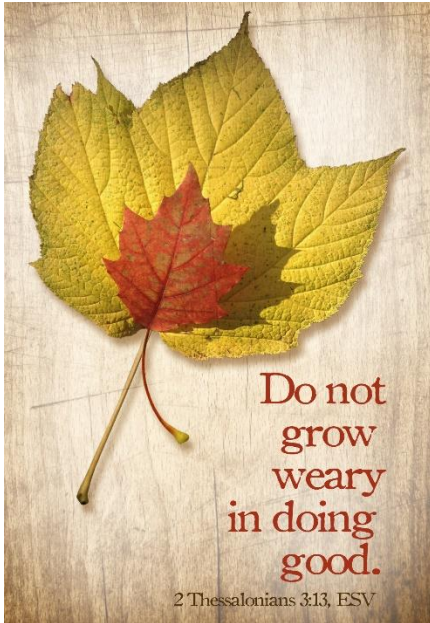


United Methodist Church
PO Box 94
804 St. John St.
Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



The Gleaner September 2019

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 a.m.
Boyceville Worship Service 9:45 a.m.
Wheeler: Grace Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Welcome

August 20, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sit down to write to you, I have come to two realizations. First, I struggle to write these letters because of an expectation that I will have something profound to say and I probably will not. Second, each September letter I begin almost the same way. It's hard to believe that it is already the end of August and September will be here in a very short time. With this statement comes lament that everything that was planned to be accomplished before fall and preparations for winter have not been done.

The lament reminds me of a children's Serendipity book *Little Mouse on the Prairie* by Stephen Cosgrove. In this book Tweezle the mouse never laughs or smiles because she is too busy preparing for winter while the other mice spend all their time playing because there will be plenty of time to prepare for winter. In the end they strike a balance, the other mice teach Tweezle to enjoy life (have fun) while Tweezle teaches them the value of hard work. They find that one is not necessarily exclusive of the other.

Lamenting also reminds me of the August 25 text from Luke 13:10-17. In part it reads:

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?' (Luke 13:14-15 NRSV)

Perhaps I am reminded of these as I was recently asked where my heart is. As I understood the question, I was given two choices; my heart can be with my family or it can be with the people of my churches, not both. Like a parent who has more than one child, I believe that when God created humans to be in relationship with each other we weren't created to be in only one relationship at a time.

The question was raised by one person, but it is possible others may wonder as well. When I choose to spend time with my family and cat on my days off, or, after I have finished work for the day rather than spending the evening with my TV alone at the parsonage, it doesn't mean that my heart isn't with you as well. Jesus called the leaders of the synagogue hypocrites for refusing to cure those who were hurting on the Sabbath yet taking care of the needs (as they should) of their ox or donkey. I would not compare my family to an ox or donkey, but I want you to know that as Tweezle learned, my heart isn't exclusively with my family or with you. Our relationships may be different, but my heart is with both.

With the love and peace of Christ,

Pastor Shannon



Praying for an End to Violence

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence." Genesis 6:11

As I come home from a wonderful trip to Korea, Bangkok and China, my heart breaks for the victims of gun violence, most recently in El Paso and Dayton, but for those across the country almost daily. According to USA Today, there have been 250 mass shootings in the first 215 days of 2019. People are picking up assault weapons to randomly shoot and kill innocent victims. This is tragic, this is terrible, and this is wrong. We must acknowledge that many in our society are succumbing to "a corruption" and they are "filled with violence."

But it is important not to demonize the shooters. In many cases, these people are suffering a breakdown of sorts. They are examples of an illness of spirit and mind that is prevalent in our culture. Beyond the gun violence, hate crimes and violent demonstrations that are becoming the acceptable norm in our United States, there is an undercurrent of anger, fear, rage and resentment. It is difficult to feel good about a country where so many citizens see violence as their only choice, and where so many live in fear of others.

In a Wisconsin University study, 61% of Madison citizens surveyed feel safer having a gun. However, in the same poll, 87% feel less secure knowing that others have guns. I anticipate that this call to pray for healing for the victims, families, friends (as well as shooters and their families and friends) will cause some to be very angry that I oppose gun violence – each time I write a call for prayer concerning mass shootings I receive messages from upset people defending guns – but this isn't about "guns" in general. I am not saying people shouldn't be allowed hunting rifles or even handguns for home self-defense, if that is what people desire. However, our American culture has gone weapons crazy. In a New York Times article, it is reported that over 40% of all guns currently in America have been obtained illegally, are automatic or semi-automatic assault weapons, and they are only used for attack. These are the weapons that I oppose. Including such things as rocket launchers, grenades, bayonets, machetes, knives, and other weaponry in addition to guns, Americans spend \$13 billion each year (NBC News). Placing this in perspective, in our United States all Christian mission giving combined is about \$5.2 billion a year.

But much of this is beside the point. Guns and the way they are abused in our culture is a huge issue that will not be resolved easily. Underlying the fact of gun violence is an abject despair and hopelessness, combined often with anger and a sense of helplessness and injustice, that leads people to lash out in hurtful and hateful ways. In most cases these people aren't "monsters," but are merely seriously ill or desperate people who lack relationships that help them cope in non-destructive ways.

Violence, in all its forms, is evidence of the brokenness of our humanity and indicates the deepest meaning of sin – separation from God. We are failing to live fully into God's will and God's vision for all people – unconditional love and acceptance that makes sure there is a place for everyone, and that no one "fall through the cracks" into a dark place of depression and despair.

So, what can we do? There are many small ways that we can act and do what is within our power to work for a solution. First, and always, pray. Pray for victims and their families. Pray for the communities impacted by acts of hate and violence. Pray for those who act with violence and destruction and their families. Pray for people living in fear of violence, and for those who consider

violence as an acceptable course of action. Begin to write to our governmental representatives and to the NRA to ban the sale and ownership of weapons of war. It is one thing to own a hunting rifle or a handgun. It is something quite different to have an AK-15 or AK-47, or an AT4 rocket launcher. When we make ownership of weapons of mass destruction normative in our culture, we cannot be surprised when such weaponry is used.

Our Christian witness should always be one of peace. In the face of violence, in the face of division, in the face of aggression, and even in the face of war, Christians call for God's vision from Isaiah 2:4

“He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.”

So, my beloved siblings in Christ, pray for peace. Pray for healing. Pray for reconciliation. Pray for true community and inclusiveness, so that no child of God will lose hope, will despair, and will pick up a weapon to cause harm to another beloved child. Pray for an end to violence and to every contributing factor. Blessed are the peacemakers; thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Honduras Mission Update from Sister Alegría

Our public health clinic has been almost chaos for the last four months. Our focus is on prevention. The nurses save more lives each year with the excellent immunization program than we do in giving consults. The government is unpredictable and unreliable, which disrupted the immunization campaign this year. The laboratory founding disrupted the space. Now there is a dengue outbreak, carried by Aegypti mosquitoes. It causes fever, aches all over, sore eyes and weakness. The treatment for dengue is acetaminophen, rest and fluids. Since a second illness (always from a second strain) can become hemorrhagic, no ibuprofen should be used. We're all working on prevention. At the monastery, we cut down all the grass and taller plants that offer haven for mosquitoes. We need lots of prayers, not lots of money, lots of prayers. I am investigating two small pieces of medical equipment that will improve our level of health care. I'm not ready to buy one, yet. We hope for a microbiologist to join the team in August. Prayers, please, prayers.

Amigas del Señor Monastery
Limón, Colón
Honduras

Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time will be Sunday, September 8th and 22nd. Delphine Danovsky and Marguerite Blodgett will serve on September 8th and Sheila Hegeman is looking for someone to serve with her on the 22nd.

Boyceville Ushers

September ushers are Kevin & Sonya Zebro.



Scripture Readers and Greeters for Boyceville

	Reader	Greeter
Sept. 1	Merlyn Jones	Marguerite Blodgett
Sept. 8	Jim Harvey	James Hall
Sept. 15	Pete Bodette	Delphine Danovsky
Sept. 22	Kim Silvius	Charlie Hall
Sept. 29	Steve Silvius	Dawn Rogers
Oct. 6	Jim Harvey	Jerod Nelson

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.



Gleaner news is due Tuesday, September 17th.
Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or
rtsmnelson@hotmail.com with your news. Thanks.

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Angie Thomas	Samantha Christian	Larry Smith
Warren Turner	Sheryl O'Flanagan Johnson	
Andy Grabow	Chloe Howey	
Missionaries	Food Harvest Ministry	
Honduras Mission	Coat Closet	
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters		
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes		

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.

Bible Study

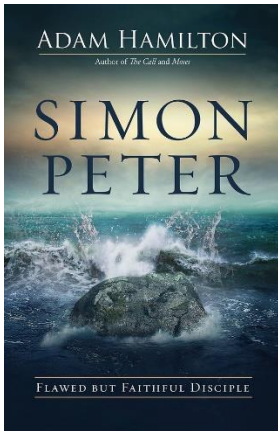
Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton

A six-week study beginning September 13th at Boyceville.

Book may be purchased at Cokesbury or Amazon. Please read chapter 1 prior to the first session. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Chapters Include:

1. The Call of the Fisherman (Sept. 13)
2. Walking with Jesus in the Storm (Sept. 20)
3. Bedrock or Stumbling Block? (Sept. 27)
4. "I Will Not Deny You" (Oct. 11)
5. From Cowardice to Courage (Oct. 18)
6. The Rest of the Story (Oct. 25)



Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries in September

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Pete Bodette | 18 - Skyler Hall |
| 4 - Sheila Hegeman | 19 - Delphine Danovsky |
| 5 - Merlyn Jones | 19 - Chris & Robin Burke (anniv.) |
| 6 - Jeff & Connye Kegan (anniv.) | 20 - Larry Thomas |
| 8 - Alys Wilson | 20 - Jim & Anita Harvey (anniv.) |
| 10 - Brittany Saunders | 20 - Mike & Gloria Kelly (anniv.) |
| 10 - Randy Nelson | 20 - Nancy & Jerry Schlottman (anniv.) |
| 12 - Leslie Frisle | 23 - Jennifer Hall |
| 12 - Russ & Roxanne White (anniv.) | 27 - Kate Rubusch |
| 14 - Mike Kelly | 27 - Lori & Dale Feyen (anniv.) |
| 15 - Samantha Christian | 29 - Nancy Smith |

Faith United Methodist Church News for September

Worship Service at 8:30 am

*Thank
You*

Thank you:

- To Margie Wiseman for playing piano for Darlene Wilcox on her birthday. Happy 84th Darlene!!
- To Lay Readers for July and August: Bill Wiseman, Roxanne White, Barbara Bender
- To Coffee Servers for July and August: Margie Wiseman, Roxanne White, Barbara Bender
- To Lay Reader and Coffee Server for August: Robin Burke

Parish Duties for September

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>	<u>Coffee/Snack</u>
Sept. 1	Ecumenical Service at Ridgeland Park at 10:00 a.m.		
Sept. 8	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman	Margie Wiseman
Sept. 15	Gary and Gloria Kahl	Gary and Gloria Kahl	Gloria Kahl
Sept. 22	Open	Open	Pat Frisle
Sept. 29	5 th Sunday Worship & Potluck at Boyceville at 10 a.m.		

Faith United Methodist Women

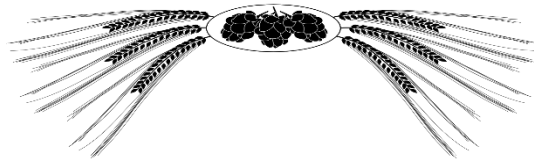
Faith United Methodist Women will meet at the church on Sept. 5th with potluck at 12:30 p.m. Pat Frisle has the Pledge Service. There will also be election of officers for 2020.

Holy Communion will be on September 15th.

Administrative Council will meet on September 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Lay Leadership meeting will meet on August 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Faith Potato/Buttermilk Pancake Supper will be October 9th at the Ridgeland Community Center.



**Harvest Celebration
Pork Loin Dinner
Tuesday October 2nd, 2019
3pm-7pm**

**Boyceville United Methodist Church
804 St. John St. Hwy.170**

**Pork Loin, Baked Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes,
Cranberries, Dinner Roll, Pies & Desserts, Beverages
Free Will Offering**

Thank You Farmers!



Coat Closet

What: Winter and Outerwear Distribution

**Where: 510 Winter Street, Boyceville
(entrance alley behind This, That and Everything)**

When:

Saturday, Oct. 19th 9am-12pm

Saturday, Oct. 26th 9am-12pm

Saturday, Nov. 2nd 9am-12pm

Saturday Nov, 9th 9am-12pm

Saturday Nov. 16th 9am-12pm



Questions call: Sonya Zebro 715-308-8435



What's Your Plan for Giving? September 2019

“But blessed is the one who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Now that fall is approaching, perhaps you are making plans: plans for home projects and family get-togethers, plans for work and school projects, plans for a trip or vacation. What about your church plans such as volunteering, Scripture reading, and regular prayer? Right now, I am planning a retreat with my spouse, so we can recharge our spiritual batteries. And we are planning our giving for the coming year.

Do you have a plan for giving? If not, how will you know you have been successful in being generous? We set aside a percent of our income for church and charity, most recently about 13%, and judge our year as successful if we have given it all away.

The giving plan is a spiritual discipline in that we think of God first, before we even have earned the money. By settling on a proportion first, we know exactly how much to pledge when the church's stewardship campaign comes around in the fall.

Also, we never have to ask whether we have the money. It is set aside for the Lord. So, when there is a disaster, we are not wondering where to find a little extra. We have already designated it to the Lord's work.

There is much freedom in deciding on percentage giving ahead of time. You are free of the anxiety over whether there is enough to share when the needs of others are raised up—backpacks for needy students, scholarships for seminarians, missionaries overseas, etc.

Pray for direction on your giving percentage for the coming year.

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
or call 1-888-903-9863

