

# Bellringer

**Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church May 2019**

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## *From The Pastor:*

*These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." 1 Peter 1:7*

Ever found yourself in a season of life where you just feel a little beat up? Have you ever cried out, "Lord, will it ever end?" Well, in case you haven't noticed, it doesn't. But the good news is that with each faith-testing experience, our ability to deal with these trials and tribulations becomes better and our faith grows stronger.

In this scripture, God compares our faith to a most precious and beautiful metal – gold. But when mined, this precious metal doesn't look very precious. It's dirty and dark. So, how does gold become the brilliant, beautiful, and expensive metal we've come to expect?

A refiner takes the gold and slowly melts it, carefully raising the temperature – but never to the point of boiling. As it melts, the impurities rise to the surface and are removed, leaving behind a beautiful pot of gold. Here's the amazing part: the refiner knows the gold is ready only when he can look into the melting pot and see his reflection. In other words, the only way gold will become more precious is when it's placed in the fire.

It's the same in our lives – often, the impurities of our lives must be exposed to the fire so that the Lord can scoop up the filth that us revealed under "fire." And just like the refiner, God will never allow us to boil. Finally, when it's all said and done, God can look upon us and see the beauty of His reflection in our lives.

Let's not despise the trials we're facing today – on the contrary – let's embrace them. The Lord is using these things to prepare us to do great things for Him. Instead of anger or bitterness when a tough season hits, ask the Lord how you can grow in character and faith. And watch how the Lord blesses you through the fire.

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***If you may have ever lost a ring in the church, contact Chuck Litweiler***

## *From the Editor:*

This reminded me of an experience from my youth. I got a ring for Christmas. It was January in central Illinois during one of those 70 degree winter thaws. My best friend and I were walking through the neighborhood and the ring fell off my finger. As we were looking for it, a car began to back out of a driveway. We watched in horror as the car backed into the snow bank and seemingly buried my ring forever.

A few months later, the snow had melted. The birds were singing and flowers were abloom. While walking the same path, I looked down and saw my ring.

God puts you where he wants you to be. And he leads you where he wants you to go. And he blesses you abundantly along the way.

# CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

## The Kindness of Strangers

*Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?*

I have been the recipient of the kindness of strangers. This is my testimony to that kindness of strangers. I have been attempting to use my mechanical wheelchair. Only partially successfully. When I have gotten "stuck", literally or figuratively, someone has come to my aid and rescue. It has been neighbors holding the elevator door or the door to my apartment or the front door of the building or my classroom. My professor, fellow students, and caregivers have been extra kind and respectful. Para-transit drivers have gone beyond their door to door service responsibilities.

My fellow church members have been kind and loving in action.

Strangers have been helpful in many ways. Strangers have gotten things down from heights I couldn't reach. One especially telling action is this. I was sitting in my wheelchair outside the building of my class "Prophets of Bible" waiting for my scheduled Para-transit ride. I did not have enough outerwear to keep me warm for long and was getting cold. A woman crossed the street to ask me if I needed any help. She suggested that she could buy me a hot drink or I could go back into the building. I expressed my concerns about missing the bus and having to wait even longer (as I had missed the bus there recently). She decided to wait and watch with me. She was wearing a hijab. Like the Good Samaritan she went out of her way to help. Women in the United States have been attacked because of their head coverings.

My testimony.

We are all connected by our humanness.

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## Northside Garden News

The Northside Farmers' Market opens on Sunday, May 5th at 8:30 am. Get you fresh vegetables, interact with your community, and volunteer if you can.

The annual Troy Farm Plant Sale is Saturday, May 11th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come get all the organic vegetable and herb plants you need to fill your garden this year.

Thanks to everyone who worked on the SAUMC seed-starting ministry. We enjoyed watching the fruits of your labors grow and thrive.

*The LORD will guide you always;  
He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.  
Isaiah 58:11*

# May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>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</b></p>			1 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	2 6:30 Choir	3 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	4 6:30 Men's Group
5 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	6 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts	7 6:00 United Methodist Women	8 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	9 6:30 Choir	10	11 9:30 Graduation Ceremony 3:30 Golden Circle Mission 5:00 Hmong Bible Study
12 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Mothers Day Brunch 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	13 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	14 10:00 Hmong Day Bird School 6:45 Communications	15 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	16 6:30 Choir	17 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	18 9:00 Trustees
19 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship Breakfast 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	20 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	21 6:30 Admin Council	22 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Bible Study with Rev David	23 6:30 Choir	24	25 5:00 Hmong Women
26 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	27 <b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>5:00 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 Stephens Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	28 6:30 Outreach & Missions	29 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	30 9:00 Copy & Fold	31 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	

## May Birthdays

5/2	Ed Neve
5/4	Kangsa Thao
5/6	Katie Myrbo
5/7	Billy Thao
5/8	Eddie Neve
5/9	Jessica Myrbo
5/9	Nha Thao
5/14	Debbie Myrbo
5/22	Maynard Miles

## May Anniversaries

5/15	Don & Coleen Heinz
5/28	Brad & Janell Knutson
5/29	Rev David & Azure Hart

*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.