

August 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

The spiritual gift of discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10) shows how seemingly good things can be recognized as sometimes bad things, and seemingly bad things can also be seen to bear some good fruit. Darn it! This kind of discernment invites people into yes/and thinking, rather than simplistic either/or thinking. This is the difference between merely having correct information and the true spiritual gift of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8).

Once we have learned to discern the real and disguised nature of both good and evil, we recognize that everything is broken and fallen, weak and poor—while still being the dwelling place of God: you and me, our countries, our children, our marriages, and even our churches, mosques, and synagogues. That is not a put-down of anybody or anything, but actually creates the freedom to love imperfect things. As Jesus told the rich young man, “God alone is

good” (Mark 10:18). We cannot wait for things to be totally perfect to fall in love with them, or we will never love anything. Now, instead, we can love everything!

Jesus uses a number of *mixture images* to illustrate the tension of our own mixture of good and evil. They seem to say this world is a mixture of different things, and unless we learn how to see, we don't know how to separate; we get lost in the weeds and can't see the wheat. In one parable, servants ask, “Should we pull out the weeds?” Jesus responds, “No. Let them both grow together until the harvest.” Then, at the end of time, he will decide what is wheat and what is weed (Matthew 13:24–30). But we are a mixture of weed and wheat, and we always will be. As Martin Luther put it, we are *simul justus et peccator* [at once justified and a sinner], each of us simultaneously saint and sinner. That's the mystery of holding weed and wheat

(Continued on page 2)

Wednesday, August 14
Education Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20
Church Council
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21
Worship Meeting
1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21
**Pet Blessing Outdoor
Service**
6:30 p.m.

Online Services still available to
view on
Facebook at the site below:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcoshkosh/>

(Continued from page 1)

together in our one field of life. It takes a lot more patience, compassion, forgiveness, and love than aiming for some illusory perfection that usually cannot see its own faults. The only true perfection available to us is the honest acceptance of our imperfection.

Lest you think John Wesley is wagging his finger at me for telling you to embrace your imperfection, remember that Wesley preached perfection in love, and that is always possible. But it begins with loving ourselves as Jesus said, and that means accepting the reality that we do not have to be perfect to be loved.

If we must have perfection to be happy with ourselves, we have only two choices. We can either ignore our own evil (deny the weeds) or we can give up in discouragement (deny the wheat). But if we put aside perfection and face the tension of having both, then we can hear the good news with open hearts.



AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Bob Heisler | 18 | Marlin Eckstein |
| 4 | Malory Fournier | | Tom Kloeckner |
| 8 | Betty Croninger | 20 | Jean Drayton |
| 9 | Sue Thomas | | Curt Heisler |
| 11 | Shirley Hiland | 22 | Barbara Uecker |
| 12 | Mary McKeown | 24 | Jack Thomas |
| 13 | Linda Colantonio | 26 | Jordan Bates |
| 15 | Dawn Krueger | 30 | Robert* Stein |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 7 | Sue Thomas & Gary Johnston |
| 12 | Tim & Dawn Krueger |
| 24 | Mike & Gloria Smith |
| 29 | Jerry & Kathy Krueger |

Summer Outdoor Service

Thank you to everyone who attended the first Wednesday night service in July. We have a second Wednesday night service on Wednesday, August 21, at 6:30 p.m. This night we will have a Pet Blessing worship service. Pets are welcome to join their owners at this service.

Please plan on bringing your own lawn chairs. We are planning for the service to take place in the Prayer Garden. If there would be inclement weather, we would consider moving to Koeller Hall.

Hope to see everyone there!
From the Worship Committee

Newsletter Sponsorship

Mary McKeown is the sponsor for the August 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the October-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.

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh is the mission focus for the month of August. For over 50 years the Club has been part of the Oshkosh community landscape. Their mission is: "To improve the lives of children and families." Their vision "is to be a generation-changing leading provider of programs emphasizing youth development services and family outreach support to meet the needs of young people 6-18 and their families, especially those who need us most."

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Boys & Girls Club

The Club, located on East Parkway Avenue, offers a dynamic learning environment that includes quality, age-appropriate programs, mentoring by caring adult professionals and outstanding facilities, all for an annual fee of only \$25 per child. By providing safe facilities, caring adults and engaging activities, they help each young person realize their full potential. Here is an excerpt from an article written by a staff member highlighting what is happening at the Club this summer:

"Kids are enjoying fun adventures, sports and a variety of activities. Our summer programming has 450 youth members signed up (up from 300 last year) and with the completion of our new spaces, we are able to have all of our members back under one roof! Summer is always an extra fun time for our kids! They go on field trips all over Oshkosh and day trips to the Club's Camp Radford. Members get to do a variety of activities with many wonderful community partners, such as Christine Ann Center, Hope Group, Girl Scouts, Casa Esther, YMCA, Oshkosh North Basketball, UW Extension, and more. In addition, we are offering a variety of sports programs, including All-Stars Soccer, UWO Tennis Camp, Little Brewers Baseball and sailing with International Youth Sailing in Oshkosh."

The Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh focuses on five core areas of programming and development that have been nationally proven to address today's most pressing youth issues and assist in teaching young people the skill they need to succeed in life. These areas are: 1. Character & Leadership 2. Education and Career Development 3. Health & Life Skills 4. Sports, Fitness & Recreation 5. The Arts.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

In order to provide the children with the services needed (such as after-school care, mental health services, transportation, basic needs services, mentoring, etc.), the Club relies on donations from outside sources.

Wisconsin Annual Conference Map



The map shows the new district lines. The conference has changed from five districts down to four districts. One big change is Fond Du Lac is no longer within our district.

Fall Adult Bible Study - Introduction to John's Gospel

Thursdays from 2:30 pm—4:00 pm

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was god. 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.” (Notice verse 2 is a repeat of part of verse 1 because Jewish writers often repeat what they want to emphasize.) John 1:3 “Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:4 In Him was life, and that Life was the light of all people, John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness. “ (a symbol of sinful unrepenting people.) “But the darkness has not understood it.” (because those people did not really know God or accept God’s Son)

The four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are different literary structure from the “Letters” or “Epistles”. That as well as clues within the Bible help us to give approximate dates to the writings. None of the Gospels contain the credit name of the authors. However, John 1:14 says “We saw His glory” which we learn refers to the Mount of Transfiguration event. We are told only Peter, James and John were with Jesus on that event. Why only them? Because Jesus determined those three most spiritually minded among the apostles. John wrote his Gospel as a record of the signs and wonders of Jesus so that people would believe in Him as the Son of God, Savior and as a real historical person.

This study will offer more details than just causal reading.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed each week for ushers, liturgist, greeters and MediaShout. Please consider signing up to assist on a Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We appreciate all who have served previously in these roles.



Feeding Hope, One Mile at a Time

Saturday, August 10

Are you ready to make a positive impact in the Oshkosh Community? Look no further than Pedal Out Hunger 2024, organized by The Salvation Army of Oshkosh. On August 10, 2024, we invite you to join us for a day of fun, fitness, and philanthropy. This year, we are excited to bring back our walking route and have added a new 1.3 walk. Whether you prefer walking or cycling, you can now participate and show your support for our feeding programs at the Salvation Army. Last year all money all raised went to purchase food for our feeding programs.

By taking part in Pedal Out Hunger 2024, you are helping us combat hunger in Oshkosh. Every dollar raised go directly towards providing meals and support to those in need. Together, we can make a difference and bring individuals and families who are facing food insecurity. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be part of a community that cares. Register for Pedal Out Hunger 2024 today and join us in feeding hope, one mile at a time.



Rummage Sale Update for 2024

We had a great sale and lots of camaraderie with our members. What a blessing this was! It was our best year ever! The church has been doing this for 20 + years. Donations came in every day, and made our sale one of our best. The great bakers we have among us came through with many delicious treats for us to sell.

Jenny and I would like to thank everyone who donated, helped sort, priced, baked, worked the sale and especially helped clean up. Kyle Fournier did a great job heading up the clean-up process, We donated to five different groups this year. This makes our mission even greater than we had hoped.

- Habitat Restore
- Guatemala Service Project
- Little Free Library's in Oshkosh
- Goodwill
- Damascus Road Project

Guatemala Service Project is a project to help Guatemalan families in the Chichicastenago area with education, health, and fresh clean water. The donations of clothing, purses, backpacks, bedding, towels, belts, ties, and more are used to assist in families.

Damascus Road Project is a project in our community to help those involved with human sex trafficking. It helps give them a fresh start.

UMC Wesley CORNER

Sarah Crosby - A Methodist Hero by Philip J. Brooks

The Methodist Episcopal Church (a precursor to The UMC) first began ordaining women as full elders in 1924, but women had a long history of preaching and taking on spiritual leadership in the Methodist movement long before. The first women preachers emerged in the earliest days of Methodism under the leadership of John Wesley. One of these was Sarah Crosby.

Crosby was born in Leeds, England, in 1729. We know little about her life prior to her ministry. Crosby heard Wesley preach for the first time in London in 1749 and converted soon after becoming a member of the Foundery, the most active Methodist society in England and began leading a class in 1752 .

In 1757, Crosby met Mary Bosanquet who would become her closest friend and later follow in her footsteps in preaching the gospel. Together, with a team of other Methodist women, they established an orphanage in Leytonstone called The Cedars that provided children and adults with food, clothes, hygiene, medicine, and education. The orphanage closed in 1782. Crosby claimed to have a vision of Jesus calling her to "Feed my sheep" and believed it meant she was supposed to become a preacher. Crosby began preaching in Derby in 1761 where she established a new Methodist class.

Crosby never asked for permission to preach. She wrote Wesley afterwards for advice. It was in 1771, Wesley officially endorsed the practice of women preaching openly, largely at the urging of Crosby and Bosanquet. That same year, Crosby became a true itinerant preacher by traveling the country to give sermons to hundreds in public. It's said that she traveled thousands of miles over her lifetime. Her activities attracted opposition from some Anglican pastors who began denying both her and Wesley access to their parishes.

Crosby ceased to travel in the 1780s due to health concerns, but continued to preach locally in Leeds while teaching classes. By now she had become an inspiration and mentor to other Methodist women who felt the same call to preach. Crosby died at the age of 75 in 1804 in Leeds. She is buried in the local parish churchyard along with two other women preachers: Sarah Ryan and Ann Tripp.

Though it would be another century and half before the first women were recognized as fully ordained elders within the Methodist Episcopal Church, Crosby took the first bold step by preaching openly in public and establishing a model for early female leadership in the Methodist movement that would be followed by countless others.

Picture to the right is the Foundery where Sarah preached.





August 2024



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|---|-----------------|---|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly | | | | | 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study" TM 5:30 p.m. MA | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024. | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study" TM 5:30 p.m. MA | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024 | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making | 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education Meeting | 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study" TM 5:30 p.m. MA | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024 | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 pm Church Council | 5:30 p.m. MA 1:30 p.m. Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m. Pet Blessing Outdoor Service | 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study" TM 5:30 p.m. MA | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024 | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study" TM 5:30 p.m. MA | | | |

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August



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