

July 2024



Our Vision statement:

*Learn God's word, Teach
God's word and
Share God's love*

Our Mission Statement:

*Wesley United Methodist
Church is a community of
Christ's disciples who strive to know, love and serve God
more faithfully through Christ-centered worship,
education, fellowship and true compassion that show
God's love for all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

I love the question that Philip asks the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:26-40, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

It's a great question. It is a confronting question.

"Do you get it? Can you make a connection between what you are reading and your own life?"

I think it is the kind of question that is constantly before us; not simply when we read the Bible but when we engage with any reading or have an experience from which we can learn. For so often we read or experience something and we don't learn, we don't listen, we just keep on doing things the same old way.

So, the question for us today is "Do we get it?"

And even if we do, how does that relate to who we are and where we are going?

The Church came into being much like all organisms. It began as a movement with those who had known Jesus and had seen the risen Christ --- the apostolic community. They shared what they knew and

brought others of like mind into the community.

The Philip of our story was one of those who joined them. He was a Greek and was appointed a deacon, one who served and cared for primarily widows and orphans. After the stoning of Stephen, the community scattered in many directions, Philip ended up in Samaria where he became known as a fine preacher. Philip is directed by an angel to take to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here our story begins.

Along the way, Philip runs into this Ethiopian official riding in a chariot and reading aloud from the Book of Isaiah. The Ethiopian was the treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia and had been castrated, neutered, as many Ethiopian officials were. The fact that he could read and that he had a scroll are a clear indication of his position and wealth.

He was returning home after visiting the Temple in Jerusalem. It was a visit which may have been disturbing because even though he was a proselyte to Judaism, as a eunuch he was kept

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Dates to Remember

Friday, July 19, & Saturday, July 20

Church Rummage and Bake Sale

8-3 and 8-noon

Sunday, July 21

JAARS Speaker

9:30 Worship

Wednesday, July 24

Prayer in Peace Garden

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 25

MASA Meal

3-8 p.m.

Monday, July 29—Thursday,

August 1

VBS

4:30 –7:30 p.m.

Online Services still available to view on Facebook at the site below:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcoshkosh/>

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out of the inner courts of the Temple. In Deuteronomy 23 castration was forbidden the Israelites; that is, castrates might "not enter into the congregation of the Lord." So, he had been discriminated against by the very religion he believed in.

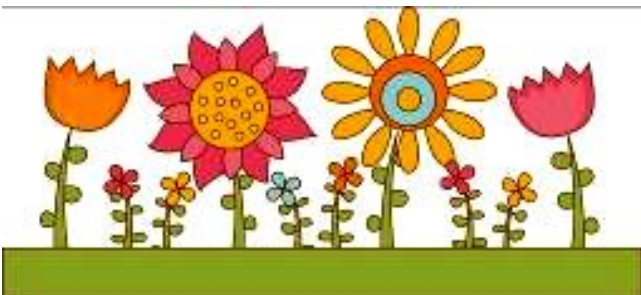
After a brief discussion with Philip about the passage he has been reading from the Prophet Isaiah, he exclaims, "What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

This is a loaded question. What is to prevent anyone from being baptized? Can wealth, race, sexual status, piety, understanding and so on and so forth? The good news is for all and all are invited to share in the fullness of life with God and each other!

So what caused the Ethiopian to so quickly adopt the message Philip brought him about how Jesus was the sufferer Isaiah was describing? Maybe it was these words from the text, "In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The humiliation the Eunuch had suffered caused him to identify with one who had also suffered. Philip helped connect the dots, the first Christian spiritual director.

The story was recorded because it was meant to inspire hope that the message of Jesus was going forth into the world as promised, even in the face of persecution and difficulties. God's faithfulness is ever present to us.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" It's a great question for all of us because sometimes we fail to make the connections that we should. We need Philip to come trotting alongside our chariots to help us to understand.



BIRTHDAYS

2	Chance Counts	15	Beth Kline
6	Ethan Wege	18	Dave Mummelthie
10	Jerry Krueger	19	Rose Brownlea
	Mike Smith	21	Sally Roe
11	Jennifer Wege		Janet Stein
12	Wally Dies	23	Scott Colantonio
14	Patty Michur	26	Logan Uecker
	Danielle Marco		

ANNIVERSARIES

3	Brian* & Beth Kline
25	Roger & Janice Nitschke

Summer Outdoor Services

Two Wednesday night outdoor services have been scheduled for this summer. The first is Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. and the second will be Wednesday, August 21, at 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, August 21, will be a Pet Blessing worship service and details for the Wednesday, July 24, service are still pending.

Please plan on bringing your own lawn chairs. We are planning the services to take place in the Prayer Garden. If there would be inclement weather, we would consider moving to Koeller Hall.

Hope to see everyone there!
From the Worship Committee

Newsletter Sponsorship

Sally Roe is the sponsor for the July 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the October-December 2024 newsletters. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to 'reserve' your chosen month for 2024.

MASA stands for Mission Aviation Support Association.

Our church has been involved for the last eight years offering a meal for the missionary pilots who attend the EAA Air Venture each summer.

Many of these pilots have been attending EAA Fly In (now called EAA Air Venture) for more than 30 years to make connections with the aviation community. They were fixing their own food and camping on the EAA grounds. A local citizen, also interested in mission aviation, learned of their need for hospitality in the Oshkosh area. A contact was made with local church leaders about the need and the hospitality ministry began.

The ministry continued to grow as the Missionary Aviation agencies and training schools learned of the opportunities at EAA Air Venture. Aviation Missionaries were featured in 2009 at the EAA Air Venture. That year hospitality was provided for approximately 400 missionaries including their family members. The current annual number of guests averages around 200.

God has assembled an incredible team of volunteers and local congregations cooperating as Christ's Church to provide finances, transportation, housing, food and public speaking opportunities. The aviation missionaries could not afford to attend EAA Air Venture without the help.

Our church will again be providing an evening meal during the EAA Air Venture. We will collect donations during the month of July so that we are able to purchase the items needed for the EAA Air Venture meal in July.

On Thursday July 25, our congregation will be serving a dinner meal. We will be in need of volunteers to make salads and /or serve people on the EAA grounds.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

MASA

Membership Care

Just a
reminder...



If you have moved, are ill, having surgery, or need a visit for any reason, please contact the church office (920-235-3070) to keep the Pastor and Care Team informed.



Vacation Bible School VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Wesley has joined with six other churches (All Saint's Lutheran, Calvary, Christ Our Savior, First English, Peace Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal) and surrounding community members to offer an opportunity to send youth ages 4K-5th grade to learn and play in God's Word this summer. All churches involved are expected to contribute to this event.

When: July 29th-August 1st from 4:30-7:30pm

Where: All Saints Lutheran Church, Oshkosh, WI

What: Camp Elm Tree: Bringing the Best of Bible Camp to Our Kids!

Who: Children 4K-5th grade

There are many items that we are looking to have donated.

This group is very tech savvy and would like those donating items to use their website for a complete list of items and then check off what they are donating so we don't have an overabundance of any one item.

Some suggested items are:

Foam Paint Brushes 1" (need 20)

Glue Sticks (need 20)

Flameless Tea Lights (need 75)

Large Marshmallows (need 15 bags)

Hershey's Chocolate Bars 16ct (need 15)

Honey Graham Crackers (need 15 boxes)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4CA4AE2EA46-49192231-camp>

Also, if there is **anyone who would like to volunteer** their time at this event there are many different roles to fill. Might you be one of those volunteers we are looking for this year's VBS Team! If you are interested in joining this year's VBS team, please [use the link to sign up](#)

Volunteer training (VBS Bootcamp) will be July 11th, 6pm-8pm Dinner included.

Wesley has been designated as the dessert guru. Please be thinking about what delicious cookie, brownie, bars you'd like to donate the first week in August. Thank You!!!!!!

Any questions, please contact our VBS Representative Kathy McAloon or Education Chair, Donna LaPoint.

Woven Mats

We have started our fifth mat on Tuesday, June 25. Help and bags are needed!

We can still use the "better" bags which are from Festival, Menards, Lowes, and Fleet Farm. We use those entirely for the warp (long direction). Other plastic bags are fine for the weft which are the ones that are woven cross-wise. The better bags are a little heavier.

Come Join Us on Tuesdays!



ANNUAL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE JULY 19-20th, 2024

Our annual Rummage Sale will be July 19-20th. Friday 8-3 pm and Saturday 9-12. Start bringing in your gently used items and put them in Koeller Hall. We will have tables and racks set up for you to be able to put your items on the designated tables.



- ✓ Bring your household items, books, clothing, toys puzzles, furniture, pictures and whatever you can donate to the church starting June 16th. Place them on the stage in Koeller Hall or on designated tables as they are made available. We do not take mattresses, TV, computers, or electronics. Bring a little each week to church with you.
- ✓ Please try to have all clothing items separated into women's men's and children when you bring them in. All should be clean and in good condition.
- ✓ Plan to bake now while the temperature is cooler. Put it in the freezer until the day before the sale. Our bake sale is always a big hit.
- ✓ Need pick-up assistance? Call the church office at 235-3070 so arrangements can be made.



- ✓ Be a part of this wonderful event. We will need people to help set up, price, clean up, cashier, and work at the bake sale. The fellowship during this time is so special, so put it on your calendar now!
- ✓ Two days a week we will sort, & price items - July 1 & 2nd (due to the holiday) and July 8, 10, 15, 17, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm.

Please contact Linda Fournier (410-1420) or Jenny Fournier (410-1172) to volunteer to help or for more information.

MASA Meal Sign-Up

This year the MASA Meal we will serve at the EAA will take place on Thursday, July 25th . We need people to make salads, donate money for meal &/or volunteer to serve.

Sign-up NOW in the Narthex!





UMC Wesley CORNER

A Marriage of Ministry: Emmanuel and Florence Mefor share God's goodness through medical missions in Zimbabwe. This story comes from "A Bigger Story" from UMCOR/Global Ministries which shows how God uses our ordinary lives to bring the Good News around the world.

Emmanuel and Florence met at a village well when they were teenagers and together they have been bringing Living Water to people in need ever since. They are united in a ministry of medical missions, currently serving at a hospital in Mutare, Zimbabwe, but their vocational journey began when they witnessed other missionaries' compassion in health care settings.

Raised in Christian households, the Mefors both pursued vocations in medicine. For Emmanuel, a general practitioner, the desire to practice medicine felt inborn. Growing up in Nigeria, he was always interested and concerned when family fell ill. In medical school, he would stay in the hospital after hours, shadowing nurses to learn everything he could.

Florence had always wanted to be a nurse midwife, but she noticed that the missionary doctors treated patients and difficult cases with greater respect and hope than the doctors who did not know God. Between these encounters with the missionaries and with Emmanuel she explains, "I was so moved—I hadn't even wanted to be a missionary—but my mindset changed! Gradually my mind just came around to being a real missionary".

When the government assigned the couple to a hospital in Mozambique, Emmanuel connected with a Global Ministries representative who asked him. "Do you want to be a missionary?" The question surprised Emanuel but he said yes, and the Mefors became missionaries in 2001. After serving in Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe are now serving at Old Mutare hospital in Mutare.

"When I am with patients," says Florence, "I feel such joy within me. Anytime I'm working I just feel so happy and I feel that God is with me in everything that I'm doing."

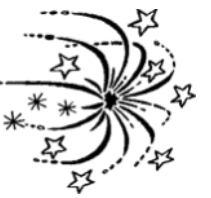
The Mefors love the service to which God has called them. But the challenges are immense and the opportunities for your support to help are substantial. The patients lining up at the hospital to be seen each day—those whom Emmanuel stays late to evaluate—travel long distances and often live in poverty. Even with their vast experience, the Mefors are astonished that a new mother may leave the hospital without any supplies for her baby. Emmanuel must constantly evaluate patients' needs and decide if he can help them or if he must have them transported to a larger hospital—and whether they will survive the journey.

Innovation and improvisation are Emmanuel's lifelines. In an under-resourced facility, he regularly relies on God's direction to help him creatively address confounding needs. He tells the story of a straightforward surgery (although he is a general practitioner, by necessity he also performs surgeries) that was going well until he saw there were no tools to tighten the rods he had just placed in a young man's leg to mend a fracture. He prayed for insight and suddenly realized that he could use car spacer wrenches to complete the procedure.

Emmanuel's staff helped him acquire several spanner from the hospital's one ambulance. He sterilized these by placing them in alcohol and burning off the alcohol. One fit perfectly to tighten the rods, and the surgery was complete. "The boy got well after two weeks and was able to walk again," say Emmanuel, still with a sense awe. "So that's God for you."


Through resourcefulness, creativity and consistent prayer, the Mefors exhibit the same hopefulness and compassion that first inspired them among the missionary doctors they knew early in their careers. With your help, their hospital will be better equipped for them to leverage that deep care for others' well-being into more efficient and effective medical responses.

"For me," explains Emmanuel, "the mission work requires endurance; it requires that you love your job. If you love it, then you'll be able to surmount a lot of difficulties." Adds Florence, "It's a big challenge. But at the end of the day, God is merciful".



July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024.	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study” 5:30 p.m. MA		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 Church Council	5:30 p.m. MA	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study”” 5:30 p.m. MA	Annual Rummage and Bake Sale 8-3 on Friday & 8-noon on Saturday	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Prayer in Peace Garden	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study”” 3-8 p.m. MASA Meal 5:30 p.m. MA		
28	29	30	31			
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 4:30-7:30 p.m. VBS	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 4:30-7:30 p.m. VBS	5:30 p.m. MA 4:30-7:30 p.m. VBS			
					MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly	

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Change Service Requested



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