

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

May 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

At the time that you receive this newsletter, I will be celebrating my 56th birthday, and in the midst of this celebration I will be receiving the marks of 25 years that I have been a United Methodist, too. During these twenty-five years in the Methodism, I can say that there are many things that make me proud of being part of this Christian Denomination. This month, I would like to emphasize one of them; this is the generosity of the members of the United Methodist Church through the extra giving on Special Sundays. The Special Sundays are celebrated annually and are intended to illustrate the nature of the church. They are set aside to make clear the calling of the Church as the people of God, and to give people the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs.

The United Methodist Special Sundays are:

➤ **Human Relations Day**, the Sunday before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.

➤ **One Great Hour of Sharing**, the fourth Sunday in Lent, provides major support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which gives immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters around the world, and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

➤ **Native American Ministries Sunday**, the third Sunday of Easter, funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist Seminaries, and annual conference Native American Ministries.

➤ **Peace with Justice Sunday**, the first Sunday after Pentecost, supports peace with justice ministries through the General Boards of the Church and Society and the annual conferences.

➤ **World Communion Sunday**, the first Sunday in October, supports World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

➤ **United Methodist Student Day**, the last Sunday in November, provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university and graduate students.

For the second consecutive year, we have had the great opportunity to celebrate the Native American Ministries Sunday through our connection. We had the layperson Holly Helton-Anishinaabeqwa as our guest preacher. It was a time not only to support Native American Ministries with our offering, but a time to reflect on the gifts and contributions made by the Native Americans to our society.

During my sixteen years in the Wisconsin Annual Conference I have had the opportunity to be in ministry in different ways with the Native American Ministries, and it has been a blessing to worship with them and learn about their culture and spirituality. I still keep in my heart my first experience with Onaida United Methodist Church. I want to thank our community of faith for opening the doors for the blessings of our Sisters and Brothers of Native American tradition.

At the same time I want to encourage you to support the confessional Special Sunday "**Golden Cross Sunday**" that will take place on May 8th of 2016, to support our Conference Health and Welfare Ministries that serve Wisconsin individuals and families in need.

Finally, my spouse Mariana and I invite all of you to keep in your prayers the United Methodist Church's top legislative body "**General Conference**" that will meet at the Oregon Convention Center, the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on May 10-20, 2016. Also, keep in your prayers our Bishop, his Cabinet and our communities of faith in this time of pastoral transitions; because transitions are always a nerve-wracking time. Any change in pastors always brings a certain amount of anxiety, both for the church and for the pastor's family.

May God bless you in your summer days and travels! Your servant in Christ, **Pastor Rafael**.

You Know Me by Veronica Berry

“Lord, you have examined me and you know me. You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts. You see me. Whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions. You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power. Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.” Psalms 139:1-6

Every time I see a baby nestled in his mother’s arms, I see the total trust and contentment on his face. As his mother lovingly comforts him, you instantly know he is secure and safe. She is learning everything about him, what he likes to eat, how often he wakes up at night, what each cry means, and who he feels comfortable with. She is his protector, his provider, his everything.

Fortunately for our parents, as we grow older we become less dependent on them and eventually learn how to take care of ourselves. In that quest for independence we no longer share everything with them and, at some point, begin to think that they have no idea who we really are. All those years of them learning and providing what we needed are put aside because now our rebellious independent nature defiantly convinces us we need something else.

Just as we pull away from our parents, sometimes we also pull away from God. It’s daunting to know that our God knows everything we do and has a better understanding of who we are than we do ourselves. As independent beings we tend to want to believe that in order to be in control, we have to act as if we completely know who we are, know exactly what we are going to do, and how long it’s going to take to do it. Our lives and hearts are strung so tightly that there is very little room for God to seep in. Usually when our plans take a drastic turn we never perceived and we come to the realization that we don’t know everything, we turn back to God and ask for his help. Like a loving parent, he takes us back in the fold and comforts us.

It still seems difficult to comprehend how well he knows us. Maybe instead of wasting our energy trying to understand how he knows us so well, we should use our energy getting to know him better. As we acknowledge that only he has total control over our lives, we begin to seek the truth and freedom to follow the path he has set before us.

It is not easy to totally trust anyone. When you have someone in your life that loves you unconditionally, accepts all of you with the good and bad traits, understands you completely, and is always by your side, you are truly blest. God has examined us, knows everything we do, understands all our thoughts, and still loves us. He forgives us when we lose our way and forget to include him in our daily activities. He is always open to listen to our prayers, take away our burdens and fears, increase our courage to face another day, and teach us how to be kind and loving to ourselves and others. He is our protector, provider, and if we are open, he can be our everything.

Please remember, no matter how independent you become, always be thankful to those who love you.

Multicultural Day

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 15 to celebrate Multicultural Sunday. There will be one combined service at 9:30 followed by fellowship and a potluck lunch featuring foods of our cultural background. Please feel free to wear something reflective of your heritage. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex where you can let us know if you will be bringing a salad/side dish, main dish or dessert. We hope to see you there!

Connections by Craig Myrbo

Pentecost is celebrated this year on Sunday, May 15th. After the resurrection Jesus instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The city was filled with Jewish faithful for the feast of Shavuot. The Holy Spirit came with signs and wonders. Tongues of fire and people hearing the message in their own language.

After the account of Pentecost, we read the following:

Acts 4:33-34 NIV

33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and laid it at the disciples' feet.

With God's grace at work they decided that there would not be a needy one among them.

This is our template. If we do not live communally how do we move toward the ideal?

One method would be to support the work of Bread for the World. It is a Christian advocacy group advocating for policies to fight hunger and poverty in the US and worldwide. Survive and thrive is one of their current campaigns. Ending childhood hunger worldwide

To learn about this year's campaign called an offering of letters go to www.bread.org/offering-letters.

Let the Games Begin

The next Men's Group meeting will be Game Night for EVERYBODY, not just men. Bring your mother, wife, girlfriend, sister, daughter, your best friend, or even a stranger. Bring a dish to pass and a game to play.

The meeting will be in the Youth Room, so the dish should be something that does not require heating.
Cold cuts, chips, drinks and snacks would be great.
This will be an evening of FUN!

**Saturday, May 7th, at 5:00 P.M.
at the church in the Youth Room**

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

Hazel Tenney

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church as a secretary in the office, serving on the UMW Recycled Card Group, knitting items and working in the bazaar, and many other tasks of which few 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 Blessing and Prayer Tribute to all Mothers

Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

by Susan Kramer



Prayer Shawl Ministry!!

Cyndy Hoffman and other talented, creative members of SAUMC will create personalized prayer shawls for those in need of one. Please contact Cyndy for details. (608 513 2280)

Jabez Elementary and Jr. High School

An investment fund has been established at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation for Jabez Elementary School. Contributions can be made directly to:

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2149

Please note on your check or wire transfer "Sherman Avenue Jabez School Assistance Fund."

If you have any questions,
please contact Ed McDonald

Attention - Community Garlic Mustard Pull! Sunday May 1st from 10:30-12:30

My name is Bailey Sargent and I am an Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop 127.

I would like to invite you to join me to pull garlic mustard.

Invasive species are a huge problem to our native ecosystem and their control and removal is key to a healthy and natural environment.

Join me on Sunday May 1st from 10:30-12:30 by the tennis courts at Warner Park.

All you need are work gloves and water. I will bring bags and, if you have not done this fun and easy conservation effort, I can show you what to do.

Together we can make a difference and help one of our local parks! Warner Park is a special place for the Madison area and the wild areas it contains allow a wide assortment of flora and fauna to thrive.

Thank you - and any questions can be sent to me at baileysargent@gmail.com

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 begins at 8:30 each Sunday.
- Sunday School for All, begins at 10:45 each Sunday. There are classes for children and adults at this time.
- Wednesday Bible Study begins at 4:30. The 4:30 group is currently studying Acts. Lisa Bobo is the study leader.
- The Youth Group meets Wednesday and Friday. Please check the Bellringer and Bulletin for activities, topics and times.
- The Church-wide study of the book, The Story, will end on May 15, 2016. What a wonderful experience it has been.
- The 8:30 and 10:45 classes will begin a new study, Jesus Apprentice, on May 22. This is a four-week study. Planning for summer programs are being discussed.

Please contact Patsy McDonald if you have any questions.

MAY 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 1:00 Hmong Service 2:00 Hmong Men Band	2 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Brownies	3 6:00 Admin Council 6:00 UMW 6:00 Mendota MSCR Staff	4 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	5 4:00 ELL 6:15 Multicultural Day Meeting 6:30 Choir	6 5:00 Baby Shower Setup 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	7 3:30 Cadette Scouts 6:00 Men's Group 6 pm Baby Shower
8 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 2:00 Hmong Men Band	9 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Communications	10 6:00 Mendota MSCR Staff 6:30 Prayer Team 6:30 Trustees	11 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	12 4:00 ELL 6:30 Choir	13	14 8:00 Multicultural Day Setup
15 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Multicultural Day Worship and Potluck 2:00 Hmong Men Band	16 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Brownies	17 6:00 Admin Council 6:00 Mendota MSCR Staff	18 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Craft Night 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	19 4:00 ELL 6:30 Choir	20 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	21
22 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 2:00 Hmong Men Band	23 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Cub Scouts	24 6:00 Mendota MSCR Staff 6:30 Outreach & Missions	25 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	26 9:00 Copy/Fold 4:00 ELL	27	28
29 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	30 6:00 Cub Scouts	31	The Administrative Council and UMW will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday 5/3/16 at 6 PM. We will meet with Rev. Gonzalez to discuss Radical Hospitality at Sherman Ave UMC. This is an important meeting, please attend if possible			

May Birthdays

ED N	5/2
KANGSA T	5/4
KATIE M	5/6
BILLY T	5/7
EDDIE N	5/8
JESSICA M	5/9
NHA T	5/9
DEBBIE M	5/14
MAYNARD M	5/22

May Anniversaries

DON & COLEEN H	5/15
BRAD & JANELL K	5/28
MARLENE & GAYLE T	5/30

**Please take a moment
to remember our
homebound members.
Contact Lisa in the office for
current addresses and phone
numbers: 244-0868**

Linda Jungbluth

Marvel Mapes

Jean & Justin Kramer

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