

*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
August 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

The Church, In the Unity of the Spirit

by Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also, members of his household.
~ Ephesians 2.19*

This is a small introduction to the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians, since for the next two months we will be focusing our sermons on this Letter. Together we will discover the message that God has prepared for us as his church. Knowing the challenges, we have to face, we will be able to find in this letter the tools that will help us to carry out our ministry.

I recommend that in addition to previously reading this Letter, you also bring your Bible to the Church.

Ephesus was an ancient city located on the western coast of the peninsula of Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). In the 1st century AD, it was one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire and became, for a time, the capital of the province of Asia. Paul exercised his missionary activity there on several occasions. Acts 18.19-21 narrates the first visit of the apostle to that city. It was a brief visit, but then he returned and stayed there for more than two years (Acts 19.1–20.1).

The Letter to the Ephesians, together with the letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, form a group that has been called "the captivity letters," because they say that Paul is in prison when he writes them.

The letter insists on the unity of the church, based on the fact that there is one Spirit, one Lord, and one God, the Father. It underlines two important columns of the implications of the Gospel and the practical reality that it produces in the lives of believers. Ephesians deals with the change from an old way of life without Jesus Christ to a new one with him, and the decision as to what to do with the new position in Christ.

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It presents God's eternal purpose to create through Jesus Christ a new humanity. God's new society is characterized by life instead of death; unity and reconciliation, instead of division and isolation; the healthy values of righteousness, instead of corruption; love and peace, instead of hate and strife; a tireless struggle against evil, rather than a hesitant compromise with it.

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

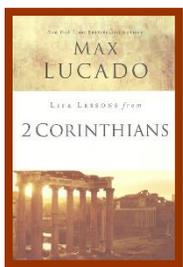
August Birthdays

August 1 – Tom Sharratt
 August 3 – Adrian Hoff
 August 14 – Maranda Oliver
 August 16 – Graham Berg & Baylee Oliver



Sunday Kids News

The summer Sunday night for kids has been enjoyable for those who came. In June, there were 6 kids and 4 adults. The topic was about encouragement, and we did chalk drawings on the sidewalks around town to encourage others. In July, there were 11 kids and the topic was how we get to heaven. We did a paper folding activity to find out that the way we get to heaven is through the cross.



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 5 (2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:10) on Wednesday, August 10th
- Lesson 6 (2 Corinthians 6:1-10) on Wednesday, August 24th

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please and help us flex our "prayer muscles" by coming to our monthly Prayer Group on Thursday, August 4th 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.

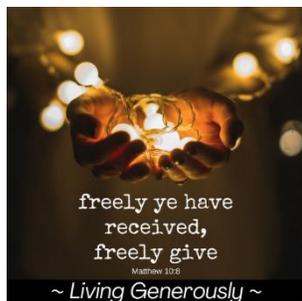
Everyone who attends can offer up prayer requests, and everyone has an opportunity to offer up prayers to our Lord. The time commitment can vary from 15-60 minutes.

There is a prayer request box in the narthex for prayer requests.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Come and join us on Thursday, August 25th 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.



August Online Studies – Generosity

Generosity – the readiness or liberality in giving. As children of God, we’re expected to be generous. What do you think of when the subject of generosity comes up? Does generosity only involve giving money? This month we’re going to explore several studies which will help guide us as to how we should view generosity as God’s children. The first two studies are about what generosity is and how we should follow God’s example in that generosity is a reflection of God in our heart and our lives. The third and fourth studies give examples of ways we can be generous. The last study provides Bible verses we can reference for living generous lives.

Here are the links to join us as we explore the topic of generosity this month:

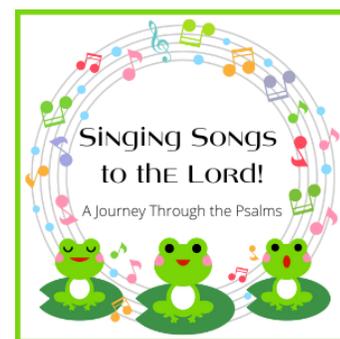
- Generosity – 7-day study that begins on Aug. 1
<https://bible.com/p/52441008/79124fb45a0ae068227d6b6b3731cb39>
- The Gift of You: How Living Generously Reflects The Heart of God – 7-day study that begins on Aug. 8
<https://bible.com/p/52441026/33093b09381e09382eaa1825a919b89b>
- I Like Giving – 6-day study that begins on Aug. 15
<https://bible.com/p/52441036/af3f35b4f2c87fd5011583177eef9267>
- Living Generous in a Global Pandemic – 5-day study that begins on Aug. 21
<https://bible.com/p/52441048/f6b8b05f7424b3be4e1f4a4111297004>
- Generosity: 21 Bible Verses You Need to Know – 3-day study that begins on Aug. 28
<https://bible.com/p/52441064/71faaf1e73cb4d77de20337135d52531>

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.

Mission of the Month – Vacation Bible School

The August Mission of the Month is our annual Vacation Bible School, this year hosted by Viroqua UMC. From Psalms, we will focus on God’s protection, hope, peace and gratitude. To support this favorite event for kids, please consider the following:

- Prayers for an amazing faith experience for kids
- Monetary donations to purchase supplies
- Volunteer to help with learning stations, making / serving food (please contact Pastor Erika if you are available to help)
- Taco shells (50 hard shells and 50 soft shells)
- Shredded cheese (amount to be determined – watch bulletins for updated details)



For more information contact Pastor Erika or Jane Gaskell.

Westby United Methodist Church - Board Meeting † July 20, 2022

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

Opening: Pastor Erika opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the July newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Ardith Hoff 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 June, Year-to-Date report, special accounts, and the credit card statement. These reports were emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Jean Shore and Ardith Hoff 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 – Connor Kolbo accepted the job and has been mowing the lawn as needed.
- † Automatic Door Opener – Possible taco dinner when VFW has Bingo night as a fundraiser? – It was decided to not make any decisions about possible fundraisers at this time due to not enough people being at the meeting.
- † Joint Service at Davidson Park – July 24 – Update -Everything is ready to go. Linda Weilnau will send out an email yet this week to remind people about this joint service.
- † VBS (Aug. 14) – What does Westby need to provide? – In addition to possible monetary donations, Westby UMC is asked to provide shredded cheese and taco shells. They also need volunteers to assist with some of the tasks, but the exact tasks are to be determined. We will be doing a car pool for the Westby kids to provide rides to Viroqua.

New Business:

- † ??

Business from Board Committees:

- † **Trustees** – The dehumidifier is being run daily to help with the moisture in the air.
- † **SPRC** - No report.
- † **Worship** – On July 31st, Jane and Linda will be gone. Julie Fargen will be doing the YouTube videos for the music and Lois Gerling will do the video recording and printing the bulletins.
- † **Education** – We received a donation from Glenn and Luanne Olstad. It was decided to use this donation towards VBS. Jane Gaskell has been have a Summer Nights for Kids once a month on Sunday evenings for the Sunday school students. In June, there were 6 kids and 4 adults. The topic was about encouragement. In July, there were 11 kids and the topic was how we get to heaven.
- † **Lay Leadership** - No report.
- † **Missions** – Vacation Bible School will be the mission of the month for August.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erika will continue to lead the Psalm Bible Study group. She is still helping with VBS planning.

- In August and September, the sermons will be from Ephesians.
- Aug. 21st there will be a Planned Giving Seminar at Viroqua UMC. This is put on by the Wisconsin UM Foundation and is open for anyone to attend. It is beneficial to have someone from Westby UMC attend because attending this seminar is a requirement for some grants. There will be a potluck at noon, followed by the seminar.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

Vacation Bible School

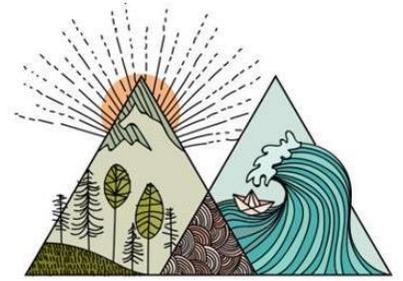
Calling all kids and their families to a VBS adventure through the Psalms, starting with music and games. At outdoor stations, we'll learn about God's peace, hope, thankfulness and protection. Everything is hands on, so please wear play clothes. Dinner and snacks are part of the evening. Bring a friend!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 | 4:00 – 7:00

Viroqua Methodist Church is hosting ~ Westby kids will take a field trip to Viroqua for VBS.

Meet at the Westby Church at 3:40 and we'll ride together.

Questions & RSVP to Jane @ 608.606.0317



SING TO THE LORD

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Vacation Bible School



Planned Giving Seminar – August 21st

On Sunday, August 21st, Viroqua UMC is hosting a Planned Giving seminar that will be presented by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. What will your legacy be? Planned giving is a way to support vital ministries and continue a lifetime of generosity after we're gone.

This seminar will discuss options for providing the ministries closest to your heart in addition to ways to take care of you and your loved ones. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a potluck dinner at 12:00 PM, followed by the presentation.

If you cannot attend the seminar, please feel free to contact the Foundation by phone at 888-903-9863, email wumf@wumf.org or go to www.wumf.org.

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.

JEREMIAH, THE TEEN PROPHET.

Jeremiah 1

There is a story in the Bible that begins when God speaks to a young boy, just 17 years old, named Jeremiah. God called him to do a very special job, Jeremiah had to be a prophet, that is, someone who warned God's people about his evil deeds and reminded them that they should be obedient to God's commands.

Jeremiah listened to God and understood what God wanted him to do, but he was afraid. He answered God and said: "Ah, Lord my God! I am very young, and I do not know how to speak!" Jeremiah probably thought: "There must be someone who is a better option than me to do this"; "In no way are people going to listen to me"; "I can't take this responsibility."

God, answering him, said: "Don't say: 'I am very young', because you are going to go wherever I send you, and you are going to say everything I order you. Do not fear anyone, for I am with you to deliver you." Then the Lord extended his hand and, touching my mouth, said to me: "I have put my words in your mouth. Behold, today I give you authority over nations and kingdoms."

wow! God had some big plans for Jeremiah, right? Well, although Jeremias thought that he could not do the work that he was entrusted to him, God showed him what he could do when God was with him, because the work that God was giving him had no age. All he needed to do was be obedient to God and God would do the rest, through him.

Well, God may have some big plans for you too. He knows your name. He knew you before you were born and he has a plan for your life. When God asks you to do something, don't say, "I'm just a child." Do not be afraid, do what God tells you because He will be with you wherever He sends you.



Scripture: Jeremiah 1

Age: 17 years old

Address: Anatot

Father: Hilkiah

Funny facts:

- due his work he received severe punishments but he never gave up.
- he was so sad for the suffering of his people because they disobeyed God and he wrote 5 poems.

Interesting facts:

- he wrote the books of Kings and Lamentations.
- he became one of the biggest prophets.



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	4 10:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	5 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	6
7 ☩9:00 AM –Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship	8 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Study Group	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	12 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	13
14 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship 4:00-7:00 PM – VBS @ Viroqua UMC	15 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	19 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	20
21 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship 12:00 PM – Planned Giving Seminar @ Viroqua UMC	22 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Study Group	25 9:30 AM - Morning Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	26 Pastor Erika’s Sabbath Day	27
28 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	29 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	30 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	31 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site			

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)

