



Platteville United Methodist



May 2024



Dear Friends,

I was thinking about the 23 Psalms today while working on this letter. It is currently a fantastic spring day. The sun is shining, and the grass is the shade of green that only comes in early spring. Trees are forming new leaves and leaving pollen dust on all the vehicles. Driving down the road, I see many tiny calves kicking up their heels and running with abandon. “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”



Turning into the church parking lot, I see that the grass has recently been mowed. It looks so soft that I can imagine lying in it and watching the clouds as I hear the melody of the robins nearby. “He maketh me lie down in green pastures.” I walk into the church; it is quiet and peaceful. I recently spent a week on a mission trip, and returning to our church sanctuary's calmness brings me peace. “He restoreth my soul.”

I feel such peace while I read the words of the 23rd Psalm. It reminds me to look and listen for God in unexpected places. We must be thankful for the beauty surrounding us and the Word of God in scripture. A Psalm like this one encapsulates the love of God so thoroughly that I feel reassured of our Savior's presence when I read it.

I feel blessed for the Psalmists, who opened their hearts to God and spilled it out in writing, allowing us to be confident that we can share anything with God. The Psalm reminds us that God is, that God restores, that God leads, that God is with us, that God will anoint us, and that we shall dwell with the Lord forever.

Our world is not at peace, yet I can rely on passages in the Bible to bring me peace. As I let my mind wander about the love of Jesus, I will leave you with this verse from Philippians and pray that you will feel the peace of Christ: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Blessings,

Pastor Tammy

Pastor Tammy Clausen

Full-time Pastor
pastortammy@plattevilleumc.org

Christina LaPalm

Communications Associate/
Administrative Assistant
churchoffice@plattevilleumc.org

Lori Dye

Finance Manager
finance@plattevilleumc.org

Tracy Harle

Youth Director & Outreach
Coordinator
outreach.youth@plattevilleumc.org

Randy Stephens

Housekeeping

Ellen Carnahan

Sunday School Superintendent
ellen.carnahan@yahoo.com

Nancy Fairchild

Organist
nfairchild2@gmail.com

Deb Putnam

Mallow Ringers Director
putnamd@uwplatt.edu

Susan Schlager

Parish Nurse
smschlager@yahoo.com
(608) 348-9575

Mike Mair

"Alive Worship" Band Director
mikemair59@outlook.com
(608) 778-6723

MAY HIGHLIGHTS



The food and fellowship free community meal will take place at **5pm on May 8th**. Please invite your friends! There is plenty of food for everyone. The menu will be announced later.



Ruby's Pantry will be on the first Thursday of the month, **May 2nd from 4-6pm**. It will be \$25 per share. Scholarships are available if you are unable to afford it. Please call the church office if you have any questions 608-348-9508.

**CWU: May Friendship Day**

May Friendship Day will; be on Saturday, **May 4th** at noon. Come gather at 11:30am at the Lutheran Church of Peace (1345 N. Water St. Platteville, WI 53818. There will be a potluck meal, bring a dish to pass. They'll discuss the fellowship of least coin collection. Bring craft supplies for Badger Camp. Contact Dee Woolf with questions 608-348-7403 or dwoolf@centurytel.net.

**Farewell Reception**

If you aren't busy on Wednesday, May 1st from 10am-1pm, stop by the church to enjoy some cake and say goodbye to Christina, our church secretary. It will be a fun time!

Memorial Garden Update

If you are interested in ordering plants, statues, or stepping stones for the memorial garden, please contact the church office. We have room for more plants in our current gardens. If we get a lot of orders, we can start a new garden. There are a wide variety of plants that can be ordered. We are also looking for people to help with weeding this summer. If you are interested in helping out, contact the church office.

**Musicians Needed**

Musicians and singers are needed for summer worship special music! Would you like to share your music with your church family? All ages are welcome! Need music? No worries. We'll find something for you. High School students can earn community service hours for sharing their talents! Hurry! Times are filling up for the months of June, July, and August. Please contact Nancy Fairchild, Coordinator of Music Ministry to express your interest. nfairchild2@gmail.com



Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God God

Our share distribution numbers continue to be high each month. Some of the groups that helped in April were UW's Sigma Alpha, UW Intervarsity, UW wrestling team and Community First Bank. May will mark the 8th anniversary of PUMC Ruby's Pantry. We distributed 59 shares on our opening distribution in 2016 and now we distribute over 400! We will not have our university groups this summer, so we could use everyone's help. Our next distribution is May 2nd. If you have questions about volunteering, ask any coordinator: Dawn Drake, Sally Woodworth, Deb Putnam, Max Anderson, or Pam Curry.



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School classes will be winding down during the month of May. We will be learning about Pentecost and the early Church.

We want to remind you that on the first Sunday of the month, May 5th, our students will host Coffee Hour in the narthex after the 8:30 service. The Sunday School students and teachers really appreciate the support our congregation has given to our mission project, Operation Snackpack.

May 19th is our last day of Sunday School, and the day we recognize our teachers during worship services. If you see one of these teachers, please say "Thank You" for working with our children all year!

Sunday School: Debby Schroedl
Emma NeCollins
Ellen Carnahan

Honoring the Past, Planning for the Future

Our church is very blessed that we have had a wide range of donations over the years to help us become financially stable. We want to continue that trend by ensuring that we have sufficient funds to maintain our house of worship and complete our mission work.

We appreciate all the donations for our three year capital campaign of "Raise the Roof", which ended in December 2023. We were able to take care of a long list of deferred maintenance items for our church, most notably the roof.

As we continue to be good stewards of our building, we have identified a number of additional items that need to be completed.

Our new mini campaign, "Honoring the Past, Planning for the Future", will begin on April 1st and last for 1 year. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 during this time frame to fund the following items:

- New boiler (anticipate needing to replace this in 2025)
- Solar panels
- Handicap accessible bathroom
- Refurbishing the stained glass window tributes
- Prayer labyrinth
- Upgraded audio and video in the sanctuary
- General building maintenance

As our building continues to age, we need to ensure that we have sufficient funds in our endowment accounts to continue to replace, fix, and upgrade our current building and supporting equipment. Therefore, any money that remains after completing our list above will be put in the general building maintenance fund to take care of future needs in the building.



Youth Bible Study!

Shoe Drive Begins

The church is once again collecting shoes for Haiti. Please bring all types and sizes of shoes to the church and put them in the box under the carport. Shoes should be new or gently used. We can accept all types of shoes and boots (i.e. sandals, heels, tennis shoes, flip flops, slippers, etc.). Please help spread the word to family and friends about this collection. We will be collecting shoes and boots through July 15th. We are in need of people to help sort and bag shoes. This is a great project for students who need service hours this summer. Let the church office know if you are able to help with this project.

-Dawn Drake



Finance Update



Our budget for the first quarter of the year has brought in revenue of nearly \$79,000 and expenses of nearly \$89,000, so we currently have a \$10,000 deficit in the budget. We are at or below all our expense categories for this time of year, but only at 19% of our tithes and offerings for this time of year (should be at 25%). We will be bringing in some scheduled endowment earnings during the second quarter, but we still need to increase our weekly giving of tithes and offerings to keep our budget balanced. If people would like to see the breakdown of budget revenues and expenses, there is a report in the narthex of the church by the window to the office.

Our endowments have done very well during the first quarter. We have a return on investment of 5.2% during this time frame. We know that April has not been a good month in the stock market, hopefully that will improve as the year progresses.

Our fund-raising efforts for the year (including grants) have brought in over \$15,000 to date. The mini capital campaign has just begun and has brought in over \$5,000. An update on the amount that has been pledged for the capital campaign will be in the June article of the newsletter. Your pledge card is included for the mini capital campaign (Honoring the Past, Planning for the Future), please return it as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the finance report or need further information, please contact Dawn Drake at drake@uwplatt.edu.



Thanks for a great year with the Alive Worship! We hope to see everyone again in the fall.

Crafting and Quilting 4 Christ

This new mission will be involved with making quilts, dresses, bags, shirts, sleep mats, and a variety of crafts to be distributed to various social service agencies in Platteville and throughout the United States through Midwest Missions. If you are thinking, "I don't have any sewing skills, so I can't participate", fear not...we have a job for everyone. We need people to cut fabric, iron material, make cards that will go with the quilts/crafts, crochet, knit, etc. There are so many needs that we can fulfill through this mission.



As we have done with many of our other missions, we want this to be a community event, so please help spread the word to family, friends, and community members. We meet from 3-6 on Tuesdays to work on the various projects. Come when you can, leave when you must and enjoy the camaraderie of the group. We typically meet in Fellowship Hall, but if there is a scheduling conflict, we will have a sign as to where the group will be meeting.

If you have cotton material, thread, or yarn that you want to donate to the cause, please do so. We are also looking for additional ironing boards, irons, sewing machines, cutting mats, scissors, and quilt batting. If you would like to make a monetary donation to support this mission, you can just write a check to the church and indicate Quilting and Crafting 4 Christ in the memo line. Hope to see you at a future working session. The initial funding for this mission has been provided from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.



FAMILY CONNECTIONS TRAUMA WORKSHOP



TRAUMA AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

MAY 22, 2024
11:30 - 2:30

FAMILY CONNECTIONS
1065 LANCASTER ST, PLATTEVILLE WI

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a FREE event. Lunch will be provided.

Attendees will participate in the **Brain Architecture Game**, facilitated by Hilary Sahr and Amber McKelvey from the **Grant County Trauma Project**, to understand how early life experiences affect brain development.

Family Connections will do a short presentation on our programs. Anyone interested may stay for a tour of our location.

**This workshop is open to all, including families and anyone from agencies who support or work with those who have experienced trauma.*



Registration Required
Scan QR Code to register
Register by May 15, 2024



Special thanks to the **Grant County Department of Social Services**

Concession Stand Update

One of the fund-raisers for our church is to work at concession stands at various activities at UW-Madison. We receive 10% of the proceeds earned, plus tips. Our first two events were on April 19th and 20th. A big thank you to Sally Woodworth, Doug Rogers, Tammy & Jordan Wagner, Doug & Kathy Martin, Austin & Logan Uppena, Gena Byrnes, Dawn Drake, and Tom Scanlan for working at the first two concession stands. A good time was had by all. Our next concession stand is on May 11th. If you would like to participate in this fund-raiser, please contact Dawn Drake at drake@uwplatt.edu. Additional information for fall activities will be available this summer, so stay tuned.

First Annual Spring Fling Meal

It has been said that when two or more United Methodists gather, someone is bringing a casserole. Food and fellowship has a long history in the United Methodist tradition and the Platteville United Methodist Church has a reputation for feeding the people of Platteville.

On April 7th, the church had our first annual Spring Fling fund-raising meal. Church members were asked to bring their favorite recipe of a casserole, salad, or dessert and we had a wonderful array of food. While the turnout for the event was not as large as we would have liked, it was much enjoyed by all those in attendance. Needless to say, the food was delicious and the fellowship was wonderful.

This is a good building block for the event and we will plan to add more items to the event next spring. We plan to have the meal the Sunday after Easter, which means the date will change each year. Since many churches have their meals in the fall, we thought having a meal to welcome spring each year would be a good idea.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's event by donating money, food, and/or attending. We are hoping that this event will become a major fund-raiser for the church. This year, we raised over \$1200. If you have suggestions for things to change for next year's Spring Fling, please contact the church office.

Family Promise

Have you ever wondered what the Family Promise Program is all about? FP is a program that lifts homeless families and helps them succeed. There are guidelines for participating in the program. A family consists of a couple or at least one parent with children. They must pass the background check and choose to abide by some rules. If they want to participate, churches in the county can host the families in their building or support churches by providing volunteer assistance. During the day, they return to the Day Center in Lancaster, where they receive counseling and guidance for resume writing, job searching, seeking housing, or whatever their needs are to become a successful, independent, and housed family unit.



Why do I feel this is important, or why am I involved? I, Susan, have seen success with churches helping the homeless. I saw my parents get involved in starting a program for people experiencing homelessness in California. It grew, and a transitional home started. Men moved out of the program and could go back to their families and be supportive family members again. One man went through the program, graduated from the Wesley House, and landed a job as the maintenance man of the senior apartment my parents later lived in. This is what Dad wanted for these people, and he was able to experience the success of one man returning to his family. Although his program wasn't FP, it took people off the street and helped get them back to where they wanted to be.

I believe in FP and its mission to get families back on their feet. We should have more people volunteering, as it takes many hands to show the love of Jesus Christ to those in need. Online training is provided so you know what to expect and how to interact with the families appropriately. If you haven't been in the shoes of people experiencing homelessness, it may be hard to understand what they are going through. We, as volunteers, like the participants, have guidelines to follow. Please listen to the voice of God. Is He calling you to serve His people in this way? In the last few months, we have had a couple of new volunteers who have heard God's call. Our next rotation is June 2-9th. The signup sheet is on the office window ledge, or call the church office at 608-348-9508. Call Susan Schlager to inquire about being a new volunteer at 608-348-9575.



THE STAINED
GLASS FRAMES
ARE ON DISPLAY!
STOP BY TO SEE
THEM.



Ingathering at Annual Conference 2024

WI Conference Mission Motivation Committee will again be collecting items for Midwest Mission at Annual Conference. We are focusing on Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits but appreciate any items found at midwestmission.org/kits. All items should be NEW – and all kits should have only the items requested. Thanks!

Midwest Distribution Center distributes the kits locally, nationally, and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race, or religion. Midwest Mission is one of eight cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. Midwest Mission distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States.

Donations should be brought to Annual Conference at the KI Center in Green Bay. They can be dropped off at the Midwest Mission truck which will be located on Elm Street behind the KI Convention Center.

Volunteers will be on hand to load supplies: Friday, June 7th, 10am – 4pm & Saturday, June 8th, 8am – 4pm.

If you are not able to make it to Green Bay this year you can bring donations to one of the **Collection Sites**. We are also looking for churches who can get donations to Green Bay to volunteer to be Drop Off Sites for Ingathering. Gathered **supplies should be dropped off by June 2nd at a drop site** so they can get this to Green Bay for Annual Conference. Please contact the drop-off site in advance to arrange a time to deliver your supplies.

The local churches are encouraged to participate in the Ingathering during WI Annual Conference. Listed below are the items for the Wisconsin Annual Conference Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits

Home Care Kit (\$20 Value) • Liquid Household Cleaners - 58 - 80 oz. total, No spray bottles • Dish Soaps - 42 - 64 oz total • Liquid Laundry Detergents - 100 - 150 oz total • 1 Scrub Brush - with or without handle • 1 - 5-gal Round Bucket with resealable lid. All items must be NEW & Placed in the bucket.

Personal Dignity Kit (\$15 Value) • 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels • 1 Bath Washcloth - No dishcloths • 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multi-packs • 1 Bar Soap - 3 - 4 oz • 1 Shampoo - 12 - 19 oz • 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump • 1 Lotion – 8-10 oz • 1 1-gal Resealable Plastic Bag

All items must be NEW & placed in a 1-gal resealable plastic bag - \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag, per kit (Do not include in bag) Give donation to volunteers or mail to Wisconsin Annual Conference.

NOTE: MMDC requests a \$1 shipping fee for each kit and \$1.50 per bucket for the UMCOR Cleaning Kits.

Monetary donations can also be made. **DO NOT** put \$ inside the kits. Bring a check to Annual Conference or send it to The Wisconsin Conference of The UMC, 750 Windsor Street, Suite 104, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 – *please write check to Wisconsin Conference and put Ingathering 2024 in the memo.*

Bring a monetary donation to Annual Conference or send to:

Wisconsin Conference, 750 Windsor Street, Suite 104, Sun Prairie, WI 53950

Please write check to: Wisconsin Conference, add Ingathering & name of the kit to memo line.

[Midwest Mission Distribution Center Brochure](#)

If you have questions, contact:

Bonnie Clement

MMDC Delegate for WI Conference

262-497-9969

bonnieclement05@gmail.com





Platteville United
Methodist Church

1065 Lancaster Street
Platteville WI 53818

Phone: (608) 348-9508
churchoffice@plattevilleumc.org

plattevilleumc.org
www.facebook.com/PlattevilleUMC

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