

June 2023



Our Vision statement:

*Learn God's word, Teach
God's word and
Share God's love*

Our Mission Statement:

*Wesley United Methodist
Church is a community of
Christ's disciples who strive to know, love and serve God
more faithfully through Christ-centered worship,
education, fellowship and true compassion that show
God's love for all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

The Lord's word came to Jonah, Amittai's son: "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their evil has come to my attention." So Jonah got up—to flee to Tarshish from the Lord! He went down to Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went aboard to go with them to Tarshish, away from the Lord. Jonah 1:1-3.

The United Methodist Church is going through a transition. Some of us are finding it too difficult to remain and so are withdrawing from the rest of us in a process we call *disaffiliation*. This change has been happening within the life of our denomination for several decades, and it relates to the issue of inclusion, who belongs to God's people and who does not. It is framed as a question of sexual identity which grows into an issue of biblical authority. Because some of our leaders and many of us find that Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection, made it possible for all of us to belong to God's people and therefore find that our sexual

identity is not a barrier within the life of our Church, these folks feel they must separate from us. This is a painful moment within the UMC and within those congregations that are going through this process.

The word *change* normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation more often *happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart*. The pain and chaos of something old falling apart invite the soul to listen at a deeper level, and sometimes force the soul to go to a new place. Most of us would never go to new places in any other way. The mystics use many words to describe this chaos: fire, dark night, death, emptiness, abandonment, trial, the Evil One. Whatever it is called, it does not feel good, and it does not feel like God.

We will normally do *anything* to keep the old thing from falling apart, yet this is when we need patience and guidance, and the *freedom to let go* instead of

(Continued on page 2)



Sunday, June 4
Ingathering Kits will be assembled

June 9-12
Annual Conference

Sunday, June 25
**Sleep in Heavenly
Peace Speaker**
9:30 a.m.



Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 3 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesleyan YouTube channel.

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tightening our controls and certitudes. Perhaps Jesus is describing just this phenomenon when he says, “It is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:14). Not accidentally, he mentions this narrow gate and hard road right after teaching the Golden Rule. He knows how much “letting go” it takes to “treat others as you would like them to treat you” (Matthew 7:12).

Spiritual transformation always includes a disconcerting reorientation. It can either help people to find new meaning or it can cause people to close down and slowly turn bitter. The difference is determined precisely by the quality of our inner life, our practices, and our spirituality. Change happens, but transformation is always a process of letting go, and living in the confusing, shadowy, transitional space for a while. Eventually, we are spit up on a new and unexpected shore. We can see why Jonah in the belly of the whale is such an important image in our biblical history.

In moments of insecurity and crisis, *shoulds* and *oughts* don’t really help. They just increase the shame, guilt, pressure, and likelihood of backsliding into unhealthy patterns. It’s the deep *yeses* that carry us through to the other side. It’s those deeper values we strongly support—*such as equality and dignity for all*—that allow us to wait it out. Or it’s someone in whom we absolutely believe and to whom we commit. In plain language, love wins out over guilt any day.

It is sad that we settle for the short-term effectiveness of shaming people and shutting them down, instead of the long-term life benefits of true transformation. But then, we are a culture of productivity and efficiency, not terribly patient or even open to growth. God is clearly much more patient—and, finally, much more effective, patiently supporting our inner transformation through all of life’s transitions.



BIRTHDAYS

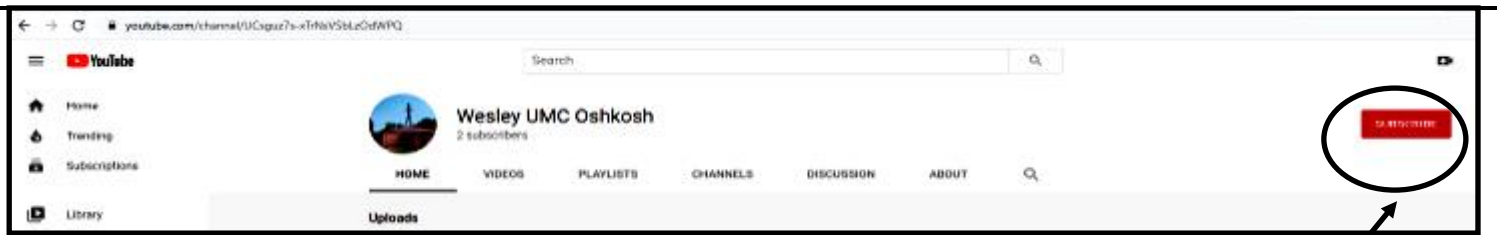
6/1	Vincent Flores	6/12	Steve Karst
6/4	Trisha Flores		Carol Olmsted
6/5	Julia Colantonio	6/14	Donna Thomas
6/6	Kenshin LaPoint	6/15	Candi Fournier
	Susan Tesch	6/21	Sue Krueger
6/7	Lucy Jewson		Royann Peterson
6/9	Autumn Monroe		Chuck Emery
6/10	Cathy Bradley	6/28	Nelson Fournier

ANNIVERSARIES

6/03	Bob & Beverly Heisler
6/04	Marlin & Jennifer Wege
6/08	Daryl & Carol Olmsted
6/09	Jim & Pat Witzke
6/10	Wayne* & Deborah Zimmerman
6/21	Jim & Linda Fournier
6/22	Vincent & Trisha Flores
6/24	Steven & Marsha Bathke

Newsletter Sponsorship

- The sponsor for the June newsletter is Donna Thomas. Please consider being a sponsor for the July—December 2023 newsletters.
- Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to ‘reserve’ your chosen month for 2023.



1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



wesley umc oshkosh|

4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.

Your Education Corner:

Adult Studies meeting on Sunday morning following worship and the Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs class that meets Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. will continue to meet during the summer months.

Wayne Zimmerman's bible study that meets Thursday's at 2:30 p.m. will take a break for the summer and resume classes in the fall.

Sunday School put together 12 personal dignity kits & 2 home kits for annual conference ingathering.

No summer events are planned at this time.

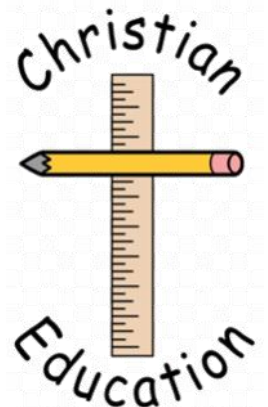
Rally Sunday will be 9/10 to kick off the start of Sunday School in the fall.

Tentative ideas for fall events are an outside movie or an indoor camping experience including a pretend campfire, sing along around the campfire, games/skits as we did at family camp.

Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, 10/28, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Our next education committee meeting will be Tuesday, 8/22, at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks, Donna





Carol Ann Wrage Olmsted

Carol Ann (Wrage) Olmsted b.6/12/1942, to Grace E. McAssey, & Nicholas H. Wrage; along w/twin brother Gerald “Jerry”. They grew up in Town of Algoma, Oshkosh, WI, where their Dad built a Sears Kit house on the Wrage family farm. She attended Boyd Elementary, South Park, and graduated from Oshkosh High School (now West) in 1960. She began her 43-year banking career right after, at First National Bank of Oshkosh (now Chase Bank). Mom was very proud of her work there, the changes implemented on her behalf that benefited all, and her strong work ethic.

Carol married Daryl I. Olmsted 6/8/1963; raised 2 girls, Lorilee & Michelle. They bought their home in 1968, and it was a source of pride & joy for her. Carol was always happy to stretch her menu last minute, put another plate on the table, if Dad invited a friend to join us for dinner. Everyone enjoyed Carol’s cooking; from Swedish meatballs, to Friday fish fry, to the Holiday baked Salmon’s that Dad had caught. Yummy!

Michelle made her a Gram to 2 girls, Kyra Ziarnik & Carly Manning. They were her heart. She was a very actively involved Gram from day one. Kyra’s daughter, Samara, again lit up her life as a great grandmother. Samara tagged her “my GG”, which tickled Mom. She was a very intricate part of Samara’s life as well. Every kid should be as fortunate!

In her 50’s Carol & Daryl traveled to many National Parks, but fell in love w/Arizona while visiting friends. At 64 they moved to Apache Junction, AZ. At 68 she was deemed in remission from RA, which she fought valiantly for years! She & Daryl became avid desert hikers w/other retirees, and she was in the best shape of her life then. She looked awesome! She also enjoyed her poolside time w/the ladies, where Mom made lots of snowbird friends. If Carol was your friend, it was forever, via letter, phone, or email at least every few months. And your secrets? They died w/ Carol.

Simply put, the church was Carol’s foundation. It provided her with great faith in everything she needed to believe in. She attended Wesley United Methodist Church of Oshkosh her entire life, and while in AZ, she attended the United Methodist Church in AJ.

When Michelle died unexpectedly 10/23/2021, it immediately aged her by 10 years. It sapped her of vitality. They moved back to WI permanently w/in a few months, she said “the girls need Gram there”, knowing the cold weather was not good for her. Carol always put the needs of her family ahead of herself. As soon as the weather changed; so did her health. It was one set back after another for months, then heart surgery in April, a bad fall on Mother’s Day morning, and CHF again. She was “really tired of being sick & tired.” Her body defied her usual grit & determination on 5/20/2023. She is now on her spiritual journey, guided by her Lord, reunited with Michelle and her parents.

Carol is deeply missed by Daryl, he is lost w/o her at his side, as is her beloved dog Little Ricky II. Also by “her girls”; granddaughters Kyra & Carly, and great granddaughter Samara. Her daughter Lorilee in AZ. Her brother Gerald (Jean) has lost his birth partner, it’s hard for him to fathom. She also leaves behind several nieces, “the Roth girls”, Teri, Sue & Wanda, as well as Jerry’s girls Sheri & Carrie.

The family wishes to thank the ICU Team at Aurora Medical Center for their fastidious efforts and compassionate care for Carol on 5/20/23; Mom would have said the same thing.

What is Sleep In Heavenly Peace?

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a National Organization run completely by volunteers.

It started in Idaho when a group of people realized that there were children in the community that did not have a bed to sleep in. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets and even floors. Some did not have a pillow to use.

This group decided that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional and mental support that a child needs. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads.

With that idea in mind Sleep In Heavenly Peace was born to deliver top notch beds and bunk beds to children and families in need.

As this idea spread others realized that many communities had children that did not have a bed to sleep in. Sleep In Heavenly Peace has grown to become a National Organization. There are chapters in many states including Wisconsin. Oshkosh is the home to one of the chapters in Wisconsin.

How would I be able to help?

Sleep In Heavenly Peace is made up of many volunteers who give of their time and talents. Builds are held as often as need, to assemble and deliver beds. During a building session peoples skills vary from pounding nails to cutting boards and assembling beds. Most builds are held on Saturday mornings so that people who work during the week are able to participate.



The Oshkosh Chapters of Sleep In Heavenly Peace also provides all of the bedding needed for the assembled bed. This includes, mattresses, mattress pads, top and bottom sheets, pillow and pillow case and a comforter. All of these items are provided as new and unopened. The cost of these items adds up quickly so cash donations are always appreciated.



During the month of June the Mission Team will provide more information about Sleep In Heavenly Peace. On Sunday, June 25, a speaker from the organization will be at our church.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE



UMC CORNER

On June 4, 2023 “Peace with Justice Sunday” is celebrated.

In 2022, United Methodist congregations gave over \$302,000 to support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Our donations provided funds for three different grants for United Methodist congregations and organizations that support Ethnic/ Minority Local Church ministries, and programs related to Peace with Justice Sunday. **Your generosity is transforming our social impact.** The best way to support “Peace with Justice Sunday” is to practice it in your own life as you live in your own family, neighborhood, and church. Seeing “peace with justice” done is a much stronger message than talking “peace with justice”. Just do it!

ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

July 14th and 15th, 2023

Keep these dates open. We really need your help! The sale runs 8 am-3 pm on Friday and 8-noon on Saturday.

We will be starting to set up for our annual rummage sale beginning June 25th. Please drop off your donations of gently used items to Koeller Hall after that date.

There will be racks and hangers available to hang your clothing on and labeled tables available to put your items on, after Monday. If you need something picked up, please let us know.

We are also looking for volunteers to come in to help sort, price and organize on evenings. Please help us by giving us one evening per week.

Attention all cooks and bakers (male & female). We need you to make some goodies for our annual bake sale which is runs during the rummage sale. Goodies can be brought to church on Thursday pm or Friday am (July 13th and 14th).

The days of the sales we need lots of volunteers. We are always in need of people to put out signs, help customers, work at the checkout desk, bake sale, straighten items, and much, much more. Please see Linda or Jenny Fournier with any questions or concerns.



Items that will no longer be accepted are electronics (including TV's), exercise equipment, computers, printers, mattresses and box springs. We will accept bed frames. The other items do not sell and we have to pay to haul them away.



June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			2-3 p.m. Missions	1 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship Ingathering kits assembled 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	5 5:30 p.m. MA	6 10 a.m. TOPS	7 5:30 p.m. MA	8 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA	9	10
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	12 5:30 p.m. MA	13 10 a.m. TOPS	14 1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA	15 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA	Annual Conference	
Annual Conference						
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	19 5:30 p.m. MA	20 10 a.m. TOPS	21 1:30 p.m. Worship Com. 5:30 p.m. MA <i>First Day of Summer</i>	22 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship Speaker from Sleep in Heavenly Peace 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	26 5:30 p.m. MA	27 10 a.m. TOPS	28 5:30 p.m. MA	29 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA	30	MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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