

United Methodist Church
PO Box 94
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Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Faith and Grace
United Methodist Churches
Pastor Shannon Mattison
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Email: shannonmattison@yahoo.com
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 2020

The Gleaner

July 22, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These last few months have stretched many of our learning curves almost to the limit (or at least further than we thought we would go). It took some quick action to learn how to communicate and worship together from a distance. Some of us learned (and still are learning) how to edit and stream worship for those who had internet access. We enlisted the help of a number of people to do this. Some of you had to learn where and how to access what we streamed.

Towards the end of June, we began worshipping in the Boyceville parking lot, asking individuals to bring lawn chairs if they have them, family groups to distance at least six feet from others and requesting that individuals wear masks. One of our members has been making masks and has brought some each time so those who needed them could have one.

An advantage to being outside and in masks is that we have been able to sing together. If we were indoors, we could listen to music, read the lyrics, but not sing them. The number of individuals attending has varied but has increased since the first day we came back together outdoors.

There have been various comments about worshipping outdoors, mostly positive. Of course, we all worry about adverse weather and what will happen as we enter cooler months. That time is approaching faster than seems possible as we face 90+ degree days this coming weekend with high dew points. SPRC gathered this past week and we decided we would move indoors if weather became inclement, physically spacing appropriately, playing music but no singing. We will be meeting again in August to review what is happening and to plan how to move forward as weather changes.

I was reading the Gospel text from Matthew for August 2nd when it struck me that Jesus was outside in the text. Jesus' teaching outside had been brought up at one of our outdoor worships one Sunday. I began to wonder just how much of his teaching and ministry in the Bible happened outdoors. What I found was not a surprise. At least half of Jesus' teachings occurred in an outdoor setting. About 33% were indoors and the rest is uncertain, although the content of some of it would suggest an outdoor setting.

Meeting and worshipping outside may seem unsettling to some of us but it turns out it really isn't something new or even that unusual when considering the ministry of Jesus. We will get back indoors in time but for the time being, enjoy the opportunity to worship amongst God's creation.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Grace and peace.

Pastor Shannon

Drive-In Worship

We are currently holding one drive-in worship service for the charge

- It is held at Boyceville with bulletins and on communion days sealed communion elements will be distributed to each car by one person with mask and gloves or sanitized hands. These are to be held until appropriate time.
- Collecting offerings— an ice cream pail will be placed for each church as leave parking lot
- 10:00 am start, end before 11:00 am.
- Park in a U-shape or bring lawn chairs

Charge Conference

With August comes preparation for Charge Conference. It will happen a little differently this year. Most likely we will meet spaced at the Boyceville church so we can gather with our D.S. Rev. Barb Certa-Warner via Zoom. More information will be coming.

In the meantime, committee chairs and others, please begin collecting what you need to complete paperwork. As soon as the forms are available, they will be made available to the appropriate people.

Offerings

Please remember to put your offering in the appropriate container at outdoor worship or mail them to the designated address for the individual church.

Book Study— Join in a five-session book study by Adam Hamilton.

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times by Adam Hamilton

Fear, anxiety, and worry seem to permeate our lives today. It comes from many sources. In this study Hamilton draws on scripture, science, practical wisdom, and years of experience as a pastor to help us live lives with hope and courage.

As there is quite a bit of reading involved but don't let that scare you. Hamilton's work is not difficult to read. We will meet twice a month in September and October, then once in November. There will be two options for meeting, one in person appropriately spaced, the other via Zoom. Places and times will be determined by those who are interested.

If interested, please contact Pastor Shannon or Tammy Nelson.



I am a bishop of two minds. In my best mind, I believe that we are the people that God needs us to be. In this mind, I believe that we see each other as gifts from God, of immense and unequalled value, regardless of race, ethnicity, economic level, or educational background. In this best and most positive mind, language is never a barrier, heritage and culture are valued, and we view each other as sacred siblings in the grand family of God. I would absolutely love to live with this mind.

But I know it is not the whole story. We are not always one in spirit, knowledge, and truth. We allow our differences to eclipse our strengths. We sometimes allow barriers of language, heritage, and culture to divide us. We set aside our reconciling and uniting faith to focus instead on those things which separate us. This is my other, troubled mind.

In short, we are human. At our most generous, we can do amazing things. We take wonderful care of each other, we make incredible sacrifices, we give beyond all expectation. This is when we do it well. But on any given day, we tend to look out only for our own personal needs. We see the stranger as competition at best, and as a threat at worst. We are so worried about our own needs and safety that we cannot even conceive of thinking about the safety and needs of others – and we don't want to feel guilty about this, either. We make the world all about us individually, or about those few people closest to us. We don't have anything against other people, we simply need to take care of our own.

But Jesus challenges this notion. Jesus teaches that everyone is "our own." What we do to the least of our brothers and sisters we do to Jesus. Jesus does an amazing job of blurring the line between "us" and "them." In Jesus' view, there is only a singular "all of us." I cannot withhold care, compassion, or concern from any other human being – my connection and responsibility rests with anyone with whom I come in contact.

Over the past few months, conversations have focused on who should be talking with whom, who is at the table and who is not, who is being heard, and who is left out. The very nature of this conversation shows that we still have a long way to go. All of us should be talking with – and listening to—all of us; especially white Americans should be listening to black and brown voices. Together we should be exploring and understanding our Asian immigrant voices. Without ample opportunity to listen, to understand, and to respond, we will simply see our tragic problems repeated over and over again. The realities of widespread racial inequality, anti-racial minority behaviors, white privilege, and white supremacy will not go away if we pretend, they don't exist. We must talk about these things if we want to eradicate them.

We do not need more chaos. We need to learn from the chaos to create a world order that is just, fair, kind, loving, equitable, merciful, and peace-filled for all of God's people. Our vision is a beloved community that includes and appreciates all our differences as well as our similarities. Beloved community will guarantee that all have enough basic necessities met that everyone can enjoy a good quality of life. Beloved community will witness to our broken world what is the will and desire of God. Beloved community is the space where everyone can celebrate who they are, and be celebrated by all those who know and love them best.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Gleaner Deadline

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, August 18th. Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or rsmnelson@hotmail.com with your news. Thanks.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Angie Thomas Samantha Christian
Chloe Howey Jackie Vos
Jeanna Hollister Parker Knutson
Jean McIntyre Kathy Larson
Food Harvest Ministry
Honduras Mission Missionaries
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

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

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

Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries in August

2 - Jessica Hiben	18 - Darlene Wilcox
2 - Anita Harvey	
3 - Virgil Schoonover	21 - Pat Schoonover
7 - Jared Kegen	21 - Dusty Harren
8 - Sandy Christian	21 - Ray & Karen Wreford (anniv.)
8 - Becky Dunn	23 - Russell Roemhild
8 - Leslie Olson	25 - Edna Forrest
9 - Mason Nelson	25 - Gary Kahl
10 - Hunter Jones	25 - Earl & Marguerite Blodgett (anniv.)
13 - Zackery Smith	27 - Larissa Krueger
14 - Anthony Wilcox	30 - Jerry Neck
17 - Jessica Gove-Minor	31 - Ila Knutson
15 - Tina Dunn	31 - Gary & Ila Knutson (anniv.)

Faith United Methodist Church News for August

August Worship Services will be at 10 am
at the Boyceville United Methodist Church parking lot
Bring lawn chairs if you'd like



- To Cynthia Amundson, Josie Amundson, Jean Johnson, Lana Ekmark, Family, and friends for items purchased at Genevieve's estate sale.
- To Carol Frank for a generous donation in memory of Genevieve Durham.
- To Dean and Leslie Frisle and Bill Wiseman for cleaning up after the yardlight pole and basketball backdrop went down in the windstorm. We are planning on mounting the new yardlight on the church building.
- To Roxanne White for the beautiful hollyhocks which are now blooming near the basement entryway. Most are double blossoms.
- From Dusty Harren for the graduation money.



Faith's newest decoration is a cross patterned barn quilt. The plaque reads "In honor of Patsy Frisle and Rose Larson for all of their contributions to and love for this little country church".

UMW will meet on Thursday, August 6th at 1:00 p.m. Have lunch at home, as there will be no potluck. We will have our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. Come prepared with your offering—envelopes will be provided from the packet. Remember to wear your mask indoors.

Administrative Council will meet on Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m.



Giving Will You Bear Fruit? August 2020

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:22-23)

What is a church to do in these difficult times? It is to be hoped that each church would continue to perform its mission and ministry as it has always done and strive to do it even better.

This summer, I am working with two churches, on opposite ends of the state, that have chosen at this time to undertake significant fundraising campaigns for debt reduction and building renovation. Each has a six figure goal that is 1½ to 2 times its annual giving.

The Foundation interviewed 30-40 people from each church. What they shared with us is (1) an enthusiasm for the ministry and mission of the church, (2) a practical stewardship of the building and budget, and (3) a disregard for worldly worries and concerns. Not that they are ignoring the challenges of the Covid-19 epidemic, rather they will not let it deter their mission, their ministry, or their financial giving.

People from both churches noted that the greatest strength of their congregation is engagement in community outreach. They want to continue this outreach during the pandemic and grow it in the future. This they can do most effectively if they act now to reduce indebtedness or address needed building renovations. So, at a time when some congregations are simply waiting and some Christians are holding back on giving, these congregations are starting major Capital Campaigns.

Join me in praying for their success and in discerning what you can do to support the mission and ministry of your church.

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

