

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun. July 7th

Joint Worship

w/Pastor Sandy Conrad

Sun. July 7th, 10 a.m.

@ New Hope Methodist

Retreat Board Meeting

Tues. July 9th, 6 p.m.

Community Breakfast

Sat. July 13th, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. July 14th, 11:30 a.m.

Retreat Ladies Group

Sat. July 20th, 10 a.m.

Joint Outdoor Worship

Sun. July 28th, 10 a.m.

@ Retreat Methodist

Code JESUS VBS

July 30th – Aug. 1st

@ New Hope Methodist

Church Basement Quilters

Mon. July 1, 15, 29

9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

A Pastoral Preview!

Everyone is invited to join our congregations for a special joint worship service on Sunday, July 7th at 10 a.m. at the New Hope Methodist Church. This service will be led by our pastoral candidate, Pastor Sandy Conrad. We encourage everyone to come and worship with us, hear her preach, and get a feel for what her ministry is like. After the service, all professing members of Liberty Pole, New Hope, and Retreat will then be able to vote on accepting Pastor Sandy as our new pastor. If 75% or more of the voting membership approve, Pastor Sandy will become our new (and first!) called-and-installed pastor effective at the start of August!



Joint Worship w/ Pastoral Candidate Sandy Conrad

Sunday, July 7th, 10 a.m.

New Hope Methodist Church



Meet & Greet with our Candidate!

You will have a few opportunities to meet our pastoral candidate, Pastor Sandy Conrad and her husband, Ron over the course of the coming candidating weekend! In addition to time at our joint service on July 7th, we have a couple of Meet & Greet sessions setup on Saturday, July 6th. We welcome you to meet Pastor Sandy and Ron at Liberty Pole from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or at Retreat from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available during the meet and greet sessions. You are welcome to attend the session that works best for you and your family. We encourage you to come and get to know our candidate a bit in advance of our congregational vote on Sunday, July 7th.



Meet & Greet with Pastor Sandy

Saturday, July 6th

9 – 11 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. @ Retreat



**Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.**

~ Jeremiah 3:15 ~

Upcoming Grilled Lunch Fundraiser!

Come out to Nelson’s Agri-Center Ace Hardware in Viroqua on Friday, July 12th for a delicious grilled lunch! The Retreat Methodist Church will be serving up a mouth-watering grilled meal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You will have your choice of brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, and water. There will also be a bake sale so you can take a delicious treat home too! All funds raised will be used to continue our ministry in the community!



Food Pantry Needs

The New Hope Food Pantry welcomes your generous donations to help those in need in our communities. This month the pantry is seeking donations of **applesauce, cream of chicken soup, ketchup, and pasta sauce**. If you wish to donate items or funds, feel free to drop them off at any of our three churches. You may also drop them off during the pantry’s open hours: Wednesdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.

The New Hope Food Pantry is located at E2286 State Highway 82, De Soto, WI 54624



Come Join Us for a Community Breakfast!

Head on up to Retreat for a delicious breakfast with your friends and neighbors! The next Community Breakfast of the year will be held on **Saturday, July 13th from 8 to 10:30 a.m.** in the Retreat Church Fellowship Hall (E3426 County Rd. N, De Soto, WI). A delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy, and beverages will be available for all who come. The breakfast is always free and open to everyone who wish to attend. If you do feel compelled to give, please note that any donations received will go towards continuing our ministry in the community. We hope to see you soon at the upcoming Community Breakfast!



Last Call for Your Mission Cry Donation!

For the past three months, the Retreat Methodist Church has been collecting books for Mission Cry! This ministry has been empowering native missionaries and making disciples around the world. They do this by asking people like you and me to share their bookshelves that are filled with Bibles and Christian books. They then take those books and send them around the world, sowing God’s Word into the lives of those who cannot afford it!

Now the church is putting out one final call for book donations for this wonderful mission. If you would like to donate your gently used Bibles or Christian Books, simply bring them to church with you and place them in the basket in front of the altar or reach out to Robbin Henchen (1-608-804-0314). You may also give financially if you wish to do so. **The final day for collecting donations will be Sunday, July 21st.** The church will then take all the donations and drop them off at their location in Cashton. We pray that you will join us on this mission and however you choose to give, you will be letting the world hear your Mission Cry!



Prayers for July

Each day of the week, use this simple prayer starter as part of your conversation with God.

Sunday

Father, thank You. Thank You for the new beginnings You provide in every moment. My body is filled with praise and thanksgiving for the love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness You give. Even when I fail, You are there waiting to pick me up and guide me back on the path You have ready for me. I will praise You in the storms and I will praise You in the joys. Thank You, God, for new beginnings. Amen.

Monday

Gracious Lord, today I seek the peace that only You can provide. Calm the anxieties and worries that may try to steal my joy. Fill me with hope and grant me the patience to navigate through the busyness of the week. Amen.

Tuesday

Lord Jesus, may this day be marked by Your peace, and may I be a source of peace to those around me. Amen.

Wednesday

Heavenly Father, As I begin this new day, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude for the gift of life. Grant me the strength and courage to face the challenges that lie ahead. Guide my steps and help me make wise decisions in all that I do.

Thursday

Gracious God, Even before the challenges arise, I choose to focus on your goodness, your faithfulness, and your unfailing love. Help me to cultivate a spirit of gratitude throughout the day, recognizing the blessings you have bestowed upon me. Let joy be my companion, not dependent on circumstances, but rooted in the knowledge that I am your beloved child. Amen.

Friday

Dear God, help me see today not just as a series of tasks, but as an opportunity to live out the calling you have placed on my life. Show me how my work, my words, and my interactions can bring you glory. Let me be a vessel of your love and kindness to those around me. Amen.

Saturday

Dear God, As I start this day, I turn to you for strength and guidance. Sometimes life's challenges can feel overwhelming, but I know that with your help, I can overcome them. Grant me the inner strength to face any difficulties that may come my way today. Amen.



Get Involved in Your Church!

We encourage everyone to come and participate in the discussions at your respective church meeting.

All church members have a vote, and all ideas are welcome.

New Hope Church Board Meeting

Sunday, July 14th, 11:30 a.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 9th, 6 p.m.



Retreat Ladies Group

Saturday, July 20th, 10 a.m.

Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall



Come with a light lunch & join in the discussion regarding various projects and events happening in the church! You are also encouraged to share a craft project you are working on and be prepared to have some fun and fellowship.



Ordination of Pastor Sandy Conrad

Hello, Driftless Family!

I hope some of you were able to view my Ordination Ceremony (It is still searchable on YouTube and Facebook under FBC Waco). First Baptist Waco ordained me on June 19. The national holiday will have special meaning for me because of this wonderful moment in my life. It was extraordinarily meaningful for several reasons. First, it was an amazing affirmation from my church family here. None of these people knew us four years ago. We plopped down in the middle of Waco during the Covid lockdown and found a church. At first, we could not meet in person. But over four years, those wonderful people have become family to me—and even more beloved than family. Their walk with God has enriched me and taught me, and I will bring all of them with me when I come to you. There is absolutely nothing like a life lived in a Christian community.

Second, it was meaningful because it was being recorded and live streamed to folks I have not yet met but who are nonetheless already precious to me. Rest assured you were much in my thoughts on that night and ongoing. I cannot wait to meet you and begin our journey together.

Finally, my ordination was a dream come true for me. It was a dream I didn't know I had until about five years ago. It was a pipedream as I came to Seminary. When I preached my first sermon, it became a full-blown dream and a gnawing desire. Then family issues seemed to put a halt to my ever becoming ordained. But God was still in charge. As things settled, I wrote back to you, and you accepted me as your pastor. Despite all the odds, I was ordained, and I will get to do what it is in my heart to do. It is a dream come true. All glory to God!

I have come down from the emotional high of the service, but I will treasure the memory of it forever. And now it is on to the next chapter of my journey. God brought me to ordination so that I could come to you. In a few weeks, I'll get to meet you in person and participate in a Sunday service. We are making preparation and cannot wait. God is so good. See you soon!



Pastor Sandy Conrad



Our Church Family is Growing!

A big welcome goes out to Peter "Pete" Amrhein and Lucy Foley who joined the Retreat Methodist Church as professing members in June! We are honored and excited that you decided to call our church your faith family! We look forward in continuing to grow in Christ with you as we walk this exciting journey of faith together! God bless you and welcome to your new church home!



It's Hard to Say Goodbye

How do I say goodbye to what we had? How do I encapsulate my feelings and emotions into 500 words or so? How do I express the honor and privilege it has been to serve as your interim pastor and experience the unique community of the Driftless Ministries, and the three churches? I don't really know what to say at this moment, and yet, I have about 425 words left to try.

The question I always ask myself when I get to a church is, "If this church ceased to exist, would anyone but those who worship here care?" Would people ask why the doors are shuttered and the windows are boarded up? Would people support the church who didn't come to the worship services?

Throughout my year here with you, I have seen how you care for the people of this community. Through the food pantry and other gifts, you ensure people have the food they need and the essentials to live here in this beautiful place. You offer hospitality through the Wednesday Warriors and hosting 4H clubs. I saw this place care for people who were in the midst of grief and going through transitions. There are so many other ways you care for the community; it is hard to count.

These churches have an abundance of passionate people who care deeply about the mission of Driftless Ministries. Your passion for sharing the love of Christ with everyone, caring for those who are grieving by hosting funeral and memorial services and welcoming all people into your community of faith is to be commended.

Finally, I found hope here. Hope for the future of the church and the mission of bringing love, justice, and peace to this hurting world. There is hope for impactful ministry with the driftless community to make the world better for future generations. This encourages me as I move on to my next call. I want to know there are churches living God's hope for the world in their everyday lives, how they care for people, and using their abilities and passions to work together to share the love of Christ.

So how do I say goodbye? By simply saying, "Thank you." Thank you for being who you are in the world. Thank you for being the kind of churches people would care deeply about if something happened to it. Thank you for using your time, talents, and treasures to make Liberty Pole, Retreat & New Hope Methodist Churches all they can be. And thank you for allowing me to be a small part of it for a short while. I am thankful for the Pastoral Selection Team who worked tirelessly to find your wonderful pastoral candidate, Rev. Sandy Conrad. I know God will bless you all as you work together for the next season of ministry.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your interim pastor, and I hope all the best for Driftless Ministries as you start your next chapter in ministry. May God bless you beyond measure!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Drew



Another Special Joint Worship Service!

Our churches sure do love coming together during the summer to worship as one! We have another special joint worship service for you to put on your calendar! You, your family, and the entire community are invited to join us for a joint worship service on Sunday, July 28th at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Church. If the weather is nice, we plan to have our worship outside the church in God's great outdoors so be sure to bring your favorite lawn chair for a comfortable seat! If the weather is inclement, we will head into the church for worship. Following the service, there will be a time of food, fellowship, and maybe even a few fun family games to participate in. In addition to the fun and fellowship, this will be Pastor Drew's final Sunday with our churches, so be sure to come, show your appreciation for all he has done for our churches, and join us in sending him off to his next ministry adventure! We hope to see you there!



Outdoor Worship Service



Code JESUS Vacation Bible School

Are you up for a mission? Grab your spy gear and join us for Code Jesus VBS (Vacation Bible School) from Tuesday, July 30th through Thursday, August 1st at the New Hope Methodist Church. Each day from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m., we will journey with the Apostle Paul and investigate the Good News! Come and explore Biblical cities like Damascus, Lystra, and Malta! Help us decode top-secret messages from God. Each day will feature fun games, creative crafts, and delicious snacks to help us explore God’s Word.

Registration for Code Jesus VBS is NOW OPEN on our website: www.driftlessministry.org. Code Jesus VBS is a joint ministry between the De Soto Lutheran Church and the New Hope and Retreat Methodist Churches. During this Vacation Bible School, a school bus will be available to pick up kids from Prairie View Elementary School following the Jump Start Summer Session or parents can drop their children off at the church. For more information about Code Jesus VBS or to be one of our Investigator Volunteers, contact Agent Director Christine Harrington at loverocks@mwt.net.



Door of Hope Corn Boil



The 31st annual Door of Hope Corn Boil is coming up on Thursday, August 1st at the Vernon County Fairground Expo Center. You are invited to join them for lunch from Noon to 2 p.m. or for dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. The meals include: a hot dog, chips, beans, bottomless corn, soda, and ice cream. The cost is \$10 per person; \$5 for ages 3 to 12; and Fee for children under the age of 3. You can also purchase corn-to go for \$8 per dozen (until they run out!). Bulk ticket purchase of 10 or more available prior to the event for \$9 each by contacting office@viroquahope.com.

All of the proceeds go to benefit Door of Hope, a local outreach ministry in Viroqua that promotes a Biblical perspective on purity, pregnancy, parenting, and healing to men and women through the hope of Jesus Christ! So be sure to go and enjoy a great meal while supporting a wonderful local ministry!



Kickapoo Cowboy Church

Dust off those cowboy boots! Everyone is welcome to come for a toe tappin’ good time and experience the Kickapoo Cowboy Church! On July 7th at 6 p.m., the Kickapoo Cowboy Church will feature Monty Berger at The Old Oak Inn (301 Marcus St., Soldiers Grove). Their services feature mainly Country, Western, and Blue Grass music and include a short message and a kid-friendly, so please bring your children!



“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

~ Ephesians 5:18b-20 ~

Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Ashley Thompson – July 2nd
 Bryce Funk – July 8th
 April Haakenson – July 8th
 Rae Holiday – July 9th
 Greg Roach – July 13th
 Dale Kromke – July 15th
 Cody Zitzner – July 16th
 Bonnie Marks – July 17th

Vicky Zitzner – July 17th
 Donna Crum – July 18th
 Ethan Stilwell – July 18th
 Arden Zitzner – July 18th
 Austin Jones – July 19th
 Ivan Nummerdor – July 19th
 Billie Caley – July 20th
 Todd Newsome – July 21st

Carol Bishop – July 23rd
 Wayne Robson – July 29th
 Tom Baker – July 30th
 LaNay Kumlin – July 30th
 Sara Meyer – July 30th
 Seth Volden – July 30th

Anniversaries

Alan & Judy Christianson – July 24th



Did we miss your birthday, anniversary, or other special day?
 Let us know! E-mail us at newsletter@driftlessministry.org.

Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, July 14th (delayed a week due to joint worship) and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. We hope you can join us after worship for some wonderful fellowship time!

This month's Fellowship Sunday at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, July 21st. Be sure to join us following worship as we enjoy some snacks and have great fellowship together.

These Fellowship Sundays are a great way to catch up with your faith family. Be sure to check them out and enjoy some quality time with your family and friends at the church!

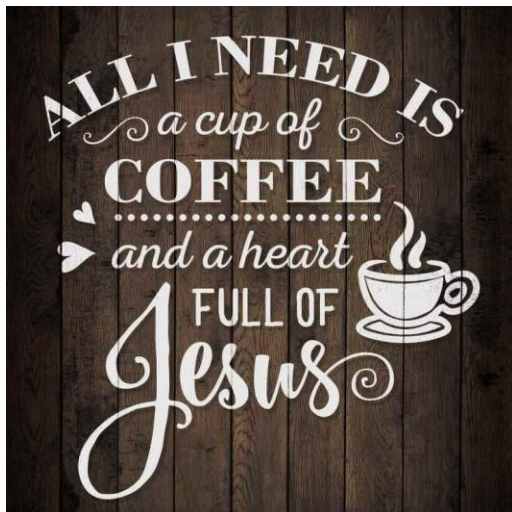
Church Contacts

Interim Pastor: Rev. Drew Filkins
 (517) 899-3408
pastor@driftlessministry.org

SPRC Chair – Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809

Lay Leaders – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684
Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809
Jeffery Nelson: (608) 379-2933

Food Pantry – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684
Robbin Henchen: (608) 804-0314



Shine

Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches
c/o Jeff Nelson
120 Rosewood Ln N
West Salem, WI 54669

Return Service Requested

Address Label Here

Special Joint Worship

w/ Pastoral Candidate

Sandy Conrad

Sunday, July 7

10 a.m.

New Hope
Methodist Church

Details Inside...



JOIN US FOR

JOINT OUTDOOR
WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 28

10 A.M.

[A1] RETREAT METHODIST CHURCH

