

Footsteps to Faith



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PASTOR JIM'S SCHEDULE

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February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Faith Board Mtg at 6:30	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3 Faith Soup Supper/Music/Auction Serving & Music starts 4:00; Auction begins at 6:00
4 Worship 8:00 Retreat/New Hope 9:30 Faith 10:45 Westby	5 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	6 11:00-12:30 Office hours at Westby 1-3 Visiting	7 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	8 9-11:00 Office hours at Westby	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 9-2:30 Basis Lay Servant Class at Westby
11 Worship 8:00 Retreat/New Hope 9:30 Faith 10:45 Westby	12 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	13 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	14 ASH WED 3-5:00 Office at Westby; 5:30 Lectio Divina; 6:30 Service; 7:00; Westby Board	15 9-3:00 Office hours at Parsonage 6:30 Retreat Board Mtg	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17 9-2:30 Basic Lay Servant Class at Westby
18 8:00; 9:30; 10:45 Services 4:00 Dischords & dinner- New Hope	19 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	20 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	21 9-11:00 Office hours at Parsonage; 3-5:00 hours at Westby; 5:30 Soup Supper; 6:30 Lectio Divina	22 9-11:00 Office hours at Parsonage 2:00 Meeting	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24 9-11:00 Office hours at Parsonage 11-1:00 Retreat Chili Dinner
25 8:00; 9:30; 10:45 Services 12 noon Confirmation	26 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	27 9-4 Office hours at Parsonage	28 9-11:00 Office hours at Parsonage; 3-5:00 hours at Westby; 5:30 Soup Supper; 6:30 Lectio D			



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JIM...

I am about to do a new thing (Isaiah 43:19)

Why do some churches grow in spirituality, discipleship and attendance, and other churches decline? In most churches in the United States, the congregations that grow are the churches that are doing things that they have never done before. As God tells us in Isaiah 43:18-19,

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing”

We may have to do new things in order to survive as a church, the good news is that those new things are based on very old things, things found in the Bible.

In January, one of the books that I read was *“The Purpose Driven Church”* by Pastor Rick Warren. His book, *“The Purpose Driven Life”* made such a huge impact on me in 2012 I that I have wanted to read this book for many years. I also ran across a great article by church consultant Karl Vater, *“Recalibrate: 10 Steps Every Church Must Take This Year, Or Be Dead In A Decade”*. This article pulls from Pastor Vater’s article, and the March Newsletter will focus on the five purposes of a New Testament Purpose Driven Church.

Romans 1:16 tells us that “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” So the first essential thing that we need to do to ensure that our church can survive is to **Make Sure the Bible is our Baseline.**

According to a January 4, 2017 article in The Washington Post by Professor David Haskell, churches that stand firm on the biblical essentials are more likely to be thriving, while those that compromise on them, and cave into the current culture are more likely to be dying. God’s Holy Word should never be compromised, as God never changes His mind. This advice has been proven by every denomination that has caved into pressure to change their doctrines has suffered steep declines.

The second thing that we need to do is to **Emphasize Discipleship And Leadership Training. Ephesians 4:11-12** says “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”. The Methodist church was founded on the strength of lay people leading the church and preaching in the absence of a dedicated preacher. Currently, churches that are thriving are taking **Ephesians 4:11-12** seriously by equipping the laity to do the work of ministry and raising up a team of ministers. In the future, as in our past, the pastor’s main task will shift from preaching and caregiving, to training lay leaders to do the ministry of the church. **1 Peter 2:9-10** tells us that we are all “are a chosen people, a royal priesthood... that we may declare the praises of him who called us”.

The third thing that we need to do is to **Reduce Our Overhead.** Jesus tells us in **Luke 14:28** “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” Giving trends are down, and should our limited resources go towards buildings, utilities, and pastoral benefits? Pastor Vater suggests getting out of mortgage debt, training and empowering lay people to lead and serve (see item #2), sharing pastoral expenses with other churches, and even merging congregations.

Jesus and the disciples never did ministry in the synagogue, their ministry was in the community, with the people. In **Acts 9:32** we hear of Peter continuing Jesus’ ministry model of taking the Gospel into the street. “As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda.” We come to worship on Sunday to get together with like-minded people, get strengthened by God’s Word and hymns of praise to Him, but the fourth thing that we need to do is to **Engage Our Community.** Churches that reach out to their community are the churches that will grow. Fundraisers are not outreach. If we are not sharing the Gospel outside the church walls, or solving a community problem, we are not doing outreach. A church that’s known as “the church that loves kids or addicts, or single moms” has a better chance of thriving and surviving than the church that’s known as “the old building on 82, or N, or State Street, or Salem Ridge.”

We need to also **Emphasize Jesus Over Tradition, or Denominations, or Buildings**. Nothing besides Jesus matters, in **John 14:6** Jesus Himself tells us, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” We all need to ask “Would I be willing to give up _____ if it meant doing a better job of reaching our community for Jesus? If anything we put in that blank makes us pause than it is an idol that must be abandoned.

The sixth thing that we need to do is to realize what builds God’s church, and what doesn’t, and we need to **Stop What Needs To Be Stopped**. If what we are doing is not solving our problem, and not building God’s church, then it is not our solution. This is how Jesus said pretty much the same thing to Martha in **Luke 10:41-42**, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.” The one thing that Mary discovered was Jesus ministry. Just because we have been doing something for fifty years doesn’t mean that it is a fruitful ministry.

We also need to **Make Disciples, Not Just Converts**. Converts join a club. Disciples start a movement. Converts follow traditions. Disciples follow Jesus, serve in their church, reach out to others, and repeat the process. Converts change their minds, and change churches when they don’t get what they want. Disciples change their lives, and the lives of those around them. This is also what our mission statement as Methodists calls us to do in ¶120 of the Book of Discipline, to “create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

The last thing that we need to Figure Out is **Why, or if, Our Congregation Should Survive**. This is the toughest, most heartbreaking question, “If our church closed tomorrow, what would really be lost, who would notice besides us?”

The good news is that if we begin to do the first seven things suggested, God will answer the last question by bringing people to our church that want to be disciples, who will create more disciples. We have a lot to do in 2018, so we need to get started.

Next Month, what should our five main purposes be?



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 10th 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

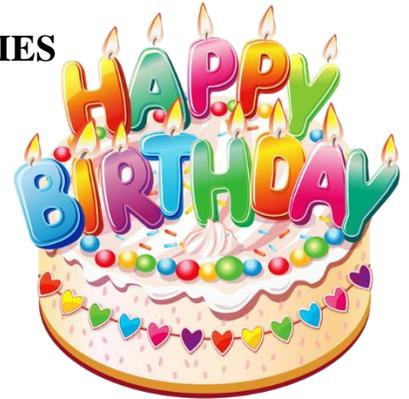
Deadline for Registration: February 01, 2018

CHURCH MESSAGES



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February 1	Christy Aniol
February 4	Ginny Manke
February 15	Lila Litsey
February 17	Ruth Hamilton
February 22	Jerry Ballard
February 22	Matt Hall



UPCOMING EVENTS

Now until February 3	Collect donations to help with Roof- Raising & Renovation expenses at God's Youth Ministry (GYM)
Thursday, February 1	Faith Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 3 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)	Women of faith (WOF) will meet during preparation time for the soup supper event
Saturday, February 3	Soup Supper/Auction/Music (Proceeds to G.Y.M.) *Serving 4:00-6:00 or until all are served or soup is gone *Music 4:00-6:00 p.m. *Auction starts at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 10	9:00 AM-2:30 PM Basic Lay Servant Class (Book required)
Sunday, February 11	9:30 AM Communion at Faith
Wednesday, February 14, 21, 28 (February 14 is Ash Wednesday)	*Soup supper and Lectio Divina @5:30 PM *Service for Ashes @6:30 PM *Westby Board meeting @7:00 PM (2/ 14)
Saturday, February 17	9:00 AM-2:30 PM Basic Lay Servant Class Part II

*****Not feeling well or bad weather...do not miss a Sunday sermon. Check out the Website for each week's sermon. <http://driftlessministry.org>**

DRIFTLESS MINISTRIES SISTER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Lenten Study: Westby United Methodist Church will be hosting a Wednesday Lenten Study starting February 14 – March 21, 2017. It begins with a free meal of Soup/Chili Supper at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the Lenten Study in the church at 6:30 pm.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, when many Christians prepare for Resurrection Sunday by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Lent is mostly observed by the Lutheran, United Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic denominations. Lent is forty days long because it commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before He began His public ministry.

Once again, our study will be different than your usual Bible study, it will be in the Lectio Divina format. "Lectio Divina", is Latin for "divine reading" and it is a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. Full instructions and handouts will be provided every Wednesday night, there is no advance reading required and folks do not need to attend every week since each study stands on its own.

During Holy Week, the week of March 26th, the Wednesday Study will be replaced by the Maundy Thursday Service & Soup Supper on March 29th. During the Maundy Thursday Service, we try to prepare ourselves for what is to occur on Good Friday. We encourage you to attend the ecumenical joint church service in your community.



*An Evening with
DisChords*

Sunday, February 18th
4 p.m. - ?
at the
New Hope UMC



Join us for an evening of
music, food, fun &
fellowship!

Winter Community Chili Dinner

□ _____ □

Saturday, February 24th
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the
Retreat UMC Fellowship
Hall

Break your cabin fever
and join in the
fellowship with your
friends and neighbors
as we gather together
for a FREE meal!



YD YOUTH DELEGATION
WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018



Calling young adults
age 14 to 17!
Come be a part of
discussion
and share your
perspective on
the church and
current issues!

Get more information and learn how to apply at
www.driftlessministry.org

Join Us
for S.A.M.

SOUP SUPPER AUCTION MUSIC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
S3297 SALEM RIDGE ROAD LAFARGE WI
608-625-2112



We will be *SERVING* from 4:00-6:00 p.m. or until
all are served or soups are gone and the *AUCTION* will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Featured will be four soups, crackers, bread, cheese and sausage, desserts and beverage.

Free will offering for Soup Supper!



**MUSIC PROVIDED FROM
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Tor Eness, Carol, Diane, Ron Willis,
LeRoy Petersen, Mei-Ling Felten &
Cornerstone Musical Ministry Team
(Suggested \$3 Music Donation)

All proceeds from S.A.M. will benefit God's Youth Ministry: G.Y.M.

**G.Y.M. (Hyw 14 between Westby and Viroqua) is having an Open House
from 1:00-3:00 on February 3 before the Soup Supper at Faith**

**If you would like to donate gently used items (no clothing);
Call Marla at 608-689-2590 or Jean 608-606-4582**

OR

Bring your items to the church on Saturday, February 3rd 2018 from 3:00-5:30 p.m.