

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

November 2020

The Gleaner

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

If it hadn't been for the untimely snow and below average temperatures we had near the end of October, it would be hard to believe it is already November. November brings with it a certain kind of anticipation as we know that it will soon be Thanksgiving with Advent following right behind it. This year it might be bringing extra anxiety as well as we may need to do things a bit different.

I recently found myself thinking about the family gatherings we had as a child. Most of them were held during holidays, but not all of them. On the fourth of July my dad and brothers-in-law would set up fireworks on the edge of the field across the road. I will never forget the night that a firework already lit fell over as it went off, landing in the box of them waiting to be set out to light. I didn't understand how dangerous the situation was at the time, just that it seemed funny watching the men as they were avoiding the fireworks prematurely going off.

My favorite gatherings were probably the more intimate gatherings of the immediate family for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and the full family gathering including aunts, uncles, and cousins for Christmas day. There were always special preparations for these meals. Although one brother and his family couldn't always be there as he was in the Navy, everyone else would come home, even from deer hunting up north, for Thanksgiving dinner.

Everything didn't always go smoothly, like the year one of my brothers rolled a tractor, or the year the other brother was in Viet Nam. Then there was the year one sister lost a baby boy at six months pregnant and came within a day of dying herself, and there was the year the other sister spent months recovering after a swerving car hit her on her snowmobile. Even during these times there always seemed to be plenty the family was thankful for.

This might be one of those years when it seems harder to find things to be thankful for. Dear Sisters and Brothers, I am certain that if you think about it, you will find things to be thankful for, even in a year that has been unpredictable and unprecedented in recent memory for most.

In Philippians we are told "not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

It's has seemed hard not to be anxious this year, but, as you give thanks, especially on the day our country sets aside for giving thanks, I pray that you will be blessed with "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding."

**Grace and peace,**

*Pastor Shannon*



*So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6:34)*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right. (Simple Gifts, 1848)

"Do not worry about tomorrow," these are the words of Jesus that stretch across centuries, cultures, and geography to speak to us today in the midst of a global pandemic. This virus strains relationships; brings illness, death, and loss; separates families around the globe; causes economic and financial devastation to families and individuals; and it just goes on and on. We may never face such a systemic and widespread reason to worry in our lifetimes. We are living in very difficult days.

And yet, and yet, we know that God loves us, that God is good, and that God is ever-working for our welfare and vitality. Sure, we are tested, but we are strong. I marvel at the faithfulness of our people, of our clergy and laity leadership caring for our congregations and communities. I see the amazing grace and witness of our churches, honoring those who have suffered through COVID-19, celebrating our health care workers, our first responders, our medical teams, and our care givers. I marvel at the generous giving from so many to provide for the needs of others. I receive hope and inspiration from the virtual services, learning opportunities, and planning and preparation for what is coming next. I am truly proud of the leadership working to provide resources for COVID-19 response, for tackling the "powers and principalities" that foster and protect institutional racism and racial injustice, and to be in ministry building bridges at a time when our country and communities are so divided. We are good witnesses to the love, grace, and care of God. Truly, Wisconsin United Methodists are rising up and joining together to be Jesus's hands and feet across the Conference.

So, worry, it is not easy not to worry, but we do not let our worries conquer us. We rise above. We carry our worries and concerns, but they do not defeat us or direct us. By faith in Jesus Christ and assurance of a future with hope, we work together to move through this pandemic wilderness time. Hope defeats worry and faith conquers anxiety.

I do not say this naively or superficially. It is not my intention to downplay the devastation of COVID-19 or to ignore the grief, loss, suffering, and pain it has caused. What I want to say clearly is this: God is greater. God's comfort can help us through. God's strength can provide the courage and confidence we need to care for one another. God honors us when we mask and social distance and do all in our power to care for and protect others. God guides us to new and creative levels of communication and connection. God provides the patience and perseverance we need to be church apart until the day we can be church together once more. God gives us all we need to move through this pandemic time with all its many and great challenges, and to thrive beyond our worries and cares. No matter what happens, God is with us. And you are the evidence of God's presence in the faithful way you stay connected and committed to your communities of faith and the Annual Conference.

I ask your prayers for our first ever virtual Annual Conference meeting this Saturday, October 24. We have much to do, much to celebrate, and important worshipful work to accomplish in a very short period of time. Yet, I enter hopeful, because of the excellent leadership we have here in Wisconsin. Should I worry? By God's grace, I do not! Thanks be to God.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

### **Lamentations 3:22-23**

22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

### **2 Corinthians 4:15-16**

15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

## **Something different for Advent**

Looking for a different way to prepare for Christmas? Willing to try something different? How about a virtual Advent study?

Purchase the book, read the chapter, and join in the Zoom discussion.

### *Down to Earth*

*The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight*

· By Mike Slaughter, Rachel Billups

When Heaven Comes Down to Earth, Greatness Gets Redefined.

A virgin birth. God's son...a helpless baby. Fleeing certain death. Nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary. Mike Slaughter says it's enough to confound the mind and make the heart contrite. In his book, *Down to Earth*, Slaughter presents a four-week Advent study that opens up God's Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything.

Zoom meeting dates will be, Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16 and Monday December 21 at 6:30pm.

Please let Pastor Shannon know if you will be joining ([shannonmattison@yahoo.com](mailto:shannonmattison@yahoo.com)) and an invitation to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you. If you have never used Zoom before, that's okay. We are all learning how to do things differently.

## **Worship**

At present, Wheeler: Grace UMC has decided to wait to do in-person worship until the numbers of COVID cases slow down in Dunn County. Although the Bishop is encouraging on-line worship only, Boyceville UMC and Prairie Farm: Faith UMC have decided to continue in-person worship with those attending wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. There has been plenty of space to do this. If the Boyceville school district closes schools, the churches will move to on-line worship only. Be aware, this may change week to week depending on what is happening in the area.

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

## Gleaner Deadline

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, November 24th. Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or [rtsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rtsmnelson@hotmail.com) with your news. To those snowbirds heading south for the winter, please let Tammy know when you are leaving so your Gleaner can be sent to the correct address. 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	Irene Schmidt	Virgil Schoonover
Marguerite Blodgett	Shirley Christopherson	Family & Friends of Darlene Wilcox
Doris Herdahl	Missionaries	Family & Friends of Allan Smith
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters		Food Harvest Ministry
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes		Honduras Mission

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 November*

4 - Madison Harren	20 - Judy Helgeson
4 - Judy Schlottman	21 - Lori Feyen
4 - Roger Smith	21 - Robert Stalker
5 - Carol Cherney	22 - Courtney Walk
5 - Justyne Frisle	23 - Barbara Bender
	23 - Margie Wiseman
6 - Irene Schmidt	24 - Eva Mewes
9 - Gina Harren	27 - Jerry Olson
	27 - Russ White
11 - Kim Smith	29 - Julie Babbitt
14 - Dean & Leslie Frisle (anniv.)	29 - Dylan Hanson

## Honduras Mission Update from Boyceville

A year ago it was decided to continue our support of Sisters Alegría and Confianza and their work in Honduras for another year. We pledged to support them with \$100 a month. We exceeded this amount, raising \$1,827 in the past 12 months! That's \$627 over what we had pledged. In the past 12 months we have supported a nurse for the clinic, paid for laboratory supplies and the past few months have paid for groceries for the hungry. We are making a difference in how the Sisters can reach out to those in need. Thank you for your generous gifts.

The mission team has decided that we will again support Sisters Alegría and Confianza for another year with a pledge of \$100 a month. Can we surpass last year's total?

## Packing Backpacks for the Boyceville Weekend Meal Program

We will again be helping with the backpacks for the weekend meal program. WestCAP will pack the backpacks and they need to be picked up between 1-3 p.m. and taken to the Tiffany Creek Elementary School in Boyceville. If you would like to help out with this on **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**, please let Pastor Shannon or Marguerite Blodgett know.



This year the Community Thanksgiving Service will be online, there will be no in person service. Westcap would prefer cash offerings this year. Offerings for the Food Pantry can be put in the offering plate at church or you can mail them to Marguerite at Boyceville UMC, PO Box 94, Boyceville, WI 54725. Please do not bring food to the church. More information about the service will be shared in the bulletin.

Offerings for the Prairie Farm/Ridgeland Food Pantry can be put in the Prairie Farm Faith offering plate at church or sent to Margie Wiseman at 405 Bluff Ave. N, Prairie Farm, WI 54762.



## Angel Tree at Boyceville

We are sponsoring 10 children for Christmas, through Westcap. As soon as Marguerite receives the information from Westcap the tags will be up at church. Each child will have 3 tags. Some tags will just have clothes on them. Don't worry, every child will receive fun items from their wish list. If you are not comfortable coming to church but would like a tag or two, contact Marguerite and she will be happy to get you tags. Cash donations are always welcome. We are happy to shop for you.



## The Coat Closet

The Coat Closet is open by appointment only this year. Please contact Sonya Zebro at 715-308-8435 if you are in need of winter outerwear or would like to make a donation.

Please continue to support your church during this time of uncertainty.

Boyceville UMC  
P.O. Box 94  
Boyceville, WI 54725

Faith UMC  
c/o Margie Wiseman  
405 Bluff Ave. N  
Prairie Farm, WI 54762

Grace UMC  
P.O. Box 183  
Wheeler, WI 54772



*It was so wonderful to have all the cards, prayers and well wishes for my surgery!  
Thank you so much! It was very appreciated.*

*Love in Christ,  
Irene Schmidt*

# *Faith United Methodist Church News for November*

Worship Service at 8:30 am



- To all UMW members and others who helped clean the church.
- To Pastor Shannon in appreciation for pastoral work. No cake this year!
- To Bill Wiseman and Chris Burke for repairing/painting the ramp.
- To Kathy Christopherson for a generous monetary donation to the Memorial Fund to pay for plaques, etc. purchased for Margaret O'Flanagan.
- To Gary and Ila Knutson, Barbara Bender, Roxanne White, Chris and Robin Burke who gave monetary donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Darlene Wilcox.

## *Parish Duties for November*

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>
November 1	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman
November 8	Leslie Frisle	Leslie Frisle
November 15	Roxanne White	Roxanne White
November 22	Barbara Bender	Barbara Bender
November 29	Robin Burke	Open

## *Faith United Methodist Women*

United Methodist Women did church cleaning last month. With a Food Pantry obligation on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, we will meet next on **Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Robin Burke has the Thank Offering program. We will be doing the Mission Today report and planning our 2021 program on that day, also.



Our sincere sympathy to the family of Darlene Wilcox. She passed away on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Amery Hospital at the age of 85. Visitation was at Rausch-Lundeen Funeral Home in Dallas on October 24<sup>th</sup> with a private service there, followed by burial in Vanceburg Cemetery. What an excellent pianist/organist for us for over 40 years!!

There is no longer telephone service at the church. With the end of preschool, there were practically no calls, but we still got the \$46 bill every month. At Ad. Council we voted to have it disconnected. Phones were returned to Mosaic. Hopefully, if needed, someone will have a cell phone.



## Giving Stewardship as Discipleship November 2020

*If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:15-17)*

How does a disciple set aside his or her life for God? We simplify, in our denomination, the complicated issue of discipleship as the following: your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. It is important to note that discipleship is comprised of actions, not beliefs. You may say all the creeds, but as James (2:19) points out, "Even the demons believe [in God]."

Much of our teaching about stewardship has to do with giving financially to support the mission and ministry of the church. That is giving, but what makes it discipleship? Last month I noted that when we are planning an expenditure, John Wesley advises us to ask,

- 1) am I acting as a proprietor or a steward?
- 2) am I following Scripture?
- 3) can I offer this as a sacrifice to God, through Jesus Christ?
- 4) will this action be judged as righteous?

These are the questions of a mature disciple who understands that in the Kingdom of God, actions speak louder than words. Since the disciple knows that everything comes from God (a belief), then every expenditure, even spending for oneself or one's family, should be put to Wesley's tests. That is what sets aside the disciple's expenditures for God. The disciple turns beliefs into action and converts the simple materialism of the economy into spirituality. Spending money may be indistinguishable between disciple and non-disciple, but the disciple's spending helps bring about the Kingdom of God.

Reread Wesley's four rules above and you will see that a disciple's expenditure includes prayer, presence, gift, service, and witness.

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  
or call 1-888-903-9863

