

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

October, 2015

Fulfilling God's Purpose!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Lord, thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" As redeemed children of God, of course, we desire to belong to that first category, "Lord, thy will be done."

On Sundays October 18, October 25, and November 1, the theme of our worship services will be **Fulfilling God's Purpose!** This will be our stewardship theme for this year. We will learn how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus Christ, who willingly poured out his life in giving and serving, ultimately sacrificing his very life for our eternal lives.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we understand both our identity and purposes as stewards, and, as a result, we are transformed into people who **fulfill God's purpose!** When God's Word and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

I hope that you will attend the worship services as we focus on **fulfilling God's purpose!**

As your pastor, I pray that each of you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord, that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on earth.

The particular themes for the three Sundays are as follows:

Sunday October 18, "Building Relationships"

Sunday October 25, "Witnessing for Jesus"

Sunday November 1, "Living as a Servant" (Pledge Sunday)

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Rafael

**Please join us for our Annual International Ham Dinner
Saturday, October 3rd
4:30 - 7:00 PM**

Step Out of Fear by Veronica Berry

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand." Isaiah 41:10

Today, we are embedded with messages that intensify our fears. All you have to do is turn on the news or read the newspaper and you will see that fear has peaked and become the new pattern for us to focus on.

Fear is produced and comes as a result of things we have learned, heard, seen, or experienced. We are surrounded by negative images and realities, drive by shootings in our neighborhoods, sink holes down the street, threats on our children in school. We are afraid we won't be able to pay our bills, afraid we might lose our jobs, afraid of the latest disease and even afraid of the cure because sometimes the cure has so many side effects we don't know if we would be better off with the disease.

Media studies show that bad news far outweighs the good news by as much as seventeen negative news reports for each good news report. We seem to be living in a fear based society. We have become so inundated with these reports of violence; we have been deceived in believing that fear is as natural as breathing. We allow it to determine how we feel, what we do, where we go, and what we believe about ourselves and our neighbors. Fear is not natural!

Fear can be a very powerful and unpleasant emotion. Symptoms of fear include tension, worry, fretting, confusion, restlessness, and nervousness. You feel emotionally overwhelmed with high levels of anxiety, which takes a lot of energy to maintain. Experiencing fear drains our sense of security and greatly impacts our view on life, our confidence levels, and can sabotage our potential for personal growth. Fear taints our sense of reality and imprisons our freedom of spirit. We feel powerless.

Faith is a practical demonstration of confidence in God. Faith 'trusting the Lord' comes by knowing and experiencing God's love. Knowing God loves you, strengthens your faith. Faith gives us the courage to take risks and do what pleases God. Through our faith we tighten our connection to God, open our hearts to his love, and allow his power to penetrate the barriers of our hidden insecurities. The more we allow ourselves to trust him, the easier it becomes to call out to him and know he is always there to protect us.

When we shift our focus to better align with God, we tap into Spirit's dynamic healing energy and we are transformed in mind, body, and spirit. We are able to see the current situation through eyes of faith. We can find blessings in disappointments and confidently overcome obstacles. God becomes our source of wisdom, greater than any situation in our lives. God uses our faith to gain access to our lives. He gives us the choice to rely on him in all circumstances or we can try to do everything ourselves.

On days when we feel powerless, we need to remember to go first in prayer. We can tell him our story in our own words and when it feels like it's too much to handle, we can use his scripture to remind us, that he loves and forgives us, and will be there to protect us. Pray and ask God to lead us to the source of our fears. Attacking our fears from the source literally destroys them at the root, and creates a foundation for fearless faith. We strengthen our faith with every minute we spend in prayer and meditation.

Using the word of God encourages our commitment to him and fortifies our faith. His word gives us the courage to look fear in the face and say No More! It takes a tremendous amount of courage to step out of fear into a fearless act of faith. But if we remind ourselves that God is always with us, we can succeed. The more we realize we can count on him, the easier it gets to lay down our fears at his table and leave them there. We may have fears and worries but with the help of Jesus Christ we can overcome them. We can speak words of faith to combat feelings of fear. Psalms 139:5-6 tells us, "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."

He knows who you really are. He is waiting for us to get off the fence and take a stand to fearlessly use our gifts to proclaim his name. All of us have something to give. No one is too old or too young. When your eyesight starts to fail, share your memories to give inspiration to our future. If you're hard of hearing, watch us and share your smiles and comfort when we feel unworthy and confused. If you feel inexperienced and shy, take a risk and share your energy, new ideas, and insight so we can open our eyes to a new way of honoring God.

We are well able when we realize our power comes from God. Whatever our troubles and fears are, God is able! He is able to carry us through difficult times. We are able to leave our fears at his door and fearlessly walk on the path he has set before us.

Faith is real and is one of the strongest weapons we can use to irradiate fear. Faith coupled with love can heal the open wounds of unresolved hopelessness and pain and remove the scar tissue of our anxieties. When you take a stand to step out of your fear, trust God, and use your gifts to be a blessing to others, you'll be amazed at what God will do in your life. You'll see scripture with new eyes of understanding, face challenges with courage and faith, and take risks in spite of your circumstances.

Fear no longer needs to hold us back from fully enjoying our life or dictate our destiny. We need to stop using our precious energy worrying and allowing it to sabotage the quality of our lives! Never let your fear decide your future. Give everything to God because he already knows your future. He gives us the strength to face our fears, and say, God even when I stumble and fall; I know you will be there to pick me up. My hope, my trust, my commitment is completely to you.

**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
Matt Treadaway**

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church: serving on SPRC and Outreach and Missions; leading UMM, visiting the homebound, presenting roses on Mother's Day and Valentine's Day, providing Birthday and Anniversary cake the first Sunday of the month, working on various fundraisers, volunteering at the homeless shelter, and always being cheerful and saying "Life is beautiful;" and many other tasks in 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!



United Methodist Women

The next UMW meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6pm. The theme for this meeting is "Something to Share". Please bring an item or story which brought you a moment of happiness that you would like to talk about and share with the group. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Also the UMW has chosen the book, Brain on Fire by Susannah Cahalan to read and discuss. If you would like to join us in the discussion, we will be reviewing the book on Nov. 3.

Yeah!! Through the Open Hearts of the people of SAUMC we are making disciples in Ganta, Liberia. Not only did we send 200 composition books, 15 teacher grade/attendance record books and several children's books to Jabez Elementary and Junior High School, we sponsored 12 of the 14 students who could not afford tuition this year. God is great. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Patsy McDonald - Jabez Mission Team

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship Committee is pleased that we have dedicated congregants who are using their time and talents for God's glory. Our aim is to spread God's words through prayer, the scripture, music and by creating a welcoming atmosphere to everyone regardless of race or status.

We are blessed to be able to have enjoyed summer presentations of beautiful voices in music by Emily Acheson, Steve Limbach, Jaye Limbach, Kay Nelson and Cindy Van Pelt accompanied on the piano by our talented choir director Barb Zanoni.

You might have noticed that we are using the black hymnal, The Faith We Sing, along with our red hymnal. We are singing one new song each month from The Faith We Sing as it has a wider selection of contemporary songs that Pastor Rafael wants the church to get familiar with. He was influential in getting forty-six copies and we expect to get forty-six more.

Our hearts were blessed to have had Matt Treadaway as one of the communion servers on August 2nd. He was even able to stand unaided which is a reminder that even with health and other limitations each person is valuable in God's Kingdom.

We are grateful to our liturgists and ushers who also include some of our new members and regular attendees.

On October 17th our Worship Committee will be going on a Retreat to Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton WI. The facilitator is Rev Jorge Mayorga-Solis who is highly recommended by Pastor Rafael. We are receptive to new ideas and ready to participate in discussions to enhance the spiritual and social growth of our church and community.

A Possible Name Change for Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

During Rev. Gonzalaz's sermon on Multicultural Day he mentioned the discussions by the Administrative Council regarding formally adding "Multicultural" to our Church's name. The Council has discussed this; however, we can go no further without your input.

What would this mean? It would mean that as a church we recognize and respect all people's languages and customs within our church. We would be one Congregation with members, who speak many languages and might celebrate their Christianity in multiple ways. We would be one congregation accepting and respectful of each other's ethnic heritage.

If there are objections to this name change, please let me know. My phone number is 249 0734, my email address is mrsacd7412@gmail.com. I attend the 9:30 service. You are welcome to talk to me between services.

*"And, we though many through-out the earth, we are one body in this one Lord."
Hymn #620-The United Methodist Hymnal.*

Please pray for our church as we move forward.
Your Servant in Christ,
Patsy McDonald
Administrative Council Chair

CONNECTIONS BY CRAIG MYRBO

We connect in diversity in unity.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church is preparing to affirm its existence as a multicultural congregation by incorporating the word "multicultural" into its name. I say amen. We should embark on this further path in our journey. "What does this mean?" We will see. Walk with us in this adventure.

Prayer Corner

Lord, We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children — Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow — will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

~The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

October 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Need A Prayer? Call Pat Bruccoleri (576-7331) or Cvndv Hoffman (513-2280)				1 6:30 Choir	2 5:30 Ham Dinner Setup	3 4:30 International Ham Dinner
4 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 6:00 Self-defense	5 6:15 Brownie Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts	6 1:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Mexican Consulate 6:00 UMW	7 8:00 Mexican Consulate 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:30 The Story Bible	8 8:00 Mexican Consulate 6:30 Choir	9 8:00 Mexican Consulate 6:00 Hmong Ministry 6:00 Youth Bible Study	10 8:00 Cleanup 5:00 Men's Group
11 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 6:00 Self-defense	12 6:00 Communication 6:30 Cub Scouts	13 6:30 Trustees	14 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:30 The Story Bible Study	15 6:30 Choir	16 3:00 Wedding 5:00 Hmong Women	17 5:00 Hmong Women 7:00 Wedding
18 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 1:00 Hmong Admin 6:00 Self-defense	19 6:15 Brownie Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts	20 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Admin Council	21 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Craft Night 6:00 Band Practice 6:30 The Story Bible Study	22 6:30 Choir	23 6:00 Hmong Ministry 6:00 Youth Bible Study	24 9:30 Pet Blessing Homeless Shelter
25 Homeless Shelter 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 6:00 Self-defense	26 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 Cub Scouts	27 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Outreach & Missions	28 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:30 The Story Bible Study	29 8:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	30	31

**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

October Birthdays

KADARIAN H	10/2
CRAIG M	10/5
ANGELA K	10/6
JOLIETH M	10/10
ELLEN C	10/11
WALT N	10/20
OKHWA L	10/23
ROSEMARY S	10/23
MATT T	10/24

October Anniversaries

ELLEN & GARY C	10/17
HAZEL & JERRY T	10/30

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

At the September 15, 2015 Administrative Council meeting the Council accepted the resignation of Dan Madden as SPRC Chair. The Council also accepted the SPRC nomination of Ed McDonald to replace Dan as Chair. If you have any issues regarding the Congregation, Pastors or Staff please contact Ed.

The Maddens' New Address is:

410 New Age Circle, #108
Verona, WI 53593

Their FL address (Oct-May) remains:

419 Pine Hollow Circle
Englewood, FL 34223