

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

Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Prairie Farm Faith and  
Wheeler Grace United Methodist Churches  
Pastor Vicky Strupp  
Parsonage: 715-749-6351  
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

October 2021

The Gleaner

Dear Friends,

I know I'm not alone when I say that autumn exhilarates me. I revel in the crisp, fragrant air, crunchy apples, and above all, the colors. Eager to top my previous autumnal images, I feel an urgency to capture the perfect fall picture before the fleeting blaze of October fades to the muted tones of November and the austerity of December.

That reminds me that we all crave order and beauty in our lives. Could this hunger be a longing for the presence of the Author of order and beauty? In Ecclesiastes 3:11 (Amplified), we read, "He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end."

Consider the short-lived, breathtaking beauty all around you an invitation from its Creator to spend some time in God's presence. An invitation to begin to grasp what God is doing ... and join in. Your Creator longs to hear from you!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Vicky



*Grace United Methodist Church  
Meatball Supper*

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-7:00 p.m.

Menu: Meatballs & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes,  
Corn, Coleslaw,  
Bread, Beverages, Desserts

Free will offering

Served at  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall  
Wheeler, WI





## A Liturgy of Walking Together

Perhaps the most invisible part of Christian liturgy is walking. When we share liturgy in worship, most of the time we are standing or sitting, but there is walking, too. Arriving and preparing the heart for worship is done walking. Waiting for someone to read means we wait on another who is walking. Let's recognize how able-bodied our perspective can be, too—and ask those who traverse their days in wheelchairs or with canes to also serve in worship, and to make worship accessible as a way of walking together. Walking together means enduring together. Christianity is not a solitary enterprise. Now in a time of pandemic, journeying together as Christ's disciples means we have plenty to endure. For a season, it seems, we are called to serve not in an unbroken sea of stability, but in the white-capped waters of instability. We are offering spiritual leadership in a time of pandemic, polarization, human migration, ecological instability, as well as in defining times for The United Methodist Church. Walking together may seem invisible, but it is a spiritual practice for we who share the practice of worshipping in community.

The way Mark tells it, the relentless widow walked her offering to the temple treasury. Jesus called his disciples to pay attention to her, not because the two small copper coins were enormous in value, but because her example, her endurance, was greater because she offered it despite her economic, social, and personal place of challenge. Luke's telling is longer and ends with Jesus saying, 'by your endurance you will gain your souls' (Luke 21:19). Jesus calls us to endure in ways that define our witness.

Regardless of our stances and locations, our opinions, and our histories, we are a community shaped by the cross that reveals a suffering God who can redeem and restore. We watch and pray for what God will do. I trust the Holy Spirit will turn our divisiveness into fruit.

The relentless widow's witness and the power of walking together as a worshipping community reminds me of my season as a district superintendent in Wisconsin while Sharon Rader was bishop. Rev. Karen Ebert was one of my pastors and serving First UMC, Green Bay. Each week she offered the Pastoral Prayer in worship and those prayers were compiled in a book called, *What I Tell My Heart*. One of the prayers was for Advent and entitled, 'How Long, God?' It reads in part:

“But unlike the months that we can count off on our fingers,  
waiting for the wind to break,  
we have no way of marking how long  
until some other forces in our life will let go—if they ever will...

These forces, and more, swirl and taunt, and push.  
We have braced ourselves against them.  
We have tried to shake them off.  
But our shouts are thrown back in our faces,  
and our hands are useless in pushing back.  
Some forces even seem stronger than can be borne.

How long, God?  
We turn to you, the Maker of All Winds that Blow,  
the One Whose Strength is Greater than All,  
and we ask,  
*How long* do we have to wait?

This is what we tell our hearts and so renew our hope.  
A God who can tilt the earth  
to catch the warming rays of the sun  
and turn the winter into spring  
Can surely shift the balance  
to keep us from blowing away.

Spring will come. We can hear its drip.  
The pressures will cease.  
I don't know how, I don't know when  
Gracious God.  
But we trust you.  
And even in our bleakness. We have hope."

We endure as a praying community, finding words to bear witness to hope. We walk together without blowing away, like the relentless widow, as faithful spiritual leaders. These winds are momentary. Your walk may be humble, but it is not invisible. May we hold hands with a deep sense of trust and respect. Thank you for your faithfulness. Know that I am praying for you.

In Christ's Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

**Charge Conference will be October 12th at 6 pm @ Boyceville.**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship**

October 31st is a 5th Sunday! We're planning a joint service and potluck at Prairie Farm: Faith at 10 am and I would love to see participation from all three churches. If you'd like to do a reading, do special music, or participate in some other way, please contact Pastor Vicky. Let's make it memorable!

## Sermon by Phone

The Boyceville church is offering a Sermon by Phone service. Each week you can call into our Sermon by Phone telephone number and listen to the scripture reading and sermon. The phone number is 715-309-5114. This is a Menomonie number, and it is a local phone number for Boyceville and Wheeler. There is no charge to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available to call Sunday after 8 am. Each service will be available till the following Saturday afternoon. If you have any questions call Marguerite at 715-651-7880.

Sermon by Phone - call 715-309-5114. The message will change each week, but the phone number stays the same.

## *Scripture Readers for Boyceville*

	Reader
October 3	Marguerite Blodgett
October 10	Carol Cherney
October 17	Merlyn Jones
October 24	Glenise Thomas
October 31	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship at Prairie Farm Faith

## Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee and cookies will be served at Boyceville on Sunday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. Carol Cherney and Marguerite Blodgett will serve on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Sheila Hegeman and Marguerite Blodgett will serve on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## All Saints Day.

On Sunday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, the Boyceville church will be remembering those who have passed away in the past year. A candle will be lit for each person. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at church. Or you can contact Marguerite with name to be remembered by Saturday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Phone: 715-651-7880, email: [boycevilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:boycevilleumc@gmail.com)

## Food Harvest Ministry News

The next Food Harvest Ministry distribution will be from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1002 Main St., Boyceville, WI. Items will be boxed and ready for pick up. Volunteers are needed to unload the truck and pack boxes on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries in October*

3 - Kay Jones	16 - Bob & Sharon Wyss (anniv.)
5 - Elaine Grutt	17 - Larry & Glenise Thomas (anniv.)
5 - Terry & Vilai Wilcox (anniv.)	17 - Pete Bodette & LaVonne Nelson (anniv.)
6 - Judy Steinberger	18 - Lori Koehler
7 - Lauren Olson	19 - Samantha Nelson
7 - Bill & Margie Wiseman (anniv.)	23 - Kelly Dummer
	25 - Harry Christian
9 - Dan Miller	25 - Tom & Kelly Dummer (anniv.)
9 - Mindy Nelson	27 - Gary Dunn
9 - Kevin Zebro	27 - Dean Frisle

### **Gleaner Deadline**

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Please contact Tammy Nelson at  
715-505-2657 or [rtsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rtsmnelson@hotmail.com)  
with your news. Thanks. ☺

 IN OUR   
*Thoughts and Prayers*

Pat Schoonover	Gary Kahl	Parker Knutson
Chloe Howey	Rex Nicholson	Gloria Kahl
Jeanna Hollister	Shelby Bauer	Howard Hintzman
Food Harvest Ministry	Coat Closet	Honduras Mission
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 Vicky or Tammy know when names should be added or removed.**

## September/October Mission Project

For the months of September and October we will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products to support Stepping Stones in Menomonie and the Little Free Pantry, which is a blessing box hosted by Irene's granddaughter, Polly Torkelson, (in honor of her mother) for those in need.

Any items are welcome but most needed are:

Peanut butter & Jelly

Oatmeal

Canned meats (tuna & Chicken)

Juice

Boxed dinners (Hamburger Helper, Macaroni & Cheese)

Spaghetti sauce & pasta

Canned Soup, Chili, or stew

Breakfast Cereal (low sugar)

Canned fruits & vegetables (low sodium/ sugar preferred)

Personal care items

Paper products

## COAT CLOSET

What: Winter Coat & Outerwear Distribution

Where: 510 Winter St., Boyceville, WI (entrance in alley)

Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all dates

### Distribution Dates

Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

Any questions – call Sonya Zebro at (715)308-8435

# *Faith United Methodist Church News for October*

## Worship Service at 8:30 am

### Thank you:

- To Chris and Robin Burke, Roxanne White, and Barbara Bender for monetary donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Gladys Berg.
- To Roxanne White for monetary donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sylvia Willmott and Kathy Larson.
- To Bill Wiseman for a monetary donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of John Wreford.
- To Gary and Ila Knutson for a monetary donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Marlys Lundequam.
- To all who helped with the Ecumenical Service at Ridgeland.
- To Leslie Frisle for changing banners in the sanctuary.
- To Lay Readers: Bill Wiseman, Frisle's, and Roxanne White.

	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	<b>Coffee/Snack</b>
October 3	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman	
October 10	Roxanne White	Roxanne White	
October 17	Frisle's	Open	Frisle's
October 24	United Methodist Women	Sunday	
October 31	Open	Open	

### *Faith United Methodist Women*

Faith United Methodist Women met on September 10<sup>th</sup>. District Fall Gathering will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Chapel Heights UMC in Eau Claire. Michael Perry will be the guest speaker. Our pledge will remain at \$100 because of the pandemic. Barbara had the Pledge Service and Election of Officers. All officers have one more year of service. Robin Burke was elected to the Nominations Committee for 2025. Church Cleaning will be on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to come and help. There are bushes and weeds to be pulled outside, so come prepared with your own supplies.

UMW Sunday will be October 24<sup>th</sup>. Laurie Church will be our guest speaker. We are her sister unit. Let's all wear our pins! October is Pastor Appreciation Month, so we will also celebrate/appreciate Pastor Vicky that day. (No sermon for us that day). Let's try to get as many UMW members as we can to attend. Also, invite friends.



## Stewardship Helping God's Kingdom Come About October 2021

*(The Kingdom of God) "is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." Mark 4:31-32*

My two children have received an allowance for doing chores from the time they understood the concept of money. We paid them allowances, not because they needed the money, but because we wanted them to begin to understand that money is something to earn, not to just ask their parents for. We also wanted to begin to teach them how to manage money.

The lesson was very simple. When they were little, every Friday, I'd grab 10 dimes and sit down with them. We'd first take a dime, grab an offering envelope, put their name on it, and slide the dime in. The second dime would be dropped in their piggy bank, which we'd take to the local bank every few months. The other eight would go into their pocket or purse for them to bring with to the store when we went.

I was once asked what difference those dimes given to the church really made. To which I responded, "To the church finances, I can't imagine anything. To my kids – more than I can explain. Every Sunday they put their envelopes in the offering plate with huge smiles on their faces. As they got older, when they made more money, they'd continue the same practice – along with reflecting on how they wanted to make a difference with their generosity. Would they give it all to the church? Would they give some to a mission or another non-profit that was making a difference?"

Watching them grow in generosity constantly reminds me that we all have a place in bringing about God's kingdom, whether what we have to offer is large or small. It's about the need of the giver to give, rather than the church to receive. Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something beyond what we could ever ask or imagine.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
Contact me at: 608-837-9582 or [jmahnke@wumf.org](mailto:jmahnke@wumf.org)

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

