

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

June 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

The summer season is here! And our staff is close to finishing the assignment of the book discussion "Renovate or Die" by Bob Farr. Because we are in the final stretch of the reading we have selected the new book discussion "Clip In: Risking Hospitality in your Church" by Jim Ozier & Fiona Haworth. I was searching for additional material for enrichment of our discussion and I found the following quote that blessed me, and I wanted to share with you. Read on and enjoy ...

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."

- Henri J.M. Nouwen, Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life -

As a church, we can practice that kind of hospitality too. We need to be an open family as true disciples of Jesus Christ, with all the warmth and ease of people who have known each other for a long time and understand each other's quirks. I want people to feel that sense of open family the moment they come in the door. If you're new, I know it'll take a while for you to sort out all the "people" and a while longer to learn all the stories. You might hesitate to share all about yourself until you get to know everyone a little better. But I want the open family to make sure you do become that much a part of things: that the family feeling doesn't keep you out, but welcomes you in, offering that space where change can take place in freedom not disturbed by dividing lines as Henri Nouwen says in his book Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life.

Apostle Paul says in his first letter to the Thessalonians church, Chapter 5 verses 10-11: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (NVI).

Please pray with me and my wife Mariana. Loving and living God, be in our hearts, homes, and Church as we enter this refreshing summer season and prepare to be hospitable and to partake and partner with others in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! AMEN.

ENJOY THE SUMMER!

It has been a true honor and pleasure to serve you in Christ over the last two years.

Pastor Rafael.

Seed Garden Update

This year's Seed Garden Ministry was a great success. Forty-four families planted sixty-seven trays of vegetables for use in their community gardens. Thank you to the Master Gardeners Susan Bowditch, Lynn Berton, and Barbara Buelow, the UW Extension and Judy Kreft for their gracious support of this ministry. A huge thanks to Kazoua Moua for her vision, determination and faith to complete this project.



Thoughtful Words by Veronica Berry

“Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.” Proverbs 12:25

Have you ever had a morning like this? You hit the snooze button on the alarm clock and don't wake up until twenty minutes before you have to leave to get to work. You jump up anxiously thinking, how are you going to shower, groom, and be ready in that short amount of time? You try to do several things at once to be ready on time. While you are dressing and drinking your morning tea, you accidentally knock it over and spill it all over your top. There's no time to change so you quickly grab a cold rag to try to get the stain out with your bag for work on your shoulder and rush out of the house. All the way to work, you're wondering did I remember to unplug everything, turn off the lights, lock the door, am I forgetting something? When you finally arrive and sit down at your desk, you are exhausted, and remember the notes for the presentation you have to give in 15 minutes are still on the nightstand by your bed. You put your head in your hands and know this is not going to be a good day.

Sometimes life hands us an unexpected turn and we can jump on the roller coaster and enjoy the ride or we can begrudgingly get on, scream all the way, and complain, worry, and be fearful of the outcome. The wonderful power we have is we can change how we feel if we are willing to change how we think about it. What if every night before we went to sleep, we would ask God to help us sleep peacefully and wake up refreshed so we could face the day with confidence and joy? What if every morning no matter what, we would ask God to bless this day and help us function with ease, wisdom, and kindness? What if when unexpected annoyances happen, we would face the anxiety and say, I will not give you permission to take over my life today! Today, and every day, My God, is in control!

Our thoughts create the feelings we have and the actions we take. When we verbalize anxious and unkind words, we need to stop and gently remind ourselves we can change what we think, create a sense of peace, and speak words of wisdom and love. We can rearrange our thoughts to see our circumstances in life and our world with different eyes. We can choose to see harmony in the midst of turmoil. We can choose to see one another as a friend and a child of God. We can choose to use words that uplift one's soul before words spew out to tear down their spirit. We can choose to honor the connection all of us have with God's spirit by loving him and being kind to ourselves and others.

It takes daily practice to realize that our thoughts are limitless. We can use them to create works of art, heal distressed relationships, bring peaceful solutions to troubled hearts, build a roadway of hope when every door seems to be closed, and fill a room with laughter when the weight of despair looms in the distance.

When we see each other as God's divine creatures, we train ourselves to see their magnificence. Everyone has a reason to be here and a part to play in God's plan. One word of encouragement can change someone's life. One kind gesture can help a person believe, and one loving touch can release the pain and thought that no one cares.

We have the responsibility as Christians to practice daily through prayer and meditation on how to be kind and understanding, how to train our thoughts and mind to be hopeful and at peace, and how to stop our mouth from using self-defeating, unkind, and diminishing words. With God's help, we can think before we speak, and easily and thoughtfully give words of wisdom and encouragement to everyone we meet.

“Thoughtless words can wound deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.” Proverbs 12:18

Connections by Craig Myrbo

This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15:2-4

Delegates from United Methodist churches all around the world met May 10-20, in Portland, Oregon. This included 6 delegates and 2 reserve delegates from Wisconsin Conference. Like the Story in Acts 15 there was "sharp dispute and debate". Because there has been such widespread disagreement within the Church and "sharp dispute and debate" in the area of human sexuality and the "sharp dispute and debate" is not doing any good; the General Conference asked the Council of Bishops for guidance. The Bishops submitted a plan to the Conference and that plan was adopted.

The following is found on wisconsinumc.org relating to this decision:

Implications of the Approved Petition Relating to the Human Sexuality Discussions

There are a few implications to this decision:

1. For the remainder of this General Conference, there will be no debate on petitions regarding most human sexuality petitions.
2. A commission will be named by the Council of Bishops "to include persons from every region of our UMC, and that will include representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an on-going dialogue with this Commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and outcomes."
3. A special General Conference session in 2018 or 2019, lasting two or three days, may be called if the commission completes the assigned work. If so, current delegates would serve.

Please pray for the further work of the Church on this issue.

Hmong Language Class

A Hmong Language Class will be offered at church on the following dates. To sign up, please contact Neng Ya Khang or Lisa Bobo.

Class 1: Vowels & Simple Phrases – Thursday, 6/9/16 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Class 2: 1 Consonant – Sunday, 6/12/16 from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Class 3: Ending Sounds – Thursday, 6/16/16 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Class 4: 2 Consonants – Sunday, 6/19/16 from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Class 5: 3 & 4 Consonants – Thursday, 6/23/16 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Class 6: Review – Thursday, 6/30/16 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Summer Musicians Wanted



Many thanks to Barbara Zanoni and the choir for all the hours spent preparing music for our worship services. As the choir takes a summer break, we are looking for others to contribute their musical talents to our worship services. Please contact Barbara or the church office if you are able to provide music. Thank you!

A Father's Day Prayer

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all – and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches – and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

May our Heavenly Father bless all earthly fathers every day. Their influence as teachers and role models should never be underestimated.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen."

~Author Unknown

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

Craig Myrbo

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church as a member of Outreach and Missions; member of SPRC, delegate to Wisconsin Conference, Lay Person, Sunday School teacher, serving at the Homeless Shelter, participating in the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, and for many other tasks of which few people 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!

Scouting Update

Bailey Sargent of Troop 127 thanks all who attended the Garlic Mustard pull at Warner Park in an effort to control an invasive species. With your help, we were able to remove hundreds of plants, many of us also collected trash as we pulled garlic mustard. In total we collected 20 full trash bags of garlic mustard and trash. Volunteering we had scouts and families from Boy Scout troop 127 and Cub Scout pack 127, congregation members from Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church, and conservation minded neighbors.

Join the Prayer Walk June 18, 2016

We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:00 PM. on Saturday, 6/18. We will walk the neighborhood surrounding the church. We will pray for our neighbors and neighborhood along the way. Please wear a SAUMC "T" shirt. If you don't have a SAUMC T-shirt the Church will provide you one for the walk. Water will also be provided. Please see Patsy McDonald or Pastor Rafael if you have any questions.

Sunday School Update

- The 8:30 Adult Sunday School will be taking a break from 5/29 till 7/10.
- Classes will resume on 7/10 with discussion of the Upper Room Devotions.
- The 10:45 Sunday School for All and the Children's Sunday School will finish **The Story** on 5/22 and then take a break until 9/11.
- The Wednesday 4:30 Bible Study will continue throughout the summer. See the Bellringer and Bulletin for details.

JUNE 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The SPRC will host Fellowship Hour on Sunday, June 26th with a special cake and treats for a special time. Please plan to attend to say goodbye and thank you to Pastor Rafael and Mariana for their dedicated two years of service at Sherman Ave UMC.			1 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	2	3 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	4
5 9:30 Worship 11:30 Worship 2:00 Hmong Men Band	6 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Brownies	7 6:00 UM Women	8 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	9 3:30 Headstart 5:30 Hmong Language Class	10	11
12 9:30 Worship 11:30 Worship 1:30 Hmong Language Class 2:00 Hmong Men Band	13 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Communications	14 6:30 Trustees	15 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Craft Night 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	16 4:00 ELL 5:30 Hmong Language Class 6:30 Prayer Team	17 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	18 2:00 Prayer Walk 4:00 Men's Group
19 9:30 Worship 11:30 Worship 1:30 Hmong Language Class	20 6:00 Cub Scouts	21 6:00 Admin Council	22 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	23 4:00 ELL 5:30 Hmong Language Class	24	25 12:00 Youth Worship Night
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:30 SPRC Fellowship 11:30 Worship	27 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Cub Scouts	28 6:30 Outreach and Missions	29 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	30 9:00 Copy/Fold 4:00 ELL 5:30 Hmong Language Class	Pastor Luke and his family will be on vacation June 10th to June 20th	

June Birthdays

Mariana V	6/2
Colleen M A	6/5
Patti H	6/10
Cindy V	6/11
Michael T	6/13
Pat B	6/15
Katie H	6/15
Nou L	6/15
Matt K	6/21
Don H	6/23
Brad K	6/24
John K	6/28
Melodie B	6/29

June Anniversaries

Dawn & Ed N	6/19
Kay & Walt N	6/23
Judy & Dan M	6/28

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
Contact Lisa in the office for
current addresses and phone
numbers: 244-0868**

Linda Jungbluth

Marvel Mapes

Jean & Justin Kramer