



*Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
Family Connections*

Volume 23 No. 1

January, 2018

Our Mission: “We are a welcoming Christian Community where all can experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We are growing as disciples of Christ as we teach, support, and nurture one another in ministry to our community and world.



WORSHIP WITH US!

Sundays: 8:30am & 10:45am

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Jan. 7 | Epiphany Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Choir at 10:45am |
| Jan. 14 | 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Human Relations Day
Choir at 8:30am |
| Jan. 21 | 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
Choir at 10:45am
Handbells at both services |
| Jan. 28 | 4th Sunday After the Epiphany
No Choir |



A Graceful Mess

By: Megan Vollmer

New Year, New Us, Right?

Every year people all over make New Year's resolutions that we end up forgetting before the end of January. We focus on the end game instead of how we plan to get there. We aspire to make changes that are simply too big to be possible or healthy for our lives.

We don't need to become an entirely different version of ourselves every single year. If we did, we wouldn't be the people our friends and family know and love. We can and should be a better version of ourselves every single day, though. It doesn't take much to be a better person tomorrow than we were today. Simple little things will accomplish this, easy as pie.

We shouldn't want to completely change ourselves or our lives, but it is always a good idea to work on improving and bettering ourselves. We should want to be better people and do God's will, but it is impossible to do it all at once. We can do it little by little, and we'll be doing pretty good rather quickly!

**Martin
Luther
King
Day**



The Church office will be
closed on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018
in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Parish News

Death

Chester Koepke on Nov. 30, 2017. He and his wife, June, have been members since 2003.



The following "People at Home" will have Jan. Birthdays:

Linda Sponholz (Jan. 17)

Cedar Bay East

5577 Home Dr. #206, West Bend 53095

Happy
Birthday



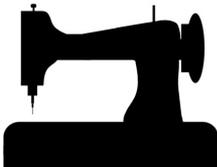
Notes of Appreciation and Thanks!

The **staff** would like to thank the congregation for the kind notes of appreciation and monetary gifts you gave them during the month of December.

Your support is very important to us!

*Alana, Amy, Clarissa, Dave, Jean,
Kathy, John, Leslie*

Sewing Day



Our first **Sewing Day** will be **Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 from 9:00am to Noon** in Fellowship Hall. We will once again be sewing school bags for Missions.

Escape the winter cold by joining the warm fellowship. Sewing kits will also be available in the north entrance.



Two Adults Bible Studies

Our new **Adult Bible Study** series is called *Journey Through the Bible*. This series' focus is an examination of the Bible from three dimensions.

Each week we will examine each of these avenues of thought as we study the Bible book by book. The first in the series we will be studying is Genesis. We will be meeting in the **Fireside Room at 9:45am every Sunday**. Class is led by Jan & Mike Donahou. Join us as we look deeply into God's Word.

On-Going Bible Study Winter - 2017

This winter our lessons explore the two-fold nature of faith as belief and actions. We will be reviewing the books of Acts, Ephesians, and Daniel.

A Living Faith in God

The four lessons in the January unit explore faith in action from the Book of Daniel. These lessons provide models for ways to actively engage in behaviors that demonstrate sincerity, obedience, boldness, and strength of faith.

Join us in the Disciple Room at 9:45am to learn more about the Bible and the search for the newborn King of the Jews.

Office Hours During New Year



**Holiday
Hours**

The office will also be closed on **Friday, Dec. 29**, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, at 7:30am.

If you are in need of a pastor, please call **Pastor Clarissa at 847-721-1826**, **Rev. Amy Anderson at 262-271-7575**, or **Alana Dalton at her home, 262-644-7758**.



Lunch Group At the Ridge!

The Lunch Group will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 18, at 12:00 Noon** at Top of the Ridge Restaurant. No sign up necessary. Lunch will be the special of the day. Join in for food and fellowship.



Breakfast Group will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 2,** at 8:30am at the **Copper Penny,** 1700 E. Washington St., West Bend. No sign up is necessary.

Bishop's Day Apart

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Registration 6:00 pm

Event will be 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Pewaukee: Gethsemane UMC

642 Main St.

Pewaukee, WI 53072

Registration Deadline February 15, 2018

Contact Pastor Clarissa or Rev. Amy Anderson to register.

MEN'S



RETREAT

2018 Men's Pine Lake Retreat

The Men's Retreat for 2018 has been scheduled for March 16, 17 & 18, 2018. **Leader to be announced.**

Cost is \$125.00 for 2 nights and 6 home-made meals. The United Methodist Men will provide a reduction of \$50 for each participant if you **sign up by March 1, 2018.** Your cost will be **\$75.00.** **Note Scholarships are available to cover the cost as needed.** Please see Bob Krell for details.

We will be staying at the Rader Retreat Center and will share a room with 2 per room. Sheets, blankets, pillows are provided. Each room has a private shower.

Please **sign up in the north entrance** to get your spot set up for this event. More information will be forthcoming.

Bob Krell, UMM Leader



Thank You ...

...to all who helped **decorate the church** Nov. 26th. A special thank you to Bruce & Bonnie Nissly for providing the greenery and decorations for the flower pots.

...to all of you to everyone who purchased gifts or gave a monetary donation to our **Angel Tree program**. The gifts and gift cards for food have been delivered to the Gingerbread House. Your generosity has brightened the season for needy families in our community.—**Dorothy Dahlen**

...to everyone who helped with our **cookies for the homebound** by baking, packing, and delivering. It is much appreciated and means a lot to our church family. - **Katie Glaser**

...to the Children's Sunday School, Handbell Choir, and Chancel Choir members for presenting the **Christmas Story** during the worship services on Dec. 17th.

...to each of you for saying YES when Jean Krell called you to serve as a **Liturgist, Acolyte, Greeter, Chalice Bearer, Advent Reader or Candlelighter, or to serve coffee** for fellowship time. Your time and service is a very important part of our worship services.

...to our **Boy Scout Troop 780** for the wreaths to decorate our church.

...to all who participated in our annual **White Elephant Auction** by either donating items or coming and being very generous in your bidding and giving. A BIG thank you to my auction angels who were a big help to me: Jean Krell-Ellen Johnson-Dee Ream-Betsy Winquist-Marge Pok-Barb Johnson-Vicki Roth-Mary Rogge. We raised \$400.00 and it was divided between the **Washington Co. Humane Society and the local Food Pantry**. God bless all of you and have a very Merry Christmas. -**Pat Barnhouse**

Welcome Committee



Welcoming Words of Wisdom

Did you know that 97% of visitors to our church have just undergone a life changing experience such as birth, death, marriage, move, job loss, retirement, a disaster (e.g. 9-11, fire, etc.)? All are life transitions that create stress. Friendly smiles and greetings help provide much comfort. **-The Welcome Team**

Wonderful Wednesday

Wonderful Wednesday

Our Wonderful Wednesday meal will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.** Dean Pok and Family will prepare the meal. Please **sign up** in the north entrance. Bring a friend.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mark your calendar to join this group of knitters and crocheters on **Tuesdays, Jan. 2 & 16. No Thursday meeting in January.**

Memorial Gifts Given in 2017

In 2017, the Wills & Memorials Committee dispersed the following funds from memorials received:

- *Tree/bench for outside of the church: Elaine Weidemann
- *Green paraments for the pulpits: Fran Kissinger
- *Art work to be displayed in the church: Ruth Hemmings, Marjorie Bursack, Vilas Bursack, Marge Papenfuss
- *India Orphanage Project: Marge Wendt
- *Interfaith: Doug Winquist
- *Music: Dorothy Fischer
- *Legacy Fund: John Roth
- *Family Promise: Russ Boothroyd
- *Technology Fund: Agnes Bast, Audrey Moser, Brian Slade, and Charlotte Stube



Happy Birthday, Missionaries!

Support our missionaries **Caring Schwenk** worked along side her husband, Ric, in Malaysia, Sarawak and the Philippines and she also developed her own mission on Smokey Mountain in Manila. Smokey Mountain is a garbage dump that is perpetually burning, but people live on it anyway! They also raised four children. Since our church supplied salary support, they came here in itineration every three years so we watched their children grow up. They are retired now and live in Naperville, IL, near their two daughters.

Martha Kuhlman is another wife who worked alongside her husband. He was a professor (Missionary) in Japan and they raised two children there. Martha worked with the students in many ways and welcomed them into their home. Since our church supplied salary support, they came here every three years so we watched their children grow up, too. When they left Japan they returned to Wisconsin where Frank pastored churches in Pepin and Alma and Martha continued her ministry with the children. They are retired now and living in Ohio, near a son.

2017 Wills & Memorials Report

The Wills & Memorial Committee received \$10,430 from funds generated in interest from the Legacy Fund. If you have any questions about the distribution of funds or a request for next year's funds, please contact the Wills & Memorial Committee. The following distribution of funds were approved by the Committee.

Pastors Fund: \$1,000

Lost & Found Children of the Dominican Republic: \$500

India Orphanage: \$500

Building of Residential School in India: \$500

LaDispensa Food Pantry, Milwaukee: \$500

Northcott Neighborhood House: \$1,000

Albrecht Free Clinic: \$1,000

Full Shelf Food Pantry: \$1,000

Rawhide Counseling Services, West Bend: \$750

Friends of Abused Families: \$500

UMCOR-Puerto Rico: \$1,000

Red Bird Mission, KY: \$500

St. James Harvest house: \$500

Interfaith Caregivers: \$500

Street Fest: \$500

Church Picnic: \$500

Marolyn Kell, Wills & Memorials Chairperson



FAITH IN ACTION

It is a **New Year!** With the New Year comes sayings such as, it is “Time to Turn Over a New Leaf.” When I hear a saying, I often wonder about its origin. So, I will google and find out a bit of trivia. Literally speaking, “Turn Over a New Leaf” means, to “turn to a new page.” In fact, in earlier times books were written traditionally on palm leaves. So turn a new page, **make a change.**

I have a plaque in my office that reads, “Do not be afraid of change. Be afraid of not changing.” This is a reminder to me that God is working on me, God is working on all of us. His love is meant to transform us from the inside out. This year as we step closer to God together, let us challenge one another to change an attitude or behavior to be more Christ Like. Check in with a friend and inquire as to their dreams and goals. Holding each other accountable for our Faith In Action, is a strong United Methodist Practice. I can’t wait to hear what you will be working on. Come and share with me and I will share with you my goal.

THANK YOU! Church family—you are loving and generous in your giving. Street Life and Inner Beauty Ministries have received: 50 some warm coats, assorted winter clothing, hats and mittens, sandwiches, hot dogs, and cookies. Along with the abundance of warm clothing and food the monetary gift from Wills and Memorials of \$500.00 will go to purchase warm clothing for the homeless people on the South Side of Milwaukee.

Christmas Caroling was enjoyed by the residents at Cedar Bay West, The Cottages, New Perspectives, and The Samaritan Health Care Center. Alana created Caroling Books so we have them ready to go for next year. Our chorus consisted of: John Abuya, Dave and Polly Bertelsen, Sheila Bretzel-Beutin, Dot Edison, Katie Glaser, Rev. Amy and David Anderson. Holiday Cheer was felt by all!

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JANUARY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Study of the book of James: Jan. 2nd – Feb. 13th Tuesdays at 11am till noon. Bring your Bible and your friends.

Mission in Milwaukee with the Deacon: Come and serve at La Dispensa Food Pantry Sat. mornings, depart 7:30am return to WB by 1pm. Open invitation: Call 262-271-7575 to let me know you would like to come.

IDEA'S FOR FUTURE MINISTRIES

Monthly Movie and discussion to be held at the theatre in town.

Impromptu Musical Jam. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to praise God by creating music? Let's talk.....

**It is a New Year! Let your Faith be seen in Action.
Peace My Friends,
Rev. Amy Anderson**