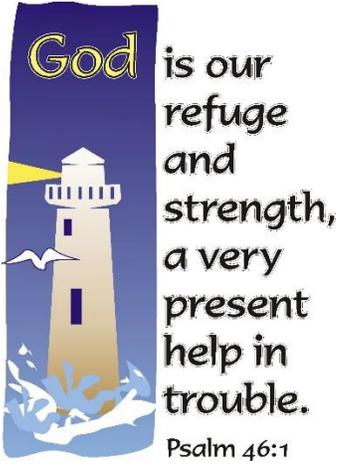


United Methodist Church  
PO Box 94  
804 St. John St.  
Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Faith and Grace  
United Methodist Churches  
Pastor Shannon Mattison  
Parsonage: 715-749-6351 Cell: 715-220-0081  
Email: [shannonmattison@yahoo.com](mailto: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

July 2020

The Gleaner

June 30, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As some of my family and I watched the flood waters rising in my back yard in New Richmond yesterday, we heard a terrible noise coming from them. A sand hill crane had become over run by the water in a field adjacent to the yard and it was trying to get out. The current in the water coming through the field was very strong and there was nothing we could do to help it. The bird somehow managed to find footing in a shallower spot and to get to higher ground as the water rose.

When we saw that the crane was safe, we went to see what was happening on the other side of the house, diagonally from where we had been. A county road passes on that side. When we got close, we could see that the road had completely flooded over while we watched the crane get to safety.

People had been driving down to see the flooding from the time word got out. It was interesting to see who drove through it and those who turned around. A young couple on a 4 wheeler drove through and stopped to talk to us. The young man mentioned how sad it was that a person drowned near Baldwin when his vehicle was swept off the road. I saw this young couple go up and down the road several times, driving through the flooded section each time.

As I watched this young couple and others go back and forth through the flooded section of the road several times I began thinking of this text:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” (Matthew 7:24-27)

The sand hill crane had become unexpectedly caught up in the flood waters but did not fall as it sought out and found solid footing. But the people going through them for the thrill of it, although none were hurt, were like the foolish man who

built his house on sand. The flood waters were moving so fast that the very land next to the road was being dug out as it came out the culverts under the road.

For many of us this year has seemed like one of shifting sands as the unexpected has upset the normalcy of our lives. Maybe they seem more intensified because of the pandemic which has affected all of us. God does not promise that bad things will not happen to us but that God will be present, with us through them. If you build your house on solid rock, the teaching of Jesus, you will weather the storm.

Grace and peace to you.

*Pastor Shannon*

“Be still, and know that I am God! (Psalm 46:10a)

# DRIVE IN SERVICE

Jesus taught the people wherever he was, indoors, from a boat, outside on a hillside. Bring a lawn chair and join us for outdoor worship at 10:00 at Boyceville.

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
- Use battery powered PA system, keyboard or trumpet, words to the songs in the bulletin.
- We will try to record the drive-in service to put up on the website.
- prayer requests – we do not want those to go on-line. Options include collecting prayer requests before starting recording, stopping the recording or editing the recording.

If the drive-in worship goes well, tentative plan is to use drive-in worship through July, re-evaluating the situation in early July. The SPRC is scheduled to meet July 13 unless an earlier meeting is deemed necessary.



## Taking a Time Out

Some parents give their children a “time-out” to calm down, to gain control, to reflect on what they have done, or simply to remove them from a problem situation. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us a similar “time-out,” offering us ample time to think about our lives, our faith, our relationships, and our world.

In our Annual Conference, we have taken this “time-out” very seriously. We formed a COVID-19 Task Force and have offered guidance and suggestions for safe-at-home and safe gatherings at our churches, recommending caution and patience in making decisions, and we have determined that this year’s Annual Conference should be virtual, using an Internet platform to conduct our Conference business.

In my reflections, I think often of the time we are in. What might put this time in perspective? In the grand scheme of things, what we are going through now will one day fade in memory, and we will look back on the spring of 2020 with various reflections and opinions. What this is to us now and what it will be to us then might be very different things.

Christians tend to be people who think about eternal life. But what do we mean by eternal? Since the Enlightenment, the word “eternal” has essentially been tied to time, to a beginning and an end. “Eternal life” means living forever into the future, drawing upon a concept of linear time. But historically and theologically, eternity has more to do with “scope” rather than “length of time.” Our omniscient and omnipresent God knows all things now, in the past, and for all time to come. For God, time is comprehended in an instant. God is not bound by our human measures of time and space, but in fact knows all possible outcomes of all possible moments in all possible places. Modern physics has finally caught up with progressive theology – there may be an infinite number of realities in an infinite number of spheres occupying an infinite amount of space and time. In other words, God’s reality.

In the grand scheme of things, what we go through in the moment is essentially irrelevant. We struggle with this. Our challenges, our pain, our sacrifices, our discomforts seem very important and very real. We don’t like our inconveniences diminished and reduced – they cause us great unhappiness. Yet, history may not see what we are going through today as very significant. The year 2020 may be viewed in years to come as an aberration and an uneventful blip on the screen of human history.

So, the significance of this time is actually up to us. What will the spring of 2020 truly mean to the people called United Methodist in Wisconsin as we live into our future? I would offer just a few observations:

- Life is precious – we should never take life for granted. We have lost loved ones. Many lives that we have not known well have been lost. In a time of pandemic, the fragility of life is highlighted and made widely known. We should never take life for granted.
- Relationships are extremely important – until we cannot meet face-to-face on a regular basis, we don’t truly value how important being together really is.
- Church is much more than Sunday morning – our ministry is of relationships, not just programs and services. The more we are connected, the stronger we are.
- Pastors are important, but the ministry belongs to the people – our strongest witness and outreach depends on all of us together, and not just our pastors.
- What will it take for us to carry our learnings from this time forward into our future? – we need to think “both/and” rather than “either/or” about online worship, community outreach, membership nurture, and spiritual formation as we live into the future.

This has been a rich and evocative time as well as a challenging time in the life of our church. We should emerge from the corona pandemic and the racial upheaval time stronger than we have ever been before, and we will so long as we see these demanding times as a gift from God rather than a punishment. God is good, all the time, and everything that we are learning in this unique 2020 springtime should only make us stronger and better. By God’s grace we pray. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

## Gleaner Deadline

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Please contact Tammy Nelson at  
715-505-2657 or [rsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rsmnelson@hotmail.com)  
with your news. Thanks.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Angie Thomas  
Chloe Howey  
Jeanna Hollister  
Jean McIntyre  
The Family & Friends of Genevieve Durham  
Honduras Mission  
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters  
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

Samantha Christian  
Jackie Vos  
Parker Knutson  
Food Harvest Ministry  
Missionaries

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 July*

2 - Beverly Stalker	13 - Jeff Kegen
2 - Jonathan Zebro	14 - Nancy Schlottman
3 - Amy Walk	15 - Steven & Kristi Matthaei (anniv.)
4 - Kristi Matthaei	15 - Becca Wyss
4 - John Wyss	16 - Allan & Amy Walk (anniv.)
6 - Casey Wilcox	17 - Anita Smith
7 - Nick Carufel	17 - Megan Zebro
7 - Ryan Dummer	19 - Teresa Ankney
7 - Nick Carufel	21 - Daren Smith
10 - Lynda Viebill	22 - Christina Salsbury
11 - Brenda Smith	27 - Ron Harren
12 - Karen Smith	30 - Terry & Lottie Hiben (anniv.)
	30 - Jim & Christina Salsbury

## *Faith United Methodist Church News for July*

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



- To Patsy Frisle, Charlotte Bottolfson, Roxanne White, Barbara Bender, Joan Buck, Janice Salsbury, Robin Burke, and Eleanor Harstad for contributing to the Memorial Fund in memory of Genevieve Durham.
- To all who have been a part of the live stream worship service and the Drive-In . It is **\*Well Done\***.



Genevieve Elizabeth Durham, 93, passed away on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Mayo Health System-Eau Claire. A graveside service was held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Vanceburg Cemetery. God Bless her memory.



Congratulations to:

- Prairie Farm High School Graduates: Haiden Salsbury, daughter of Jim and Christina Salsbury, and Dusty Harren, son of Ron and Gina Harren.
- UW Madison Graduate: Allissa Frisle, daughter of Dean and Leslie Frisle, with a BS in Dairy Science and a minor in Ag Business.
- Chippewa Valley Technical College Graduate: Jeremy White, son of Russ and Roxanne White, with a Diesel Truck Mechanic degree.



## Giving The Only Constant in Life is Change July 2020

*No woman/man steps into the same river twice. For it is not the same river and she/he is not the same woman/man. –Heraclitus of Ephesus (c. 500 BC)*

What will church be like after the pandemic? We should plan for it to be different. The Israelites returned from exile to rebuild the temple, as well as their religion. However, neither was the same as it had been.

Around the same time, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus noted that, “The only constant in life is change.” No one can step into the same church twice, especially post-Covid-19. In the post-Covid-19 church:

**Worship will be online.** Most churches find that the number of links to online worship is greater than their average attendance before the epidemic. Who would go back to serving fewer people? Therefore, we will have in-person and online services. However, we will need new ways of reaching out to people who may not live nearby.

**Buildings will be less important.** We spend a quarter to a third of our budgets on physical properties. That will likely change, though slowly.

**Time will be less important.** Many churches record their worship and people can watch anytime. No more will our churches be able to ignore those who work, travel, or spend time with family on Sunday mornings.

**How you support the church will change as well.** You may not be present, but God will still be working through the church. Thus, your giving will have to be digital (funds transfer, online giving, etc.).

**How we relate to the community will change.** We will have to be more adaptable to changing circumstances. For example, right now a famine is starting. As food grows scarce, rising prices thrust many families into famine-like circumstances. How will our church help feed others, not just at home, but around the world?

Jim Wells,  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation Helps for the Stewardship Chair  
Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)  
or call 1-888-903-9863

