

# Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church May 2018

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

One of the greatest verses in the Bible is, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Do you believe that? It's what the angel told Mary, the mother of Jesus, when he announced that she would give birth to God's son as a virgin. It's what Jesus taught his disciples time and again.

When you are facing a particularly tough challenge where you need strength and wisdom beyond yourself, will you believe nothing will be impossible with God?

If you are in a season of grief and not sure you can make it, will you believe nothing will be impossible with God?

If you are facing discouragement, disappointment, depression, or despair, will you believe nothing will be impossible with God?

If you are struggling in your family, will you believe nothing will be impossible with God?

Mary did and because she did, Jesus came to be our Savior. He died and rose, conquering sin and death for you and me.

The story of Jesus' life and work continually reminds us of how nothing will be impossible with God.

As we make our way through spring and get ready for God's promises in the summer, I encourage all of us to try God. God is good all the time.

Nothing is impossible with God.

Rev. David

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### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote the following words in 1938 and oh, aren't they true!**

"Consecutive reading of Biblical books causes everyone who wants to hear to put themselves, or to allow themselves to be found, where God has acted once and for all for the salvation of all people. We become a part of what once took place for our salvation. Forgetting and losing ourselves, we, too, pass through the Red Sea, through the desert, across the Jordan into the promised land. With Israel we fall into doubt and unbelief and through punishment and repentance experience again God's help and faithfulness. All this is not mere reverie but holy, godly reality. We are torn out of our own existence and set down in the midst of the holy history of God on earth."

Our Wednesday 4.30pm Bible study group has proven these words, to our great delight and knowledge, as we've read our way through approximately 12 books, so far, of the old and new Testaments and look forward each week to the next pages we'll encounter. There is no studying ahead, no research needed before joining us, just, as Bonhoeffer says, the desire to be "set down in the midst of the holy history of God on earth." We're reading 2nd Chronicles this month and look forward to discovering more of the journey God took the Hebrew people on as we move toward their first diaspora. Consider joining us! We question and discuss interesting discoveries as we go along so bring your curiosity - Wed. afternoons: 4.30 to 5.45 in the church office.

## **A Healing Consciousness by Veronica Berry**

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalms 139:14*

If we look closely at our surroundings we can see the divine spark everywhere, in everything and everyone. God's spirit is part of who we are. We all are part of something greater.

In God's eyes we are the beautiful spiritual beings that he created. His presence is always in our lives, even when we can't see it or sense it.

At times we can make life more complicated by over-thinking. We seldom focus on the simplicity of who we truly are and what keeps us whole. Our minds are eager to focus on perceptions of lack, illness, failure, and conflict. The annoying sounds of judgmental voices who speak of and emphasize our brokenness seems to overpower the Divine guidance of the inner voice within.

No one has to remind a bird that he is a bird. No one tries to convince a bird that he should be a squirrel or a fox. He simply is.

We were created as whole beings. Each of us have unique imprints. When we focus on our ability to freely be who we came into this world to be, we align our thoughts and actions with our divine imprint. We allow ourselves to turn up the volume on the still, small inner voice inside us so we can hear the truth and be free.

If we are facing a health challenge, we can listen to our inner voice and hear the reassurance that we are a divine creation filled with healing energy and renewed strength. If we are concerned about our finances, we can listen to the divine ideas that we can use to nurture and grow prosperity in our lives. If we feel afraid and alone, we and listen and hear the voice that says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

We can achieve a healing consciousness with the spiritual essence of wholeness and relax into a sense of well-being, if we stay connected to the Divine guidance of our inner voice. Through the activity of prayer, we can affirm that we are in the flow of divine healing energy blessing our mind, body, and soul with vitality and well-being. We can also remember that the spark of God's spirit lives within us and we can choose to use that spark to share happiness, compassion, kindness, and joy with others. We can be grateful to be alive for one more day of God's presence and unconditional love.

*"Let the wise also hear and gain in learning." Proverbs 1:5*

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## **We connect through Holy Conferencing by Craig Myrbo**

*"The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them." Acts 15:6-7a*

From the very beginning of the Christian Church in the Book of Acts there have been conferences to discuss differences between various factions and interests of the people. In the continuing discussions around the implications of human sexuality for the ministry of the Church a decision was made at the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon for a Commission on a Way Forward to report to the Council of Bishops, who would present the findings to a special General Conference in 2019. The Commission has completed its work.

From the Website of the United Methodist Church:

"MARCH 23, 2018 LOS ANGELES – Members of the Commission on a Way Forward expressed gratitude at the opportunity to be part of the Commission and they signaled hope for The United Methodist Church as they completed their meeting in Los Angeles on Thursday, March 22. The 32-member Commission has been meeting since January 2017 in various places throughout the global denomination to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ inclusion and resulting questions about the unity of the church. The Commission will present its final report to the Council of Bishops at the April/May meeting in Chicago. At that meeting, the bishops will decide what will be received and acted upon by the delegates to the Special Session of the General Conference set for St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019."

# May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Our new Custodian is Jackson Foote. Please tell him that you appreciate him taking on this responsibility. And if you don't know him please introduce yourself.		1 6:00 United Methodist Women	2 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	3 6:30 Choir	4 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	5 12:30 Stephen Ministry
6 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	7 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 Speak Up!	8 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	9 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	10 4:00 Asian Youth 6:30 Choir	11	12 12:30 Stephen Ministry
13 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	14 6:00 Cub Scouts	15 6:30 Admin Council	16 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	17 6:30 Choir	18 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	19 12:30 Stephen Ministry 3:00 Cub Scouts
20 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	21 6:00 Cub Scouts	22 6:30 Outreach & Missions	23 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	24 6:30 Choir	25	26
27 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	28 <b>5:00 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 Cub Scouts	29	30 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Dinner with Reverend David	31 9:00 Copy and Fold 6:00 Cub Scouts	You can bring donations for the Rummage Sale year round as we have storage space in the parsonage. Please leave them in the entryway or contact Chuck Litweiler for a pickup.	

## May Birthdays

ED NEVE	5/2
KANGSA THAO	5/4
KATIE MYRBO	5/6
BILLY THAO	5/7
EDDIE NEVE	5/8
JESSICA MYRBO	5/9
NHA THAO	5/9
DEBBIE MYRBO	5/14
MAYNARD MILES	5/22

## Anniversaries

DON & COLEEN HEINZ	5/15
BRAD & JANELL KNUTSON	5/28
REV. DAVID & AZURE HART	5/29
MARLENE & GAYLE TREADAWAY	5/30

*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.