

Our calling is to reach all people with the life-changing power of God's Love and Grace available to all through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Westby United Methodist Church welcomes **everyone** with open arms and open hearts as indicated in Romans 15:7 (NIV):
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.



Westby United
Methodist Church
July 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

May the Lord Send More Workers

by Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
 ~ Matthew 9.35-38

We have often wondered what we should do to keep our congregation alive. I often hear very good ideas about how we should approach people to be part of our congregation, but with the hope that someone else will do it.

In this selection from the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus is fulfilling his mission to teach, preach, and heal throughout the Galilean region of Israel. Motivated by compassion for the people who he knew were in great need of healing and leadership and realizing that the task was too great for him to accomplish alone, he gathered twelve of his followers, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, to assist him in the job. He delegates authority from him to them.

These disciples were a diverse group of people from all walks of life and Jesus often complained about the lack of faith displayed by the apostles he had chosen, but nevertheless they were faithful enough to accept the task that Jesus had given them. Given, to the point of abandoning their previous lives and accepting suffering. Jesus, by affirming his messianism over his own people, while knowing that they were in great need of healing and spiritual guidance, made the priority of his new apostles first to the Jewish people. He would bring them healing and announce the coming of the kingdom of God, for which John the Baptist had long prepared them.

How often do you expect leaders to fulfill the mission of the church while you are not willing to actively help in this great task? Do you think that simply attending church on Sundays and perhaps participating in a Bible study session is enough of a burden in your busy life? If you offer to help, do you expect something in return?

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As Jesus himself realized, while there is much to do and people are in great need of healing and spiritual guidance, there is an even greater need for all of us to actively help in this work. Let us be generous with our time and talent, even if we believe that our faith is insufficient for the task, and simply offer our faithfulness and allow God to act through us.

May God be with all of you,
Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores

Pastor Erika's Schedule:

Thursday at Westby UMC – 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 • 3rd Thursday of the month (11:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
 Sunday morning before worship – 8:30 AM – 8:50 AM

Contact Information:

Cell Phone: 919-478-3584
 Direct Office Phone: 608-638-7627
 Parsonage Phone: 608-637-7614
 Email: pastor-vw@driftlessministry.org

July Birthdays

July 7 – Adey Oliver
 July 19 – Julie Fargen
 July 27 – Dusty Oliver



Sunday Kids News

The next summer Sunday night for kids is planned for July 17th from 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the church.

We'll get together for food and fun – outside if we can.

Please RSVP to Jane @ 608-606-0317 to make sure we have plenty of food.

See you soon!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | **SUMMER 2022** |

More information to come!!!

Your prayers are appreciated. Suggestions and ideas are welcome!



Missions of the Month – Stuff the Bus & Driftless Humane Society

As we did last year, we are proposing two missions for the month of July. The first one is our usual July mission of Stuff the Bus. We need to collect school supplies in July in order to have them ready for the official Stuff the Bus event early in August. You may bring your contributions of either supplies or monetary donations to the church or donate directly to the Stuff the Bus at Walmart or online.

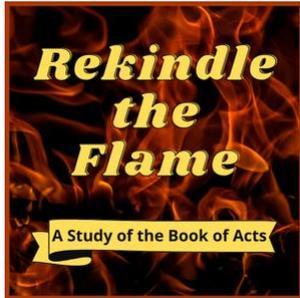
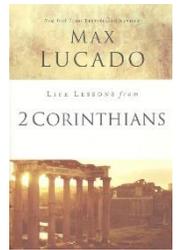
Our second mission is the Driftless Humane Society. This is the mission we give to at our annual joint service with Viroqua UMC on July 24th. You may contribute pet supplies or make monetary donations at the service. You can find out more information about the Driftless Humane Society at <https://www.driftlesshumanesociety.com/>. Here is a list of some of the items they need:

- Dry Dog Food
- Dry Cat Food
- Dry Kitten Food
- Wet Kitten Food
- Chew Toys for Aggressive Dog Chewers
- Peanut Butter
- Blankets
- Laundry Detergent
- Gift Certificates to Tractor Supply, WalMart, Nelson Agri-Center

Growing in Faith Study Group

We will continue with our study of 2 Corinthians, using Max Lucado's "Life Lessons from 2 Corinthians" study book. The study sessions begin at 6:00 PM. Anyone is welcomed to come and join the discussion, even if you don't have the book. Just read the scriptures prior to the study time and then come and join the conversation!

- Lesson 3 (2 Corinthians 3:4-18) on Wednesday, July 13th
- Lesson 4 (2 Corinthians 4:1-15) on Wednesday, July 27th



July Online Studies – Rekindle the Flame!

Journey with us through the Book of Acts as we experience the adventure of the early church – the miracles, the struggles and the persecution. Together we will travel with Peter, Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquilla, Phillip, Lydia and the apostle Paul as well as the nameless heroes of the first century church as they spread the gospel. Along the way, we will learn to rekindle the flame of the Holy Spirit within our lives and learn what it means to be disciples of Christ!

We invite you to join us on this 28-day journey through the Bible App or bible.com website. This study will begin on Friday, July 1st. To access the study, use the link below!

- "Rekindle the Flame" 28 Day Study:
<https://bible.com/p/51943223/09c85259f8b298b77ad3acb4d54921f9>

The online study can be accessed through the Bible App or [bible.com](https://www.bible.com) website, which are free resources. In addition to wonderful devotional/reading plans, they provide a verse of the day, and you will be able to read the Bible in a wide variety of versions. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at www.bible.com.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Come and join us on Thursday, July 28th at 9:30 AM for our monthly Thursday Morning Bible Study group. We will continue our study of the book of Psalm, led by Pastor Erika. Come for a time of learning, good discussion and fellowship.



Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please join our monthly Prayer Group on Thursday, July 7th at 10:00 AM for a time of fellowship with our Lord through prayer. Prayer is a powerful resource, so it's important that we prayer together to combine our prayer strengths. Everyone who attends can offer up prayer requests, and everyone has an opportunity to offer up prayers to our Lord. The time commitment can vary from 15-60 minutes. There is a prayer request box in the narthex for prayer requests.

**God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them well to serve one another. ~ 1 Peter 4:10**

Westby United Methodist Church - Board Meeting † June 15, 2022

Present: Verna Drake, Jean Shore, Jane Gaskell, Tim Gaskell, Ardith Hoff, Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Pastor Erika opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the June newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Jane Gaskell and Jean Shore motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports, which included the report for the month of May, Year-to-Date report, special accounts, and the credit card statement. These reports were emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Verna Drake reported accounts that were approved to be moved into the building fund account at the May meeting were not able to be moved because they were so old. Verna will write herself a check for the total amount between these three accounts (library, confirmation and giving baskets) and then she will give the money back to the church and place it into the building fund. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- † Review COVID Policy – It was decided to continue with the policy of masks being optional.
- † Mowing Position – Verna Drake said that we have one person who is interested in the mowing position, Connor Kolbo. After the meeting, Connor contacted Verna and will be doing the mowing for the church.
- † Automatic Door Opener – Potential Fundraiser Update (Take & Bake Pizza, Taco Bar during Norse Market-July 6, Aug. 10) – The Take & Bake Pizza fundraiser because it will be very labor intensive, so it is not a feasible option at this time. It was decided to not do a taco bar during the Norse Market because we will probably be competing with other food vendors. One suggestion was to have an authentic Mexican taco meal at our church on an evening when the VFW has their Bingo night. We may be able to entice people to come and eat at our taco night before they go to play Bingo. We will need to form a committee to start looking into the costs and feasibility of this potential fund raiser.
- † Joint Service at Davidson Park – July 24 – There will be blessing of pets during the joint outdoor service. It was decided to start the worship service at 10:00 AM. We hope to have a potluck afterwards. There will be a joint committee meeting for this service on June 30th.
- † VBS – The joint VBS with Viroqua UMC will be held at Viroqua this year since it was at Westby last year. It will be held on August 14th. The theme will be centered around the book of Psalm. Jane Gaskell suggested that we offer to give the children from Westby a ride to Viroqua. There will be a joint planning committee meeting for VBS on June 20th.

New Business:

- † Zoom Account – Due on June 26 – Keep it? – Jane Gaskell and Verna Drake motioned to suspend our licensed Zoom account and keep the account active for the free version of Zoom in case it may be needed in the future. Motion passed. Linda Weilnau will log into the church's account and cancel the licenses subscription.
- † Set Date to Review Membership List in July – It was decided to start going through the membership books and lists on Sundays in July during fellowship time and work on it as needed. This will allow us to have knowledgeable input from several people who have been attending our church for many years. We will start this project on Sunday, July 10th.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✝ **Trustees** – It was suggested to try running the furnace fan during the week to help circulate the air, so it doesn't seem stale on Sundays and to see if it will help with potential humidity.
- ✝ **SPRC** - No report.
- ✝ **Worship** – Jane Gaskell will not be available to assist with music for the joint worship service on July 24th.
- ✝ **Education** – Jane Gaskell sent out invitations for the summer Sunday nights for kids which will be held on June 26th and July 17th, from 5:30-6:30 both nights. The families need to RSVP so Jane knows how much food to prepare.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** - No report.
- ✝ **Missions** – There will be a joint mission project with Viroqua UMC for the Driftless Humane Society in Jul. We will also do Stuff the Bus in July to start collecting school supply donations.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erika is working on ideas for VBS activities. She hopes to have several activity/learning stations for the children like we did last year.

- Pastor Erika attended Annual Conference on June 10-13 and reported on some highlights of the conference
 - There is a name change from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith.
 - Racism was one of the main topics for the conference with discussions on how to go through transcultural appointments.
 - This topic emphasized that we need to have respect for each other and accept our differences.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau



Joint Outdoor Worship Service – July 24th

On Sunday, July 24th, we will have a joint outdoor worship service with Viroqua UMC. This year the service will be held in Westby at Davidson Park and will begin at 10:00 AM. Like last year's joint outdoor worship service, there will be a blessing of the pets. Please bring your pets with you to worship so they can receive a special blessing. We will also be collecting donations for the Driftless Humane Society during this service.

After the worship service, we hope to have a potluck meal. More details about the potluck and service will be provided in the worship bulletins prior to July 24th. Bring your lawn chairs and join us as we worship our Lord together in the beautiful outdoors.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

~ Hebrews 10:24-25



LITTLE HEROES FROM THE BIBLE

Young in their age, but not in their willingness to be used by God. Sometimes we think that God only uses great leaders and those who are mature in faith, but God can use anyone who has a humble and obedient heart. This is the case of these boys and girls. Despite their young age, they were great heroes in biblical history for God's will to be done. Throughout this year we will be meeting some of these great little heroes.

This is just an aid to encourage you, dear parents, to take time out and sit down with your children and share exciting family Bible stories. Do not forget at the beginning and at the end of each time, to pray to put yourself and your family in God's hands through prayer.

DANIEL, THE YOUNG THAT TRUST

Daniel 6

A long time ago in Babylon, there was a king named Darius. He was a smart and good man and was always looking for advisers to help rule. One of those counselors had a very good heart and his name was Daniel. King Darius had so much confidence in him that he made him his favorite and made him leader of the councilors.

The other councilors began to feel jealous and to plan how to get rid of Daniel. But he was so good that they couldn't find anything to use against him until one said:

- Daniel believes in God and prays every day.
- It is true, let's make a new law saying that the inhabitants of the kingdom can only worship the king, answered another. The one he worships other gods who throw him into the lions' den.

The king, not realizing how wrong this law was, approved it. The next day, they went to Daniel's house, arrested him while he was praying, and put him in a pit with many lions. When King Darius found out, he tried to save Daniel. But even he could not act against his own laws.

- You have to survive for being such a good and loyal man – he told her very sadly before leaving.

Dario couldn't sleep because of his concern. Upon waking up, he ran to the pit to see how he was. – Daniel! Are you okay? – He asked.

Seeing that no one answered, he looked into the pit thinking the worst, but when he got closer, he saw Daniel waking up calmly among the lions and it seemed that the lions were taking care of his rest.

- What happened? How did you survive? asked the king.
- It seems that God helped me calm the lions - answered Daniel happily.

Without hiding his joy, the king ordered Daniel to be taken out of the den. King Darius issued a new decree: everywhere in my kingdom people must worship and honor the God of Daniel!

God saved Daniel's life and everyone knew that God is the true God.

DANIEL, THE YOUNG THAT TRUST



Scripture: Daniel 6

Age: teenager

Address: kingdom of Babylon

Father: unknow

Funny facts:

- as Daniel served the king of Babylon his name was changed to Beltshazzar.
- he lived almost to 100 years of age

Interesting facts:

- his name means "God is my Judge"
- his three best friends were called: Ananias, Misael and Azarias



July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Erika's Sabbath Day	2
3 ☩9:00 AM –Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship	4  Independence Day	5 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	6 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	7 10:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	8 Pastor Erika's Sabbath Day	9
10 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	13 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Study Group	14 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	15 Pastor Erika's Sabbath Day	16
17 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship 5:30 PM – Summer Nights for Kids	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	20 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	21 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	22 Pastor Erika's Sabbath Day	23
24 ☩10:00 AM – Joint Worship Service @ Davidson Park (Pet Blessings)	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	26 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	27 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Study Group	28 9:30 AM - Morning Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	29 Pastor Erika's Sabbath Day	30
31 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship						

Remember to join us at 3:20 PM each day for being unified in prayer to pray for our church ...

“God, Give us the courage to dream big dreams. Please open our minds and hearts so we can have new breakthroughs to Your new possibilities. Amen.”

God is able to do much more than we ask, or think, through His power working in us.

~ Ephesians 3:20 (NLV)