

May 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*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature. Romans 12:1-2

The word *change* normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation often *happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart*. The pain and chaos of something old falling apart invite the soul to listen at a deeper level, and sometimes force the soul to go to a new place. Most of us would never go to new places in any other way. The mystics use many words to describe this chaos: fire, dark night, death, emptiness, abandonment, trial, the Evil One. Whatever

it is called, it does not feel good, and it does not feel like God.

We will normally do *anything* to keep the old thing from falling apart, yet this is when we need patience and guidance, and the *freedom to let go* instead of tightening our controls and certitudes. Perhaps Jesus is describing just this phenomenon when he says, "It is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:14). Not accidentally, he mentions this narrow gate and hard road right after teaching the Golden Rule. He knows how much "letting go" it takes to "treat others as you would like them to treat you" (Matthew 7:12).

Spiritual transformation always includes a disconcerting reorientation. It can either help people to find new meaning or it can cause people to close down and slowly turn bitter. The difference is determined precisely by the quality of our

(Continued on page 2)

Dates to Remember

Friday, May 2
National Day of Prayer

Friday, May 8
Lifeline

Friday, May 12
Mothers Day

Sunday, May 19
**Pentecost &
Recognition Sunday**

9:30-10:30 a.m.

&

**Last Day of Sunday School
Cake and Punch**

Reception

10:30 a.m.-11:30



Online Services still available to
view on
Facebook and YouTube. See page
3 for instructions on how to
subscribe to the Wesley
YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

inner life, our practices, and our spirituality. Change happens, but transformation is always a process of letting go, and living in the confusing, shadowy, transitional space for a while. Eventually, we are spit up on a new and unexpected shore. We can see why Jonah in the belly of the whale is such an important figure for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

In moments of insecurity and crisis, *shoulds* and *oughts* don't really help. They just increase the shame, guilt, pressure, and likelihood of backsliding into unhealthy patterns. It's the deep *yeses* that carry us through to the other side. It's those deeper values we strongly support—*such as equality and dignity for all*—that allow us to wait it out. Or it's someone in whom we absolutely believe and to whom we commit. In plain language, love wins out over guilt any day.

It is sad that we settle for the short-term effectiveness of shaming people and shutting them down, instead of the long-term life benefits of true transformation. But then, we are a culture of productivity and efficiency, not terribly patient or even open to growth. God is clearly much more patient --- and finally more effective, patiently supporting our transformation through all of life's transitions.



BIRTHDAYS

1	Donna LaPoint	17	Jeff Adelmeyer
2	Ann Kloeckner	20	King Monroe
8	Becky Zimmerman	22	Daryl Olmsted
11	Vernita Green	27	Jeanne Gay
	Vicente Flores	28	Rose LaPoint
13	Mary Jane Andrashko	31	Bill Zimmerman

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Steve & Rose LaPoint	19	Tracy & Jeff Roe
5	Tom & Ann Kloeckner	25	Chuck & Janis Emery
12	Scott & Rose Brownlea	29	Linda & Scott Colantonio
15	Jean & Bob Roe		

May 12



Mat Makers—Please Join Us!

We met from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday. People can come for all or part of the time. There is a job for everyone.... sorting bags, cutting bags, making "plarm" (plastic yarn from the bags) and weaving. One mat is complete and the second one is at least half way done. We start a new mat as soon as we finish one.

Check us out on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. You will find this a worthwhile use of your time and fun as well.

The Mission of the Month for May is Ingathering. We will be gathering here at Wesley items for Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. The items we collect here will be taken to The Wisconsin Annual Conference meeting in Green Bay. There will be a truck from Midwest Mission there which will transport all the items that are collected to their distribution center in Pawnee, IL. They will be sorted and stored there until needed. UMCOR gets the items to respond to disasters wherever needed.

I would like to quote from a recent letter received from Midwest Mission that illustrates the importance of our participation in this project.

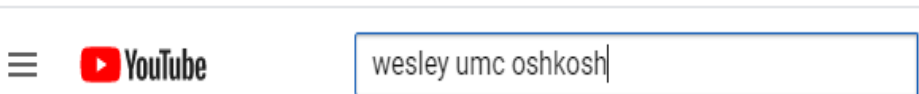
"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Wesley UMC,

Your generosity makes a difference! Thank you for your donation. When you make a gift to Midwest Mission you are affecting change. We have seen it with our own eyes and we have heard the stories, even in person.

While staff were in Jamaica last year, they saw the buckets you've helped pack, visited children in group homes who received the cleaning supplies needed for basic sanitation. They heard the gravity of what receiving a Personal Dignity Kit through choked up voices pouring out overwhelming gratitude. A bar of soap, shampoo, a washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste and a small hand towel are often shared with their family. Without your gifts, these gifts wouldn't happen."

Please do what you can to help with this project. You do not have to donate a complete kit, just the items you want to give; but please pay close attention to the sizes given on the lists below. This is important because the Personal Dignity Kit has to all fit in a gallon zip-lock bag and the Home Care Kits all fit in a 5-gallon pail. Please put your donations on the table in the Narthex anytime during the month of May. If you prefer to give money, put it in the offering in an envelope marked "Ingathering" and it will be used to complete kits or sent to Midwest Mission to help cover costs such as shipping.

1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.

Lifeline Screening

May 8

Appointments start at 9:00 a.m.

Call 888-814-0442 for an appointment

We have several Free Screening Certificates that are available to Wesley members as a thank you for hosting this valuable service to our community.



Education Committee

Our Indoor Camping Experience held Saturday, April 20, was a lot of FUN! We had about 25 people of all ages in attendance. The picture scavenger hunt had a couple hiccups but the pictures made it to the big screen tv and everyone enjoyed the results. The cornhole tournament had four teams participating and everyone cheered on the final game. We found out that S'mores prepared in the oven taste just as good as those over an open fire. The singing around the trustee approved campfire in Koeller Hall brought back many memories. Everyone had a wonderful time and thank you to everyone who made the day possible.

On Sunday, May 19, our Sunday School children will be treating us to song they've been practicing and we are celebrating our annual Recognition Sunday of all Sunday School participants and all adult education classes. Names of all participants will be in the bulletin that Sunday, and a cake and punch reception is planned to be held in Koehler Hall following the church service. This Sunday is also Pentecost Sunday, and there will be a red theme to the day.

VBS-Vacation Bible School

Wesley will be joining forces with about six other churches in Oshkosh for an ecumenical Vacation Bible School to be held July 29-August 1, 2024 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 1072 Honey Creek Rd., Oshkosh. It will be from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (dinner included) for ages 3 & potty trained through 5th grade. The theme will be Camp! No cost to individual families. A flat fee will be charged to each participating church. They had 60 kids involved last year. Sunday School families please put the dates for this exciting event on your calendars!

They are also looking for adult and youth leadership for this event. Anyone teaching or alone with children are required to have a background check and these need to be completed by June 30th. Volunteer Training Day will be July 11 at 6 p.m. with food at All Saints.

Kathy McAloon has been attending organizational meetings for this event. Either Kathy or Donna LaPoint will be able to answer any questions on this event or be able to find an answer for you.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna LaPoint, Education Chair

*****NEW CHOIR ROBES*****

Our new choir robes made their debut on Easter Sunday! Didn't they look beautiful? A BIG thank you from our choir to everyone that donated money and helped to make this possible. We have raised the money needed to cover the cost of the robes. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

Options for the retired robes are being looked into. There is an organization that will take them and revitalize them so they can be given to churches in need of "new" robes that might not be able to afford them otherwise.

Thanks again to all who helped in providing new robes for our choir.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna LaPoint



Newsletter Sponsorship

Sue and Rick Yell are the sponsors for the May 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the May-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.



UMC Wesley CORNER

1. Which disciples said to Jesus, "You shall never wash my feet?"
Thomas Judas Peter Ralph
2. Joseph was Jesus' earthly father. In Matthew's gospel, what was Joseph's father's name?
Zechariah Joe Senior Jacob Ezekiel
3. Who were Adam's children?
Cain and Abel Cain, Abel and Seth
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Cain, Abel, Seth, and other sons and daughters
4. Which angel visited Mary in Nazareth?
Clarence Michael Malachi Gabriel
5. Does The United Methodist Church have an official translation of the Bible?
Yes No
6. Which book of five poems was written in response to the capture and destruction of Judah?
Exodus 1 Chronicles II Chronicles Lamentations
7. Which son of Abraham's name means "laughter"??
Ishmael Issac Esau Elmo
8. In a Protestant Bible, how many books are in the Old and New Testament?
66 books 39 OT, 27 NT 66 books 27 Ot 39 NT
73 books 46 OT, 27 Nt 73 books 39 OT, 34 NT
9. Which of the following words is used to describe a heavenly being in the Bible?
Cherubin Seraphin Angel All of them
10. Which of these miracles is recorded in all four gospels?
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish
Jesus walks on water Jesus turns water into wine

From the Study Book "Disciple's Path - a guide for United Methodists"

In answer to the question about why I am a UM, I say, "I am a United Methodist because I follow Christ because: of the:

Methodist tradition of the method that is embedded in our heritage.

People do not grow by accident.

God's work of grace is directly related to the practices we use to become "followers of Christ".

Time-tested disciplines of the Christian life center around loving God and loving others.

Wesley said Love of God in heart by the Holy Ghost given to him.

Loves God with all his heart, soul, mind with all his strength and loves neighbor as himself.

Thank You!

Thank You
Wesley
Mike LaPoint
Connie Shaefer

To our Church Family,
Thank you so much
for manning our feed
booth for the
tournament. Your
willingness to give
so freely of your
time and service
is greatly appreciated
With gratitude,
O.U.M.A.

Thank you to C. Sweeting Plumbing

Mike LaPoint would like a "shout-out" to C. Sweeting Plumbing published in the bulletin, along with the newsletter. They/he did the work on the little kid's bubbler that had started leaking. Mike said it involved some research, along with 3 separate trips to get it back up and running again, and it was done NO Charge.



Quiz Answers from Page 5:

1. **Peter.** "No", said Peter."You shall never wash my feet." Jesu replied, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me". "then, Lord," Simon Peter said,"not just my feet but my hands and my head as well" John 13:8-9
2. **Jacob.** "...and Jacob (was) the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah." MT 1:16.
3. **Cain, Abel, Seth and other sons and daughters.** " The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years; and he had other sons and daughters Genesis 5:4
4. **Gabriel.** "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph." (Luke 1:26-27.
5. **No.** When it comes to United Methodist teaching resources published by The United Methodist Publishing House, the Common English Bible (CEB) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are the preferred texts for curriculum.
6. **Lamentations.** "How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations!"
7. **Isaac.** "Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.'" Gen 21:5-6.
8. **All of them** The Bible uses all three words, in addition to "elders" in the Book of Revelation, to describe spiritual beings from heaven.
9. **66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.**
10. **Jesus feeds the multitude bread and fish.** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:9.



May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 a.m. Lifeline 5:30 p.m. MA	2 10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. MG/ 7 p.m. Chancel	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024.	6 5:30 p.m. MA	7 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	8 1:30 p.m. Missions 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education Lifeline Koeller Hall	9 10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. MG/ 7 p.m. Chancel	10	11
12 Mothers Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
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	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA	10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. MG/ 7 p.m. Chancel		
19 9:30 a.m. Worship Recognition Sunday 10:45 Reception Koeller Hall	20 5:30 p.m. MA	21 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 Church Council	22 1:30 p.m. Worship Com. 2:30 p.m. Membership Care 5:30 p.m. MA	23 10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. MG/ 7 p.m. Chancel	24	25
26 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	27 5:30 p.m. MA	28 10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	29	30	31	
				10:30 a.m. "How Not to Read the Bible" 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly	

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Change Service Requested



The Wesleyan Connection is published monthly for the members and friends of Wesley United Methodist Church, 761 Florida Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902-6549

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