

October 2024



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

As a congregation we have been in recover from the upheaval in our life that Covid-19 created. It's gift to us is the opportunity to look at our world afresh and ask of ourselves we are in sync with it, and where God is leading us.

1. We are in a time of incredible globalize economic change. There is growing chasm between the super-wealthy and everyone else. The middle class have been "hollowed out". We have a knowledge based 24/7 work culture that no longer sets aside time for church or family.
2. We are no longer focused on family. Even the need to have family in the sense of settling down and having children is something undergoing transformation. Leave It to Beaver, nuclear family, Brady Bunch, blended family, Modern Family, this family is complete with adoptions, multiple habitation, straight, gay, multicultural, and blended traditional.
3. The "nones" are the fastest-growing group (those who report no religious affiliation). The growing population of the "spiritual but not religious," is not anti-Jesus, just anti-church,

mostly. People are open and even hungry spiritual meaning, but the common assumption is that it cannot be found in institutional religion.

4. Technology is not only changing every industry, but it is also changing society and the meaning of community itself. Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz as she walked into the Technicolor and we realize we aren't in Kansas anymore. Through the various livestream features, people can experience momentous events as they unfold. Now, experimental technologies in virtual reality are not simply providing a one-dimensional optical and aural experience, but full sensory immersion. In the 1970's, the clunky personal computer was beginning to become available; today we carry around miniature supercomputers on our wrists or in our pockets. It means we are no longer connected to our neighborhoods and community.
5. Community itself has been remixed. There has been significant erosion of social capital and the concept of neighbors as we struggle with immigration. Mister Roger's

(Continued on page 2)

**Dates
to
Remember**

Wed, October 9

Finance

9:00 a.m.

Membership Care

2:00 p.m.

Sat, October 12

Pork Chop Dinner

4:30 p.m.

Mon, October 14

Trustees

6:30 p.m.

Tues, October 15

Church Council

6:30 p.m.

Thurs, Oct. 17

Education Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Wed, October 23

Worship

1:30 p.m.

Sat, October 26

Trunk or Treat

2:00—4:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

Neighborhood no longer exists, where we were taught the importance of learning, the values of neighborly kindness and compassion. The Information Age, technology has made the world smaller. Humanity is now truly global community. Microelectronic and communication technologies enable us to connect across geographics and time. We get the news from FOX and CNN rather than our neighbors.

- 6. The dominant North American version of church goes back to Emperor Constantine in AD 313 when Christianity became the state religion. Recognized and affirmed by the secular powers of the world. The United States has operated in the Christendom assumption that we are a Christian nation and that the church enjoys a central role in Western culture. We have built it, and they have not come. The Christendom model as we know it, is disintegrating.

God turns deserts into jungles. God turns cemeteries into gardens. God makes dead things come alive again. We describe the power God uses to do this with the word *resurrection*. How exactly does God make on a new creation in the present? It's certainly not that God throws us into a dumpster and starts over. God works with the existing material, reshaping and recreating.

The formational story of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Resurrection is the ultimate narrative of disruption. The empty tomb throws a money wrench in the death-dealing cycle of business as usual. It changes everything. Resurrection is the power that dismantles all other forms of power. And it is to that power that we must turn in this new age.



**October is Pastor
Appreciation Month.
Thank you, Pastor Chuck!**



BIRTHDAYS

3	Jacob Vienola	22	Julie Wilke
8	Jeff Roe		Wayne* Zimmerman
	Jacque Reeves	23	Corwin Bates
11	Lynne Moeller	25	Victoria Krueger
14	Marlin Wege	27	Dennis Bradley
16	Peter Uecker	30	Tracey Lovell
17	Jim* LaPoint	31	Anthony Colantonio

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Newsletter Sponsorship

- The sponsor for the October newsletter is Dale Lager. Please consider being a sponsor for the December 2024 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 2024.

Online Services still available to view on Facebook at site below:

<https://facebook.com/wesleyumcoshkosh/>

Sunday School News

A tradition at Wesley is that we give bibles to our third graders each year. This year we will have three students receiving bibles. They are Cecily Flores, Violet Nesbit and Aria Tuttle. The bibles will be given to them during the church service on Sunday, October 6.

Mark your calendars as our children's choir will be singing on Laity Sunday/Children's Sabbath, October 20 during the worship service.

Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for those wanting to decorate their cars and hand out treats to the children. We'd like to know how many cars to make room for in our parking lot, so we can space them out accordingly. We had 13 cars last year; can we top that this year? Another way to support this Sunday School event would be to donate candy/treats for the trunk or treaters to give out. A table will be set up in the narthex starting Sunday, October 6 for these donations. The Oshkosh United Martial Arts will again be doing a Haunted Hallway. They are, as always, making this appropriate for all ages. A donation of a canned food item for the food pantry is requested.

The date has also been set for our children's Sunday School Christmas program; it will be Sunday, December 15. They will be doing a presentation during the worship service and more details will be provided once they have been finalized.

Also, this past summer, Wesley participated in an ecumenical Vacation Bible School. It had 6 area churches involved and about 60 kids attended. Wesley has been asked to host this event next summer and after careful consideration, we have accepted the honor. Watch for more information as it becomes available.



From Shelter to Stability

In June 2023, Day by Day Shelter launched the Guest Employment Program with the support of a Community Impact grant from your Community Foundation.

“Impact of the Guest Employment Program”

Half of the 12 individuals employed have gone on to secure stable housing thanks to their job.

Participants worked over 1400 hours at the shelter in essential roles like cleaning, organizing donations and laundry management.

Beyond employment, guests gained valuable work experience, new skills and a renewed sense of purpose-essential steps on their path to independence.

Tuesday Afternoons at Wesley

What are you doing at that time? We invite you to join about a half dozen or so other people to make mats that serve the needs of people who are in the midst of a disaster. These mats have a lot of great qualities. First, the plastic bags are kept out of the garbage hills that are quickly growing all over the country. Secondly, the bags are given a chance to be used again for a very special purpose. Thirdly, the mats have several distinct qualities that are needed when disaster hits. The mats are plastic, and therefore watertight, light in weight or transportable, and help maintain the body heat of the person who lays on the mat. Fourthly, the people who come together to make them have an enjoyable time, usually with people they probably don't see during the week between worship services.

The making of the mats is quite simple. The bags are folded and cut making loops. The loops are knotted together to make plarm (plastic yarn), and the plarm is woven to make the mat. The final step is to braid 3 strips of 6 loops to make a tie that binds the mat to make it easy for carrying.

The bags themselves have qualities that make them good for different aspects of the mat. We have learned that the warp needs to be the strongest part and so the bags from Fleet Farm, Menards, Lowes and Festival Foods are used. The weft (the woven part) need not be so strong so any of the bags from Walmart, Pick and Save, Piggly Wiggly as well as any other bag works just fine. How many bags does it take. The one answer word is LOTS. We have made an estimate and for the Warp we need $(4 \times 30) + (2 \times 8)$ which equals 136 pieces of plarm and that plarm is one bag per loop. For the weft the number is less exact as how many strips depends on the thickness of the bags. We estimated/counted and found that we made about 326 passes and we use between two and three bags were pass. However, each bag for the weft is made into two pieces. So let's just guess that we use between 350 and 400 bags for the weft. All together that means we need at least 500 bags for each mat!

We have just finished our sixth mat. That says we have kept 3,000 plastic bags out of our landfills! And it also means that our congregation and friends have brought in over 3000 bags! Let's give God the glory. All six bags were given to Midwest Mission.

Thanks for bringing in the plastic bags. Please keep them coming!! And we invite others to join us. The more we make the more people we can serve and the more fun we will have talking to our friends while we make mats together!

Save the Date

All Saints Day will be
on November 3, 2024.



Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry

The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry continues to serve as the largest hunger relief program in Southern Winnebago County. Throughout 2023, OACP served an average of 2,200 households or just under 6,000 people a month totaling 2,000,000 pounds of food distributed for the year. Pantry usage in 2023 saw an increase of households and total people served by 40%. Additionally, we have seen an increase in new registrants by 70%. Our dignified guest shopping experience and the power of choice in selecting foods best for guests and their families is a staple of our store. Rising costs in both food and everyday life and the reduction of Foodshare benefits have forced many families to choose where to spend their money and, in some cases, go without. OACP is here to supply relief to those families, so they don't have to sacrifice their food/nutrition needs over other essentials to support their families.

Already in 2024 OACP is remaining consistent in each of these areas compared to 2023. 793 new registrants have already signed up, we are averaging 2,300 households a month, and we have distributed almost 1.5 million pounds of food. Based on early indicators, OACP will continue to see very high numbers of shoppers.

Here is a story that came directly from one of our guests:

"Coming to the food pantry has been such a wonderful blessing! Being a single mother & working 2-3 jobs, constantly struggling to make all ends meet is the biggest stressor in my life. Being able to save money on groceries and coming to the pantry has been so extremely helpful for me and my family; not only financially but also mentally and emotionally. It's such a HUGE relief when I am able to get ground beef and chicken, fresh fruits and veggies, items that will last in my freezer, occasional goodies for my kids, and sometimes hygiene products or pet food that can save me a nice chunk of money for the month. It truly helps to lift a constant weight I carry on my shoulders. Words can not begin to express my gratitude for EACH and every volunteer who helps out so many people in need! I'm very certain ALL of you do not get to hear and feel all of the many Thank you's that you deserve - I thank you all from the bottom of my heart! You do sooo much more than what you realize - you truly make people's day, week, month, and years! Every little bit of what you do here helps sooo many who are in need and it's so much more than being able to provide a meal or two, or ten. It's making families feel at peace; not having to worry about how they are going to be able to pay for groceries, lifting a burden, it's making family feel like family! The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry literally makes me feel happier and less stressed, which in turn, makes me a better version of myself! Much love and Gratitude!"

Adult Studies

There are three different adult studies available each week for you to attend.

1. Sunday morning adult bible study class meets after church each week studying "Walking in Grace" discussion.
2. Thursday morning class meets each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. They are discussing lectionary each week, but are looking into a possible book study. Stay tuned for more information.
3. A new class will be starting on Thursday, September 12 from 2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m. each week. This class will be a Bible study on the book of John. This study will offer more details than just causal reading.

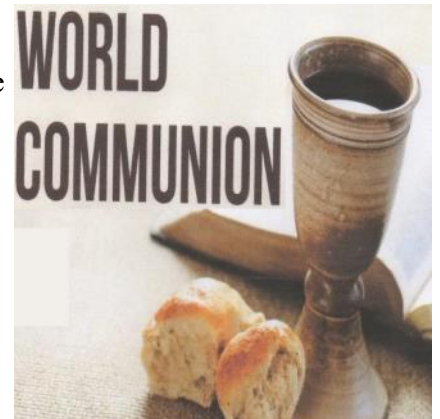
World Wide Communion Sunday is October 6

World Communion Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday in October, which in 2024 is October 6. It's a day when Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper, or communion, to remember and affirm Christ as the head of the church. The tradition began in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr, a minister at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

On World Communion Sunday, Christians break bread and share the cup in a variety of ways, depending on their congregation. It can be a time for worship and learning about different Christian traditions from around the world. It's also a day to receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering, which is a way to share with those in need.

Last year, your generosity raised \$443 thousand, enabling undergraduate and graduate studies for those who could not afford an education, helping to shape the future leaders of the United Methodist Church. An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support several important educational initiatives:

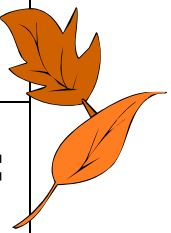
Fifty percent of the funds collected on World Communion Sunday are used for scholarships that benefit undergraduate or graduate level students of color pursuing ordained ministry. Thirty-five percent of the funds collected provide grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. In-Service Training Grants are designed to bolster recruitment, training, and retention of persons of color for leadership positions at every level of the church and its ministry. Fifteen percent of the funds are used for leadership development among our partner churches and communities in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and people from communities of color in the U.S. Together, we can achieve much more than we could alone. Your generosity reflects God's glory through young leaders, equipping them to pursue God's call in their lives.



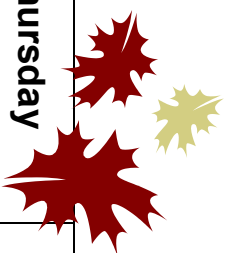
Answers to United Methodist Circuit Rider Quiz

Please find the answers below for the quiz from September's newsletter.

1. The correct answer is itinerant preachers who traveled a specific area preaching the gospel.
2. The correct answer is Helenor Alter Davison.
3. The correct answer is True.
4. The correct answer is you are willing to accept whatever assignment your bishop gives you.
5. The correct answer is a specific geographic route to new or established congregations.
6. The correct answer is 200-500 miles.
7. The correct answer is books to read and sell.
8. The correct answer is all of the above.
9. The correct answer is bicycles.
10. The correct answer is Bishop Francis Asbury.



October 2023



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4	5
	MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly MG= Morning Glory CC= Chancel Choir		10:00 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
6	World Communion Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	7	8	9	10	11	12
	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:00 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	9:00 a.m. Finance 2:00 p.m. Membership Care 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		Pork Chop Supper 4:30 p.m. – Pick Up 5:00 p.m.— Eat Here	
13	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	14	15	16	17	18	19
	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10:00 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 Church Council	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education			
20	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	21	22	23	24	25	26
	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:00 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	10:00 a.m. Quarry Park Book Club	Trunk or Treat 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	
27	9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Football Tailgate Party	28	29	30	31		
	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:00 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA			

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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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