

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church September 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

Colossians 1: 17-18

I don't know about you, but when I don't feel well, sick with a cold or flu, I can't think about anything else. In contrast, when I'm feeling well, I hardly ever think about my health. Isn't that the irony when it comes to the human body? Problems dominate our thinking, while we take good health for granted.

Jesus says the church is like the human body and God's desire is for a healthy church. So, if we want to build or maintain a healthy church, what should we be looking for?

Rock Solid Foundation. Anyone in construction knows—if the foundation is not right, the building will not stand. Christ is the foundation of the church, the rock. Jesus is Christianity. Christianity is Jesus.

Leaders who Lead. A healthy church has spiritual leaders who constantly seek Christ—constantly point people to Him.

Supports its Leaders. Those involved in the ministry look to their leaders for support in their walk with Christ, trusting and submitting to their leadership.

Unique Gifts. Just as each part of the body has unique strengths and roles, each member of the church has unique gifts. A healthy church sees each member of the body using those gifts, whether it be teaching, serving, or leading a group of high school guys. Every member is a minister.

Mission Minded. Healthy churches send people out. They are focused on the main mission given by Christ—to go and make disciples of all nations.

A United Church. Christ-centered churches are focused and devoted to their mission. They will usually experience incredible unity as a by-product of that mindset.

Accepts Discipline. Church discipline is not about being mean, harsh, or judgmental. Church discipline is about love. It's a tough love, but the whole motive is love. And the whole reason is for restoration—for an unrepentant sinner to be restored to a right relationship with God and their fellow man.

So, what's the diagnosis – How healthy is Sherman? Start today by praying for your church and its leaders. Don't stop there – join in and participate. Find ways to use your unique skills and be an engaged, mission minded minister in Sherman.

Nothing On My Own by Veronica Berry

“As I lay in bed, I remember you; all night long I think of you, because you have always been my help. In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. I cling to you, and your hand keeps me safe.” Psalms 63: 6-8

The last few days have shown us the power of nature. We have seen how the beautiful and often soothing flow of water can turn deadly when unrelenting torrents of water flood our streets, destroy our property, and leave us with the dreaded fear of, what will we do when it rains again. How can we sleep at night without worrying about our neighbors and what the next day will bring? How can we wake up the next morning without dreading the ride to work wondering how much time it will take since so many roads are closed down? How can we keep our stress levels down so we can think and act rationally to be there for our families, neighbors, and friends?

“I can do nothing on my own.” John 5:30

Remembering these words can help us face every fear and challenge we have in life. God has and always will be our protector and ally. He can help us find our way in any storm and give us peace when fear and dread seem to overpower our thoughts and sense of security. We can cling to our faith and imagine his arms are around us keeping us safe. Mental habitats of worry, fear, and stress can be a toxic environment. We need to focus on God to give us the strength to allow our thoughts to rise above the emotional turmoil.

God’s spirit within has made us resilient spiritual beings who have the power to see his divine light in the midst of the cloudy shadows and rainy days. Turning to him puts us in contact with our divine essence and calms our fearful storms brewing within. We never have to solve situations by ourselves, we can release everything through prayer, and know that God will guide us into the light. Through his guidance we can think and act rationally, be more humane, and be centered and helpful to our families, neighbors, friends and community.

Every force has a positive and negative component. We can choose to be an expression of God’s divine light and share the radiance of his peace in the darkest moments. We can choose to keep our eyes, mind, and soul focused on him so we can sleep easily at night, knowing we are safe, and wake up in the morning knowing we have the tools, confidence, and strength to face a new day.

“I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.” Isaiah 42:16

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., the UMW invites you to join us for an introduction to gentle yoga in Fellowship Hall. Bring a yoga mat if you have one and if not, a blanket will work. Judy Kreft has made arrangements for the instructor who she swears by. Everyone is welcome.

Through the harvest season there will be a table set up in the community room, where people can bring in their produce (vegetables, fruits, flowers). Likewise, anyone looking for free produce is welcome to help themselves. Anything left over on Monday will be donated to the FEED Kitchens for distribution to local families in need.

Connections by Craig Myrbo

As we celebrate Labor Day, please support fair wages, safe workplaces and vulnerable workers. For more information, please visit <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/economic-justice/worker-justice>.

September 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Mark your calendars for the Ham Dinner and Bake Sale Saturday, October 6, 2018						1 Wedding 5:00 Men's Group
2 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men	3 Labor Day 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Speak UP!	4 6:30 United Methodist Women	5 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	6 6:30 Choir	7 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	8 5:00 Hmong Bible Study
9 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	10 6:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	11 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	12 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	13 6:30 Choir	14	15 3:00 Hmong Women Get- together
16 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship Fellowship Breakfast 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	17 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	18 6:30 Admin Council	19 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	20 6:30 Choir	21 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	22 5:00 Hmong Women Song Practice
23 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	24 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts	25 6:30 Outreach & Missions	26 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	27 9:00 Copy and Fold 6:30 Choir	28	29
30 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Please take a moment to remember our homebound members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Linda J. (B-day 7/11) c/o Avalon Assisted Living 2875 Fish Hatchery Rd, Rm 11 Fitchburg, WI 53713-3177 608-274-4350</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Justin K. (B-day 12/13) 1601 Wheeler Rd #208 Madison, WI 53704-7056 608-416-5343</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ralph S. (B-day 8/6) 4218 Green Ave Madison, WI 53704-1124 608-244-6172</p> </div>					

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 meets 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.

September Birthdays

Jennifer N.	9/12
Dawn N.	9/12
Lisa B.	9/16
Sandra L.	9/24
Jerry T.	9/29

Anniversaries

Judy & Gary K.	9/1
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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.