

September 2021



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 Tshishinen Mpoyo

Notes from the Pastor

"The Soul Side of Soul Food"

As the children of a self-giving God, we enjoy the endless abundance of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. We have an opportunity to know God in this world and bear witness to the life we have in relationship to Jesus Christ. That life can be eclipsed when we are under great stress. For this issue of *Soul Food*, I am asking us to reflect on the soul side of *Soul Food*.

Congregational leaders may not fully appreciate the strain the pandemic has placed on their clergy and other ministry leaders. We give thanks to God for the service of the pandemic's front-line workers, but what about some of the back-stage workers? In my opinion, clergy have been both front-line and back-stage leaders. In the early days, perhaps you might be able to say they did not have night meetings or go to hospitals. They reported more time with family. That said, this is the second phase of an intense marathon that has had long bursts of sprinting. Yes, our

laity are also serving all day at their places of work and then volunteer for the sake of the gospel. Yet they are getting away on vacation in good number. Clergy are now doing weddings and funerals that were postponed. They are doing worship that is both in-person and outdoors or streaming and setting up and taking down and organizing more detail for outdoor worship options. They are watching the good will of pandemic financial giving give way to understandable fatigue now that the emergency seems to be gone. Unfortunately, the battles about masks and safety have been soul-draining for clergy. Our cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments need the blessing of face-to-face relational development but in the pandemic challenges in communication have multiplied.

According to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, declines in retention of young elders (under 35) reached 852 in the United Methodist Church in the year 2020. This is near the previous low of 850 in 2005 that

(Continued on page 2)

Dates
to
Remember

Sunday, September 12
Rally Day
After 9:30 a.m. Worship

**Worship Services will
start at 9:30 a.m. as of
September 12**

Tuesday, Sept. 14
Church Council
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 15
Missions
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday starting
September 15
**What Does It Mean to
be a Methodist class**
6:30 p.m.

Online Services still
available to view on
Facebook and YouTube.
See page 4 for instructions
on how to subscribe to the
Wesley YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

gave rise to the Young Clergy Initiative approved at the 2012 General Conference and again in 2016. There has been a major decline of 97 young elders since 2018, leaving them at just 7% of our clergy pool. On top of the pandemic, deacons face the rigor of finding their own places for the bishop’s appointment and the isolation that often follows their specialized call. Local pastors are juggling the work of ministry and the duties of being credentialed as one serves—which was challenging before 2020 arrived.

This is a time for soul and soul-healing.

The trinity models the sharing of different persons in a unity that is whole and creative. No one is giving without receiving and no one person of the trinity is receiving without giving. Laity and clergy can share in ways that make us whole. This is time to ask your clergy person:

- How is it with your soul?
- What plans have you made to rest and recharge this summer?
- When is your Sabbath and how are you finding new life?
- How can we help?

Please, stay with the conversation and act.

This is an opportunity for a fundamental shift in the sharing of ministry. Perhaps this is the time to drop things that clergy used to do and that are no longer a priority. Perhaps it is time to assemble a team to help with charge conference. Maybe the Staff-Parish Relations Committee can negotiate more vacation for clergy or a volunteer for office coverage. If your pastor is the one doing tech for worship, help. If you need to ask for help and equip a team, this may be the opportunity for another generation of leadership. Perhaps the entire congregation can explore the practice of Sabbath. Clarity of priority and roles reduces anxiety.

I am hopeful yet concerned. Boundary erosion has a disastrous impact on clergy health and is the soil for clergy misconduct.



BIRTHDAYS

1	Tshishinen Mpoyo	21	Jane Vienola
	Eric Muyumb	22	Heather Eckstein
6	Jennifer Fournier	23	Jim Fournier
7	Roger Nitschke	27	Delores Berger
12	Terri West	28	Marsha Bathke
14	Austin Fournier		Steve LaPoint
	Janice Nitschke	29	Denise Strange
17	Jon Uecker		

ANNIVERSARIES

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

I offered leadership for a funeral recently. It was for the man who was the administrative council chair when I arrived at East Troy:

St. James UMC. Edward Jacob Zweifel was one of church leaders who has encouraged and fully partnered in my ministry while I was pastor in East Troy. In recent years Edward has been active in Platteville Church and most recently Rev. Rafael Cubilette was his pastor. Rev. Rafael invited me to participate in the celebration of Edward’s life. I appreciate so much the love and care I have received from fellow believers. He was such a gift to my leadership. He taught me and blessed me and together we were able to bear witness to the life we have in Jesus Christ. I thank God for his witness.

Please pray and consider a new balance for you and your clergy. Know that I am praying for you.

Peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Update From Trustees

- With the Oshkosh schools going back to wearing masks inside we feel Wesley should also go back to wearing masks, whether you are vaccinated or not, until the Covid 19 numbers come back down.
- Keep social distance from others, 6 feet apart even wearing masks.
- Sanitizer is available at all entrances.
- Families can sit together.
- Coffee and cookies will be postponed to a later date.
- No supervision is being provided for the nursery at this time. Please do not leave your children there unattended.
- The roof over the sanctuary will need to be replaced next spring. Please give generously to the roof fund as the cost will be around \$26,000.



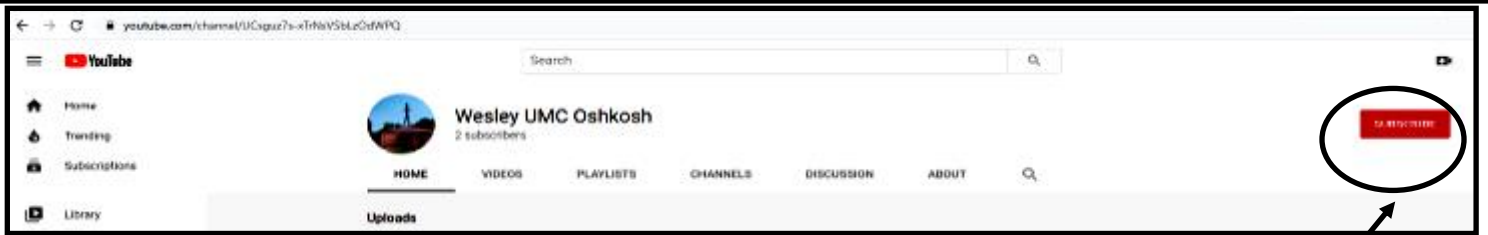
*****RALLY DAY*****SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12,
2021*****RALLY DAY*****

Our kickoff for the Sunday school year is Sunday September 12, 2021!!!! Registration forms have been sent out to our Sunday school families. If you have not received one, a form can be filled out on your first day of Sunday school. There will be balloons!!! We have will story time, games, and refreshments!!!

Starting on Rally Day, the new start time of our church worship service will be 9:30 a.m. (not 9 a.m.) Please note this important change. We'd like to see all of our Sunday School families there. The Sunday School students will be dismissed to their class after Children's Time in the worship service. Sunday School will end usually between 10:30a.m. and 10:45a.m. We will have punch and donut holes served to everyone in Koeller Hall following the church service on Rally Day to celebrate the start of our new school year. The punch will be pre-poured into cups and the donut holes will be served using tongs so safety measures will be observed due to Covid. You need not wear a mask. Oshkosh Schools as of the writing of the newsletter submission, have stated that students need to be masked and Wesley United Methodist church will follow those guidelines. The trustees are monitoring the Covid numbers in case for any reason we need to make other plans regarding in-person worship service and Sunday school. We want to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children.

We look forward to a fun and educational year.

Submitted by Donna LaPoint, Education Committee Chair



1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



wesley umc oshkosh|

4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.



On the first Sunday in October, United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.

In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday.

United Methodists believe in an open table, anyone may receive communion. Our Book of Worships says, "All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup."

In United Methodist Churches around the world, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday to fund scholarships for seminarians. One half of the proceeds is for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining one half is for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Established in 1992, Africa University is a non-profit private higher-education institution located in the suburban setting of the small city of Mutare. Africa University is a " Pan-African and United Methodist-related institution." It has more than 1,200 students from 36 African countries. A branch campus is located in Harare. Cost is approximately \$2,500 USD per year.

Officially recognized by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education of Zimbabwe, Africa University (AU) is a very small coeducational Zimbabwean higher education institution formally affiliated with the Christian-Methodist religion with more than 1,200 students from 36 African countries.^[1]

Africa University (AU) offers courses and programs leading to officially recognized higher education degrees such as pre-bachelor degrees (i.e. certificates, diplomas, associate or foundation), bachelor degrees, master degrees, doctorate degrees in several areas of study.

This 28 year old Zimbabwean higher-education institution has a selective admission policy based on entrance examinations. The admission rate range is 30-40% making this Zimbabwean higher education organization a very selective institution.

International applicants are eligible to apply for enrollment. AU also provides several academic and non-academic facilities and services to students including a library, housing, sports facilities, financial aids and/or scholarships, study abroad and exchange programs, online courses and distance learning opportunities, as well as administrative services.



**Starting Sunday,
September 12,
Worship Service will begin
at 9:30 a.m.**

Newsletter Sponsorship

The sponsor for the September newsletter is the Villars family in memory of Doug Villars. Please consider being a sponsor for the 2022 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 2022.

How to instill faith in children

Helping kids learn about God may seem daunting. The good news is that a theology degree isn't required and it has less to do with words than with actions. Check out these tips from United Methodist children ministry leaders for how to make faith real in the lives of the kids we love.

Every day presents teachable moments

"Every moment of every day is a teachable moment and that doesn't stop with your faith," says Aimee Cox, director of children's ministry at [Christ United Methodist Church](#).



"People think you have to be in a worship setting in your sanctuary to have sacred moments," Cox explains. "When you allow your kids to talk about how they are feeling and how to approach things in a Christ-like way, you're having that sacred moment without naming it."

Sitting around the table at mealtime, taking a walk, snuggling at bedtime are ideal holy moments, says Melinda Shunk, the Arkansas Conference's children's ministry coordinator. "Adults can take these routine opportunities to tell children that you thank God for them or for the time you're spending together.

"It's a blessing to that child to hear those words washed over them," Shunk points out.

Watch for more tips in future newsletters!

NEW.....NEW....NEW....ADULT STUDY CLASS.....NEW.....NEW...NEW

Have you ever been asked, "What does it mean to be a Methodist?" "What do Methodists believe in?" "Why are you a Methodist?" "How long has the Methodist religion been around?" If you hesitated at all in answering any of these questions, this class is for you.

It will be a study on Methodist History and What It Means To Be A Methodist. The class will start Wednesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. and be led by Donna LaPoint.

Hope to see you there!

Does The UMC fund...

One of the more frequent questions the UMC receives is about whether The United Methodist Church funds particular non-United Methodist organizations. We also find some people are surprised by the United Methodist-related entities their apportionments fund partially or not at all.

Understanding the UMC Budget

The United Methodist Church budget supports seven general apportioned funds. Local church giving to these funds provides for the global mission and witness of our church.

Understanding the UMC Budget

General Apportioned Funds

- 1) Africa University Fund - Supports education efforts on the continent of Africa
- 2) Black College Fund - Supports 11 historically Black church-affiliated schools
- 3) Episcopal Fund - Supports active and retired bishops in their episcopal leadership for the denomination
- 4) General Administration Fund - Supports General Conference, the Judicial Council, Archives and History and the church's finance agency
- 5) Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - Supports the church's ecumenical work
- 6) Ministerial Education Fund - Supports United Methodist seminaries and clergy development
- 7) World Service Fund - Supports the diversity of mission through the work of church agencies and the Connectional Table

General Conference approves a budget to support vital international, national, and regional missions and ministries. The general church budget is proportionally allocated (apportioned) to annual conferences, which in turn ask each local church to contribute a portion of its tithes and offerings to support these ministries. In this way, each congregation gives a fair share to support the church's work worldwide.

Here are some of the non-UMC organizations asked about most frequently, listed in alphabetical order.

Does The UMC fund... these non-related entities?

Advocacy groups (such as Good News, Institute on Religion and Democracy, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Reconciling Ministries Network, The Confessing Movement): No.

These are independent organizations funded by their members and participants.

Black Lives Matter organizations: No.

The United Methodist Church addresses anti-racism work primarily through the [General Commission on Religion and Race](#) and annual conference commissions on religion and race. The apportionment your congregation sends to your annual conference funds both your annual conference commission on religion and race and the General Commission. The denominational budget funds no Black Lives Matter organizations.

March of Dimes: No.

The United Methodist Church has never funded this organization.

World Vision and Samaritan's Purse: No to both.

The United Methodist Church has never funded these organizations.

National Council(s) of Churches (and similar ecumenical bodies outside the US): Yes.

The United Methodist Church, through its predecessor bodies, was a founding member of the [National Council of Churches](#) and its predecessor, the Federal Council of Churches. The ecumenical commitment of The UMC, however, extends beyond the United States, and includes a financial commitment to support these bodies that bring Christians of many denominations together in common efforts.

Planned Parenthood: No.

The United Methodist Church has never funded this organization.

Political Parties or Political Candidates: No.

The United Methodist Church does not fund political candidates or political parties. This is a prohibited activity under U.S. non-profit law for churches and other charitable organizations which qualify for exemption from federal income tax. Churches may jeopardize or even lose this status if they engage in "political campaign activity." Learn more about the [Church's involvement in politics](#).

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: Not as of 2017.

The United Methodist Church was a founding member of this coalition and advocated for the Church's life-centered position on abortion in dialogue with other member bodies, many of whom hold choice-centered ethics. The 2016 General Conference instructed The UMC to exit the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and eliminate all funding for it.

World Council of Churches: Yes.

The United Methodist Church, the largest Protestant denomination that functions as a worldwide church, is committed to witnessing to the gospel and extending the mission of Christ in partnership with Christian bodies on a worldwide basis. As a founding member of The [World Council of Churches](#) through its predecessor bodies, The United Methodist Church continues its presence, witness, and collaborative work in the World Council of Churches through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, one of the apportioned funds. United Methodist funding supports the participation of United Methodists and Christians of many denominations from developing countries in the worldwide assemblies of the Council, as well as the Council's ongoing work of promoting initiatives to build justice and make for peace. See pages 35 and 38 of the [Financial Commitment Booklet](#) for more information.

Does The UMC fund... these UM and UM-related entities?

United Methodist General Agencies: Varies

Among the agencies primarily funded by the general church budget are Archives and History, Church and Society, Communications, Discipleship Ministries, Finance and Administration, Global Ministries, Higher Education and Ministry, Religion and Race, and the Status and Role of Women.

Some United Methodist agencies are **not** funded or not fully funded through local church giving to the general church budget.

Mission and Mission Support

- [The General Commission on United Methodist Men](#) is partly supported (up to 20%) by local church giving through the World Service Fund.

The majority of its funding comes from its members.

- [United Methodist Women](#) is 100% supported by its own membership. It receives no funds from the General Church budget.
- While the [World Service Fund](#) underwrites part of the work of [Global Ministries](#) and its international relief unit, [UMCOR](#), much is funded through additional giving by individuals and annual conferences through the Advance, a way to direct support to specific missionaries, mission projects, and disaster relief. UMCOR often provides grants to and collaborates with other partner relief organizations on the ground, especially in areas where there are few or no United Methodist congregations present.

Publishing

- Discipleship Resources and [Discipleship Resources International](#), the publishing units of [Discipleship Ministries](#), are funded with support from the World Service Fund.
- [The United Methodist Publishing House](#) receives no funding from the General Church budget. Instead, it is funded through subscription services and sales of their publications and other items. The United Methodist Publishing House is required to produce and publish the official documents of the denomination (including the Book of Discipline, Book of Resolutions, all official materials of the General Conference, and the hymnal and ritual of the Church) and to return profits from its overall operations to support retirement funds for United Methodist clergy.
- [Upper Room Ministries](#), like United Methodist Publishing House, is funded entirely through sales and subscriptions. It receives no funds from the general church budget.

Retirement and Health Benefits

- [Wespath](#), the church's pension and health benefits agency, is funded by those who participate in its benefit plans and through returns on investments using those funds. It is not supported through the General Church budget.

United Methodist-Related Institutions: Varies *Higher Education and Clergy Formation*

- *Directly Funded Colleges and Universities*
The general church budget provides some direct funding through [The Black College Fund](#) for eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) related to The United Methodist Church. It also provides substantial funding for Africa University, founded by the 1988 General Conference, through [The Africa University Fund](#). This fund also enables bishops in Africa to provide a limited number of full scholarships to students in their episcopal areas each year.
- *Seminaries in the United States*
Thirteen United Methodist seminaries offer graduate-level programs for those called to ordained ministry, Course of Study for local pastors, and continuing-education opportunities for pastors across the connection. Scholarship support for these students comes through [The Ministerial Education Fund](#).
- *Seminaries and Theological Education Institutions outside the United States*
[The Central Conference Theological Education Fund](#), created by the 2012 General Conference as a part of the [World Service Fund](#), supports theological schools, courses of study, libraries, scholarships, and faculty development for the training and educational support of clergy outside the United States.

Hospitals and Health Care Systems

- *Within the United States*
United Methodist-related hospitals within the United States were originally started by annual conferences. Some annual conferences own or have oversight over such hospitals through participation in their boards of directors. Most maintain an ongoing relationship through a variety of other means. None are funded by the General Church budget.
- *Outside the United States*
Global Ministries has helped launch and continues some funding for many hospitals and health care sites, in part through the World Service Fund and in part through individual and

conference giving to the Advance ([Abundant Health](#)).

Children's Homes and Eldercare

- *Within the United States*
As with hospitals, most United Methodist-related children's homes and older adult facilities in the United States were founded by annual conferences, and some remain owned by the annual conference. For the most part, they are independent institutions that maintain a relationship with their founding conference, but raise their own funds through the services they provide. Some annual conferences provide some funding in their budgets. None of these facilities are supported by the General Church budget.
- *Outside the United States*
Some children's homes, orphanages, and related ministries outside the United States are supported in part through the World Service Fund under the direction of Global Ministries. Most, however, receive funding from individuals or conferences through the Advance under the [Impact Area of Education](#).

Surprised by what The United Methodist Church does or does not fund through your local church offerings?



PORK CHOP SUPPER

Saturday, October 9

Details Coming

Anthony Colantonio has moved to a new place. He LOVES getting mail! If you would like to send him a "How are you doing?" card, please send it to the following address:



Anthony Colantonio
212 S. 16th Avenue
West Bend, WI 53095



Words of thanks received since the last newsletter

"Through your gift of \$233.00 you are serving within a vital new word of interactive relationships around the world. Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary **UMCOR**

"Thank you for your generous donation of \$320 which will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of men you did for me' Matthew 25:40.

Chantel Corrie, Executive Director Midwest Mission Distribution Center (**Ingathering**).

"Our work together changes lives! Again, thank you for your generous donation of \$134.56 to support shelter, transitional living and emergency services to homeless women and families. 'We are thankful for you.'" Grace and Peace Chelsea Branley, Executive Director of **Harbor House** Crisis Shelters.

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you so much for the donation you made to Senegal UMC. We are so blessed to have you as partners for God's mission. Your donation has been making a great impact for ministry here in **Senegal**." Yours in God's service, Rev. Jean Pierre Ndour, District Superintendent

Dear Wesley UMC. We are bridging today's gap for tomorrow's hope. Thank you for your donation of \$740. We are able to purchase food at 19 cents per pound through Feeding America. Your money buys lots. I invite you to arrange a visit and tour. We are proud of our program and our facility. "Thank you again. Your community is one of our most solid sources of support. Tom Fojtik, Executive Director of **Oshkosh Area Community Pantry**.

Wesley, we are so very grateful for your gift of a wonderful meal to each of us and our families who are serving in Mission Aviation. The meal was delicious. The greetings joyful. And we were happy to have **you** with us on Thursday for supper. You served over 220 that night. **MASA**

Wesley's Mission Team sends their thanks for your participation in serving these and other missions at home and around the world. The ministries also ask that we keep them in our prayers as they are also praying for us.



September 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 a.m. Worship In-person and streaming	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10 a.m.–noon TOPS 6:30 p.m. Church Council	5:30-5:40 p.m. Facebook Children's Message 5:30-6:30 p.m. TKD	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do 6:30 –7:30 p.m. Education Comm.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 a.m. Worship In-person and streaming	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do	10 a.m.–noon TOPS 6:30-7:30 p.m. Church Council	3:30-4:30 p.m. Missions 5:30-5:40 p.m. Facebook Children's Message 5:30-6:30 p.m. TKD 6:30 p.m. Methodist Class	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 a.m. Worship In-person and streaming	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do	10 a.m.–noon TOPS	5:30-5:40 p.m. Facebook Children's Message 5:30-6:30 p.m. TKD 6:30 p.m. Methodist Class	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do		
26	27	28	29	30		
9:30 a.m. Worship In-person and streaming	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do	10 a.m.–noon TOPS	5:30-5:40 p.m. Facebook Children's Message 5:30-6:30 p.m. TKD 6:30 p.m. Methodist Class	5:30-6:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do		



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

Change Service Requested



The Wesleyan Connection is published monthly for the members and friends of Wesley United Methodist Church, 761 Florida Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549
Tshishinen Mpoyo, Pastor
Church Phone: 920-235-3070

Email:
wesleyumc761@yahoo.com

Church Web:
www.umcwesley.com

Facebook:
Wesley United Methodist Church