

*Our Savior's and Gilmanton
United Methodist Churches*

210 N Eau Claire St
Mondovi, WI 54755

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Return Service Requested

Community Events

Ruby's
PANTRY

Thursday, August 15
4:00—5:30 pm
Mondovi County Shop

OUTREACH

Our Savior's and Gilmanton United Methodist Churches



AUGUST 2024

Pastor's Corner

Devotion for July 15, 2024

by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:6

I have had the blessing of a pilgrimage walk from June 16-30, 2024. A pilgrimage is a spiritual experience – it is an experience in which there is observation and reflection about the Divine. A pilgrimage helps us see with new eyes the world and God's activity within the world.

The following are my reflections on my Santiago pilgrimage:

Holy One has invited me into the pilgrimage toward Santiago de Compostella!

It was a walk 317 km long, from Leon to Santiago.

I give thanks to God for the life journey and abundant Love!

- celebrating the divine love,
- crawling into the grace,
- touching pain and humility,
- solidarity with suffering humanity,
- wondering and seeing God in everywhere!
- praying and discerning,
- being lost and in silence,
- feeling and smelling the mystery
- holding and loving church,
- awakening into a simple one
- gratitude to family and friends.

"Steadily cantering through the misty solitudes,
The old lost road through the woods....But there is no road through the woods"
(Rudyard Kipling)

May you be blessed by my shared reflections. Amen.



**More majestic than the thunders of mighty
waters, more majestic than the waves of the
sea, majestic on high is the Lord!**

Psalm 93:4

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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Happy Birthday!

- 8/1 Julie Brunsch
- 8/1 Luanne Swanson
- 8/1 Paula Thompson
- 8/3 Barb Plank
- 8/5 Hadlee Poeschel
- 8/5 Judy Schwartz
- 8/6 Alison Gilbertson
- 8/6 Darlene Saxe
- 8/7 Randy Moy
- 8/8 Jade Jehn
- 8/9 Clarence Pichler
- 8/9 Mason Thornton
- 8/9 Logan Thornton
- 8/10 Kristen Bishopp
- 8/17 Irma Fuller
- 8/18 Brad Gibson
- 8/18 Olivia Saxe
- 8/19 Grace Boley
- 8/21 Nathaniel Bishopp
- 8/21 Debbie Duncanson
- 8/21 Dave Holden
- 8/21 Dave Saxe
- 8/22 Toni Ede
- 8/23 Randy Johnston
- 8/26 Katie Sandberg
- 8/26 Macie Stambaugh
- 8/30 Orvilla Ede

Happy Anniversary!

- 8/6 Jim & Holly Hesselman
- 8/13 Larry & Becky Davis
- 8/18 Matt & Sarah Thompson
- 8/20 Jay & Kolleen Branger
- 8/25 Jim & Deb Coppage

Buffalo County Fair Booth

We need volunteers to help at our UMC fair booth in two-hour increments, starting with set-up at 5 pm on Wednesday, July 31, through take-down beginning at 3 pm on Sunday, August 4.

You can call or email Dora or the church office to sign up.



Keep in Prayer...

Members who are in long-term care facilities.
 Military veterans.
 All firefighters, EMTs, police, and military personnel.
 Brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.



August 14

12:00 Potluck

2:00 Christmas Bazaar Meeting

Stuffed Green Peppers (Microwave)

Shirley Christopherson

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 2 (8 oz.) cans tomato sauce
- 3 T. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 4 medium green peppers
- 1/3 c. chopped onion
- 1/4 c. water
- tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. pkg. precooked rice



Crumble beef. Add onion. Heat to high for 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 minutes, until meat is brown, stirring once. Drain. Stir in 1 can tomato sauce, water, 1 tablespoon cheese, salt and pepper; heat, covered, 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 minutes. Stir in rice. Cover and let stand for 5 minutes. Cut peppers in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and rinse. Spoon beef-rice filling into each half; place in a glass baking dish. Top with other can of tomato sauce (I use a larger can tomato sauce for the top) and cheese. Heat, covered, 10 to 15 minutes at high, or until peppers are tender. Let stand, covered, for 5 minutes.

Old Business

Regarding Safe Sanctuary Policy, Debbie Duncanson made a motion to accept the 2024 OSUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy as shared with Council members. Jay Branger seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Kolleen inquired about what to do when prayer cards are left in the offering plate. Discussion ensued. The Worship Committee will follow up on how to handle these in the future.

Continuing Action Items

Sonny Sandberg will trim the shrubs back and put new chips down in front of the church.

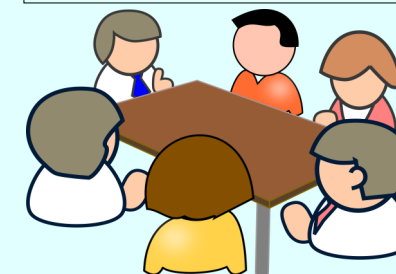
Sonny has been in touch with someone to repair the mason mortar joints, and Sonny will have to rent a lift. Sonny will follow up.

Dave Boley closed the meeting in prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Kolleen Branger, seconded by Julie Brunsch. Motion carried.

Account Balances 6/30/2024

Checking	\$50.76
Elevator Repair	\$524.00
Local Disaster	\$390.00
New Ministries	\$2,019.80
Christmas Walk	\$10,617.00
Scholarships/Youth Awards	\$260.00
Sunday School	\$415.00
Total Account Balances	\$14,276.56



"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."
 Hebrews 6:10



Bishop Dan Schwerin Assigned to Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area as of Sept. 1

By Victoria Rebeck, Director of Communications for the Northern Illinois Conference, and Lisa Wink, Director of Communications for the Wisconsin Conference

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, S.D., affirmed the assignment of Bishop Dan Schwerin to the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area, effective Sept. 1, 2024.

The NCJ Committee on Episcopacy, which determines the bishops' assignments, announced them on July 13.

"We are excited to welcome Bishop Dan Schwerin back to Wisconsin, this time as our bishop!" said Jessica Gobel, chair of the Wisconsin Delegation. "The Wisconsin Conference is looking forward to experiencing all the blessings and gifts Dan has to offer and beginning our partnership with Northern Illinois as a shared episcopal area. Please join our delegation in welcoming Bishop Dan to Wisconsin."

"I am delighted that Bishop Dan Schwerin is returning to Northern Illinois," said Rev. Alka Lyall, chair of the Northern Illinois delegation for this year's United Methodist General Conference and the NCJ conference. "We have begun some good work in our conference, a spirit of trust is being felt, and we can now build onto momentum. I invite us to partner with him and grow the beloved communities in our conference."

"The Wisconsin Conference has enjoyed so many gifted and impactful episcopal leaders," said Bishop Schwerin. "And Julie and I have been blessed by the kindness we have received from the Northern Illinois Conference and the eighteen impactful months in ministry we have had there."

"We feel humbled and blessed to be assigned to serve among you. We now have the chance to experiment and innovate with two conferences' sharing one bishop in the new Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area. I can't wait to see what God will do through us." Bishop Schwerin was elected bishop in November 2022 and assigned to the Northern Illinois Conference starting January 1, 2023.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung served the Wisconsin Conference from 2012 to 2024.

"My deep appreciation to Wisconsin. We will miss you. I welcome Bishop Dan Schwerin and give thanks for his visionary leadership. He knows us and he has been a vital part of our mission and ministry. Thank you to the NCJ Community for reaffirming us with new possibilities," shared Bishop Jung. Bishop Jung has been assigned to the Ohio Episcopal Area.

In January, NCJ established two new episcopal areas: one comprising the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois annual conferences and another comprising the Western Ohio and Eastern Ohio annual conferences. This reduced the number of bishops serving NCJ's ten conferences to seven, relieving pressure on the denomination's stressed Episcopal Fund.

In May, the UMC General Conference instructed the NCJ to reduce by an additional bishop. The jurisdiction is working on identifying a third episcopal area that will comprise two annual conferences.

- Assignments in the NCJ are as follows:
- Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area: Bishop Lanette Plambeck
 - Illinois Great Rivers: Bishop David Bard & Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
 - Indiana: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
 - Iowa: Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
 - Michigan: Bishop David Bard
 - Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area: Bishop Dan Schwerin
 - Ohio Episcopal Area: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Come worship with us!

Highlights from the Council Meeting—June 2024

Council members present: Dave Boley, Lori Boley, Kolleen Branger, Jay Branger, Debbie Duncanson, Linda Johnston, Julie Brunsch, Jan Bechel, Jim Williams, Sonny Sandberg.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dave Boley.

Dave Boley opened with prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Motion to accept May 2024 Secretary's Report made by Kolleen Branger and seconded by Julie Brunsch. Motion carried.

Finance Committee (Jay Branger, Chair)

Jay had no new information to report.

Executive Summary (Julie Brunsch, Treasurer)

Checking account totals are as follows: Beginning balance of \$21,836.22; deposits of \$7857.37; interest of \$11.92; expenditures of \$12,321.11; uncleared transactions of \$984.91; bank charge back fees \$0.00 with an ending balance as of May 31, 2024, of \$16,399.49. Checking account reconciled with bank statement. Internal account balances are Checking \$873.69; Elevator Repair \$524.00; Local Disaster \$390.00; New Ministries \$2019.80; Christmas Walk \$11,917.00; Scholarships/Youth Awards \$260.00; Sunday School \$415.00 for balance of \$16,399.49. Other accounts: Building/Restoration \$1985.20; Youth Fellowship Account \$4177.93.

Julie reported call forwarding has been added to the office phone at no extra charge.

The new printer has been installed.

Current undesignated checkbook balance is \$2448.63 with bills due by end of the month of \$5720.14.

Julie reported she is still receiving bills from TKE for elevator maintenance.

Memorial Report (Ann Yelle, Chair, absent)

In Ann's absence, Jay reported the following Memorial Report.

Balance as of May 31, 2024, \$19,293.93 with credits of \$1.82 and no debits and minus \$15,000.00 CD with ending balance of \$4295.75

Finance Secretary (Kolleen Branger)

Kolleen reported she had no new information to report. She reported her laptop is not coordinating with the new printer, and she will be following up on that.

Motion made by Jim Williams and seconded by Debbie Duncanson to accept the May 2024 Executive Summary, Memorial and Finance Secretary Reports. Motion carried.

United Women in Faith Report (Linda Johnston, Chair)

Linda reported the UMW met on June 12 with 10 women present.

Old Business: Discussed whether to continue contributing to the Old Sock Program and decision was made not to.

New Business: Will be looking at updating the purple book with new language of Purpose.

The fall gathering is in Chippewa on September 28th.

Lunch was served.

Ann took 35 Dignity Kits to Annual Conference.

Trustee Report (Sonny Sandberg, Chair)

Sonny inquired how the Council feels regarding parsonage maintenance of mowing, flower beds, etc. Discussion ensued. Sonny will discuss with Pastor when he returns from vacation. Jay Branger indicated he will check to see if it is necessary to bag grass clippings and will bag if needed.

Jay Branger will be in contact with the insurance agency regarding coverage, etc.

Sonny reported the first project he will work on is the mailbox. Kathy will have the key in the office.

SPRC (Jim Williams, Chair)

Jim reported he will check with Pastor when he returns regarding a date for scheduling an SPRC meeting.

Jim and Pastor did some visiting before Pastor left on vacation, and will resume visits when Pastor returns.

Julie Brunsch inquired regarding payment for individuals filling the pulpit in Pastor's absence. Jim will be in contact with Pastor Peace, District Superintendent, regarding payment when he speaks on June 30th.

Worship Committee (Lori Boley, Chair)

Worship Committee meeting on June 1, 2024, at 6:15 p.m.

Attended by Linda Sandberg, Katie Sandberg, Linda Johnston, Mary Beth Pichler, Lori Boley, Pastor Kim.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Kim.

Father's Day: 6/16/24. Katie volunteered to get candy and prepare for Father's Day gifts.

Church at Rainbow Park (Gilmanton) with picnic potluck. Spoke with Judy over the phone to help with planning. Connie Loesel reserved the park for July 28th. Service will be at 10:00. Katie volunteered to help with music. Becky Davis is contact person at Gilmanton for food, etc. Bring a lawn chair. Kathy has put it in the announcements and newsletter.

Communion: Any reaction to the change in pace. It is better when the ushers are there to guide the pace. Want to make sure to instruct them.

Pastor on vacation June 11 to 30.

June 9th: Pastor Dale Engen.

June 16th: Mary Beth Pichler.

June 23rd: Hymn sing.

June 30th: DS Peace.

Broken piano (keyboard) - any new information? Discussed needing to remove it from choir loft and Katie can then take it to one of the music shops in Eau Claire.

Additional topic: Requested to only stand for second reading.

Communion Server schedule: Lori and Julie on for July; Katie and Linda on for August.

Confirm next meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:30.

Closing Prayer.

Debbie Duncanson inquired if Pastor Peace will be giving a sermon or discussing Annual Conference when he speaks on June 20th. Jim Williams will verify with Pastor Peace.



The Pickle Project

The pickles are growing, and we are hoping for a start date of August 12. I will keep you informed as we draw near to that date. I am hoping for an excellent crew, as I have had in the past. This is a success each year thanks to each one of you. If you know of anyone who has not volunteered in the past but might like to help, please ask them. Many hands make lighter work. See you soon!

-Christine Kramschuster

BOOK PRAYER MEETING

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

August 15 - September 26

Book Prayer Meeting at Our Savior's with Pastor's recommended book *The Broken Image: Restoring Personal Wholeness through Healing Prayer* by Leanne Payne

Sign up in the back of the church to purchase the book or call the church office.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Christmas Bazaar is coming

Saturday, November 2
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

- ◇ Food
- ◇ Crafts
- ◇ Boutique

Please be thinking of what you can bring!



Many hands make light work

Craft Group

We will meet on the following Wednesdays at 9:00 am:

- August 7
- August 21
- August 28
- September 4
- September 18
- September 25



**REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BY: ANN YELLE...LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2024 Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, from June 7-10. I have been a lay member to Annual Conference for about 15 years. As I have indicated in previous years, I have found this to be a most valuable experience for learning about the United Methodist Church. The theme for this year's conference was, "Abundant God; Beloved Community," which is based on John 10:10b: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The plenary sessions, or the business of the church, was quite ordinary this year. There were no controversial issues. We were updated, via reports and presentations from various committees, boards, ministries, etc., that operate within the Wisconsin Conference, or are in partnership or supported by the Conference. As a connectional church, the UMC is involved in many areas locally and throughout the world. One ministry, Global Ministries, serves as the missional arm of the United Methodist Church, dedicated to following the example of Christ, by aiding those in need. Thus, there are numerous committees involved in performing the work of Global Ministries. The priority areas of Global Ministries are Missionaries, Evangelism and Church Revitalization, Global Health, and Humanitarian Relief and Recovery. Mission work to Bolivia continues to be an area of help. An additional area of service to Bolivia, a goal for 2025, is the raising of funds for the Home for the Elderly in Bolivia. A mission of Global Missions, that Our Savior's and Gilmanton UMC Churches participated in, was the making of Dignity Kits. This year, 35 kits were taken to the Midwest Missions' warehouse and subsequently distributed, as needed, locally and throughout the world in times of disaster. Midwest Mission has grown, enabling them to open a second warehouse.

Statistics were shared. Statistics come off of the EZRA report that churches need to submit, electronically, by February of each year. From 2022 to 2023 there was a 12 percent change in the number of UMC Churches in Wisconsin. The number dropped from 448 to 396. Membership decreased from 42,233 to 38,680 for this same period of time. Of the 52 churches that are no longer part of the annual conference, 43 of them were formal disaffiliations. Average weekly Sunday School attendance was down by 5 percent. The average church size in Wisconsin is about 100. Fifty percent of the churches have less than 58 members. Regarding apportionment payments, 215 churches paid their apportionment in full. Wisconsin Conference paid their global apportionment payment at 100 percent. In 2023, the conference expenses were under budget. For 2025, the minimum compensation for Elders, Provisional Members, and Associate members serving full time, will be \$50,236. Two churches were discontinued, Granton UMC and Cristo La Roca UMC, and one was abandoned, Chili Immanuel UMC.

It was approved that the Wisconsin Conference be organized into 4 districts, down from the 5 districts and 5 district superintendents since 2015. We continue in the North West District. Wisconsin will now share a Bishop with Northern IL, with the Episcopal area office being in

Glenview, IL. Since Annual Conference, Dan Schwerin was assigned as Bishop of the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area, effective September 1st. Bishop Jung, our Bishop for 12 years, the maximum number of years allowed, will be moving to the Ohio Episcopal Area.

It was reported that the conference received concerns regarding Church Mutual, the insurance carrier for the churches in the conference. Because Church Mutual will not serve all of the churches, a new carrier is being sought. Four carriers are being explored and hopefully will present bids soon.

In his state-of-the-church address, Bishop Jung recounted highlights from his time with our conference. A few of the highlights were that he visited every church in the conference, experienced 31 new church starts, continued the relationship with the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church, worked with the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia, and experienced the exceeding of our apportionment to global giving.

An update on General Conference was shared: The concept of Regionalism is being voted upon across the world and it will come before the 2025 Wisconsin Annual Conference; Harmful language against LGBTQIA+ was removed; Social Principles are being revised for the first time in 50 years; a full communion relationship with the Episcopal Church is pending approval by the Episcopal Church; sacramental authority by Deacons was expanded.

Activities that we shared in included an excellent Bible Study, worship, communion, singing, praying, meeting new people, reconnecting with people met over the years, etc. In addition, we shared in a Service of Remembrance, where persons connected to the Wisconsin Conference, who had died since the previous conference, were honored. We also honored pastors for their length of service, beginning at 25 years. 417 combined years of service were honored. Appointments of pastors to new churches were read and also the names of clergy retiring were read.

As at other Annual Conferences, the Recognition, Commissioning, and Ordination Service continues to be a very special service. Four were licensed as local pastors, four were commissioned as elders, six were ordained as elders, and two were ordained as deacons. Adding to my love of this service, was the ordination of our former pastors, Joeng and Clare. It was so fun to meet both pastors' families, including Evalena Margaret, Pastor Clare and husband Cory's young daughter, who they call Lena.

The last activity was a farewell celebration for Bishop Jung. This was an opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for the churches of the Wisconsin Conference these last 12 years.

I again thank you for the opportunity to represent Our Savior's and Gilmanton UMCs at Annual Conference. I continue to pray for our local churches, and also the United Methodist Church throughout the world. Let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Buffalo County Fair August 1-4	2	3
4 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	5	6 6:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting	7 9:00 am Craft Group	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	12	13	14 10:30 am Membership Committee Meeting 12:00 pm UWF Potluck 2:00 pm Christmas Bazaar Meeting	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	19	20	21 9:00 am Craft Group 6:00 pm Council Meeting	22 Newsletter deadline	23	24
25 8:30 am Gilmanton Choir Practice 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship; Choir Sings 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	26	27	28 9:00 am Craft Group 6:30 pm OS Choir Practice	29	30	31

August Worship Service Helpers

	Greeters/Ushers	Worship Leader	Money Counters
August 4	Sue Sie & Rita McDonnell	Brendan Williams	Linda Johnston & Lorraine Diener
August 11	Bob & Sue Stoughton	Ann Yelle	Bill Lier & Mary Beth Pichler
August 18	Linda Johnston & Terry Stiner	Lori Boley	Jay Branger & David Saxe
August 25	Jay & Kolleen Branger	David Boley	Stephanie Stamm & Katie Sandberg
Camera Operators: Lori Boley & Saul Ness			



Refreshments will be served after church at Our Savior's on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.