

# Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church July 2018

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*“But (Jesus) was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53: 5*

Does God still heal? The Scriptures are full of powerful miracles and astonishing healings, but does it happen today? The answer is yes. We still serve a God who heals. We still serve a God who saves and transforms lives. That said, we need to remember that *when* and *why* God heals still varies.

Sometimes God temporarily heals individuals and other times God does not heal. When we speak about “temporary healing,” we realize that everyone will one day die. Lazarus was raised from the dead but eventually died a second time. Lazarus received *temporary* healing. Let’s be honest, this is what we often pray for when it comes to the health or sickness of a loved one. That’s why it’s incredibly difficult to understand why God *doesn’t* heal.

Why wouldn’t God heal when He has the power to do so? To be honest, we simply don’t know. For the follower of Jesus, however, we have incredible hope. We can rest assured that one day we will all experience eternal healing from every last physical, mental and emotional pain and suffering we face here on earth. In the meantime, we are called to trust God with the results even when we don’t understand why.

If Christ is your Lord and Savior, if His death on the cross truly washed away your sins and restored your relationship with God, then you can be confident that while you may or may not experience temporary healing here on earth, your eternal salvation free from all pain and suffering is guaranteed. That – is very Good News!

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## **CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo**

We connect through study

*“Study to show yourself approved unto God “ 2 Timothy 2:15*

There are multiple opportunities to study at Sherman Avenue UMC.

On Wednesday at 4:30, a group is slowly examining the entire Bible. We alternate between the testaments, read the passages out loud and then comment on each passage as we see fit. Currently we are studying the Book of Ezra in the Old Testament.

We compare notes and portions of scripture in whatever versions we have.

There is an adult Bible Study at 8:30 every Sunday morning.

On the 4th Wednesday of the Month at 6:30 is “Dinner with Dave “ which is a pastor led study and this includes a meal. It can be on a topic—such as Islam or a book such as Life Together by Bonhoeffer.

There is also a book club on the first Wednesday of every other month. We have studied The Martian, A walk in the Woods and are currently reading Nickel and Dimed on (not) Getting By in America.

Please join us!

# The Curveball by Veronica Berry

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (Peter 5:7)*

I work with some die-hard baseball fanatics who often talk about the beauty of the curveball. A curveball is a breaking pitch that has more movement than just about any other pitch. It is thrown slower and with more overall break than a slider, and it is used to keep hitters off-balance. When executed correctly by a pitcher, a batter expecting a fastball will swing too early and over the top of the curveball.

Baseball terms usually go over my head because the only thing I ever focused on when I went to the Cubs games with my dad was the wonderful hot dogs. As a writer the phrase “throw a curveball” meant life throwing an unexpected obstacle that turned and tricked you causing a major upheaval in your sense of self.

Most of us have experienced times in our lives when an unexpected turn knocks us off balance and we don't know what hit us or how to get back up. The loss of a job, a failed relationship, an unexpected medical diagnosis are life's curveballs that can shatter our core beliefs. Any change in our lives can be challenging but unexpected change can bring us face to face with our fears of the unknown.

In the bible Peter reminds us to cast all our anxiety on God because he cares for us. Our faith in him keeps us balanced and never let us down. There is nothing we can't handle if we approach it with faith. When we hold on to this truth our resolve is strengthened, our feet are rooted in his essence, and our minds are clear. Centered in our spiritual strength we can move forward. We can dare to believe that a new job is on the horizon, another beautiful relationship is just around the corner, and our bodies are now healed, revived, and ready to face a new day. We can dare to believe that all things are working together for our good.

*“What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.” Luke 18:27*

It doesn't matter how many curveballs life throws at us. God is fast enough to hit them all out of the park. He knows the velocity and speed and he has the tenacity and strength to never miss a single one. We just need to remain steadfast in our faith in him, so we can free our minds from limited thinking and remain open to all his unlimited possibilities knowing that healing, prosperity, love, and renewal will come.

The universally accepted signal for a curveball is a catcher putting down two fingers. As Christians the accepted signal for curveballs that life gives us are two palms pushed together with our fingers pointing upwards towards him.



**Craft & Direct Sales Fair**

**Saturday, July 21, 2018**

**10 AM – 4 PM**

**Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church**

**3705 N Sherman Avenue**

**Madison, Wisconsin 53704**

## July 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	2 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Speak Up!	3 6:00 United Methodist Women	4 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	5	6	7 12:30 Stephen Ministry 5:00 Men's Group
8 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	9 6:00 Cub Scouts	10 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	11 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	12	13 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	14 10:00 Associate Care
15 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	16 6:00 Cub Scouts	17 6:30 Admin Council	18 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	19	20	21 10:00 Craft and Direct Sales Fair
22 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	23 <b>5:00 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 Cub Scouts	24 6:30 Outreach & Missions	25 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Dinner with Rev David	26 9:00 Copy and Fold	27 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	28
29 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	30 6:00 Cub Scouts	31	27 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	28	29	30

### July Birthdays

Virginia Frederick 7/3  
 Melissa Mooney 7/8  
 Kyle Van Pelt 7/10  
 Linda Jungbluth 7/11  
 Mildred Wilson 7/31

### Anniversaries

Nancy & Brooks Brown 7/4  
 Melissa & Chris Mooney 7/29

*These are the dates that are in the database. If you find that your name is not included with the Birthdays or Anniversaries, please call Matt Treadaway.*

### Please take a moment to remember our homebound members

**Linda Jungbluth (B-day 7/11)**  
 c/o Avalon Assisted Living  
 2875 Fish Hatchery Rd, Rm 11  
 Fitchburg, WI 53713-3177  
 608-274-4350

**Justin Kramer (B-day 12/13)**  
 1601 Wheeler Rd #208  
 Madison, WI 53704-7056  
 608-416-5343

**Carol Rinke (B-day 2/1)**  
 1524 Wheeler Rd #B  
 Madison, WI 53704-1443  
 608-249-2638

### Christian Education Opportunities

Anyone interested in learning about God's love is invited to join any of these classes at any time.

**Early Adult Sunday School** meets on Sundays at 8:30 in the Youth Room.

**Sunday School for All at 10:45** The Adult Class meets in the Choir Room. The Children's Class meets in the Youth Room.

**Wednesday Bible Study begins at 4:30.** This is an ongoing study of the Old and New Testament.

**The Youth Group** meets Wednesday and Friday. Please check the Bellringer and Bulletin for activities, topics and times.

**Dinner with Rev. David** will continue on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in the Parsonage.

**Mid-Week Meditation** The call in number is 1-641-715-3836. The access code is 486727.