

Footsteps to Faith



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SEPTEMBER 2018



The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968 with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Brethren Church. As part of this process, the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African American congregations, was dissolved and all congregations were brought together under a single organizational structure.

At that time 50 years ago, 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors met in Dallas, Texas to celebrate the formation of the newly-constituted United Methodist Church. This merger of 10.3 million Methodists and 750,000 members of the EUB Church resulted in one of the largest Protestant denominations in the world. Flags from fifty-three countries testified to the breadth of the new reality.

The roots of Methodism go back much further of course. The Methodist Episcopal Church of America began in 1784 drawing from the teachings of John Wesley and the Methodist movement in England. Of course, a lot of things have changed in 264 years in America as well as our Methodist Church.

What has not changed though is that we are called to live our faith. Living our faith means understanding what we believe in and then reflecting that belief in our daily actions and choices.

Christians believe in the love of Jesus Christ that reaches out to all creation. Christians are called to serve wherever Christ would have us work to heal and free others through the power of the Holy Spirit. In this, United Methodists are like most other Christian denominations. But there are also a few ways we express our faith that is distinctive from others.

Through the fall, we will explore what we believe not just as Christians, but more specifically, what we believe as United Methodists. We have a wonderful heritage in Methodism. Explore with us.

(Some weeks, I will be gone. I am thankful for lay speakers who are filling in.)

PASTOR PAM'S MESSAGE (continued)

September 2 – Means of Grace. Methodists understand grace as an unearned loving action of God in our lives. John Wesley further taught that grace is not one sweeping gift given after we offer the right penitence. Grace goes before our sin, grace convicts us to examine ourselves, and grace redeems us.

September 9 – Three Simple Rules. From the beginning of Methodism, three rules have governed the way we live and treat others, the way we are in relationship with God, and the way we worship. The rules are simple to say, but not necessarily simple to follow.

September 16 – Lay Speaker

September 23 – Social Holiness. Probably the thing that Methodists are known for most around the world is our compassion for others. We hold the dignity and value of each person and all people. We advocate for the poor, seek restorative justice, environmental accountability, freedom from political oppression. It sounds great on the world scale, but what does it mean for us locally? We are guided by social principles for living, but what are they? What does *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors* mean for us today?

September 30 – Lay Speaker

October 7 – World Communion Sunday Around the world, Christians of all faiths celebrate Holy Communion as one people of Christ on the first Sunday of October. Communion is one of two sacraments shared in the United Methodist Church. The other is Baptism.



October 14 – Dischords

October 21 – Moving Towards Perfection. No, we are not perfect. In spite of tremendous ideals, our humanity keeps us from perfection. Methodists believe we are called to live in ways that move us toward perfection. The aspects of our life together ready us to go into our world with the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and serve in the name of Christ.

Join us as we explore the heritage we share in Methodism.

Peace to you,

Pastor Pam

Prayers for September from Pastor Pam....

Monday

I don't know why You love me Lord, but You do. I can be a very irrational and illogical child, but if I will just pause and step aside from my pride, You will make sense of everything. Help me become humble enough to take Your guiding hand, obedient enough to follow Your ways, attentive enough to hear Your words, silent enough to listen.

Tuesday

How majestic is Your name in all the earth. I marvel at Your creation. The tiniest seed becomes the bountiful harvest. You paint each sunset uniquely and each leaf on every tree and bush with care. I praise You with my whole self. My heart sings Your glorious praise. How majestic is Your name in all the earth.

Wednesday

Lord, I do not know what to ask of You. You know better than I what my needs are. You love me more than I can know how to love. Help me see clearly the real needs that I do not see. I open my heart and myself to You.

Thursday

Pluck out the bitterness I hold in my heart, loving Lord. In its place fill me with grace and forgiveness, acceptance and gentleness. Help me to see a world through the eyes of another who is not as blessed as I am with the bounty of life. Let me be Your light to someone.

Friday

Today I lift all of those who do not know You, Savior and King. Lay on their hearts the desire for more and guide them to interact with those who believe in You Christ. And Lord if it should be me who You guide them to, give me words to speak and courage to speak whatever truth they need to hear that will bring them into fellowship with You and Your church.

Saturday

Let me start today with joy in my heart; joy that Christ is my Lord. Let me live today with peace in my heart; peace in the breath of the Spirit. Let me end today in gratitude in my heart; gratitude for the love of our Father, the Creator of all. Praise to the Triune God.

Sunday

As I worship today, may my intentions be pure, my penitence be sincere, my mind attentive to Your Holy Voice, and may all that I do glorify You Lord.

Anytime through the day

I really, really need to hear Your word Lord.

Come into my heart Lord Jesus.

Our God is an awesome God.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM PASTOR PAM

Pastor Visits

Pastor Pam visits people in the hospital and nursing homes and has made some home visits as well. If you know someone who is either homebound or in a care facility and not able to get around and would like a visit, please let Pastor Pam know with a phone call 608-648-2528 or email pastor@driftlessministry.org.

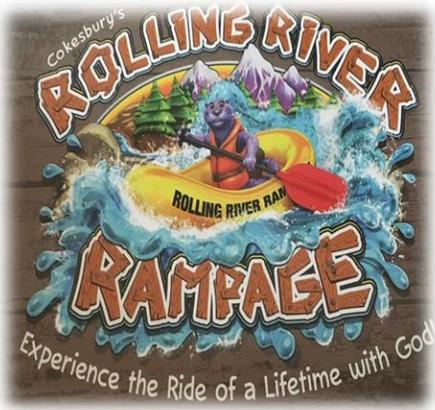
Music Notes

For a long time, Faith church has relied on one or two people to carry the responsibility for music ministry. We're looking for others who can step up and share the schedule for worship music. (*After Pastor Pam debuted her piano skills, we can only go up!*) Has God gifted you with music? Your gift is given to be shared. Or do you know someone who might fill in from time to time when Ron is not available? Please speak with Ron or Tammy Willis or Pastor Pam.

Pastor Pam's Calendar for September

- September 2 Communion Sunday
 - 3 Pancake Breakfast at New Hope 8-11 a.m.
 - 4 Women of Faith, Noon at LaFarge
 - 6 Faith UMC Ad Board 6:30 p.m.
 - 8 Westby Building Fall Cleanup 8:30 a.m.
 - 9 Sunday School Blessing for a New Year
 - 10-14 Pastor at class in Ohio
 - 15 Retreat Crafters at Nelsons 10 a.m.
 - 17 New Hope Ad Board 10 a.m.
 - 17 Faith SPRC at Borgen's 1:00 pm
 - 19 Retreat Ad Board 6:30 p.m.
 - 20 Circuit Pastors meeting
 - 22 SPRC New Hope/Retreat 9 a.m. (to be changed)
 - 24-28 Pastor Vacation
 - 29 Retreat World's Fair
 - 30 Dischords at Westby Worship 10:45 a.m.
- To be scheduled:**
Westby Ad Board
Westby SPRC

CHURCH MESSAGES



VBS at Faith UMC was very successful with a total of 31 kids and about an equal number of adults attending. There were Bible stories, crafts, music, games and snacks. A special thank you to Tammy Willis and Bev Campbell for all the planning and preparations. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



September 7
September 14
September 15

September 19
September 20
September 21
September 27

Austen Hendrickson
Violet Manke
Bev Campbell
Jerry & Sheri Ballard
Ronnie & Joyce Clark
Dave Clark
Larry & Bev Campbell
Stephanie Chambers



WINNER

Karen Suess (Ronnie & Joyce Clark's daughter) of Brillion WI was the winner of the 55 inch flat screen smart TV at Faith Fest in June.





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, September 4	12:00 PM	Women of faith meet for lunch at Phil & Deb's in LaFarge Meeting at 1:00
Thursday, September 6	6:30 PM	Faith Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 2	1:00 PM	Women of Faith meet at Bev Campbell's
Thursday, October 4	6:30 PM	Faith Board Meeting
Saturday, October 6	4:00-7:00 PM	WOF 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



Have you noticed our new sign?
Thanks to Ann Pierce, Joyce Clark, Jean Hass and Jim Wurster.
Installation by Dave Clark, sign from Signs by Shawn.

SISTER CHURCH MESSAGES

Enjoy a delicious breakfast this Labor Day!

It's an annual tradition! New Hope's Labor Day Pancake Breakfast is a delicious opportunity you will not want to miss! They will be hosting their breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Labor Day (Monday, September 3rd) and will be serving pancakes, blueberries, sausage, applesauce, and beverages. There is no set cost, but a freewill donation basket will be available. Carry-outs will also be available, just call (608) 648-2644 during the event or stop in and place your order in person. Plus, here's an added bonus: 10% of all proceeds will go to the United Methodist Midwest Disaster Relief Fund! There will also be a bake sale so you can take home some scrumptious baked goods with you to enjoy throughout the day! So come on out and enjoy breakfast with your family, friends, and neighbors this Labor Day at the New Hope UMC!

Join us at the 99th Retreat World's Fair!

Everyone is welcome to join the Retreat community in celebrating another fantastic year of faith, family, and friends! The 99th Retreat World's Fair will be held on Saturday, September 29th and features fun for all ages! The horse show and tractor pull are always fun to watch and never fail to disappoint. The Retreat UMC will once again take part in the festivities and will be hosting fun games for the kids during the day. Delicious food and music also await you in the community center! And the day wouldn't be complete without the famous 2-way parade at Noon! So bring the family and reconnect with long-time friends at the 99th Retreat World's Fair in fantastic Retreat, WI!

Be a Light in a Dark World! Join us for Illuminate: A 21 Day Journey

You and I are the church of Jesus Christ on the earth today, the visible representation of an invisible God. We have the Holy Spirit living within us, and have been commissioned to shine (illuminate) His love in the midst of a dark world. *But what does that mean? How did we get here? And what do we do with all of this?* All good questions, and if you stick with us through this 21 day journey, we are confident that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to the light within you that God intends to use to illuminate the world! Join us in this study this September and start illuminating the world around you for God's kingdom! Go

<https://bible.com/p/6784773/924b835c245533afcf2406b686bca083> to sign up and join the study. The study starts on September 9.

If you haven't used the Bible App yet, it is free and easy to use! You can download it for FREE in the Google Play Store or in the iTunes store. Just search for the "Bible App". You can also join the study for FREE online on your home computer by going to bible.com and setting up a FREE account. I think you'll find yourself using the app or website more and more as you begin to dig deeper. It really is a great resource! Try it today and join us for Illuminate: A 21 Day Journey this September!