

THE UNITY CORNERS HERALD

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Worship Services
 - 9:00 AM Sunday — Davis Corners
 - 10:45 AM Sunday — Dells/Delton
- Bible Studies
 - 6:30 PM Wednesday — Dells/Delton
 - 6:30 PM Thursday — Davis Corners

United Methodist Churches of Wisconsin Dells
Dells-Delton and Davis Corners
320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965



March
2018 Newsletter
Pastor Lee Bushweiler
Office Phone: (608) 253-6511
pastor@wisconsin-dells-sumc.org

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MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 DC Bible Study (6:30PM)	2	3 Tod Hollenberg
4 Communion Sunday	5 DC UMW (6:30 PM)	6 Office Hours (noon-4 PM)	7 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) DD UMW 12PM DD Bible Study (2:00PM)	8 DC Bible Study (6:30PM)	9 Helen Miotke Bob Schuster	10
11 DD Admin Council (12pm) Donna DeFosse	12	13 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) Betty Conrad	14 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) DD Lenten Study (6:30PM)	15 DC Bible Study (6:30PM)	16	17 Eva Newsome Pat Holton
18 3rd Sunday Offering	19	20 Office Hours (noon-4 PM)	21 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) DD Lenten Study (6:30PM)	22 DC Bible Study (6:30PM)	23	24 Rosa Haskett
25 Fellowship Sunday Kathy Spargo Marge Hegland	26	27 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) Jan Thompson	28 Office Hours (noon-4 PM) DD Lenten Study (6:30PM)	29 Maundy Thursday (DC 6:30PM)	30 Good Friday (DD 3:00PM)	31

Our Stewardship

A Stewardship Note

We have handed out commitment cards at church and are asking all members to complete a card and return it. We want to know what ministries we will be able to begin offering in the community this year and what our financial picture will look like. Please let us know the time, talent and treasure you are willing to commit to God's work in the Dells area through the ministries in our two churches. We have many tasks from doing to supporting ministry that need to happen. If you are comfortable leading or teaching, calling or writing, generating ideas or financing them; we need to be active in all these and need your help to make it happen.

You can fill out a card at church or online at serve.wisconsinidellsumc.org or you can call the office and we will find out from you what will work best.



Thank You for Your Participation in Missions

This month, the 3rd Sunday mission offerings will be taken on March 25th. The Dells/Delton church is collecting for UMCOR this month. Please support these worthwhile ministries with your additional offering as we work together to bless and care for the communities around us.

Please continue to bring items for the Holy Cross and Dells/Delton United Methodist combined pantry donations. This month we are collecting shampoo for the pantry. Please be aware that the pantry is also looking for volunteers to help them in their current need.

Be sure to check out the Dells/Delton and Davis Corners Facebook pages!

facebook.com/UMCdells or facebook.com/DavisCornersUMC

"All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work. Work is not a curse; it is the prerogative of intelligence, the only means to manhood, and the measure of civilization."

- Calvin Coolidge

Denomination News

UMCOR Sunday - March 11th



On March 11, 2018, we invite you to join with thousands of other congregations across the connection in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief. When our congregations participate in UMCOR Sunday, we help cover the operating budget of UMCOR. Your support makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100 percent of all other contributions to the projects our donors specify, instead of using this money on administrative or fundraising costs.

It is a powerful statement that your gifts enable UMCOR to respond in times of crisis. UMCOR is present with heartfelt prayers, empathy, monetary donations and volunteering spirits after disaster strikes. The work of UMCOR also goes beyond disaster relief. As millions of refugees and migrants seek safety and opportunity, UMCOR is present. All over the world, UMCOR is there, providing compassion and hope to those who desperately need it. Dells-Delton will also take an offering on March 18th for UMCOR.

Laity Convocation



All in the Wisconsin Annual Conference are invited to the annual Laity Convocation with Bishop Jung March 23 - March 24, 2018 at Reedsburg UMC.

The theme this year reflects our 2018 Annual Conference theme: One With Each Other. Friday night will start with a banquet, followed by a panel on the Hispanic Pentecost Emergence Initiative in Wisconsin. Saturday will begin with an opening worship ceremony and then Bishop Jung will lead a Bible study on Unity of the Church and Commission on a Way Forward. , Conference Strategist Randy Chapin will discuss the financial campaign, and three simultaneous workshops will be offered: Peace Living as a Core Congregational Value with Rev. Dan Dick, How Do We Birth/Partner New Ministries in Our Existing Churches? with Rev. Jorge Solis Mayorga, and Why Spiritual Formation in the Church. Please register before March 19, 2018 at: <https://www.etches.com/laityconvo2018> or contact Pastor Lee.

Launch Out! Team Speaks about Necessity of Funding Campaign

The Launch Out! Funding Campaign is our investment into our future to create faith-raising opportunities to reach people in new ways, in new places, and in new ministries. As we launch out, our focus is on leadership development for laity and clergy. This is the key to effective mission and ministry and is included in each of the priorities: revitalization of existing congregations that desire life and growth, new faith communities to reach those who don't currently relate to our existing congregations and ministries, and mercy and justice ministries as collaborative opportunities in every community. More about this campaign will be shared at upcoming events and will be voted upon at Annual Conference.

Other News

FOUNDATION STEWARDSHIP NEWS

GIVING

Are you prepared to be a steward?

Everything is from God. "Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all." (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Pete Fromm, a Wisconsinite, thought he was prepared to live like a mountain man! He and his college friends read all about mountain men and wilderness survival. They stayed up late at night to talk and dream about living like a mountain man. Then, Pete's chance came. The Fish and Wildlife service needed someone to spend the winter in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho watching over salmon breeding grounds. That's when Pete found out that he was not entirely prepared; that there was needed knowledge and skills he did not have.*

Are you ready to be a faithful steward of God's gifts? The first lesson is to realize and embrace that God is the owner and we are the stewards, the caretakers of God's realm. As scripture says, "the heavens and the earth are yours ... O Lord." Each of us should ask, how am I, together with others in my church, taking care of all that God has placed in our care? Where are our opportunities to take care of the planet, of people who are in need, of those who are seeking for meaning in their lives, for our neighbors, for our friends?

What is your plan for stewardship this year? Who needs your generosity? Who needs to experience God's grace through your generosity and careful shepherding of God's gifts? Now is the time to prepare. Make a plan to acquire the knowledge and skills of Christian stewardship.

(Read more about Pete Fromm's experiences in his memoir, *Indian Creek Chronicles*.)

Advanced Lay Servant Class - Leading Worship

This course on March 17 & 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m at Westby focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship and we will learn the basics of United Methodist worship. Drawing upon five basic principles, we will learn the formative nature of worship and how it can revitalize persons' lives. The five principles are: God's Word is primary, Active congregational participation is crucial, Spontaneity and order are both important, Worship should be relevant and inclusive, and Worship is communion.

The required text is "Worshiping with United Methodists Revised Edition: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders Paperback by Hoyt L. Hickman" (ISBN 13: 978-0-687-33526-8) and may be purchased from The Upper Room Bookstore, or Amazon.com. There is no registration fee for this class, your only cost is the book. Please come to class on March 17th having read through Chapter 6, Proclamation and Response, and knowing that you will be in a non-threatening environment where your thoughts and contributions are valued. Also, please bring a copy of your church bulletin so we can learn from each other, and a bag lunch as dining options in the area are very limited.

Please let the Pastor know by March 9th if you would like to attend.

"This life was not intended to be the place of our perfection, but the preparation for it." —Richard Baxter

Other News

Scholarships Are Available

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and current undergraduate students attending vocational/technical, two-year, or four-year higher education programs. Numerous scholarships are available for general studies, as well as seminary and ministry careers.



Church Mutual is offering scholarships of \$5,000 each for the 2018-2019 academic year. The scholarship is for religious scholars to use towards the completion of their academic year. As part of Church Mutual's mission to Protect the Greater Good, they believe in helping our young, vibrant religious leaders today to ensure strong faith-based communities of tomorrow. Applications will be accepted until April 14, 2018. [Click here for more information.](#)

The Way Forward

Council of Bishops President Bishop Bruce Ough has urged his fellow bishops to be open to Christ changing their minds, as they counter disagreements, and to be prepared to lead The United Methodist Church into unchartered territories. The Council of Bishops wrapped up a four-day meeting about how to prevent denominational schism over homosexuality, with a focus on two possible church futures.

"We're dealing with a very difficult issue that's clearly divisive, and yet there's a real commitment to stay at the table," said Council of Bishops President Bruce R. Ough on Feb. 28. The bishops offered feedback but did not vote on the two revised sketches, instead asking the commission to continue working to prepare a final report to be presented at the April-May Council of Bishops meeting.

The news release contained a summary (tinyurl.com/yd4byscz) of the two models:

- 1) The one-church model would give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to "uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church."
- 2) The multi-branch, one-church model would include shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. The five U.S. jurisdictions would be replaced by three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology and perspective on LGBTQ ministry — progressive, contextual and traditional branches. Annual conferences would decide with which connectional conference to affiliate.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Outreach Notes

The Outreach committee met on February 7, 2018. We will have our cook out at Walmart again on May 19 2018. Judy contacted Walmart to secure a spot for us. We will also be having a pancake supper on November 7, 2018 at the church fro 4:30 to 6:30pm. More details will be provided as it gets closer. Our annual rummage sale will be held on October 5th and 6th. We decided to have a Sunday where we invite a neighbor to church and then have a potluck on April 8, 2018! Anyone with any other ideas to increase our church attendance, we would be glad to listen. Contact any outreach member or the pastor.

—outreach committee



Alter Flowers for Dells-Delton

Holy Cross has invited us to help supply flowers for the altar on Sundays. If you would like to honor a loved one, acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, special occasion, or for no particular reason at all, there is a sign up sheet on the wall above the desk in the lounge. There are also instruction sheets on how to go about doing this.

Davis Corners UMW News

Our first UMW meeting for 2018 was held at Jolene Schuster's home. We all enjoyed a ham dinner along with an angel food cake for dessert. Thank you Jolene! During February's meeting we discussed and agreed to donate money from our October Soup Supper to four veteran's organizations as well as to the Heifer Project. For the Heifer Project we donated enough money for that organization to purchase a flock of chickens. Our March meeting will be on March 5th, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Davis Corners Church meeting room. On Saturday, March 10th at 9:00 am there will be a Lenten Breakfast at the Mauston United Methodist Church. A few of us went last year and they put on a great breakfast and program. If anyone would like to attend please let Pastor Lee or myself know. As before if any women would like to attend our monthly meetings please feel free to do so. We can provide you dates, times, location and directions to the hostess' home.

Until then God Bless.

Bonnie.

Davis-Corners UMW President.

Congregational News

Holy Week **Holy Week Services**



We will end the month of March with Holy week services at our two churches. The Maundy Thursday service will be held at the Davis Corners campus beginning at 6:30pm and will include Holy Communion. Our Good Friday service will begin at 3pm at the Dells-Delton campus. Easter services will be held at our normal service times.

Evening Lenten Bible Study and Soup Suppers at Dells-Delton

This year we are having an evening Bible study and soup supper for the Lenten season. Join us for a light meal of soup and snacks, followed by a Bible study on Jesus' life in first century Palestine. The study will feature a thirty minute video followed by discussion questions. Soup is served at 6:30pm and we conclude our Bible study by 8pm each week. Studies began February 21st and continue through March. If you have to miss a week, don't worry because each week is independent of other weeks; but you will miss some good soup and fellowship!



The Future of the UMC

I've been avoiding the beginning of this column for as long as possible, but now it is time for our two congregations to begin discussing how we proceed into the future of the UMC. As many of you have noticed, there is a great divide in our church that has been brewing for 40 years and will likely come to an end next February. The debate has taken many forms, but basically crystalized around homosexuality and same-sex marriage. While the Book of Discipline forbids both practices, many have violated the provisions and discipline has been non-existent. The Bishops have now proposed two solutions, both of which will likely split the church.

That said, Dells-Delton and Davis Corners need to determine their own future regardless of what the denomination, the US church and the Wisconsin Conference all decide to do. So, I invite you to talk with each other and members of your Administrative Council to let them know your thoughts, concerns and questions. In the coming months we will begin discussing the issues and implications to our churches as the national and international bodies try to figure out what choices they will present to us.

The good news is that we have time. Nothing (if anything) will be decided before February 2019, and then there will be time for us to respond to whatever General Conference proposes. But let's be prepared by thinking this through and planning how to continue our ministries into the future.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is here! It began on Valentine's Day which seemed very odd to me, and I've been thinking about that for the last few weeks. Ash Wednesday seems like a "down" kind of a day in the church year; after all it is about repentance, sack cloth and ashes... right? And it is.

And I was thinking about Valentine's Day, with all of its happiness, flowers and romance. It is a time of renewing a relationship and celebrating time spent together. It is a time of celebration and hope that seems to be completely opposed to Ash Wednesday. But it seems that it is not...

I realized while thinking about all the things Ash Wednesday means to me, one of the things it is about is a relationship being celebrated. While it is all those other things, the sorrow and repentance, it is also a time of celebrating a God who does not turn away from us. So we begin our Lenten season by turning back toward the One who loves us.

Lent is a season of us restoring our relationship and returning to our first love. That's not always an easy thing for us to do because we are fascinated by a number of things around us. But that too is what Lent is about. We thin things out, give up some of the noise or comfort, and spend some extra time working on our relationship instead of spending that time doing those other things. It is a season of focusing on our relationship with God. What better day to start than on Valentine's Day.

So, are we working on our relationship or was it just one day filled with flowers (or ashes)? We still have a month to prepare our hearts as we approach that fateful week that ends Jesus' life. The people of His day knew the importance of relationship. Their communities depended on it. They lived, ate and travelled as extended families. The training model for rabbis depended on a deep relationship between student and teacher. Jesus had a close relationship to His disciples, family and friends.

But God was distant. The Law kept Him out of reach and the rabbis and traditions of the church reminded everyone how far they were from Him. But the cross of Christ is approaching. We know He has removed the separation and called us back into His presence. So it's time for us to move. Time to work on our relationship with God. Time to make it a priority so that we too move closer in our relationship because He is waiting for us.

Peace and Blessings!

Pastor Lee

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday this month. We hope we have all of the birthdays on the calendar. Please let us know if we've missed anyone.

**Additions, Corrections or Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to: news@wisconsinindellsumc.org