

September 2026



Office: 235-3070

Pastor Ben Morris

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

Esther Series Begins September 13th

"I can't explain it. I just know God's hand was in what was happening."

Have you ever found yourself saying something like that?

We have moments in our lives that we can't quite put our finger on. Moments when circumstances seem to come together in ways we never could have planned. Moments, when even in the midst of absolute chaos, we somehow know that God is still with us.

There is plenty of brokenness in our world that God does not ask us to explain why. There is sin. There is suffering. There is death. And yet our faith makes the remarkable claim that none of these things gets the final word. Somehow, even in the midst of them, God continues to work for good and bring life out of places where we least expect to find it.

That's the part of what makes the book of Esther such a fascinating story.

Esther's people have been conquered. They are living in exile, far from home. Esther herself has lost both of her parents. She is living under the rule of powerful foreign empire. As the story unfolds, her situation will become even more dangerous.

And yet, even there, life continues to emerge.

Esther will find family. She still finds connection. She discovers courage she may not have known she possessed. She finds herself in a place where she can serve God and God's people.

Esther: God's Providence in Everyday Life will be a six-week worship series beginning September 13th. I hope you will join us as we enter this remarkable story together and listen for how the God of the Resurrection continues to bring hope, redemption, and life in the most unlikely places.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 8
Education Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9
Missions Meeting
1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13
Pancake Breakfast
8:00 a.m.
Rally Day
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 16
Worship Meeting
1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22
Church Council
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23
Happy Elders
11:30 a.m.



BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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

UMCOR Early Response Training

Saturday, September 19, 2026 9AM-5PM

Zion United Methodist Church

1700 Pogrant Rd, Appleton

United Methodist Early Response Teams (ERTs)
provide a caring presence, stop further
property damage, and begin initial cleanup safely

Register at (608) 352-8068

 **Wisconsin** Conference
of The United Methodist Church

in partnership with

 **UMCOR**
Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church



"If it wasn't for me these good-hearted people we would go without. They have opened their hearts and doors for us and we are so thankful."
- Brenda and John

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Red Bird Mission

"Red Bird has given me more than I could give back to Red Bird." - Senator Johnnie Turner

The quote above came from individuals from different generations who were impacted by the generosity of others. Those living in and around this corner of Appalachia, like Brenda and John, are welcomed by staff at Red Bird's Community Outreach. Because they were hungry and without food, they received a much-needed emergency food box that day. Like others who come to Outreach each day seeking assistance in one area of their life, our staff spent time getting to know them better and then match our identified needs to be comprehensive resources like clothing, household items, baby supplies, and health supplies. They are offered free services like access to an onsite hearing clinic; tax preparation; health insurance enrollment; smoking cessation and GED classes that are provided by Red Bird or by one of our partner agencies. These community connections offer a lifeline to help lift each person out of a daily struggle toward their goals.

Sitting at Kentucky's State capitol, almost 60 years after graduation from Red Bird Mission School, Senator Johnnie Turner shared his memories and expressed deep appreciation to those at Red Bird who set him on a path of leadership and service with a foundation of faith. Throughout his life Johnnie, known as "JL" by his schoolmates, gave to Red Bird because he wanted other young people and families to have the same opportunities that were given to him. His recent passing has been a great loss to his family, friends and citizens across the Commonwealth. He, along with other supporters, have given Red Bird because they know the needs are deep, but the impact of their gifts is critical to the people we serve.

Annually, over 12,000 lives are positively affected by the programs of Red Bird Mission, Inc., and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. Approximately 1,500 volunteers this year gave their time, talents and financial resources. 1 John 3:18 tell us "Dear children, let us not love with words or talk but in actions and truths." We at Red Bird have witnessed the life-changing results from the actions of thousands of caring people throughout the years.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Randy & Tracey Lovell are the sponsors for the September 2026 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 2026. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to sponsor a newsletter.

Sunday School News

We will be having a pancake breakfast on September 13, at 8:00 a.m. to kick off our Sunday School year. A letter has been mailed out to all school aged children regarding Rally Day and some of the fun activities planned. We will also be welcoming Pastor Ben as the new pastor at Wesley. Be sure to fill out the Sunday School registration form and bring it with you on Rally Day. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



We really need more Sunday School Teachers and assistants/helpers. We are flexible and will accept just one Sunday, multiple Sundays, a month at a time or fill in as needed. The lessons will be provided. We do not want our current teachers burning out, so please prayerfully consider helping in this important ministry for our children. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please sign up if you can assist. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tracey Lovell or Jenny Fournier .



Pork Chop Dinner

Once again, Wesley will be picking up meals from the Waukau church's semiannual pork chop dinner on Saturday, October 10th. The meal includes the delicious pork chop, baby red potatoes, green beans, pickled beets, applesauce, a roll and bars for dessert. The pork chops, potatoes and green beans come in Nesco's and we serve the meals hot. The price is \$15.

You can dine in at Wesley at 5 PM or have Togo orders filled between 4:15 and 4:45. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for both Togo and dine-in. I have ordered 90 dinners but that number can change based on sign-up. The deadline for orders is **Sunday, September 27th**. Please help me by committing earlier rather than later as usually, Waukau sells out. Thank you and I will see you on October 10th.

Randy Lovell

Women of Wesley

News from the Women of Wesley. We had a meeting on Saturday, August 29th at 9:30 a.m. and made the following plans for the rest of the year. Also, a big thank you to the ladies that made homemade doggie treats for the pet blessing service held in August.

Tulip Bulb Planting: On Thursday, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. or the rain date will be on Friday, October 2. We will be planting tulips in the circle garden in front of the church and possibly around the sign out front. We will be pulling out the circle garden marigolds and need to bring extra soil for planting of tulips.

Holiday Bread Making: We will be meeting to bake breads on Saturday, November 14. We will be making 40 cranberry and 50 pumpkin breads. We will not be taking pre-orders this year; however, we will be selling these on Sunday, November 15. The cost of the bread will be \$6.00 per loaf. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Food Pantry and church maintenance fund.

Cookie Walk: Our cookie walk will be on Sunday, December 13 as this is the same day as the Kid's Christmas program. A craft table will also be part of the cookie walk again this year. Set-up will be on Saturday, December 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Any leftover cookies will be donated to the Day by Day Shelter and proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to Salvation Army and church general budget.

Christmas Stars Production: Appleton puts on a Christmas story or play every year at Xavier Fine Arts Theater at 1600 W. Prospect, Appleton. Tickets will go on sale on September 8 and price has not yet been released. This event is on Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. We will get further details as they become available.

Movie: We are planning a movie night to watch "I Swear" a movie about Tourette Syndrome. We will make sure any movie warnings will be shared, popcorn provided and a discussion to follow the movie. A date for this event has not been set.

Next Meeting Date: We will be meeting on Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m.

All ladies are invited to all these events. The more hands available, the easier the task.

Respectfully submitted by:
Donna LaPoint & Betty Croninger

Some of what we learned from John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism

John Wesley showed us that an active, methodical faith focused on practical holiness, relentless service to others, and a personal experience of God's grace can spark spiritual renewal.

The founder of Methodism gave early believers three basic guidelines for daily living: He said "Do no harm." That means to avoid evil and refrain from hurting others. Remember that means we need to look at "harm" from the perspective of the receiver, not just you or society.

He said "Do good." That means to actively help and show kindness everywhere you can. It also means that we must look at it from the perspective of the receiver. Too often the good builds up the giver and at the same time tears down the receiver.

Wesley said, "Stay in love with God." How do you stay in love? We need to maintain spiritual connections with God through prayer, worship, reading the Bible, and participating in Bible study.

Key Lessons from Wesley's life are often listed as:

1. First lesson is practice methodical discipline which means to have routines to help build strong spiritual habits.
2. Second lesson is that a deep personal assurance of God's grace helps shift your faith from rule-following to transforming trust.
3. Third lesson is that it is necessary to think outside the box. Take the gospel where it is needed.
4. Fourth lesson is often quoted as be compassionate. Use your funds wisely. Travel for God, share your faith, raise funds, use your knowledge. Do what you can for others.

Happy Elders



Please plan on joining us for a happy elders outing on September 23. We will be having breakfast or lunch at Evergreen at 11:30 a.m. and cost is \$5.00 per person. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those planning on attending. We look forward to seeing everyone!



September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
MG= Morning Glory CC= Chancel Choir MA = Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly		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	5:30 p.m. MA		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-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. Education	1:00 p.m. Missions 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	5:30 p.m. MA		
13—Rally Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-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	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	5:30 p.m. MA		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-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	11:30 a.m. Happy Elders 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	5:30 p.m. MA		
27	28	29	30			
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15-a.m.—noon Lectionary Study	8:00 a.m. Lifeline 5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	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			

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*The Wesleyan Connection is
published monthly for the
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