



# United Methodist Church

Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God

## June 2021

### Church Staff

**Rev. Rafael Cubilette**

Senior Pastor  
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**April Richardson**

Communications Associate/  
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**Dustin Nunn**

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**Lori Dye**

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**Tracy Harle**

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Outreach Coordinator

**John Mulcahy**

Maintenance

**Ellen Carnahan**

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**Susan Schlager**

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## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### June 6<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Special Music, Gavin Koeller  
11:00 Beyond Belief Band  
Communion at Both Services

### June 13<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Special Music, Ian McCann  
11:00 Beyond Belief Band

### June 20<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Special Music, Ian McCann  
11:00 Beyond Belief Band

### June 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Special Music, Ian McCann  
11:00 Beyond Belief Band

### **BULLETINS**

We will continue to worship on Facebook live.  
If you would like a paper copy of the bulletin  
mailed to you each week, please call the office  
and request this.



**"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances."**

~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

"*Organic Prayer: A Spiritual Gardening Companion*" is a beautiful book by Nancy L. Roth. In her book, she writes about the relationship between gardening and prayer. Roth draws on music, movement, and theology to help others discover the integration of body and spirit. This lovely book is "written with gentleness, humor, and a deep basic toughness." In her book, Roth shares her experiences of working deeply in the red Ohio soil through meditations that help us enrich and care for our bonds with God, creation, and our neighbors on the planet.

Platteville UMC is so blessed to have two marvelous gardens on our property, and as I see it spring to life these days, I think of Roth's insightful words about what she learns from her garden and how that gives rise to a new kind of prayer, organic prayer.

"Organic prayer" offers a helpful metaphor both for contemplation of God and for my attempt to live in harmony with God's creation. The organic prayer, like the life that tends to produce, is rooted in the "soil" of our experience; the feel of the earth under our feet, our place as people on earth, and our intuitions of the holy.

Our religious traditions were first based on such experience. When we trace the roots of these traditions, we find flesh-and-blood people working, playing, thinking, and praying. Scriptures, doctrines, rituals, and ethics are revitalized when we realize this. Likewise, when we dig into the soil of experience—both our own and our ancestors—we are likely to discover that prayer becomes natural: an "organic" response of the human being to God rather than an activity we need to be taught.

This metaphor for prayer helps me to practice contemplative gardening. When I gaze upon our vegetables and flowers, I note that my prayer needs to be grounded in reality. I need to be open to those gifts of God that give me life and nourishment and that I need to guard against those sins that spoil the fertility of the earth and the well-being of its creatures.

Roth describes the characteristics of such organic prayer: how it integrates us and helps us discover God's presence in new ways; how it opens our hearts to compassion and bears fruit in our lives. Whether or not you are a gardener, the notion of organic prayer that springs from the soil of our experience in the world are a promising one.

My prayer is that you will enjoy God's blessings this summer in all the gardening and praying you may do.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Rafael

**WE ARE REOPENING!**

We are so excited to welcome people back in to the Sanctuary for worship! However, we need you to know that things will look a little different when you come to church. While we're excited to welcome you back, we need to continue to take precautions to keep everyone safe. We need to continue to offer grace and love as we work to "First, Do No Harm." Here's a recap of the changes and expectations as we come together to worship!

- 1) **Masks will be required.** While we are excited to hear that the CDC is loosening guidelines regarding masking, we will continue to require masks in the church building until the CDC tells us it is safe for **EVERYONE** to no longer wear masks. Please make sure that your mask fits snugly over your nose, and chin and doesn't gape at the cheeks.
- 2) We ask that **ALL** members read and sign the covenant and bring it to church with them, if you haven't done so already. We will have additional covenants available to fill out at church, if you forget to bring yours!
- 3) Seating in the Sanctuary is **limited** to just 7 pews, in order to maintain social distancing. Seating will begin no earlier than **8:15 am for the 8:30 am service** and **10:45 am for the 11:00 am service**. Ushers will assist in seating people, starting with the front. There will be red pool noodles in each of the pews, and each "family pod" should put a pool noodle next to them to make sure to maintain six feet between groups of people. Overflow seating will move first to the Wesley Room, and then to a live-stream set up in the Fellowship Hall.
- 4) As you come in, if it's Communion Sunday, there will be individual, pre-packaged communion ready for you to pick-up. We will also demonstrate the best way to open this communion package.
- 5) All bulletins will already be in the pews (one per group) and have an attendance card, and we ask that every family/group fill them out every week (don't worry, we'll remind you!) If you are able, please bring a pen with you for it. If not, we'll have pens available for you to use, and then take home. We ask that families who would normally use our "quiet" bags to bring a bag of toys, colors, etc. for their children to play with. Unfortunately, the quiet bags won't be available for a while.
- 6) Attendance cards and offerings can be dropped in the plates on your way out of the Sanctuary, and we will have trash cans available for anything else.
- 7) During service, we are SO excited to hear your voices again! Please **murmur** your congregational responses quietly during the group responses. During hymns, we ask that you either mouth the words or hum along. Pastor Rafael is the only one who can SHOUT hallelujah. The rest of us will golf-clap it and God will still hear us! The only singers will be our hymn leader at 8:30 am service and the band at the 11:00 am service. While we all love those hymns, we have to **insist** that you do not sing along, as group singing is still considered one of the more dangerous activities at this time.
- 8) Finally, at the end of service, you will be dismissed to outside by rows by the ushers and we invite you to go outside and socialize as much as you want on the church lawn! We'll eventually have coffee hour again (just not right now!).

## STAFF CHANGE

We are saddened to announce that April Richardson will be resigning as our Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist effective **Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**. April has made a tremendous difference to the mission and ministry of our church. Her passion for sharing the love of God, her creativity and her warm personality will be greatly missed. We pray for great blessings in the next phase of her life with her husband as they start their next adventure: moving to Virginia! We are planning on a party to say goodbye (and celebrate her wedding!) on **Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please keep an eye out for more details as we get closer to the date!

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## WESLEY COMMITTEE - COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are available through the Wesley Committee for Fall 2021. The deadline for submission is **Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**. There are a number of outreach activities that students could be involved with at the church this summer to help meet the criteria for the scholarship. If you would like an application, please email Dawn Drake at [drake@uwplatt.edu](mailto:drake@uwplatt.edu).

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## UMW

We will have a casual brown bag lunch get together Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at Smith Park. This summer I hope you will participate in a Mission U program which will be virtual, making it easy for all to participate. The following studies are available: "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" July 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship" July 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. These are high quality studies led by pastors open to anyone, not just UMW members. For those who don't have computer access let me know, I can arrange for a viewing at church. Please check the UMW bulletin board for more information on each class, registration forms and how to order books or call Susan Schlager at (608) 348-9575.



The church has reopened! It was good to see some of our church family again and to be able to provide support and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have worked hard to provide fresh air and develop procedures to keep things as safe as possible. Everyone will sign a covenant to affirm our care for one another. We want everyone on the same page. COVID isolation has effected us all differently. Many things may have happened in our lives since we last saw them. Be patient and understanding and don't let misunderstandings create divisions. John Wesley would open group meetings with "How is it with your soul?" A much deeper question than "How are you?" which we ask without much thought. Try greeting your fellow church members with this question. Check out *The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith*. I would recommend everyone read it. The 4 page chapters deal with behavioral and faith issues. It has helped me recognize and work on my weaknesses and more deeply develop my faith.

~Susan RN, Parish Nurse

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE UPDATE - MAY 2021**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Roof</b>	\$525,000-\$580,000	\$534,786.18	Paid Most
<i>NOTES: Includes costs for engineering consulting, bell tower repair, and broken siding. Company needs to fix landscaping that was damaged during construction, along with a few other minor items. Remaining balance is under \$30,000.</i>			
<b>Leaks in FH</b>	\$15,000	\$15,607.07	Paid in full
<i>NOTES: Landscaping and repair of parking lot needs to be completed.</i>			
<b>Capital Campaign Cost</b>	\$25,000-\$28,000	\$23,207.92	Paid in full
<b>Lights &amp; Fans in FH</b>	\$15,000-19,000	\$8,173.67	Paid in full
<b>Lobby Flooring</b>	\$3,500-\$5,100	\$5,227.73	Paid in full
<b>Camera for Sanctuary</b>	\$6,000	\$3,740	Paid in full
<b>Electric Piano</b>	\$2,500-\$3,000	\$1,600	Paid in full
<b>Screens in Sanctuary</b>	\$25,000-\$30,000	\$28,778	Paid half
<i>Planned to be installed by end of May or first part of June.</i>			
<b>Air Conditioning</b>	\$18,400		
<i>NOTES: Bid has been signed. Planning to start installation soon.</i>			
<b>Siding-Clean &amp; Stain</b>	\$15,400		
<i>NOTES: Planning to have this completed in August.</i>			
<b>Drainage Work</b>	\$4,800		
<i>NOTES: Waiting to hear back on contractor for timing.</i>			
<b>Tree Trim &amp; Removal</b>	\$5,500-\$8,000		
<i>NOTES: Several trees are dying or diseased. This work will be done in the fall.</i>			
<b>Membership Drive</b>	\$10,000-\$14,000		
<i>NOTES: Planning will begin this summer. Delayed due to pandemic. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the church office.</i>			

**INCOME:**

\$250,000 from General Endowment Fund  
 \$200,000 from loan  
 \$267,277 pledged (received \$116,366 by May 1<sup>st</sup>)

**TOTAL: \$717,277**

**EXPENSES:**

\$577,979.44 (paid to date)  
 \$ 75,439 (estimates for other projects under contract)

**TOTAL: \$653,418.44**

The decision has been made to not replace the floor in the Youth Room and Fellowship Hall, due to cost and the tile is still in good condition. Other projects on the list will continue to be reviewed and bids obtained.

There is still time to donate to the Capital Campaign so we can continue to work on the projects on our list.

### HONORING FRONT LINE WORKERS BEGINS

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, we held our first dessert reception to honor Front Line workers for their dedicated work during the pandemic. Southwest Health employees were the first group of employees that were honored with yummy desserts and a prayer card. A big thanks to the planning committee of Tracy Harle, Nancy Mair, Tammy Wagner, Dawn Drake, and Pastor Rafael. Thanks to those who provided desserts: Nancy Ziegenfuss, Debby Schroedl, Sara Fosbinder, Michelle NeCollins, Jan Hollaway, Lynn Dew, Judy Bossenbroek, Susan Schlager, and Dawn Drake. The following businesses contributed desserts for the event as well: Cake and Eat It Too, Country Kitchen, Whig Church, Hometown Nutrition, JAS Candies. Funding was also provided by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

Each month, we will be honoring a different group of front line workers from the community. The receptions will be held outside at the church and we will be looking for dessert donations for each month. If you would be willing to provide a dessert, please contact Tracy Harle or the Church Office. The honorees for May were from various healthcare professions.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> - Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center truck will be in Wisconsin on **Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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](http://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!**

**MAY**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
375 Shares

**Food & Fellowship:**  
262 Meals Served

**JUNE**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Food & Fellowship:**  
Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

**JULY**

**Ruby's Pantry:**  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup>

**Food & Fellowship:**  
Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>



Except for some rain, our May distribution ran smoothly. This winter we have depended on school groups to make our distributions possible. We hope some of our regular volunteers will come to fill the student spots when school is out. We need another setup person. This person would need to be at the church at 1:00 pm, direct where the food pallets go, decide how much food to give to each guest, and direct the volunteers. The person would not be needed every month. For more information contact Dawn Drake at [drake@uwplatt.edu](mailto:drake@uwplatt.edu).



Our next Food & Fellowship Free Community Meal will be held on **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 6:00 pm**. The meal will include: sloppy joes, macaroni salad, baked beans, fruit, and dessert.



Mark your calendars for our next host week: **July 4<sup>th</sup> - July 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Tracy Harle at [tharlehome@outlook.com](mailto:tharlehome@outlook.com) with any questions.

**SUPPORT OUR MISSIONS**

RUBY'S PANTRY • ADOPTED FAMILIES • FAMILY PROMISE

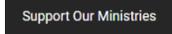
**ENVELOPE**

- 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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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!



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, JULY 26 - FRIDAY, JULY 30

IN PERSON!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Are you ready for an adventure? Vacation Bible School is back and in person! This summer join us for Discovery on Adventure Island. Led by Beacon the Puffin and all his friends at Platteville UMC! We gearing up to make this the greatest adventure of all time! So tell your friends, tell your neighbors, tell your brother or sister, and get your parents to sign you up. This year in person participation is only for those entering 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Virtual options are available for anyone who wishes. Preregistration is a must and can be done at the Church Office or <https://plattevilleumc.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dustin at [dustin@plattevilleumc.org](mailto:dustin@plattevilleumc.org)