

February 2025



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

I awoke this morning, turned on the TV. Immediately, this quote from Alice in Wonderland came to mind.

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?"
Alice in Wonderland

After the election of 2024, it became clear to me that lines were drawn in the sand. If there had ever been a notion that we lived in a redeemed world, it was shattered by the decisions we had made. Like Alice we live in a world of our own where everything is nonsense.

Years ago, Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, then professors at the UMC seminary at Duke University wrote a little book entitled, Resident Aliens. They clearly laid out the ways that the world and the kingdom of God were very different. It is a good book and a worthy read, but even

they did not conceive of the world we woke up to on January 21, 2025.

The Bible teaches that since we live in the world, we are involved with the world. Scriptures such as "Do not love the world or the things in the world" (1 John 2:15), seem irrelevant and impossible to many today. They say, "We live in the world; we know there is plenty wrong with it, but we see no point in trying to avoid it."

Billy Graham said, "'There are three meanings attached to the word, 'world'... First, there is the created world. "God ... made the world and everything in it" (Acts 17:24). Second, there are the inhabitants of the world, whom God loves and for whom Christ died. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Third, there is the world denoted by the Greek word *cosmos*, meaning the world system, which is headed by Satan and based upon self, entitlement, greed and pride."

Throughout the Scripture, the lines are definitely drawn between the world of unbelievers and the world of the children of God, in such

(Continued on page 2)



Tuesday, February 11
Education 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, February 19
Happy Elders 11:00 a.m.
Worship 1:30 p.m.

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

(Continued from page 1)

Scriptures as, "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). Jesus Himself said, "The world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:14-16). And He said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

The Bible also teaches that the Christian will face opposition in the world. Just as Christ's life with all its love, concern and selflessness was a rebuke to the cosmos of His time, so our lives with Christ abiding in us today bring about criticism, opposition and persecution from those who cannot comprehend the mystery of God's redemptive grace.

We are not to get our worlds mixed up at this point. This is where the confusion lies. Jesus ate with publicans and sinners (see Mark 2:16); nearly everyone He associated with was an outcast. But His relationship with them was not purely social; it was redemptive. He lifted up the very ones the world looked down upon

God meant that we are not to mingle with the world, but we are to witness to the world. We are to love the world of people whom God loves. We are to weep with those who weep (see Romans 12:15), suffer with those who suffer and identify ourselves with the poor, the outcast, the sick and the needy.

Wise serpents and innocent as doves, we must discern those who come among wearing sheep's clothing to hide their fangs.

Christians are like the Gulf Stream, which is in the ocean and yet not part of it. This mysterious current defies the mighty Atlantic, ignores its tides and flows steadily upon its course. Its color is different, being a deeper blue.

Its temperature is different, being warmer. Its direction is different, being from south to north. It is in the ocean, and yet it is not part of it.

So, we Christians are in the world. We come in contact with the world, and yet we retain our distinctive kingdom character and refuse to let the world press us into its mold.

The world is keenly aware of its emptiness, of its unfulfilled dreams, of its failure to cope with life. The world system is inadequate to meet the deeper needs of the human heart. This is ideal soil for the implanting of the Gospel. God has seen fit to entrust the work of His Kingdom to us. If the world system is changed, it will be through our witness.



BIRTHDAYS

2	Hannah Roe	17	Linda Pribek
7	Doris Thomas	26	Joel Nesbit
8	Cheryl Mueller	29	Mike Croninger
10	Pat Witzke		Deborah Zimmerman
12	James Marco		

ANNIVERSARIES

10	Mark and Jennifer Fournier
22	Mike and Betty Croninger

Education



The Education Committee met Tuesday, January 14 to look at an overview of the upcoming 2025 year.

Doris Thomas has started children's choir rehearsals. A performance date has not been announced yet.

In February, the Sunday School will be joining the Mission Team in promoting the Day-by-Day Warming Shelter. They will be collecting hand warmers, toe warmers, and adult mittens throughout the month. Please join them in this wonderful mission project!

The VBS planning committee had a meeting at Wesley on January 26. Wesley will be hosting the Vacation Bible School this year. It will be on Monday, July 28 - Thursday, July 31 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Set-up will be on Sunday, July 27. Kathy McAloon and Kelly Nesbit are the Wesley representatives. The rest of the committee is composed of about seven other Oshkosh churches. About sixty children attended CBS last year that was hosted by All Saints Lutheran Church. Watch your newsletters and bulletins for more information as it becomes available.

The Sunday morning adult class has been given discussion questions relating to the Pastor's sermon series on the Apostle's Creed and this will be their focus until pastor returns from vacation in March.



There will be no Thursday morning Adult Study while the Pastor is on vacation.

The Thursday afternoon adult Bible Study class is finishing up the book of Romans and will start Corinthians.

There will be a Lenten book study starting Wednesday, March 12 at 5:15 p.m. led by the Pastor. This will include a light supper. The first night will be soup/chili provided by Donna LaPoint and then we will be looking for volunteers to bring something for each week following. Pastor will be leading the study, but Donna will lead the first week due to Pastor just returning from vacation. The book will be "Wrestling With Doubt" by Adam Hamilton and the cost is \$11.99. Please have your money for your book order request to the church by Sunday, March 2. Designate on your Sunday envelope when you include the payment for this book. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The study will end the Wednesday of Holy Week.

The next Education Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Donna LaPoint—Education Committee Chair

A Brief History

Our mission – Day by Day Shelter collaboratively provides temporary shelter, individualized services, and opportunities for self-sufficiency to empower the most vulnerable adults in our community.

Day By Day Shelter, Inc. was founded by a coalition of community members concerned about the lack of safe, temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the Oshkosh area. With broad community support from local government, police, fire, faith communities and foundations, Day By Day Shelter, Inc. first opened its doors on October 15, 2011.

From the beginning, our mission has been to support the most vulnerable individuals in our community. We strive to treat our guests with dignity and respect, while empowering them toward self-sufficiency and stability.

As of May 2023, Day by Day has more than quadrupled our operations from 25 beds, open 6 months of the year to 50 beds, open 365 days a year. With a new purpose-built shelter, we have also expanded our services and capabilities to meet the growing needs of our organization and our community.

Day By Day Shelter, Inc. is governed by an executive board of directors, and run by a caring and professional staff. Although we are fundraising organization, we consider our People to be our most important asset...the individuals we serve, the volunteers we engage, and the professionals we employ.

Every dollar makes a difference

As a local organization, Day By Day Shelter raises **95% of its annual operating budget** right here in Winnebago County. We count on the generosity of local businesses, foundations, faith communities and individuals to help ensure safe shelter for anyone who needs it. Your support provides a warm bed, nutritious food and supportive services to help local homeless on the path to self-sufficiency. Here's a small sampling of what your gift can do...

- **\$50** provides safe shelter for one guest for one night
- **\$125** covers the cost of supplies needed to operate the shelter for one week
- **\$1000** covers shelter utilities (water, gas, electric) for one month during the season

Donations Needed

Below is a Wish List for a list of items we need most right now.

Paper Towel	Hair Brushes	Men's & Women's Deodorant
Reuseable Water Bottles	Backpacks	Shoe Laces—shoe & boot, various lengths
Umbrellas	Belts	USB C Charging Cables
Coffee	Powdered Coffee Creamer	Snack Foods/Applesauce & Fruit Cups
Sugar	Juice	Sugary Cereal
Laundry Detergent	Dryer Sheets	Garbage Bags—All sizes, wastebasket to 55 gallon
Cleaners – Window, Floor, and All Surface	Popular Condiments: Mayo, Hot Sauce, Ranch Dressing & Parmesan Cheese	
Bus token, vouchers, and passes are a crucial need for our guests	Insulated hats & gloves are our most highly used item during our operating season.	

May 2023—May 2024 Stats

Guests:

Unduplicated Guests—330

Guests left for housing opportunities—18

Day by Day guests employes through the Guest Employment Program have completed over 510 hours of work in Shelter, including janitorial, laundry, donation inventory, and supply organization.

Employees/Volunteers:

Trained Frontline Shelter Staff—17, Administrative Staff—5, & 120 NEW Volunteers since May 2023

Newsletter Sponsorship

Deb Zimmerman is the sponsor February 2025 newsletter in celebration of Family Birthdays. Please consider being a sponsor for the March-December 2025 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 2025.

PIZZA 2025

Pizza 2025 was another successful fundraiser. Over 60 people helped to make 1360 pizzas, starting production at 7:30 and ending at 11:30. The crew was helped by volunteers from Wesley, the Waukau church, Bethany Church, students from Martial Arts, friends and families. Production quality control specialist **Kyle Fournier** directed the effort and kept operations running smoothly and efficiently.

At 11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Community Food Pantry picked up 342 of those pizzas donated by close to 40 members and friends. The Food Pantry was so grateful in receiving them. A significant budget helping profit was made from this pizza fundraiser and we look forward to doing this again in 2026. The total profit will be reported later when all sales are collected and bills paid.

Thank all of you that helped in sales, production, set up, clean up and fellowship.



Randy Lovell



Sunday School Volunteers Needed

We are looking for teachers to either lead or assist one Sunday a month in one of our two classrooms. A teacher's guide is provided with lots of options to enhance the story for the week. Sunday School meets after the children's sermon every Sunday, and ends anywhere between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. when the church service ends. There is always a teacher and helper in each room. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Jenny Fournier or Tracey Lovell.



Apportionments

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations pool a portion of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations (run a seminary, for instance) or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together (develop resources on preventing harassment and abuse). Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all. For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition.

When the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) was officially adopted by General Conference in 1820, it received no funding from the denomination. Instead, the Missionary Society was supported through direct gifts from individuals and congregations. The Missionary Society was the second denomination-wide agency in American Methodism. The Book Concern (predecessor of today's Publishing House), the one older agency, was funded entirely by sales of books. Indeed, at that time, there wasn't any central process of collecting denomination-wide which so dominates the current United Methodist Church. It took a long time to develop, longer than most of the agencies it supports. Indeed, it did not solidify until 1924, over a hundred years later than the earliest agencies.

The evolution of apportionments was driven by three overlapping desires: Boards and agencies wanted a more reliable source of income than the varying amounts they collected in fundraising. Local churches wanted a simpler approach to giving that the multiple appeals with which they were bombarded. And General Conference wanted more control over the boards and agencies. The apportionment system achieved all of these goals simultaneously. In the US, there are also apportionments paid that go to support the work of the district, the annual conference, the jurisdiction, and the general church.

Within general church apportionments, there are seven different funds: 1. The World Service Fund, which pays for the work of those general boards and agencies funded through apportionments, the work of the Connectional Table, and special ministries such as the Central Conferences Theological Education Fund. Just over half of general church apportionments go to the World Service Fund. 2. The Episcopal Fund, which pays for episcopal salaries, housing, and travel costs for all bishops throughout the world. About 1/6 of general church apportionments go to the Episcopal Fund. 3. The Ministerial Education Fund, which supports the work of the 13 official United Methodist seminaries in the US. About 1/8 of general church apportionments go to the Ministerial Education Fund. 4. The Black College Fund, which supports the work of the 11 historically black colleges and universities in the US affiliated with the UMC. About 7% of general church apportionments go to the Black College Fund. 5. The General Administration Fund, which supports the work of GCFA and GCAH, covers the costs associated with planning and holding General Conference, and covers the costs of the work of the Judicial Council. About 6% of general church apportionments go to the General Administration Fund. 6. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, which supports the work of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Cooperation. Less than 2% of general church apportionments go to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. 7. The Africa University Fund, which supports the work of Africa University. Less than 2% of general church apportionments go to the Africa University Fund.

Guided by God's Spirit, the General Administration Fund is the oil that lubricates these gears moving the church's work forward to impact hearts and lives.

Wesley United Methodist Church pays its apportionments in full and has for at least the last ten years. And in doing that we are helping to impact the life-giving work of The UMC such as eradicate malaria, share the Good News of Jesus Christ and raise up new leaders to develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing our world today. We are helping to accomplish Christ's Ministry in the world today. Thanks be to God!

Wesley's —Thank You Notes

Wesley is recognized as a church that is very supportive of missions. We are only of only a few churches in the Conference that are recognized annually by the Wisconsin Annual Conference with the Rainbow Covenant Award for our support of missions in our community, the Conference, our nation and the world. If you would like to see our certificate for this award, it is framed and hanging in the office.

We also receive appreciative cards and letters from individual missions that we support. Some of the cards and letters recently received by Wesley are as follows:

The Gathering Place (Campus Ministry): “Thank you. Your donations of plants was a great start to an exciting semester. The picture itself shows the joy of the students receiving plants. Thanks again!”



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF OSHKOSH

Boys and Girls Club: “Thank you for investing in youth! Thank you for your generous support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oshkosh.”

Midwest Mission: “Thank you for all of the lives you impact! Because of your gift, someone has hope today! Your donation of \$494.94 to Midwest Mission allowed us to provide someone with basic necessities.”

Jabez: “The board of Jabez is so thankful for your gifts over the years and 2024 was no exception! Thank you!”

Rooted & Rising: “I’ll conclude this year by thanking you once again for making Rooted & Rising a special part of your life, and in so doing helping to advance the mission of this wonderful organization that for more than 60 years has had the responsibility of being a force for good. Our programs and services rely upon the generous contributions of time, talent and financial resources from all of you. We really can’t do it, and do it well, without you!”

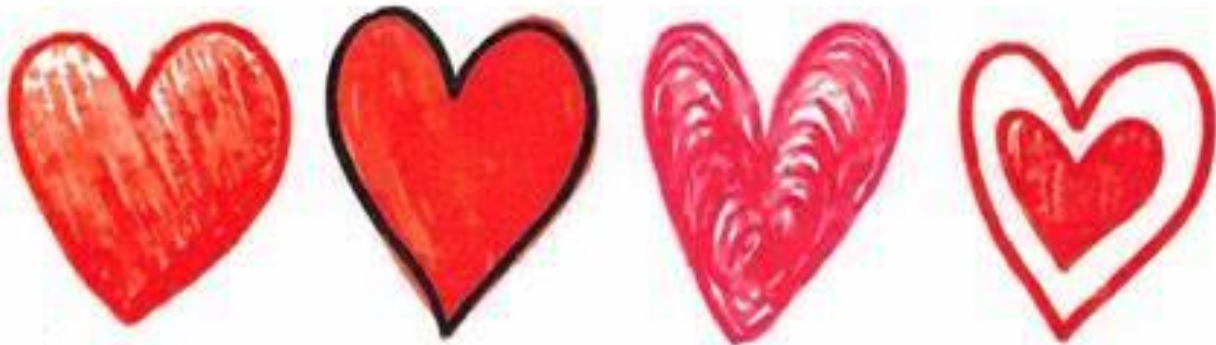


Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



During the church visioning event we decided to do a study on the book called "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". This book deals with good ministry and faith walk. This book is also loaded with good ideas for outreach and internal church programs. There will be a study on Wednesday or Thursday; however, the times have not been determined yet. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for which day you would

prefer. When you sign-up, please indicate if you would like a book ordered for you by the church office. The cost of the book will be \$20.00. Orders will be placed on January 27th, so please make sure to sign-up by then. We will be starting the study the first week of February. Please contact the church office with any questions.




Received January 12, 2025
Greg & Sandy King



February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Discussion of Apostle's Creed	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS	2:00 p.m. Five Practices 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Five Practices		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Discussion of Apostle's Creed	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Education	2:00 p.m. Five Practices 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Five Practices		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Discussion of Apostle's Creed	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 p.m. Church Council	11:00 a.m. Happy Elders 1:30 p.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Five Practices 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Five Practices		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Discussion of Apostle's Creed	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS	2:00 p.m. Five Practices 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Five Practices		

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Change Service Requested



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