

PASTOR JOHN'S PAPER BLOG



COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
14700 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD, ELM GROVE, WI 53122

THE WELCOME WORD

As most of you know, this coming Summer I will be “retiring” from a responsibility that I have held since the summer of 1975. I hesitate to use the word “job” because I have always thought of what I do as more than simply something one does for pay and I am often uncomfortable with the word “retire” because I don’t know how you retire from a responsibility that is (in a large part) something that God expects from all of the followers of Jesus.

As a person goes through the process of entering pastoral ministry the word that surfaces over and over again is “call” and I think it is important that those of us who do what I have been doing for forty plus years be convinced that God is calling them to this task. In fact, over the years I have said to a number of candidates for pastoral ministry that they shouldn’t do it unless they are convinced that God won’t let them do anything else.

I have met pastors over the years who sought out the pastoral office because they were looking for an opportunity to influence people, which always struck me as being more about power than it was about shepherding.

I have always believed that the work I do is fundamentally about responsibility; a responsibility to faithfully teach the word; a responsibility to faithfully model sacrificial living and a responsibility to help people faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Along with that I have always believed that when we all stand before God’s great judgement throne (and all of us will be there one day) that I will be, to some degree, held accountable for how you have lived your life of faith. In that sense, you are part of the burden that I have always been asked to bear. I’m not complaining; it comes with the territory.

One of the things that I have said more often lately (and I’m always afraid that it sounds a bit self-serving) is that it is harder to do pastoral ministry now than it has ever been. The world we live in today is a far, far different place than it was forty plus years ago. We have lost that innate sense that we need to be a part of a worshipping community. We have become more convinced that each of us has to find our own brand of truth. We have decided that there are a lot of things that are more important than learning and reinforcing Christian values. We have little time for things that don’t have immediate benefit and all of these changes have shaped our lives and have made the work we do as followers of Jesus a lot more complicated.

Here’s my point. Most of the things that I have been called to do, YOU have been called to do as well. Your life (as a follower of Jesus) has always been about responsibility. You have been “called” to be engaged in the word so you can

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faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Way back in the first century, the Apostle Paul was writing to ordinary people who called themselves followers of Jesus and one of the things he said to them was this ...

***"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2**

Everybody else; every other member of the body of Christ is YOUR responsibility and that never changes. We all might one day decide to retire from a job (or we already have) but we (none of us) can ever retire from God's call upon our lives. Reaching this complicated world with the message of forgiveness and new life in Christ is not someone else's responsibility. It belongs to you.

So, we need to be clear about this one thing; we will always be God's servants. Until the day we die we will always carry this responsibility. Think about it ... John

p.s. In this issue of the Welcome Word you will find a special Easter Offering Envelope. The money you contribute this year will go to support a program in Milwaukee known as "Pathfinders." Pathfinders, *"empowers youth confronted by homelessness, crisis, or trauma to be safe and connected in order to develop a path towards self-sufficiency, healthier families, and a stronger community."* Please give generously.

Attention All Singers!!

Special Music Sunday – May 13, 2018

First Rehearsal: March 28, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room

Instead of a cantata, this spring's special music offering will be a collection of spirituals and scripture readings. This amazing genre of music is so inspirational; not only due to the beautiful soulful music, but also for the lessons to be learned. As usual, we will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. We will also have a special soloist joining us; Angela Mortellaro.

Your voice is needed to help raise the roof right off this sanctuary! Rehearsals are every Wednesday night and everyone is welcome. Simply contact our Director of Music, Martnie Mortellaro, for more information. Come and join in the fun of singing God's praises! martnie@cumceg.org 262 782-4060

Youth Choir Schedule

January – May 2018

Sunday, February 25 Youth Choir: 8:30 Service
Special Music Sunday, May 13: 8:30 & 11:00
Sunday, May 20 Confirmation Service: 8:30

Special Music Sunday Dress Rehearsal: 9:00
Saturday, May 12

Rehearsals every Sunday evening at 5:30

Except:

March 11

Palm Sunday: March 25

Easter Sunday: April 1

April 8

April 22

Last Youth Choir rehearsal: May 6



Children's Choir Schedule

Children's Choir will meet Sundays 9:45-10:15 on
2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25.

They will sing in worship at 11:00 on 3/11.

On Palm Sunday, March 25, the children will present a drama enacting the last week of Christ's life called the **Easter Story in Tableau**. We have done this twice before; it is a very powerful drama. Parts will be assigned, so if your child is participating, please let Martnie know. martnie@cumceg.org



MARCH WORSHIP
Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Pastor John Wells preaching except as noted

March 4 - Communion

God Is Merciful

Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 19

Music:

8:30 Chancel Choir

11:00 Praise Team

March 11 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

Jesus Is Worthy of Our Commitment

Mark 8:31-38; Psalm 107

Music:

8:30 Soloist

11:00 Praise Team & Children's Choir

March 18 - Pastor Karen Klatt preaching

God Deserves Our Sincere Worship

John 2:13-22; Psalm 51:1-17

Music:

8:30 Soloist

11:00 Chancel Choir

March 25 - Palm Sunday

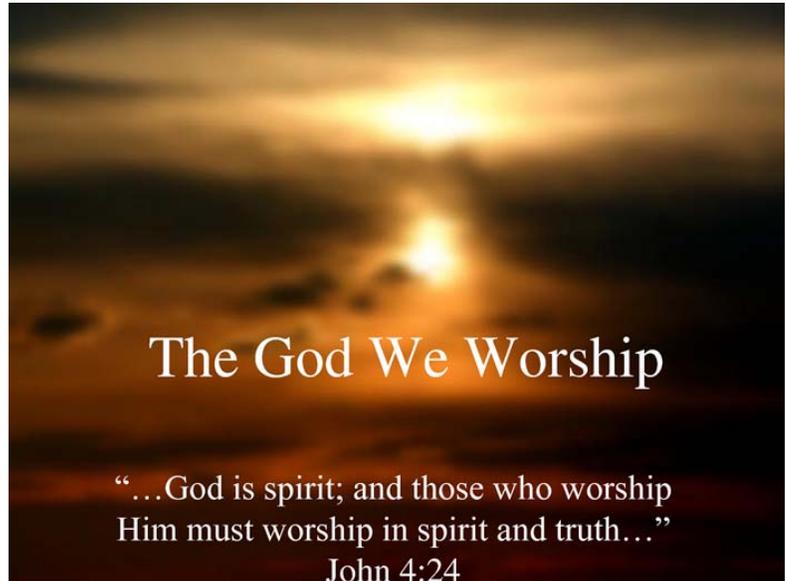
Our Praise Honors Jesus

Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 40

Music:

8:30 Clarion Bells

11:00 Chancel, Children's & Cherub Choirs



IN THE SPIRIT

By Mel Johnson

*Faith is essentially this ...
to hold fast to possibility.*
Soren Kierkegaard

This morning I am writing by flashlight on our lanai in Florida. It is early and still pitch-black outside; longer days have yet to arrive. The full moon is sliding over the horizon to the west with Venus following close behind. Palm fronds are barely moving in the whispery breeze. The first voice I hear is an owl, then a large bird of some sort, most likely a great blue heron. As I enjoy this time I realize that the time has come for me to turn my writing thoughts to the outdoors for the months ahead. It is with gratitude that I begin to do just that.

Lent is turning into Easter, sorrow over Good Friday to joy on Easter, bare ground to crocus covered, and snowy days to rainy ones. Throughout my entire life, I have rarely been in my home church for Easter. First it was Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison where I was baptized, confirmed and married. Then this church where much of our family was baptized and both daughters were married. Most years I have been somewhere in the south leaving me with little knowledge of what Easter looks like in Wisconsin. In the south the services are festive, spring finery abounds and joy seems to leap through the air. Easter in the south is a fancy occasion with flowers, sunlight and warm temperatures. And I remember that Jesus' first appearance was in a garden. Was he a gardener? Of course. Throughout his all too brief life Jesus was a sower of seeds, the guardian of our souls, and our hope for eternity.

Easter is calling our names. We have spent our 40 days plus Sundays. Now even the weather in Wisconsin cannot dampen our joy. We are renewed and ready for this new beginning, for spring's unfolding, for all that is yet to be. Alleluia! He is risen just as he said. Unbelievable? Maybe. But I choose to believe! I hold fast to possibility. Amen.

Your church is here to help!
Would you like a visit? Do you know someone who would find a visit helpful? Would you like to be a visitor?



Pastor Karen and CUMC members make home and hospital visits, offering listening, prayer and communion. Pastor Karen can be contacted at 414-852-6782 or revkklatt@gmail.com.



Our Condolences to:

The family of Diane Sargent following the passing of her mother on January 9

church library 
Community United Methodist

Attention home library "spring cleaners!"

Thanks to all the small group members and Sunday School students who responded to our August request for donations of participant books from your home bookshelves. Kellen's former office has been repainted, and group study sets (DVDs, leader guides, and multiple copies of companion books) are ready to be checked out as "book club" items - so sometimes you won't have to buy yet another participant book! If you missed the fall "clean-out," here are books we're still looking for; and lightly underlined or highlighted is fine for most would-be borrowers ...

GENERAL:

- 24 Hours That Changed the World
- Bad Girls of the Bible
- Confronting the Controversies
- Creed
- Final Words From the Cross
- Forgiveness
- Half Truths
- The Gospel of John (Witherington)
- The Gospel of Mark (Johnson)
- John: The Gospel of Light and Life

- Making Sense of the Bible
- The Purpose-Driven Life
- Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It
- Who Is This Man?
- The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus
- Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It
- You'll Get Through This

CONFIRMATION books that are out of print:

- The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith
- Handbook of the Christian Faith

ADVENT books:

- Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope
- Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem
- The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem
- Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam
- Under Wraps



Please leave books in the donation bin next to the checkout desk in the library and we'll take it from there! THANKS SO MUCH, and be sure to stop by the new group study room to browse ...

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20



OLDER | WISER | LIVELIER | SENIORS

Up-Coming Events:

March 15: 11:30 am socialize in Fellowship Hall followed by lunch at 12 noon. Rev. Karen Klatt will present her program **"Prison Congregations of America."** Reservation deadline is Monday, March 5.

Wednesday, April 18: Bus trip to the Third Ward. Lunch at *Merri-ment Social* followed by the matinee performance of **"I and You"** at *Next Act Theatre*. Reservation deadline is Monday, March 26.

May 17: Bus trip to **"West of Milwaukee."** The trip includes a tour of the *Octagon House* in Watertown and a program at the *Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium* at Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha. Lunch will be enjoyed at the *Oconomowoc Lake Club*. Reservation deadline is Monday, April 9.

Check the OWLS bulletin board in the office hallway for more details on these and other upcoming programs or download them online from our website, www.cumceg.org.

THE CARD MINISTRY WOULD LOVE NEW MEMBERS

Easter is coming very soon and we would love new members to help make our Easter cards for our members who need a little cheer.

The Card Ministry meets the 3rd Monday of the month from 6-8 pm in the Disciple Room. We will be making Easter cards and general use cards for the staff to use for folks who are experiencing a difficult time—illness, sympathy, or thinking of you or recognizing a special anniversary or new baby in the family.

Karen Onasch and Dianna Haugh will lead you through the process of making something lovely for someone else. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY AND THERE IS NO CHARGE! IT'S EASY AND FUN!**

This ministry is very much appreciated by those who receive these cards. And we have fun making the cards for our "family members."

Please join us on March 19 at 6 pm in the Disciple Room. Save the date to have some fun and be creative.



I AM IN NEED OF A FEW SMALL GROUPS TO SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING IN APRIL

Is your small group looking for new members? Sign up to bring treats for Coffee Hour this spring and advertise your group to let our congregation know what your group is all about!

Each group is asked to host 2 Sundays during the year (maybe 3 if necessary). The hope is that new people will be bringing treats and meeting new people through the Coffee Hour time.

Your group does not need to set up or clean up—just provide **9 DOZEN** treats for the 9:30 am coffee hour by 9:15 am on Sunday morning. You could bring them earlier in the week and leave them **in the refrigerator** in Fellowship Hall clearly marked for coffee hour.

We need small groups to volunteer for a couple of Sunday's beginning in April.

Thanks so much to all those who have so generously and frequently helped with this welcoming ministry in the past years. Your treats have been very much appreciated.

Let's advertise our small groups and let folks know what we do and why we do what we do.

If your small group is interested, please call Dianna Haugh at 262-782-8774 or email dmhaugh2@gmail.com. Thanks so much!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!





QUARTERLY MISSION FOCUS: January, February and March

This first quarter we will focus on StreetLife Ministries/Friedens Community Ministries. Please watch for information about the long underwear and glove drive that we are doing in conjunction with BEGIN (on page 9). There will also be other opportunities for some hands on experiences. Will keep you all posted!

Streetlife: "As created equals, we provide and restore respect, hope and place in the community by providing access to resources to the under-served of Milwaukee one life at a time, and inspire and train others to do the same." Streetlife serves the homeless community and provides clothing, food and other needs. Streetlife works directly with the folks living on the street and touches the lives of those who need help.

Please consider helping out their mission. Join a group one night in Milwaukee, make a donation, put your loose coins into the collection plate every week. So many ways to get involved.

Questions: go.missions.cumceg@gmail.com

Friedens Community Ministries: "Friedens Community Ministries, Inc. is a network of food pantries building ladders of peace throughout Milwaukee. We believe that a dependable supply of food is a means of bringing hope and dignity to our community."

At Friedens we bring together a team of people who donate food, finances, time, tears, and talent to help us make sure that people can access the food they desperately need. At the base of the ladder, we know that without food in ones cupboards one cannot have a real sense of peace. Our food pantry network is the base of what we do, our foundation. Yet we believe that if we can help people move up the rungs of the ladder at the same time we can make long term change. We do this by incorporating local individuals into our volunteer team ... into our community. Being a part of something more than themselves and tangibly helping others allows people to build job skills, gain a reliable reference, and even raise ones shoulders higher as they know they are making a difference in someone else's life."

Please consider helping. Volunteer in the food pantry, make a donation, put your loose coins into the collection plate every week. So many ways to get involved.

Food and Hygiene Drive for United Methodist Children's Services

The Family Resource Center of United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS) continues to need canned tuna and chicken, ravioli, pasta sauce, canned fruit, and healthy snacks (crackers, granola bars, nuts, etc.). Hygiene items such as toilet paper, deodorant, soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste are also requested. These items (and any others you would like to donate) may be left inside the bins in the entry way off the patio. They will be delivered monthly for you. ***In January 167# of food/hygiene items was taken to them*** ...they are appreciative of our support! Thanks for sharing with those in need.





Thanks be to God! The Brookfield-Elm Grove Inter-faith Network (BEGIN) winter clothing drive was a success! CUMC and eight local congregations collected 700 articles of clothing for StreetLife Communities. Thanks to all who purchased gloves, thermal underwear and other needed items. CUMC contributed two bushels of new clothing! We can continue our support of StreetLife and Friedens Communities through prayer and the first quarter loose coin offering. *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

—2 Corinthians 9: 11, NIV

The Gathering - Saturday, March 24

CUMC will be volunteering at The Gathering on State Street, 924 W. State St. where St. Ben's meal program is located. We would like 15 volunteers to join with another group to help prepare, serve, and clean-up after the noon meal. Plan to carpool from the Church at 9:30 am (or meet at the site at 10:00 am). There is a parking lot on the east side of the building. We should be finished between 1 and 1:30 pm to return to church. We would also like to take 20-25 dozen cookies, bars, etc. and 5 cans of coffee that day. Please bring these to the Church office before 2:00 pm on Friday. You may sign up on the volunteer board across from the Church office, on the Sunday sign-up slip in the bulletin, or call the church office.

If you have questions, contact Mike McBride (262-794-02400 or Teresa Trostmiller (414-259-1243). A great opportunity to help make changes and serve in our community!



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

Do you ever make a purchase from Amazon using the Internet? Your answer is likely to be "Yes" since over 240 million people throughout the world are Amazon customers. Would you like to make purchases from Amazon that also benefit Community United Methodist Church? Amazon has a Foundation, called the AmazonSmile Foundation, that quarterly makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of items purchased on-line through Amazon to the customer's selected charitable organization. Community United Methodist Church is an eligible charitable organization on AmazonSmile.

It is so easy to make this donation. First you have to use a special link to access Amazon which is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0891382>

Second, when first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to ensure the donation is made to our church, enter Community United Methodist Church Elm Grove WI. Then begin shopping on Amazon just as you have in the past. Make your purchase and 0.5% of the dollar value of that purchase will be used to support our church. Funds received will go to support our activities.

So easy and so beneficial, right? Please start using AmazonSmile on your next visit to Amazon. Thank you.



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JUNG - February 8

Forrest Wells moves from the North Central to the South East District to build upon the powerful legacy left by Deborah Thompson. "I celebrate and desire to continue a passionate mercy, justice, and mission focus that Rev. Deborah Thompson has brought. I will continue to work toward building positive, cooperative relationships between congregations, provide training and tools in vital leadership, and develop aggressive strategic plans to launch new ministries for new people that include all people. I am grateful to serve with good leaders on the cabinet and in the Conference, and look forward to continuing those relationships. I am humbled to serve the district from which I was sent forth in ministry from Kenosha: First, and in which I served three congregations, Whitewater: First, Racine: Trinity and Janesville: Cargill. Though my roots are deep in the district, I have much to learn about every clergy and congregation and community within the district. I am excited for the opportunities that surround us, and that lay ahead in the South East District and the Conference." Bishop Jung said, "After three years of North Central District formation, Forrest will bring much wide and deep, vital, and efficient leadership to the South East District.



SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM CASTING A VISION FOR CHRIST



Hello,

At a recent SLT meeting this past January, we discussed the future of our church. Pastor John shared an article titled "Recalibrate: 10 Steps Every Church Must Take This Year, Or Be Dead In A Decade" written by Kari Vaters from [Christianity Today](#) (January 2, 2018). So, this is fresh material. I am not going to reprint this article here. If you would like a copy, Pastor John or I would be more than happy to share it with you. Just ask.

The 10 Steps without description are:

- Reestablish the Biblical Essentials
- Emphasize Discipleship and Leadership Training
- Reduce Your Overhead
- Rethink Your Building
- Work with Strategic Partners
- Engage Your Community
- Emphasize Jesus Over Tradition (or Denominations, or Buildings, or Politics, or...)
- Restructure What Needs to Be Restructured
- Make Disciples, Not Just Converts
- Figure Out Why Your Congregation Should Survive

It was point #10 that struck me the most. Kari asks, "If your church disappeared tomorrow, what would really be lost?" She further states (quite frankly) "Yes, that's a hard question. It might even feel cruel and uncaring. But it's not. It's essential. Any congregation that can't readily answer why they should survive, won't."

WHAT would happen if our church disappeared tomorrow? How would you feel? What would you do?

Truly, the possibility of our church dying *has* crossed my mind. But how? Or more importantly, but why? *Why* should our congregation survive? A complex question for sure. Have you figured it out?

If we remain committed to Christ and come together, we can and will survive. It is essential. Now is the time.

What do you think? Any member of the SLT, Pastor John, or I would love to know what you think. Talk to us. We are here to hear from you, to know what you think. We're in a relationship together with you and Christ Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

David Griffin

Easter Flowers



Orders will be taken through March 16 for spring flowers which will be used to create a garden in our Chancel area on Easter Sunday. Proceeds will benefit Pathfinders. All flowers are \$10.00; lilies are white, geraniums are purple and all others come in assorted colors. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office. Flowers can be picked up after the 11:00 am Easter service.

Please make your check out to CUMC.

* * * * *

- I/we will provide _____ Easter Lily (\$10)
 _____ Asiatic Lily (asst. colors \$10)
 _____ Mums (asst. colors \$10)
 _____ Begonias (asst. colors \$10)
 _____ Geraniums (purple \$10)
 _____ Tulips (asst. colors \$10)

____ Donation to Pathfinders in lieu of flowers.

The bulletin should read (please print):

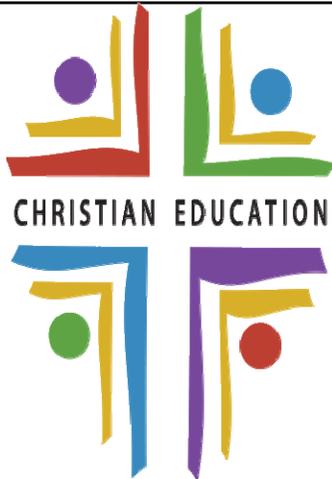
In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____



Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00 am
 Thursday, March 29 - Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm
 Friday, March 30 - Good Friday at noon
 Sunday, April 1 - Easter at 8:30 & 11:00 am



Christian Education News:

Sunday school (9:45-10:45)

February 4 – Jesus is all-powerful

February 11 – Jesus cares for us

February 18 – Turn to Jesus when we are afraid

February 25 – Jesus forgives us

**The Cherub Choir (3k, 4k and 5k) will sing at the 11:00 service
Hosanna choir (1st-5th grade), 9:45-10:15**

Vacation Bible School 2018

Vacation Bible School will be June 11-15!

Registration for 3 year olds through 5th grade

is now available online at vbspro.events/p/cumceg.



Volunteers Needed

Decorating will take place the week prior to VBS. We are looking for a team to help plan VBS and decorate beforehand. We also need adult and youth volunteers that week. Please prayerfully consider how you are called to participate in this fun summer event! Sign up to volunteer at vbspro.events/p/cumceg or call Karen Ranta at 262-782-4267 for more information.

AMAZING GRACE: HOW SWEET THE SOUND!

(A retreat for the season of Eastertide)

Friday, April 27

9:30 am - 3:00 pm

The dictionary defines grace as “the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God, the influence or spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them.” How do we live by grace? How do we listen for grace? During this season of Eastertide, come explore the possibilities of this mysterious entity called Amazing Grace.

Our retreat leader: Rev. Holly Whitcomb, a widely traveled retreat leader and spiritual director, is the founder of Kettlewood Retreats. She is the author of four books and is finishing up her fifth, *The Practice of Finding*, which will be published by Eerdmans.

Kettlewood Retreats invites you to this Eastertide retreat at Cedar Valley. Come join us in the countryside of the Kettle Moraine on 100 spectacular acres (an outdoor labyrinth too!) near West Bend. The noon meal is included.

To register for this retreat, please write a check for \$50.00 to Rev. Holly Whitcomb and send it to: 2095 Elm Tree Ct., Elm Grove, WI 53122. The deadline for registering is April 21. Include your name, address, e-mail, and phone number(s). Please register as soon as you can. Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive a map. For more information, call (262) 784-5593.





United
Methodist
Women

United Methodist Women: Faith • Hope • Love in Action

We are women with a Purpose!

"United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

UMW Reading Program Book Reviews

by Jeanette Friedl

VICIOUS: True Stories By Teens About Bullying

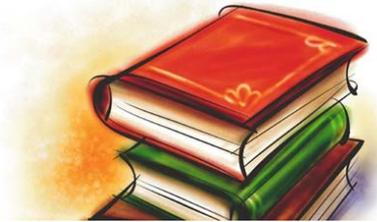
Hope Vanderberg, editor

Bullying can take the form of physical violence or verbal or online harassment. It can have lasting effects or even lead to death. Bullying is not normal behavior

In this book, the stories are written from the perspective of the person bullying, the person who is the target, and from the bystander who witnesses the bullying.

Research has shown that adults can significantly change the pattern of bullying. Giving consequences for bullying or stopping a problem before it escalates can and will make a difference.

This is an easy reading book of short chapters by many different writers.



HELP, THANKS, WOW: The Three Essential Prayers

By Anne Lamott

Sometimes the first prayer we cry out in deep desperation is "God help me." Then we may "Thanks God" for getting us through the great difficulty. Occasionally, we may even show appreciation for the beauty around us.

In prayer, we are making contact with something unseen, way bigger than we could ever imagine in our wildest dreams.

Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about faith and prayer make for fast and easy reading in this large print book.



Newcomers are welcome in these on-going events anytime:

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - Meets every Tuesday at 1:00 pm for Bible study in the Hearth Room

Women's Books & Breakfast - meets at Brookfield Family Restaurant on Wednesdays at 7:30 am. Any woman is welcome, anytime!

Prayer Group – Tuesdays, 2:30 pm, Library Conference Room - Contact: Dianna Haugh or Shirley Bigelow

Greeting Card Ministry – Meets the **third Monday**, 6:00-8:00 pm, Disciple Room - Contact: Dianna Haugh 262-782-8774 or dmhaugh2@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry - If you are interested in re-starting this ministry, please call the church office.

For more information about any of these groups, please contact the church office 262-782-4060.



5 Questions; 5 Answers

- WHO:** The **Elm Grove School for Lifelong Learning (EGS4LL)** is an *outreach* of Community United Methodist Church. Attendees last year came from Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and many other communities. They enrolled in over 70 courses.
- WHAT:** The **EGS4LL** staff is currently compiling the classes that will be printed in a catalog that will be mailed the beginning of May. A variety of courses will be offered, some of which are health and wellness, religion, music, writing and literature, current events, technology, and finance and business. In 2017 over 70 classes were publicized.
- WHERE:** Classes are held in the Disciple and Highland Rooms.
- WHEN:** Summer Sessions begin Monday & Tuesday, June 18 & 19
Fall Sessions begin Wednesday & Friday, August 29 & 31
- WHY:** Learning is a lifelong activity! There is a wide and deep array of medical data to support the concept that mental, physical, and creative activities are absolutely what senior adults need to maintain excellent health.

**Church Financial Report
December, 2017-Year End**

The financial result for Community United Methodist Church for the year of 2017 is as follows:

	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget	Difference
Giving and Other Revenues	\$ 773,564	\$ 855,160	(\$ 81,596)
Expenses	<u>\$ 798,497</u>	<u>\$ 863,157</u>	<u>\$ 64,660</u>
Income/(Deficit)	(\$ 24,933)	(\$ 7,997)	(\$ 16,936)

The results are very disappointing and frankly quite alarming. This is only the second year in the past five years where a financial deficit has been incurred and this deficit is massive compared to the deficit in 2013 (see below). Here is the most alarming financial result. Here is total giving for the past three years:

2015 \$784,214
2016 \$781,537
2017 \$700,307

There was a huge decrease in giving between 2016 and 2017, generally resulting from some folks leaving CUMC (for a different church in this area, moving to a new part of the US, or moving into skilled nursing or going to be with God), some folks retiring and some folks reducing giving for unknown reasons. If this trend continues into 2018 (which pledges for 2018 suggest may be occurring), there will be a need for program reductions which may negatively impact many of the areas that make CUMC both special and that we have come to expect. If you reduced your giving in 2017 or plan to reduce your giving in 2018, I would ask you to please look at the above results and if you have the ability to increase your giving, our church truly has a need for your gifts. We managed expenses with extreme diligence and we still incurred a damaging deficit. Deficits of this magnitude are unsustainable for multiple consecutive years.

Please pray for the financial strength of our church.

Past Year-to-Date Surplus or (Deficits) were:

2012 \$ 28,415; 2013 (\$ 3,443); 2014 \$ 3,793; 2015 \$ 22,046; 2016 \$ 14,956; 2017 (\$ 24,933)



Calendar

Thursday, March 1

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Friday, March 2

World Day of Prayer

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Saturday, March 3

Sunday, March 4

Third Sunday in Lent

Communion

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Coffee/Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall

9:45 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Sun. School – Classrooms

Middle School Sun. School – Back Youth Rm

High School Sun. School – Front Youth Rm

Gospel of Mark – Library Conf. Room

Pastor's Class – Revelation Room

Progressive Christianity Class – Disciple Room

11:00 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship – YC

5:30 pm Youth Choir – Choir Room

7:00 pm High School Youth Fellowship – YC

Monday, March 5

6:30 am Morning Bible Study – Disciple Room

9:00 am Pastors' Meeting – Office Conf. Room

9:30 am Visitation Meeting – Office Conf. Room

10:00 am OWLS Board Meeting – Highland Room

Tuesday, March 6

9:00 am UMW Board Meeting – Highland Room

10:00 am Staff Worship Planning – Office Conf. Room

11:00 am Staff Meeting – Office Conf. Room

1:00 pm Women's Bible Study – Hearth Room

2:30 pm Prayer Group – Library Conf. Room

7:00 pm Pastor's Class – Disciple Room

7:30 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – Revelation Room

Wednesday, March 7

7:30 am Books & Breakfast – Brookfield Family Rest.

6:15 pm Clarion Bells – Harmony Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, March 8

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Friday, March 9

9:00 am MDO Staff Meeting – Disciple Room

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Saturday, March 10

Sunday, March 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – UMCOR Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Coffee/Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall

9:45 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Sun. School – Classrooms

Middle School Sun. School – Back Youth Rm

High School Sun. School – Front Youth Rm

Gospel of Mark – Library Conf. Room

Pastor's Class – Revelation Room

Progressive Christianity Class – Disciple Room

11:00 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship – YC

5:30 pm Youth Choir – Choir Room

7:00 pm High School Youth Fellowship – YC

Monday, March 12

6:30 am Morning Bible Study – Disciple Room

9:00 am Pastors' Meeting – Office Conf. Room

9:30 am Visitation Meeting – Office Conf. Room

Tuesday, March 13

10:00 am Staff Worship Planning – Office Conf. Room

11:00 am Staff Meeting – Office Conf. Room

1:00 pm Women's Bible Study – Hearth Room

2:30 pm Prayer Group – Library Conf. Room

7:00 pm Pastor's Class – Disciple Room

7:30 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – Revelation Room

Wednesday, March 14

7:30 am Books & Breakfast – Brookfield Family Rest.

6:15 pm Clarion Bells – Harmony Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, March 15

11:30 am OWLS – Fellowship Hall

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Friday, March 16

Welcome Word Deadline

5:00-9:00 pm Christian Youth Theater

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Saturday, March 17

8:30 am-2:30 pm Christian Youth Theater

Sunday, March 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Worship Service

Sunday, March 18 Continued

9:30 am Coffee/Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall
 Blood Pressure Screening – Office Conf. Room
 9:45 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Sun. School – Classrooms
 Middle School Sun. School – Back Youth Rm
 High School Sun. School – Front Youth Rm
 Gospel of Mark – Library Conf. Room
 Pastor's Class – Revelation Room
 Progressive Christianity Class – Disciple Room
 11:00 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship – YC
 5:30 pm Youth Choir – Choir Room
 7:00 pm High School Youth Fellowship – YC

Monday, March 19

6:30 am Morning Bible Study – Disciple Room
 9:00 am Pastors' Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 Quilting Group – Disciple Room
 9:30 am Visitation Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 3:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed. – Highland Room
 6:00 pm Greeting Card Ministry Meeting – Disciple Room

Tuesday, March 20

9:00 am Kohl's Wild Animal Presentation – MDO –
 Fellowship Hall
 10:00 am Staff Worship Planning – Office Conf. Room
 11:00 am Staff Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study – Hearth Room
 2:30 pm Prayer Group – Library Conf. Room
 7:00 pm Pastor's Class – Disciple Room
 7:30 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – Revelation Room

Wednesday, March 21

7:30 am Books & Breakfast – Brookfield Family Rest.
 6:15 pm Clarion Bells – Harmony Room
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, March 22

8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Friday, March 23

5:00-9:00 pm Christian Youth Theater
 8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Saturday, March 24

8:30 am-2:30 pm Christian Youth Theater
 9:00 am The Gathering – State Street Site - Carpool

Sunday, March 25**Palm Sunday**

Sixth Sunday in Lent
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:30 am Coffee/Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall
 9:45 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Sun. School – Classrooms
 Middle School Sun. School – Back Youth Rm
 High School Sun. School – Front Youth Rm
 Gospel of Mark – Library Conf. Room
 Pastor's Class – Revelation Room

Progressive Christianity Class – Disciple Room
 11:00 am Worship Service – Easter Tableau
 4:00 pm Middle School Youth Fellowship – Youth Center
 5:30 pm Youth Choir – Choir Room
 7:00 pm High School Youth Fellowship – Youth Center

Monday, March 26

6:30 am Morning Bible Study – Disciple Room
 8:00 am Welcome Word Assembly – Middle Youth
 9:00 am Pastors' Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 9:30 am Visitation Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 7:00 pm Servant Leadership Team Meeting – Everyone
 Welcome – Disciple Room

Tuesday, March 27

10:00 am Staff Worship Planning – Office Conf. Room
 11:00 am Staff Meeting – Office Conf. Room
 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study – Hearth Room
 2:30 pm Prayer Group – Library Conf. Room
NO Pastor's Class – Holy Week
 7:30 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – Revelation Room

Wednesday, March 28

7:30 am Books & Breakfast – Brookfield Family Rest.
 9:00 am MDO Birthday Lunch – Disciple Room
 6:15 pm Clarion Bells – Harmony Room
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Thursday, March 29

MDO Spring Break
 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service
 8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Friday, March 30

MDO Spring Break
 Noon Good Friday Worship Service
 8:00 pm AA – Disciple Room

Saturday, March 31

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Hannah Levenson	1	Quincy Perry	23
Colleen Cauley	2	Kevin Potter	23
Jeremy Field	2	Addison Retherford	24
Justin Forbes	2	Lauren Zielinski	24
Sandra Potter	2	Norma Harris	25
Tessa Bergstrom	3	Jacob Polster	25
Stephanie Borkowski	3	Patricia Boyd	26
Lauren Wimmer	3	Sanjiv Kodali	28
Kathleen Blake-Kovnar	4	Alexandra Reichel	28
Sandra Luetzow	5	Taylor Vetuschi	28
Eamon Patterson	6	Grace Watry	28
Ronald Patterson, Jr.	6	Carol Diekroeger	29
Jennifer Dible	7	Adam Klann	29
Alexander Freedy	7	Alison Mazza	29
Stacey Gannon	7	Patrick Debbink	30
David Johnson	8	Gunther Friedl	30
Howard Gerard	10	Michelle Hughes	30
Virgil Jones	11	Aniela Kujak	30
Robert Mortellaro	13	Kristen Lichtfuss	30
Grant Nordin	14	Nancy Wagner	31
Kathryn Horneffer	15		
Jordan Reichel	15		
Kaitlin Klann	16		
Jennifer Miller	16		
Colin Hall	17		
Joy McDonald	18		
Ava Perkins	18		
Ethan Watry	19		
Mark Elson	20		
Charles Kidd	21		
Rajiv Kodali	21		
Evan Bellin	22		
Pam Daily	23		



**Sunday, March 11
Spring Forward**



CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS / DEADLINES

Respond to Kitty or Deb on these matters:
kitty.kaehler@cumceg.org or
deb.cornell@cumceg.org.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ...

When the church office is closed, if you have a pastoral emergency that cannot wait until the next business day, you can reach Pastor John on his cell phone at 920-723-5378.

WEEKLY CUMC EMAILS

To receive CUMC's weekly emails to prepare you for Sunday's worship and inform you about things that need immediate action, send an email to Kitty or Deb.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Wednesday noon, prior to the Sunday you want the notice to appear. Announcements can run for up to three weeks per your request. If you want to add a separate insert in the bulletin, you or someone from your committee/group must come in on Friday morning to help assemble the bulletins.

WELCOME WORD DEADLINE

Articles for the April Welcome Word are due by Friday, March 16. Email submissions are preferred when possible, otherwise drop it off at the church office. Articles may be edited for content.

**CUMC'S QR CODE TO
SCAN FOR GIVING!**



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Elm Grove, WI 53122



Welcome Word deadline for April is
Friday, March 16.

Servant Leadership Team

Shelley Botchek (Missions), Tylan Farrokhnia (Trustee), Christian Fuller (Worship - A/V), David Griffin (Confirmation), Donavan Haidinger (Education & Vice Chair), Dianna Haugh (Worship – Hospitality & Mentoring), Dean Johnson (Worship – Ushering, etc. & SPRC), Paul Magyar (Small Groups & Trustee), Tracey Magyar (MDO & Sunday School), Tom Twinem (Worship – Content & Treasurer) Katy Wilson (Membership Care, Prayer Ministry and Church & Society)

“Serving Christ Together”

All of Us
John Wells
Karen Klatt
Kitty Kaehler
Deb Cornell
Martnie Mortellaro
Tracey Magyar
Ellie Duening
Suzanne Kofroth
Dan Baker
Mike Sturino
Nickie Bryant
Susan Krechel & Janet Smith
Tammy Moyer

Ministers
Pastor
Visitation Pastor
Office Manager
Secretary
Director of Music & Wedding Coordinator
Education Coordinator/MDO Director
Youth Director
Treasurer
Building Superintendent
Contemporary Music
Bell Choir Director
Organists
Parish Physician Assistant

Regular Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 7:30 am—4:00 pm; Friday 7:30 am—3:00 pm
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Phone: 262-782-4060 FAX: 262-782-1146 Website: www.cumceg.org

Mother’s Day Out
Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am—3:30 pm; Friday 9:00 am—Noon (September—May)
Phone: 262-782-4267
Tracey Magyar, Director

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