

# Bellringer

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

November 2016

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." - Colossians 2:15*

Halloween. It's a time of year when the air gets crisper, the days get shorter, and for many Americans, both young and older, the excitement grows in anticipation of shouting, "Trick or Treat?"

Over the years, I have taken my sons Trick or Treating, to the pumpkin patch, and even to corn mazes. It is my favorite time of the year.

Many Christians do not participate in Halloween. Some are wary of its pagan origins. Others are wary of its dark, ghoulish imagery; still others are concerned for the safety of their children.

But other Christians choose to partake of the festivities, whether participating in school activities, neighborhood trick-or-treating, or a Halloween alternative, such as the Trunk or Treat our church is planning.

The name "Halloween" derives from the All Saints Day celebration of the early Christian church - a day set aside for the solemn remembrance of the martyrs.

"All Hallows Eve", the evening before All Saints Day, began the time of remembrance. "All Hallows Eve" was eventually contracted to "Hallow-e'en," which became "Halloween."

The question is, "How should Christians respond to Halloween? Really, the larger question is how should Christians respond to Halloween, horror movies and all things of a related nature?"

Is it irresponsible for parents to let their children trick-or-treat? Is it wrong to allow children to read Harry Potter or watch scary movies? Are we somehow dishonoring God by allowing children to take part in Halloween?

What about Christians who refuse any kind of participation during the season. Are they overreacting?"•

Whatever level of Halloween participation you choose, let us honor God by keeping ourselves separate from the world and by showing mercy to those who are disadvantaged and those who have passed on.

Halloween provides the Christian with the opportunity to accomplish both of those things in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a message that is holy, set apart from the world. It's a message that is the very mercy of a forgiving God. What better time of the year is there to share such a message than Halloween?

In Service,

Rev. David

## ***Refresh Others by Veronica Berry***

*“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” Proverbs, 11:25*

Since I was a little girl, I have been fascinated by the power of the wind. One minute it can be a gentle breeze soothing the intensity of a heated day, bringing its refreshing cool air to breathe life into our parched bodies. In the next minute as the skies darken, the wind can turn into a strong and dangerous gale of air with high speed velocities of 55 MPH violently knocking down everything in its path. The wind’s unpredictable power made me appreciate the intensity of God’s creations of nature.

Everything and everyone is connected in God’s world. Just like the wind, we have the power to soothe the intensity of a dreadful day in someone’s life by listening to their story without judgment. We can refresh their spirits with unconditional love and offer hope for a better future. We can tell them that God has blest our lives with the knowledge that he is always with us, waiting for us to reach out and ask him for his help, so we can be guided by his light. We can be someone’s miracle.

I know that sometimes events in the world make us feel like humans are becoming more violent and unpredictable. It seems like we are only concerned about ourselves, are afraid of each other, and don’t trust anyone. All of us have a choice. We can follow the violent storm by being absorbed into a life of destruction and distrust, hide in a corner – protecting ourselves from everyone. Or we can step out of the shadows with God’s shield of armor and dare to be kind and loving in a world full of fear.

We all have something to share that can lift someone’s spirit. We can generously give away our smiles, openly accept others without judgment, graciously be polite and kind to all people, daily do random acts of kindness, and joyously encourage someone to accomplish their dreams. We can choose to listen, to care, to help, and to believe in each other.

I know that we also need to take care of ourselves so we can be a blessing to others. I also know that we have to find the balance in our lives, so we aren’t so consumed with our own problems that we miss out on the opportunity to lift up someone else. Life can be complicated and we can be unpredictable as the wind. Fortunately for us, we can ask God to guide us to the right direction.

There are many days when I wake up ready to face the world with a high speed velocity. I have learned to ask God to help me use soothing words and thoughtful actions to be a blessing to others. I also thank him for the power he has given me to make a difference in my small piece of his world. I have realized that refreshing others strengthens me and gives me hope that all will be well in our world.

Mendota Elementary School will be having a Cares and Shares Day where community members will come and eat lunch, volunteer in classrooms and help with a small service project on 11/22 from 11am-1pm.

If you have any interested members please contact:

Stacy D. Broach  
Community School Resource Coordinator  
Mendota Elementary  
[sdbroach@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:sdbroach@madison.k12.wi.us)  
608-235-9780

**RUMMAGE  
SALE**



You are encouraged to bring your Rummage Sale donations and leave them in the entryway anytime. We are able to store them in the parsonage garage! The sale will be on February 17 and 18. If you have any questions (particularly concerning which items we can't accept) please contact Chuck L.

## CONNECTIONS by Craig Myrbo

We connect through prayerful consideration

*But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7*

*Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:2 Common English Bible (CEB)*

There are two important events in November this year in the life of our church. On November 8 is the United States national election including President, Congress, and State and local elections. We should prayerfully consider the candidates and issues to decide what we should do. We should pray on and after November 9 for those elected.

I offer this as a possible prayer:

God of justice and compassion. You have called us to use our gifts to your glory. You challenge us to claim Your power and presence in us. Today we lift up the gift of citizenship that we have been given in the United States. We give thanks for the opportunity to participate in this democracy. We know that You expect us to use the gifts You have given us.

We will step forth in faith. We will become faithful citizens. We will use our gifts. We will study the issues. We will study Your word and the guidance You have given us. We will pray for our democracy, our current elected leaders, and our future leaders. We will seek to support the candidates that we think best reflect our values. We will use our power. We will claim our gifts. We will vote on Tuesday, November 8. And when the elections are over, we will pledge to support those elected through prayer and regular communication of our concerns to them. Thank you God for your gifts and the opportunities you see before us. Amen.

By: National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

More specifically to Sherman Avenue UMC: between services on November 20 there will be an all church meeting regarding the charge conference. The charge conference will be held on November 29 at Asbury UMC from 6:30-8:30 pm

This also calls for our prayerful consideration.

Please pray and act on these important events in the life of our church.

### Announcement

The Church/Charge conference with Rev. Scott Carlson will be held November 29, 2016 at Asbury UMC at 6:30 to 8:30 PM. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

An All Church Meeting to review and discuss Church/Charge documents will be held Sunday, November 20, 2016 between services.

**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

**Kay N.**

In recognition of your volunteer service to our church by being a member of the Bell and Chancel Choir, for starting our Rummage Sale, hosting UMW Christmas Parties, being a member of UMW, making the centerpieces for the Ham Dinner, sponsoring a Jabez student, 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!

**Prayer to Rekindle Our Love**

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess:  
that we have sinned against you, by sinning against our brothers and sisters,  
that we have not always endeavored to maintain the bond of unity,  
that we have not always been ready to pray together,  
that we have not always been ready to forgive and to ask forgiveness,  
that we have not always believed that unity is even possible,  
that we can do more, we can love more and we can believe more.  
Forgive our sins, O Lord, rekindle our love and renew a right spirit within us.

God our Father, pour out the gifts of Your Holy Spirit on the world.  
You sent the Spirit son your church to begin the teaching of the Gospel,  
now let the Spirit continue to work in the world,  
through the hears of all who believe.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. AMEN

**Mark Your Calendars**

December 3 is Church Decorating and Stone Soup Day! The Men's Group will put up the Christmas Tree and then we will enjoy a Stone Soup Lunch. We will meet at 10:000 AM, decorate the tree and Fellowship Hall and enjoy stone soup at noon! Please bring a vegetable, seasoning, or protein item to add to the soup or bread to eat along with it. Please remember people with food allergies. All are invited!!!

# NOVEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Trunk or Treat on Monday, 10/31/16 @ 5:30 PM.. This will be a safe environment for neighborhood children & friends Trick or Treat within our parking lot.		1	2 4:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	3 6:30 Choir	4 5:00 Sewing 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	5 10:00 United Methodist Women 5:00 Men's Group
6 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	7 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:15 Brownies	8 6:30 Communications 6:30 Trustees	9 4:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Laity Circuit	10 6:30 Choir	11 5:00 Sewing	12 8:00 CPR Class 3:00 Cub Scouts
13 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	14 6:00 SPRC 6:00 Cub Scouts	15 6:00 Admin Council	16 4:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Craft Night 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	17 6:30 Choir	18 5:00 Sewing 6:00 Hmong Ministry & Youth Bible Study	19
20 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Church Meeting 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	21 <b>5:00 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 Cub Scouts	22 6:30 Outreach & Missions	23 4:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	24 8:00 Copy & Fold 6:30 Choir	25 5:00 Sewing	26
27 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Worship	28 6:00 Cub Scouts	29 6:30 Charge Conference at Asbury UMC	30 4:00 ELL 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Band Practice 6:00 Prayer Group	<p><i>Hazel T. passed on to her greater glory on Friday, September 30 at the age of 103.5.. Please keep Jerry and all of Hazel's friends in your hearts and prayers.</i></p>		

## November Birthdays

Frances F.	11/5
Linda L.	11/5
Steve L.	11/9
Helen J.	11/10
Gayle T.	11/11
Joan S.	11/12
Mailao L.	11/15
Vincent W.	11/21
Aron V.	11/29

## November Anniversaries

Chuck & Okhwa L.	11/12
Cyndy & Ron H.	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 J.

c/o Avalon Assisted Living  
2875 Fish Hatchery Rd, Rm 11  
Fitchburg, WI 53713-3177  
608-274-4350

### Marvel M.

718 Jupiter Dr #208  
Madison, WI 53718-2950  
608-663-8783

### Justin K.

Brookdale  
1601 Wheeler #208  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-416-5343