



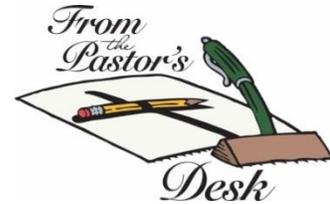
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation at Two Locations having
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Stevens Point-Plover United Methodist Church News

When we think about our life, very often it is divided up into a series of moments. For example, the moment when we find out about a death of a loved one, the moment we are accepted into a college of our dreams, or the moment we are married or become a parent for the first time. These moments that are short periods of time packed with meaning and importance.

Think about the moments of history and where you were when you heard the news of the Pearl Harbor attack, or JFK's assassination, or when 911 happened. Right now we are living through one of these historical moments as we move toward the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and strive for greater racial justice in our society.



These moments, both personal and historic, change us because who we were before is sometimes completely different than what happened next. As we move through this Easter season, we need to remember that we are defined by one moment that changed everything. The empty tomb of the resurrection is our central moment that continues to change hearts and lives because of what happens next. Where there was sorrow, now there is joy. Where there was fear, now there is courage and peace. Where there was despair, now there is hope.

Even now, resurrection moments are happening all around us, every day. I am amazed and humbled at the examples of how people are demonstrating their faith and hope as the body of Christ. Whether it is donating food, calling people who are lonely, dropping off groceries to those in need, or being a prayerful presence to those around them. All these are ways of proclaiming the hope of the resurrection and letting it change our hearts and lives.

Near the end of his life, an elderly Christian leader reflected on the moments of his life. He said, "When I was young, I wanted to change the world, but the world did not want to be changed. So, in discouragement, I decided to change my community; but to my disappointment, my community did not want to change. As I grew older, I decided that perhaps I could change my family, but alas I could not. Finally, at least I realized I could change myself with the help of God in my life and heart. That's the moment I realized that a change in me influenced my family, my family influenced the community, and the community began to change the world."

We don't know what is coming next in our world and the only thing we have control over is ourselves and our ability to daily choose faith over fear. My prayer is that we continue to live out the resurrection in all the moments of our lives as we let our hearts

be changed every day by the risen Christ, grow deeper in our faith through study and regular prayer and let God into all the moments of our days so that a change in us can change our world.

In God's love,
Pastor Tim



WORSHIP TIME

We are currently holding in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30 am. We currently can have up to 75 worshippers in our sanctuary. Please review the mandatory guidelines on our website that we are following in order to keep everyone safe.

****NOTE: Due to the cases in our area, we will continue to use the mandatory guidelines (including wearing masks) until further notice.**

We will continue to live-stream our worship services on St. Paul's UMC Facebook page www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point or through our website stevenspointumc.org. Scroll down until you see the current live stream.

If you are not able to watch the service live on Sunday morning at 10:30 am, there are several ways you can watch it later:

- All of our worship services are saved and posted on our Facebook page - **www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point**.
- Our worship services are also on Youtube. Just go to our church website – www.stevenspointumc.org and click on "Worship" from the drop-down menu of the "About" tab on the top of the home page. It will take you to our YouTube channel that has a collection of our worship services

**Mandatory Guidelines for In-Person Worship for
St. Paul's-The Springs UMC
(visit our website www.stevenspointumc.org)**



ATTENTION SINGERS & MUSICIANS!

We are looking for special music for Sundays during the month of May. We would invite any solos or duets, either vocal or instrumental, to contact the church office (715/344-3557).



FIFTY DAYS OF SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST

Looking for an easy way to nurture Faith-at-Home this Spring?

Journey from Easter to Pentecost with fifty days of spiritual practice. Each week takes you through a different theme to deepen your faith. These ideas are meant to be flexible for young children through adults. Do all the activities or pick and choose as your schedule allows.

Exploring Faith Practices - Practicing Mindfulness - Exploring Nature

Thinking About God's Love - Sharing God's Love - Prayer Practices

Conversation Starters Using "I Wonder" Statements

This spiritual practice calendar from *Faithful Families* author Traci Smith will be available later this month--if you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you, please call or text Laura Courtright at 715-340-4523, or email at lauracourtright@gmail.com.



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS ONLINE THIS SEASON OF EASTER

Easter is about new life! During this Season of Easter, we are going to explore the gardens around the St. Paul's church building and wonder about the new life we find growing here. We may also discover that our lives are growing more like Jesus too.

Let's explore and wonder together this Easter Season. Join us on the [St. Paul's United Methodist Church Youtube Channel](#) or [St. Paul's UMC Facebook page](#) as we share messages for the young and young at heart at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

FINANCE CORNER

Greetings!

It's important that we have a thankful, grateful spirit!

John Henry Jowett, a British preacher of an earlier generation, said this about gratitude: "Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic." What did he mean? He meant that gratitude, like a vaccine, can prevent the invasion of a disgruntled, discouraged spirit. Like an antitoxin, gratitude can prevent the effects of the poisons of cynicism, criticalness, and grumbling. Like an antiseptic, a spirit of gratitude can soothe and heal the most troubled spirit.

Did you know that thankfulness comes up 71 times in the New Testament and most of those times are those exact words? The **definition**: "To show oneself grateful, to be **thankful**, to give thanks."

Gratitude is a warm feeling of thankfulness towards the world, or towards specific individuals. The person who feels **gratitude** is **thankful** for what they have, and does not constantly seek more. See how gratitude and thankful go hand in hand?

What does gratitude do to the brain?

When we express **gratitude** and receive the same, our **brain** releases dopamine and serotonin, the two crucial neurotransmitters responsible for our emotions, and they make us feel 'good'. They enhance our mood immediately, making us feel happy from the inside.

Can gratitude change your life?

Gratitude can change your life because it makes you appreciate what you have rather than what you don't have. **Gratitude can change your life** because it is the single most powerful source of inspiration that any person **can** tap into if they simply just stop and paid attention to the simplistic beauty and miracle of **life**.

I hope that we can all find something to be grateful and thankful for. I think that gratitude helps you to improve your health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

May God Bless your day~

Joy Pennell
Dir of Finance

If you have any questions, please either give me a call 715-340-5991 or send me an email at jpennell@stevenspointumc.org.

	March 2021	Year-to-Date	To-Date	Avail To Us **
General Fund -	\$ 32,828.21	\$ 121,011.04		
Building Fund -	\$ 196.00	\$ 620.00		
Capital Campaign/Debt	\$ 4,593.50	\$ 65,922.50	\$ 170,552.60	\$ 96,752.60
Loose Coin -	\$ 62.83	\$ 342.90		
Expenses -	\$ 33,129.82	\$ 90,593.70		
	Net = \$ (105.61)	\$ 31,037.34		

Offerings To:

Interfaith Food Pantry \$ 350.00

**This means that this difference of \$73,800 is locked down by the bank until the last 18 months of the loan; to be used at that time for the loan payments for the last 18 months.



DON'T FORGET TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

You can give by one of the following:

1. You can mail your check to the church office at 600 Wilshire Blvd., Stevens Point, WI 54481
2. You can use ACH. If you don't have that set up & would like to, please contact Joy Pennell and she will help you with that.
3. You can use Bill Pay through your bank. This is a free service through your bank. They draw the money from your bank account and send the church a check as you direct them to, whether that be weekly or monthly. This way would save you on postage.
4. You can go to our website www.stevenspointumc.org and there is a button that says "Donate". That will take you through the steps to use your credit or debit card. If you continue down on that page, you can also text on your phone to give.
5. Giving App - It's very easy! Using your phone, download GivePlus+. It's free. Then look up the church by entering our zip code & follow the instructions from there. If you have any questions or problems, please let Joy Pennell know. jpennell@stevenspointumc.org or 715-340-5991.

COINS OF COMPASSION



The Coins of Compassion for April will be in support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) - U.S. Disasters. The money collected will help those who have been affected by natural disasters within the United States. Be sure to label your envelope so your coins/currency will be deposited into the correct account. If you are submitting a check, please write "UMCOR-U.S. Disasters" in the memo portion of the check. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



Thank you for attending our informational meetings regarding our next steps for our Plover location.

You will receive shortly in the mail a brochure that recaps the information presented along with a list of questions that were asked and answers that were given at the presentations. Also in the mailing will be a ballot for you to fill out and return with your vote.

If you have any questions that have been not previously covered, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Strategy Team:

Pastor Tim, Tonya Kowalski, Jim Martin, Larry Iverson or Yvonne Chojnacki.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Spring Rummage Sale

May 18 & 19, 2021

It is time to start cleaning out closets, housewares, books and garages. We need your good used items for this sale. **Please NO electronics, curtain rods, window blinds, bed frames, bed rails or light fixtures** - these items do not sell.

(Community Thrift Store (St. Vinnie's) and Goodwill will not accept them.) These items end up in our dumpster and we have to pay to dispose of them.

- Set up is Monday, May 17th, 9 am till 6 pm. If we have an abundance of items we will have an extra set-up day on the previous Friday or Saturday.
- The Rummage Sale dates are: Tuesday, May 18th, 8 am-6 pm; and Wednesday, May 19th, 8 am-11 am.

The sale will be held both in Fletcher Hall and Hazel Calkins Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required. Hand sanitizer stations will be available as well as gloves for anyone to use.

- Clean up follows the end of the sale on May 19th.

Many hands are needed to make this a success. Whatever time you can donate to this event is much appreciated. Men, their trucks, trailers and muscles are needed on Wednesday, May 19th, after the sale ends, to help pack, move tables and haul leftovers to Community Thrift Store (St. Vinnie's) or Goodwill.

Questions or if you are able to help volunteer for any of this time (setup or sale), please contact Bonnie Lund (715/345-0247) or bonnielund@charter.net. Thank you!



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

We will be recognizing those who will be graduating from high school on Sunday, May 23 during our 10:30 am worship.

Please call the church office (715/344-3557) to give us the name of your graduate.



GROWTH GROUP STUDIES

Tuesdays

7:00 pm - Women's Bible Study - Job (via ZOOM) (Contact Audra audraobrien931@gmail.com if you would like to join us)

Wednesdays

7:00 pm - Spring Study - "*Understanding the Bible*" (via ZOOM) (contact Pastor Tim tobrien@stevenspointumc.org if you would like to join us)

Fridays

12:00 pm - Fly High - "*Words of Life*" by Adam Hamilton (via ZOOM) (Contact Yvonne ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org if you would like to join us)



SPRING BIBLE STUDY

"Understanding the Bible"

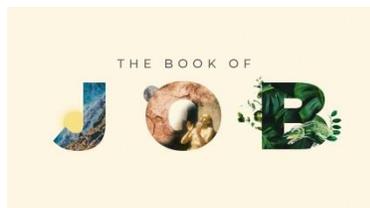
Wednesday's – Starting on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Bible is our guidebook in leading us deeper into our faith. However, it can be challenging at times to understand and apply. Through this study, which is intended for those who know the Bible well and those who don't, we will use a variety of sources along with scripture to look at the overall arc and meaning of scripture from Genesis to Revelation so that the details become clearer. This study will be on Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m. starting on April 21 online using Zoom. Please use the link below to connect with this class. Everyone is welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88412417023>

Meeting ID: 884 1241 7023



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom

This study is made up of ladies just like you who enjoy reading and studying the Bible together. We are excited to explore the book of **JOB**. This book is meant to show God as sovereign and to define faith. This is a fascinating retelling of suffering, satan's attacks,

God's goodness, pride, and trusting.

You are welcome to join us every Tuesday at 7:00pm that you can. Below you will find the link (that you can copy and paste into your browser), meeting id, and passcode.

The zoom meeting address, meeting ID and password are below.

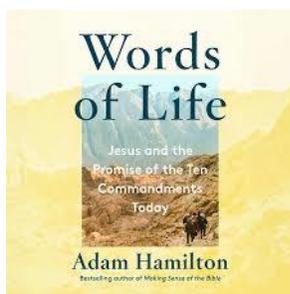
To join please click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9273218018?pwd=NHh3Uzc0RHBRWmk2NG9qWGZIZFJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 927 321 8018

Password: 5986234

See you Tuesday!



FLY HIGH STUDY GROUP Fridays at 12:00 noon

Fly High will begin the study of "*Words of Life*" by Adam Hamilton beginning **Friday, February 12 at 12:00 noon** via Zoom.

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a

good and beautiful life.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence and peace. *Words of Life* is an inspiring, thought-provoking read for anyone seeking to live a meaningful and joyful life.

The book is \$13.00. If you would like to join this group or have any questions, contact the office and Yvonne would be happy to answer any questions you may have and/or send you the link.



BROWN PAPER BAGS

Operation Bootstrap is in need of brown paper bags. If you have any you would like to donate, please bring them to the church and place in the south coatroom. If you have any questions, please call the church office (715/344-3557).



FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE

The following Fair Trade products are on sale:

- Hazelnut Creme - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea.
- French Vanilla - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea.
- Organic Decaf - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea.
- Very Dark Chocolate Bars (80% Cocoa) - \$1.00 ea

All other Fair Trade products will be at regular price.

You can find these items in the church office. Call the church office (715/344-3557) if you would like any of these items pulled for you and placed in the church exchange box outside of the church building for you to pick up.

WAYS TO HELP

We are all looking for ways to share God's love in this anxious time. Here are some samples of things you can do during this time:

Make Face Masks – We have several masks available in the church office, including Holiday fabric masks.

Interfaith Food Pantry – We have the grocery cart in between the entrance doors on the south side (school side), Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-3pm. Here is a list of their urgent needs: Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly. You can also send a check to the office with "Interfaith Food Pantry" in the memo portion and we will make sure the funds go for this cause.

Prayer Walk Guide – We know many are taking the opportunity to walk or bike when the weather permits. Why not use this time for praying:

- Go past a home – pray for health of those inside
- Go past a school – pray for the children who are at home and the teachers as they try to figure out ways to educate from a distance
- Go past a hospital – pray for the medical workers and the patients inside
- Go past a police station – pray for our first responders
- Go past City Hall – pray for wise decisions
- Go past a business – pray for those who are unemployed

Walk the Green Circle and give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us

Call church people or neighbors – Just a friendly phone call can make someone's day.



TAKE NOTE

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Tim or a lay person, please contact the church office at 715/344-3557. If this happens on a weekend, please contact Pastor Tim (262/388-4635). At this time, Pastor Tim will connect with your loved one by phone.

Plover – The Springs
2820 Plover Springs Rd
Plover, WI 54467

Stevens Point – St. Paul's
600 Wilshire Blvd
Stevens Point, WI 54481