

April 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 topic of my column this month is “faith”. The major heresy of the Western churches is that they have largely turned the very meaning of faith into its exact opposite. True faith involves not knowing and even not needing to know, but we made faith demanding to know and insisting that we do know! The original sin, brilliantly described, warned us against this temptation at the very beginning.

We hear our story of humanity’s original sin in Genesis 2. But this sin, as we’ve called it, really doesn’t look like a sin at all. In fact, wanting knowledge feels like virtue. Haven’t you ever wondered about that? “You may indeed eat of all of the trees in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you are not to eat” (Genesis 2:16–17). Why would that be a sin? It sounds like a good thing!

In seminary, we called it moral theology. We ate bushels from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, trying to decide who was good and who was bad. On other levels, our

knowledge unfortunately refined and even created the very judgmental mind that Jesus strictly warned us against (see Matthew 7:1–2).

When we lead off with our judgments, love will seldom happen. Religion is almost always corrupted when the mind, which needs to make moral judgments about everything, is the master instead of the servant.

Some would think that is the whole meaning of Christianity: to be able to decide who’s going to heaven and who isn’t, who is holy and who is unholy. This is much more a search for control than it is a search for truth, love, or God. It has to do with ego, which needs to pigeonhole everything to give itself that sense of “I know” and “I am in control.”

I guess God knew that religion would take this direction. So, God said, “Don’t do it. Don’t eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” God is trying to keep us from a lust for certitude, an undue need for explanation, resolution,

(Continued on page 2)

Dates
to
Remember

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Worship

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. worship

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

2 p.m. worship

Sunday, April 9

Easter Service

9:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 29

Spring Clean-Up

8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Pork Chop Dinner

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

(Continued from page 1)

and answers. Frankly, these things make biblical faith impossible.

When we are allowed to name certain individuals as “bad,” persecution, scapegoating, and violence almost always follow. When we too easily presume that we are one of the “good” people, we largely live in illusion and prejudice. I say this as a religious person, but religion has been the justification of much of the violence in human history. God wanted to undercut that very violence at the beginning.

It seems that God is asking humanity to live inside of a cosmic humility. In that holding pattern, instead of insisting on dividing reality into the good and the bad, we bear the ambiguity, the inconsistencies, and the brokenness of all things. It is our ultimate act of solidarity with humanity and with the world. When we do that we are living a life of “faith”.



BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Jean Roe	April 15	Craig Heisler
April 3	Brian Green	April 16	Danny Colantonio
April 4	Garrett Vienola	April 19	Steven Bathke
April 10	Jim Witzke	April 20	Gordon Dunham
April 11	Meghan LaPoint		

Newsletter Sponsorship

The sponsor for the April newsletter is Sue Krueger in memory of Tom Krueger. Please consider being a sponsor for the May—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.

Easter Services & Events

Week before Easter

Facebook 10 a.m. daily morning prayer

Palm Sunday	April 2 nd	Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Service at 9:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	April 6 th	6:30 p.m. at Wesley
Good Friday	April 7 th	2:00 p.m. at Wesley
Easter	April 9 th	9:30 a.m. *no sunrise service

Palm Sunday Breakfast



The Easter Breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. The buffet breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. in Koeller Hall. Bev and Bob Heisler from LaSures will be catering the meal and a free will offering will be collected. Another thing different is that there is a sign-up sheet for this breakfast to more accurately determine the number in attendance and how much food is to be prepared. We hope to see you there. Hosanna!

Easter Flowers



This Easter we will **not** be ordering flowers for the sanctuary. Instead, we'd like to ask our congregation to bring potted plants, labeled with your name, in by Good Friday April 7. Plants can be taken home after the Easter service.

Let's make the sanctuary look beautiful this Easter!

From your Education Committee:

Sunday Morning Adult Study: The Lenten study on the book "Luke: Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts & Outlaws" by Adam Hamilton had an average attendance of about 12 and finished up on Sunday, March 26. The class will resume their study on the book "Walking In Grace 2023" (formerly "Daily Guideposts") meeting on Sunday mornings following worship service.

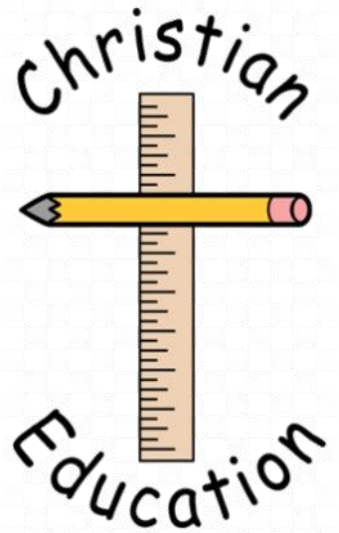
Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs, a yearlong study, led by Vernita Green meeting Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. is 7 weeks into the study. Average attendance is 4.

The Bible study meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons led by Wayne Zimmerman is now studying the book of Obadiah. Average attendance is 7.

Children's Sunday School: They will be doing a processional for Palm Sunday along with choir members. Kyle Fournier will be Jesus.

An Easter Egg Hunt along with crafts and games is being planned for Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Recognition Sunday will be Sunday May 21. This will be the last day of Sunday School until Fall. We will recognize the teachers, students and high school grads (Malory Fournier). The children plan on singing "Peace Like A River" during children's time during the worship service. Ice cream sundaes will be served at a reception in Koeller Hall following the service.

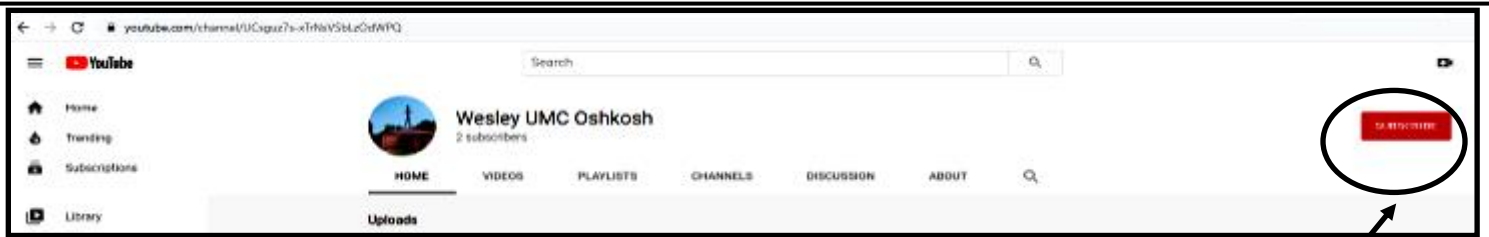


Memorial for Tom Krueger

Saturday, April 15



There will be a memorial for Tom Krueger at Wesley on April 15th. The visitation will be from 10 a.m. until noon. At noon, there will be a short service and people are welcome to say a few words if they'd like. After the service, there will be military honors followed by a luncheon. Everything will be in Koehler Hall.



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.



UMC CORNER

Native American Sunday - 3rd Sunday in April

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach including scholarships. Fifty percent of the funds collected in our conference stays in our own conference.

The three ministries located in Wisconsin are as follows:

1. Native American Ministry, Milwaukee, WI is a 20-year-old ministry serving a multicultural, urban community. The church engages in ecumenical prayer services at Indian Summer Lake Front Festival and the Milwaukee mid-winter Pow-wow. The Broken Arrow Recovery Group meets at the ministry.
2. The Odanah United Methodist Church was dedicated on April 3, 1898 by A.J. Davis of the Ashland District. Its founder and first minister was Thomas C. Thomas, an ordained Ojibwa Native American from Michigan. Thomas was a member of the West Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was elected during his time to be a delegate to Washington DC. The current ministry has a Friday evening Soup for the Soul prayer/study group, and participates in a community prayer ecumenical group in nearby Ashland. The church has a small elementary Sunday school and hosts several VIM groups during the summer months.
3. The Oneida Church is close to 200 years old and the oldest church in the Conference, having brought the Methodist Societies to Wisconsin from New York. The church is open to all people as well as the Native Americans. The Oneida Church is committed to walk alongside the traditionalists, while bringing the gospel to them in a culturally sensitive way. There are 80-100 in worship every Sunday with larger gatherings on holidays and special events.

Sewing Machines Can Change the Life of a Family

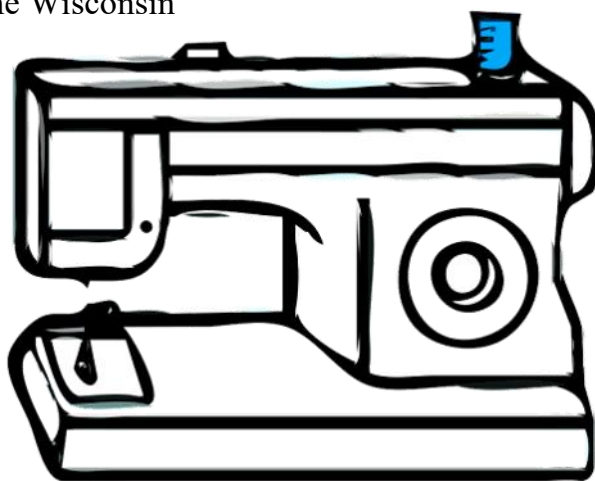
MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Bolivia Partnership

A sewing machine.....an everyday item for most of us in the United States can transform lives. How? Let me share.

Women in Bolivia very often do not have a way to earn a living with dignity. And often they eventually will sell their bodies in order to feed their families. A sewing machine can change that. When the sewing machines we send to Bolivia are received, women are given fabric and classes on how to sew. They make their first items. Those are sold which gives the money to buy more fabric to make more items. They sell some of what they make which gives them the money to buy food and other needs and also to buy fabric to make clothes that fit and are appropriate. Those clothes, that the women can now make, give dignity and food to the family, a chance to do for themselves what they have wanted to do but couldn't plus gives them security and hope for the future.

As part of the partnership with Bolivia established through the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC, Wesley Mission Team has chosen the Bolivia Partnership as our April Mission of the Month. We have chosen to lift-up the need for sewing machines as our emphasis. Last year Wisconsin Conference purchased 6 motorcycles that were given to pastors. The motorcycles allow the pastors to visit and respond to needs of the people within their parish in hours instead of the walk that might take the whole day. The motorcycles allow for better connections and service as the roads are horrible at best and absent in some cases. This year in this same Partnership we will highlight sewing machines. Sewing machines have the power to lift a family out of dire need, give them dignity, and a chance to help their neighbors too.



In the United States, most households have one or maybe more sewing machines. Many sewing machines have been passed down from generation to generation, until they become antiques on a shelf or clutter filling a box in a dusty basement. If you are one of these households, or know someone who is, please share the idea and think about becoming a part of the Bolivia Partnership.

If you do not have a sewing machine to give, the possibility of giving money to help buy a sewing machine is available. Make your monetary check out to Wesley UMC and put Bolivia in the note line.

Pork Chop Dinner



Once again, Wesley is ordering Pork Chop dinners from Waukau Methodist Church for April 29th, 2023. The cost has not been set yet. Dinner(s) can be picked up at Wesley Church from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. If you would like a pork chop dinner, please contact Randy Lovell at 920-589-5136 or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the quantity you would like. Orders are due by April 9th but the sooner you order, the better your chances of a getting a meal as quantities are limited.

Randy Lovell

From Your Trustees

- It was discussed and approved to number the outside doors around the church (in case of fire or ambulance or just giving directions).
- It was also approved to go ahead with a new push lawnmower from Kitz & Pfiel to replace the old one at the Parsonage.
- Bethany was concerned about Easter parking (extra people on Easter). The Trustees did not think there should be a problem.
- The Archives Committee is in the process to re-do the pictures of the Pastors that have served Wesley in the past on the wall with new frames (9 pictures in one frame). Trustees will mount them when they are ready.
- Trustees has scheduled spring cleanup for April 29th, approximately from 8 a.m. until noon, with a backup date of May 6th.
- I had a conversation with Valley Sealcoating, and they informed us that we are 14th on the list this spring. They are anticipating they will get to us in late May or June (more than likely June) to do our parking lot.

Thanks, Mike LaPoint



LIFE LINE SCREENING 2023

Life Line Screening is available at Wesley again. It will be held Friday, May 5, 2023. Appointments starting at 9 a.m. and last one at 5 p.m. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Call toll free: 1-844-591-7098 or Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://www.llsa.org/SOCIAL/HC).

Cost for all four screenings is \$149.00. Screenings include Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial

Disease (PAD), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) and Atrial Fibrillation. These are ultrasound tests and are non-invasive screenings that are completely painless, they take about 10 minutes each. Screenings are recommended for anyone age 50 and older. More information regarding these screenings can be found on the table in the narthex.

There are two free screenings available to our members in appreciation for our church hosting this event. Please contact Mike LaPoint, 920-410-3553, these will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Make your appointment today-it just may save your life.



April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023.	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday	2 p.m. Good Friday Service	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 a.m. Easter Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		10 a.m. Memorial for Tom Krueger
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 a.m. Native American Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Church Council	1:30 p.m. Worship Com. 5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "Christian Believer" Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		8 a.m.—noon. Spring Clean-Up Pork Chop Dinner Pick up 4:30-5:00 p.m.
30						
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023						

MA= Martial Arts
TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
published monthly for the
members and friends of Wesley
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