



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## Stevens Point-Plover United Methodist Church News

As we head into May, this is the time for nurturing and growth. Our time of winter is finally receding giving way to the warmth of spring as we begin to think about planting our gardens and flower beds or just enjoying the fruits of other people's gardens. This is also a good season for us to reflect on how well we are growing and being nurtured in our lives. Because it is so easy for us to get out of balance as we pay attention to some parts of our lives, but ignore other parts. It is kind of like watering and weeding one part of the garden and ignoring the rest.



If you were to think about where you spent your time in a week, what would it look like? Is it healthy? Think about these areas for a moment.

Our society teaches us to do everything we can to succeed at our jobs, to "go the extra mile", to say "yes" to everyone, to please everyone. Add to that the great Protestant work ethic ingrained in our heads, and we're doomed to be up to our eyeballs in work. Even when someone retires that doesn't mean the end of working. Many continue to devote a majority of their time to volunteer work. The tough question becomes ... what is God calling us to do? And is a life of constant busyness really a faithful life?

Then there is "self". This part often is ignored because we've been conditioned not to be selfish. But caring for self is not selfish, it is necessary. We cannot adequately care for others if we don't care for ourselves. How do you care for yourself? Your mind? Your body? Do you take time to just be quiet and "be"?

Finally, and most importantly, there is our faith. When we are centered and grounded in God, our priorities take a new shape and problems are seen from a different perspective. I encourage you to find at least fifteen minutes in your day to pray and read scripture. Pick up the Upper Room devotional at church to help guide your time. Take time to be with God and see the difference it can make in your life.

I invite all of us to seek a balanced life, where all the areas of our lives are growing and being nurtured in a healthy way. Awareness is the first step. Begin to pay more attention to the areas in your life that you are short-changing. Scale back in the areas that have taken hold and leave you feeling constantly drained of energy. Enjoy more things that bring you joy and feed your soul. Grow deeper in your faith and you will find the means to bring all the areas of your life into balance. Finding balance isn't always easy, but for the sake of our mental, physical, and spiritual health it is worth it.

May God bless this growing season in us,

**Pastor Tim**



## WORSHIP TIME

We are currently holding in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30 am. We currently can have up to 100 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.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: Beginning May 23, we will also hold in-person worship at 8:30 am.\*\*\***

We will continue to live-stream our worship services on St. Paul's UMC Facebook page **[www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point)** or through our website **[stevenspointumc.org](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUMC.Point)**.
- Our worship services are also on Youtube. Just go to our church website – **[www.stevenspointumc.org](http://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](http://www.stevenspointumc.org))**

### WORSHIP GUIDELINES

The Worship Team at their last meeting considered the worship guidelines. With the number of cases sharply decreasing and vaccination rates increasing, they decided to begin the process of relaxing our worship guidelines over the next couple of months.

As of June 1: We will no longer be taking temperatures, but we will wear masks and observe social distancing as well as keep our cleaning protocols.

As of July 1: We will begin congregational singing and prayers with masks along with social distancing and our cleaning protocols.

As of August 1: The Worship Team will assess our next steps such as wearing masks and social distancing being optional.

All of this is tentative and we may move faster or slower in relaxing our guidelines depending on health conditions and requirements in our county as we listen to the CDC, Portage County Health Department, and the Wisconsin Annual Conference Covid-19 Taskforce.

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP--JUNE 13, JULY 11, AUGUST 8 at 10:30AM**



We are excited about warmer weather and opportunities to gather outdoors for worship this summer! Mark your calendars and join us for an intergenerational service on the grounds of the St. Paul's building near the gazebo. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

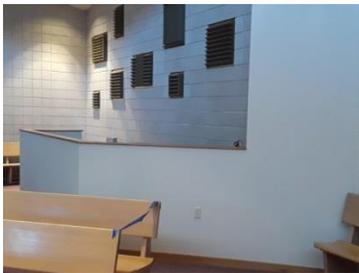
We will be live streaming our 8:30am service on Facebook on those Sundays.



## **ATTENTION SINGERS & MUSICIANS!**

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

## **AUDIO-VISUAL CENTER**



Over this past year, our Worship Team initiated a project to expand and improve our Audio Visual Center. We have seen the benefit of streaming our service for those who are shut-ins or traveling. We have also seen new people join our online worship from around the state and country. This new A/V Center will give us the room to add technology that will allow us to permanently stream our worship services online with a new camera that can rotate and zoom in on specific parts of the worship area. We will also have a more stable connection to our router. It will also have some new technology for us to run our PowerPoint for those in the sanctuary and watching on our stream. A huge thank you to Jim Martin who designed and built this new A/V Center. His dedication to detail has given us an amazing addition to our sanctuary.

We are currently using this space to operate our sound and we are waiting for the rest of the technology to come in May or June.

We want to thank Wilfred Fang and Ernie Taylor for all their help with selecting this technology.



We applied for a grant from the Annual Conference to help pay for this improvement and they agreed to fund 50%, or \$4800, of this project.

If you would like to join the A/V team to help run this technology for worship, we will be holding trainings in the next few months. Please let the church office know if you are interested.



### **IN-PERSON YOUTH GROUP--- WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 - 6:30--8:00PM**

Games, Campfire, S'mores, and more! Weather permitting, we'll meet outside near the southwest side of the church building. If we need to be indoors, we have lots of space in Fletcher Hall to meet. We will follow our safety guidelines for masks and distancing when meeting indoors--they can be found on our website [www.stevenspointumc.org](http://www.stevenspointumc.org).

Connect with us at the **UMC Families Facebook Group** for dates and times for more Youth Group gatherings this summer.

For ALL Youth in JR & SR High--Youth do not need to be members of St. Paul's UMC or affiliated with any church--ALL are welcome! Please feel free to call, text, or email Laura Courtright if you have any questions. She can be reached at 715-340-4523 and [lauracourtright@gmail.com](mailto:lauracourtright@gmail.com).

## **FINANCE CORNER**

Greetings!

"When Propensity Meets Capacity" by Jim Wells

*To give away money is an easy matter and within anyone's power, but to decide to whom to give it, how much to give, when to give, and to give for the right motive and in the right way, is neither in everyone's power nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble. Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book II, Chapter 9*

Recently a church asked me to help determine their congregation's capacity for giving. Here is my simple answer: any congregation's capacity to give is at least 10% (the tithe) of its annual income.

I usually estimate a church's congregation-wide annual income as the median income within a 5-mile radius of the church times the number of giving units in the church. (So that I do not inadvertently overestimate congregational income, I usually work with 90 percent of this number.)

**Ten percent of total congregational income is the tithe and is our best scripturally-based estimate of congregational capacity to give.** God proposed the tithe as a target for giving **to support the church** with other charitable giving to be over and above that amount.

(Our denomination's stance is that "tithing is the minimum goal of giving" (Book of Discipline ¶1630.5e) and "God's standard of giving" (¶1304.1c)).

In Wisconsin, our actual giving averages 2.9%. We are spending much of God's share on ourselves. How much could our churches accomplish if we tithed and had more than three times as much in giving?

In my talks with United Methodists around the state, I hear a lot of anxiety about the state of our churches, often because they are experiencing budget shortfalls. What they often propose is cutting more costs or getting new people to pay for the church.

Yet, we could reverse the trajectory of United Methodism by simply giving what God has asked us to give. That is the revitalization we need.

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](mailto:jpennell@stevenspointumc.org).

<i>Apr 2021</i>		<b>Year-to-Date</b>	<b>To-Date</b>	<b>Avail To Us **</b>
General Fund -	\$ 36,243.10	\$ 156,927.14		
Building Fund -	\$ 194.00	\$ 814.00		
Capital Campaign/Debt -	\$ 4,500.50	\$ 70,423.00	\$ 169,176.11	\$ 95,376.11
Loose Coin -	\$ 110.07	\$ 452.97		
Expenses -	\$ 43,272.12	\$ 133,771.70		
<b>Net =</b>	<b>\$ (6,835.02)</b>	<b>\$ 23,969.44</b>		
<b>Offerings To:</b>				
Easter Offerings	\$ 2,190.00			

\*\*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](http://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](mailto:jpennell@stevenspointumc.org) or 715-340-5991.

## **COINS OF COMPASSION**



The Coins of Compassion for May will be in support of St. Paul's Church Camp scholarships. The money collected will help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It will help those who would be unable to attend church camp if not for this scholarship. The money also helps support our counselors and leaders by subsidizing their cost of attending camp seeing many have to use their vacation days to provide leadership during camp. 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 "Church Camp Scholarships" 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 received in the mail or by email 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 was a ballot for you to fill out and return with your vote. Please return your ballot by **May 30**.

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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 am-6 pm; and Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tobrien@stevenspointumc.org) if you would like to join us)

### **Fridays**

12:00 pm - Fly High - "*Messy People*" by Jennifer Cowart (via ZOOM) (Contact Yvonne [ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org](mailto:ychojnacki@stevenspointumc.org) if you would like to join us)



## **SPRING BIBLE STUDY**

### **"Understanding the Bible"**

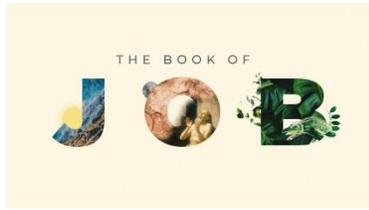
**Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

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 Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. 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.

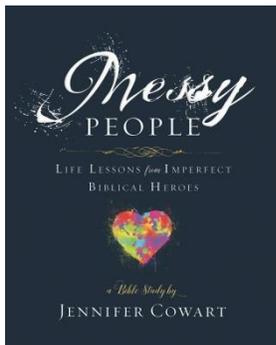
To join please click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9273218018?pwd=NHh3Uzc0RHBRWmk2NG9qWGZlZFJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 927 321 8018

Password: 5986234

See you Tuesday!



## FLY HIGH STUDY GROUP Fridays at 12:00 noon

Fly High will study "*Messy People*" by Jennifer Cowart on **Fridays at 12:00 noon** via Zoom.

Every life gets messy at times. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people! In this six-week study, Jennifer Cowart helps us dig into the lives of biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. As we examine the messy stories of Rahab, the prodigal son, Josiah, Mary, David and Daniel, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, and help us deal with the hard moments of life. Along the way we'll discover that we don't have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God's guidance and help. In the hands of God, our messes can become His masterpieces!

The book is \$8.50. 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:

French Vanilla - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 ea.

Organic Decaf - 12 oz. ground - \$3.00 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