THE Journey

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2019 *Serving since 1859!* **Wisconsin Rapids, WI**

Just Joshin'

My grandfather taught me a few things about the Bible. One of the first that I remember is a simple trick to find the Book of Psalms. He told me to take the Bible and open up to the middle. Nine times out of ten you'll land in the Book of Psalms.

I think it's fitting that Psalms is in the middle of the Bible. It's right there in the middle of God's story of his relationship with his people, and a big part of relationships are conversations. It is in the Psalms where we find all sorts of conversations between God's people and God.

These aren't just superficial conversations that are taking place in this book. Yes, we may fall into the rhythm of these superficial conversations in our lives. We don't want to share too much with our friends, or even family. And sometimes, this spills over into our conversations with God. I believe that God still understands our sometimes feeble attempts to talk with him, but we could be more honest — both with ourselves and with God. The Psalms give us a great example of this as some of the writers confess their sins, express doubts and fears, ask God for help, and praise God for the great things he has done.

Psalm 61 is one of these as the psalmist prays for security and assurance.

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations. May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day."

Wherever we are, we can trust that God will be there to answer our cries for help. Even when we may find ourselves in uncertain surroundings, we know that God is our rock and his strength will always be with us. But, we must first go to God in these times of need. We must be willing to humble ourselves in order to raise ourselves up and give God the glory that he deserves.

If we don't put in the time and effort with God, we may miss out on his wonderful blessings. How are we striving to honor God each and every day? How are we seeking to glorify God's kingdom? After all, we are created in God's image, shouldn't we seek to glorify him?

There are many lessons to be learned from the psalmists. There's a lot of encouragement and hope to be gained from reading these beautiful texts. But, if we're not willing to come before God, humble ourselves, and be who he has created us to be, we too may miss out on the great blessings of God.

Pastor Josh

SWEPS gratefully acknowledges and thanks us for our generous donation of $46.00 in the month of September. This will be used to purchase needed food and hygiene items for the families they serve. SWEPS services over 1350 people each month in over 525 households.

The Neighborhood Table sends their thanks for sponsoring the October 10th meal. 225 meals were served that evening (67 to-go's and 158 in house). Their mission is to reduce hunger in our community and improve the quality of life for neighbors in need can only be met because of our s support and hard work.

Wisdom Seekers
Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

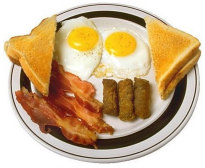
Nar-Anon
Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

Weight Watchers
Every Saturday 8:30 am

Narcotics Anonymous
Meets each day of the week as follows:
Monday's 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday's 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday's 7:00 p.m.
Thursday's 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S GROUP

Come for Breakfast on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 8:00 a.m. All are Welcome!



United Methodist Women

Welcome to November. It seems this year has taken wings and flew by. November always reminds me of Thanksgiving and how much we have be thankful for. UMW wise, I am very thankful for the ladies who have agreed to continue as officers and our new Secretary! I do want to express my deepest appreciation for our current Secretary Jean Michaels who has served faithfully and has decided to step down.

Our next meeting is coming up on November 10. We will have a program, installation of officers and a very short business meeting. Also, if you have monies for your pledge you can bring it to the meeting. I will try to get a map of all the places our pledges go. I saw it at the Annual Gathering that was held 10/19 in Black River Falls.

Dates and events to keep in mind are: December 1st we will be the hostesses of the coffee fellowship time and December 8th will be our Pop-up Bazaar. Also, if someone knows of a Christmas concert or event we can as a group bring your idea(s) to the November meeting!

On a State level, Mission U is changing and from what I have been a part of and what I heard ladies saying at the Gathering, this change may be a good change. Instead of a 4 day Mission U and a one day overview it will change into three separate events and in three different parts of the state. Tentatively Oconomowoc for a Friday pm and Saturday event, locally for us at the Hotel Mead for a full two days and then in Eau Claire for a Friday and Saturday event. As the dates and locations are confirmed I will let you know. Please consider attending Mission U. It has some great studies an the fellowship with other faithful women is awesome.

The studies for Mission U are: (Spiritual growth) Finding Peace in the midst of anxiety, (geographic) Women United for Change - 150 years of Mission, and (social issue) Mass Incarceration: School to Prison pipeline. The study book for the social issue is already available if you'd like to read the book early.

And as always, the reading program is available and has some interesting books on the list. I recently bought "We are all fast-food workers now" The global uprising against poverty wages. It is interesting!

I am looking forward to seeing you November 10th!

Cindy

Mission Notes

Noisy Collection
November 10th, 2019 for
Melisa and SWEPS Holiday Food Baskets

SWEPS will be putting together Holiday Food Baskets! A list will be available soon of the needed items!

Special Sunday Offering for UM Student Day is Sunday, November 24th an envelope will be available in that weeks bulletin!!

In December we will be participating in Toys for Tots. A collection box and information will be located outside the church office area.

Our church is a partner with Love INC; we are one of 15 area churches in partnership with them. The purpose of Love INC is "to mobilize Christian Churches to work in unity to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ."

The needs are many, and many people have needs. For example, in May the top needs were: Financial Assistance - 15; Service Needs - 10; Material Needs - 2; Transportation - 1. As one of the volunteers to Love INC stated, "We are on a journey with people, doing God's work and sharing God's love."

Find much more information about Love INC on the bulletin board in our narthex, at their website, and on Facebook.

Pastor Josh
Jean Michaels

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

2 - Mike Sloat
3 - Shirley Sering
3 - Kevin Huiras
6 - Janet Hansen
8 - Matthew Hansen
9 - Kathryn Ritter
11 - Gregory Fletcher
12 - Harry Calverley
12 - Fred Kronenberg
13- Wayne Sering
16 - Julie Dresen
17 - Myrna Langowski
17 - Tami Drew-Huiras
19 - Glen Harper
20 - John Metzger
22 - Wendy Schwartz
30 - Bruce Williams
30 - Alexandria Williams

Happy Anniversary

7 - Jim & Judy Seegert
23 - Bill & Shirley Carpenter

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the wrong date, please let us know so we can make the necessary corrections to our records. Thank you.

Prayer Calendar

1 - John & Judy Steele
2 - Colleen Stevenson
3 - Mike & Lynn Swanson
4 - Diane Swiggum
5 - Mike & Ruth Topp
6 - Cindy Tyjeski
7 - Tom & Sara Tyne
8 - Frances Waite
9 - Fay Whitley
10 - Scott & Deb Whitney
11 - Bruce, Jenny, Kaylee, Jaylee, Tristan & Alexandria Williams
12 - Janet Winn
13 - Audrey Wittenberg
14 - Mark & Rhonda Wittenberg
15 - David Wittenberg
16 - Marcia Wright
17 - Jamie Wright
18 - Bill & Pauline Anderson
19 - Steven & Susan Andrews
20 - Elizabeth Anhalt
21 - Jeff & Cathy Anhalt
22 - Paula Baeurle
23 - Wendy Baierl
24 - Ed, Jamie & Abigail Barker
25 - Cassandra Bartram, Ryan & Wyatt
26 - Dan & Tina Bartram
27 - Joan Benner
28 - Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
29 - Ben, Jenny & Bronson Brawders
30 - Kenneth & Susanne Brzezinski

Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:
Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**
Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)
Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**

For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

Matthew 16:15-16

"But what about you?," Jesus asked. :who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

I wonder what we would say if Jesus asked us this question. Would we be bold and answer as Peter did? I believe we probably would answer that way if Christ asked us privately - when no one was listening. But how would we answer if a non-Christian acquaintance or stranger asked us, "Who do you say Jesus is?" Would we boldly proclaim his as Christ, the Lord of our lives? Or would we hesitate and consider who was asking and what they would think of us? Are we proud of our relationship with Christ? Do we wonder if we will have to change our style of living if we proclaim Christ as Lord and live up to being Christian?

I cannot answer these questions for you. I can only pry that I would be bold and confident enough to claim Christ as the Son of God and my personal Savior. Give this some thought and pray God gives you the courage to stand boldly proclaiming him as your Lord and Savior.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you know I love you and walk with you, please give me the courage to let others know your love and what it means to me. Thank you for that love. In your name I pray. Amen

The United Methodist Church
441 Garfield Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715-423-8860
umc@wctc.net

Pastor Joshua Pegram

To the people of Wisconsin Rapids UMC,

I am pleased to report, as of mid September, here is where we stand financially for 2019.

Pledge Giving Received:

January 1 - August 31, 2018	$90,875
January 1 - August 31, 2019	$98,328

We have not withdrawn any money from the "Pastor's Fund". The balance remains at $10,125.

We have paid our Conference Apportionments 100% to date.

We have withdrawn at a 5% annual rate from our funds at Conference. The amount transferred to our local account is $9,450 to date.

Weight Watchers has reduced the number of meetings held at our church, so our rental income is down slightly. The Neighborhood Table continues to utilize our facilities.

Total Giving and Income to date:	$126,200
Funds from Conference:	$ 9,450
Total:	$135,650
Total Expenses to date:	$135,675

The financial markets have performed well! Our funds at Conference have increased in value, even though we have withdrawn $9,450.

We are in the final stages of remodeling our bathrooms. We have paid $4,050 toward this project so far. Once we have the total costs, I will report the amount to you. Hopefully the Congregation can help by funding some of the remaining costs with a one time gift.

Sincerely,

John Steele
Finance Committee Chairmen

November 1

9 - 11:00 am COH

November 5

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 6

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

November 7

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

November 11

4:30 pm - Trustees
5:00 pm - TNT Meeting

November 12

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

November 13

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

November 14

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

November 18

5:00 pm - TNT Meeting
6:00 pm - Finance Meeting
6:30 pm - Council Meeting

November 19

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

November 20

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

November 21

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

November 26

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

November 27

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

November 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Church Office Hours
The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. and closed on Fridays. Other times as needed.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Church Office Phone
715-423-8860
Pastor Joshua's Phone No.
Cell: 920-896-3976

E-mail Addresses
Church Office: umc@wctc.net
Pastor Joshua: joshuapegram3@gmail.com

Church Website
www.umcwr.org

Sunday Services
9:00 am - UMC Worship Service
10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship

The Neighborhood Table
The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.