



BEACON
April 2021
NEWSLETTER OF THE
STURGEON BAY & JACKSONPORT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



WAYS TO CONNECT

The Sturgeon Bay/
 Jacksonport United Methodist Church
 Charge
 836 Michigan Street
 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
 920-743-3241

OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.sturgeonbayumc.org/>
 Or on YouTube Search David Leistra
 To Watch Pastor Dave's Sermons
 Online

FACEBOOK

Sturgeon Bay United Methodist
 Church Page For Coffee With The
 Pastor &
 Bible Studies

**ZOOM INTERACTIVE BIBLE
 STUDIES AND MEETINGS**

**For event times and access codes
 contact :**

David Leistra, Pastor
 pastorleistra@gmail.com
 Cell Phone 920-677-8607

WDOR Radio 93.9 FM 910 AM

Worship Service Sunday 9:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE

Lorna Magliaro , Office Manager
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The Lord is risen, the stone is rolled away,
 But not by human hands.
 The morning breaks, night's shadows flee away,
 And broken are death's bands.

The Lord is risen; and buried in His tomb,
 The weight of sin He bore
 Upon the cross for me.
 The fear, the gloom of death haunt me no more.

The Lord is risen; blest proof that God in heaven
 Accepts the sacrifice.
 The work is done, my sins are all forgiven,
 My Savior paid the price.

The Lord is risen; His pierced hands and side
 Now plead for me above.
 The Lord is risen; He lives for me, who died
 To save and win my love.

The Lord is risen, and waits for me up there
 In that bright home above,
 Where He has gone His mansions to prepare
 For those who know His love.

Yea, He is risen, my Representative,
 And pledge that He, in grace,
 My debt has paid. Because He lives, I live,
 And shall behold His face.

Yea, He is risen. Within the veil I've cast
 My anchor, and 'ere long
 I shall be home with His redeemed, at last,
 To sing the new eternal song.

Since He is risen, faith cannot but avail;
 And so I trust His word:
 I know 'tis true. Thy promise could not fail,
 My risen, living Lord.

—Helen McDowell

MARCH 2021 LETTER FROM PASTOR



Hello Friends,

As I write this letter to you Easter is just thirteen days away, this coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. This is the time of year we welcome Spring and celebrate once again the events leading up to and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is in these events that we find the definition of what it means to be a follower (disciple) of Jesus. It was the time we remember during Holy Week, a time when Jesus still walked the earth. He taught plainly that He is the Son of God and the long-anticipated Savior of the world. It was with his death on the cross that the way was opened for the Resurrection to take place, and it was through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that the way to life was open for us all.

We will be offering a combined service for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday this year on Good Friday. It will be available early in the morning that day (4-2-21) on YouTube (channel name "David Leistra"), SBUMC's Facebook page, and on SBUMC's website at www.sturgeonbayumc.org. As in past years we would ask that you consider making a special offering for Easter. This of course helps greatly in meeting our budget needs but is more importantly a means for you to offer a gift of Thanksgiving to God. This can be done by simply mailing it to the church, dropping it off in the church's outside mailbox, or online on our website. Easter Sunday service will be available via WDOR 93.9 FM Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., on the SBUMC Website and YouTube early Easter morning. As is the case each week our worship services will be on public access TV channel 989: Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Sundays at noon and 3 p.m.

On Thursday, April 8th at 12:30 p.m. we will be recording the service for April 11th in the sanctuary at SBUMC. Members and friends who would like to join us and participate in the worship service will be welcomed. The main entry is the only entrance to be used and will be open from noon to the start of recording so please **arrive by 12:20 p.m.** to ensure being able to come in. This is not a public worship but is open to members and friends of the church. Please wear a mask when entering the church and utilize the hand sanitizer dispensers available just inside the church entry. You may sit wherever you like in the sanctuary but please respect your neighbor by allowing for six feet or more of separation for people outside your group. Once seated if you wish you may remove your mask but please put it back on at the end of the service. While we will not be circulating an offering plate one will be set by the door into the sanctuary for your convenience. I trust that you all know that we must refrain from shaking hands and hugging and will follow the routine in wearing masks and hand washing/sanitizing. The service itself is usually about 40 to 45 minutes in length.

MARCH 2021 LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE cont...

On Sunday, May 2nd we will begin offering a Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. at SBUMC in addition to the Thursday recording service. This will be a service with communion and individual prepackaged wafer & juice will be available in the pews, you may bring your own if you like. Please note that we will not have gluten free wafers available until later this summer. The same expectations for use of masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing are required for Sunday mornings as for Thursdays until further notice. These services will not be advertised in the paper. We hope to return to public worship near the end of May or with the first Sunday in June. A recording of the Sunday services will continue to be available via the Sunday radio program, website, YouTube, and public access TV.

This has been a difficult year for us all. To know with a degree of certainty what the safe thing to do in dealing with exposure to Covid-19 has not been clear, and the best practices has changed from month-to-month depending on which health authority or political pundit you happen to listen to. We have endeavored to practice doing no harm by keeping our church building closed. I believe we can begin to worship together again in safety; however, you must use your best judgment concerning what you feel safe doing. We all know that if you feel at all unwell that it is best to stay home. We all know now how to be respectful of each other's space so we all can be more comfortable as this pandemic is not over but is merely coming under control. Dear friends we have walked the lonesome valley long enough. Its time to return and be together as we worship our God.

Easter Blessings, Pastor Dave

For God so loved the world

THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,

THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM

SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE

JOHN 3:16

MISSIONS - April Mission of the Month Midwest Mission Distribution Center

By Ken Boettcher

Located near Springfield Illinois is a campus and warehouse/workshop visited many times by work groups from our church. They collect packages, prepares for shipping: Kits of various kinds, medical and education equipment



Notes from their recent newsletter:

Creative thinking, enhanced safety protocols, and daily prayers for God's grace have kept us running at full capacity during the pandemic. While on-site missionaries dropped by 70%, in-kind supply donations increased due to collection sites added around the mid-west. We shipped \$10.8 million worth of supplies in 2020, up from \$3.5 million in 2019, "a miracle."

MMDC sent \$1,374,686 worth of COVID-19 relief supplies to 1,583,505 individuals around the world, and made thousands of cloth facemasks for essential workers, children, and people in need.

In February 2020, the MMDC executive director receive a request for an ambulance from a hospital in Belize. The MMDC Operations Director located an available ambulance on-line which met the approval of the doctor from Belize and the ambulance was flown to Belize by the US Air Force on November 9. Your contributions to our April project will keep this work alive. Thank you.

Monthly Missions 2021	
January - UMCOR Covid 19 Response Fund	\$585.00
February - Backpack Buddies	\$360.00
March - "J" Walkers	\$350.00
April - Midwest Mission Dist. Center	
May - Restoring Hope Transplant House	
June - Boys/Girls Club Bus	
July - Pastoral	
August - Open	
September - Food Walk	
October - Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center	
November - Open	
December - Mittens & Blankets	
2021 Monthly Missions Total YTD	\$1,295.00 ⁴

UMC Promoting Health & Wellness



Because we care about the well being of all people, health is a major focus of the work of The United Methodist Church. Together, we combat diseases of poverty such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; we provide health education, advocacy and infrastructure; and we continue our more than 160-year history of being a key provider of healthcare through the hospitals, clinics and mission centers we have operated across Africa. Through its Abundant Health initiative, now the church has achieved its goal to reach 1 million children with lifesaving and health-promoting measures by 2020. Source <https://www.umc.org/en/>

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to pray for Tom Pontzloff who is still in Aurora. He has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer and is undergoing treatment. Additionally, Tom has had a stroke, however, his prognosis and spirits are good.

Prayers for those in our community and throughout the world that they may receive Covid-19 vaccines as soon as possible.

Prayers for all the children attending school and the staff. May they stay safe and well during the pandemic.

Prayers for all medical, fire, police, grocers, caregivers, all on the Front Line.

Prayers needed for those who are struggling with financial hardships and illness during this difficult time.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR ILL

Doris Kniffin	Jim and Shirley Talmadge
Evelyn Mueller	Jerry Wick
Barb Riederer	Dottie Haviland
Dick & Dottie Shappell	Dorothy Berg
Phyllis Swagel	Vernon Augustine
Michael Olson	Dianne Benishek
Jan Haertel	Marjorie Gambrel
Walter Alvin	Elva Spetz
Edith Wilber	

PRAISE REPORT

Wisconsin Department of Health Services has announced that Wisconsin will be able to open eligibility on May 1, 2021 to include anyone age 16 and older for the Covid Vaccine.

UPDATE ON JACKSONPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We will start worship services at the Jacksonport United Methodist Church (JUMC) on May 30, 2021, Memorial Day weekend. The service will be held outside (weather permitting) at 08:30 am. If you are highly susceptible to the COVID-19 virus, or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and worship on-line with the SBUMC services. If not, please join us. Remember that masks are mandatory (we have extras) and social distancing is required. We have hand sanitizer and some chairs/benches. If you have a favorite chair, please bring it. Later in June, after more of us have received the vaccines, and the authorities have determined that it is safe to do so, we will move the services from outside to inside the church.

We pray the severity of the outbreak continues to lessen, and we pray for our brothers and sisters who are impacted by this virus.

Please remember the Jacksonport UMC in your giving, as we need to cover our fixed costs of the church.

The Love of our Lord Jesus Christ upon you and your family.

Paul Schumacher



PARKINSON DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

By Carol Moellenberndt



I would like to remind everyone that the Parkinson Disease Support Group is meeting with Zoom the first Tuesday of every month at 1:00 pm until it is safe for us to meet in person again. Pastor Dave sets up the zoom meeting so to be invited you need to let the church office know you are interested or email me, Carol, at rmoellen@charter.net We have had some interesting discussions and it has been good to see each other, for those able to attend.

This is Parkinson Disease Awareness month. Did you know that there are about 1 million people living with Parkinson Disease in our country? Over 60,000 are added each year. The most prevalent places for Parkinson Disease in our country are the North East and the Mid-West. Besides the the symptoms most people think of with Parkinson Disease, the tremors, slowed movement, and rigid muscles, Parkinson Disease affects the entire body. In fact, the first symptoms to show up might seem unrelated but could be depression, lack of smell, or sleep disturbances. The cause of Parkinson Disease can sometimes be identified as certain environmental factors or exposures or sometimes a genetic connection can be found, but often the cause is unknown.

Treatments for Parkinson Disease are directed towards helping with the symptoms. No cure is available at this time. Common treatments range from deep brain stimulation, various medications, physical therapy, and exercise programs. Many other therapies are helpful such as massage therapy, acupuncture, even boxing class, dance classes, and singing groups. Support groups are also helpful for those with Parkinson Disease and for their care partners. In our group the participants learn much from each other. One recently shared a tip to a use weighted blanket or wrist weight to help with tremors.) Parkinson Disease is a neurological disease which is progressive but tools can be used to help those with the disease continue to lead a fulfilling life.

If you would like to learn more contact me at 920-743-3476 or the email above. I have many books available to share on the topic.



As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, ‘This is really the prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Messiah.’ But some asked, ‘Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the

Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?’ So there was a division in the crowd because of him. (John 7:38b-43)

One rhetorical question Christians ask on a regular basis is, “Are we being faithful?” The fundamental answer is, “not yet, but we are trying.” John Wesley spoke regularly about how human beings are “being perfected in love in this life,” but this was an honest acknowledgement that we are not yet perfect. We are flawed and weak of will, and for this reason we need a Savior. This is why we need Jesus.

But the author of the gospel of John returned regularly to a clear human failing: even *with* Jesus, we do not always agree, and things do not always play out the way God intends. God’s grand vision for unity and oneness as the incarnate body of Christ for the world is regularly undermined by our human penchant for disagreement and debate.

United Methodists who have represented our global church at General Conference have first-hand experience of disunity within the fellowship. We find creative ways to discuss and debate just about anything you can think of. And yet, this is what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ, as Paul reminds us in Philippians, “to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12b) Our reality is that different groups of United Methodists discern God’s will for the world and the church differently. Some feel that God intends we be one in Christ, reflecting Paul’s vision in Philippians 2:1-5, “If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,” Others are more persuaded by words attributed to Jesus in Luke 12:49-53, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;” where not everyone belongs together. All of us wrestle with our baptismal covenant and the theology of our communion liturgy which asks the Holy Spirit to “make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry for all the world.

We have come to a critical crossroads in our life of faith together as United Methodist disciples and stewards. Some have determined they can no longer abide a denomination committed to full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ peoples and who hold a more inclusive and progressive interpretation of scripture and an adaptive and expansive theology. There is a heartfelt desire and need for a more historic and traditional interpretation of the Bible with a stricter and clearer defining theology.

MOVING FORWARD By Bishop Jung Bishop continued.....

Others have decided they can no longer wait for The United Methodist Church to get its act together and actually love and affirm all of God's blessed children, created as they are in God's image without judgment, condemnation, and hate. They are seeking a Biblical faith and theological frame that recognizes that the Holy Spirit is alive and at work to help us move from a mythic/magic interpretation of the Christian faith to a transcendent awareness of God as love.

While we may debate various points of doctrine, polity, and theology, almost everything boils down to our interpretation of the authority of Biblical interpretation and our defining discernment of God's Holy Spirit at work in the world and church today. We seemingly cannot agree.

For this reason, some United Methodists have banded together to launch new denominations – the **Global Methodist Church** (<https://www.globalmethodist.org/>) and the **Liberation Methodist Connexion** ([Home - Liberation Methodist Connexion \(thelmx.org\)](https://www.thelmx.org/)) – that offer people an option if they feel The United Methodist Church is no longer the best fit for their sense of belief, behavior, and belonging.

The United Methodist Church is still proclaiming an invitation to full inclusion and the offer of God's unmerited grace and unconditional love to all people regardless of race, gender, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation, caste, class, education, economic status, or culture. We remain committed to serving all of God's children and creation. Our leadership seeks to live into a unity and fellowship grounded fully in the power and strength of God's Holy Spirit.

I want to also make sure everyone is aware that our General Conference has been postponed a second time due to the global pandemic, and we will (hopefully) gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota to figure out our future together or apart. We openly acknowledge the many challenges facing our church, but we also confess that what is impossible for flawed and well-meaning human beings is always possible for God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This will be a Holy Conference, worshipful work, regardless of disagreement or debate. I am calling on all Wisconsin United Methodists, regardless of your allegiance to the existing or new denomination to hold General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and the future of our church and witness.

It is never easy to break apart, to separate and go our own way. Relationships are precious, fellowship is essential, and we often believe that our covenants are forever. There will be pain. There will be grief. There will be loss. But this is part of life; we face such partings all the time. How we separate, how we unite, how we disagree, and how we speak of one another is critically important. Let us pray that regardless of the future that unfolds, we may travel through with the utmost grace, kindness, compassion, mercy, and love as possible, truly trusting that God will walk with us all, every step of the way. Thanks be to God!





Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church has been fortunate to present virtual Sunday morning and holiday services throughout the Covid 19 Shutdown. An appreciative thanks to all who helped make these services possible. It is never too early or late to express thanks for work that has gone on behind the scenes.

Many have contributed their gifts to SBUMC worship services during the pandemic. Pastor Dave faithfully preached the Word of God each Sunday. Behind the scenes, he also served as technician, producer and writer of church services. Jackie Leistra has been the crew chief, as well as the camera and computer operator. Were it not for these extra efforts, the virtual services would not have been possible.

Preaching God's word, reading of Bible passages, and appropriate music have continued to be a part of our worship services. Elaine Diller and AnnEllen Boettcher coordinated and presented special music, hymns, and keyboard offerings. They offered preludes to set the worshipful mood, piano organ duets and accompanied vocalists in duets and quartets.

After a year of working together for church virtual services, the following participants are also sincerely thanked. They have given freely of their time and willingly shared their God given talents.

Roger Barnard, Katherine Barnard, Ken Boettcher, Raymon Diller, Dave Ward, Judy Ward, Jeannie Barnard, Ann Birnschein, Sonja Pinney, Bri Partyka, Amanda (Warwark) Stenberg, Amy Barnard, Angel Roig, and the Sunday School Children.

This is also a welcome opportunity to sincerely thank the hours, days, weeks, and months contributed by countless church community members in a multitude of ways. Each has allowed the church mission to continue and members to stay connected during these unprecedented times.





Breakthrough Prayer:

Mighty and Holy God, I know all things are possible through you. I ask that you show we the people of Sturgeon Bay and Jacksonport United Methodist Churches the way to flourish in our lives as disciples of your Son Jesus, and to be fruitful in your mission for us. Amen.

Please add this prayer to your prayer time beginning on Easter Sunday, April 4th until Trinity Sunday, May 30th.

