

August 2025



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,
education, fellowship and true compassion that show
God's love for all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Notes from the Pastor

What would you do if God asked you to challenge everything you thought was true? What if God told you to turn your back on the religious values you learned in church and in the Bible?...Worst yet, what if God changed God's mind to expand the circle of grace to include our nation's worst enemies...?

Moreover, what if the God you believed in...changed the rules of the faith, threw out the spiritual guidebook that shaped your life, and commanded you to adopt a different, and unprecedented, approach to life? Would you follow God's new directions, stay put, or run away from this rule-changing God?...

In the past few decades, committed Christians have struggled with theologically radical ways of reconceiving marriage and divorce, equal rights, war and peace, the insights of other religions, homosexuality and marriage equality, and the nature of mission in light of changing understanding of God's vision

for our world. If God is still speaking, then God can surprise us with new insights for changing times. Like Jonah, we must decide how we will respond to a God whose ways are different than we imagined.

The story of the reluctant prophet to the great city of Nineveh is very familiar. It has even been the subject of children's books, with the tale told from the vantage point of the whale and the poor shriveled up plant that gave Jonah respite from the heat. It is almost comical if we forget Jonah's mean-spiritedness, his refusal to obey, and his childish putting when his enemies repent and God's mercy is accorded to them. He does not want the city to repent-so he can gloat over it's demise....

Jonah was angry at God's mercy that he wanted to die, knowing that the turn of events would ruin his credibility at home!...God rebuked him, expressing concern for the people of Nineveh: "Nineveh has more than a hundred and

(Continued on page 2)

**Dates
to
Remember**

Friday, August 8

**Mike Smith Celebration of
Life**

10:00 a.m. Visitation

12:00 p.m. Service

Tuesday, August 12

Education Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19

Church Council

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20

**Pet Blessing Outdoor
Service**

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27

Worship Meeting

1:30 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish right from left....Should I not be concerned for such a great city?" (4:11) This morality tale ends with the questions which is meant to be taken to heart Should not we, a nation of hundreds of millions who "cannot distinguish right from left," also learn mercy and graciousness, become slow to anger and full of love, and relent from imposing harsh penalties in our self-justification?

What if we, Christians in the United States, were sent a Buddhist prophet who lamented our culture of the "gun" and our manufacture and keep on "ready-alert status" millions of nuclear weapons? What if the prophet declared that our treatment of the poor, our exploitation of the world in a way that is destroying it, and our covert low-intensity war policies at home and around the world were destroying any possibility of world harmony and that within forty days we would all be destroyed? Suddenly Jonah's position isn't so laughable but is, rather, worthy of a serious call to examine our national direction.

Jonah asks us what it means to follow God's way in a world of terrorism, masses of immigrants, and a politics of fear. God calls us toward world-changing discipleship in our time. Will we run away from God's vision or follow God's call to embrace otherness, with all our ambivalence and anxiety, or will we baptize our prejudice and hatred in waters of religious faith?



AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

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		
15	Dawn Krueger		
	Erne Mains		

ANNIVERSARIES

7	Sue Thomas & Gary Johnston
12	Tim & Dawn Krueger
29	Jerry & Kathy Krueger

Summer Outdoor Service

We have Wednesday night service on Wednesday, August 20, 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 2025 newsletter. All newsletter sponsors have been covered for 2025. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses.

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 a small annual fee. By providing safe facilities, caring adults and engaging activities, they help each young person realize their full potential. Thanks to a recent expansion the Club is now serving 500 kids daily in Oshkosh, and 120 in Omro. The growth reflects not only the increasing need in our communities, but, also the impact of continued support.

From the desk of the Director of Development: "Summer is in full swing at the Club, and the energy is contagious. From camp adventures to creative projects and everything in between, our team is hard at work making this summer on to remember. As we soak in the summer fun, our team is already planning for a successful school year. Preparations are underway for after-school programming in Oshkosh and Omro, and with the addition of our new site in Winneconne, we're proud to be expanding our reach to serve even more kids across our communities"

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.

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. There is always a need of cleaning products (dish soap, sponges, laundry soap, antiseptic wipes, hand soap, micro-fiber clothes, etc.) Swim suite and swim shorts in all sizes are needed. Gas and grocery gift cards are also very helpful. Cash is always a good option. If you would like to help the Club make a difference in Oshkosh and the surrounding area, please put any donated items on the table in the Narthex, and be sure to designate any cash donations for the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.



Rummage Sale Update

Our 25th Year

The annual Wesley Rummage Sale was held on July 11th and July 12th. Everyone donated a little bit, helped a little bit and we had another successful sale.

The bakery department had lots of goodies to choose from. Sally Roe did a great job pricing everything. Always a good treat for our customers.

As for the rummage side of the sale, we had many donations of bedding, clothes, fishing supplies, bikes, dressers, chairs, knick-knacks, glassware, Christmas items, toys, Packer items, books, golf clubs and so much more. This area was not sold out, but we did our very best to try to reach that goal. Most of the large items were sold to some very grateful customers. Everyone was happy with their purchases as well as our layout and pricing.

In the end we donated items to some very good organizations that go on to help others as we try to here at Wesley.

- Martial Arts received some equipment to help their students.
- Habitat for Humanity Restore received items like the curio cabinet, table and more. They are more than happy to have these items.
- We boxed up a bin of shoes to send to Belize (via Dale Lager).
- Winnebago Mental Health Institute was thrilled to receive donations of toys and clothing for the younger patients.
- VA Hospital in King received items.
- Guatemala Service Project took the remainder of the clothing and bedding. They currently have a team in Guatemala right now working down there.
- Goodwill took games, toys, Christmas and other things.
- A sewing machine was left and we will get that to Midwest Missions.
- Even the Boy Scouts received a chair that they could use.

The funds we raised, where do they go? We decided to donate the entire profit to the trustees this year. We would like to install air conditioning in Koeller Hall. This is a huge expense, but will benefit many. We are glad we could help out with our donation.

In all, this was a team effort. No one could do this alone. Many people helped throughout the day as well as evening of giving of their selves to help get the sale ready. Also thank to all of the wonderful people who baked goodies and helped during the sale. It truly was a team effort by all. THANK YOU!

Oh what a wonderful team we have here at Wesley!

Linda & Jenny Fournier

Questions of Faith

Free Event August 13

What can History Teach Us About Christian Citizenship? Join the Conversation This August.

Where do faith and civic responsibility meet in an age of division and uncertainty? How should Christians navigate their roles as citizens of this world and followers of Christ?

Where: Culver Family Welcome Center, UW-Oshkosh

When: August 13

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Featured Speakers: Dr. Michael Rutz, Professor of History at UW-Oshkosh
Dr. Garwood Anderson, Lumen Center Fellow for Biblical Studies

Cherith International Benefit Concert “A Touch from Jesus”

A night of talented local singers and soloists coming together to raise funds to minister to, and help, immigrants, refugees, and homeless.

Featured Singer: Dan Sanchez is a Midwest known tribute singer, singing songs of the Savior in the style of Elvis.

Featured Songs: “I Can Only Imagine” “You’ll Never Walk Alone” “People Need The Lord” “Change My Heart” “Above All” “You’ll Say” “On My Knees” “Falling in Love With Jesus” “At the Cross” “The Anchor Holds” and many more!

Date: Friday August 15, 2025

Where: Calvary SonRise, 222 Church Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54901

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Concert at 7:00 p.m.

A love offering will be received to further Cherith International.

Cherith International provides free clothing and household items to people in need in the Fox River Valley area of Wisconsin. Those we serve are referred to us through social organizations, churches, school district counsellors, Winnebago County Departments, and other institutions.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UM-VIM)

UMVIM is a grassroots movement within the United Methodist Church designed to provide an official channel for volunteer service. Through UMVIM, Christians (lay and clergy) can offer their skills and talents for service in their home country and around the world on short-term assignments at their own expense.

The UMVIM network offers guidance, organization, and training for more than 125,000 volunteers each year who give of their time and talent to minister with people, build churches and other mission facilities, assist in disaster recovery efforts, participate in community health programs and take part in leadership training events each year.

The key aspects of UMVIM primarily focus on providing short-term volunteer experiences, typically lasting from a few days to a few weeks. It is a grassroots movement driven by the initiative and participation of local churches and individuals. The opportunities include disaster response, construction, healthcare, education, church camps and more. UMVIM emphasizes building relationships with communities and partnering with local leaders to address their needs.

The next VIM trip in our area is to Camp Lake Lucerne which is about an hour from Oshkosh. Lake Lucerne is nestled among over 500 acres of central Wisconsin forest. It was founded in 1947 when Evangelical United Brethren Church purchased the property surrounding the still-pristine lake, and Camp Lucerne was born. Since then, Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center has grown to serve thousands of people very year as we continue the legacy of outdoor ministry into the future. We invite you to come and experience God's live-changing.

The closest VIM trip held this year is September 21-26, 2025. The cost is \$200.00 which includes lodging, meals, work supplies, and a donation to camp. You will need to bring your own sleeping gear and towels for this trip. The trip focus is on getting the camp site ready for winter and correction problems that have developed during the summer months. Approximately 35-50 adults of all ages come together to paint, repair, bring in water equipment, clean the grounds and the cabins. All work is done under the direction of the VIM directors and staff at Lake Lucerne. Ask our mission team about this or other possibilities available for Volunteers in Mission in Wisconsin and around the USA.

Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center is a place where people in an increasingly disconnected world can come together to build connection to community and their faith through unique experiences in God's creation. The year-round facilities offer the perfect setting for summer camps, weekend or longer retreats, school trips, or day long gathering for youth, adults, and families. To get involved check out the website of UMVIM, the Wisconsin Conference UMC, or your mission team leaders for more information.





August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-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	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	Mike Smith Celebration of Life Visitation: 10:00 a.m. Service: 12:00 p.m.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-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	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	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 6:30 p.m. Pet Blessing Outdoor Service	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
31						
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study						

Wesley United Methodist Church
761 Florida Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549
(920) 235-3070

August



*The Wesleyan Connection is
published monthly for the
members and friends of Wesley
United Methodist Church,
761 Florida Avenue,
Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549*

*Charles Emery, Pastor
Church Phone: 920-235-3070*

*Email:
wesleyumc761@yahoo.com*

*Church Web:
www.umcwesley.com*

*Facebook:
Wesley United Methodist
Church*