

August 2026



Office: 235-3070

Pastor Ben Morris

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 the Pastor

A Time For Every Season

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."
—Ecclesiastes 3:1

The words of Ecclesiastes remind us of something we all know to be true: life is lived in seasons. There are seasons that feel comfortable and familiar, and there are seasons that invite us into something new. There are seasons of planning and seasons of harvest, seasons of beginnings and seasons of endings. Through it all, God remains present.

On August 1, Wesley United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church will begin a new season of shared ministry as a two-point charge. Along with that transition come a few practical changes. Wesley's Sunday worship will begin at 9:00 a.m., while First United Methodist Church will gather for worship at 10:30 a.m.

As part of the transition, I will be setting aside regular

office hours every week at each church—Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Wesley and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. If you should need to connect outside of these times please contact me for an appointment. I try to respond quickly to emails throughout the week, except for my Sabbath on Mondays. My cell phone, also listed below, is the best way to contact me. Please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone, especially for emergencies.

I'm grateful for the ministries already taking place in both congregations. There is much to celebrate, much to learn from one another, and many opportunities to share Christ's love in our community together.

Whenever change comes, it's normal to feel a mix of emotions. Some changes are exciting; others require us to adjust routines we've held for years. Ecclesiastes reminds us

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Dates to Remember

Tuesday, August 11
Education Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18
Church Council
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19
**Pet Blessing Outdoor
Service**
6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Mary McKeown is the sponsor for the August 2026 newsletter. All newsletter sponsors have been covered for 2026. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses.

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that change itself is not something to fear. Every season has its purpose, and every season offers new opportunities to discover God's grace. I believe that God has much for all of us in this next season together.

Thank you for your flexibility, your prayers, and your willingness to embrace this new season together in ministry . I look forward to worshipping with you, serving beside you, and discovering all that God has in store for us in the days ahead.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ben Morris

Email: wisconsinpastorben@gmail.com

Cell Phone:920-252-9822



AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

1	Connie Klaisner	15	Erne Mains
2	Bob Heisler	18	Marlin Eckstein
4	Malory Fournier	20	Jean Drayton
5	Scott Brownlea		Curt Heisler
8	Betty Croninger	22	Barbara Uecker
9	Sue Thomas	24	Jack Thomas
11	Shirley Hiland	26	Jordan Bates
12	Mary McKeown	30	Robert* Stein
13	Linda Colantonio		

ANNIVERSARIES

7	Sue Thomas & Gary Johnston
29	Jerry & Kathy Krueger

Women of Wesley

We've had a busy summer: Quilt Making, Rummage Sale, Garden Walk, and the free musical "David, the King of Jerusalem" presented by Inspiration Theatre in Winneconne. Also, Linda Fournier, Lucy Jewson and Sharri Christie are planning to make homemade doggie treats for Pet Blessing Service.

What can we do to top that? We are having a meeting to discuss just that! It's planned for Saturday, July 29 at 9:30 a.m. There will be refreshments served.

On the agenda will look to plan fun stuff and projects, make final plans for Holiday bread baking and cookie walk. Brin your ideas.

Can't wait to see everyone and hear what ideas we can come up with for the months ahead.

Donna LaPoint and Betty Croninger

Wesley United Methodist Church has been involved in feeding the needy in Oshkosh since 1990. Wesley was a member of the Ecumenical Food Pantry that was located downtown in the Episcopal Church on Division Street. At that time five other churches joined together to form a panty. About 2004 First United Methodist joined the six to make seven churches. By 2007 the demand for food had increased enough that members of the Oshkosh community recognized a need and began to make plans to establish the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. St. Vincent de Paul offered part of the building they were moving into on Jackson Street. On April 21,2009, the pantry moved into the offered space and gained a walk-in freezer and refrigerator, many more feet of floor space, and a truck loading dock

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Food Pantry

The pantry located at St. Vincent de Paul has strived to meet the needs in the area. They are the largest open-choice food pantry in Northeast Wisconsin. The clients are able to choose the food they need for their households, similar to a grocery store. In 2005 the pantry gave 2,789,602 pounds of food and served 2852 households.

The pantry is located in the St. Vincent de Paul store at 2551 Jackson Street. The hours are Monday 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

We would like to give the pantry jars of peanut butter, jelly and crackers. A collection will be located on the missions table. Thank you!

Pastor Ben Preaching At Evergreen

Pastor Ben will be preaching at the Vespers Service at Evergreen on Sunday, August 30th. If you are an Evergreen resident, come by the chapel for service at 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon on the 30th!



Rummage Sale Update

The Wesley Annual Rummage Sale is over. We want to thank everyone who helped make this another successful year. Our workers started at age eleven and went up from there. No one is turned away. It is a great month of fun, socializing and of course work.

You should know that even a little bit helps us out. It may be giving an hour of your time, maybe a small donation of things no longer needed, back your favorite treat, or showing up to help set up or clean up. Each one of you helped us achieve our goal. When you put a lot of little bits into the pot, soon the pot is full. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

This year we donated to the following organizations.

- ReStore—Habitat for Humanity
- Day by Day Warming Shelter
- Belize Shoe Drive
- Lions Club of Larsen
- Quilter Club
- Teachers Closet of Oshkosh
- Oshkosh Martial Arts
- Goodwill
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Guatemala Service Project
- Lucy Jewson
- Vernita Green
- Kyle Fournier

On hundred percent of the profits this year are being donated to the trustees to put air conditioning in a few more rooms in the other end of the church (classrooms', fireside room, and the old office).

Linda & Jenny Fournier



Thank You

The Teachers' Closet Inc.

This is a local mission based here in Oshkosh at 530 Bay Shore Drive. It is to provide teachers with needed supplies for kids from preschool to high school.

School Supplies

Markers
Highlighters
Colored Pencils
Pencils and Mechanical Pencils
Pencil Pouches & Boxes
Index Cards
Glue & Glue Sticks
Scissors

Office Supplies

White Out
Tape
Staplers
Tape Dispensers
Calculators
Paper Clips
ETC

Crafting Supplies

Pom Poms
Pipe Cleaners
Paint Brushes
Water Colors
Stamping Ink Pads
Yarn, Beads & Buttons
Clothes Pins — Craft Sticks
Felt Squares

Hygiene Items

Band Aids
Tooth Brushes
Tooth Paste
Bars of Soap
Deodorant
ETC

Clothing

Socks
Winter Hats
Gloves & Mittens

MISC.

Plastic bags & Paper Lunch Bags
Binders & Journals
Card Stock
White Typing Paper
Seashells

Not a complete list, but as you can see it covers anything you would find in a classroom of Preschool through High School.

Blessing of our Pets Worship Service

“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.” UMH#147

Animals are accepting of all animals. A squirrel does not hate his squirrel neighbor. A dog does not bite the hand that feeds it.

Our pets are members of our families. Please join us in a special outdoor worship service on Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m. for a blessing of the animals. Service will be held in the prayer garden just off the parking lot. Please bring your pets to be blessed and lawn chairs.

There will be a free will offering given to the Humane Society. Also, homemade doggie treats! Invite your friends and neighbors. Let's make this a wonderful community event!

Rediscover Wesley's vision of a lay-led church

Excerpts from the article by J.F. Knapp, III who is the South Georgia Conference Lay Leader and the Lay Leader of Grace UMC in Thomasville, Georgia.

I am not a learned biblical scholar. I haven't been to seminary. I have not read the Bible in the original Hebrew and Greek. I fully admit that I am still trying to learn, because here's where I am in my faith journey: I don't think we are meant to figure it all out. Study Scripture, show God's grace.

God could have written everything in plain and simple language, had he wanted to. But he didn't. I think that is because we are meant to spend our lifetime reading and re-reading the Bible. Not just reading it, but studying it. Not just studying it, but doing a deep dive trying to understand the culture of the time and how man's nature shapes and shaped the challenges. Meditating and pray over it.

I think we're meant to form study groups and discuss God's Word, to learn and grow together. To sit and listen as our pastors try to help us, as they go through their own spiritual journey. And when judgement comes, the test is not going to be, "Did you figure it out? Did you interpret it correctly?" It's going to be, "Did you live it out? Did you dive into this process and spend your life growing closer to Christ and showing his love?"

We're supposed to take the lessons we're gleaning and apply them in our own lives so that people see how we are impacted by the Word. And if we're learning the right lessons, we should be lifting one another up, finding encouragement from one another and sharing that encouragement and hope with others. Those things should cause people to look at us and say, "I want some of that," or, "Tell me about this book you're reading! I've seen enough, now I want this man called Jesus in my life!"

The laity are not part of God's church, the laity ARE God's church! Church is not some place we go. Church is who we are called to be. Whether in the pew on Sunday morning, in the workplace during the week or in the grocery store line—YOU are God's church!

Church is supposed to be a shelter in the storms of life, a place where the outcast can find acceptance, where the hurting can find healing. I want you to hold up a mirror right now, and ask yourselves, are you that church?

Jesus loves you enough that he lay down his life for you. Clearly Jesus is not using the word "love" to describe an emotion, a war, fuzzy feeling. Jesus uses the word "love" to describe an action. The amazing thing about love is that a small amount can have a huge impact.

We find ourselves precisely where John Wesley intended, with much responsibility resting upon the shoulders of laity. Now is the time for laity to join arms in true partnership with our clergy and BE the church we are called to be: That haven from the storms of life, that place of peace and healing, that place of encouragement where the love of Christ is found in overflowing abundance.

Happy Elders

Please plan on joining us for a happy elders outing on September 23. We will be having breakfast at Evergreen at 11:30 a.m. and cost is \$5.00 per person. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those planning on attending. We look forward to seeing everyone.



August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA	5:30 p.m. MA		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Education	5:30 p.m. MA	5:30 p.m. MA		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Church Council	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Pet Blessing Outdoor Service	5:30 p.m. MA		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA	5:30 p.m. MA		
30	31					
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA					

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August



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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members and friends of Wesley
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