

JANUARY

*Your January 2025
Beacon Newsletter*



HE WHO WAS SEATED ON THE THRONE
SAID, “I AM MAKING EVERYTHING
new!”
(Revelation 21:5 NIV)

Please contact the church office at church.office@sturgeonbayumc.org with your email address if you would like to receive an online copy of this newsletter. Thank you.



BEACON
JANUARY 2025
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

DAVID LEISTRA, PASTOR

pastorleistra@gmail.com
Phone 920-818-1041 (Emergencies)

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
Parish Nurse Hours Monday 9 AM to 12 PM
parish.nurse@sturgeonbayumc.org
Church Office 920-743-3241



PASTOR DAVE'S NEW YEAR LETTER: Page 3

CIRCLE INFORMATION: Sarah Circle is hosting a Meeting for anyone in the Congregation at 1:00 pm, January 9th, The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing - Sturgeon Bay (EPH-SB). For more information see page 4.

MEN'S CLUB LUMBERJACK INFORMATION:
See page 5 & Lumberjack Poster on page 8.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVING UPDATE: Page 6 for details.

MISSION UPDATES: On Page 7.

NURSES NOTES & MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAN: Beginning on Page 9

JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR: Page 11

SPECIAL NOTE: The Wednesday Night Fellowship and Adult Form will be **cancelled** on January 29th due to Lumberjack.

OUT OF OFFICE: Our Parish Nurse, Jean, will be out of the office on January 1st through the 15th. If there is a need please call the church office as we will be able to reach her while she is out of town.



JANUARY 2025 – LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE

Hello Friends,

Happy New Year! The start of a new year symbolizes a fresh start. 2025 will be a year of change for my wife and me as I retire from full-time ministry and graduate from the Doctor of Ministry program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. This will represent a new start in our lives; we both are excited and nervous about what lies ahead. New starts in life are like that and are inherently about change. We may or may not be happy about the change, but nonetheless, life constantly changes. Occasionally, we have events that mark a significant change in our lives, and for which we have time to prepare, like retirement. However, change happens around us all the time, and the gradual nature of such change can catch us off guard, causing us to feel disorientated. Parents frequently experience this sudden realization that something has fundamentally changed when they sit in a high school gym as their child graduates, ready to move on into adulthood. At such times, we think to ourselves, wasn't it just yesterday that they were playing with their friends in the yard, and wasn't it just the day before that they took their first steps? I sometimes feel that same way again when I hit another birthday, wondering where all the years have gone and thinking about the many life changes over the previous year. Change is ongoing, and if we aren't paying attention to it, it can leave us feeling as if we have missed out on something that will never come around again. I like the idea behind what people call "mindfulness." It just means paying attention to how we feel at any given moment and being mindful of what is happening in our lives. Over thirty-five years as a seminary professor and an ordained elder, a friend of mine developed the practice he calls "redeeming the routines." It is an intentional act of taking time each week to pause and consider how one is doing spiritually, physically, and mentally. Weekly, this may be an hour or two; monthly, perhaps half a day; yearly, it may be several days away from the busyness of life to reflect on how our life is going. It is a kind of intentional mindfulness that will help us to pay attention to what is happening in our lives, how healthy our relationships are, how healthy mentally and physically we are, and where we are in our walk of faith. In a way, it is like making a fresh start each time it is practiced. Let me suggest that this New Year's Day, you give yourself time to "redeem the routines" of your life. It is a great deal more than making resolutions for the new year; it is the act of taking stock of how things are and then considering, if needed, how we can redirect our lives in such a way that allows us to flourish even if it seems as if everything is changing and not altogether to our liking. It brings us to the mindfulness of this moment of our life and allows us to consider what is good and, if needed, grieve what is no more. It makes us keenly aware of how meaningful our relationships are, particularly our relationship with God. Regardless of age, such renewal and a fresh start are right there if you open yourself to the experience. Yes, change can be difficult and sometimes painful, but it can lead you to just what is needed to experience renewal. Embrace change and take charge of it. Please don't wait until you are driven by it to a place you don't want to go. May God grant you and your family a blessed new year, and may you find renewal and a fresh start in it.

Thank you From Jackie and I for all the cards and gifts this Christmas.

New Year Blessings, Pastor Dave



WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

Please Join Us!

DEBORAH CIRCLE: Deborah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 9:00 am in the Lounge. The book to be discussed at our meeting will be [Eleanor, a Spiritual Biography of the 20th Century's Most Influential Woman by Harold Ivan Smith.](#)

Mrs. Roosevelt was an amazing, inspiring and great woman who was a former First Lady. She was an unsung hero who was a tireless social activist. This well- documented book explains how her biblically based faith and morality were the basis for her convictions and actions. Reading this book will cause you to greatly admire and love the person Eleanor Roosevelt was!!!! We hope you will borrow a copy of the book from the shelf by our secretary's office and come to join us in the discussion. If you aren't able to read it before the meeting, feel free to come for the discussion and you will want to read it later!!! This was a truly remarkable First Lady! Sarah Circle has invited our members to join them on Thursday, January 9th, to learn more about The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing which is a new, very important group being formed in Sturgeon Bay to help those with housing insufficiency. Ann Quale will lead the discussion and explain what this group is hoping to do. Please try to attend if at all possible. Julie Taylor, Chairman of Deborah Circle 920-743-5619

SARAH CIRCLE- Sarah Circle is known as the Social Circle with a Mission and each month we try to have a different program or activity. Sarah Circle will be meeting on Thursday , January 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the FELLOWSHIP HALL.

There will be a special program presented by Ann Quale on the "Ecumenical Partnership of Housing" which addresses HOMELESS IN THE COUNTY. Deborah Circle will be joining us and **ALL** members of the congregation are invited; refreshment will be served. We welcome new members and invite you to join this group of ladies. For more information please contact Karen Lenius 743-4792 or mklenius@att.net



United
Women
in Faith

Please join our United Women in Faith on Thurs-

day, January 9, 2025 @ 1:00 in Fellowship Hall (Sarah Circle is inviting the Deborah Circle members and anyone from the congregation) to join us for an informative presentation by Ann Quale of [The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing](#). "Homelessness is a hidden and expanding problem in Door County. **The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing - Sturgeon Bay (EPH-SB)** is a growing group of local churches working together to address homelessness in the county. An unhoused family will live in the home while they work with social workers from Door County Health and Human Services to learn the skills necessary to be successful tenants or homeowners. Partner churches provide a board member, allow EPH-SB to do an annual fundraising appeal to church members, and stock consumables such as groceries and cleaning supplies between families. Additionally, the EPH-SB hopes that congregants with skills in the trades might help with projects as needs arise. The first home, owned by the Door County Medical Center and most recently a clinic, is being remodeled by Habitat for Humanity this winter." Ann Quale, respectively.

Isaiah 58:7 (NLT) – Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless.

Come one, Come all... to learn more about this local mission opportunity!





MEN'S CLUB NEWS

by Ken Boettcher The next Men's Club meeting is on Monday January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the church. The Mark Haen family will be serving the meal...we thank them for this generous assist to our group.

Our program will be by Bruce Fenner who will share a true tale about a Great Lakes pirate. He heard the story from Pastor John Francis who served in Peshtigo in the 1900's and officiated at the funeral of the pirate. Our February meeting will be on Sunday February 9, at 11:10 to review the Lumberjack. On St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, we will have our annual St. Patrick's potluck supper at 6:00 pm, a meal that everyone is invited to. We will share door prizes and good food. If anyone has a good idea of an interesting program for the evening, please see Ken Boettcher.



LUMBERJACK SUPPER: The 89th annual Lumberjack Supper will be held on Wednesday, January 29, in the church fellowship hall. (see poster on page 8) Tickets are available at the church office during office hours, after worship on Sundays, and online via the church website. Everyone can help promote the supper by telling friends (even purchasing tickets for friends), and putting information on any social media that you use. It is a great meal of corned beef, roast pork, cabbage, rutabaga, baked beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, and pie. Yes, church bakers are invited to donate pies for the supper and they can be delivered to the church a day or two before the event. Dine-in is family style with all the food you can eat. Pre packaged carryout meals to take home begins at 3:00 pm. Waiters and other helpers can always be used. If you have not helped previously with the supper see Ken Boettcher or Louie Burlo to let them know of your interest.

Continued...

Lumberjack Supper Cont...

The Schedule for Lumberjack week is: Monday (Jan 27) 8:00 building set up; Tuesday (Jan 28) 6:00 cook meat, 8:00 peel potatoes & rutabagas, 1:00 set tables; Wednesday (Jan 29) 8:00 slice meat, 3:00 begin carry outs, 4:30 serve dine-in. The Lumberjack has been a Men's Club project since 1933. Join us in keeping history and good eating alive. See included poster for more details.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT

LAKESHORE CAP: Lakeshore Cap Food Pantry needs your help. We are short volunteers for helping serve our patrons on Thursdays. The Hours can be from 11 am to 1 pm or can be from 11 am to 4 pm. Please see Helga Bobb 920-743-3330, Lakeshore Office at 920-743-0192, or Sandi Soik at 920-743-1230. Thank you, Helga Bobb



THANK YOU SBUMC: On behalf of the board of Midwest Missions, thank you for your tremendous support of

ministry to those recovering from disasters - around the world or around the corner! This has been an unprecedented year for disaster relief shipments, as it has been an unprecedented year of people facing disasters. Those who do will know that God cares about them, and works to meet their needs through the faith-filled generosity of people like YOU! Again, thank you!

If you ever need someone to speak about Midwest Missions or provide any additional information, please let me know!

Advent Blessings

Rev. Joel Certa-Werner

Elk Mound Trinity and Iron Creek UMCs



PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

Dear Lord, we are in a time of change in our culture which has left our churches with new challenges in our mission of sharing the Gospel with our communities and the world. I pray that you will guide us into what lies ahead with the knowledge that you are with us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that your promise to us is that you will be with us even unto the end of time. Breakthrough our uncertainties and fears giving us the courage that comes from trusting in your will in the time times in which we live. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYERS NEEDED & PRAISE REPORTS

Please keep the Hispanic Ministry in your prayers that God continue to bless and grow this ministry.

Please pray for the United States of America, That the transfer of power be peaceful. That God inspires our new leaders to lead us with wisdom, kindness, and respect for all human souls according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, May they also be good stewards of our land and environment.

Please keep the citizens of Ukraine and the Middle East in your prayers that God's peace will return to those areas. Please pray for our leaders that they strive to find the will and peace of God as they lead all nations.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS NEED MERCY, HEALING, AND COMFORT

Barb Riederer	Debbie Geitner
Elva Spetz	Dorothy Berg
Sandy Temby	Mary Gehm & Family
Lynn Burlo	



SBUMC & JPUMC OUTREACH: If you or a loved one are ill, grieving, or experiencing a hardship, and our congregation may lift you in prayer, please contact the church office and let us know your need. We are not always made aware of your circumstances in a timely manner and Pastor Dave would like to stay better connected to you in your time of need. If you would like a call from Pastor Dave, or Jean, our Parish Nurse, please let us know when it would be good time to phone you for an update and prayer. If you have a need, please contact the church as follows:

Email:

Church Office, church.office@sturgeonbayumc.org
Pastor Dave at pastorleistra@gmail.com

Jean at parish.nurse@sturgeonbayumc.org

Emergencies & Other Calls

Church Office phone number 920-743-3241

(if no answer a please leave a message).

THANKSGIVING 2024 DINNER UPDATE



DATE: Thank you once again for all of your support for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner held in our Fellowship Hall. We were able to serve 350 meals to area residents who look forward to this yearly holiday event. The leftovers were taken to Lakeshore CAP, and any excess money is donated to local food programs. What a blessing it is to share this with our community! Thanks from the Thanksgiving Committee

*When You Look For A Snowman
Submitted by Sheryl Kobishop*



When you look at a snowman
It's three snowballs round
He is reminding you
That in God, Three in One is found
The bottom reminds us of
God the Father
He's our strong rock and foundation
Creator of all living thing's
People , tribes and nations
The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide
The head reminds of
God the Holy Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us into the
likeness of Him
So in the mist of wintertime fun a
snowman you do see
It a loving reminder
of the Blessed Trinity

JANUARY 2025 MISSION: The Clean Start

Program is a grass roots program designed to help those who need it, look good and feel good. Having the ability to do laundry in the comforts of our own homes is a luxury not afforded to everyone in our community. Those who need to do laundry and head to the nearest laundromat are often met with broken machines, unsanitary conditions or not enough quarters. **The Clean Start Program** started to assist those in need, offering them three hours every month to come to a state-of-the-art laundromat and do up to 7 loads of laundry and dry that laundry, absolutely free, with no questions asked. We also have a licensed stylist in house that will cut your hair for free while your laundry spins around and around. Since May of 2024, the numbers of people taking advantage of this opportunity has grown exponentially, with many nights extending well past the 9:00 pm cut off time. We have plenty of laundry soap and dryer sheets, so we are asking for monetary donations to help us keep things spinning along. **Clean Start Laundry days are every second Monday of the month from 6 pm-9 pm at the new DC Laundromat on Madison Av-**



Isaiah: 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. 13 For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

YEARLY MISSION GIVING 2024	YTD Gifts
Back Pack Buddies	\$2,892.00
Boys/Girls Club	\$500.00
Clean Start Program	\$2,520.00
Feed My People	\$500.00
Food For Pantries (Food Walk)	\$1,290.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,205.00
HELP of Door County	\$1,555.00
Jak's Place	\$500.00
Lakeshore CAP	\$500.00
Lend a Hand (Econo Receipt Proceeds)	\$412.00
Midwest Mission (Rice Meals)	\$3,393.00
Missions Partners For Christ	\$751.00
Mittens & Blankets	\$715.00
Mujila Falls Agricultural Center	\$1,635.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$685.00
Organ Fund	\$140.00
Pastoral Fund	\$500.00
SB Hispanic Ministries Marshal House	\$889.00
Sunshine Resources of Door County	\$3,419.00
Thanksgiving Dinner	\$1,874.00
UMCOR Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene	\$985.00
UMCOR Hurricane Recovery	\$350.00
Wellness	\$20.00
TOTAL YEAR TO DATE	\$27,230.00

Thank you For Your Generosity



NOTE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE By Lorna Magliaro
920-743-3241

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about our prayer list. We want to hear from you if you have a need to be lifted in prayer. We have some fierce prayer warriors in this church who care deeply for those in need of prayer. Additionally, WE LOVE praise reports. Please let us know when God has blessed and healed you.

89th Annual

LUMBERJACK SUPPER



Wednesday, January 29, 2025



**4:30 to 6:30 PM - DINE IN
3:00 to 6:30 PM - CARRY OUT**

Tickets \$20.00 Per Person

**Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church
836 Michigan St.**



Tickets Are Available Now

- **Online Church Website** (credit or debit card)
<https://sturgeonbayumc.org/> Click *Donation and Go to Lumberjack Supper*
- **Church Office:** Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
8 - 11 AM & Also January 13 - 29 1-4 PM
- **At the Door** January 29th (cash or check)
Children's Tickets (6-11) \$5.00 Sold Only At the Door 5 & Under Free

Tickets Limited to 500

Information Call 920-743-3241



THE BENEFITS OF GRATITUDE:

One of the best resources for all things..... Gratitude is Berkeley's Greater Good website. A major contributor to their catalog of articles, videos and essays is Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D., a leading scientific expert on gratitude (cool, Robert.) Gratitude is an affirmation of goodness.

Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D.

According to this list, pulled from Emmons' research, gratitude is the silver bullet we are all looking for. A regular gratitude practice:

- Brings us happiness and increases life satisfaction
- Boosts feelings of optimism, joy, pleasure, and enthusiasm
- Reduces anxiety and depression
- Strengthens immune system, lowers blood pressure, reduces illness
- Increases sleep quality
- Builds resilience
- Strengthens relationships and connection
- Promotes forgiveness
- Leads to generosity
- Increases generosity and resiliency in kids

This is a good idea as we enter into 2025!!!



Northern Illinois - Wisconsin

Episcopal Area

of The United Methodist Church

Dan Schwerin, Bishop



Can 2025 Be a Year of Grace?

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."—

2 Corinthians 12:9

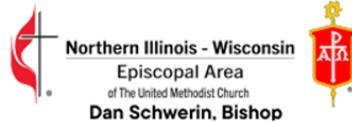
When I was a teenager, a United Methodist pastor explained grace to me. It changed my life. That same grace continues to change my life. How has grace shaped your life? How do you continue to struggle with grace?

Grace is the unmerited, upbuilding, unconditional love God extends to all people and to the whole creation. United Methodists have an expansive view of grace. We know that grace is always among us, working in love.

United Methodists are a Baskin-Robbins of grace. We proclaim the grace that God gives us before we even know we need it or know how to ask; this is prevenient grace. We proclaim the grace of God for us and for our healing with God; this is justifying grace. The upbuilding grace that attends to growth in love within us is sanctifying grace. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Our whole lives are a response to grace. I write today to invite you to observe 2025 as a year of grace.

Continued on Page 10...

CONTINUED.....



It is a basic truth of ministry that what you pay attention to grows. If we pay attention to mission, mission grows. Attend to Christian formation and knowledge grows. How might we be changed if we focused our lives more and more on grace? What if we used grace sightings in our devotionals and sermons? Or how might we be renewed if we sing about grace?

What if we practiced a grace that allows us to demonstrate our unity in Christ as a faith community? Currently, we live in a moment when powerful moneyed forces have divided this country. I believe this is an opportunity to make grace greater than our differences. I would want us to be clear that we are not proferring cheap grace for bullying, manipulation, or accommodating bad behavior that is harmful or abusive. Grace and repentance are sisters and should travel together, for grace without authentic repentance is abuse.

What if our personal anti-racism work featured grace-grounded reflection and honest conversations about blind spots and grace for others, and grace for deeper conversations and then action? What if grace called us all to grow in cultural competency so that we might grow in faith together?

What would happen to us if we framed mission by showing grace in our communities and world? Instead of focusing only on business at our council meetings, we might ask, where did we see grace today? How might we practice grace and extend grace to more and more in our community? Or where is grace leading our congregation now?

I will be keeping a grace journal just to see what God will do.

For the days ahead, I will remind us that grace is also for the stranger and sojourner in our land. Leviticus 19:33-34 reminds us, "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Next year we will enjoy a year of experimentation for mission as we try new forms of ministry for impact. Some 54% percent of Northern Illinois United Methodist congregations and 60% of Wisconsin United Methodist churches have a weekly worship attendance of 35 people or fewer. Next year we will need grace for experimentation as churches yield to God's call forward in new ways.

Every day the ministry holds risk and learning from experiments. We will need to experiment with new forms of ministry and offer support to local churches for their ministry as they try to respond to their post-COVID context. We need to turn our systems toward learning and sharing so that we can support local church vitality as fully as possible. What will be the impact of having two conferences—the whole episcopal area—attend to a focus on grace? Our annual conferences will celebrate the theme "Grace is Sufficient" and continue it through the end of 2025.

My life was changed by grace and it continues to be changed. I believe people are looking for grace and bearers of a God working in love. I pray that a year of grace will deepen and strengthen us. Let's try it!

Know that I am praying for you. Thank you, Peace, Dan Schwerin, Bishop

January 2025

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<p>+ 8am Café Joy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship & Sunday School 4:30pm Hispanic Ministry Wors 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Quilting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am AA Meeting 	
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Café Joy 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship & Sunday School 4:30pm Hispanic Ministry Wors 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm EARLY DEMENTIA SUPPORT 6:30pm LEADERSHIP BOARD 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am PEO 12pm Marshal House Bible Stud 1pm PARKINSON SUPPORT GRP 5:30pm Fellowship and Adult Fr 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm Sarah Circle 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am AA Meeting 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Café Joy 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship & Sunday School 4:30pm Hispanic Ministry Wors 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Men's Club Dinner 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Deborah Circle 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Marshal House Bible Stud 5:30pm Fellowship and Adult Fr 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Quilting Group 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Café Joy 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship & Sunday School 4:30pm Hispanic Ministry Wors 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Marshal House Bible Stud 5:30pm Fellowship and Adult Fr 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am AA Meeting 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Café Joy 9am Choir Practice 10am Worship & Sunday School 4:30pm Hispanic Ministry Wors 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lumberjack Prep 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lumberjack Prep 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am LUMBERJACK PREP 12pm Marshal House Bible Stud 4:30pm LUMBERJACK SUPPER 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Fellowship and Adult Fr 	<p>31</p>	<p>Feb 1</p>