

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
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

September 2020

The Gleaner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each time I have set down to write this September letter to you it seems something happens which changes what I have written. As we enter a time of seasons changing rapidly, I find myself drawn to Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

We are entering into a busy season with an urgency to get things done before the winter months arrive. Vacations are winding up. Crops are ripening, preparing to be harvested, the last of the jobs around our yards need doing. Our houses and cars need to be prepared for winter. Preparations have been and are being made for children returning to school and young adults are going off to college under uncertain circumstances. And our churches are preparing for some of the busiest times of the year.

As we enter this change of season, we do it with an uncertainty which we are not used to. I have had conversation over the last few weeks with people who are anxious; anxious about sending their children to school, anxious about how the church can be church in these uncertain times, anxious about the political climate. Most of them seem to want things to just go back to the way they were, to normal.

With each changing season, what is normal changes. In some things just a little, in some ways a lot. As we enter this fall season in the church, with Advent just around the corner and prepare to reenter our buildings for worship, I want you to be prepared. Be prepared to understand some things will be the same but others will be a little different. It's kind of like going home after being away for a few months or years and finding that, although it's your home (home town or high school) everything isn't quite as it had been.

Some things may seem inconvenient but, we are doing them in love for and care of others. Remember what Jesus said when he washed the disciples feet: "If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do." (John 13:14-15 CEB)

Each of our churches will be re-opening on a different schedule so be sure to read about it elsewhere in the Gleaner.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Shannon

INDOOR WORSHIP

Boyceville: Boyceville will continue meeting at 10 a.m. in the parking lot through September 13th unless it rains. After the 13th we will move indoors. We will continue spacing ourselves and wearing masks in.

Prairie Farm: Faith: Faith will be opening up the 6th of September. Worship at 8:30 a.m. Please use only the ramp, space ourselves and wear a mask.

Wheeler: Grace: Grace has a target date of opening on the 4th of October. It was decided to wait to see what happens as schools open.

Please remember at all sites to wear masks, keep physical distance, and stay home if you are ill. Boyceville will continue to put worship online after the worship service. It can be accessed through the Boyceville web site or Facebook page.

Be aware, as situations change, there is a possibility that in person worship will be suspended again.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our charge conference has been set for Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 pm. It will be done through ZOOM. An invitation to join will be sent out to those we have email addresses when it is received. Boyceville has internet so the meeting will be accessible through the large screen TV at that site for those who do not have the capability. There should be a way to join the meeting by phone but forms will be shown on the screen so video conferencing is the best option.

CHARGE CONFERENCE PAPERWORK

All Charge Conference forms must be done and in by September 29th. The Conference does not have the forms available yet as they have been upgrading their system. The information needed will be the same as on the forms from last year. All Chairs should have copies of last year's forms to work from. Please complete the information and someone will transfer it to the new forms when they are available.



Wheeler Grace United Methodist Church Boxed Grilled Chicken Dinner

3:30-7 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

Food can be picked up at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Free Will Offering



'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:18-19, 25-27)

I hear it all the time: it is a terrible and painful sacrifice not to be able to worship together in our own church sanctuaries. Online worship, while very meaningful and good, is just not the same as being together in person. Our faithful Wisconsin United Methodists are truly learning the value of their communities of faith!

In a perfect world, there would be no disruption to our rituals and routines of public worship; we could be together as often as we please. But the reason we gather together for worship is because we DO NOT live in a perfect world. We live in a broken world, a world fraught with dangers, disease, violence, injustice, and deep hurt. We come together to proclaim faith in the One who has the power to heal, to bring peace, to create harmony, and to champion justice. We worship a risen Savior – one who is present with us in Spirit while being absent from us physically.

And herein is the good news: we are never truly apart. Social distancing is not spiritual distancing. Caring more for the health and well-being of the physical body of Christ – our community of faith – is true and pure discipleship. Putting the needs of the whole people of God ahead of our own personal desires is to personify the Christian gospel. Masking is mission and ministry, as we declare a public witness that we care for others in body, mind, and spirit. Being apart is as important a testimony to our faith as being together!

The day will come when we can stand side by side, safely and securely, lifting our voices unmuffled by masks in praise and thanksgiving – and what a truly joyous time that will be. But what will make it even more celebratory and wonderful is that we will ALL be there together because we made the sacrifices today that laid the foundation for a safe, strong, and healthy future.

The person of Jesus is absent from us, but the Holy Spirit is with us, within us, and is linking us in holy and sacred communion. We are together apart, and nothing on earth can change that. Our God is greater than the things that physically separate us, and by God's grace and Spirit, we are witnesses to the healing love God offers through God's people. Thanks be to God!

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Gleaner Deadline

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, September 22nd. 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	Pat Schoonover
Chloe Howey	Jackie Vos	Shannon Carufel
Jeanna Hollister	Parker Knutson	Nick Carufel
Jean McIntyre	Kathy Larson	Vilai Wilcox
Darlene Wilcox	Food Harvest Ministry	Marguerite Blodgett
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 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 - Nancy & Jerry Schlottman (anniv.)
10 - Randy Nelson	23 - Jennifer Hall
12 - Leslie Frisle	27 - Lori & Dale Feyen (anniv.)
12 - Russ & Roxanne White (anniv.)	27 - Kate Rubusch
15 - Samantha Christian	29 - Nancy Smith

Faith United Methodist Church News for September

Worship Service at 8:30 am



- To the Blodgett Family for their leadership and musical talent during our worship services together. It is excellent!
- To those who faithfully give to support our church. We have been able to send 6 months of apportionments.
- To Roxanne White for the memorial plaque and flowers in the Memorial Garden in memory of Margaret O'Flanagan.
- To Mike for keeping the church grounds looking immaculate.

Parish Duties for September

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>
Sept. 6	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman
Sept. 13	Barbara Bender	Barbara Bender
Sept. 20	Open	Open
Sept. 27	Roxanne White	Roxanne White

Faith United Methodist Women

Faith United Methodist Women met on August 13th at 1:00 p.m. Business meeting items discussed and approved included requirements for the Five Star Award, no UMW Sunday, and no annual pancake supper. Ila reported that she had sent \$102.80 from our loose offering to the Grameen Foundation which Freedom from Hunger joined with in the past. It helps women start their own businesses, as one example. We also sent a Gift in Memory to the District in memory of Genevieve Durham. Ila had the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program which was very interesting, and she did a good job. We collected that special offering. There will be no District Fall Gathering this year.

Our next meeting will be September 10th for our Pledge and Election of Officers meeting. Barbara is in charge of the Pledge Service and Pat. F. is Chair of Nominations for the Election of Officers for the 2021 year. Church cleaning will be October 8th.



Giving Resilience in Clay Jars September 2020

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

There is much being written about the need for resilience in our home lives, in our churches, in our communities and in our institutions. Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties; think of the tree that bends but does not break. Clearly, the Apostle Paul had resilience in mind when writing to the Corinthians.

There are three things that I believe a resilient church needs:

1. Devotion to a vision of ministry and mission
2. Knowledge of the spiritual gifts of members and friends of the congregation (the “treasure in clay jars”)
3. Nurturing of gifts through spiritual disciplines of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

In these pandemic times, we will need to discover and nurture resilience because, first, our affliction will not be ending any time soon. Until there is an effective vaccine that has been broadly implemented (2 or 3 or more years in the future), church attendance will be dangerous to members over 60 or those with chronic illnesses. Our churches must be resilient, second, because we are not going back to where we were. A mix of online and in-person worship, participation and giving will be the new normal going forward. Finally, we must be resilient because the newcomers we need to survive will judge us according to how we adhered to Christian values during the pandemic.

In all ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.

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

