

February 2026

# The Wesleyan Connection

**Office: 235-3070**

**Pastor Chuck Emery**

*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

The scripture above points to the nearness of Christ among us, and the hope we have that we are always in the pan of Christ's care and peace. We know the nearness of God in Christ is not limited to race, gender, or status. I write today as a practice of Christian hope asking United Methodists in the Wisconsin Conference for prayer, awareness, networking, and nonviolent action.

First, be aware immigrant clergy under appointment are with us by means of legal immigration status. Despite the protections of United States law, our immigrant clergy families and facing imminent safety concerns. To date we have cared for each on a case-by-case basis, graced by the power of connectional love and legal assistance. The scale of harm has changed, which is why I am writing today.

1. I will ask you to pray daily and in your services of worship for all vulnerable populations, especially immigrants, in the spirit of Leviticus 19:33-34.
2. Unfortunately, persons with non-European sounding names

or immigrants should carry all documents that establish their legal right to be in the United States.

3. Have a plan for immigrant children, a number to alert legal caregivers, and if possible, let someone know where you are in the event that you are taken into custody.
4. As connectional people, network to minimize risk around travel to and interacting with medical treatment, school, employment, and the faith community. Know that profiling of license plates is occurring in some areas.
5. While judicial warrants have been required a fourth amendment protection against unreasonable searches into private spaces or services of worship, in the current environment when ICE enters homes or a sanctuary without a warrant, we encourage, not require, but encourage, congregations comprised of immigrants to worship online and only identify themselves online with first names.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### 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.*

### **Dates to Remember**

**Tuesday, February 10**  
**Education** 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 17**  
**Church Council** 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 18**  
**Worship** 1:30 p.m.  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
7:00 p.m. @ **First United Methodist Church**

(Continued from page 1)

6. If your congregation is shepherded by an immigrant clergy person and the church is predominantly of European descent, have a conversation among your elected leaders about scenarios for worship leadership, whether to hold services online or if your clergy person cannot be present, what leadership will be helpful for worship and congregational care.
7. Prepare a customized response plan if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers come to the door of your church. Use the following points to build a specific plan. Have someone designated to ask for badges or identification or to ask for a judicial warrant. Remember, however, in the current environment, when a door is opened, there are reports of forced entry without warrants. Have an attorney present or ask the officers to wait for your legal counsel to arrive. You have the right to remain silent. Do not lie but do not provide information without counsel present. Seek your safety first, but document with your cell phone, if possible. Contact your district superintendent for support.
8. Use caution with mercy ministries related to food or other support. Be aware that food pantries and schools are a target for ICE arrests of persons with a legal status.

We do have some control. People can minimize risk. Be aware, network, and be nonviolent.

That brings me to the work of those with more privilege in this context.

"We affirm that every form of government stands under God's judgment and must therefore be held accountable for protecting the innocent, guaranteeing basic freedoms and liberties, protecting the natural world, and establishing just, equitable, and sustainable economies" (Social Principles, Book of Discipline 202/2024, P. 135.)

Remember that Jesus' admonition to love our neighbors was voiced under Roman occupation. These days may find Christians increasing their love of neighbor in powerful ways.

If you are moved to protest injustice, remember that nonviolent actions is the most effective means of Christian protest. In this environment, remember that blocking a doorway or street can be seen as impeding a law enforcement officer.

Conditions change regularly so we are building resources appropriate to each week. Prayerfully remember Rev. Dr. King's six principles of nonviolence:

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people
2. The beloved community is the framework for the future.
3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil.
4. Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal.
5. Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence.
6. The universe is on the side of justice.

2026 is a year of practicing hope. Each of our days is lived in grace. I join you in prayer and hope.

Thank you,



## BIRTHDAYS

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

10	Mark and Jennifer Fournier
22	Mike and Betty Croninger

# Education



Dear Sunday School Parents/Grandparents:

We are excited to announce that the children's Sunday school offering from January until the end of March will be used to purchase at least one flock of chicks through the Heifer International.

Heifer International has been around for more than 80 years working with people all around the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth.

We are asking for the parents/grandparents help to get the children excited about this project by finding small chores around the house that the children can do to earn money to put in their weekly offering. Ideas: taking our garbage, unloading the dishwasher, sweeping, folding laundry, etc. Let's help the kids participate in this important mission project.

Let's see how many flocks of chicks we can purchase.

Thank you,

Wesley Education Committee

Sunday School money for November and December went to the Salvation Army.

## Lenten Bible Study

Jesus For Everyone – No Just Christians by Amy Jill Levine, copyright 2024. It can be purchased on Amazon for \$11.49. Figuratively speaking we'll be meeting Jesus in his time and ours on subjects of Economics, Enslavement, Ethnicity and Race, Healthcare, Family Values and Politics. If any of the text found in the Bible were to mean only one thing, preachers and biblical studies professors would need to find another career. We will look at what a biblical text might've meant to an early first century Jewish audience, a gospel reader and what it means to readers today.

The study will begin on Wednesday, February 4, at 5:15 p.m. Please read the first chapter before class. There is a synopsis for each chapter found in the introduction part of the book. I will provide a soup supper for the first class and would appreciate volunteers to sign-up to bring their favorite soup for the remaining five classes. The sign-up sheet will be available on the first night of class. The class will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and there will not be class on Wednesday, March 4. The last class will be Wednesday, March 25, which is the Wednesday before Palm Sunday, March 29.

The pastor at First United Methodist Church is organizing a meet and greet with this author on April 21 for the three Methodist churches in town. After studying this book, we can look forward to meeting the author.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending this study.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna LaPoint, Lay Speaker  
920-233-2819

In Zambia, Africa, the Majila Falls Agriculture Center began in 200 when Chief Kanyama, a Christian chief, offered the United Methodist Church 3500 acres of land including a river and a waterfall. He was aware that the Methodist missionaries had helped others in Zambia. It was his request that basic agriculture practices might be taught to his people.

Paul Webster was relocated from the D.C. Congo to just across the border to serve similar Lunda people in Kitta, Zambia. Paul grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and he and his wife were in the Peace Corps before they signed up for Africa. The Lunda people suffered from a very poor diet and had 50% infant mortality and a life expectancy of 35 years. There was little protein in their diet since all animals had been killed except for rats. Paul and Roxanne started growing chicken and rabbits housed in cages made from sticks and vines. The eggs and the meat were very popular. Before, if the family by chance got an egg, the egg was eaten by the father. Now there were enough to share.

Suddenly Webster's success was halted by Roxanne's diagnosis of cancer. She was treated but died in the U.S. Paul returned to Zambia in 2005. He was fortunate the Tshala Mwengo, a graduate of the African University in Zimbabwe, managed the project for several years. As a team they acquired oxen, cows, donkeys, pigs, etc. They had the Lunda people build barns and places to store grains. The animals housed in barns gave them manure to spread on their fields. They opened up fields with bicycle cultivators and experimented with crops. They gave cups of free milk to children and encouraged them to go to school.

The mission site added more buildings, expanded the fields, and added a tractor and a truck. Students from the African University came to learn more about farming. The chickens laid between 1500-2700 eggs every day. The mission sold eggs to people who then took them to other areas to market. The people living near the mission were blessed with more protein in their diets.

In 2017, Temba Nkomozepi, an agriculturist with several degrees, came to the mission. Paul Webster took a position in the U.S. and Temba was appointed as a mission assigned to Majila Falls in 2018.

## Ash Wednesday

Wesley has been invited to celebrate Ash Wednesday with First United Methodist and Algoma Blvd. Methodist. The joint service will be hosted by First United Methodist Church, 700 W. Linwood, Oshkosh at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18. Our choir is practicing music for a combined choir to be featured at this worship service. Please plan on attending so we can joyfully celebrate the beginning of Lent together.

## Newsletter Sponsorship

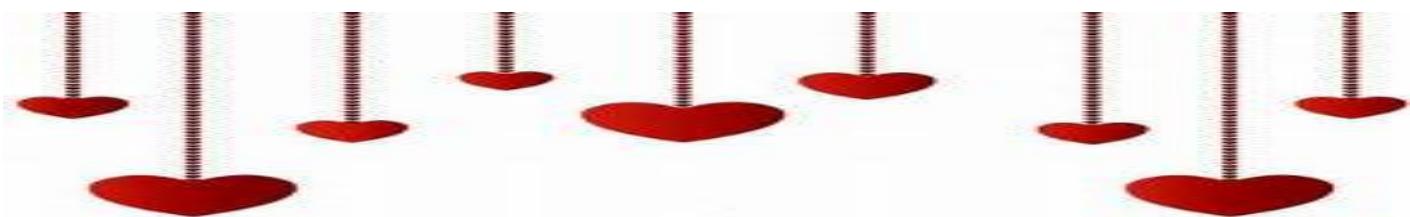
The February 2026 newsletter is sponsored by Erne and Mugs Main. Please consider being a sponsor for the March-December 2026 newsletters. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to 'reserve' your chosen month for 2026.

## PIZZA 2026

Pizza 2026 was another successful fundraiser. We had about 70 people helping to make 1280 pizzas, starting production at 7:30 a.m. and end at 10:45 a.m. The crew was helped by volunteers from Wesley, the Waukau church, students from Martial Arts, friends and families. Production quality control specialist **Kyle Fournier** directed the effort and kept operations smoothly and efficiently. First timers were impressed with the smooth operation.

At 11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Community Food Pantry picked up 400 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 the pizza fundraiser and we look forward to doing this again in 2027. 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



Received January 11, 2026  
Randy & Shari Christie  
Victoria & Hadley Rens



## UMC Wesley CORNER

### Ingathering Kits Coming Soon

Ingathering Mission of the Month is not until May. However, it has been pointed out to us that if the list was published earlier, we as Wesley members and friends could watch for sales. So we can all start looking now!

For the Wisconsin UMC Ingathering, the primary kits are Personal Dignity Kits (hygiene items in a 1-gallon bag) and Home Care Kits (cleaning supplies in a 5-gallon bucket), requiring all new items with specific sizes. Substitutions can not be used.

In the past we have occasionally had 5-gallon buckets that could be recycled. If anyone is aware of who might give them to church, please contact Lorry Sallee, Mission of the month for May lead.

#### **Personal Dignity Kit Supplies** (Place in 1-Gallon resealable Bag)

- 1 Hand Towel (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Washcloth (no dishcloths)
- 1 Bar Soap (3-4 oz)
- 1 Shampoo (12-19 oz, tape top)
- 1 Deodorant (2-3 oz, stick/roll-on/pump, tape top)
- 1 Lotion (8-10 oz, tape top if unsealed, no pumps)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush (no multi-packs)
- 1 One-Gallon Resealable Plastic Bag (items go inside)
- \$2 Donation (for toothpaste & carrying bag, added by Midwest Mission)

#### **Home Care Kit Supplies**

Items should be placed in a 5-gallon bucket

- Bucket: 1 five-gallon round bucket with a resealable lid
- Liquid Household cleaner: 580-80 oz total (no spray bottles)
- Dish Soap: 42-64 oz total
- Liquid Laundry Detergent: 100-150 oz total
- Scrub Brush: 1 brush (with or without handle)

# February 2025



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>	<b>7</b>
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Bible Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 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		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
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**Change Service Requested**



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