

United Methodist Church
PO Box 94
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Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Faith and Grace
United Methodist Churches
Pastor Shannon Mattison
Parsonage: 715-749-6351 Cell: 715-220-0081
Prairie Farm: Faith Worship Service 8:30,
Boyceville Worship Service 9:45,
Wheeler: Grace Worship Service 11:00
Welcome

The Gleaner
May 2019

April 23, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It appears that we are now on the other side of a difficult winter. There were signs that winter would soon end. But they were difficult to see for a while without looking real close. Even as the temperature began to rise a little and the first birds that leave for the winter began to return, the weather had just a few more tricks to play on us.

During this difficult winter we traveled many roads as we journeyed through the Lenten season to Easter. Our journey did not end there. We continue to travel through the season of Easter which will end with the Ascension and Pentecost.

As Lent has given away to the hope of Easter and winter has given away to spring, many of us will be making upcoming camping and travel plans. Some of us will be making plans for gardens and other projects that can only be completed during the warmer weather months or into the early fall. It's easy during this time to slip into a routine where gathering to worship, remembering our tithes, and witnessing to God through what we do slides to the backseat or into our trunks.

How many of you have heard of Flat Stanley? For those who haven't, Flat Stanley is a children's book series by Jeff Brown. It has also grown into a school project since 1995 where children color a paper cutout of Flat Stanley than take him (or her) on their adventures. They document their adventures with Flat Stanley by taking picture of the paper doll at all the places they have been and things they have done during a specific time frame. In my family, Stanley's adventures have been as simple as things done around town during that time to the paper doll flying to Japan to visit a friend of one of my daughters that teaches there. In that case, Stanley came home with pictures, a journal of what she had done, and a gift for the child who had sent her.

What does this all have to do with the Easter season and summer and fall plans? As with many things, the Flat Stanley project has moved beyond the schools to churches only not as Flat Stanley. It has become the Flat Jesus project. Just as Flat Stanley has helped children plug into literacy and geography, Flat Jesus is a way to keep our church family connected as we enter into the busy summer and traveling season. As you make plans, include Flat Jesus and staying connected in those plans.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in providing meals for our Wednesday evening Lenten service, who helped in any way with our seder, and who read for the Good Friday service.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Shannon



- Print “I am with you always” in the hem of Flat Jesus’ robe.
- Color your Flat Jesus. Laminate and cut him out if desired.
- Take your Flat Jesus everywhere with you this summer and takes lots of pictures.
- You can upload your pictures through Facebook or send copies to the church to be displayed.
- Talk with your family about what you and Flat Jesus experienced.



A Rocky Road to Easter

How difficult must it have been for Jesus to face his final hours not knowing whether his followers could carry on the mission that he launched? It is beyond the imagination of most of us to conceive all that Jesus was feeling and facing during this time that we have come to call "Holy Week." Ushered into Jerusalem with the shouts of "Hosanna," and received as a fulfillment to prophecy one day, confronting and challenging political, military, and religious leadership in days following, saying goodbye and being arrested, tried, beaten, and crucified. Few of us can fathom the stress and emotion of this time. And Jesus questioned whether his closest friends and followers ever fully grasped what was to come. Peter's denial. Judas' betrayal. The abandonment of the remaining disciples. The rejection of the crowds. The mockery. The agony. Feeling forsaken.

Only Easter allows this to make any sense. Only the resurrection and all it symbolizes and means provides any redemption to this level of sacrifice and suffering. No wonder we often race to Easter, to celebrate new life in Jesus, to escape the darkness and despair of Good Friday and Black Saturday. Who wants to dwell in uncertainty, doubt, guilt, remorse and shame?

Yet, there is much value and benefit to thinking through our own discipleship and commitment as we prepare to meet the risen Lord. It is easy to judge Peter, to condemn Judas, to shake our heads at James and John and Thomas and the others. But staying together and staying committed is always easier from a distance. There is a good chance that we would not have fared any better than the disciples were we to find ourselves in their places.

Deserting in both big and small ways is a natural and normal defense mechanism. We seek safety and survival. We seek comfort and protection. When the storms are raging all around us, we look for cover and sanctuary. Who intentionally heads into danger and threat?

But we sometimes forget that there is NO Easter without Good Friday and all the events leading up to it. The road to Easter is rocky and rough, but that makes it all the more amazing, all the more miraculous. God prepares the road for us. God walks the road with us. God waits for us at the other end. But only if we stay on the road from start to finish.

Our United Methodist Church is going through some rough times. We are on a rocky road. People are failing. People are betraying. People are being hurt. People are feeling abandoned. People are giving into weakness. People are lashing out – with words if not with swords. People are running away. People are hiding.

Should we condemn them? Should we judge? Are we not among them? Perhaps the best course of action is one of grace and humility and gentleness and kindness. Perhaps we need to understand that we need each other to make it up the road, to get through the darkness, and to emerge – together – into the light of resurrection and new life.

In the pain and suffering of loss, betrayal, loneliness, darkness, and despair, we can get distracted. We can begin to feel that what we are experiencing in the moment is the ultimate reality. But we are Easter people. Darkness never defeats the light. Despair never has the last word over hope. And death is an illusion, intended to confuse us and make us forget who we really are. Easter people. Now and forevermore. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time will be Sunday, May 12 and 26. Shirley Jones and Sonya Zebro will serve on the 12th. Sheila Hegeman and Shelby Bauer will serve on the 26th.

Boyceville Ushers

May ushers are Jerod & Jacob Nelson



Scripture Readers and Greeters for Boyceville

	Reader	Greeter
May 5	Earl Blodgett	Jennifer Hall
May 12	Glenise Thomas	Makayla Nelson
May 19	Pete Bodette	Doreen Olson
May 26	Kim Silvius	Kevin Zebro

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, May 21st
Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-265-7710 or
rtsmnelson@hotmail.com with your news. Thanks.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Angie Thomas	Samantha Christian	Jim (Buck) Knops
Anita Harvey	Coat Closet	Victims of Violence
Missionaries	World Peace	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 Pastor Shannon or Tammy know when names should be added or removed.

Men's Group

The Boyceville Men's Group will be meeting at 6pm on May 9th and 23rd
at the Boyceville United Methodist Church

Native American Ministries Sunday

We will be observing Native American Ministries Sunday on May 5. Gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday fund scholarships for Native American seminarians and strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American ministries.

Golden Cross Sunday

On May 12, Golden Cross Sunday, our church will join congregations throughout Wisconsin in giving thanks for the fifteen Health and Welfare Ministries that includes parish nurses, hospital care, services for children and youth, hospital chaplains, homeless shelters, senior communities, nursing homes, community outreach, and intergenerational programming. When a church observes Golden Cross Sunday, it provides a time for our congregations to celebrate these ministries and an opportunity to learn about their dedication and commitment to caring. It also gives persons in local churches the chance to give a gift to these established outreach programs.

Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries in May

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Lynn Smith | |
| 3 - Rosemary & Les Tracy (anniv.) | 20 - Kim & Stephen Silvius (anniv) |
| 5 - Janice Salisbury | 23 - Adam Carufel |
| 7 - Hunter Wilcox | 23 - Shania Dunn |
| 13 - Lynn & Sherry Smith (anniv.) | 23 - Angela Wyss |
| 14 - Faye Krueger | 23 - Gary & Pat Frisle (anniv.) |
| 17 - Alan Walk | 24 - Jacob Carufel |
| 17 - Vilai Wilcox | 27 - Daisy Turner |
| 18 - Gary Frisle | 29 - Amanda Hanson |
| 20 - Marguerite Blodgett | 30 - Odella Harvey |
| 20 - Allissa Frisle | 31 - Dan & Dellene Miller (anniv.) |

Food Harvest Ministry News

The next distribution will be from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18th at 1002 Main St., Boyceville, WI. Aluminum cans can also be dropped off at this location.

Faith United Methodist Church News for May

Worship Service at 8:30 am

Thank You!

- To all who contributed/ worked/ participated at the Maundy Thursday Seder service and meal at Boyceville. It was wonderful—very special.
- To all who participated in the Good Friday service at Faith.
- To Leslie Frisle for organizing and all who joined in the Cross Walk on Good Friday.
- To Roxanne White for getting the Easter lilies at Faith. The UMW pays for them.

Parish Duties for May

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>	<u>Coffee/Snack</u>
May 5	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman	Open
May 12	Roxanne White	Roxanne White	Roxanne White
May 19	Frisle's	Open	Frisle's
May 26	Barbara Bender	Barbara Bender	Barbara Bender

Faith United Methodist Women

Faith United Methodist Women will not be meeting in May. Our next meeting will be on June 6th. Kathy Neck has the program.

Administrative Council meets on May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Native American Sunday will be May 5th. There will be a special offering with envelopes provided. Come prepared.

The last day for Country Playhouse Preschool will be May 23rd. Have a Happy Memorial Day weekend.

MEXICAN DINNER

THURSDAY, MAY 2
3:30-7 P.M.

AT THE WHEELER GRACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Wildfire! is a week of mission work. Each day the group will begin with worship. Then, it will break into small groups to do mission work throughout the Superior, Wisconsin area. Each evening the groups will go out to have a fun outing. All this gives time for youth to bond, work, and create friendships together – all while growing deeper spiritually.

Wildfire! Youth Mission and Ministry offers “separate yet common” experiences for both Middle schoolers and High schoolers. We try to pair youth of similar age for mission activities, but also have time to mix with all the youth during the general activities. This allows youth groups to have a common mission experience and still provides time for youth to work with other youth their own age.

Fee \$135/person - covers all costs. **When** July 21-26, 2019 **Registration** Call Rev. Joel Certa-Werner at 715-394-9608 pastor@superiorfaithumc.org Forms can be downloaded at superiorfaithumc.org/wildfire.

There are 2 people going from the Downing UMC and are willing to carpool if anyone would like to attend!

Benefit Celebrating the Safe Return of Jayme Closs

May 4, 2019

10am-4pm

At the Barron High School



Giving
Who Should Know What I Give?
May 2019

The answer to the question, "Who should know what I give?" is simple and straightforward: **100% of the people who need to know and 0% of the people who do not need to know.**

I have donated to a number of nonprofit organizations and have never wondered who sees my donation. Nevertheless, I would certainly expect that the number who do see it includes those needed to process the gift, and those who would solicit the gift and thank me, including the CEO who is also gift solicitor-in-chief. In addition, there would be auditors who would need to have access to all financial records.

In our churches, it is the same. The financial secretary and counters process gifts. During the week, office staff may process checks that come in and produce reports on giving from the church database. The Stewardship team needs to see giving records in order to make plans for stewardship campaigns, say thanks, and to guide asking for future gifts. Finally, the Pastor needs to know in order to participate in financial Stewardship of the church as well as congregational care.

The 2016 General Conference confirmed what the pastor's role was already by amending the Book of Discipline to read, "*To ensure membership care including compliance with charitable giving documentation requirements and to provide appropriate pastoral care, the pastor ... **shall** have access to and responsibility for professional stewardship of congregational giving records.*" [Emphasis added.]

During the annual church audit, the church may share giving data with the auditors, as well.

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

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)
or call 1-888-903-9863

