



Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
Family Connections

Volume 23 No. 12

December, 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
9:30am Sunday, Dec. 16:
Congregational Christmas Celebration



- Dec. 2** **1st Sunday of Advent**
Worship 8:30 & 10:45am
Communion Sunday/Choir at 8:30am
- Dec. 9** **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Worship at 8:30 & 10:45am
Noisy Sunday (bring coins for missions)
Choir Sings at 10:45am
- Dec. 16** **3rd Sunday of Advent**
8:00-9:15 Pancake Breakfast with Special Guest
9:30 am Congregational Christmas Celebration
- Dec. 23** **4th Sunday of Advent**
Worship at 8:30 & 10:45am
- Dec. 24** **Worship at 4:00pm and 7:00pm**
Candlelighting at all services



A Graceful Mess **By: Megan Vollmer**

Let's Be Grateful For What Frustrates Us

We can easily argue that life is all about perception. For example: do we see the glass half full or half empty? Life is full of challenges and frustrations, but if we opt to find a different perspective we can find reasons to be grateful for those frustrations. While the socks next to the hamper can be quite annoying, they are also a reminder that we share our home with someone we love.

Many of us have to put forth a little extra effort to see the things that frustrate us as things to be grateful for. Overcoming these issues is just a part of living. During any frustrations, we can be grateful we have our faith to lean on and help us get through it. We can be grateful we have the strength to persevere and weather the storm, whatever it may be.

Getting frustrated is often times our default setting when things aren't going our way or as planned. Taking a step back and finding a more positive perspective takes extra effort for

Wonderful Wednesday

*Wonderful
Wednesday*

Dean Pok and Family will provide a the Wonderful Wednesday meal on **Dec. 12th at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.** Please sign up.



Congregational Christmas Celebration

There will be one service **on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 9:30am.** The congregation will be participating in the celebration of the Christmas story along with our youth.

Before the service from **8:00am-9:15am,** there will be a Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the north

Parish News



Change of Address

- **Ginny Wise**

Pavilion At Glacier

1900 American Eagle Dr. #608, Slinger, WI 53086

- **Jennifer Krell**

1020 W. Washington St., WB 53090

New Member

Heather Carrier on Nov. 18

Deaths

David Emrey, husband of Martha Winquist Emrey on Oct. 23

Thank you!



A special thank you to **Debra Matthies** for the beautiful **cross-stitch artwork** that she made in celebration of our 170th Anniversary that is hanging Fellowship Hall and to her husband, **Daryl**, for the oak frames he made. They are gorgeous and make Fellowship Hall feel very welcoming.



Men's Pancake Breakfast

The Men's group will have a **Pancake Breakfast from 8:00-9:15am on Sunday, Dec. 16, before the 9:30am Worship Service.** A free-will offering will be taken.

Menu: Egg Dish, Sausage, Pancakes, Applesauce Coffee, Milk, Juice and all the fix-in's. There will also be a **special guest** that



Poinsettia Orders

Watch your weekly bulletins for your Poinsettia Order form. **Cost is \$8.00.** Deadline to sign up is **Dec. 9th.** You may also call the church office, 334-2059, and Alana can order a plant for you. What a great opportunity to honor, thank, or remember your loved ones by purchasing a Christmas Poinsettia for the



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studi

Winter 2018-2019
Our Love For God

In December, our lessons begin with God's demands for our complete and undivided love as shown in passage from Deuteronomy and Psalms. They proceed with our response to God's love in the advent of Christ and our responses to God's love in Christ.

The Adult Bible Study group meets **at 10:00 a.m. in the Disciple Room. (across from the Fireside Room.)** The materials used are from

Thank You!

United Methodist Women wants to thank everyone for their tremendous support and participation with the recent Cookie Walk. It was such a success despite the cold temperatures. We had a wonderful variety of delicious cookies and many yummy candies, breads, etc. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated something,



School Bag Sewing Day is coming up fast. Plans are to start in January. Sewing dates will be announced in the January newsletter. Heavy fabric is badly needed. Ask friends and neighbors if they have any to donate. Suggestions, require fabric pickup, or



Children's Activity Bags

We are looking for someone to organize, supply, etc. the Children's Activity Bags that are used each Sunday. These bags are used by the children attending our worship services.

If you are interested, please call the church office, 334-2059, or ask Bettie Schuler for more details. We thank Bettie for the many years she has done this.

Her ministry is very much appreciated. She will continue until someone



Lunch Group At the Ridge!

The Lunch Group will meet on **Thursday, Dec. 20**, at **12:00 Noon** at Top of the Ridge Restaurant. No sign up



Breakfast Group will meet on **Tuesday, Dec. 4**, at 8:30am at **Copper Penny**, 1700 E. Washington St., West Bend. No sign up is necessary.

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

*Happy
Birthday*

-Howard Hadler (Dec. 6)

1061 Cedar St., WB 53095

-Dorothy Schneider (Dec. 6)

Samaritan Health Care Center

531 E. Washington St. #108, WB 53095

-Marge Salberg (Dec. 7)

The Fields of Washington County

675 E. Washington St. #206, WB 53095

-Gordon Covill (Dec. 30)

The Waterford at West Bend



Combined Church Conference Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30pm in Jackson

A **Combined Church Conference** will be held on **Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30pm** at **Stillwaters Community UMC**, 3617 Scenic Dr. in Jackson along with **Hartford UMC** and **Fifth Avenue UMC**. This is the **annual meeting** of all the church members in which we **celebrate our 2018 ministry, report on our membership, Pastor's Benefits, Trustees Report, and removal of**

Save Those Christmas Cards!

We help the Samaritan Health Care Center with their **craft programs** by providing them with the fronts of Christmas and other cards.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Christmas Appreciation For Church Staff

The Christmas Season is fast approaching and once again we are giving the congregation an opportunity to show appreciation to our Church Staff. If you can and wish to contribute, you're welcome to send a monetary gift to the church to show your thanks for all their extra efforts in support of our ministry at Fifth Avenue. The gift will be shared with the 7 staff members. Checks can be made out to Fifth Ave. UMC. Mark your contribution: **Staff Christmas**. The gift should be received at the church no later than **December 9, 2018**. Thank you for your support.

Stan Schneider, Church Council Chair
Bob Krell, Lay Leader



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mark your calendar to join this group of knitters and crocheters on **Tuesdays, Dec. 4 & 18, at 1pm in the Fireside Room.**

*Thank
You*

Thank You!

A special thank you to Barb Johnson and Ann Cording for being my co-chairs, and to Diane Kocher for always setting the tables so beautifully. Thank you also to all who volunteered or said yes when I called for baking, helping in the kitchen, serving or cleanup. You made my job so much easier.

2018 Contributions!

If you are mailing your contribution, please make sure it is **postmarked no later than Dec. 31st** in order for it to get on your 2018 contribution statement **or** you may bring your offering to the worship service on Dec. 30th. Reminder that the office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 31. **Thank you!**

Welcome Committee



Welcoming Words of Wisdom

When you see a face you do not recognize, greet them with a smile and handshake. Please say a little more than the expected “Good Morning.” Surprise them with, “It is good to see you this morning. I do not believe we have met. Glad you chose to worship



Christmas Angel Tree

Please help spread Jesus’ love to those in our community who need a helping hand.

- (1) **Take** a tag off the tree.
- (2) **Leave** your name and number card in the Box.
- (3) **Return** gifts to our church by Noon on **Friday, Dec. 14 .**

You may also use a **donation envelope** to help out. Money will be used for food gift cards.

Contact **Dorothy Dahlen at 262-573-7998** with any questions. She is also looking for **1-2 volunteers** to help pack and deliver gifts to the Gingerbread House on **Dec. 16.** This would be a **3-4 hour commitment.**



Thank you to **Jerry Goehring** for cleaning the convection oven. It was truly a labor of love!

Thank you to **everyone** who participated in our mission at St. James on Nov. 17th. Whether you baked a cake, helped prepare the meal, or served the meal your help is appreciated. - Marolyn Kell



Cookies Needed for our People At Home

UMW requests your help in providing cookies (small, non spicy no bars please) for our **People at Home** for their Christmas gift from the church. We will fill 45 boxes. Cookies will be packed on **Wed., December 12th, at 9am** in the Fireside Room. Please have cookies delivered to the Fireside room by



Happy Birthday, Missionaries!

Rev. Tsuchue Vang, father of Kaonou Latham, who is our Sunday School Coordinator and Staff Parish Relations Chairperson, was a missionary in Laos. After covering a vast geographical area with multiple cultures in a vast area of Laos, including mountains and supervising 77 congregations and 69 Lay preachers he came to Milwaukee and the Hmong church there. He is a Pastor in Minnesota where the congregation worships in English and Hmong. Besides pastoring a church, he helps train Local Pastors by translating the English course of study to the local languages. He also works with the General Board of Global Ministries to support and grow Lay Preachers and congregations in Southeast Asia.

Rev. Paul Webster came to our church and shared his Mission in Zambia where, in a patch of jungle, he has created a demonstration farm which includes cows, goats, hens, pigs, turkeys, orchards, crops of many kinds and more. By introducing this to the local population, infant mortality has been drastically reduced. To respond to his needs, write



Weekday Cancellation Policy

Whenever the West Bend schools are closed because of the weather, all **church activities will be cancelled and the church**

Just a friendly reminder...

Just a reminder:

If you are purchasing items for the church, **please do not buy anything made of Styrofoam.** We are trying



Office Hours During The Holidays

The office will be closed on **Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25.** The office will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 7:30am.

The office will also be closed on **Monday, Dec. 31, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.** The office will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 at 7:30am.

If you are in need of a pastor, please call **Pastor Clarissa at 847-721-**