

Dear Friends,

As we head into a new year, I want to share some thoughts I recently read from a flower farm in Michigan, Three Acre Farm. The owner, Lori, wrote the article about her business, but she also brings a Christian perspective. What she has learned can also apply to the ministries we share:

"Sustainable growth is slow and steady.

Often unremarkable. Always with setbacks.

We live in a culture that likes to glorify "overnight success", "explosive growth", "going viral."

But that's not how growth works. I remember hearing this truth a couple of years ago:

"Overnight success takes 10 years."

At the time, I was just starting my business and I found this truth to be equal parts discouraging... and reassuring.

When you see someone who has "achieved success", whatever your definition of success is, ... it's vital to understand that they were:

Willing to put in thousands of hours of work

Willing to be a beginner and be terrible at first

Willing to fail, over and over and over

Willing to use all their experiences, good and bad, to shape their future

Willing to stop caring about what other people think of them

Willing to adjust, change, and pivot

Willing to be curious and humble, instead of rigid and judgmental...

Comparison is never useful. It always tears you down.

When you feel frustrated that things are not fast enough, successful enough, good enough...

Stop. Challenge that thought. What if you're exactly where you need to be?

What if everything you're going through right now is sowing seeds for the future?

Some seeds germinate faster than expected.

Some seeds germinate at the predicted time.

Some seeds take weeks, months and even years to germinate...

Your job is not to judge the seeds, but to simply keep tending them.

Slowly. Gently. Steadily. Tenderly.

This is how sustainable growth works.

Upward and onward, friend."

May God give us wisdom and strength in the New Year!

Pastor Vicky

Breakthrough Prayer-

Pray this DAILY at 5:17 pm.

Loving God, thank you for giving us life and new birth. Create in us a deep trust in you, and give us the courage to overcome our fears and doubts.

Help us to be the salt and light this world needs. Guide us to find ways to share your love with others.

Lord, open us to all you would have us be for you and for others. Break through into our lives and our churches with new possibilities.

In the hope Jesus offers us, Amen.

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 — James Harvey
- 4 — Kevin & Sonya Zebro (anniv)
- 7 — Charlie Hall
- 9 — Jessica Blodgett
- 9 — Melissa Blodgett
- 9 — Haiden Salisbury
- 10 — Sonya Zebro
- 13 — Matthew Blodgett
- 22 — Roger & Anita Smith (anniv)
- 24 — Sherry Smith
- 26 — Jim Salisbury
- 31 — Chris Burke

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

NewsLetter
DEADLine

Gleaner news is due by noon on Tuesday, January 23rd. Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or rtsmnelson@hotmail.com with your news. Thanks.

Amanda Roper	Irene Schmidt
Sister Alegria	Carol Cherney
Sister Confianza	Julie Babbit
Frankie Alone	Nancy Smith
Judy & Dave Wirth	Pam Rosen

Victims of natural disasters

Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

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

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 4 pm. 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.

The sermon is also available on the United Methodist Church of Boyceville facebook page: and their website: boycevilleumc.org.



Peace United Methodist Church Wheeler

Worship Service at 11 a.m.



United Methodist Church of Boyceville

Worship Time: 9:45 a.m.

Scripture Readers for Boyceville

The lay reader on Communion Sunday is asked to help Pastor Vicky with communion

	Reader
January 7	Carol Cherney
January 14	Glenise Thomas
January 21	Earl Blodgett
January 28	Glenise Thomas

Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time will be after the service on January 14th and 28th. Glenise Thomas and Sonya Zebro will serve on the 14th and Marguerite Blodgett and Doreen Olson will serve on the 28th.



Warm Socks for the Homeless



During the month of January we will be collecting warm socks for the homeless. Socks of all sizes, for men, women, and children are needed. Socks that contain natural fibers like cotton or wool are best. Thin or no show socks aren't very warm in the winter. Cash donations are welcome too. The mission team is happy to shop for you. Thank you for your support.

Food Harvest Ministry News

The next Food Harvest Ministry distribution will be from 8-9 a.m. on Saturday, January 20th 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, January 18.



Mission Restoring Hope

Do you need help? Mission Restoring Hope is here to help. We offer a variety of essential items, from clothing and household goods to tools, health and beauty supplies, and baby items. Our mission is to provide access to these necessities at absolutely no cost to you.

If you, or someone you know is experiencing a hardship or crisis, please connect them to us to see if we can assist. We are located in Boyceville and are here to help our local community.

They are open for donations by appointment.

Please contact Doreen at 715-505-1621 or Doreen@missionrestoringhope.org or use our contact us page on our website: missionrestoringhope.org

Blessing Box

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Blessing Box. If you don't want to shop, we do it for you. Cash donations are always appreciated. Marguerite works hard to make our dollars go as far as possible when shopping for the box.

Faith United Methodist Church Prairie Farm

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.

Reader/Greeter

Usher, Advent Candle

Coffee/Snack

Jan 7	Jim Strupp	Barbara Bender
Jan 14	Frisles	Frisles
Jan 21	Roxanne White	Ila Knutson
Jan 28	Bill Wiseman	Open

Faith United Methodist Women - United Women in Faith

Thank you:

- To Roxanne White for typing the revised prayer chain.
- To all who helped decorate the church. The tree looks beautiful.
- To Jim Strupp and Bill Wiseman for putting a new valve on the water line.
- To Leslie Frisles for putting up the banners.
- To Michelle McMorro for a monetary donation to the church budget.
- To Robert Strupp for additional monetary donations to the church budget.
- To Roxanne White for purchasing the poinsettias for United Women in Faith.
- To Barbara Bender for providing the apples for Christmas Eve.

United Women in Faith met on December 14th with a potluck supper at 5:00 p.m. With an invited guest, we had 9 in attendance. Our business meeting followed. We agreed to get 3 gift cards at River Country Coop for our helpers this year, instead of fruit/goodie baskets as we have done in years past. They will be for \$25 each. Our Mission Giving designated: Prairie Farm/Ridgeland Food Pantry, \$325; WWIB Radio Station, \$50; Grammen Foundation (formerly Freedom from Hunger), \$50; and 3 months of Apportionments-\$1029. We then enjoyed listening to some readings & recitations. We each had brought a wrapped white elephant gift and Robin led us in an exciting exchange. Our next meeting will be March 7th, 2024 for our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program to be led by Roxanne White.

**Administrative Council meets on
January 9th at 5:30 p.m.**

**May we all have a Happy, Healthy
New Year!!!!!!**



Christmas Blessings from Bishop Jung

The birth of Jesus
We are reborn deep
within our hearts and spirits.
Come to us with light
Come to us with life
Come to this shabby place with peace
Come to the eternal now, right within us...

The coming of Jesus
Let there be hope for the world,
Let even a small smile express happiness.
To a lonely person, come as a friend,
Come to Bethlehem
Yes come....
Come to the heart of the broken world.

The coming of the Savior
It brings joy to us,
so everyone rejoices together.
The Savior has come,
let us sing and let the world sing
Christ light,
Dawning within us the divine presence.

May we bless one another today
It's not a slow heart.
With a bright face, bless each other
Let me bless my friends
who have gone down different paths,
With a loving heart, we wish them to bless.
May we all be blessed because of Jesus

Hee-Soo Jung



Active Discipleship January 2024

A University chaplain had an interesting conversation with a student that came to see him one day. He writes:

“I was wondering what I ought to do about the exam,” she said, “then I looked at this bracelet” (here she gestured to the “What Would Jesus Do?” bracelet on her wrist), “and I said to myself, ‘I am going to just say a little prayer, relax, and look after myself.’”

And I thought to myself, “I can think of at least a couple of other things Jesus might tell you to do — like get over to the library and get busy studying for this exam.”

Devoid of specific content, insubstantial, vague “spirituality” may be our contemporary Christian undoing. We have rendered Jesus into someone so vague, amorphous, and flimsy that he makes little claim upon us. Jesus has become a fashion accessory, something tied to our wrist, a comfort, never a challenge. What would Jesus do? Whatever we do, it appears.

This short story reminds me of what a challenge Christian Discipleship. It is easy for us to become a member of a church, attend several times a year, give a little money, and to sit back and relax because we all know that God’s grace is free. And yet, we forget that while God’s love is given to us freely, if we allow it to grab ahold of us, it changes our lives. Our priorities are no longer our own, but God’s. We pray that “God’s will be done,” not only in a general sense, but particularly in and through our own lives. This means becoming an active part of our community of faith. Giving our energy to worship, instead of being a passive observer. Actively loving and serving our neighbor, instead of just praying for them and hoping for a miracle. Spending time with God in prayer and study. Letting generosity be the top priority in our finances, not just giving what’s left over after we’ve gotten ours.

Christian Discipleship is a difficult enterprise. Thank God we have grace to support us and strengthen us. And thank God we have a community of faith to help us along and to hold us accountable.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
Contact me at: 608-837-9582 or jmahnke@wumf.org
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or
[Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org) or call 1-888-903-9863

United Methodist Church
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Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



Newsletter of Boyceville, Prairie Farm Faith and
Wheeler Peace 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: Peace Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Welcome

January 2024

The Gleaner