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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun. Sept. 6th

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Sept. 6th, 11:30 a.m.

Labor Day Pancake Breakfast

Mon. Sept. 7th, 8 – 11 a.m.

@ New Hope

Driftless Men's Group

Tue. Sept. 8th, 9 a.m.

@ VRQ Family Restaurant

Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Sept. 8th, 6 p.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Sept. 14th, 5:30 p.m.

Community Breakfast

Sat. Sept. 26th, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

@ Retreat

Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

A Delicious Way to Start Your Holiday!

You've worked hard all year... let us cook for you! We invite you to take a break from your busy schedule and kick off your Labor Day celebration with a delicious breakfast! The New Hope Methodist Church will be hosting its annual Labor Day Pancake Breakfast on Monday, September 7th from 8 to 11 a.m. in their fellowship hall. They will be serving up stacks of plain or blueberry pancakes, sausage, biscuits



and sausage gravy, and applesauce. There is no set cost, but a freewill donation will be collected for the meal, so give as your heart directs. Carry-outs are available, just call the church at (608) 648-2644 during the event to place your order! PLUS, don't miss the delicious bake sale. Pick up a scrumptious treat to enjoy later at home!

Labor Day Pancake Breakfast

Monday, September 7, 8 – 11 a.m.

New Hope Methodist Church



Welcome Klarice!

On Sunday, August 16th, the Retreat Methodist Church had the privilege and joy of welcoming in a new member to their church family. Klarice Lagerman professed her faith in front of the congregation and became the church's newest member! Welcome Klarice! Your smile and energy bring joy to our church each Sunday! We are all excited to grow in faith alongside you as we work hand-in-hand to build God's kingdom here in the Driftless Area!



All are Welcome at Cowboy Church!

Everyone is welcome to a toe-tappin' good time at Cowboy Church. Held the first Sunday of each month at the Old Oak Inn Annex (500 Church St., Soldiers Grove), each service features country music by local musicians who use their gifts to bring glory to God. Each service begins at 6 p.m. This September, New Hope's own Tom Baker will be bringing his country flair to Cowboy Church. Come on out for a good time and praise the Lord with us! The schedule for upcoming services is below. Hope to see you there!

Sept. 6th: Tom Baker

Oct. 4th: Unity Quartet



Nov. 1st: Eric Nofsinger

Dec. 6th: Christmas Special

Notes from Pastor Sandy

It's time for the September Shine! As you may know, we'll be starting a Confirmation Class on September 20th at 3 p.m. at New Hope. We'll start with that time and then adjust as needed to modify the schedule. This Confirmation Class is designed for young people and adults as well. We will be giving an overview of the Bible, the Life of Jesus Christ, and of our churches. To that end, I have written a brief history of our three churches. It is by *NO MEANS* comprehensive. I'm including it in the SHINE because I'm hoping that if you readers spot something that is wrong or want to share a story about the beginnings of our churches, you will send me an email at san356@comcast.net. Have a wonderful September!

A HISTORY OF THE DRIFTLESS CHURCHES

You can't drive for long in this area without noticing that there are endless hills and valleys. The beauty is amazing. You will also notice that there is a strong Norwegian and German influence—not exclusively, but a lot. Norwegians particularly come from a land of mountains and valleys, and the Driftless region must have seemed quite like home. But, in the old days, all that beauty came at the price of relative isolation. It wasn't that easy to just buzz into Viroqua from Red Mound, for instance. So, every little village had its own creamery AND its own church (or two or three). Work and Worship went side by side.

This area started to be settled in 1844 and was known as Bad Ax. In 1862, the county name was officially changed to Vernon. One of the early communities, Bad Axe, raised a 'liberty pole', first was known as an anti-slavery symbol, in 1870 and soon changed it's name to match: Liberty Pole. A post office soon followed.

In the early days, these small country churches were served by circuit riders—one pastor riding on horseback cross country to preach. John Wesley started out as a circuit rider here in America. In 1867, the church at Retreat was first organized in the Old Gravel School house. It was part of the "De Soto Circuit" with the Red Mound and De Soto churches. In 1873, the Retreat church building was started. Early on, there were actually three churches in Retreat: the Methodist, the Disciple/Christian, and the Congregational Church. Early in the 20th century, the Congregational Church was struck by lightning and burned down however the silver chancel accessories from that church were salvaged. They are now sitting in the front of our Retreat church every Sunday morning—a visible sign of faith going back to the community's origins.

In 1874, the land for Liberty Pole Methodist was purchased for \$25! The church bell was installed in 1880. Over time, the church gained a basement, electricity, an actual furnace, and an improved kitchen. And the story continues with new heat pumps and a new bathroom as of last year.

Retreat got its bell in 1905. The parlor was built in 1927. They, too, gradually got heating and electricity. Retreat originally had a steeple but it started to pull away from the building and was carefully removed. The bell was transferred to its own enclosure. Most of you know that it is a GREAT joy to me that the bell of each church now rings out on Sunday mornings

New Hope is the newest of our churches. It was formed when Red Mound and De Soto Methodist churches merged together. I have heard this history from several folks. It appears that in the late sixties or so, the United Methodist Church wanted to merge Retreat, Red Mound, and De Soto to build ONE new bigger church. To that end, the pastor and a building inspector came out to each church. And each church failed the inspection. So, they were faced with the choice of merging or staying



Liberty Pole Methodist Church



Retreat Methodist Church - 1908



De Soto Methodist Church

independent. Retreat church felt very strongly that their church gained its identity from the community that it served. And it served that community actively and frequently. They were willing to make the required improvements to the building. The church foundation was rebuilt—by members of the congregation who were willing to crawl around in the dirt underneath the building to make sure it was solid. God Bless Them! And Retreat remained a separate church.

Red Mound and De Soto were, by report, in bad structural shape, so they decided to merge. The land in De Soto was not big enough to support two congregations, so the current Red Mound site was chosen. As Alice Long says, "It's as far from De Soto to Red Mound as it is from Red Mound to De Soto. Somebody was going to have to travel!" They were able to get the land donated and they set about raising funds. That generation is now passing away, but they worked diligently for seven years selling, baking, hosting, and doing anything they could to earn money. Nightcrawlers were dug and sold for the sake of the church! Every little bit helps and hard work with the help of the Holy Spirit can do great things!

While all this had been going on in the west, Liberty Pole had been bounced from a solo church to a partnership with Westby United Methodist or Viroqua United Methodist. It was becoming harder and harder for our little churches to keep a pastor and retain sufficient funds to do the repairs and work that the buildings required. In 2016, New Hope and Retreat joined into a partnership with Westby and Faith United Methodist Churches, sharing one pastor between the four churches. This was the origin of the Driftless Ministries. In 2019, the churches in the district were re-aligned and our three churches were paired together while keeping the Driftless Ministries group name.

In 2019, The United Methodist General Conference announced a one-time opportunity to disaffiliate for reasons of conscience while still being able to retain the church's assets—including land and buildings. The churches struggled through COVID and then got back to the business of what to do in the future. The three churches decided to band together and began the job of following the GIANT LIST of things the United Methodist church required. In 2023, the steps were completed, and the churches became an independent group of three Methodist churches with an amazing tradition.

Each church retains its independence and its own governing board and way to do church. They also retain the unique flavor of the individual congregations that has developed over more than a hundred years. Our churches are firmly rooted in history, in the members who have come before and left their imprint in every church, and in the valleys and hills and ridges that form our land. Do not miss the span of history that this story covers. Do not miss the incredible faith, and the amazing amount of WORK it took for our churches to move through the decades. But, with strong faith in Jesus Christ, and with a fundamental desire to serve their individual communities, they continue to serve and grow. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Sandy & Ron



Working Together in Ministry

It's easy to sit on the sidelines and watch the church do its ministry. But it is much more fun and gratifying to be a part of the action! You are invited to be a part of the work of the church! We encourage everyone to come and participate in the discussions at your respective church meeting. Your ideas are vital to our ministry!



New Hope Church Board Meeting

Sunday, September 6th, 11:30 a.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th, 6 p.m.

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting

Monday, September 14th, 5:30 p.m.



We encourage you to use the following simple prayers throughout this month to help supplement your prayer time!

God, I confess that I often resist your will and try to run from your calling. Please soften my heart to hear your voice and follow you with joy. Amen.

Father, I confess that I struggle with doubt and impatience when your plans seem delayed. Strengthen my faith to rest in your wisdom, sovereignty, and perfect timing. Amen.

Lord God, you are a refuge and fortress in times of trouble. Teach me to trust you in the storms and to find peace in your presence. Amen.

God of grace, thank you for your mercy that covers all my sins. Help me to extend grace and forgiveness to others as a reflection of your love. Amen.

Father, you are patient and faithful, calling me to wait on you with courage. Strengthen my heart to trust your timing and rest in your care. Amen.

Lord, you renew my mind and help me discern your good and perfect will. Teach me to live according to your wisdom and to glorify you in all things. Amen.

God of peace, you call your church to unity through humility and love. Help me pursue unity and be a peacemaker in my community. Amen.



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 **au gratin potatoes, peaches, dish soap and toothpaste**. In addition to these items, the food pantry also greatly appreciates your monetary donations! If you wish to donate items or funds to the New Hope Food Pantry, 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

The fall church meals are beginning! Liberty Pole will be having their homemade noodle with chicken or chili meal on Sunday, October 11th. They will serve either, or both, with a beverage and a bar for a free will offering. Serving will begin at 11 a.m. and go until 1 p.m. or when food is gone. This is a wonderful to enjoy a great meal and fellowship with friends and neighbors. Come and enjoy!



Over the next few months, our churches will be incorporating some modern praise music during our Sunday worship services. Each song will take place during the benediction at the end of the service. If you would like a sneak peek, and maybe to familiarize yourself with the songs, use the links below!

<https://youtu.be/QBRwoqJP2sk?si=u5QxR765pYh9HjO6>

<https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg?si=kQewhjTSeze4T4xc>

https://youtu.be/2uN800p61zY?si=2oWRySL7_BjnHk4R (Randy Travis version)

https://youtu.be/bA46Hq_HpBk?si=wCMDU-vuSzYridhD (Alan Jackson version w/"I'll Fly Away")



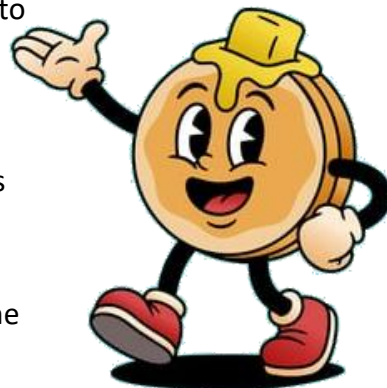
During last year's Retreat World's Fair, the Retreat Methodist Church hosted a small hospitality tent outside the church where people could rest/relax, chat with others, and get a free bottle of water or cup of coffee. The tent was a hit and we heard many wonderful comments on it. So... we plan to do it again this year! If you plan to attend this year's Retreat World's Fair on Saturday, October 3rd, stop by our hospitality tent by the bell house outside the church. We'll be setup between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., right around when the maximum amount of people are on the grounds. We will again have free bottles of water and coffee available for those that need something to wet their whistle! We also plan to advertize the upcoming church events for all three churches and our worship services too to help get the word out! So if you pass by the church, be sure to stop in and say "Hi!" We hope to see you there!



The kids are heading back to school, local farmers are busy bringing in the harvest, and our communities are abuzz with fall festivals. In the midst of it all, we invite you to take a moment and reconnect with your neighbors and friends over a hot and delicious breakfast! The Retreat Methodist Church will be hosting a Community Breakfast on ***Saturday, September 26th from 8 to 10:30 a.m.*** in their fellowship hall. There will be plenty of fantastic food and great fellowship for you to enjoy. As always, the meal is ***free and open to all***, so please come and enjoy a hot breakfast while catching up on the latest with your family, friends and neighbors. Please note that if you do wish to make a monetary donation, all donations from this breakfast will be given to the De Soto Schools Music Program to support the musical growth and talents of our area youth!

In addition to the breakfast, there will also be a delicious bake sale where you can purchase some sweet homemade treats that you can enjoy at home (or on the way home). All proceeds from the bake sale will be used for future renovations to Retreat's fellowship hall, which will officially be 100 years old next year! The renovations are needed and your support is greatly appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you and helping you reconnect with your community at the end of September! Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship!



Retreat Quilters



The Retreat Quilters will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Mondays, September 14th and 28th. Great progress is being made on the requested denim quilts! You should stop by and see the works in progress! As always, everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun and fellowship. There is always plenty of laughter going on. If anyone would like to help with the quilts, even for just a short period, your contributions will be greatly appreciated! For more information, reach out to Lynnell Nummerdor at (608) 642-1585.



Retreat Ladies Group



Retreat Ladies Group

Hey ladies! The Retreat Ladies' group will be meeting on **Saturday, September 12th** at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing upcoming events and other ideas, but don't worry, it's not *all* business. We have lots of fun too!

For more information,
reach out to Lynn Nelson or Lynnell Nummerdor!



Pete's End-of-Summer Gathering!

Pete Amrhein is graciously extending an invite to everyone in our churches to enjoy some food and fellowship during his end-of-summer gathering! The festivities will be held on Saturday, October 3rd from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at his home outside of Liberty Pole (E7374 Hinkst Hollow Road, Viroqua, WI 54665). Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to pass if they would like (but it is by no means required!). Pete will be busy manning the grill cooking up some delicious grilled meats. If you would like more information or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Pete at (608) 632-0084. He hopes to see you there!



Supporting Our Youth & Teachers

Thanks to your generous donations, a big load of school supplies was collected and delivered to Prairie View Elementary School! The supplies were delivered by members of the Retreat Methodist Church on Thursday, August 27th as the teachers and staff were preparing for the new school year. Staff at the school will distribute the supplies to the students and classrooms as needed, supporting those who need it most! A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who donated and volunteered for this wonderful ministry outreach!

In addition to the school supplies, the church also brought the teachers and staff a delicious lunch as they prepared for the coming school year. The meal was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all the staff. A HUGE thank you goes out to Colleen Inman for her crucial role in coordinating and preparing the meal and the wonderful volunteers who delivered and set up the meal. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Shana Hardy – Sept. 4th
 Brenna Lohr – Sept. 6th
 Sandy Marohl – Sept. 7th
 Gavin Nummerdor – Sept. 7th
 Ella Funk – Sept. 9th
 Megan Baker – Sept. 13th
 Steve Thompson – Sept. 16th

Syneve Jones – Sept. 17th
 Gary Robertson – Sept. 17th
 Richard Solverson – Sept. 18th
 Lynn Nelson – Sept. 19th
 Myron Hornby – Sept. 20th
 Amy Hardy – Sept. 22nd
 Mike Isbell – Sept. 22nd

Maxwell Funk – Sept. 23rd
 Cynthia Hubbard – Sept. 23rd
 Lynnell Nummerdor – Sept. 24th
 Pastor Sandy Conrad – Sept. 26th
 John Hanson – Sept. 27th
 Zach Lohr – Sept. 28th
 Chad Vikemyr – Sept. 29th



Anniversaries

Tom & Chris Baker – Sept. 2nd
 Doug & Billie Caley – Sept. 5th
 Myron & Deb Hornby – Sept. 6th
 Kevin & Kim Robson – Sept. 18th



Darwin & LaNay Kumlin – Sept. 20th
 Todd & Vicki Newsome – Sept. 22nd
 Tim & Katie Elbert – Sept. 29th

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

Fellowship Sunday

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on **Sunday, September 6th** 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!

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

Pastor – Rev. Sandy Conrad
 (608) 881-4276
pastor@driftlessministry.org

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 Hennen: (608) 804-0314



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	3 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	4 <i>Pastors Sabbath</i>	5
6 Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R) NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	7 Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole Labor Day Pancake Breakfast 8 – 11 a.m. @ New Hope	8 Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	9 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	10 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	11 <i>Pastors Sabbath</i>	12 Retreat Ladies Group 10 a.m. @ Retreat
13	14 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	15	16 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	17 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	18 <i>Pastors Sabbath</i>	19
20	21 Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole Newsletter Submission Deadline	22	23 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	24 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	25 <i>Pastors Sabbath</i>	26 Community Breakfast 8 – 10:30 a.m. Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall
27	28 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat	29	30 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<i>Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/.</i> <i>New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!</i>		

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

