



**BEACON
SEPTEMBER 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
Sunday Afternoons

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

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM
1 Week Delay

**Public Access TV on Channel 989
Sunday Worship Service**

Wednesdays at 8 a.m. and PM and Sundays
at noon and 3 PM 1 Week Delay

CHURCH OFFICE

Lorna Magliaro, Office Manager
Hours Mon-Wed-Friday 8:00 to 11:00 AM
church.office@sturgeonbayumc.org
920-743-3241



**SEPTEMBER 2021 CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

- 9/02/21 5:30 PM Quilting Group
- 9/05/21 8:30 AM Worship Service Jacksonport
- 9/05/21 10:00 AM Worship Service SBUMC
- 9/08/21 1:00 PM Parkinson Support Group
- 9/08/21 6:30 PM Senior Choir
- 9/12/21 8:30 AM Worship Service Jacksonport
- 9/12/21 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 9/12/21 10:00 AM Worship Service SBUMC
- 9/14/21 9:00 AM Deborah Circle
- 9/15/21 6:30 PM Senior Choir
- 9/16/21 6:00 PM Quilting Group
- 9/19/21 8:30 AM Worship Service Jacksonport
- 9/19/21 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 9/19/21 10:00 AM Worship Service SBUMC
- 9/22/21 6:30 PM Senior Choir
- 9/25/21 9:30 AM Food Pantry Walk-Church
- 9/26/21 8:30 AM Worship Service Jacksonport
- 9/26/21 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 9/26/21 10:00 AM Worship Service SBUMC
- 9/27/21 9:00 AM SPRC
- 9/29/21 6:30 PM Senior Choir

SEPTEMBER 2021 LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE

Hello Friends,

The early Methodist when they gathered in bands and classes had the practice of asking one another, "how is it with your soul?" This was no trivial or routine inquiry but went to the very foundation of Methodism. Methodism is the work of soul caring, that of our own and that of our brothers and sisters in the Faith and throughout the world. It is the work of loving God, and neighbor even as we love ourselves. As I write this my heart is heavy as I think of what the fall of Afghanistan means to those military veterans who for twenty years served there to put down tyranny and build a life for people with whom they had no national or familial ties. They went at the bequest of their government to preform their duty as best as they were able and as directed by those who hold great authority in our country given them by its citizenry. Even though they knew better than most that the government in Afghanistan placed there through the nation building efforts of some of our national leaders was doomed to failure, they did their duty none-the-less. Some 2100 lost their lives, over 20,000 came home wounded and disabled. To each who served there we all owe a debt of gratitude, and they deserve our utmost respect and care. I pray for those people left behind as our soldiers leave, the citizens of Afghanistan that believed in the promises of politicians that they would defend them and fight to ensure their freedom, but then who faded away if not ran away when the danger drew near, and now blame others for their own mistakes. No one knows what lies ahead for the people of Afghanistan as a tyrannical, merciless, and misguided group of men take control of their lives, but if history is a teacher, then their future is dire at best.

As we sit in the comfort of our homes and watch on our TV and computer screens as this tragedy unfolds can we not hear the cry, the anguish, of those who are most often left to suffer from the effects of the hubris of sinful humankind? They being the powerless, the poor, and the vulnerable? Have we grown deaf to the cries of the truly downtrodden? Let us not forget that Jesus died for such as these also, and that his love for them is no less than that for each of us. History is filled with moments such as those we now are witness to, but that makes this time no less a failure of the prideful human heart. We who live in a nation who claims to "hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" ought every day to give thanks to the Creator that we are so blessed.

SEPTEMBER 2021 LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE cont....

In the name of freedom, we ought to stop striving to divide ourselves via trivial matters in comparison to those being played out in Afghanistan and shown in our media even as they take place. We ought to stop judging our sister and brother based on the shifting winds of culture and instead come together in the name of the Prince of Peace. When Jesus' name or teaching is used to defend division and the hatred of any aspect of humanity He is dishonored, and his memory abused.

I for one will not follow those who seek to claim the right to judge those now living by the acts of those long dead, I will not abandon the traditions of the Christian Faith in favor of the new religion gaining ground in our nation in which belief in God and Christ are seen as being distractions to the goals of humankind's lust for power and glory.

It is that lust that is in the eyes of those who now hold the lives of countless numbers of the Afghan people in their hands. It's the same look that has been in the eyes of those who have gone before them leaving wreckage and death in their wake. We have seen their kind many times over the long span of human history and the result has always been the same. It is the same look that has been seen in the eyes of a minority of people in every nation and in every age, it is the look of the brute who holds hatred for all that is good and pure. However, as the Dalai Lama put it "Brute force, no matter how strongly applied, can never subdue the basic human desire for freedom." Nor, I would add, can it ever extinguish the call of God in the hearts of humankind drawing us all into the life of His Son. How is it with my soul this day? It is well with my soul, *"And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul."* (UM Hymnal #377) I ask you, my brother, my sister, how is it with your soul?

Please join me in praying for the people of Afghanistan,

Pastor Dave





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Deborah Circle - Will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at 9:00 AM here at the church! Hurrah! Finally! No particular book to discuss but hope we can share our experiences of the past year, and possibly hear of good books you have read during that time. Looking forward to seeing you then. If you have any questions call Mary Zeldon at 746-9414.

Sarah Circle- Sarah Circle is known as the Social Circle and each month we try to have a different program or activity. The Sarah Circle invites you to join them at their meetings, however due the current circumstance that is occurring and after surveying the current membership, we are very concerned for everyone's safety and health. Therefore, the **Sarah Circle will not** be meeting further notice. Hopefully we will be able to all get through this time and be able to meet in 2022. Please practice safe social distancing and frequent hand washing so we can all be safe and well. For more information, please contact Pat Heinrich 743-3357 or Karen Lenius 743-4792.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are very excited to say that youth Sunday School will begin the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 12th, at 9:00 AM. **If you love working with children we need you!** We need teachers and substitute teachers even if it is only certain Sundays. I will work to make whatever help you could provide work. Please leave word for me at the church office if you are interested. Thank you!! Angel

JACKSONPORT UPDATE

Our services are held at 8:30 AM outside (weather permitting) or inside the church if the weather isn't cooperating. If outside, masks are optional, and we have hand sanitizer and some chairs/benches. If you have a favorite chair, please bring it. If inside the church, masks are mandatory (we have extras) and social distancing is required. 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. We pray the severity of the outbreak continues to lessen, and we pray for our brothers and sisters who are impacted by this virus. As Christians, we show our love for our fellow person by being vaccinated, protecting ourselves and them. 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



MISSIONS - SEPTEMBER MISSION

Food For Pantries

by Ken Boettcher



For a number of years our church has been a part of a community walk to call attention to hunger in the world. It started as the CROP WALK created by Church World Service, which agency received half of the money to feed and provide pure water to people in countries and areas of the world that had that need. More recently our community has focused on our local food pantries, dividing the funds by three: Feed My People, Lakeshore CAP, and the Maplewood Pantry located at Holy Name of Mary Church.

Due to the pandemic last year the ecumenical walk was canceled but our UM Church proceeded with the walk with five people. This year an ecumenical walk is again not planned, but I am inviting any interested people to **join me on Saturday, September 25, for a two-bridge walk**, leaving the church at 9:30 AM. We will meet under the carport. The purpose of the walk is to show our support of our local food pantries.

You can show your **financial support by giving to our September Mission Fund**, which the donations will be divided between the pantries listed as follows.

PANTRIES SUPPORTED THIS YEAR

- ♦ **Feed My People:** Pantries of a variety of food items, enough to last up to 2 weeks. Fresh food such as milk, eggs, oleo and meats are also given out with the pick up the regular food.

- ♦ **Lakeshore CAP's Door County Food Pantry** is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit program that provides on-going and emergency healthy food assistance to low and limited income residents.
- ♦ **Maplewood Food Pantry at Holy Name of Mary Church:** Assisting those in need. The pantry is open every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.



YEARLY MISSION GIVING 2021	YTD Gifts
Backpack Buddies	\$535.00
Boys/Girls Club	\$580.00
Café Joy Breakfast Program	
Crop Food Walk	\$425.00
Door County Child Development Center	\$445.00
Golden Cross	\$150.00
Halloween Fund	
Habitat for Humanity	\$780.00
Human Relations Day	
"J" Walkers Mission	\$635.00
Lend a Hand	
Midwest Mission Dist. Center	\$485.00
Mittens & Blankets	\$485.00
Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center	\$525.00
Native American Sunday	\$150.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	
One Great Hour	\$150.00
Pastoral Fund	\$2,030.00
Peace with Justice	\$150.00
Restoring Hope Transplant House	\$760.00
Shoe Box	
Senior Citizen Ministry	
UMCOR Covid 19 Response Fund	\$860.00
Student Day	\$150.00
Women's Fund Door County	
World Communion	\$150.00
TOTAL YTD MISSION GIVING 2021	\$9,445.00



Congratulations to Andrew Konop, son of Christopher and Amy Konop, who recently received his Eagle Scout Award. Andrew has been a member of Troop 1022 which is sponsored by our United Methodist Men's Club.

Congratulations to Avery Van Remortel, Braiden Van Remortal, Inho Lee, Katherine Barnard Lily Snyder, Lukas Kallin, Nikolas Kallin, Roger Barnard, and Shawn Conard who were Confirmed in the Holy Spirit on July 18, 2021.



TIME TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Please join us for Senior Choir practice which will begin on Wednesday September 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM. I look forward to seeing all who have sung in the past and any persons who feel that they would love to sing in the choir. The only requirement is that you be willing to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Please come sing with us. We laugh, share, and enjoy making music together. No status on the Bell Choir yet, however if you have any thoughts, ideas, or interest please email me at nitmom@hotmail.com

Blessings,
Elaine

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE HOME-BOUND OR ILL

Pray for our church: 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

Elly Hoague	Jeanne Barnard
Evelyn Mueller	Jerry Wick
Barb Riederer	Dottie Haviland
Dick & Dottie Shappell	Dorothy Berg
Phyllis Swagel	Vernon Augustine
Tom Pontzloff	Dianne Benishek
Jan Haertel	Marjorie Gambrel
Walter Alvin	Elva Spetz
Edith Wilber	Doris Kniffin
Jim & Shirley Talmadge	

PRAYERS NEEDED

Please pray for the health and safety of our citizens as the Covid variant continues to plague us. A special prayer for our children as they return to school.



VISITATION POLICY (SBUMC)

In this time of pandemic in-person visiting needs to be carefully considered. If you desire an in-person visit from the Pastor or a member of the Visitation Team then please call the office 920-743-3241 or email (church.office@sturgeonbayumc.org) and indicate as such, and a time will be arranged for. If in-home then two people will call upon you except in the most urgent of circumstances. If you are in an Assisted Living Facility, depending on the policies of the facility and our visitation team availability, we will be returning to our regular monthly visits later this year. Other times of visitation can be arranged for please call the office or email me directly (pastorleistra@gmail.com) and arrangements can be made. If you are in hospital, please let us know if you desire a visit or wish to be put on the prayer list. We are not notified of hospital stays unless you make it known to us. If someone will be contacting us on your behalf to request a visit it needs to be a member of your household, a close relative, or friend who has knowledge of your preferences. Blessings, Pastor Dave



By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

My Beloved Wisconsin Siblings in Christ, I greet you in the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, and I would begin with gratitude for the faithfulness and witness of your discipleship during the pandemic. I write today concerned about grounding our Christian practice as the Delta Variant has become the predominant strain in Wisconsin.

We cannot eliminate risk in our life together, but we can be wise and bear witness to Jesus by what we place in the center. Psalm 84 begins, "how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!". The temple is considered lovely in verse three because, "even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young." The temple and temple community are lovely because they have made room for the sparrow who looks for protection.

Consider, dear Siblings, that with the Delta Variant we are seeing increased transmissibility and impact on the unvaccinated, as well as breakthrough cases for the vaccinated. We are experiencing turnover in clergy leadership from stress. Children are unable to be vaccinated. Many have compromised immune systems and our health care professionals are under great strain. In such a time as this, might we train our eyes on ways we make room for the vulnerable? How might we be children of a God whose eye is on the sparrow?

In January of this year, I asked you to consider the accountability and practice of three simple rules for United Methodists in Wisconsin: be cautious, be gracious, and be flexible. I thank God for our Coronavirus Task Force. Their Q & A is attached. Please read it prayerfully. Leaders, these are important days for spiritual leadership. Thank you for every way you walk the moral high ground, and every time you humbly surrender your personal preferences to benefit the mission of Jesus. How lovely is the temple where the sparrow finds a home. Know that I am praying for you. In Christ's love,

Covid- 19 FAQ Sheet Updated Taken From Wisconsin Conference News Dated August 16, 2021

Due to the changing nature of Covid-19 and the Delta Variant, the Covid Task Team has summarized some commonly asked questions and new guidelines.

We live in a precarious time where a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons create a high risk of a COVID strain developing that is resistant to all vaccines, which means the pandemic could start all over again with another year or more of not being able to gather as a congregation. This adds to the urgency to get more people vaccinated.



What is the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mask guideline?

As of July 27, 2021, the CDC states that those fully vaccinated can "participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic", **unless there are local rules that require a different mandate.**

Masks are not required for those fully vaccinated if you live in an area of **Low or Moderate** Covid-19 transmission.

In areas with **Substantial or high** transmission, the CDC recommends masks be worn in indoor, public places regardless of vaccination status.

Currently, most of Wisconsin is in the High category. Therefore the Conference strongly urges people to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Please be sure to follow your local county guidelines if different from the current CDC guidelines.

The transmission level for each county in Wisconsin can be found by accessing the following website any time.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

