WEEKLY EVENTS

- Worship Services
  9:00 AM Sunday — Davis Corners
  10:45 AM Sunday — Dells/Delton
- Bible Studies
  1:00 PM Tuesday — Davis Corners
  10:00 AM Thursday — Dells/Delton

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

May 2019
Newsletter
Pastor Lee Bushweiler
Office Phone: (608) 253-6511
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Our Stewardship

Digital Donations

We recently changed our online giving partner to reduce our monthly costs but still give our congregation and guests the chance to support our ministries with donations. Our new partner is Givelify and we have donations for both churches in one place. Feel free to check out new giving page on our website or use your phone to scan the little QR code in the bulletin that looks like this —>

You can make a one-time donation to either church, third Sunday missions, our Bible trail or something else you would like to support. You can also set donations on a schedule to make sure you don’t forget or for when you are on vacation. We wish our bills would stop coming when you’re away, but they don’t. In any case, the churches thank you for your generous support and hope this tool allows others to participate with you.

We hope this new giving system will be useful for you and also for our guests.

Please do take a look and let us know if anything needs to be corrected or improved.

Thank You for Your Participation in Missions

This month, the 3rd Sunday mission offerings will be taken on February 17th. The Davis Corners congregation will be collecting for the Salvation Army and the Dells-Delton congregation will be collecting for Umcor this month. Please support these worthwhile partner ministries with your additional offering as we work together to bless and care for the communities around us and those much less fortunate.

Please continue to bring items for the Holy Cross and Dells/Delton United Methodist combined pantry donations. This month we are collecting dish soap 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
Winding Rivers UMC Receives UMCOR Grant

Winding Rivers United Methodist Church has been participating in the Juneau County flood relief and recovery efforts since day 1. They assisted with shelter, distributed supplies, and hosted Early Response Teams. As the situation changed from a relief effort to a recovery effort, they became more organized with community partners and have now accepted to lead recovery efforts. Throughout this process, the Wisconsin Conference Disaster Response Committee has been supporting the efforts with knowledge, flood buckets, Early Response Teams, finances, communication with UMCOR, and inviting UMCOR to train the Disaster Case Managers.

UMCOR has approved a grant to Winding Rivers UMC for just under $1.1 million dollars to assist with the flood recovery efforts.

Court OKs exit plan (from UMNS)

In Decision 1379, the Judicial Council reviewed an amended version of Petition 90066, one of the petitions designed to provide “a gracious exit” for local churches that want to leave the denomination. It has determined that any General Conference legislation permitting such an exit must meet three minimum requirements:

- Approval of the disaffiliation resolution by a two-thirds majority of the professing members of the local church present and voting at the church conference.
- Establishment of the terms and conditions, including the effective date, of the agreement between the annual conference and the exiting local church by the conference board of trustees in accordance with applicable church law and civil laws.
- Ratification of the disaffiliation agreement by a simple majority of the members of the annual conference present and voting.

The amended version of Petition led to the creation of a new paragraph, 2553, in The Discipline. That paragraph deals specifically with the “limited right” to disaffiliate for reasons related to church law on homosexuality. That new paragraph “satisfies the first two conditions” for the disaffiliation legislation while a provision elsewhere in The Discipline “supplies the missing requirement” for annual conference action, the court ruled.

“When taken together with the consent of the annual conference pursuant to Paragraph 2529.1(b)(3), Petition 90066 as amended meets all three requirements and is constitutional and provides a means for the disaffiliation of a local church,” said Decision 1379. The court also modified its ruling “with respect to the disaffiliation of a local church” in Decision 1377.
The United Methodist Church’s top court has found that while some provisions of the newly adopted Traditional Plan remain unconstitutional, the rest of the plan is valid as church law. In a separate ruling, legislation to provide an exit strategy for local churches wishing to leave the denomination meets three minimum requirements and thus is constitutional “when taken together with the consent of the annual conference” as specifically outlined in the Book of Discipline, the court said.

Three amended petitions that were ruled unconstitutional still would allow the Council of Bishops to place any bishop on involuntary leave “in the retired relationship with or without their consent” without a specific right to appeal. Petition 90038, which requires the board of ordained ministry to “conduct an examination to ascertain whether an individual is a practicing homosexual,” also is unconstitutional, as well as petitions which require annual conferences to make certifications related to homosexuality or face financial penalties.

The commitment from the respondent not to repeat an action or actions, also remains unconstitutional, the court said. The first part of Petition 90045 — “Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the church and other parties to the complaint” — is constitutional, the court said in Decision 1378, along with seven other Traditional Plan petitions that “can be upheld independently.”

The court upheld sections of the law that include prohibitions dealing with consecrating LGBTQ bishops or ordaining gay clergy, as well petitions setting timelines and requirements on just resolutions. The court also upheld mandatory minimum penalties of a year’s suspension without pay for the first offense and termination of conference membership and church credentials for a second offense.

Bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed homosexuals, and commissioning or ordaining those determined to be self-avowed homosexuals. Any person who does not meet the ordination qualifications found in Paragraph 304.1-3 cannot be certified as candidates for ministry, ordained or appointed.

The Traditional Plan legislation the court held constitutional will take effect in the U.S. church Jan. 1, 2020. In Africa, Europe and the Philippines, the legislation will take effect 12 months after the next General Conference in May 2020. The disaffiliation petition, 90066, goes into effect immediately.

Terrorism in all its forms and functions is unacceptable and indefensible. The bombings on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka are heinous acts of cowardice and terrorism. I call upon all my Christian brothers and sisters to join in mourning and prayer for the victims and their families. Additionally, I call upon our Wisconsin Conference to become a witness for peace, refusing to condone violence in any form, and seeking in all ways to extend love, grace, forgiveness, and merciful justice throughout our world. This is a heartbreaking and senseless tragedy for Easter Sunday, but we are a people of resurrection and new life. May we pray God’s Spirit be with the people of Sri Lanka.
Dinner Meeting to Focus on UMC Future

Friday evening, June 14, during the 2019 Annual Conference dinner break, Wisconsin UMs can hear from one of the Western Jurisdiction (WJ) leaders in the current dialog seeking to discern what new thing God may be seeking to birth. Rev. Mary K. Huycke will speak on Future Possibilities for The United Methodist Church: a Western Jurisdiction Perspective.

The Rev. Huycke, a clergy member of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, currently serves as superintendent of the 7 Rivers District based in Yakima, Washington. She was the annual conference’s clergy delegate to the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences. Mary remains actively engaged in conversations within the Western Jurisdiction about a future generous expression of Methodism. She is a member of the WJ Leadership Team and chairs the jurisdiction’s Committee on the Episcopacy.

The outcome of General Conference 2019 has generated uncertainty and questions across the denomination over what the future holds for United Methodism. Voices within the WJ have made it clear that they remain committed to a church fully inclusive and open to all God’s children across the theological and social spectrum.

This event will be at First United Methodist Church, 501 Howe St., Green Bay (approximately 6 blocks south of the KI Convention Center). Starting at 5:00 pm, it will end in time for attendees to return for the evening Laity and Clergy sessions. The dinner is sponsored by the Wisconsin United Methodist Federation for Social Action, and will include presentation of the 2019 Perry Saito Awards.

"Millions and millions of Americans are literally intoxicated with sports. Sports are no longer a great American pastime: they are now a great American obsession." — Chuck Baldwin
**Dells-Delton Outreach**

Save the date of June 8, 2019—we are going to have a pie social, with barbecue and chips, piece of pie and beverage for 5.00. We will be asking members if anyone is able to donate a pie or two. We will sell whole pies remaining and invite everyone to walk our bible path. We all look forward to working with you again on this project, and thank you for all you do for us and the church.

**Alter Flowers and Hospitality at 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 for 2019.

**Dells-Delton UMW**

Our annual Salad Luncheon is Thursday, May 2, 2019. We are asking all church members to help in this endeavor, where to contribute a salad, dessert or in the kitchen that day. We will also need help with the set-up and clean-up so please help in anyway that you can.

We will meet next at noon on June 5th for our member spring luncheon; location yet to be determined.

**Kitchen Project Update**

We are waiting on working drawings for the updates to our kitchen. Once the Corporation Board reviews these plans, we will make them available for the congregations to see what we hope to accomplish. Once we have the plans, we will put everything out for bid and hope to be on contractors’ schedules by late summer. Please contact a member of the Corporation Board if you have questions.

**Fellowship Sunday**

Fellowship Sunday is May 26th. Dells-Delton will be gathering at Spring Brook.

**Bible Path**

Any physical or monetary help with the Bible path would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dave Nelson or Pastor Lee if you are able to assist in any way. We will begin work once the snow leaves.
Davis Corners UMW News

Our April UMW meeting was held at the home of Jan Thompson. Items that were discussed were UMW Sunday and a date/time for cleaning the hall in April. A big Thank You to all the ladies that were able to come and clean the hall on April 17th.

We want to thank Jan for making the yummy meal and dessert and for opening up her home to us.

The next UMW meeting will be on Monday, May 6th at the church hall. Please note that the meeting will be at 6:00 pm, with my Mom and I being joint hostesses. A yummy snack will be served after the meeting.

Until then
God Bless

Bonnie J. Stratton
UMW President

Weekly Bible Studies

We welcome one and all to our weekly Tuesday afternoon Bible Study at 1:00 PM at Davis Corners and Thursday morning Bible Study at 10:00 AM at Dells-Delton. Check your schedule and see if you can make some time to join us to learn and understand the Bible. Ask Pastor or one of the congregants to find out which book we are currently studying.

Spring Cleanup at Dells-Delton

We will be having a Spring Cleanup Day of the Dells-Delton campus on Saturday, May 11th beginning at 9am. We will join with members of Holy Cross to do some cleaning of the grounds, so that the outdoor area is ready to be enjoyed. Please come and help on Saturday, or anytime before Mother's Day, so that our outdoor areas can be enjoyed.

"The way to love anything is to realize that it might be lost." — G.K. Chesterton
Council Meeting

Nov. 11, 2018

Attending: Pastor Lee, Anita Copper, Kathy Radcliff, Bob Spargo, Kathy Spargo, Bob Steinweg, Dave Nelson, Michelle Bushweiler

Minutes: Moved to accept by Anita, seconded by Kathy R. Passed.

Treasurers Report: We are better financially than we have been for a few years. Davis Corners is also in the black financially. Motion to accept by Kathy R, seconded by Anita. Passed.

Old Business: The charge conference went well, the paperwork is all done, and everything looks good.

New Business: People should fill out their reports and give them to Pastor.

Outreach: We had a wonderful, successful pancake supper. Monks at the Wilderness donated all the sausages and ham. The prayer box will be finished soon.

Finance: Did not meet.

Building Corp: The design for the kitchen is ready, and will look at the problem of the water supply to the kitchen. Rain guards are needed over several doors and will be check into. They will look into adding a ramp to the door beside the organ. Exit lights have been added. They will also look at a tree leaning toward the building.

Worship: Will set Lent and Advent services.

UMW: They had good feedback from UMW Sunday. They are changing the treasurer's position. The Christmas luncheon, Wed. Dec. 5, will be at Monks at the Wilderness.

Pastor's Report: Nothing to report.

Next Meeting: Feb. 10

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Spargo, sec.
NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

It has been a busy and trying few months for many of us. There has been interesting weather, with the snow and rain you almost expect in Wisconsin. There have been several funerals for long time fixtures and others we have never met. The have been challenges and frustrations at the Conference and Denominational levels with the future of our larger church.

I have heard many present the argument that we are not doing what Jesus would do, and they are correct up to a point. Jesus knew what He was doing because He is God, but we too have been given the Holy Spirit, so we too can approach His wisdom if we are willing to listen.

I hear the argument time and time again that “great harm” has been done to those who wish the rules of our church would change. I have also heard many say that Jesus would do no harm, but that argument is made by those with no understanding. It is true, Jesus would not break a bruised reed. But it is also true that He confronted nearly everyone, including religious leaders.

There was a woman He met at a well. He didn’t pity her understanding of Scripture or her multiple relationships. Instead, He corrected her on both counts - telling her that worship is not done on mountains and she was not living with a husband. A rich man who came asking for eternal life was told to sell all his possessions, and it drove him away. Nicodemus comes asking about the kingdom, and when he struggles with being born again, Jesus asks how he can be so ignorant. A woman caught in adultery is told to sin no more.

Jesus never compromised holiness, and neither should we. His greatest admonitions were for those who thought they had arrived; they thought they had conquered sin. Christians should know better. We have not been repaired; we have only been redeemed. God gives us the Spirit so that we have a voice within us, but we still need to listen and obey.

The Methodist denomination has not changed its historic beliefs, but God does not change either. Jesus could have declared God’s Law abolished, but He declared that not even the smallest part would pass away. We should not be surprised. Following God was never supposed to be easy; it has always depended on us giving up our rights and following what He has declared to be right. My hope is that we will always look to Christ’s handling of the truth of Scripture. We are works in progress, and have far to go... but we are all in this together as brothers and sisters.

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@wisconsindellsumc.org