016

- **SPRC Training #3 – Monday, February 18, 2019 @ 6:00PM – 9:00PM**

Elk Mound: Trinity United Methodist Church, 105 S Holly Ave., Elk Mound, WI 54739

- **SPRC Training #4 – Tuesday, February 19, 2019 @ 10:AM – 1:00PM**

Eau Claire: Hope United Methodist Church, 2233 Golf Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701

You can register for the SPRC training of your choice at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444aaa822abf94-north>

All pastors, SPRC chairs and SPRC committee members are encouraged to attend!

Lasagna Dinner

Faith United Methodist Church
Prairie Farm, WI

Sunday, February 17th
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lasagna, Buns, Salad, Beverage, Ice Cream
Sundaes, and Cookies

Free Will Offering

All Proceeds going to
Country Playhouse Preschool



Faith United Methodist Church News for February

Worship Service at 8:30 am



- To those who contributed to Human Relations Sunday. We collected \$24.
- To Lay Readers: Roxanne White, Bill Wiseman, Barbara Bender, Frisle's
- To Coffee Servers: Roxanne White, Pat Frisle, Barbara Bender, Ila Knutson
- To the Kids in Christ for the skit of the Fourth Wiseman. Also, the musicians. You did a good job.

Parish Duties for February

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>	<u>Coffee/Snack</u>
February 3	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman	Margie Wiseman
February 10	Roxanne White	Roxanne White	Barbara Bender
February 17	Frisle's	Open	Lasagna Dinner
February 24	Gloria Kahl	Gary Kahl	Gloria Kahl

Faith United Methodist Women

Faith United Methodist Women will meet on February 7th at Pioneer Care and Rehabilitation to play bingo with the residents. Margie is in charge. We will serve angel food cake, strawberries, and ice cream for coffee time.



Excel Energy and Feed My People are collecting new or gently used shoes to be distributed to people in poor countries. WEAU had a broadcast showing 98 bags already collected. It will run for at least another month. Robin and Barb are organizing and collecting. If you have some, bring to the church by February 10th. Thanks in advance.

Our Lasagna Dinner will be on February 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome. Proceeds to Country Playhouse Preschool.

If anyone is interested in attending a bible study at the Prairie Farm church with Pastor Shannon leading the study, please contact her. The time and dates will be determined at the first session. 715-220-0081 or shannonmattison@yahoo.com.

Kids in Christ's Kingdom (KICK) is hosting their Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday Feb. 10th, at the United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm from 11 – 1. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served, with take- outs available, for a free will donation (cash or food items). Prairie Farm Food Pantry is our 2019 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.



KICK is middle school (grades 6-8) youth group that focus on community service and fellowship fun. If you would like to join us or want more information, please contact Leslie Frisle 715-455-1212.



GIVING Prayer & Gratitude February 2019

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Henri Nouwen has said, “As our prayer deepens into constant awareness of God’s goodness, the spirit of gratitude grows within us.” This implies a cause and effect relationship: prayer causes gratitude. Therefore, it seems that just saying, or praying, “Thanks” is not enough.

What does prayer do to grow gratitude?

Focuses us on God. Prayer moves our focus from ourselves to God. It reminds us that we are not intended to be self-sufficient, rather, God provides us with we need, sometimes, even with the gift that moves us toward God’s grace.

Reminds us Who is the Giver. God is the giver of all good gifts and graces. All of our blessings come from God. Through prayer, we come to recognize that we have so much to be thankful for... just pray for the most important people and blessings in your life and you will find that the list gets very long very quickly.

Keeps us Positive. With our eyes on our blessings, we have little room for complaining and negativity. One cannot be thankful and negative at the same time.

Moves us closer to God. Debbie McDaniel has pointed out that prayer, “opens up the door for continued blessings. It invites His presence. Our spirits are refreshed and renewed in Him. God loves to give good gifts to His children. He delights in our thankfulness and pours out His Spirit and favor over those who give honor and gratitude to Him.”

This is what Stewardship looks like in the Kingdom of God. Let us pray ourselves and our churches into the Kingdom.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Helps for the Stewardship Chair

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or call 1-888-903-9863

