



United Methodist Church

Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God

May 2021

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WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

May 2nd

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

May 9th

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

May 16th

Children's Worship

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

May 23rd

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

May 30th

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.



I'm still thinking about our Easter morning worship service. After my renewal leave time, Easter was the first worship service that I have had the privilege to preside, retaking the ministry where God sent me to serve and proclaim the Good News of salvation for this community and all nations. What a glorious day!

In the book *"The Three Pigs of Jesus: Reflections on Faith, Tolerance, and Love"* by E. Wayne McLaughlin, I read about a cemetery in Germany that included a tombstone made of huge slabs of granite and riveted together with strong steel clasps. On the stone, these words are carved: "This burial place must never be opened. It covers the grave of a woman who believed in no resurrection for anybody and she ordered that her grave be made secure." But something extraordinary happened. By chance, a little tiny seed fell between the stones. A couple of days later, this tiny seed began to make little roots and push out a little into the light, and almost as if the universe were laughing, a growing tree has wrenched the steel clasps around and has pushed out the stones to make room for life.

There is a famous quote from *Camino Real*: "The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks." It's a reference to the same idea that the roots of the fragile little violets growing down into the cracks in the rocks might actually have the power, over time, to break apart the stones.

When we think about these stories in what seems to be a very anxious time in our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, racial justice, etc., they remind us that the power of Easter is a power that overcomes even the most implacable of forces. It is God's power for the triumph of good over evil, love over hate, truth over falsity. But often, that power grows underground in the dark over a long period of time before bursting forth to win in the end. For those in the fight, this fact requires extraordinary patience, persistence, and stamina. And it requires an Easter community. A community that proclaims that Jesus is alive and in our hearts. A community that proclaims faith, love, hope, mercy, forgiveness, unity, peace, equality, respect, and justice for all. A community that claims Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God. A community that seeks to live as Jesus lived.

Recently, I found on Brainyquote.com an interesting quote of Margaret Mead, "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*" This quote reminds us of the small group of disciples left behind to wait upon the power of God's Spirit at Pentecost, the same power under another guise that animated the resurrection of Jesus. They formed the original Easter community, patient but persistent in their waiting, ready to be put to work to spread God's realm of love and truth and peace and justice. We form part of that Easter community today, you and I in Platteville United Methodist Church. So my prayer is, may the power that broke the seal on the tomb energize us in our day and time for the work God gives us to do in this community and in the world.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Rafael

HOW TO ZOOM IN AND LISTEN TO A CHURCH SERVICE!

Zoom is a video/audio conferencing software system that works with computers OR phones (landline or cellular). Following these directions will allow you to CALL in or join a "Zoom meeting" with audio only. Participants will be muted, so you will **only** be able to listen. If you have any difficulties, you can contact Sara Koeller at (608) 330-3100 and she will attempt to help you (although it may take a little for a response on Sunday mornings!) *REMINDER: Until the prelude start, the audio will be silent.*

PHONE INSTRUCTIONS (Landline or Cellular)

Call any of the following phone numbers:

*(301) 715 8592 (Washington D.C)

*(312) 626 6799 (Chicago)

*(346) 248 7799 (Houston)

This is NOT a toll-free call. Long distance charges may apply.

Once connected, you will be asked to enter a meeting ID.

The Meeting ID will ALWAYS be: **923 8998 0794**

Enter the ID and press the pound key (#)

It will then ask you for a participant ID. Press the pound key (#)

Finally, it will ask for a passcode, which will always be: **345904**

Enter the passcode and press the pound key (#). You will then be connected to the meeting. **Reminder: You do not need a smartphone to call in using this method!**

COMPUTER INSTRUCTIONS (AUDIO ONLY!)

Go to www.zoom.us. Click on "Join a Meeting."

You will need to enter:

Meeting ID: **923 8998 0794**

You will then be prompted to either "open zoom meetings" or you may be prompted to download Zoom. This is safe software.

You will then be prompted to enter:

Passcode: **345904**

Once you are in, please make sure you keep your camera off AND remain muted.

FACEBOOK LIVE-STREAM INSTRUCTIONS

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/PlattevilleUMC/>

In theory, you can watch the livestream without needing an active Facebook account.

Again, please contact Sara Koeller at (608) 330-3100 or sara.koeller@yahoo.com if you have questions about any of this and I'll be happy to try and walk you through it!

THANK YOU

I want to express deep gratitude to God, our Redeemer, Savior, and Lord. To the Church Leadership Board, the Staff, the committees, and the taskforces. To our Brothers and Sister in Christ, Jim Wells, and his wife, Rev. Barbara Wells, certificated Lay Speakers, Laypersons, and Pastors, who voluntarily came to cover our ministry during my absence. Also, I want to extend sincere gratitude to Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and his Cabinet. To the neighbors and new friends in this community. To all of you, my deep appreciation, thanks for your prayers, care, and support.

~Pastor Rafael

TRUSTEE UPDATE

The work on the roof is almost complete! The roofing company has a couple of vents to change and some inside window trim to complete. They are planning to be finished at the beginning of May.

The repair of the grass and landscaping, due to the installation of the drainage tile, will be completed by Lynch Excavating sometime this spring. Additional decorative rock will be installed over the gravel covering the tile. We are still waiting for an estimate on doing drain tile on the north side of the Sanctuary to eliminate the standing water we always have there after a rain. The section of the lower driveway that needed to be cut out in order to lay the tile to the storm sewer will be replaced.

Air conditioning units have been ordered for the library, classrooms on the south side of the building, and the Fireside Room. These units will be installed when they arrive.

New carpet squares have been installed in the lobby. Carpet was chosen because the concrete in that area is uneven in spots, and it would have been very difficult to transition from anything else at the doorway. Future projects the Trustees will consider are cleaning and staining the cedar siding, trimming and removal of trees west of the church, and the possibility of replacing the floor in the Fellowship Hall.

CONFIRMATION FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



The 2021 Confirmation Class would like to invite you to join us in a Drive-Through Fellowship Luncheon on **Sunday, May 23rd**, serving 12:00-1:00 pm. We will be providing lasagna or macaroni and cheese, garlic bread, beverages, and cupcakes! If the weather is nice, we invite you to enjoy lunch as a social distanced picnic on the church grounds.

To ensure we have plenty of food, we ask that you sign up and let us know if you plan to attend. You can sign up at www.tinyurl.com/fellowshipluncheon2021 or call the Church Office and let us know you'll be there!



Our Sunday School students are planning an awesome Children's Worship Service on the last day of Sunday School, **May 16th**. The children will be doing all the parts of worship that day, including readings & prayers, music, and Children's Message. The service will be pre-recorded, and premiered on Facebook Live at 8:30 am and again at 11:00 am. Please join us for this special service!

We are so grateful for our Sunday School teachers this year. Even though the church building has been closed, and we were not able to gather together, we have been able to connect with our children every Sunday morning via Zoom Sunday School. Teaching online is very different than in-person, and it's much more challenging to find activities to engage students you aren't actually sitting with. Thank you to these wonderful teachers for keeping God in the minds and hearts of our children this past year, even though they could not physically attend church and Sunday School:

Ellen Carnahan

Sara Fosbinder

Tracy Harle

Chris McGuire

Debby Schroedl

WESLEY COMMITTEE - COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Wesley Committee is once again collecting applications for college scholarships for the Fall 2021 semester. If you are interested in receiving an application, contact Dawn Drake at drake@uwplatt.edu.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VBS IS COMING!

MONDAY, JULY 26 - FRIDAY, JULY 30

MORE DETAILS TO COME SOON!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED UPDATE

This message is for all of the women. Because of the pandemic, Church Women United has not met in the past year. Following public health guidelines, we hope to celebrate our "May Friendship Luncheon" later this summer. It will likely include bringing a brown bag lunch, eating outside, social distancing, etc. More information will be passed along when we receive it.

It is necessary for each of our groups to discuss our ability to continue. To keep going, we need to have one representative (preferably two) from each congregation to serve on the board to plan the celebrations. The present board members have served many combined years and deserve a respite. In addition, attendance has been low even though the programs have been good. At our annual meeting in November, we will make a decision about the future of our Church Women United group. Contact Joyce Miller, (608) 348-9904, if you would be interested in serving on the Board or have any questions.

INGATHERING 2021

The Ingathering for 2021 is underway. Annual Conference will be virtual again this year. In each District several churches have agreed to be drop-off sites. We are a designated drop-off/pick-up site. Gathered supplies can be dropped off from **Monday, June 14th - Monday, June 21st**. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center truck will be in Wisconsin on **Wednesday, June 23rd** to pick up all the gathered supplies.

All churches are encouraged to begin gathering the supplies for Personal Dignity Kits and Homecare Kits. The list of supplies needed for those kits are below. Items can be put together in kit form as indicated, or they can be donated separately. Monetary donations can also be made and given to the Church Office. Make checks out to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Bath Hand Towel (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Bath Washcloth (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 Bar Soap: 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo: 15-18 oz.
- 1 Deodorant: 2-3 oz.

Place items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag

Video at www.midwestmission.org
\$2 for toothpaste and razor

Homecare Kit

- 2 Liquid Household Cleaners: 16-40oz.
(no spray bottles)
- 2 Dish Soaps: 16-34oz.
- 2 Liquid Laundry Detergents: 32-64oz.
- 1 scrub brush with or without handle

Place items into a 5-gallon resealable bucket with a resealable cover.

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

APRIL

Ruby's Pantry:
350 Shares

Food & Fellowship:
242 Meals Served

MAY

Ruby's Pantry:
Thursday, 6th

Food & Fellowship:
Wednesday, 12th

JUNE

Ruby's Pantry:
Thursday, 3rd

Food & Fellowship:
Wednesday, 9th



Once again, we had area youth groups help us with our April distribution. We would love to have more groups help us. May marks our 5th anniversary of running a Ruby's Pantry distribution site. At our first distribution we had 59 guests, last month we distributed **350 food bundles!** If you can volunteer, please contact Deb Putnam at putnamd@uwplatt.edu



Our next Food & Fellowship Free Community Meal will be held on **Wednesday, May 12th from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.** The meal will include: chicken and shrimp alfredo, green beans, salad, fruit, and dessert.



Our host week for Family Promise was pushed back to **Sunday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 9th.** Thank you to all who volunteered for Family Promise! Your contribution made an incredible impact! Please contact Tracy Harle at tharlehome@outlook.com with any questions.

SUPPORT OUR MISSIONS

RUBY'S PANTRY • ADOPTED FAMILIES • FAMILY PROMISE

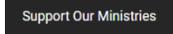
ENVELOPE

- Write the mission on a church or personal envelope.
- Write the mission on the memo line of your check.

DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK

- Call your bank or go online to your bank's website to setup your contribution.
This service is normally provided free of charge.

E-GIVING

- Visit the church website.
- Click on 
- Click on the Create Profile button, follow the instructions to create an online profile and schedule your support.
You can choose which mission you want to support.



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Non-Profit
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Platteville, WI
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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!



*Yes, Lord, let your
constant love surround
us, for our hopes are
in you alone.*

-Psalm 33:22-