

October 2022



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.*

**Notes from Pastor
Emery**

Why I am a United Methodist

As we begin our relationship as pastor and congregation here at Wesley UMC, I thought it might be a good time to talk about why I am a United Methodist.

First you should know that my father's family have been Methodist since Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke returned from their meeting with John Wesley in London in 1784 and began the Methodist Episcopal Church at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland. It does not mean I had no choice, but it anchors me in a long tradition of Methodists including my grandfather who was a Methodist minister in the Wisconsin Conference during the first half of the 20th century.

At this moment the United Methodist Church is going through a painful struggle in which some of us are seeking to separate themselves from the UMC and either join another version of methodism, some other denomination or become totally independent. This is not new to methodism. There have been schismatic movements in this denomination many times. None the less, that we as a church are moving towards a divorce creates sadness and grief in me. For me, this is particularly painful because I am an ecumenist, one who believes in the unity of the Christian Church that Jesus prayed for in the 17th chapter of John's Gospel.

In the current moment we are told that there are two sides in the turmoil, the progressives, and the traditionalists. We are being asked to choose between them, like a child who is being asked to choose between two parents in a divorce. I

choose not to choose.

For me this represents a false choice for a church which from its beginnings has brought together the best from many streams of Christian faith. Finding the connections is in our spiritual DNA. For Methodists, the choice is not faith OR good works, it is faith AND good works.

Likewise, it is personal holiness AND social holiness; works of piety AND works of mercy, knowledge AND vital piety; sacramental AND evangelical expressions of grace. For me, it is both "traditional" AND "progressive."

Wesley was a "traditionalist." His feet remained firmly planted in the church into which he was born, served as a priest, and died. The foundation he laid for the fledgling Methodist movement in America was drawn, with little change, from the Anglican Articles of Religion and remains the bedrock of our faith as stated in the Discipline.

But Wesley was also a progressive. He was continually being chastised by the Anglican Church because he preached in the open air, licensed women as preachers, opposed slavery – all outside the box for the church of his time. I fear a church that is not both deeply rooted in tradition, but also open to new and often more faithful expressions of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

I am grateful to be a part of a church that has brought me comfort when I needed it but, perhaps, more importantly a church that has made me uncomfortable when I needed to be made uncomfortable. It took a variety voices, voices which strongly disagreed, in the church to lead me

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

October 2

**World Communion
Sunday**
9:30 a.m.

Football Potluck Party
11:00 a.m.

October 5

Worship-1:30 p.m.

October 8

Pork Chop Dinner
5:00 p.m. pick up

October 10

Trustees-6:30 p.m.

October 11

Education-6:30 p.m.

October 17

SPRC-6:30 p.m.

October 18

Council-6:30 p.m.

October 23

Laity Sunday-9:30 a.m.

October 29

Truck or Treat-4-6 p.m.

Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 4 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesley YouTube channel.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month



BIRTHDAYS

3	Jacob Vienola	18	Grace Kline
8	Jeff Roe	22	Wayne Zimmerman
9	Tim Lesnick		Julie Wilke
11	Lynne Moeller	23	Addison Otradovec
	Alex Dedecker		Cody Kloeckner
14	Marlin Wege	23	Corwin Bates
16	Peter Uecker	25	Victoria Krueger
	Jason Fry	27	Dennis Bradley
17	Dona Rager	30	Tracey Lovell
		31	Anthony Colantonio

ANNIVERSARIES

4	Bryan & Candi Fournier	12	Randal* & Linda Pribek
9	Dennis & Cathy Bradley	15	Wayne & Patty Michur

Feeding the Homeless at the Day by Day Warming Shelter

After experiencing missions in August, we decided that we could do more to help the homeless in our community. Sunday, November 27, we are going to make and serve an evening meal at the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

The meal will be prepared at the church and transported to the shelter to serve to approximately 35 people.

HOW YOU CAN HELP . . .

We are looking for monetary donations for the meal, bars, cookies, salads and servers. We cannot have more than 10 servers, so please sign up if you are interested in helping. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

All donations are appreciated, but please mark your envelope for the meal for Day by Day, so it will go to the proper place.

Any questions, please call Linda Fournier 920-410-1420 or Tracey Lovell 920-589-5136

(Continued from page 1)

to a more faithful understanding of the Gospel. I am grateful for those other voices through which I have heard God calling me to a greater faithfulness.

I am grateful to be a part of a church that is connectional. There are churches that take pride in being autonomous and congregational in their understanding. Bless them. But for me this represents a parochial and narrow view of a church called to be catholic and universal. Rather than this stand-alone, autonomous view, in 1 Corinthians verse 12, Paul pictures the church as the Body of Christ in which the hand cannot say to the foot, "I have no need of you." The church is joined together in Christ. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Methodists have recognized that we can do more together than we can apart. Together we have established more colleges and universities in our nation than any other denomination. Through our connection, we have been pioneers in caring for children, establishing homes for older adults, in camping ministries, in health care ministries, ministries with the homeless. When I look at the movements for a greater good in our nation's history and I find Methodist fingerprints: abolition (and yes prohibition!), the rights of workers, child labor laws, women's suffrage. I am grateful to be a part of a church that seeks to do all the good it can, in all the ways it can, to all the people it can, as often as it can.

I shall remain a member of the church that is focused on who is included rather than who is excluded. For me, the cornerstone of John Wesley's theology is the conviction that the love of God was in all and for all. He declared to those who would curtail his vision of ministry, "the world is my parish". Against any view of limited grace and atonement, Wesley declared the universal love of God for all. His life's work was spent among those who the established church had written off. Our passion has been more about building bridges than about building walls. I love the words of the Charles Wesley hymn:

"Come sinner to the gospel feast, let every soul be Jesus' guest, ye need not one be left behind, for God has bidden all humankind".

I am grateful to be a part of a church that affirms the Bible as the source of all that is "necessary" and "sufficient" unto salvation and "is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice." There are and always have been disagreements about how a particular passage is to be interpreted. I am thankful that as a church we have allowed for this richness of views which has often led us to truer understanding. This church has taught me that the purpose of a faithful reading of scripture is not information but transformation. The scriptures bear witness to Christ, who is the True Word of God.

Through the UMC I have found a theological home which centers in the grace of God in all its dimensions. It is Wesleyan/Methodist theology that has helped me recognize and name the workings of God in my life: God's prevenient grace stirring in the heart of a confused teenager; God's justifying grace when I came to accept Christ; and God's sanctifying grace that continues to work within me to finish His new creation.

Are we a perfect church? No. Are we in need of reform? Lord, yes. I do not know a church that isn't or doesn't! I choose to remain where I have been firmly planted in the fertile soil of the United Methodist Church.



UMCOR says.....When the storm is over..... your kindness, generosity and love abound....

Thanks from UMCOR. The UMCOR's disaster response reaches across the country and around the world.

FOOTBALL POTLUCK PARTY

Come and tailgate with us on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. following the morning worship. Everyone is invited, even if you don't like football. Come and enjoy some good food!



Wear your favorite team clothing!

Bring a dish to share with us.

Hamburgers and drink will be furnished.

We will have a couple of games to play and will get you out in time to make it home for the Packer game.

TV will be playing the games for you to watch as well.



A

**Volunteers for
Jefferson School**
-You pick days /times
Contact Lucy Jewson
920-235-2670

**Help
Wanted**

**We need liturgist, ushers
and greeters!**

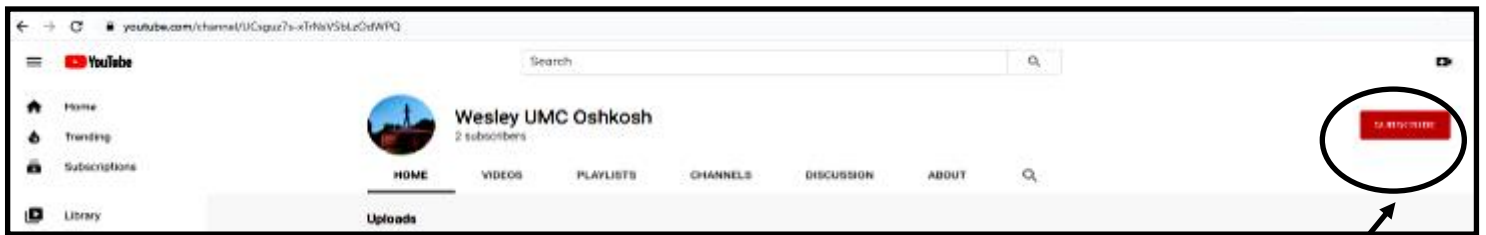
**Please contact the office if
you are able to help in these
roles.**

SPECIAL SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

We will be celebrating a Laity Sunday on October 23. The worship service will be led by all three of Wesley's lay speakers (Jerry Krueger, Donna LaPoint, Randy Lovell) and the pastor. The theme for the service will be "Why We Are Methodists". There will be extra volunteers helping to make this service possible and special music is being planned. Attending church on Sunday mornings, whether it be in person or via computer link, strengthens your faith and helps renew your commitment to God. Please plan on attending this special service. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted by Donna LaPoint, Lay Speaker





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.

Connectional Giving. What is it?

A simple explanation is a group of people pooling their resources to achieve something greater than themselves. Through their connectional gifts, members of The United Methodist Church support specific funds, projects, and mission.

Connectional giving is the lifeblood of ministry, and it allows us to share the concerns of many individuals. This concept is founded on a desire to address the needs of all of God's people, and it stems from our urge to give in order to be spiritually healthy and whole children of God.

The particular giving structure of the United Methodist Church ensures that your contribution blesses as many people as possible in a long-term, strategic way. When you give toward one of the six Special Sundays you enable vital ministries that change the world, one life at a time. As United Methodists, we also support critical ministries and missionaries through The Advance – an accountable voluntary giving platform that supports the worldwide mission of the UMC. No administrative costs are deducted, and 100% of your gift goes directly to the need.

Our individual gifts of support make us a better church for the sake of God's world. Why do we participate in connectional giving? We are called to give. Jesus asked us to do so to be able to share his love everywhere. Giving is one way we worship, and when we give for the benefit of someone else, we are following the scripture to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

The reason connectional giving of The United Methodist Church works is our local churches. If we have a local church in a certain area that needs help, we help through that local church. It's such a wonderful thing to know that the little amount that I am able to give is multiplied to do so much.

It is overwhelming when you speak about the connection and how it is changing lives. We support ministries that offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, feed the hungry and give shelter to those in need, provide scholarships to those who would never normally receive them, develop communities and teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency."

Our big and small efforts in our local churches are amplified when we combine them, and there is no way we could achieve all of this without each other. We all benefit from the love of Christ, and we amplify that love when we give together.

Excerpts from an article in Resource UMC by By Aaron Crisler

Quotes from the Daily Walk Bible

“That God created us from dust is no reason to treat another person like dirt.”

Newsletter Sponsorship

The sponsor for the October newsletter is Carol & Darrel Olmstead.

"In loving memory of our daughter Michelle Olmstead never forget."

Please consider being a sponsor for the December 2022 newsletter. 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



UMC CORNER

World Wide Communion Sunday is October 2, 2022

Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday.

Donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund.

Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.

Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.

Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

The Mission Committee has selected the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP) as the mission focus for the month of October. Food insecurity in the Oshkosh area has been a concern for the members of Wesley UMC for quite some time. It was with this concern that Wesley joined with six other churches in Oshkosh in 1989 to form the Ecumenical

Food Pantry. This program was located in the Trinity Episcopal Church on Division Street until 2008. It was at this time that other community members became aware of the increased food security in the area and decided that a larger facility was needed to meet the growing needs. At this point OACP was organized and a partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul was formed. This allowed the pantry to move to its current location on Jackson Street.

Each year OACP distributes over one million pounds of food to over 31,000 guests in the southern Winnebago County area. Besides providing food to those in need at the Jackson Street location, OACP also works with the Oshkosh Area School District to facilitate the School Pantry Program. Each week OACP volunteers package snacks and easy-to-serve foods in totes that are then delivered to individual schools for students in need throughout the district. Located within the pantry is The Kid's Corner which is a program that allows youth ages 3 to high school age to choose some nutritional, single-serving items for themselves with the goal of education children on making more healthy food choices. OACP also has a Food 4 Life program where nutritious options are available for guests with special dietary needs

All of these programs are available to food insecure residents in the OACP area which includes Oshkosh, Omro, Winneconne, Waukau, Pickett, Eureka, Butt des Morts, Rush Lake, and Fisk. Registration is required and is easily accomplished with a photo ID and proof of address..

Since Wesley UMC was one of the churches that formed the foundation OACP was built upon, members have continued to be strong supporters with monetary and food donations and volunteers. During October we will have a table in the narthex with more information on OACP and extra boxes for donations. Monetary donations should be designated for the mission of the month, the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP).



OACP Mission Statement: "Oshkosh Area Community Pantry strives to eliminate food insecurity."

OACP Vision Statement: "The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry believes in the vision of a community where no one goes hungry. We will work tirelessly and in collaboration with all partners necessary to achieve this goal."

From your Education Committee:

TRUNK OR TREAT IS BACK

Friends and families of Wesley along with the Oshkosh United Martial Arts will be bringing Trunk or Treat back this year after taking a break the last couple of years due to Covid. The event will be held at the church, 761 Florida St., Oshkosh, WI on Saturday, October 29, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Admission is a canned good donation to help community needs.

Car trunks and the back of pickups and SUV's will be decorated with lights and Halloween imagination to bring a safe and fun trick or treating experience to our community. Families can travel the length of the church parking lot and back to get treats and laughs and possibly be spooked.

Oshkosh United Martial Arts will be creating a haunted hallway inside the church for the first time ever! All ages can experience this scary hallway. It will be kicked up a notch for the more daring and the opposite will also be available.

Oshkosh United Martial Arts is a family run martial art school led by Gordon and Wendy LeDioyt that rents space at the church for their classes Monday thru Thursday 5 p.m.-7 p.m. It not only teaches Tae Kwon Do but courtesy, respect, focus and perseverance.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors-everyone is welcome at our worship services held Sunday mornings at 9:30a.m. There is Sunday school for the children on Sunday mornings and several adult bible studies are available during the week.

If you don't wish to decorate a trunk, please consider donating a bag of candy to be given out to the trick or treaters.

Thanks in advance to everyone that will help make this event happen.

Submitted by

Donna LaPoint, Education Chair



Trunk
or Treat

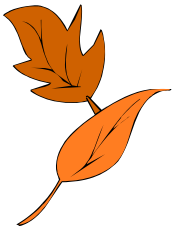


Prayer Chain

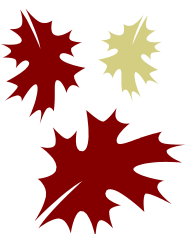
Wesley has a Prayer Chain that we have had for many, many years. It is a line of communication among believers who are willing to be "on call" to pray for a specific need. The set-up allows urgent requests to be relayed immediately without waiting for the pastor to announce them at the Sunday service. A phone call to the pastor or church office and/or to one of the anchor people activates the network.

Over the years our list of Prayer Chain participants has dwindled. We currently have two teams and would like to add some more participants.

If this is something you would be interested in, call Sally Roe, 920/231-8729.



October 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 a.m. Worship World Wide Communion Sunday 11:00 Football Pot Luck Party	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30-6:30 p.m. MA 1:30 p.m. Worship	10:30 a.m. "The Daily Walk" Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		Pork Chop Dinner -5:00 p.m. Pick Up
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. The scripture reading discussion	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Education	5:30-6:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "The Daily Walk" Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-11:45 a.m. The scripture reading discussion	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. SPRC	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Church Council	5:30-6:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "The Daily Walk" Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 a.m. Worship Laity Sunday 10:45-11:45 a.m. The scripture reading discussion	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30-6:30 p.m. MA	Day By Day Meal		4-6 p.m. Trunk or Treat
30	31					
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-11:45 a.m. The scripture reading discussion	5:30 p.m. MA					MA—Martial Arts TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Wesley United Methodist Church
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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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