

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church April 2019

From The Pastor:

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul says, *“If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is there are many parts, yet one body” (1 COR 12:18-20).*

What does this teach us as Christian stewards? It shows us that we all have equal dignity and worth in God’s sight, and that if God sees us as equally precious, we should view each other in this same light.

It teaches us to humbly recognize our own gifts as well as the giftedness of every member of our church. And, while God designed us to be ultimately dependent on God it seems God has also designed us to need each other.

This is part of the beauty and richness of a stewardship way of life. No one person can “do it all” in life — whether in family life or church life. But God does not ask us to do it all. God simply asks us to share the gifts and talents we do have in the season of life we find ourselves right now.

Over the last few months, we provided Christian cheer to over 100 young people in Northport Apartments. We have provided tutors, clothing, food and other donations to Mendota School. We have fed the homeless.

We have read to and mentored Northside youth. We provided counsel and a safe space for youth and parents involved in two separate incidents involving police. And we have represented God’s grace and favor on Sherman Ave. UMC at several community events.

I want to thank you. Your investment of time, talents and offerings to Sherman Ave. UMC allows us to do God’s work.

We have more work ahead bringing the love of Jesus to the residents of the Northside. Your continued investment in Sherman will allow us to do that. Please pray on ways that God would lead you to continue to invest in Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church.

In Service,

Rev. David



Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Good Friday Worship 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Worship 9:30 am

**Please invite your family and friends
to join our worship services**

CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

Methodist Speak A primer on the structure of UMC

To understand what is happening in the United Methodist Church first we need an understanding of the terms.

Conference: a geographical and also a meeting of a group of churches within that area.

The Annual Conference is the basic unit of church . Each Annual Conference is presided over by a Bishop and meets annually. The area of a given Conference depends on the density of United Methodist Churches within the area. Wisconsin Annual Conference happens to be all the UM Churches within the State of Wisconsin. Some Annual conferences are smaller areas i.e. there are more than one conference in a state. Illinois Great Rivers and Northern Illinois Conferences are an example of this. The Dakotas is one Annual Conference.

The structure of the Church or how the Annual Conference relates to the rest of the Church is different inside the United States than outside of it. There are 5 Jurisdictions of Annual Conferences in the United States - Northeastern, North Central, Southeast, South Central and Western Jurisdictions . The rest of the world (basically) is the Central Conferences. There are seven of them. Delegates to the General Conference, which is all the Jurisdictions and all the Central Conferences are elected proportionally to the membership in the churches in the Conferences.

According to The United Methodist News Service this will be the breakdown of the delegates to the 2020 General Conference to be held in Minneapolis, May 5-15, 2020.

Delegates to the 2020th General Conference will be representative of the five jurisdictions and seven central conferences throughout the world, as well as churches with which The United Methodist Church has a concordat agreement. The 862 delegates are distributed as follows:

North Central Jurisdiction: 88

Northeastern Jurisdiction: 84

South Central Jurisdiction: 102

Southeastern Jurisdiction: 182

Western Jurisdiction: 26

Africa Central Conference: 40

Central and Southern Europe Central Conference: 14

Congo Central Conference: 152

Germany Central Conference: 6

Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference: 20

Philippines Central Conference: 52

West Africa Central Conference: 86

Concordat:10

Some of the facts and numbers:

More than 1 in 5 delegates will be from the Southeastern Jurisdiction which includes the states of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

Almost a third of the delegates are coming from the Three African Central Conferences.

You can see the numbers. Hopefully this helps explain the complexity and diversity of the United Methodist Church. Please keep all the conferences and delegates in your prayers as they guide the way forward.

Greetings friends and families of Sherman Ave Methodist Church!

I'm sure most of you know me, but it's been quite a while so I'll introduce myself! My name is Simon Thao, I am Pastor Luke's second oldest son who is currently attending Crown College as a Junior. For my studies, I am majoring in Missions and minoring in Youth Ministry. Last year, with the support of our church, I was able to embark with a team of eight on a missions trip to Kobe, Japan. Our goal was to partner with Mustard Seed Kobe in hopes of evangelizing to the unreached nation of Japan (less than 0.5% are Christian!). Speaking English is a value that the Japanese hold close, so my team strategically came up with a wonderful idea... We decided to host an English party at Mustard Seed Kobe!

We then spent the next few days handing out flyers and trying to advertise our event but the majority of the people we came into contact didn't seem interested -one of my team members even became discouraged. The day of the party finally came and to my surprise, it was a huge success! Praise God! The church in Kobe was completely filled with people who were interested in speaking English and I made wonderful new friends! As the party ended, the church members along with my team invited everyone to attend church service where they could "practice" more of their English. In a way, we hoped that God would use the interest of speaking English as a way for Mustard Seed Kobe to bridge that gap to the unbelievers.

The English Party was just one of many events that my team and I were involved in so feel free to ask more whenever I am home! In all, my experience in Kobe Japan was wonderful and absolutely life-changing. As someone who plans to be a missionary, I felt as if God was calling me to Japan. This trip helped solidify that calling and now I have a strong desire to go back once I graduate. The experience I had, the friendships I made, and the seeds we planted wouldn't have been possible without the support of our church. With all my heart, I am eternally grateful for the prayers and financial support.

I would also like to share another opportunity that I have this summer! Last year I was a member of a missions team to Japan and this year I have decided to lead one to Bangkok, Thailand! I have a wonderful team of ten and we are each working hard to fundraise money for this upcoming trip from May 21st to June 3rd. I have decided to partner with a C&MA (Christian and Missionary Alliance) missionary in Bangkok where we plan to evangelize to college students, partner with a nearby school to minister to children, and currently in the process of doing ministry with the Hmong! Thailand is a melting pot of culture and I believe that God has a lot for my team. I am especially looking forward to doing ministry with the Hmong there! If anyone would like to give, please write a check out to Crown College and hand it to my parents (Pastor Luke or Kazoua Moua) - the same can be done with cash. Besides financial support, I would also like to ask everyone reading this to pray for my team and I - there are so many things that can go wrong with traveling and when my team is in Thailand. Please pray for the funds my team needs and for God to keep us safe throughout the whole trip.

Thank you for reading and
for all the love and support!

Blessings,
Simon Kongmeng Thao



WELCOME SPRING

March twentieth twenty nineteen is the first day of Spring.
Thoughts of milder days ahead make my heart sing.

Spring brings yearning for greenery and sights of butterflies around,
also the welcome return of hostas, tulips and bulbs from the ground.

Children playing softball and basketball at the park we'll see,
little ones on the swing and slide bring a smile to you and me.

We are pleased to put our winter coats and hats away,
walking on snow free and ice free roads lessen stress from our day.

Last week I saw a cardinal on my backyard shrub.
Its bright red color was like a medicinal healing rub.

Spring you're like a childhood friend whose visit I have been desiring.
Now you're here butterflies in my heart are dancing.

Jolieth McIntosh / 03.21.2019



Church Cleanup Day

April 13th 8:30 am - Noon

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex.

Thanks for helping keep our church and grounds welcoming for all!

April 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts	2 6:30 United Methodist Women	3 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	4 6:30 Choir	5 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	6 5:00 Men's Group
7 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	8 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts	9 6:45 Communications	10 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	11 6:30 Choir	12	13 8:30 Cleanup Day 5:00 Hmong Bible Study
14 Palm Sunday 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	15 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	16 6:30 Admin Council	17 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	18 6:30 Choir	19 Good Friday 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study 6:30 Worship	20 9:00 Trustees
21 Easter Sunday 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	22 Earth Day 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	23 6:30 Outreach & Missions	24 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Bible Study with Rev David	25 9:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	26 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	27 5:00 Hmong Women Song Practice 5:00 Homeless Shelter
28 Homeless Shelter 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	29 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	30	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 220-1419 for more information			

April Birthdays

Steve Zaroni	4/2
Chris Knutson	4/7
John Litweiler	4/11
Brian Heinz	4/13
Kongmeng Thao	4/22
Curtis Van Pelt	4/22
Barbara Zaroni	4/24
Cliff Limbach	4/25
Johnny Lee	4/28
Veronica Berry	4/29
Melvina Davis	4/29

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