

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church October 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

"For you light my lamp; the Lord my God illumines my darkness." - Psalm 18:28

Dr. Bill Crawford said that "fear is the darkroom where our negatives are developed".

What I suppose he meant, is that when we have moments of fear in our lives, that fear has the potential to expose and uncover some great negative aspects inside of us.

We've all been there with fear. When a child or a loved one doesn't come home at the prescribed time, we get fearful and begin to think the worst.

If we have had a job interview and the employer didn't call back within the time they said they were going to call back, we get fearful and think the worst about our chances. It's fear. And sometimes it brings out the worst in us.

If fear is the darkroom where our negatives are developed, then the dark is the birthplace for many of our fears.

We all know someone who is or has been afraid of the dark. As we move into the fall and Halloween season, we see movies and television shows that show us how many things can go wrong in the dark.

The fact is children and adults fear the dark, the unknown, for the same reason: our fears are intensified when we cannot see what is really before us.

Listen to these words from the Psalmist: "Where can I go from Your spirit? Where can I flee Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there. If I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."

Even when things are unknown and dark in our lives, in the world, in our community, God is always there.

Rev. David

Words of Light by Veronica Berry

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body." Proverbs 16:24

Words have always been important to me. I have always been fascinated by the power of our words and how the inflection in our voice can change the mood in a matter of moments. Gently spoken words can soothe a frightened child. Loving thoughts put into words can diffuse a volatile situation. Words of clarity can clear out the fogginess of confusion and chaos.

Sometimes it seems so easy for us to judge others and ourselves, and we often use harsh words to express our disgust or disdain of who we have become and what we think about someone else. 'I'm too fat. I'm too short. I'm not good enough. That dress she's wearing is too tight. He needs a haircut – his hair is too long. I don't know them, but they look like trouble.'

Even if it feels natural to use judgmental words, we don't have to do it. We can choose to make every encounter an opportunity to be a ray of light. We can choose to speak words of encouragement, appreciation, understanding, love, and light to bolster someone's self-esteem, to express gratitude to our dear family and friends for being there, and to focus on the true vision of who we are; God's children connected by his love. It doesn't matter how tall we are or how wide we have become. All of us are good enough and all of us have God's love.

We were made in the image God, reflecting the qualities of God: joy, kindness, understanding, compassion, courage, and love. We are perfect and whole beings blest with the love of our Creator. If He loves us just as we are in this moment, why can't we do the same?

When we take a chance to use words as our allies to help mend differences, lift hearts, inspire minds, and lighten moods, we connect with the loving spirit that exists inside all of us. We also are blest with words spoken in love because these words fill our minds with hope, refresh our bodies with positive energy, and strengthen our humanity with understanding and kindness. Our words are powerful tools that can breakdown walls of miscommunication and build peaceful connections; remember to ask God for guidance so you use them wisely.

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

Carol Hermansen

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church as a member of Outreach & Missions, President of United Methodist Women, church secretary volunteer, coordinator for Multi-Culture Day, UMW Bake Sales, and Crossing Meals, reviving cards for sale, ushering, regularly attending Craft Night and Bible Study, being just a Classy Lady all around 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!

CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

Act justly, love mercy and walk

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8*

**Madison Church World Service CROP/Hunger Walk
October 15th - Registration 12:45 - Walk 1:30
First Congregational UCC - 1609 University Avenue.
1 and 3 mile routes
jugglers - ice cream - photo stop - temporary CROP tattoos - indoor bouncy house**

Act justly

CROP funds support recognition of women's role in accessing water resources by granting women an equal voice in decision making.

"Lobuin Lokadio Lokol, 43, is from Napia Village, Turkana in Kenya. During the election of the water management committee in her village, she challenged men when they recommended that only a few women be included. Lobuin stood her ground. She pointed out that water is majorly a women's affair. All tasks involving access to water were done by women, walking about 7 1/2 miles round trip to collect water. There is now an equal representation of women in the committee." (from CROP Walk materials 2017)

Love mercy

"There are many bakers among the 977 members of the KRCLJ cooperative in the remote town of Laymontay, Haiti. The community built a bakery with support from CWS (Church World Service). On the day the bakery opened, there was happiness in Lamontay. "I dance, I am happy. We used to leave at midnight, walking in the dark and danger, on narrow and bad roads, in rain and sun" says Gelina Predestin, one of the women who used to bake their bread in bakeries far away." (from Impact Report 2016, Church World Service)

And walk

"In the U.S. more than 120,000 people helped raise over \$10 million to fight hunger locally and globally through CROP Hunger Walks, supporting 1918 local hunger fighting agencies." (from 2017 CROP Poster)

I have walked for many years. Please walk for the hungry this year.
Ending Hunger - One Step at a Time



Autumn Prayer



God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you

for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,
for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,
for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,
for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,
for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,
for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,
for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit.

Amen

- Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

Ham Dinner Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017
Bazaar & Bake 2-6 pm
Dinner Served 4:30-7 pm

Family Style, Ham, Corn,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Cranberry Salad, Buns & Pie

Adults	\$9
Ages 5-11	\$5
Under 5	Free

Volunteers, salads, pies and baked goods
are needed and much appreciated.
Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.



Church Clean Up Day Saturday October 21, 2017 8AM until noon

We will be concentrating on cleaning windows in the
church & parsonage, gutters, & the kitchen stove
- as well as any requests from Ron Hoffman.

Also, there is some wood
left over from the tree removal.
It's free if anyone wants it.

*You do not need to wait for the weather to break a
'hot' or 'cold' record to donate to the Rummage Sale.
Drop off your donation in the church entryway.
If you want a pickup or have a question
contact Chuck Litweiler.*

October 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men 6:30 Boy Scout Training	2 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Junior Girls Scouts	3 6:00 United Methodist Women	4 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Book Club	5 6:30 Choir	6 12:00 Ham Dinner Setup 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	7 2:00 Bazaar & Bake Sale 4:30 Ham Dinner
8 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women	9 6:00 Cub Scouts	10 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	11 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	12 6:30 Choir	13 National Hmong Causus Convocation	14 National Hmong Causus Convocation
15 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	16 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Junior Girls Scouts!	17 6:30 Admin Council	18 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:00 Craft Night	19 6:30 Choir	20 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	21 8:00 Church Cleanup
22 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	23 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Cub Scouts	24 6:30 Outreach & Missions	25 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Dinner with David	26 9:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	27	28 12:00 Hmong Family Fun Homeless Shelter Meal
29 Homeless Shelter Meal 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	30 6:00 Cub Scouts	31 5:30 Trunk & Treat	CHURCH CONFERENCE Team Leaders are working on completing our Church Conference documents. We do not have a date for our Conference yet. The format will be similar to last year. Look for more information in the Bulletin Announcements.			

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

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please take a moment to remember our homebound members

Linda J (B-day 7/11)
c/o Avalon Assisted Living
2875 Fish Hatchery Rd, Rm 11
Fitchburg, WI 53713-3177
608-274-4350

Justin K (B-day 12/13)
1601 Wheeler Rd #208
Madison, WI 53704-7056
608-416-5343

Marvel M (B-day 2/28)
718 Jupiter Dr #202
Madison, WI 53718-2950
608-663-8783

Carol R (B-day 2/1)
1524 Wheeler Rd #B
Madison, WI 53704-1443
608-249-2638

Ginny Sz (B-day 9/24)
1601 Wheeler Rd #209
Madison, WI 53704-7056
608-244-9515

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.