

*In This Issue. . .*

- ◆ From Pastor Howard
- ◆ Missions
- ◆ Annual Conference News
- ◆ Ministry News
- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Calendar
- ◆ Worship Corner
- ◆ Christmas Eve Worship Services

**We Are A Ministry  
With**

**Open Hearts...**

**Open Minds...**

**Open Doors...**



**We are a  
Stephen Ministry  
congregation.**



## A Message from Pastor Howard Hintzman

### Advent Waiting

I offer these following thoughts from our worship resource, “Seasons of the Spirit”, for your consideration this month.

Advent is a time of waiting, of holding our breath for what’s waiting for us just around the corner. We’re making preparations to celebrate Christmas Day, of course, but most importantly Christians spend this time preparing and waiting for the Christ to be born again into a hurting, needing world. We’re not the first people who have longed for a different world. All through history, people have waited just as eagerly for peace, hope, joy, and love. The scriptures we read in this season are not just of people who sat around hoping the world would change. They are of people who acted on this hope, who lived differently because they heard God saying the world could be different.

■ ■ **What are you waiting for in Advent?**

■ ■ **How might you experience this season differently from year to year?**

■ ■ **In what ways might your Advent be a pilgrimage, a holy walk?**

■ ■ **To where might your Advent pilgrimage/journey lead?**

*Howard*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PASTOR HYEJUNG AND PASTOR HOWARD:**

Both pastors can be reached by telephone through the Point office at 715-344-3557, Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm and the Plover office at 715-344-9192, Tuesdays 9 am-12 pm and Wednesdays 9 am-1 pm.

Hyejung Hwang: Email: [hhwang@stevenspointumc.org](mailto:hhwang@stevenspointumc.org); 715-344-3557

Howard Hintzman: Email: [hhintzman@stevenspointumc.org](mailto:hhintzman@stevenspointumc.org); 715-344-3557

When you have an emergency or a pastoral care need outside of office hours, please call the pastors in the following order:

Howard Hintzman at home: 715-342-0907

Hyejung Hwang at home: 715-544-0726

### United Methodist Church Websites

United Methodists in Stevens Point & Plover: [www.stevenspointumc.org](http://www.stevenspointumc.org)

Annual Conference Website: [www.wisconsinumc.org](http://www.wisconsinumc.org)

United Methodist Committee on Relief Website: [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org)

[www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point)

[www.facebook.com/TheSpringsUmc](https://www.facebook.com/TheSpringsUmc)

[www.facebook.com/stpaulsumcyouth.point](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsumcyouth.point)

## United Methodists in mission together, locally and globally

### DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS

1st & 2nd Week - HOLIDAY BASKETS

3rd & 4th Week - PASTA & SAUCE PRODUCTS

### LOOSE COIN OFFERING FOR DECEMBER

ALASKA

Providing stories, games crafts, and meals with community children (Unalaska United Methodist Church)

### Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip

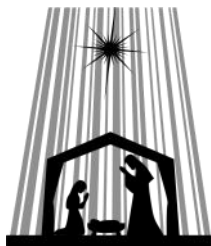
In January 2016, Bonnie Lund and Mary Gurlea are again leading a mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois. We are leaving on Wednesday am, January 13, 2016 and returning on Saturday pm, January 16, 2016. The total charge to each person will be \$250. This will cover the cost of gas, food at the center and lodging. Food on the way down and back is on you. Please make your check out to United Methodist Church with MMDC in the memo part and give to Bonnie or Mary (this is important). There is still time for you to sign up for this mission trip to Chatham. Please let us know as soon as possible that you are interested. Come along to work on the various kits, sew school bags, fix bicycles or sewing machines, make school desks or sort the items needed for each kit. We meet people from various walks of life, from many other churches and various ages. We play games if you wish on our time off or you can travel the area to see the sights. If you have any questions or are planning on going with us, please call Mary as soon as possible at [mgurlea@gmail.com](mailto:mgurlea@gmail.com) or 715-321-2102



### *CHANGE: To give a radically different position, course, or direction*

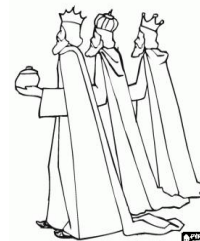


Changes can be difficult...especially when they are unexpected. Stephen Ministers are trained to help people learn to cope with the changes that have happened in their life. If you have experienced great changes or know someone who has and would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, call Pastor Howard, or Tim Gurlea (coordinator).



Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.



May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

---

## From the Wisconsin Annual Conference

### Wisconsin Annual Conference Zeroes In On Four Focus Areas

The four focus areas of The United Methodist Church narrow our vision for ministry in the world to offer the greatest impact and effectiveness. Wise stewardship of our resources of time, money, people, materials and equipment is imperative for a high quality, lasting witness. The four areas are engaging in ministry with the poor, improving global health, developing principled Christian leaders, and creating new and renewed congregations. Here is a snapshot scorecard from Assistant to the Bishop Dan Dick for some of the ways the Wisconsin Conference is engaging in our four focus areas - ministry with the poor, improving global health, developing principled Christian leaders, and creating new and renewed congregations. **The fourth is . . .**

**Creating New and Renewed Congregations** – Our Institute for Congregational Development equips and prepares leadership for launching new and innovative ministries, while our Discipleship Leadership Council uses the Learning Leader Academy to train and equip clergy & laity leadership teams for congregational renewal and vitality. Our aim is to establish every congregation as a center for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

By focusing on these four areas, we are “Imagining Wisconsin Anew.” We extend the reach of the four focus areas through a Conference-wide commitment to peace, mercy and justice ministries, and a highly-developed intercultural competency that enables us to be in ministry where we’ve seldom reached before.

---

## Adult Ministry

### “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY”



It has opened!!! We are now officially a part of a worldwide mission promoting literacy and the love of reading. Please continue to share your books with us, there is a shelf in the office. Our managers of the library are Julie Hintzman, Kay Witt, and Lois Kitto. Again, thank you to Jeff Troestler for the vision for our becoming part of this ministry. And we thank Jim Martin, the master architect and carpenter. From time to time we will make bookmarks for each book.

### ADVENT STUDY

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 5:30-6:30pm at the Plover location. Text: “Under Wraps” Leaders: JuliAnn Norton and Hyejung Hwang.

### “COMPANIONS” STUDY (2016)

This is a small group experience in spiritual formation. Hopefully, we will have interest in a new class. Check the sign up board, time and day to be determined by the group.

### “INVITATION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT”

A short term Disciple Bible Study. If you would like to refresh your knowledge of the New Testament, or meet it for the first time, this class is for you. Check the sign up board, time and day to be determined by the group. Leaders: Dwight Cooper and Jim Miller.

### WOMEN’S RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE

“Lavender Springs Spa” - A time to rest in God’s faithfulness. Saturday, April 30, 2016. Coordinator, Mary Gurlea.

## Adult Ministry ~ continued

### PLACE OF PEACE

For those of you who have come forward passionately to serve in this ministry, we say thank you!!! The planners, the bakers, the food preparers, the servers, the dollar supporters, the pray-ers, and the caregivers. You all have made a difference in bringing God's love to reality for our brothers and sisters. We are now preparing for a Christmas meal on December 17.

### WASHINGTON SCHOOL PROJECTS

We are in conversation with Ryan Ourada (principal) to firm up our helping in the Kindergarten rooms and with a reading program.

### MIDDLER/SENIOR LUNCHEONS

the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at the Point location; good programs, great fellowship, and excellent food (prepared by Mary Landrath and her team). Come join us! Pick up a brochure with schedule details on the Adult Ministry board or the Connection Center.

### BARHOPPING W/THE PASTOR

Barhopping with the pastor is the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. Check the calendar for the "bar of the month" and location. NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO BAR HOPPING IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

### SMALL GROUPS (at Point location unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday 9:00 - 10:00 am - Faithlink (study of social issues and the church)  
Wednesday, 5:00 - 5:30 pm - Placemat Ministry (follows the lectionary)  
Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:30 pm - Quilting Ministry  
Wednesday, 6:00 - 7:00 pm - Bible Study  
Friday, 8:30 - 9:30 am - Women on the Grow  
Friday, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm - Fly High, Huddle Warm  
Friday, 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Happy Hour  
Men's Group Breakfast, 8:00 am - last Saturday of the month  
Dinner for 6 (lots of variety in eating places) - coordinator, Lynn Rasmussen

### ANNUAL "FUN-FUNDRAISER"

This event helps to support Adult Ministries throughout the year. Please plan to attend on Saturday, January 23, 2016, 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Point location. There will be a silent auction, a variety show and an Italian meal with a vegetarian option. Check the signup board in The Gathering Area for ways to connect. Bring auction items to the stage area during the Christmas season and first part of January.

**GET CONNECTED FOLKS...YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

**BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL THIS HOLY SEASON**



### Lavender Springs Spa Women's Retreat *a time to rest in God's faithfulness*



Attention all women. Coming to the Point location on Saturday, April 30, 2016 is the Lavender Springs Spa Women's Retreat. You are invited to this relaxing and spiritually nourishing spa-themed event. Learn and grow as you are reminded of God's faithfulness and the power of connecting with other women.

We will journey through the Psalms, share our feelings, disappointments, celebrations and doubts of God with other women. You will leave with a fresh approach to prayer and deeper insights into the book of Psalms. There is a time to quiet your mind so you can reflect on what the verses mean to your life. *"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions."* Psalms 119:18. This busy world is pulling women in too many directions. We need to be still to open our hearts and minds to God.

Please mark this on your calendar now! The fee for this is \$30 due on April 1<sup>st</sup> which includes your lunch and the items needed to participate. For reservations email Mary Gurlea at [mgurlea@gmail.com](mailto:mgurlea@gmail.com) or call 715-321-2102. Don't wait long to reserve your spot as we have many signed up already.

---

## Mary Martha Circle

### Mary Martha Circle Fundraiser

Mary Martha Circle will be selling Kwik Trip cards after church every Sunday in the Gathering Area from now until Holiday Baskets time. Please help us raise money by purchasing gift cards. We will pass on our percentage to help Holiday Baskets. We now will get 15% of the card once it is used at Kwik Trip. We will be selling \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards. These make great Christmas gifts!

---

## Nurses Notes

Cold dry season is here. Problems with cracks around finger nails? To heal cracks faster and stop the pain—paint with Liquid Bandage, Skin Shield or use cheap clear nail polish. Use 2 coats twice daily. To prevent cracks around mouth—always rinse off toothpaste. Happy cold weather!!

The Nurses

---

## UWSP Campus Ministry

### Theology On Tap

Theology on Tap meets weekly on Mondays, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, in DUC Brewhaus for open faith discussions. On the second Monday of the month students gather at Brewhaus for rides to Dinner Church.

### Dinner Church

Dinner Church meets on the second Monday of the month, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. at Farmshed for dinner, worship, and discussion. Students can meet at Brewhaus for rides to Farmshed.

### Crossroads

The campus ministry and student organization is called *Crossroads*. The students are organized and have faculty advisors. This is a UWSP student organization and not a church organization. We do not direct them, but support them. We support them with our campus ministry staff, clergy, prayers, and some administration and financial support through the Wesley Foundation and Intercession Episcopal church. This is a joint ministry of the United Methodist and Episcopal churches of the Stevens Point/ Plover area.

In addition to the worship, meal, and discussions noted above, the students, faculty advisor, Jane Johnson, and Laura Courtright Burns meet weekly to plan for local service, mission trips, and sharing the Good News on campus to grow campus ministry and as disciples of Christ.

Crossroads is a safe, open, and affirming campus ministry, open to ALL.

---

## Women In Action

### Cookie Walk

Smell the aroma and warmth in the kitchen. Yes, it's that time to get the ingredients all together and roll out your favorite recipes for the "COOKIE WALK". The sale is Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Point location. Baked goods can be brought to the kitchen on Friday, December 11. Set up is from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Needed: cookies, breads, coffee cakes, candies AND helping hands for both days. If you have questions contact Bonnie Lund at 715-345-0247 or [bonnielund@charter.net](mailto:bonnielund@charter.net). Please let Bonnie know if you can work either day. Thank you.



### Holiday Baskets



Mark your calendars; Wednesday, December 9 is SHOPPING AT WAL-MART at 6:15 pm. Wednesday December 16 is SETUP after Disciples Diner. Thursday, December, 17 is PACKING AND DELIVERY, 8:00 am until done. MANY HANDS NEEDED to make this mission project flow. A letter will follow with details. Thank you for the years of continued support. Bonnie Lund

---

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**



## United Methodists in Ministry ~ News, Events, Announcements

### In Sympathy

Mildred L. Welk, Pastor Howard's aunt, died November 8, 2015. A funeral service was held on Friday, November 13, 2015 at New Life Church of the Nazarene in Wheeler, Wisconsin. Please keep Mildred's family in your prayers.

Donnamae Brown died Monday, November 9, 2015. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 17, at St Paul's United Methodist Church. Please keep Donnamae's family in your prayers.

Donald Hudson died Monday, November 9, 2015. A funeral service was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at Boston Funeral Home in Stevens Point. Donald was the Head of Maintenance at St. Paul United Methodist Church until his retirement. Please keep Donald's family in your prayers.

Mildred Ruth "Millie" Martin, died Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Private family services were held at the Forest Cemetery, Stevens Point. Condolences may be offered online at [www.bostonfuneralhome.net](http://www.bostonfuneralhome.net). Please keep Millie's family in your prayers.

### Baptisms

November 8, 2015 - Alexander Nicholas Winterhack, born: 6/13/15, son of Michael & Heidi Winterhack



**Tuesday, December 22 @ 7:00pm - Plover**

"For those experiencing loneliness, sadness and loss, the Christmas season can be difficult . . . we can feel singled out by the programmed happiness of the "the most wonderful time of the year." But, we are not alone. Many people experience at least some sadness and loss in this season. All of us have experienced loss. Please join us in a simple time of worship of song, readings and a reflection of God's hope for us, and presence with us, in feeling what we feel. All are welcome".

#### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, December 19, 2015  
8:00 am at Point location**

Join men of faith for breakfast & fellowship.  
Menu: Egg casserole, rolls, juice and coffee

#### Happy Birthday to our 90 and over members, constituents and friends

**Fumi Saito      12/21      92**



#### Middler/Senior Luncheon

**December 10, 2015**  
Lunch @12:00 noon at Point location  
Mary Landrath food for \$5

#### "NOME, ALASKA GOLD EXPEDITION"

Presenter: Gene & Candy Liseicki

Hosts: Len and Judy Hill

Questions or to make a Reservation

Call Point office @ 715-344-3557

**Reservations appreciated!**

#### Homecoming Sunday - January 31, 2016



Mark your calendars for January 31, 2016 which will be "Homecoming Sunday". Pastors Marjorie and Kevin Rice Myers will be present for worship with Marjorie preaching in Plover and Bill and Jo Carlson will be our special guests in Point.



#### Annual Church Conference

Each year we are reminded of our connection with all other United Methodist Churches through our Church Conference. This year District Superintendent Forrest Wells will be leading the conference. The conference will be in Point in Fellowship Hall on December 17 at 7:00 pm, which will include a Christmas reception.

# December 2015



The United Methodist Church:  
Plover, Point and UWSP Campus Ministry

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b><u>POINT OFFICE HOURS:</u></b> Mon. - Thurs 9 am - 12 Noon and 1 pm - 3 pm Friday - 9 am - 12 Noon</p> <p><b><u>PLOVER OFFICE HOURS</u></b> Tuesday 9 am - 12 Noon Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm</p>		<p><b>1</b> <b>WORLD AIDS DAY</b> 1:00 pm - Staff Mtg 5:15 pm - Fitness 5:30 pm - Advent Study (Plover) 6:30 pm—Vision Team</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>DISCIPLES' NIGHT PROGRAMMING</b> (See pg. 8 for complete schedule) 6:00 pm - Outreach</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 am - Elizabeth Circle 1:00 pm - Book Explorers 3:30 pm - Hope Center Meal 6:30 pm - NAMI 7:00 pm - N'Joy</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:00 am - Women on the Grow 12:00 pm - Fly High 1:00 pm - Happy Hour</p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Sons of Norway</p>
<p><b>6</b> <b>WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION</b> 8:45 am Plover 10:15 am Point (See pg. 8 for complete schedule) 11:15 am - Blood Pressure Clinic</p>	<p><b>7</b> 3:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Leaders 3:00 pm - TOPS 5:00 pm - Theology on Tap (UWSP) 5:15 pm - Fitness 6:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision 6:30 pm - Scouts 7:00 pm - GA</p>	<p><b>8</b> 1:00 pm - Staff Mtg. 5:15 pm - Fitness 5:15 pm - Place of Peace meal plan. 5:30 pm - Advent Study (Plover)</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>DISCIPLES' NIGHT PROGRAMMING</b> (See pg. 8 for complete schedule) 6:15 pm - Holiday Basket Shopping @ Walmart</p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:00 pm - Middler/Senior Luncheon 5:30 pm - Trustees (Point) <b>NO BARHOPPING THIS MONTH</b> 7:00 pm - N'Joy</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:00 am - Women on the Grow 12:00 pm - Fly High 1:00 pm - Happy Hour 1:00 pm - Cookie Walk setup</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>COOKIE WALK</b> 9:00 - 11:00 am 5:00 pm - Monteverdi</p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> 8:45 am Plover 10:15 am Point (See pg. 8 for complete schedule)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 3:00 pm - TOPS 5:00 pm - Theology on Tap (UWSP) 5:15 pm - Fitness 6:00 pm - Dinner Church @ Farmshed 6:30 pm - Scouts 7:00 pm - GA</p>	<p><b>15</b> 1:00 pm - #NC05 Clergy @ Pastor Howard's 5:15 pm - Fitness 5:30 pm - Advent Study (Plover)</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>DISCIPLES' NIGHT PROGRAMMING</b> (See pg. 8 for complete schedule) 6:15 pm - Holiday Basket setup</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:00 am - Holiday Basket packing/delivery 3:30 pm - Place of Peace meal. 6:15 pm - SPRC (Point) 6:30 pm—Church Council 7:00 pm - Church Conference (Point)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:00 am - Women on the Grow 12:00 pm - Fly High 1:00 pm - Happy Hour</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast 4:30 - 6:30 pm - Family Ministry Potluck &amp; Pageant (All Church Advent Activity at Point location)</p>
<p><b>20</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> 8:45 am Plover 10:15 am Point w/ Communion (See pg. 8 for complete schedule) 7:00 pm - Troop committee mtg.</p>	<p><b>21</b> 3:00 pm - TOPS 5:15 pm - Fitness 6:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision 6:30 pm - Scouts</p>	<p><b>22</b> 1:00 pm - Staff Mtg. 5:15 pm - Fitness 6:00 pm - Worship Ministry 7:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service (Plover)</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>NO DISCIPLES' NIGHT PROGRAMMING</b></p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</b> 4:00 pm Family Worship (Point) 6:00 pm Candles &amp; Carols (Point) 8:00 pm Candles, Carols &amp; Communion (Plover) 6:00 pm - AA (A/B) (Point)</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> </p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> 8:45 am Plover 10:15 am Point (See pg. 8 for complete schedule)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 3:00 pm - TOPS 5:15 pm - Fitness <b>NO SCOUTS</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm - AA (A/B) (Point) 7:00 pm - GA <b>NO ADULT MINISTRY</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>NO STAFF MEETING</b> 5:15 pm - Fitness</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>NO DISCIPLES' NIGHT PROGRAMMING</b> 6:30 - 8:30 pm - NAMI</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	



The United Methodist News  
of  
Plover, Stevens Point &  
UWSP Campus Ministry

c/o The United Methodist Church  
600 Wilshire Boulevard  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 344-3557  
www.stevenspointumc.org

Email: stpauls@stevenspointumc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 16  
Stevens Point WI

## Worship Corner

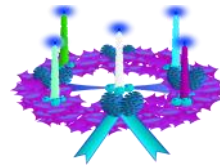
### Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:45 am - Worship - Plover (Communion served 1st Sunday of the month)
- 9:45 am - Fellowship time - Plover
- 9:00 am - Faithlinks Adult Class - Point
- 10:15 am - Worship - Point (Communion served 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
- 10:30 am - Sunday School - Point
- 11:15 am - Meet and Greet - Point
- 5:00 pm - Youth Group - Intercession
- 5:30 pm - Touch of Brass - Point

### Wednesday Disciples' Night Program Schedule

*(at Point unless otherwise indicated)*

- 2:00 - 5:30 pm Quilting Ministry
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm Placemat Ministry
- 5:30 - 6:00 pm Disciples' Diner
- 6:00 pm Children's Choir
- 6:00 pm Parent's Group
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Bible Study
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm Chancel Choir



### The Season of Advent

**Blue Christmas**  
Tuesday, December 22  
@ 7:00pm - Plover

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Thursday, December 24  
4:00 pm Family Worship - Point  
6:00 pm Candles & Carols - Point  
8:00 pm Candles, Carols &  
Communion - Plover