



*Footsteps to Faith*



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**PASTOR JIM'S SCHEDULE**

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**JANUARY 2018**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10am – 1pm Office Hours in Westby  NO VISITS	<b>3</b> 9am – 5pm Parsonage Office Hours	<b>4</b> 9am – 2pm Parsonage Office Hours 2pm – 5pm Visiting 6:30pm Faith Board	<b>5</b> Sabbath Day  Emergencies Only	<b>6</b> 9am – 12pm Parsonage Office Hours
<b>7</b> Worship Services 8am – 12pm	<b>8</b> 9am -12pm Parsonage Office Hours  1pm - WVRQ	<b>9</b> 10am – 1pm Office Hours in Westby	<b>10</b> 10am New Hope Board Mtg. 5 -6pm Westby Westby Board Mtg. 6pm	<b>11</b> 9am – 11am Parsonage Office Hours 12 – 2pm Pastor's Mtgs	<b>12</b> Sabbath Day  Emergencies Only	<b>13</b> 9am – 12pm Parsonage Office Hours
<b>14</b> Worship Services 8am – 12pm Confirmation 12pm – 1pm	<b>15</b> 9am – 5pm Parsonage Office Hours	<b>16</b> 10am – 1pm Office Hours in Westby	<b>17</b> 9am – 2pm Parsonage Office Hours 6:30pm Retreat Board Mtg.	<b>18</b> 10am – 1pm Westby Office Hours Visiting 2pm – 4pm	<b>19</b> Sabbath Day  Emergencies Only	<b>20</b> 9am – 12pm Parsonage Office Hours
<b>21</b> Worship Services 8am – 12pm	<b>22</b> 9am – 5pm Parsonage Office Hours	<b>23</b> 10am – 1pm Office Hours in Westby	<b>24</b> Pastor Mtgs. All Day	<b>25</b> Pastor Mtgs. All Day	<b>26</b> Sabbath Day Emergencies Only	<b>27</b> 9am – 12pm Parsonage Office Hours
<b>28</b> Worship Services 8am – 12pm Confirmation 12pm – 1pm	<b>29</b> 9am – 5pm Parsonage Office Hours	<b>30</b> 10am – 1pm Office Hours in Westby	<b>31</b> 9am -3pm Parsonage Office Hours			



[www.driftlessministry.org](http://www.driftlessministry.org)

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JIM....

## Spiritual Disciplines

On Tuesday December 12, 2017 I submitted my last paper for seminary, and while I was feeling relieved, I was also feeling incomplete. Incomplete because I knew that my education had just begun.

In three years of seminary I have read (sometimes skimmed) I don't know how many books, written I don't know how many papers, and lost all too much sleep, all because I wanted a deeper relationship with my God. All I wanted to do was to be a pastor, and God sent me to seminary. Luckily I went to a seminary that reinforced my faith instead of the usual seminary that spends two years destroying our faith, and one year rebuilding it in **their** image. I don't know how many words that I have typed in three years, but in that time I have created 1,465 files, in 171 folders consisting of 860,540,928 bytes of data. That is a lot of hours for a hunt and peck typist. Oh, I forgot to mention, before I could even start down that path, I had to qualify to be a pastoral candidate. During this process I created another 56 Files, 3 Folders, and 5,209,216 bytes of data.

So, now that seminary is over, I can read the books on my reading list, and focus on things that will build my faith, and build Gods church. The first book that I will be reading will be *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster. I received this book from my District Superintendent, Gordon Lind when he retired in 2012. Spiritual disciplines help us get to know and love God better. In this book, Foster lays out a plan of growth that begins with inward disciplines which make us better, which allows us to work on our outward disciplines that help us to deal with others, and finally the corporate disciplines that help us to be the church.

### 1. The inward disciplines

- Prayer - Take deliberate steps to pray regularly and with purpose. Praying through the Psalms is a good way to increase our "prayer vocabulary."
- Meditation – At Westby UMC our favorite form of meditation is to read the Bible in the Lectio Divina tradition where we read scripture repeatedly, meditating on words or phrases that mean something to us. If you want to give this a try join us on Wednesday nights during Lent.
- Fasting - Abstain from food, media, entertainment, or anything else that occupies our time, and takes our focus off of God. Offer up any discomfort to God.
- Study - Memorize Scripture and expand our universe of biblical study helps. There are many free biblical study options on the internet, or you can visit with LaVonne Barlow at the Westby UMC library and she can help you use the resources that she provides for free.

### 2. The outward disciplines

- Simplicity – Scale back on spending, electronics, television watching. Instead go for a walk and listen to the birds. Bake your own bread, make your own meals, grow a garden.
- Solitude - The practice of spending time without any others or any distractions. Early morning walks are a great opportunity to spend time with God.
- Submission - Submit to the proper people in the proper ways—fight against the sin of pride. Husbands, submit to your wife, wives submit to your husband, children submit to your parents.
- Service - Give our time to the church and/or to others. We can all consider tithing our time. Consider taking the lay speaking classes in February and March which will allow you to provide additional service to the church and work on the corporate disciplines of worship and celebration.

### 3. The corporate disciplines

- Confession - Practice confessing our sins to trusted people who will pray with us and be spiritual allies.
- Worship - Engage in corporate worship and include worship in our own prayer time. We can all hum hymns while we are working, reading scripture or praying.
- Guidance – Find an accountability group that can help maintain your spiritual discipline progress.
- Celebration - Practice being grateful and thankful both in our own relationship with Christ and with other believers. Express encouragement and thankfulness to others.

This is quite a list, but try to not get overwhelmed. We can either select one discipline from each group, or work through the inward disciplines. The key is to start working on one of the spiritual disciplines today, and what better time, as we begin 2018, a brand new year.

Prayers for a blessed New Year for you and your family,  
Pastor Jim



## Basic Lay Servant Class

Saturday: February 10 & 17, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: Westby United Methodist Church

202 E State Street Westby WI

608 648-2528 – Church Office

<http://driftlessministry.org/>

Teacher/Facilitator: Pastor Jim Aniol

### Theme: Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry

The Class is the required first step for becoming a Lay Servant or Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church, and is a prerequisite for the Advanced Lay Servant courses.

Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended, and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Ministry isn't just a clergy endeavor; all Christians are called to serve, this is our United Methodist history. Laity serve on the front line of evangelical living and serving.

The required text is “**Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant’s Book**” (ISBN #978-0-88177-627-0) and may be purchased from The Upper Room Bookstore, or Amazon.com. There is no registration fee for this class, your only cost is the book.

Please come to class on February 10<sup>th</sup> having read through Session Three – Caring, and knowing that you will be in a non-threatening environment where your thoughts and contributions are valued. Also, please bring a bag lunch as dining options in the area are very limited.

To register – or with questions send an email to: [pastor@driftlessministry.org](mailto:pastor@driftlessministry.org)

**Deadline for Registration: February 01, 2018**



**SPRC Training available in our district with 3 choices available.**

#### SPRC TRAININGS

Saturday, January 20, 2018

9am – 12pm

Mineral Point: First UMC

400 Doty Street Mineral Point, WI

Saturday, January 27, 2018

9am – 12pm

Reedsburg: Reedsburg UMC

833 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Reedsburg, WI

Sunday, January 28, 2018

2pm – 5pm

Madison: Wellspring UMC

5702 S Hill Drive Madison, WI

# CHURCH MESSAGES



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 4	Grethe Hystad
January 12	Ronnie Clark
January 13	Andrew Manke
January 14	Makayla Manke
January 15	Mary Forde
January 16	Kody & Taylor Willis



## THANK YOU

Women of Faith want to thank everyone who made items and/or visited us at the LaFarge Crafty Cookers Craft Sale. We sold all of our baked goods and some craft items. We were able to donate \$227 toward the Christmas food baskets for families in need.



Women of Faith had a terrific turn out for our Christmas party. Twenty one people joined in the fun. Instead of exchanging gifts, we each donated money for the Christmas food baskets and raised a total of \$362 toward the baskets. Thanks to everyone else who donated toward the food baskets, shopped and/or delivered the baskets.

senior  
meals

Starting Tuesday January 2, 2018 the Westby United Methodist Church will host the Westby **Senior Lunch Meal Site**.

Monday through Thursday

Doors Open at **11:00 am and Meals are served at 11:30 am**

Stay as Long as you like. Cards & games or a bible study will be available.

Make your lunch reservations today if you are 60 years of age or older.

Call Megan Hanson

Vernon County Unit on Aging - Nutrition Coordinator  
608-637-5201 and/or 608-637-5368

# LOOKING AHEAD

On February 3, 2018 we will hold our annual Soup Supper/Auction. Plans are still in the making but we know we need your help in getting soup makers and in getting auction items to auction (no clothing, please). The proceeds of the event will go to God's Youth Ministry (GYM) to help with roof raising and remodeling expenses. The GYM is a great place for kids (and adults) to go to have fun and an awesome chance for us to be a part of it.



# CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Charlie Brown and friends were at the Christmas program on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Tammy Willis and the cast for a great reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Everyone did a great job. Thanks to everyone that helped in any way!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!  
WE LOVE YOU.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Now until February 3  
Soup Supper/Auction is Feb. 3

Collect donations to help with Roof- Raising & Renovation  
Expenses at God's Youth Ministry (GYM)

Tuesday, January 2

1:00 PM

**NO** Women of Faith meeting

Thursday, January 4

6:30 PM

Faith Board Meeting

Saturday, February 3

4:00-6:00 PM  
6:00 PM

Soup Supper/Auction  
Auction begins  
Music will be from 4:00-6:00  
(Details will be coming soon)



Happy  
New  
Year

A 3D rendering of the words 'Happy New Year' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is set against a white background with a light gray floor. Numerous small, red, diamond-shaped confetti pieces are scattered throughout the scene, some floating in the air and some on the floor. The overall effect is festive and celebratory.