

September 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

As a philosopher and theologian, Pope John Paul II developed an entire system of thought based upon scripture and tradition that considers what the human body reveals to us about God's plan for us, which he appropriately entitled, The Theology of the Body (TOB). It's a major contribution to the Christian intellectual tradition and most people who run in Catholic circles have at least heard about TOB; many others are quite familiar with its content.

Inspired by John Paul II's approach of letting things "show up" and "tell us about themselves" the way that he did with the human body, I want to briefly explore the Theology of the Dog and see what spiritual lessons we can glean from such an encounter.

As a boy I remember my dad teaching me that when you first meet a dog, you don't want to run at the dog, pull its collar or tail, or scare it in anyway. Rather, you should simply stand still and make a fist (so that the dog doesn't bite off your fingers) and extend your

arm so that the dog can approach you and smell your fisted hand. This is the first step in allowing a dog to get to know you and it ensures that you do not threaten the dog. In other words, let the dog make all the first moves.

The second step, once the dog has finished its initial investigation of you through sniffing, is to release your hand from the fist formation and to begin to pet the dog with an open hand. Many dogs like it when you scratch behind their ears and for some reason they like it when you talk to them as you pet them.

If a dog really enjoys the way you are treating it, then you will soon move to step three. Often without warning, the dog will roll over, throw its head back with open mouth, wag its tail, and wiggle side-to-side on its back, beckoning you to scratch its belly. Make no mistake about it; if you get to this third step with a dog, the canine trusts you and you've made a friend for life.

So what possible theological lesson can we learn from such a seemingly

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 7

**Rally Day**

9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 9

**Education Meeting**

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10

**Missions Meeting**

1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16

**Church Council**

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17

**Happy Elders Outing**

11:00 a.m.

**Worship Meeting**

1:30 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

simple activity as getting to know a dog? Let's try something by way of analogy. We human beings, due to our nature and need to control, often see God as our competitor rather than as our Lover and Healer. We can easily fall into the trap of believing that God is somehow a threat to our freedom and so the thought of getting too close to God can make us nervous.

So how is it that God comes to us? He comes to us kind of like the way my dad taught me to first approach a dog: non-threateningly and non-violently. God comes as Jesus Christ, as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. He then shows himself to us on the cross, as one who doesn't come to destroy us but as one who allows himself to be destroyed by us, in order to save us. And to this very day, that same Jesus makes himself present in a real, non-threatening, vulnerable way on every altar around the world under the disguise of bread and wine in Communion.

So – (and I know this sounds very strange at first, but remember, it's an analogy) – the way that we ought to be around Jesus is like the dog, who, after catching the scent of a new person, and after accepting some pats on the head and some scratching behind the ears, rolls over on its back and exposes the most vulnerable parts of itself, particularly its heart, to the one who scratches his belly. (It would be great if we could all jump right to step three, but for most of us, it's a process.) If we hide the most vulnerable parts of ourselves from the Lord, we'll never experience true healing and deep friendship with Him. But if we allow the Lord to see as we are, and if we make ourselves vulnerable before Him, then we'll find the remedy to the aching of our human hearts.

It was God who first made himself vulnerable to us in the Incarnation, specifically on the cross. So why not trust the most vulnerable parts of ourselves to God? The Lord can be trusted. And perhaps he even created dogs to give us an image to encourage that trust in us.



## BIRTHDAYS

6	Jenny Fournier	22	Heather Eckstein
7	Roger Nitschke	23	Jim Fournier
14	Austin Fournier	27	Delores Berger
17	Jon Uecker	28	Marsha Bathke
21	Jane Vienola		Steve LaPoint*
		29	Denise Strange



## ANNIVERSARIES

5	Robert* & Janet Stein
17	Randy & Tracey Lovell
18	Gerald & Jane Vienola
24	Craig & Meghan LaPoint

## Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers are needed each week for ushers, liturgist, greeters, acolyte 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.

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

## Newsletter Sponsorship

Randy & Tracey Lovell are the sponsors for the September 2025 newsletter. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. All newsletter sponsorships have been filled for 2025. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to sponsor a newsletter.

Red Bird's history has been build on personal journeys. Thousands of people who journeyed through Red Bird have created out story and defined our path. We are now beginning the 104th year of providing an outstanding education for your youth. Those who have been led by their compassion and commitment to serve or financially support Red Bird school have produced a myriad of opportunities for students through the provision of academic excellence, spiritual formations, leadership and service. Children and adults, whose lives have been touched by Red Bird, have benefited from lifelong friendships, previous memories and deeds of kindness offered by Good Samaritans we have met along the way.

### MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

#### Red Bird Mission

The path of Red Bird's journey is clear. Red Bird is committed to serving the young people in this corned of the Appalachia and beyond. Our school exists through your giving. Our students live in some of the poorest counites in the nation. Our families cannot afford to pay the \$7,000.00 per year cost of educating their child. They help where they can. The portion of their child ranges between \$100 and \$610 per year.

We along with others in the non-profit world, are experiencing a sharp decline in charitable giving. We are in critical need of financial and volunteer support.

## Pork Chop Dinner October 2025

On Saturday, October 11th, Wesley will be serving pork chop dinners courtesy of the WE (Waukau) Church. This dinner features the usual tender and tasty pork chop along with squash, baby reds, pickled beets, applesauce, a roll and desserts. It is hard to predict how many dinners we will order as the number has varied to the high of 100 and as low as 70. The price stays the same at \$13 per dinner. Please help me get the right number of dinners by **signing up early**. The later you decide to get a dinner may mean you won't get a dinner as there are limits as to how many they make and how fast our standing order is used up. There are two sign-ups in the narthex, on for TOGO and one to eat at the church. Pickup this year starts at 4:15 p.m. and ends at 4:45 p.m. For those eating at church, that meal will start at 5:00 p.m.

Randy Lovell

# Sunday School News

The start of the church Sunday School year is about here. The kickoff for Sunday School is Rally Day Sunday, September 7, 2025. Following worship service and Sunday School, there will be a potluck lunch. Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring salads, desserts, or chips to help complete the meal and help us celebrate the beginning of the new school year. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can get a head count for purchasing the hot dogs and a suggestion for what people will be bringing. Thank you.

We need to make changes to our Sunday School program. Teachers are needed to sign up for specific Sunday's. Jenny Fournier and Tracey Lovell will both need off Sunday, September 28th. Also, we need volunteers to commit to help or teach: once or twice a month? A month at a time? Please let Jenny or Tracey know if you are able to help.

Doris Thomas will again lead our children in music with Craig LaPoint's accompaniment. They will have rehearsals every other week following Sunday School/Worship Service in the sanctuary starting Sunday, September 14, 2025. Watch for further information as to when they plan on singing for the congregation. Thank you, Doris and Craig!

Third grade Bibles will be handed out on Sunday, September 21, 2025. We have three students this year that will be receiving bibles: Marlin Eckstein, Dejah Hetzel and Gray LaPoint. Congratulations this year's recipients.

Trunk or Treat is set for Saturday, October 25 from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Start thinking about how you will decorate your cars. We had 13 cars and over 200 children last year! Let's try to top that!

The children will be performing their Christmas Program Sunday, December 14, 2025 during the Worship Service.

Please mark your calendars that there will be no Sunday School on December 28th while the children are on Christmas break from school.

The next Education meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you in advance for everyone's help in our Sunday School Program.

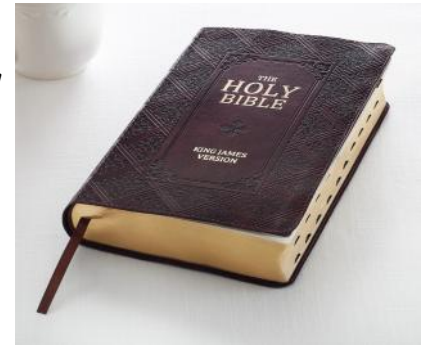
Donna LaPoint, Education Committee Chair





## Adult Bible Study Thursdays 2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Get curious about the book of Revelation. Bring a bible to room 8, although there are some bibles available in the study room. We know that John followed Jesus for about three years, but that didn't prepare John to see Jesus in His heavenly glory. In looking at the revealing of Jesus to John the apostle, we know that Jesus commanded John to write what he saw, and it becomes obvious that John saw and heard much more than he wrote in the book of Revelation.

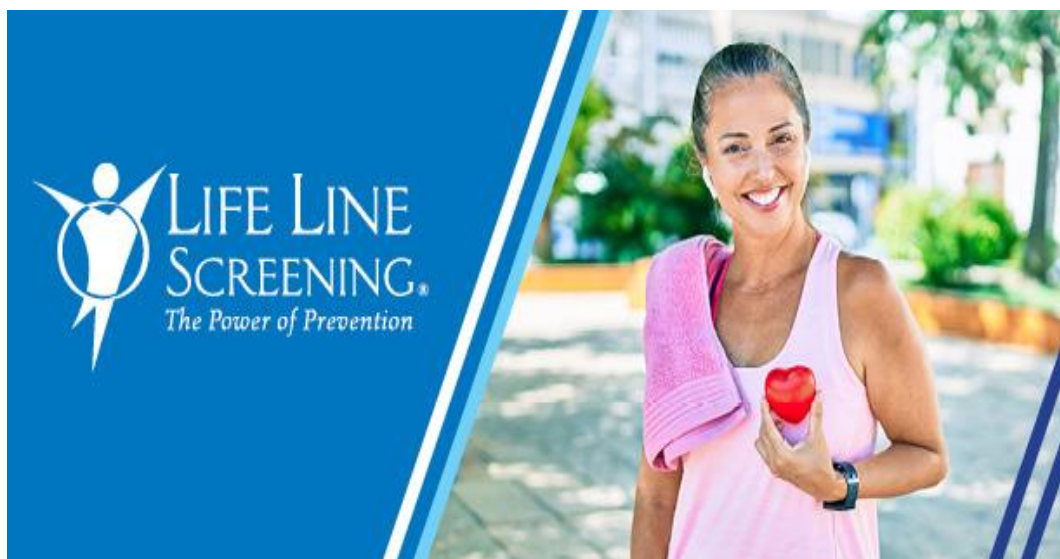


Revelation is full of signs and wonders for which there are no words to describe. In Matthew 13:9 Jesus said the words, "whoever has ears to hear, let him hear." Partly, Jesus was referring to people's understanding of spiritual things and their interest in the nature of God. We will read and hear the words of Jesus, but we will also believe in God's promise that His spirit will be in us in order to reveal an understanding of His Word to us. I am looking forward to our study time together again this year.

Thank you, Wayne Zimmerman

## *Life Line Screening*

Life Line Screening will be here at Wesley United Methodist Church on Thursday, September 11, 2025 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up. There is no time like the present to take action! To register call toll-free 1-888-814-0466 promo code HABC001.



### A little Jiggle—UMFoundation—Stewardship

David tells the story of a time he saw a car stalled at an intersection. The hood was up, and a young man waved him down for help. “I can’t get it started,” he said, “but if you jiggle the wire on the battery, I think it’ll work.”

David grabbed the positive battery cable—and it came off in his hand. The cable was clearly too loose. “The terminal needs to be tightened,” David told him. “I can fix it if you have some tools”

“My dad says to just jiggle the wire,” the young man replied. “It always works. Why don’t you just try that?”

David paused, sarcastically wondering why the young man’s dad didn’t ride around town with him, ready to jiggle the wire whenever needed. Then he said, “If I jiggle the wire, you’re going to need someone to do it every time you shut the engine off. But if you give me two minutes and a wrench, we can solve the problem—and you can forget about it.”

Reluctantly, the young man fumbled under the front seat, then handed David a crescent wrench through the window of the old car.

As David tightened the terminal, he thought about how many times he’d asked God for a “quick fix” in his own life. “I have this problem, Lord, and if you’ll just jiggle the wire, things will be okay. I’m in a hurry—just get me going again as fast as possible.”

**But God doesn’t want to just jiggle wires, does He? God wants to take the time to deal with the real issues—to actually fix the problem. A lasting solution to the struggles in our lives requires full surrender and a willingness to move forward on God’s terms. We must Cooperate with God—whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.**

As the young man drove away with this tightened terminal, David paused and asked the Lord to say “No” the next time he was tempted to ask for a quick fix.

- Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

### Happy Elders Outing

We are returning to Evergreen Manor for lunch at 11 AM on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the meal is \$5 and you pay when you get there. Everyone orders off the menu. Cake prepared by Evergreen Manor is part of the meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for this event usually attended by over 20 church members. Pastor Mark Klaisner will be the guest speaker on the subject of Gaza. Please contact Randy Lovell if you have any questions.



# September 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>
	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Adult Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>7—Rally Day</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship 10:30 a.m. Rally Day Potluck Luncheon	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Education	1:00 p.m. Missions 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	8:00 a.m. Lifeline 10:00 a.m. Adult Study 2:30 p.m. Adult 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>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Lectionary Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Church Council	11:00 a.m. Happy Elders 1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Adult Study 2:30 p.m. Adult Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
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<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
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