



# The Wesleyan Connection

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

**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,*

## Notes from the Pastor:

April 22 is Earth Day this year. As we have become more concerned about the ecology of the earth and the looming dangers of climate change, we have entered what some call the ecological age.

The ecological age fosters the deep awareness of the sacred presence within each reality of the universe. There is an awe and reverence due to the stars in the heavens, the sun, and all heavenly bodies; to the seas and the continents; to all living forms of trees and flowers; to the myriad expressions of life in the sea; to the animals of the forests and the birds of the air. To wantonly destroy a living species is to silence forever a divine voice.

To preserve this sacred world of our origins from destruction, our great need is for renewal of the entire Western religious-spiritual tradition. We need to move from a spirituality of alienation from the natural world to a spirituality of intimacy with it, to a spirituality

of the divine as revealed in the visible world about us, from a spirituality concerned with justice simply to humans to a justice that includes the larger Earth community.

We cannot save ourselves without saving the world in which we live. We will live or die as this world lives or dies. We can say this both physically and spiritually. We will be spiritually nourished by this world or we will be starved for spiritual nourishment. No other revelatory experience can do for the human what the experience of the natural world does.

In the indigenous view, humans are viewed as somewhat lesser beings in the democracy of species. We are referred to as the younger brothers of Creation, so like younger brothers we must learn from our elders. Plants were here first and have had a long time to figure things out. They live both above and below ground and hold the earth in place. Plants know how to make food from

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Tuesday, April 2nd  
**Happy Elders Meal**  
Evergreen @ 11:00 a.m.,.

Wednesday, April 10th  
**Education Committee**  
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 14  
**Native American Sunday**  
9:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, April 16th  
**Church Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17th  
**Worship Committee**  
1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20  
**Family Camp in Koeller Hall**  
3-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 27  
**Spring Cleanup**  
8:00 a.m.—noon  
**Pork Chop Dinner To-Go**  
Pick-Up 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Online Services still available to  
view on  
Facebook and YouTube**

(Continued from page 1)

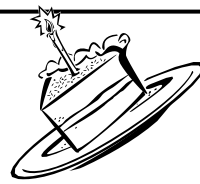
light and water. Not only do they feed themselves, but they make enough to sustain the lives of all the rest of us. Plants are providers for the rest of the community and exemplify the virtue of generosity, always offering food.

If humans didn't exist at all, life would continue on earth. Let's not flatter ourselves: biologically speaking, the earth does not need us to tend and care for it. Life on earth existed for eons before we arrived. Have we made the earth better by our arrival?

Theologians have long interpreted Genesis 1:26-28 ["be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it"] as God's instruction to humans to unfold the potential of creation. Very well, but in our unfolding of potentials, we can also destroy, especially now that we have become so very fruitful and multiplied to so many billions. "Stewarding" and "caring" are only necessary because humans take things from the earth to survive.

Many indigenous peoples share the understanding that we are each endowed with a particular gift, a unique ability. It is understood that these gifts have a dual nature, though: a gift is also a responsibility. If the bird's gift is song, then it has a responsibility to greet the day with music. It is the duty of birds to sing and the rest of us receive the song as a gift.

Asking what is our responsibility is perhaps also to ask, what is our gift? And how shall we use it to make the Earth a better home for all of God's creation?



# April

## Birthdays

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

### A thank you note from Bonnie Steineke's family:

We would like to thank you for all the love and support shown our family and friends during the difficult time of my mother's passing. Your kindness and love for my mother was so apparent and moving; it was a great comfort to us through this time. We also wanted to thank the entire church community on behalf of my mother for their love, support and warmth through all the years she was a member. I know she loved going to church, being a part of the community, and being involved with so many of the caring and supportive activities the church provided to the Oshkosh area and beyond. It provided her a true Christian path for her love and need to help others.

With love from David and Nancy Steineke and family.

UNITED METHODIST  
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

## CELEBRATE

We celebrate to recognize and support Native Americans and their contributions to society and The United Methodist Church.

- 50% REMAINS IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- 25% FUNDS GRANTS FOR OUTREACH AND MINISTRY
- 25% FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEMINARY EDUCATION

**SUPPORT** Donations support scholarships, leadership development and other vital ministries.

One Year's Good Works, One Day.  
The people of The United Methodist Church.

**Native American Sunday**  
**April 14, 2024**



Temba Nkomozepe is a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries serving as an agriculturalist at Mujila Falls

Agriculture Center in Kanyama, Zambia. He was commissioned in October 2017. He became Wesley’s covenant missionary in 2023. He visited Wesley UMC when he was itinerating in Wisconsin last year. Wesley has committed to donating at least \$500 to the work at Mujilia Falls Agriculture Center. That is our covenant with him. Our plan is that much of those funds will be collected during the month of April so they can be sent to him and can be of value quickly.

## MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

### Mujil Falls Agriculture Center

The Mujila Falls Center traces its origins to the Musokatanda Agriculture Project, launched in 1995 by Global Ministries missionaries in the southern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Civil conflict there caused the relocation of personnel to Zambia and the reconstitution of a food security ministry at Mujila Falls on 1000 hectares of land donated by Chief Kanyama of the Lunda people. The chief’s condition was that the center would teach basic sound agricultural principles to the residents of his chiefdom. It was dedicated in the year 2000 and has steadily grown in scope and importance to the area, also providing outreach to refugees from DRC.

Temba takes part in a range of agricultural, education, and health projects, as well as church growth and development. Mujila Falls raises essential crops, such as corn, and engages in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, fruit culture, tree nurseries, fish culture, and research.

Temba is from Zimbabwe where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the United Methodist-related Africa University in Mutare. He holds both Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in agricultural civil engineering, with an emphasis on water resource management, from Kyungpook National University in Daegu, South Korea. He has worked for the Green Impact Trust, Caritas Harare, and for the Zimbabwean department of agricultural extension.

Born into an Anglican family, Temba was baptized and confirmed in that church at age 15. “Since then, I’ve grown spiritually and experienced the rebuke and love of Jesus Christ.” At the time of his commissioning as a missionary, he was attending a congregation of the non-denominational Celebration Church in Harare.

Temba’s favorite Bible verse is from 2 Kings 3, where the Lord fills a valley with water and protects it so people and animals can drink. “This passage,” he says, “shows me that irrigation, or agricultural engineering, can play an important role in the will of God. I have made it my commitment to contribute to bringing together the perfect environment and inputs to grow crops and improve people’s livelihoods.”

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




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



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Wesley United Methodist Church  
Oshkosh

**\*\*\*Coming Soon:: NEW Study Group “How NOT to Read The Bible” \*\*\***

**Sign-Up by April 14th so we can get books ordered for participants. Start date TBA**

## Education Committee



### INDOOR CAMPING EXPERIENCE

This is for everybody!!! If you ever wondered what we did at Family Camp, this is for you! If you want to participate in a reunion of sorts of Family Camp events, this is for you!

On Saturday, April 20 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. we will recreate our Family Camp experience inside Koeller Hall. This means no mosquitoes! Plans are being made for a corn hole tournament and other games to be set up in the narthex. Hot Dogs, chips and S'mores will be served. There will be a craft time! Doris will lead us in songs around an indoor campfire! Hope to see you there!

### ECUMENICAL MINISTRY ON CAMPUS AT UW?

There will be a planning meeting on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal located on Division & Algoma in Oshkosh. This will be to combine the Wesley Foundation & ELCA (Lutheran) efforts to give students an ecumenical ministry on the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus. Pastor Chuck and Deb Zimmerman are planning on attending. Anyone else interested, please contact them.

### VBS-Vacation Bible School

Wesley will be joining forces with about six other churches in Oshkosh for an ecumenical Vacation Bible School to be held July 29-August 1, 2024 at All Saints Lutheran Church at 1072 Honey Creek Rd., Oshkosh. It will be from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (dinner included) for ages 3 & potty trained through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The theme will be Camp! No cost to individual families. A flat fee will be charged to each participating church. They had 60 kids involved last year. Sunday School families please put the dates for this exciting event on your calendars!

They are also looking for adult and youth leadership for this event. Background checks for anyone teaching or alone with children are required to have a background check and these need to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer Training Day will be July 11 at 6 p.m. with food at All Saints.

Kathy McAloon has been attending organizational meetings for this event. Either Kathy or Donna LaPoint will be able to answer any questions on this event or be able to find an answer for you.

Sunday School News: Our Sunday school children will next be singing during our worship service on the Sunday after Mother's Day, which is Sunday, May 19. Mark your calendars!

### Adult Education Opportunities

On Sunday mornings following our worship service, there is an adult study focused on the daily devotional book "Walking in Grace" 2024. There are still books available in the church office for \$17.00. This class is led by Deb Zimmerman and is well attended. New students are always welcome.

Thursdays at 10 a.m. is a class led by Pastor Chuck and Vernita Green. As of the deadline for the April newsletter, they are planning on starting a new book study on "How (Not) To Read the Bible, by Dan Kimball. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to order the book and be included in this study.

On Thursday afternoons at 2:30 p.m., Wayne Zimmerman is offering a Bible study. This group is currently exploring the gospel of Mark and encourages their participants to bring various translations of the bible.

The next education committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending and sharing their ideas with us are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna LaPoint, Chair of the Education Committee



## Newsletter Sponsorship

Gordon Dunham is the sponsor for the April 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the May-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.

## From Your Trustees

From The Trustees:

For those of you who might not know that there was a fire at the parsonage the middle of January. Since then, the trustees have met with representatives from a company called Paul Davis. They do the restoration of properties from clean out to complete refurbishing. At this time they are about 99% done with the clean out, which includes removal of all the drywall, debris from the insulation, broken glass, etc.. They will be starting on refurbishing the insides & the outside soon, this will include all new electrical, new plumbing, new HVAC, new flooring, etc. There will be some expenses that we will incur. The trustees did decide to upgrade the electrical box to a 200-amp service during the rebuild, and we want to replace the original boiler with a new boiler also during this time. We are also thinking about having a fireplace insert put in with a gas unit so it would be safer to use. In the next couple of weeks, we will be talking with Paul Davis about a new kitchen layout and what kind of cupboards will go in. We will try to keep you up to date on the refurbishing as it goes.

We now have a new renter down in the old office on the west end of the building. Her name is Kathleen Schumacher, and her business is called Music Therapy, and she teaches children with disabilities.

The trustees have ordered (2) 8' entrance mats for that end of the building.

We would also like to remind you the church spring cleanup is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> from 8 to noon that day, with a backup date of May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Life Line Screenings is coming on Wednesday, May 8th in Koehler Hall. We should have (2) free appointments for anyone in the congregation on a first come basis.

Thanks, Mike LaPoint

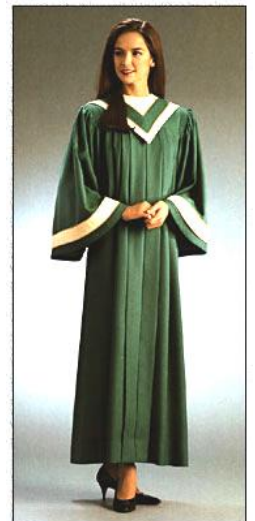


### \*\*\*\*\*NEW CHOIR ROBES\*\*\*\*\*

Our new choir robes made their debut on Easter Sunday! Didn't they look beautiful?

A BIG thank you from our choir to everyone that donated money and helped to make this possible.

Options for the retired robes are being looked into. There is an organization that will take them and revitalize them so they can be given to churches in need of "new" robes that might not be able to afford them otherwise.





## **UMC Wesley CORNER**

### **Frances Willard said, "God is action...be like God"**

Frances was born in 1839 and is most known for her work with the temperance movement as president of the WCTU. Frances was a political genius of her day. She was raised in a Methodist family in New York but relocated to Evanston, Ill., to focus on women's education. She taught for 10 years and then served as president of Evanston College for Ladies in 1871. Seeking to normalize co-education, she treated her female students no differently than the male students of Northwestern.

Quick to ensure women were taught subjects like science, literature, and the arts, her approach challenged traditional gender roles and expectations for women's education at the time. She encouraged them to think critically, pursue intellectual interests, and develop a sense of social responsibility. Her educational career continued in 1874 Frances became the first female dean of the women's division of Northwestern when it became a coeducational college.

After teaching, she joined the temperance movement which was gaining popularity in the mid-1870s due to a new woman's organizations that was making its way across the nation. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union brought women together to reform the nation through the regulation of liquor. By 1874, Willard was serving as the president of the Chicago chapter of the WCTU and in May of 1880 she was named its president, a role she would hold until her death in 1898.

Willard was quite active within the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Chicago area, where she encouraged women's participation and ordination. In May 1880, she attempted to address the General Conference of the MEC in order to bring greetings as the president of the WCTU. However, women were not allowed to address the General Conference, and her request caused an uproarious debate on the "woman question." This debate led Willard to coordinate educational efforts throughout the denomination on women's religious authority. She wrote "Woman in the Pulpit," which unapologetically argued that women had an equal standing with men and should be allowed not only voice in the denomination but full ordination rights.

She pushed Methodist white women towards a new concept of religion. For her, one's Methodist faith should compel you to make yourself uncomfortable, to push your own boundaries, in order to spread the love of God to as many people as possible. During Willard's era, for Methodist women, this meant speaking up and acting out. Women during Willard's time were expected to be pious, pure, and submissive. The genius of Willard was that she took these three "ideals" and used them for reasons why women needed to step out of the home. If women were truly pious then they could not sit in their homes and watch poverty, oppression, and corruption run rampant.

Willard's process allowed women to see that they could make a difference outside of their homes. It taught them how to use their voices outside of the home for social change. It gave them a small taste of social authority. For Willard "God is action – let us be like God."

#### **Methodist tradition of the balance between present and future salvation.**

God's salvation is not static.

Ongoing process used was sanctification and Christian perfection.

Grace of God is constantly at work in us to change our lives so that we can participate in God's healing.

Grace - precedes salvation in prevenient grace, continues in sanctifying grace, and is brought to fruition in justifying grace



# April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS <b>Happy Elders</b> 11 a.m.	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024.	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. <b>Trustees</b>	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. <b>Education</b>	10:30 a.m."How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship <b>Native American Sunday</b> 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Church <b>Council</b>	1:30 p.m. <b>Worship</b> 5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		3-5 p.m. <b>Family Camp</b> in Koeller Hall
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	<b>EARTH DAY</b> 5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS	5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		8 a.m.-noon <b>Spring Cleanup</b> 4:30-5 p.m. <b>Pork Chop Pick-Up</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
8:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS		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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