



## ***Footsteps to Faith***



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# **OCTOBER 2018**

## **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAM**

Consistency of faith. . .

Any time a group gets together to talk about church business and the health of the church, the topic invariably comes back to those people who used to come to church and who no longer do.

In fact a lot of research has been done to understand why some churches thrive and others do not.

This summer, Pew Research Center released the results of their most recent investigation into why people attend or do not attend church. Do these answers surprise you?

Why do you go to a religious service?

1. To become closer to God. (81%)
2. So their children will have a moral foundation. (69%)
3. To become a better person. (68%)
4. For comfort in times of trouble or sorrow. (66%)
5. They find the sermons valuable. (59%)
6. To be part of a faith community. (57%)
7. To continue their family's religious traditions. (37%)
8. They feel obligated to go. (31%)
9. To meet new people or socialize. (19%)
10. To please their family, spouse or partner. (16%)

# **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAM (CONTINUED)**

Why do you **not** go to a religious service?

1. They practice their faith in "other ways." (37%)
2. They are not believers. (28%)
3. No reason is "very important." (26%)
4. They haven't found a house of worship they like. (23%)
5. They don't like the sermons. (18%)
6. They don't feel welcome. (14%)
7. They don't have the time. (12%)
8. Poor health or mobility. (9%)
9. No house of worship in their area. (7%)

Worship is just one of several tangible ways God is present to us, or perhaps *worship is how we see ourselves as being present with God*. What happens in your life after the benediction each week? God is always with us, but are we always with God? Are we the same person inside the church building as we are away from our church family? I want to say yes, but I confess that is not always true. We all have areas to work on, right? Invariably, when someone I meet for the first time finds out I am a pastor, what follows is a "semi-joking" comment about needing to watch their behavior or cleaning up their language. I understand, but I also wonder how often we allow ourselves to be something other than our genuine best self.

Even when people do not attend or belong to a church, generally, they still consider themselves connected to that faith community; especially in smaller areas where there are fewer churches. The church is called to assist families during significant life experiences such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Our churches are all happy to provide this kind of care. But how do we activate faith in ourselves and in others the rest of the days of our lives?

The apostles and early Christians also struggled with what we call *consistency of faith*. If we break it down, we can also call this "life stewardship." God directs us to be stewards of our life and stewards of the earth.

Stewardship means:

- Thankfulness for what we have and what God gives us, even the challenges and hardships.
- Balancing our time. Allowing for rest and shared time with our family and friends.
- Gathering with other believers in worship to praise God, to be encouraged, and to also be an encourager to others.
- Study of the Word and personal meditation.
- Serving those we know and serving strangers just because God puts the opportunity before us as a way to learn and grow.
- Praying without ceasing for our grace, for our church family, for our community, for the needs of others.
- Living a transparent Christian life of witness.
- Making it possible for the collective church body to proclaim Christ through giving a portion of our resources.

So the new question to ponder: Are we stewards of the life God has blessed us with?

Do we make our faith life a priority through the week?

Do we use our worship experience as a teaching and learning opportunity?

May God's peace guide you.

*Pastor Pam*

# Prayers for October



**Monday**  
Peaceful Lord. I move more slowly today. Did I do too much or not enough? Let me enjoy the times of calm so I can be revived and renewed for the times of activity You are preparing for me.

**Tuesday**  
Immerse me in grace, Holy One. Cover me with redemption. I am an inconsistent and waffling Christian; faithful one day and lost in the next. When distractions and challenges come, keep my focus on serving You. Stretch my faith muscles to keep me strong in You my Savior.

**Wednesday**  
Thank You my God. Thank You for everything that is happening today. Thank You for tragedy that stops me and humbles me. Thank You for joys that cause me to giggle with glee. Thank You for pain that reminds me I am alive. Thank You for peace. Thank You for filling my life with lessons to learn and reasons to serve You.

**Thursday**  
My Lord Jesus, in this great web of life, let my path connect with someone today in a way that brings me strength and that also allows me to strengthen them. Bring a miracle today in a word of encouragement shared and received. May the words of my mouth bring honor and glory to You.

**Friday**  
Holy Christ, set aside my selfishness today. I give this time to lift to You God those who are struggling, those who are sick or injured, those who do not know how they will survive until tomorrow. Lord blot out the addictions, the darkness, the pain. Remove the bleakness from those who are lost. May they accept You and be renewed.

**Saturday**  
I heard the Word of the Lord in the voice of a child. I felt the love the Lord in the warmth of the sun shining down. I saw the beauty of the Lord on the wing of cardinal and the palate of fall leaves. I knew the peace of the Lord in the stillness of morning as my eyes fluttered open from a night of rest. Praise to the Omnipotent God of creation.

## **Anytime throughout the day**

Make me a servant today.

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

God I need Your grace.

## **Pastor Pam's Weekly Office times:**

Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30

Saturday 9-12

Available by appointment

Pastor is often away from the office for visitation or meetings. Please call the parsonage 608-648-2528 and leave a message or contact by cell phone (text or call) 989-666-1277.

# **PASTOR PAM'S MESSAGES (continued)**

## **Charge Conference**

This year, the annual charge conference will once again be held in combination with the other churches/charges in our circuit. The date is Tuesday, October 30 at Viroqua UMC, 6:30 p.m. Several reports need to be completed prior to charge conference: SPRC, Pastor Contract, Trustees, Finance, Membership, Lay Servant/Lay Speakers, and Committee on Nominations.

Pastor Pam will provide blank forms or the link to complete the forms online. All forms related to the pastor's contract need to be completed by October 19.

## **Committees/Nominations**

As we prepare for Charge Conference, church leadership looks at committees and how to match the gifts and graces given by God to individuals with the ministry of the church. In our current structure, every church includes these general committees:

**Administrative Board** (usually the chairs of other committees, the lay leader, and members at large)

**Trustees** (responsible for the building and facilities; New Hope and Retreat include a separate team for the parsonage)

**Finance** (assuring consistent and accurate accounting practices, development of budget, verification of giving for tax purposes)

**Staff Parish Relations** (works with the pastor to assure productive ministry for the church family and healthy support for the pastor)

**Membership** (reviews roster for additions of new or preparatory members and removal of inactive or transferred members. Also encouragement and connection with members.)

**Worship** (guides and assists pastor in development of worship experiences; includes musicians and those who decorate the worship spaces)

**Education** (develops Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and other youth and adult education opportunities)

**Lay Leader** (a person from each church who is an ad hoc member of committees and who helps the pastor in ministry goals.)

If you have an interest in any of these areas, please let your ad board chairperson know.

Faith – Joyce Clark; New Hope – Charlie Groves; Retreat – John Hanson; Westby – Tim Gaskel.

Not all of these committees exist at every church. We are looking at other ways to structure administration to reduce the number of meetings and to streamline decision making. ***Certainly ministry can happen without a committee!!*** And you don't need to be on a committee to participate.

God has given every person a talent to share. What is yours?

## **Substitute Musicians**

Every now and then a church has a need for another person to assist with music leadership during worship when the regular musicians are on vacation. If you have a musical talent such as keyboard or guitar, and a willingness to step in from time to time, please let Pastor Pam know. You may be asked to serve at a different church, if you are willing.

# Pastor Pam's calendar for October

- 2 1 p.m. Women of Faith at Bev Campbell's
- 3-4 School for Ministry with Bishop at Green Lake
- 5 10 a.m. Faith Board
- 6 Craft/Bake Sale & Meatball dinner at Faith 4-7
- 7 World Communion Sunday
- 8-12 Course of Study, Ohio
- 13 Funeral Service for Jonathon Hutchinson
- 15 10 a.m. New Hope Board  
4:30 p.m. New Hope/Retreat SPRC
- 17 6:30 p.m. Retreat Board
- 19 Charge Conference forms –due date for some forms
- 20 Crafting at Retreat/Nelsons
- 27 Bazaar at Retreat
- 30 Charge Conference at Viroqua

## CHURCH MESSAGES

### DIRECTORY

As you may recall, Kathy Clark took informal pictures to help Pastor Pam recognize faces. We have compiled these pictures into a booklet, along with mailing addresses, email contact information, if it was provided, and phone numbers. The cost for printing each directory is approximately \$5. WOF would appreciate your free will donation toward this cost, if possible. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please send Jean an email at [hassjean@hotmail.com](mailto:hassjean@hotmail.com) or sign up for one at church by October 12th. We will have these printed as soon as we have an idea on the number needed.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

October 24

Robert Fish





# FALL FEST

Saturday October 6th 2018

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FOOD | CRAFT SALE | BAKE SALE

Adults \$10.00 | Children 7-12 \$6.00

Children 6 & Under Free

## MENU:

Homemade Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Lefse. Bread, Beans, Desserts & Beverages.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
S3297 Salem Ridge Rd. LaFarge, WI

## **LOOKING FORWARD....**

Tuesday, October 2	1:00 PM	Women of Faith meet at Bev Campbell's
Friday, October 5 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME)	10:00 AM	Faith Board Meeting WOF set up for Fall Fest
Saturday, October 6	4:00-7:00 PM	WOF Fall Fest Craft/Bake sale & Meatball Dinner
Wednesday, November 28	10:00 AM	WOF bake & decorate cookies to sell at the LaFarge craft show on Dec. 1st
Saturday, December 1	9:00-???	WOF at LaFarge craft show
Tuesday, December 4	1:00 PM	WOF Christmas lunch/party at Borgen's Everyone welcome
Friday, December 14	1:00 @ church	Shop, pack and deliver Christmas food baskets to families in need



# **SISTER CHURCH MESSAGES**



## **FALL EVENT AT RETREAT**

### **Annual Fall Turkey Bazaar**

With the fall colors now beginning to appear and those cool, crisp nights upon us, many of us are thinking about autumn events around the area. One event to put on your calendar is the Retreat UMC's annual Fall Turkey Bazaar! [Set for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7:30 p.m., it will be held at the Retreat UMC Fellowship Hall.](#) They plan on serving turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, homemade pie, and more! Also, don't miss out on the baked goods, craft sale, and the beautiful quilt being raffled off along with many other wonderful items! The cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 12 & under with a \$30.00 maximum total for parents with minor children! Carry-outs will also be available, just call 648-3435 during the event. Also, be sure to invite your friends and family over for a great meal prepared by the friends and members of the church! So mark your calendars and post it on your refrigerator so you don't miss out on the delicious food and wonderful fun and fellowship!

## **FALL EVENT AT NEW HOPE**

### **Homemade Meatball & Lefse Supper**

Autumn has begun around the region. And at New Hope UMC that means they're getting ready to serve up some delicious meatballs and good ol' lefse once again! The New Hope UMC will be hosting their annual Meatball and Lefse Supper on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 10 and under, and for kids age 5 and under... it's free! There's also a \$25 maximum for family with children to make it more affordable for our area families. Carry-outs are available, just call 648-2644. And be sure that you don't miss the bake sale so the deliciousness can continue when you get home! [So be sure to attend this wonderful dinner and enjoy the great food, fun & fellowship at the same time!](#)

New Hope will have a Meatball and lefse supper on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the New Hope Church. The cost is \$8.00 per adult, children under 10 are \$5.00 and 5 and under are free. They also have a \$25 max per family with children.