

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church January 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

Therefore God exalted (Jesus) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2: 9-11

Worship is a vital ministry of our church. Why? Because spirit-filled, Christ centered worship, both corporate and private, transforms lives.

When Christ is glorified, when the Holy Spirit is part of our service – lifting up Jesus through the preaching and teaching of God's Word, lives are changed.

Worship is a time when we proclaim the good news of Christ – who He is, what He has done for us on the cross and how He has risen from the dead. We proclaim through worship that Christ reigns in Heaven today and will return again.

This is why worship is so important. It gives us time as a body of believers to come together and to be unified around the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

What's more, worship expresses the hope we have in knowing that one day Christ will return.

No matter what's going on in our lives. Whether we're struggling through a difficult period or whether life is pretty good at the moment, worship is an opportunity to come together as a body of believers in unity and in hope – one mind, one love and one purpose. It allows us to enjoy and experience the fellowship that Christ gives us in the Holy Spirit.

As we worship in 2018, let us give ourselves the space and permission to fully celebrate in worship.

Blessings, Rev. David

Stephen Recognition in the Spirit of the Book of Acts

"Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." Act 6: 3-4

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church Certificate of Appreciation Presented to

Carol Thompson

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church as Secretary, driver for members to facilities for Bible Study in which she attends regularly, assisting with the Rummage Sale, sharing produce from her garden, being a great listener and a peaceful spirit, and for many other tasks of which few people are aware.

We hope this certificate will serve as a lasting memento of our appreciation for your continued and dedicated service.

In the name of God, Thank You!

A Realigned New Year by Veronica Berry

“Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” Isaiah 1:17

When we feel stressed or rushed, our bodies and minds seem to be out of alignment. We seem to be off center from our source. Sometimes we fail to see the good that is present in our lives in this moment. We become so distracted that we venture off from our spiritual purpose. Taking a moment to stop and connect with our faith helps us realize that love, creativity, and strength lives within us and is always there.

We are blest with an inner knowledge of God’s presence who will provide answers to all our concerns. All we have to do is have a little patience, breathe, and listen to the answers we need. When we pause and align ourselves with His divine essence, we can appreciate the life we’ve been given and the abilities we have been blest with.

I know there are times when we may feel unsafe, insecure and seek safety. We can always rely on the Lord, who provides the well-being we need. The Bible tell us in Deuteronomy 31:6, *“It is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you”*. We can relinquish all our concerns, worries, fears, and anxiety to Him and allow the serenity of His peace to fill our hearts and realign our bodies through His spirit.

As we enter into the New Year, let’s remember to give thanks that we are loved and protected. Let’s welcome the opportunity to be a source of love and nurturing for all living things. Let’s strive to be an extension of God’s protecting presence and strengthen our own sense of security.

The beginning of a new year is time to consider all the possibilities we can achieve and allow ourselves to have courage and be brave to start something new. Before we take on these new roles and follow a different path, if we pause and move our attention gently and purposefully into our hearts, we can become fully present in the moment. With a deep cleansing breath we can ask God, what would you like me to begin?

Attuning our energy to His loving and creative power opens our eyes to unlimited possibilities and reminds us how we can come back to our spiritual purpose. We can seek justice, be a voice for the oppressed, offer love and kindness to the orphans, and give support to the widow. We are God’s children, who have been taught by their father to love him, ourselves, and one another with all our hearts. Let’s work together to realign this New Year to be a year where love is proclaimed, fear is diminished, and peace is awakened all over the world.

CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

We connect to each other through obedience to the biblical commandment

“The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.” Mark 12:31 (ceb)

The organization "Selfless Ambition" is dedicated to fleshing out this commandment within the context of Madison Wisconsin in the 21st century.

The organization has launched the "Good Neighbor Initiative" - a region wide movement to listen to, empower, and resource local neighborhoods.

There are several actions that are taken by good neighbors: practicing presence, listening, celebrating assets, discovering vision, taking action. Details of what that means are on the website Selflessambition.org. A representative of the organization spoke at one of our Sunday services about the needs on this side of town and how we can begin to address these needs.

There is a potential for a partnership between our church and Selfless Ambition. The church should consider this individually and collectively.

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Happy New Year!	1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00 United Methodist Women	3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	6:30 Choir	5:00 Sewing Class	5:00 Men's Group
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	6:00 Cub Scouts	6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	6:30 Choir	5:00 Sewing Class 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	8:00 WW Retreat 11:00 Girl Scout Women 12:30 Stephen Ministry
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	6:00 Cub Scouts	6:30 Admin Council	3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	6:30 Choir		12:30 Stephen Ministry
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Cub Scouts	6:30 Outreach & Missions	3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	9:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	5:00 Sewing Class 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	12:30 Stephen Ministry
28	29	30	31	Save the date for SAUMC 65TH Anniversary Saturday, December 1, 2018		
8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	6:00 Cub Scouts		3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Dinner with David			

Recipes are needed for our Anniversary Cookbook. Please share your favorite church potluck recipes for beverages, appetizers, main dishes, vegetables or desserts.

Please give recipes to Cyndy Hoffman or e-mail to: cyndy8756@gmail.com.

January Birthdays

Jabraillen R.	1/4
Elizabeth L.	1/9
Kay N.	1/18
Beng L.	1/25
Mariyan M.	1/25
Judy M.	1/26
Jaye L.	1/26

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.

Special Thanks
to Walt N. and
Steve L.
for organizing the Bell
Choir for Christmas Eve.
It was wonderful!

Please take a moment to remember our homebound members

Linda J. (B-day 7/11)
c/o Avalon Assisted Living
Fitchburg, WI 53713-3177
608-274-4350

Justin K. (B-day 12/13)
3705 Sherman Av
Madison, WI 53704-7056
608-244-0868

Marvel M. (B-day 2/28)
3705 Sherman Av
Madison, WI 53704
608-244-0868

Carol R. (B-day 2/1)
3705 Sherman Av
Madison, WI 53704-1443
608-244-0868

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.