



Dear Friends,

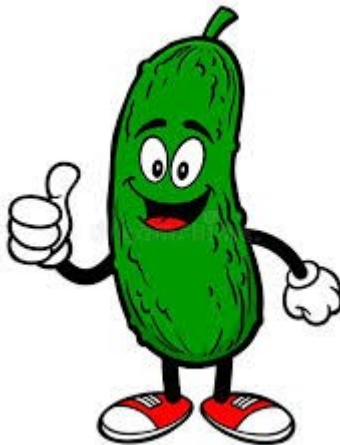
It was a bustling weekend at Pickle Fest in Boyceville! The theme was “Tropickle Paradise.” The rain held off as I walked in the Cucumber Run/Walk with a couple of friends. The weekend also found us taking in the Car show and engaging with the community as we helped sell snow cones, popcorn, and cotton candy at the Boyceville church treat booth. The parade on Sunday overflowed with floats in the motif of pickles. After the parade, I took the opportunity to sample some appetizing spicy pickles. Pickles were very much on my mind.

Pickle by another definition means a difficulty or dilemma.

This got me thinking: Too often we tend to wait until we’re in a pickle to call on God. Let me take this post-Picklefest opportunity to offer a reminder: Let's make prayer our first response rather than our last resort! Let us pray continually and not wait until we’re in a pickle!

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. | Thessalonians 16-18*

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Vicky



## Wisconsin Farewell

Today we thank you with all our hearts and being.

Truly, our 12 years as the Bishop in Wisconsin were happy and blessed.  
The life God shared with us gave us years of blessings and gratitude that cannot be put into words.

Now I give this tribute and credit to you all.  
The fellowship and friendship we have gained as members of the Church of Christ while loving Jesus is something we will remember and give thanks to the Lord for the rest of our lives.

Winter:

Wisconsin winters reminded me of a life of true peace, deep silence, and cleanliness of God's salvation.

We walked around the Sun Prairie hills together and made a snow path.  
Like little fox cubs, we had fun wandering around the deep snow-covered wilderness and walking along the railroad tracks to experience the wonders of winter.

Spring:

Spring is just a refreshing thing, and Wisconsin spring has been enjoying new life around the house and planting hostas around the garden.  
It was Wisconsin's blessing to dig up dandelion roots blooming in the lawn and make Korean-style salad, kimchi.

While visiting churches in each city and villages that have served for 100 years and are standing tall, I met some of the most loving and sincere people in the world.

We really enjoyed the anticipation and excitement of spring and the wildflowers blooming.

Summer:

Summer is green and the world is peaceful in the fields of Wisconsin.  
We watched the corn growing as if measuring its height.  
The herds of deer I occasionally encounter are welcome guests, and the flying sandhill cranes captivate me with their deep sounds,

...Hekung...kook...

and sometimes I follow those sounds into the field.

Summer is a special season for sending pastors to new churches and celebrating our unity as one great body in Christ through our Annual Conference.

We looked at the peace and wide-open fields of the Wisconsin summer with great gratitude. Visiting the two campsites, Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne, to greet and bless the summer workers is a blessing of new expectations and a young summer.

Fall :

Fall blessed us with harvest and the changing colors of autumn.  
When I was a superintendent, I traveled day and night through northeastern Wisconsin, mainly in the Nicolet Forest, holding chai conferences, and sharing Wisconsin's own love while saying goodbye to each other and telling each other, "watch out for deer!", to be careful was the best gift.  
Northern Wisconsin is an unforgettable memory for me, driving through fall foliage and birch mountains, stopping at Vista Point and occasionally dreaming of the depth and breadth of life.

I believed that my calling was to make Wisconsin anew by seeing you, my beloved people, enjoying diversity like the colors of fall, promoting it like the heart of God, and valuing the ministry of other races.

I thank the Lord for giving me this beautiful church where everyone is equal and respected as the face of God.

I considered the privilege of visiting the entire Wisconsin United Methodist Church and blessing its pulpits to be one of countless thanks.

Don Greer, who helped visit the churches despite the cold winter snow-covered roads and torrential rain in the summer, is one of the people who achieved great things.

There are so many people whom I would like to thank.

I have been able to carry out this task for the past 12 years thanks to the countless people who prayed and shared their love.

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to the three Assistant Bishops, three Executive Administrative Assistants, cabinet members, and conference Directors and staff, while serving 12 years.

I pray that we will continue our beautiful journey as we learn God's love to forgive our shortcomings and forgive one another.

Wisconsin Native Poet, Kimberly Blaeser, is a Professor of English and Indigenous Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She writes:

OH, SHELTERING BODIES—

*Let earth drown out each mantra of fear.  
April crane calls startle us: Awake! Awake!  
The grasp of this unnameable future  
Here balance in ancient songs of continuance.*

I am touched that the new bishop is Dan Schwerin, who grew up in Wisconsin, pastored in Wisconsin for a long time, and is a bishop that Wisconsin nurtured.

Now, please welcome him and his wife joyfully.

I was one only half Wisconsin Native... He is fully a Wisconsin Native bishop.

I hope that you will continue your pilgrimage-like journey of faith, happily and healthily, and always live a wonderful life with a strong faith that the Lord is with you.

We love you. Thank you.

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.  
He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach,  
giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will fly up on wings like eagles, they will run and not be tired; They will walk and not be weary.  
Isiah 40:28-31*

By the way, I am leaving but not my wife, IM...She clearly said to me.

"You leave but not me... I am an elder and full member in Wisconsin."

This is a good reason I am able to sneak in as a spouse of the pastor in Wisconsin.

Thanks and Praise God for you all.

*Bishop Hee-Soo Jung*

## Keep Praying! September 2024

Dear Friends,

We can never overemphasize the importance of fervent prayer! Prayer allows us to join in God's work, and gradually changes into the image of Christ. Let us continue to pray daily for our churches! Meditating on Scripture can guide our prayer life. Our prayer-prompt Scripture for this quarter:

***I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?***

***I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19***

There are colorful cardstock copies in the back of the churches if you'd like to post them somewhere in your home or office.

God is always up to something new! Let me know how these Scriptures are helping you to pray, and please share answers to your prayers. If you have other suggestions for praying together, please get in touch! Let's build one another up in our faith.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Vicky

### 5th Sunday Worship

On Sunday, September 29th there will be a 5th Sunday worship at Boyceville at 10 a.m. There will be no services at Prairie Farm Faith or Wheeler Peace that day!



- 1 - Pete Bodette
- 4 - Sheila Hegeman
- 5 - Merlyn Jones
- 10 - Randy Nelson
- 12 - Russ & Roxanne White (anniv.)
- 12 - Leslie Frisle
- 13 - John Wurtzler
- 15 - Samantha Christian
- 18 - Skyler Hall
- 18 - Pastor Vicky Strupp
- 19 - Chris & Robin Burke (anniv)
- 19 - Delphine Danovsky
- 20 - Nancy & Jerry Schlottman (anniv)
- 20 - Larry Thomas
- 21 - Jim Strupp
- 23 - Jennifer Hall
- 27 - Kate Rubusch
- 29 - Nancy Smith

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

Gleaner news is due by noon on Tuesday, September 17th. Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or [rtsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rtsmnelson@hotmail.com) with your news. Thanks.

## Basic Lay Servant Ministry Class

On-line via ZOOM

Leader: Rev. Amy Powell

Day one: Fri., Sept. 13 6-9 p.m.

Day two: Sat., Sept. 14 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration Deadline is September 8

More info: contact amy@cargillumc.org



### Wheeler Pie & Ice Cream Social

Thursday, September 12th

3:30-7 p.m.

Hot beef sandwiches, brats,  
hot dogs, potato salad,  
pasta salad, beans, pie,  
ice cream & beverages

Free Will Offering

Served at Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church, Wheeler

## 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.



Amanda Roper	Sister Alegria
Carol Cherney	Julie Babbit
Sherri Williams	Bill Wiseman
The Rihn Family	Lionel Kegen
Sister Confianza	Jeff Grosvold
The Family & Friends of Darcy Hafele	

Victims of natural disasters  
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes

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

## 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
September 1	Carol Cherney
September 8	Marguerite Blodgett
September 15	Earl Blodgett
September 22	Reader needed
September 29	5th Sunday Worship

**Ushers for September are John & Rosanne Wurtzler**

### Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time is Sunday, September 15th after the service. Carol Cherney and Marguerite Blodgett are serving.

## Fall Bible Study at Boyceville

### Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. Wrestling With Doubt, Finding Faith is a 6 week study written by Adam Hamilton. The study will start Wednesday September 11th and run for 6 weeks. Marguerite Blodgett is leading the study. We will start with a light supper at 5:30 pm, followed by a video and the study. Books cost \$14 and Marguerite is happy to order a copy for you. Contact Marguerite at [crazy2quilt@gmail.com](mailto:crazy2quilt@gmail.com) or 715-651-7880 to order your book. Books will be ordered Monday August 26 so they will arrive in time to hand them out before the first session. Books are also available on Amazon. All are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and growing in our faith.



## Mission Projects for September & October

### Blessing Box

Marguerite and Sheila went to Menomonie and restocked the pantry for the Blessing Box. This depleted our funds for the box significantly. With cold weather arriving sooner than we all want, we will be looking to collect items that are not affected by freezing temperatures. We currently have an abundance of Mac and cheese and canned vegetables. Donations of any kind are greatly appreciated.

### Coat Closet

If you like to visit thrift sales, be sure to keep your eyes out for warm winter outer wear. As always we are in need of boot of all sizes, esp. children's. Same goes for children's snow pants. Warm, water resistant gloves and mittens are always a hit. And yes we do need coats, especially children's. The Coat Closet schedule will soon be making the rounds. Please consider signing up for a Saturday morning shift. Never helped at the Coat Closet before? We will partner with someone who knows the ropes. Need more information, just talk with Sonya.

## Treat Booth at Cucumber Festival Update

It was a crazy, busy weekend at our booth. Saturday the most ordered item was popcorn. The cool gray weather may have influenced those sales. Sunday cotton candy, snow cones and water were the best sellers. While we worked hard, we also laughed and enjoyed each others company. After expenses we cleared \$716.00. The money will be used for mission and outreach projects. Thank you to everyone who helped out with time and/or donations. We couldn't have done it without you!

### Food Harvest Ministry News

The next Food Harvest Ministry distribution will be from 8-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 21st 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, September 19th.

**Help  
Support  
Our  
Missions**





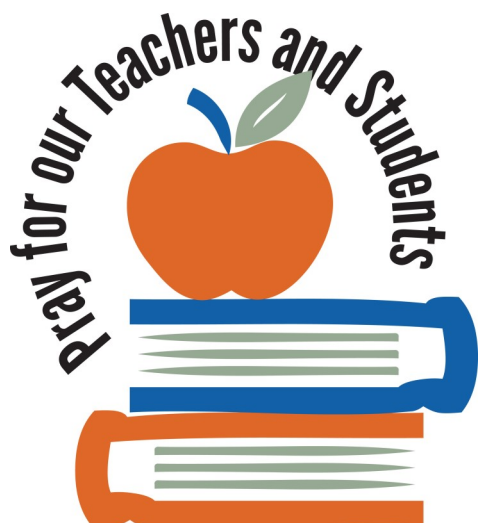
## Faith United Methodist Church Prairie Farm

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.

thank you

Thank you:

- To Gary and Ila Knutson for a monetary donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Patricia Young.
- To Christina Salsbury for a monetary donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of her mother, Patricia Young.
- To Christina Salsbury for spraying/cleaning for the bat problem.



	Lay Reader	Coffee/Snack
Sept. 1	Ec Svc at Ridgeland	10am
Sept. 8	Open	Open
Sept. 15	Jim Strupp	Open
Sept. 22	Roxanne W	Roxanne W
Sept. 29	5th Sunday at Boyceville	



### United Women in Faith

Our next meeting will be September 12th at 5:30 p.m. . Barbara has the program and it will be Election of Officers.

Faith Ad Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5th.



**Peace  
United Methodist Church  
Wheeler**

**Worship Service at 11 a.m.**

**Peace Mission Thrift Shop**

**Thrifting Hours:**

**Fridays: Noon—5pm**

**Saturdays: 9am—2pm**

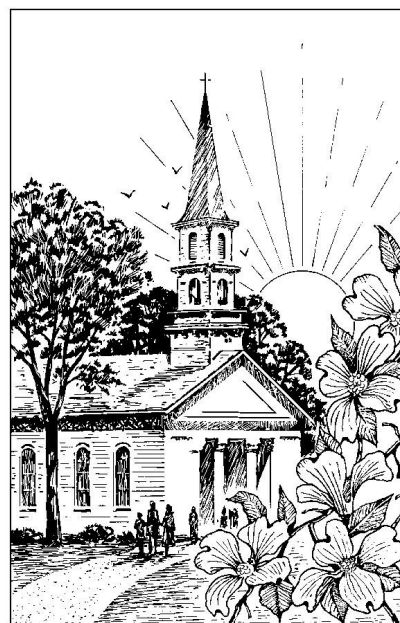


**Wheeler Pie & Ice Cream Social  
Thursday, September 12th  
3:30-7 p.m.**

**Hot beef sandwiches, brats,  
hot dogs, potato salad,  
pasta salad, beans, pie,  
ice cream & beverages**

**Free Will Offering  
Served at Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church, Wheeler**

**701 West 2nd Ave., Wheeler,  
WI**





## The Church's Need to Receive or the Giver's Need to Give?

**September 2024**

When I was first learning about stewardship early in my ministry, I heard someone say, "Good stewardship practices focus on the giver's need to give, rather than the church's need for money." At the time, I didn't buy it. To my cynical ears, it sounded like a line. Today (many years later), I can say that I was wrong.

We love our churches. We want them to thrive and succeed. They are near and dear to our hearts. So when the churches faces financial challenges, we want to plead with people how important it is to keep the ministries of our beloved church going. We need to pay the bills. Throw in the anxiety that surrounds any financial topic, we may want to push the point.

The truth is the church's mission isn't to keep existing. In fact, we love our churches because of the ways God has touched our lives through them —ceremonies and rituals, helping us grow in faith and connection. Likewise, a church's teaching about faithful stewardship should be centered on helping people learn about the place of money in a Christian's walk of faith. It's about discipleship and partnering with God to make a positive difference in the world — whether people do that by being generous with the church or other organizations. (Note: I do believe people who are generous as a part of their faith include the church in their generosity if the church is faithfully living out its mission.)

Tithing benefits the giver as much as it strengthens the mission and ministry of the church — especially in the midst of our materialistic and consumerist society. We are immersed in a culture that feeds the appetite for more and bigger and that fosters that self-worth is found in material wealth and happiness comes by possession. As one person once said, "We buy things we don't even need with money we don't even have to impress people we don't even know!"

At the root, these are spiritual problems, leading to continued discontent, discouragement, and unhappiness. We can never earn enough to be happy. In fact, studies have shown that people believe all they need is more money to be happy, when in reality, an academic study concluded that money can only boost happiness up to a certain point (at about \$75,000 in annual income).

Practices like embracing gratitude do lead to more contentment. For instance, consider making a list of the things in your life for which you are grateful. It doesn't have to be long or take much time. Taking time to focus on what you have rather than concentrating on what you don't can be transformative. Beyond embracing gratitude, consider the following questions:

- How does living generously help you see the world through God's eyes?
- How is your own perspective shaped by materialism, acquisition, and the desire to possess? How is it shaped by the wisdom of God? How do you resolve tensions?

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

United Methodist Church  
PO Box 94  
804 St. John St.  
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

September 2024

The Gleaner