

Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church November 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

*"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me." Psalm 51:2-3*

Did you know one of the things that can paralyze us emotionally is guilt? What about you? Guilt saps us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

When it comes to guilt, the best way to avoid it is simply to do what we know is right. But when we don't (and we all make mistakes), we first need to confess our sin to God with a genuine desire to get things right.

I promise that when we pursue the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ, with an attitude of seeking to get things right, it will free us of guilt. God wipes the slate clean, so therefore we should ask God for forgiveness, and then seek forgiveness from those we have wronged.

We must also forgive ourselves. For most of us, this is the biggest struggle of all, but we should recognize that when God has forgiven us, we can forgive ourselves. God wants us to forgive ourselves.

Thanksgiving Song

*Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered round this table.
From far and near we travel home,
Blessed that we are able.
Grateful for this sheltered place
With light in every window,
Saying welcome, welcome, share this feast
Come in away from sorrow.
Father, mother, daughter, son,
Neighbor, friend and friendless;
All together everyone in the gift of loving-kindness.
Grateful for what's understood,
And all that is forgiven;
We try so hard to be good,
To lead a life worth living.
Father, mother, daughter, son,
Neighbor, friend, and friendless;
All together everyone, let grateful days be endless.
Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered round this table.*

- Mary Chapin Carpenter - Thanksgiving Song Lyric

With Gratitude, With Thanks, With Appreciation by Veronica Berry

“Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good; his love is eternal.” Psalms 106:1

No matter what situation or circumstances we find ourselves in, we can always find something to be grateful for. Every experience brings us opportunities for personal growth and transformation. God is always leading us to a higher place. Even when the road looks strange and we feel lost or left behind, he is always there.

It's has become so easy to concentrate and vocalize on what's wrong in our lives. It seems as if we hardly ever give equal time to absorb all of God's blessings and be grateful and thankful for what we have and who we are. Pain and sadness teaches us to savor joy and being well. Loss shows us that things can be replaced, our loved ones are priceless, and each day is an opportunity for a new beginning.

When I say, I am blessed, I immediately feel grateful and consciously acknowledge all that is good around me. I recall words of encouragement, appreciate the faces of my loved ones, and thank God for all the comfortable and soothing experiences he has allowed me to have. When we set any thoughts of lack and limitation aside, we can see that God's good is unlimited and inexhaustible. This image can open our hearts to give thanks for the wonderful gifts of life, love, wisdom, and generosity. It also helps us realize that every need we have will be met, so we can easily share what we have.

Every time I find something to laugh about, I thank God for giving me the courage to be comfortable in my own skin. I can easily laugh at myself, creatively think my way out of situations, and most of the time follow what I know is right in my heart and soul. I think it's important to thank God for allowing you to be who you are, because each person is such a unique and essential piece in his tapestry of life. We need to know that it's okay to be pleased with who we are in this moment and who we will be in the future. Even when you don't feel like it, try telling him that you are pleased with who are at this moment and open to what he would like you to become in the future, and have faith that he is listening.

With gratitude we can let our family and friends know they are blessings in our lives. We can also remember those who aren't with us today but will always hold a place in our hearts. With thankfulness we can honor God's generosity and love. With appreciation we can see our blessings, feel God's eternal love, and take time to immerse ourselves in what's right in our lives and dare to be pleased with who we are. Most of all we can be thankful for the ever present, loving and powerful spirit of God within us and all others.

“His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3

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

Emily Acheson

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church as a member of Outreach & Missions, Chancel Choir, Stephen Leader & Minister, serving at the Homeless Shelter, Liturgist, Ham Dinner, a woman who always has a good word for everyone 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

We connect through grateful doing and giving

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17

On October 15, 2017 Sherman Avenue UMC participated in the annual CROP Hunger Walk sponsored by Church World Service. The event was a success. Many people from Sherman Avenue UMC contributed to that success.

CROP Walks are the principal fundraising events for Church World Service's hunger relief and hunger response organization. CWS works in development alongside relief. 25% of local funds go to local efforts such as food pantries and meal sites.

Thanks to the following people who walked for hunger relief: Emily and Matt Acheson, Melodie, Veronica and James Berry, Leah Brown, Gary Kreft, Chuck Litweiler, John Litweiler, Terry Wendt, Amy Scott. Special thanks are due Gary Kreft and Veronica Berry for collecting donations. As of Sunday, October 22 we have collected over \$400.

Thanks to the congregation for its longstanding support of this program.
A special thanks to Chuck for coordinating Sherman Avenue's participation.

CROP Walks ending hunger one step at a time.



Are you interested in Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry to others in need going through difficult circumstances in their lives. We are looking to start a weekly class in January on Saturday afternoons. Class is a great opportunity to grow in listening and caregiving skills and to grow new friendships. Please consider this unique opportunity! Applications are available on the narthex table, please turn these in to Cyndy Hoffman or Emily Acheson by November 15th. For further questions, please call Cyndy H. at 513-2280 or Emily A. at 332-4512.

Men's Group
Saturday, November 4th
6:30 PM
at the parsonage

There will be a presentation about growing butterflies by a lady who does just that. For those who don't think they are interested, come see what you are missing.

Everybody is welcome. There will be snacks.



Speak Up
Monday, November 6
6:30 PM
at the parsonage

There will be a scheduled speaker and a chance for everybody present to speak. There will be a timer, an "ah" counter, and a grammarian. Everybody helps everybody to be a better speaker. We have a lot of fun and would like for you to join us. Have dinner before you come, but save room for a dessert at the meeting.

Ginny Schutz passed on to her greater glory on October 5th in her home at Brookdale Senior Living. Please pray for the Buchanan family. A Visitation and Memorial Service was held on October 12. Donations may be made to American Parkinson's Disease Association or to SAUMC.

November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h2>All Saints Remembrance Sunday, November 5</h2>			1 3:00 ELL 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 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Men 5:00 Craft Sale Setup	6 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Speak Up	7 6:00 United Methodist Women	8 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC
12 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship 12:30 Hmong Women 3:00 Scout Raking	13 6:00 Cub Scouts !	14 6:30 Trustees 6:45 Communications	15 3:00 ELL 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
19 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	20 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Discipleship Meeting	21 6:30 Admin Council	22 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	27 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Cub Scouts	28 6:30 Outreach & Missions	29 3:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Meditation TC 6:30 Dinner with David	30 9:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir		

November Birthdays

Frances Ford	11/5
Linda Litweiler	11/5
David Mayer	11/7
Steve Limbach	11/9
Helen Johnson	11/10
Gayle Treadaway	11/11
Joan Stephen	11/12
Mailao Lee	11/15
Vincent Washington	11/21
Thai Xiong	11/25
Carol Thompson	11/27
Aron Van Pelt	11/29

Anniversaries

Chuck & Okhwa Litweiler	11/12
Cyndy & Ron Hoffman	11/25

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

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

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

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

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

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.