

Annual Outdoor Worship Service—July 28th

On Sunday, July 28th, the DisChords will lead us in music and praise at our annual outdoor worship service and picnic at Eckhart Park in Viroqua. We have reserved the large shelter. We will gather at 10:30 a.m. for an old-time camp meeting.

In case of bad weather we will move to the Viroqua Church. Bring a lawn chair for the service, bring tableware and a dish to share for the potluck picnic afterwards and, most important, bring a friend.



**Looking forward to seeing you
there!**

July Calendar:

Thurs., July 4th		Independence Day - Office closed
Fri., July 5th		Office closed
Tues., July 9th	6:00 p.m.	Trustees Mtg. @ V
Sun., July 14th		Welcome Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores Holy Communion
Tues., July 16th	6:00 p.m.	Finance Mtg.
	6:30 p.m.	Admin. Council Mtg.
Sun., July 21st	6:00 p.m.	Study Group @ K. Hanson's
Sun., July 28th	10:30 a.m.	Annual Outdoor Worship @ Eckhart Park w/Westby UMC. The DisChords will be leading the service followed by a potluck. Welcome our new Pastor: Rev. Erika Martinez Flores & her husband Jorge!



THE CROSS & THE FLAME



**Viroqua
United Methodist
Church**

P.O. Box 127, Viroqua, WI 54665

July 2019

WELCOME REV. ERIKA MARTINEZ-FLORES

On July 1, 2019 the Viroqua United Methodist Church welcomes its new pastor, Rev. Erika J. Martinez-Flores, who was born in Mexico. Her husband of 11 years, the Rev. Jorge A. Ochoa-Lonji, will also be serving 3 churches in the area.

Rev. Martinez-Flores was ordained in the Methodist Church of Mexico in 2009. She has been a pastor for the past 18 years and holds bachelor's degrees in both theology from the Methodist Seminary Dr. Gonzalo Baez-Camargo and in educational psychology from the Universidad Pedagogica Nacional. Having arrived in North Carolina 6 years ago, Rev. Martinez-Flores was first appointed as the Director of El Refugio Family Resource Center of the Jonesboro United Methodist Church which provides outreach services to the migrant community. Two and one half years ago she came to Wisconsin to serve as the pastor of 2 churches in the Whitewater Regional Ministry.

Rev. Martinez-Flores states, "Now my husband and I have received the Call to serve in the southwest district. I am so excited to have been assigned to these 2 beautiful churches in Westby and Viroqua.. We will certainly face new challenges. With them, we will have the opportunity to grow together and be blessed."

As we begin our time together, we pray God's blessing on our ministry here in the Viroqua Church.

Viroqua United Methodist Church's Mission Statement

The Viroqua United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of carrying out Christ's Great Commission by enabling all who come to personally know the joy of God's love and forgiveness and to lovingly share this joy in the fellowship of the church and in reaching people throughout the world.

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“Sing all... Sing lustily and with good courage... Sing in time... Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing... So shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.”



United Methodist Hymnal, “Directions for Singing” from John Wesley.

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly for our congregation and friends. *We welcome you with open hearts, open minds and open doors.*

VIROQUA UMC/OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Monday – Friday
(Church door opens at 9:00 a.m.)

The office will be closed July 4th & 5th

STAFF

Rev. Erika Martinez-Flores
Email: pastor-vw@driftlessministry.org
Parsonage Phone: 608-637-7614
Pastor’s Direct Office Line: 608-638-7627
Barb Casper/Kathy Hanson, Secretary
Office Phone: 608-637-3551
Email: info@ViroquaUMC.org

Viroqua UMC Service Assistants

Ushers

- July 7 - Holly Fanta & Cavan Fang
- July 14 - Veryl & Lorraine Gerdl
- July 21 - Ardith Olson & Janet Welch
- July 28 - Youth

Greeters

- July 7 - Annabel McGarry
- July 14 - David Peterson
- July 21 - Miny Hirschfield
- July 28 - Youth

Liturgist

Gregory Cheever



Administrative Council Meeting - May 21st

Members Present: Pastor Jean, Barb Casper, Gregory Cheever, Cavan Fang, Jolene Gudgeon, Aaron Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Layne Hanson, Kristin Parrot, David Peterson

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 following the Finance Committee meeting. Pastor Jean shared a devotion from the Upper Room.

Linda Weilnau from the Westby church shared a demonstration of the Driftless Regional Ministry website that was developed by their churches. We are invited to join the group. After a question and answer discussion, Cavan made a motion that we join the Driftless Regional Ministry website. Greg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Jean had some final business matters to take care of.

Care & Nurture Committee

David will contact the person who organizes the Fortney meal to see if there is another church that might take Liberty Pole’s place every other month. We’ll discuss it again next month.

Missions Committee

The committee is planning more things around special offerings. The Flood Bucket project is being completed.

Trustees

The refrigerator at the parsonage had to be replaced. Cleaning and some painting will occur after Pastor Jean moves out.

Worship Committee

The Outdoor Worship is scheduled for July 28. The Dischords will play. There will be a Hymn Sing on June 30.

Education

The last day of Church School is May 29. Mission oriented activities are being planned for the kids this summer.

Aaron made a motion to adjourn. Cavan seconded. The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting June 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

ALL WOMEN—PLEASE READ “NO-WORK NO-TAKE SALAD LUNCHEON”

We pledge \$1,100 a year to the district for missions. Missions are our Purpose. Money is sent to areas in the United States and throughout the world to help women and children. Locally we sponsor radio broadcasts, buy books for the library, buy kitchen products and give a pin for special mission recognition among other things.

Our Salad Luncheon in the Spring meets some of our budget. We are asking all of our women in a circle or a hospitality group to think of the money and time spent to put on a Salad Luncheon. We ask each of you to give a generous donation instead, so that we can meet our budget without the work. Send or give your donations to Barb Casper, Janet Welch, or the church office by May 30th. Please make out any checks to “Viroqua UMW.” If you would like a receipt, ask Barb. Thank you!

We do not meet in June, July, or August. Here are the Child Fund and Sunday morning cookie schedules:

- Child Fund: July—Joanne Hornby August—Pat Matz
- Sun. Morning Coffee: July 7-Janet Welch, July 14-Ardith Olson, July 21-Betty Ross; July 28-Phyllis Kalnins

Remember to Read-Read-Read Read for the United Methodist Women Reading Program. We have new books to put on the shelf. They look interesting. The reading list is due Sept. 1st.

For your calendars: Put Sept. 21st on your calendar to attend the District Annual Meeting at Plattville.

Viroqua UMC Trustees Meeting - May 14th

Present: Aaron Hanson, Pastor Jean, Gregory Cheever, Barb Casper, David Peterson, Dale Gudgeon, Sandy Skarda

The meeting opened with devotions by Pastor Jean: Rev. 21:5 "See I am making old things new."

Bills:

- A new refrigerator is needed for the parsonage (\$1,109.95). Viroqua UMC will accept full payment. Pastor has a food loss bill of \$118.50. Church Mutual Ins. will be contacted to see if they will cover the refrigerator and food loss.
- Snow removal charge for 3 months was \$545.00.
- Green Light has been paid in full. Office lights are being adjusted and we are now waiting for a bid on the sanctuary stained glass ceiling dome. There have been no complaints on the work they have done.
- We received a bid from Midwest Asphalt in the amount of \$1,500. This is tabled until the cement work is done by Paul B.
- A bid was received from "On the Level Masonry" (LaFarge) in the amount of \$7,100 for tuck pointing the outside bricks on the church. Church Mutual will be contacted to see if they cover structural damage. Tabled.
- One of the library blinds is broken. Estimate is \$228.00 to replace.

Other Business:

—Pastor Jean gave our next-door neighbors permission to place a dumpster in our parking lot during their remodeling.

—Barb Casper fell on the outside stairs. There is concern about accident reports and liability in such cases. We will check with Church Mutual for proper accident report forms for the office.

—Pastor Jean will have movers on June 26th. Proper cleaning, repairs and painting will need to be completed by June 28th.

Motion to adjourn.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: June 11th—6:00 p.m.

Care & Nurture Meeting—May 14th

We talked about Mothers' Day. Twenty-five ladies wore hats to church.

A special "thank you" to Kathy Hanson for the flowers that were given out for Mother's Day.

We discussed people using the taxi to get to church.

The Committee is looking at what we can do to help with the realignment and our new Pastor.

The Worship Committee will do the Fortney meal on June 16th.

For Father's Day on June 16th, the men who wear a hat will get a cookie.

On Sunday, May 26th, we had ice cream cones were served outside of the church. Thank you to all who helped.

The Committee will be helping with all the upcoming parties.

We will not meet until August.

"Thank" You" to Sandy Skarda for sending out all the cards.

May God bless you all.

Administrative Council Meeting—June 18th

Members Present: Barb Casper, Gregory Cheever, Cavan Fang, Jolene Gudgeon, Aaron Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Layne Hanson, Kristin Parrot, David Peterson, Janet Welch

Pastor Jean opened the meeting with devotions.

Pastor Jean was honored at Annual Conference for 25 years in the ministry. Congratulations and thanks to her!

Upcoming Worship Plans

Saturday, June 22 – Farewell potluck for Pastor Jean and our connection with Liberty Pole

Sunday, June 23 – Pastor Jean's last Sunday

Sunday, June 30 – Hymn Sing

Sunday, July 7 – Barb Robson speaks

Sunday July 14 – Pastor Erika's first Sunday

Website, Email

Kathy is working with Linda Weilnau (Westby) and Jeffery Nelson (Retreat) to get our information on the driftlessministry.org website. The newsletter and bulletins will be found there beginning on July 1. Email is also available on through that website and we'll be looking at the best way to proceed with that.

Office Staff

Kathy and Barb will be staffing the office beginning July 1. Office hours will be 9 am – 11 am Monday through Friday. This will be revisited each month for a while as we begin to work with Pastor Erika.

Keys

There have been some issues with lost and unreturned keys. It was decided that this is a good time to change the locks on the main entrance door and the office. Aaron will look into getting that done ASAP. Those folks who need keys will need to stop in the office to sign one out.

Care & Nurture Committee- The committee just completed a busy time with Mother's Day, Memorial Day ice cream, and Father's Day. The Catholic Church is working on finding a replacement for Liberty Pole to serve the Fortney meal every other month.

UMW – The group does not meet in the summer, but is serving coffee on Sunday mornings this month. Everyone is encouraged to check out their reading program – there are some very good books from which to choose. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Missions – Seven or eight hospitality kits were delivered to Annual Conference. Thanks to Lorna Peterson for assembling them and to Jolene gudgeon for delivering them. See minutes elsewhere.

Trustees – We continue to try to encourage folks to use the elevator. The usher stationed on the north side of the sanctuary will be encouraged to be down by the door to assist when needed. A walk through of the parsonage will be held on June 29 to see if there are things that need to be fixed. Westby folks will be invited so that they can see the parsonage.

Janet made a motion to adjourn. Layne seconded. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August newsletter is July 24th. Please provide your submissions as early as possible. Thank you.

Trustees Meeting Minutes—June 11th

Members Present: Aaron Hanson, Gregory Cheever, Pete Gilman, Barb Casper, Dale Gudgeon, David Peterson, Sandy Skarda.

Opening prayer by Aaron

Bills

- Supplies \$34.34

Other Business

- Note from Liberty Pole UMC that Church Mutual installed smoke detectors (free). We will check this building for locations of any here.
- Advertising flyer from Loffler (Onalaska) offering a copier deal.
- Letter from Jeff Nelson asking about services to be listed in the new church website. Referred to Kathy.
- Church secretary retires 6/28/19. July office hours may change as per SPRC. Barb and Kathy will pick up these hours until something more permanent is decided. Newsletter will be emailed with just a few printed for those without email and the church office.
- Copyright license was dropped earlier. Will be given to Worship committee for consideration.
- A suggestion was presented to have the elevator attended before and after services to assist anyone who needed help or did not understand how it works.
- Parsonage—a new kitchen light fixture will be installed on July 1st.
- Parsonage screen door needs latch repair
- Parsonage front porch needs paint
- Question about how many parsonages the new pastor will use.
- Liberty Pole will pay their percentage of the cleaning of the parsonage.
- June 29th will be a clean up/paint day for all volunteers at 8AM
- Cleaning of the dog pen is Pastor Jean's responsibility.

Finance Committee Meeting—June 18th

Present: Gregg Roberts, Pastor Jean, Barb Casper, Kathy Hanson, David Peterson, Cavan Fang, Gregory Cheever, Aaron Hanson, Layne Hanson, Jolene Gudgeon

Financial Secretary Report:

- \$24,000 for lighting
- Motion made to combine Youth and Camping Checkbooks into one and have 2 signatures: the financial secretary and education chairperson.
- Committee approved payment of Pastor Jean's final paycheck early.

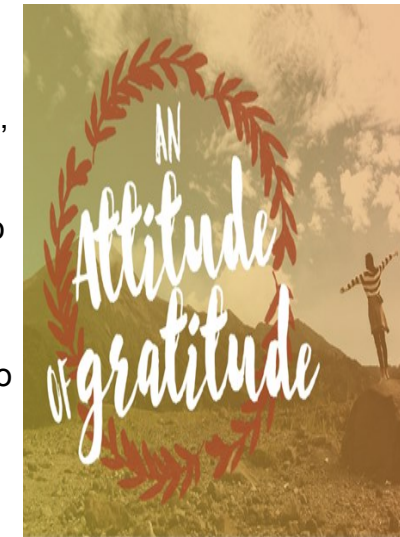
Other Business:

- Office hours A couple of solutions is to have office open 8 hours less each week or ask for volunteers to fill in for the office to be open additional hours. Kathy Hanson and Barb Casper will be taking on the secretary role presently held by Kris.
- Parsonage update: Pastor Erika's family will be using both parsonages.
- Office supplies: There will be some savings from not mailing the newsletter. Liberty Pole's portion was 38%.
- Electronic giving.

Next Meeting is July 16th at 6:00 p.m. Voucher review.

21 Days To Cultivate A Grateful Heart

It is amazing the power of two simple words. By simply saying "Thank you", you not only bring a smile to a person's face for an act well done, but you also empower them. Gratitude is contagious and as you practice living thankfully, you give others the power to be thankful too. As we journey through our July Bible study, we will celebrate the good things in our lives. The focus on what we think is missing in our lives will be redirected to all of the blessings right before our eyes! Together, we will share the faithfulness of God and spread this joy to those in our lives!



Join us on this 21-day journey, starting July 7th. This study is available through the Bible App which is accessible both on your desktop computer and your mobile device!

If you haven't tried using the Bible App, give it a try today! It's available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at www.bible.com, and 100% FREE! Don't pass up this valuable resource that enables you to connect to God's Word wherever you are!

Click on this link to join us at we cultivate an attitude of gratitude this month!

<https://bible.com/p/15442519/8f402d26cc4b5a464603789ba79d0331>

Deaths

Kathryn Schultz
June 12, 2019



Birthdays

With wishes for many more!

Theodore Hanson	July 2nd
Corey Primmer	July 2nd
Dustin Stalsberg	July 3rd
Lana Dustin	July 4th
Christopher Steele	July 4th
Jessica Steiger	July 6th
Mary Cheever	July 10th
Kathy Hanson	July 10th
Brandon Hall	July 14th
Marcy York	July 15th
Randal Fortney	July 15th
Kevin Haakenson	July 15th
Kyle Schultz	July 23rd
Kari Davidson	July 25th
Mackenzie Stalsberg	July 25th
Caleb Hendrickson	July 31st
Carolyn Schroeder	July 31st



Happy Anniversary

Randal & Deanna Fortney	July 2nd
Jim and Kathy Porter	July 31st

