



# United Methodist Church

Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God

## August 2020

### Church Staff

**Rev. Rafael Cubilette**

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**Dean Goninen**

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**Susan Schlager**

Parish Nurse  
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## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Holy Communion: Please Have  
Bread & Juice Ready  
Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### August 9<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### August 16<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### August 30<sup>th</sup>

Facebook Live: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

### BULLETIN & SERMONS

We continue to not hold in person worship.  
If you would like a paper copy of the bulletin  
and sermon mailed to you each week,  
please call the office and request this.



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*  
~ 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NRSV)

These last two weeks I have been overwhelmed between, opening boxes, looking for things, placing things in rooms, searching for space to put others, getting to know the set up of some essential places for living such as groceries stores, restaurants, etc., holding some personal and work meetings, integrating my life with the new routine of living and working in Platteville. In short, everything that entails moving from one place to another. At the same time, I have been meditating about all the challenges that have unfolded in our communities, our nation, and the world in the past few months, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. And I have asked myself, "How would I even begin to describe these days?"

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I turned to the Holy Scriptures, looking for wisdom amid this challenging time that we are going through. The first letter of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians has brought me enlightenment: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* ~ 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NRSV)

Amid all the challenges we are facing daily, especially at this time, there is much to be thankful for. Still, I recognize that it is easier to focus on the challenges of the moment than to see God's blessings. If I pause to make a personal record of my life, I realize that sometimes I am so exhausted that I get into a bad mood. Little by little, my world has focused more on the challenges that I face than on the many blessings that God has given me. Probably, those of you who are reading this, are experiencing the same thing right now. I have to tell you that, unfortunately, when this happens, our world contracts, and we do not get to see beyond our noses, losing sight of all the possibilities that we have in front of us.

To dedicate time to being thankful changes the whole picture, especially in difficult times. In considering this, it is essential to keep in mind that the Apostle Paul is not telling those of Thessalonica or us to give thanks for all circumstances. He says to them and us, give thanks in all circumstances because there is power in being grateful. That reminds me of a popular expression that my father frequently used, "To the bad weather show good face." He considered that gratitude made sense of our past, by bringing peace to the present, creating a vision for the future. That is why we are invited to be grateful no matter the circumstances.

I want to use this opportunity, during these uncertain, disturbing, challenging, stressful, and problematic times to express my gratitude to God for sending me to this place to serve in your midst and with all of you, in the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To expand his kingdom, which is a kingdom of compassion, love, forgiveness, mercy, peace, and justice, in this community and the world.

*(continued from page 2)*

I also want to express my gratitude to the talented staff members for their dedication and hard work. They are extraordinary!

I am grateful to the Accountable Leadership Board for being committed brothers and sisters. It is not a glamorous job, and the burden can be heavy, but they do it because God has used this church to touch their lives, and they want to give back to God in this way. Your passionate faith and commitment to the ministries of this community of faith and the Kingdom of God are truly remarkable!

And although I only know a few of you, I am grateful for all of you! We are a community united by our desire to follow in the footsteps of the one who called us from darkness to admirable light. That is why we face the future with faith in Jesus Christ, which opens up a whole range of possibilities.

I want to conclude by telling you that if you are stressed and struggling with the burden that we are facing today in the world, it is time to stop and take time to be grateful. This is not a way of ignoring what is in front of us, but to recognize that God uses gratitude to strengthen our resolution and expand our hope of what is already on the way.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Rafael

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### **RE-OPENING TEAM**

The Re-Opening Committee for the church met on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We took a look at many factors, including the roof remodel timeline and the results of the survey that the congregation filled out, as well as recommendations from the Wisconsin Council of Churches and data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. At this point in time, with cases continuing to rise sharply in Wisconsin, we believe it is in the best interest of the members of the church to worship remotely. However, we recognize that this is far from ideal and that some of our members are unable to worship easily remotely, and we are actively working to find ways to reach them. We will explore having some outdoor services (either at our location or at City Park), having a "call-in" option for those without easy internet/Facebook access, and the possibility of a short-range FM radio transmitter that would allow for receiving the service in your car while parked at the church lot.

In the meantime, we will continue to worship on Facebook Live (and we hope you're enjoying the upgraded technology we've been working on). The committee plans to meet again in early August to re-evaluate and recommend any changes. If you'd like to share any thoughts with the committee or have any suggestions about how to reach members with technology challenges, please feel free to email or call the committee co-chairs: Sara Koeller ([sara.koeller@yahoo.com](mailto:sara.koeller@yahoo.com), 608-330-3100) or Mike Mair ([mmair@centurylink.net](mailto:mmair@centurylink.net), 608-778-6723).

### LEADERSHIP BOARD

Your Accountable Leadership Board has been busy over the past few months assisting with the transition of Pastor Brenda leaving and welcoming Pastor Rafael to lead our congregation. We continue to review policies and procedures that have been in place in the church for many years and have updated many of these documents. We also continue to study the structure of the Board to ensure compliance with the structure and identify any changes we should make to be more efficient.

We have formed a Re-Opening Team to determine the best time for us to start attending church in person in a safe manner. A Wesley Committee has been formed and will begin meeting in August to determine projects for the year. And the Stewardship Committee continues to make progress on their goals for the year. More information from this group will be coming in September.

We are in the process of nominating people to join the Accountable Leadership Board. Elizabeth Duewer and Diane VanDeest are on the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on the Board, please contact Elizabeth, Diane or any member of the current Board to get an application. The group will be working on a lot of important issues in the upcoming years and we will have a number of long time serving members leaving the Board, so it is important that we get new members identified and added to the group.

Our financial picture for the church continues to be reviewed. The receipt of the Payroll Protection Plan loan/grant has been very helpful for church finances this year. We will have a report in September regarding our external review of funds that is currently being completed. Lastly, we continue to review grant opportunities for the church. If you have any questions about the board or upcoming activities, please feel free to contact any board member.



Another month....when will life get back to normal? Remember to continue to be very careful so we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and return to our usual routines. Always wear a clean mask when you are out amongst people and be careful you don't touch the part that has been exposed to potential contamination to your face . Use hand sanitizer after taking off your mask and wash your hands for 20 seconds upon returning home. The friction of washing and drying is an important part of cleaning your hands. I can't emphasize enough how important these 2 things are for managing the spread of the corona virus.

If you have children going to school this fall start teaching them how to use a mask properly and wash their hands well.

Check out my previous 2 newsletter articles for more details.

Stay well-I hope to see you soon.

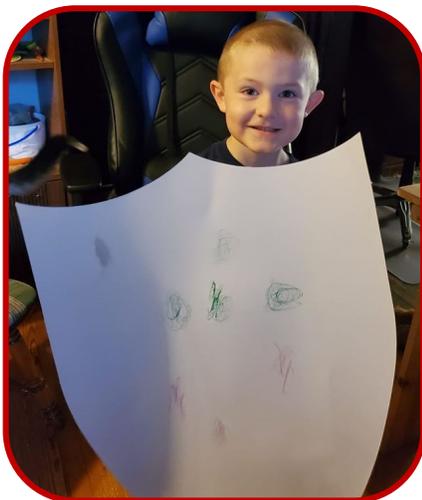
-Susan Schlager RN, Parish Nurse

**VBS**

We have new Knights in our church family! Wonderful kids enjoyed a week of questing with our sassy, artic dragon, Sparky. Even though VBS week has passed it's not too late to become a knight! You read that right!

You can still participate in Knights of North Castle VBS, just go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PlattevilleUMCVBS> and request to join the group. We will try very hard to accept you into the group in a timely manner.

If you would like one of the take-home packets, you can contact the Church and if we still have them, we can arrange for you to pick one up but once we are out, we are out. If you prefer to gather your own supplies, there are supply lists on the group page. Feel free to use your creativity and change a few activities to match supplies you already have! But all good things must come to an end and so once the school year begins, we will be closing down the group so don't wait to take advantage of this awesome quest today!



**A HUGE VBS THANK YOU**

Since we are unable to meet for VBS in person this year, we will not be hosting our annual Potluck & Program to wrap up the week. During that time, we like to thank all of our volunteers who help make VBS so amazing. So we would like to take the time to say a special thank you to all who donated supplies and their time to help us make VBS virtual this year, especially:

Ellen Carnahan

April Brandt

Gena Byrnes

Lynn, Christina & Kayla Buttles

Debby Schroedl

Jan Hollaway

Mallory, Finn & Cooper McGuire

Tracy Harle

Sara & Michelle Koeller

Cortney Fiedler-Fosbinder

### BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

If you have been by the church, you will see that work has begun on the roof replacement. Steady progress is being made and we are anxious to see what type of issues the contractor uncovers as the current roof is ripped off. Any damage that is found will add to the cost for the roof replacement. To date, there have been no unexpected issues that have been uncovered.

The first installment for the roof has been paid from our current endowments and these payments will continue from the endowments until we have spent \$250,000. The loan for the roof has been finalized and money will be available to pay for the roof replacement, as it is needed. We completed the pre-study for a capital campaign and received a positive response to move forward. We have contracted with the United Methodist Foundation to lead the capital campaign and we are in the process of putting together a Campaign Committee of church members. As we move forward with this initiative, we will keep everyone informed as to the timeline and process. Please begin to prayerfully consider the contribution that you would consider making to the campaign.

We continue to get bids on other building projects that we will be prioritizing for the church, once we know how much money is pledged to the capital campaign. Once we have a timeline for these projects, we will share it with the congregation. The most pressing issue is getting the leaks fixed in Fellowship Hall. As a reminder, we are still looking for people who are willing to serve on a Facilities Committee to help with determining priorities for the building, both internal and external. Please contact Dave Carnahan, if you are interested in serving on this important committee.



**DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP**

Susan Schlager is leading a monthly diabetic support group which has become a Zoom group during the COVID-19 pandemic. This group is for helping people adjust to the life style changes necessary to manage prediabetes and/or diabetes successfully. If you are interested in joining or have questions please contact her at (608) 348-9575.



Congratulations to Dawn Drake, who was awarded 2020 Volunteer of the Year by the City of Platteville at Music in the Park on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.



In July we distributed 321 food bundles. First, we thank our volunteers, who make this possible. Second, we want to acknowledge people and organizations that have added to our food supply. The Ihm family from Lancaster donated eggs, Jordan Holthaus donated milk coupons, and the Wisconsin Beef Council donated meat gift certificates. Our next distribution is **Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**. We need volunteers who can work some hours between 2:30 - 6:30 pm. Please notify Deb Putnam at [putnamd@uwplatt.edu](mailto:putnamd@uwplatt.edu) if you can help out.



*Food & Fellowship*

Our next Food & Fellowship Free Community Meal will be held on **Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.**



Platteville United  
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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S Postage  
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Platteville, WI  
Permit No. 97

Return Service Requested

If you would no longer  
like to receive this  
newsletter, please  
contact the church  
office to take your  
name off the mailing  
list. Thank you!



*“Do to others as you  
would have them  
do to you.”*

*- Luke 6:31*