

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church March 2019

*After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately,
“Why couldn’t we drive (the demon) out?” He replied, “This kind can only come out by prayer.” Mark 9:28*

The disciples were confused and frustrated. Why couldn’t they heal a little boy being tormented by a demon? After all, they had already been healing and performing miracles in the name of Jesus. So what changed? Their hearts had changed.

They moved from complete reliance on God to a sense of self-reliance.

Picture a lamp. It’s fully functional and yet, unless it’s plugged into a power source (an electrical current), nothing happens. No matter how many times you flip the switch or hope for the best, it’s never going to work. In the same way, prayer is the spiritual power source for followers of Jesus.

And there are just some situations, Jesus explains to the discouraged disciples, that require the full power of prayer. In spiritual warfare, such as in the case of the possessed little boy, the disciples were far too weak on their own. They needed to refocus their hearts on God and remain plugged into the power source that comes through diligent and persistent prayer. Only then would they see the incredible and mighty power of God move in the life of the boy.

Prayer is an incredibly powerful discipline that brings us back to that sense of total dependence on God. It’s recognizing that complete and total dependence on God keeps our hearts humble. It is by remaining plugged into prayer that we keep our eyes fixed of Jesus rather than on ourselves.

Only then will we experience God’s mighty power. What does your prayer life look like? If you’ve shifted away from total reliance on God to leaning on your own strength, ask God to realign your heart with His.

Rev. David

Annual Church Rummage Sale

This year the Rummage Sale raised \$1,619 of which \$227 came from the Bake Sale. A volunteer for the Beacon service to the homeless was able to get donated sleeping bags and bedding from us. See John Litweiler for more information on donations we made.

The Sale has always been successful. We rely on the donations and committed volunteers. The original idea and organizing came from Kay Nelson in a brainstorming session when the church had serious financial problems. It has always relied on retired and disabled volunteers and people who are willing to take some time off work for opening day.

Particular thanks go to Joan Stephen and Pat Bruccoleri. They spent most of the Thursday before sorting clothes. They have worked every year. Working the Sale is enjoyable but it requires commitment. It would be very helpful to have more volunteers in the future.

CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

We connect with each other through Holy Conferencing

For now we see through a glass, darkly. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Update on the Special General Conference meeting in St. Louis February 24-27

The United Methodist Church has been wrestling with issues surrounding human sexuality and relationships between the LGBTQ community and the Church. A special session has been held in St. Louis this week. As of 2:00 pm on February 25 we know these facts: The traditional plan which would strengthen enforcement of the restrictive language has passed the legislative committee of the whole (general conference), as modified by two amendments designed to fix constitutional problems with the plan as identified by The Judicial Council. The council has not ruled as to whether this will fix the problem. The Special General Conference of United Methodist Church as the legislative committee of the Whole defeated the One Church Plan.

All legislation needs to go to the General Conference in plenary session too. Whatever is decided in St. Louis this week will need to be ratified by a regular general conference taking place in the Twin Cities, Minneapolis next May.

Jabez School Update

Jabez School is located in Liberia, providing Elementary and Junior High education, with Christian Values, to over 75 children. The mission is wholly supported by donations, including those from Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church and 1st Racine United Methodist Church.

The Board of Director (USA) for Jabez Christian School in Liberia is seeking a person to take over the volunteer Treasurer's position on the Board. Duties include preparing monthly financial statements and attending quarterly Board meeting (teleconferencing possible). A background in bookkeeping skills, knowledge of Excel and strong communication skills are preferred. If you are interested in being part of this exciting and growing Mission, please contact either Bill Hutchison (608-220-1419) or Rev. Jakes (261-497-4370).

Meal served at The Crossing

The Crossing is the ecumenical Protestant student outreach at the UW, housed in the former University UMC. They hold a Vesper Service early on Sunday evenings and a meal follows. Sherman Avenue provided the meal on January 27. Particularly notable among the requests was vegan food for some participants. Carol Hermansen's vegan salad was a hit and her recipe is available. The Hmong Ladies provided their traditional Tri-color drink.

Lots of Books

Craig donated all the books for which he had no storage when he moved. He and Debra had a very large collection of religious books. They include sacred texts from the world religions, including Christianity. There are many books on Christian ethics, children service instruction, church financing, social justice, feminist spirituality, prayer...the list is endless. You will probably not see as wide ranging a collection by any lay person anywhere elsewhere.

Most of the books remained after the Rummage Sale. They are sitting on the table to your left as you enter Fellowship Hall. Help yourself to whatever interests you and make anyone who might be interested aware also.

March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Do you love to read? Do you love children? Reading mentors are needed to work with 2nd-5th graders at Cherokee Country Club Please contact Bill Hutchison @608-220-1419 for more information					1 UM Hmong Women Retreat	2 UM Hmong Women Retreat 6:30 Men's Group
3 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	4 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts	5 6:30 United Methodist Women	6 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Ash Wednesday 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	7 6:30 Choir	8 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	9 Seed Starters 5:00 Hmong Bible Study
10 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	11 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	12 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	13 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	14 6:30 Choir	15	16 United Asian Club
17 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	18 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	19 6:30 Admin Council	20 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	21 6:30 Choir	22 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	23 5:00 Hmong Women Song Practice
24/31 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	25 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	26 6:30 Outreach & Missions	27 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	28 9:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	29	30

March Birthdays

- 3/2 Coleen Heinz
- 3/3 Chuck Litweiler
- 3/5 Terry Wendt
- 3/6 Padea Lee
- 3/8 Pazoua Lee
- 3/12 Azure Fudge Hart
- 3/18 Chou Lee
- 3/19 Conner Grebe
- 3/19 Gary Kreft
- 3/24 Marquis Sanders
- 3/25 Casey Van Pelt
- 3/25 Dominique Miller

March Anniversaries

- 3/14 Kazoua Moua & Pastor Luke Thao
- 3/17 Georgette & Vincent Washington

These are the dates that are in the database. If you find that your name is not included with the Birthdays or Anniversaries, please contact Cyndy Hoffmann.

Please take a moment to remember our homebound members

Linda Jungbluth (B-day 7/11)
Deerfield Place, 15 State St, Deerfield, WI 53531-9530

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

Ralph Stinson (B-day 8/6)
4218 Green Ave
Madison, WI 53704-1124
608-244-6172

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.