



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2017

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

"18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."

- Matthew 4:18-22, NIV

This passage from Matthew comes at a point of transition. Well ... I suppose there are two transitions that are actually happening here. The first transition is with the four disciples that Jesus is calling into ministry. They are being called from what they know and are comfortable with into a new way of life.

The second transition is with Jesus himself. He's been through the great temptations with Satan, has heard of his cousin John's imprisonment, and now knows it's time for his ministry to start. Jesus calls these four men to follow him and then begins to teach and preach in the area. He begins the Sermon on

the Mount (beginning in Matthew 5) with the Beatitudes.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John may have known a little bit about Jesus as his reputation was beginning to be built, but they probably had no idea what they were really getting themselves into. Yet they went with Jesus. They placed their faith in him.

As Christians, I think this is still true of our times of transition today. As we move from one moment in life to the next, we place our faith in God through Jesus by praying for guidance, courage, faith, knowledge about what to do next. We may even know what's next, but that doesn't mean we don't need God in this transition.

As a local church, you could say that the Wisconsin Rapids UMC is in a time of transition. This church has come a long way in the last 6-7 years (especially in the three years prior to my arrival here). There has been a lot of focus on surviving and getting by. But we can't stay with this focus. We're being called to something else. Yes, we'll still be the church, but what will this look like for us in the future?

Established churches or existing churches are phrases often used to describe mainline protestant churches (like us) who have been around for a few generations. For generations

these churches have been established and have existed in a certain way. This way doesn't always connect with the world around them, thus our steady decline as a denomination.

The UMC has been declining for longer than I've been alive. When numbers for the last quadrennium (2012-2016) come out from the denomination, we'll read that the UMC in Wisconsin has lost about 18% of its worship attendance. That's the fastest declining Conference in the UMC. Folks, I really don't believe that Jesus called his disciples, or us, to be a part of a declining group. The message Jesus brought, the message we're supposed to be carrying forth today, is too good to be involved with declining numbers.

Jesus changed the direction of the disciples' lives by calling them into ministry. As Jesus calls us into ministry today — out of a mode of survival and into ministry today — are we ready to follow in order to make an impact in our community and to not just exist?

The Church Council knows that a new direction is needed for the future. To get us started, they've commissioned a group, what I've named the Futures Team, to prayerfully consider what this direction might be. This group has met a few times and is just beginning a journey together that will end with God's direction for this direction and purpose for this church in this time.

Please be in prayer for the Futures Team and the Church Council as they do their best to lead and guide this church in this time of transition — away from simply surviving and toward thriving for the glory of God.

Futures Team Members

Dan Bartram, Cathy McNett, Mike Swanson,
Jean Micheals, Timm Rosenthal, Katie
Pegram, Greg Staven, Lynn Swanson,
Kathy Duerkop, Tami Drew-Huiras, Joshua
Pegram

Blessings,

Pastor Josh



Bethesda Thrift Shop:

The Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall offers quite a few awesome sales in November. Nov. 3-4: 50% off almost everything in the store; Nov. 6-18: 50% off all blue tag barcode items; Nov. 19-30: 75% off all blue tag barcode items; Nov. 18 is our Christmas Open House (8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.) in both stores with 20-70 % off on almost everything in the store; Nov. 24 Black Friday (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) 50% off almost everything in the store. Our upscale Christmas Store is now open across the hall from our main store. Both the Christmas Store and Main store will be open on Sundays (12-4 p.m.) from Nov. 19 through Dec. 17. Because of our uncertainty of what will happen to our store after Dec. 30, we will not be accepting any donations until further notice. We will accept Christmas decorations until Nov. 10. Thanks for your continued support and we hope to have a place for our store in January.



MEN'S GROUP

All men are invited
Nov. 1, 2017 at 8:00
am



Meet
for
Breakfast

SAVE THE DATE!
Charge Conference
Thursday, November 16,
2017 6:30 pm in our church
sanctuary.

United Methodist Women



The weather is colder and it reminds us of the various fall activities on our schedule. Before I talk about things to come, I want to congratulate Shirley Carpenter who is now the State President of United Methodist Women. Best wishes in leading a very dynamic group of women statewide. November 12th is the date to mark on your calendars. Sunday after coffee fellowship we will have our regular meeting beginning at 10:30. All are welcome so please consider coming and checking us out! Jean Michaels will lead the program World Thank Offering. We will also install the officers for 2018. UMW is for all ages and gives each of us opportunities to grow in our faith, in our relationship to God and also forming bonds with other members of our unit.

Sunday December 3rd UMW will be serving coffee fellowship. We will discuss the food and who will help serve during the November 12th meeting. In the next few weeks I will also be searching for an activity for us to attend as a group. Stay tuned! Things to do: join in the UMW Reading Program. There are different categories and the books are always interesting as well as thought provoking. The list is on the website and the booklets should be available shortly.

UMW will be celebrating 150 years during the UMW World Assembly which will be Friday May 18 – Sunday, May 20, 2018. Please read over the information found at: <https://umwassembly.org/> There will be a bus traveling from Wisconsin. More information is available.

Another upcoming gathering to consider is Mission U which will be held again at the Hotel Mead July 23-26 or the overview day of Friday July 27. This is an awesome event held locally which cuts down on the cost substantially.

For those of you who do go to Kwik Trips please remember to save the Moola Tops which support the Harbor House Crisis Shelters. The Harbor House is supported by both the Wisconsin and Minnesota Conferences. The website to learn more is <http://harborhousecs.org/about/> Harbor House's Mission Statement is " Harbor House Crisis Shelters mission is to provide hospitable shelter, transitional living services for homeless women and families." Please go and check out their website and learn more about Harbor House.

**The United Methodist Women of Port Edwards
Present their Annual Holiday Bazaar &
Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 4th from 10:00
am - 2:00 pm at the United Methodist Church
in Port Edwards 411 Wisconsin
River Drive. The Luncheon will**



**be served all day and will
consist of Turkey Salad
Plate \$6.00, BBQ Plate
\$5.00, Pie \$2.00 and Pie
& Ice Cream \$2.50. There will be
home baked treats, holiday candy &
crafts, boutique items, treasure chest sale,
RADA Cutlery and holiday music!**



From the Family of Ethel Hetzel

We want to Thank our Church Family for all the prayers, thoughts, sympathies and hugs for the loss of Mom. Thanks to all the members who worked in the kitchen, served the food and drinks, and to those who donated a salad or dessert (m-m-m).

**Thank You,
It was Greatly Appreciated,
Wendy Schwartz and Family
Keith and Todd Hetzel**

On a side note: We do have a special Thank You to Anton and Carl Rosenthal for their help in the kitchen. They were very busy and kept things under control.

Thanks Boys!



Noisy Collection

**Sunday,
November
12th**

**for Jennifer and
SWEPS Christmas
Food Baskets**



November 26th is United Methodist Student Day. Your generous gift supports United Methodist Student Day scholarships, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. When you give today, you enrich ministry and help connect students to their faith.



Our church will be participating once again this year with Food Baskets and Toys for Tots through SWEPS again for the holiday season (November and December). More information will be shared when the particulars are known.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Novmeber

- 1 - Mike Sloat
- 3 - Shirley Sering
- 3 - Kevin Huiras
- 6 - Janet Hansen
- 8 - Matthew Hansen
- 9 - Kathryn Ritter
- 11- Gregory Fletcher
- 12 - Harry Calverley
- 12 - Fred Kronenberg
- 13 - Lester Gukenberger
- 13 - Wayne Sering
- 16 - Julie Dresen
- 17 - Myrna Langowski
- 17 - Tami Drew-Huiras
- 19 - Glen Harper
- 20 - Jack Metzger
- 22 - Wendy Schwartz
- 30 - Bruce Williams
- 30 - Alexandria Williams

*Happy
Anniversary*

- 7 - Jim & Judy Seegert
- 23 - Bill & Shirley Carpenter



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

**To the family of Ethel Hetzel who
passed away on October 4, 2017.**

Prayer Calendar November

- 1—Bill, Mandy, Caden & Wyatt Jungwirth
- 2—Helen Jungwirth
- 3—Shirley Klapperich
- 4—Fred & Barb Kronenberg
- 5—Darwin Lamb
- 6—Garold & Evelyn Lampman
- 7—Stanley & Myrna Langowski
- 8—Eloise Larsen
- 9—Bob & Carol Liska
- 10—Chris Maguire
- 11—Carole Manz
- 12—Christopher Marshaus
- 13—Bob & Wanda McIlvain
- 14—Cathy McNett
- 15—Jack & Carol Metzger
- 16—Brian Michaels
- 17—Jean Michaels
- 18—Daniel Michalak
- 19—Vic & Barb Moon
- 20—George Neumann
- 21—Marty & Terry Nolet
- 22—Nathalie Noonan
- 23—Valerie Nordin
- 24—AshleyKolt, Walker & Easton O'Keefe
- 25—Nancy Olson
- 26—Josh & Katie Pegram
- 27—Al & Bev Peterson
- 28—Mary Jane & Mike Phillips
- 29—Lonnie, Nikki, Hailey & Alyssa Reetz
- 30—Kelly, Taylor & Rhett Reinicke

Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:

Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**



For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

John 16:23

In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

What do these words mean? Is God our Santa Claus waiting to say “yes” to everything we ask? We all have been taught that God answers prayer, but what about those selfish prayers? If I pray to win the lottery, is it guaranteed I will win? Or if I pray for a new luxury car, lavish home, or a European cruise? No, of course not. God wants us to be so attuned to him that our prayers echo his will. And even then we must sometimes wait a long time for answers. I have family members for whom I have been praying for years without any response that I can see. The key words here are “that I can see”. God is working all the time and we are not always aware of it. The Bible tells us our prayers will be answered when the time is right. So I continue to pray in confidence that God’s will be done.

God cares for us each and every day. He is beside us through the good and the hard times. Just look carefully and you will see his hand in your life. Do not give up! Pray confidently. God hears you and loves you. And for that let us echo together “Praise the Lord!”

Let us pray: Lord forgive us for the times we don't trust you and your timing. We know how much you love each one of us and that your will is best for each of us. Open our eyes to the work of your hand in each of our lives. We do love and trust you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen



November 1

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir
6:00 pm - Book Study

November 2

7:00 pm - Future Team Meeting

November 7

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 8

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice
6:00 pm - Book Study

November 12

10:30 am - UMW Meeting

November 13

4:30 pm - Trustees

November 14

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 15

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm Choir Practice

November 16

10:00 am - SWEPS volunteer's meeting
6:00 pm - Charge Conference

November 20

6:00 pm - Finance
6:30 pm - Council

November 21

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 22

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

November 23

OFFICE CLOSED
HAPPY THANKSGIVING



November 28

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 29

10:00 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through
Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
and closed on Fridays.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net
Pastor Joshua: Joshua.pegam3@gmail.com

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. — UMC Worship Service
10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

The Neighborhood Table

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous

Meets each day of the week as follows:
Monday 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 7:00 p.m.