

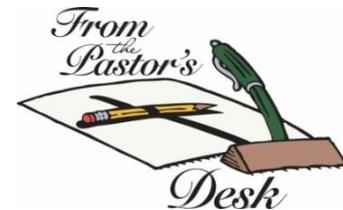


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Stevens Point-Plover United Methodist Church News

During the summer, one of our favorite activities is to go on a walk as a family, although usually it is just me and whichever one of my kids feels like walking with their dad. And when my kids were younger they didn't really walk with me because they were so far ahead wanting to get to the playground. Now that they are older, they are still not walking with me because they are often on their phones either typing a message to their friends or listening to music. It seems like we are on the same road but we are taking two different walks.



In our lives sometimes it can feel like we are taking different walks as we each experience and react to a variety of situations. However, no matter what kind of walk we might be experiencing, a walk through illness or grief or a walk through celebration and calm, there is another more important walk we are all taking. A walk with God to slow down and appreciate the sights and sounds of the life that God has blessed us with. A walk to be in regular prayer and have conversation with our creator. A walk to have our eyes open to see where there is a need and our hearts open and ready to respond.

The other day I came across this short story which spoke to me about how we are to walk and journey through life.

"There are two days in the week upon which and about which I never worry – two carefree days kept sacredly free from fear, anxiety, and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday. Yesterday, with its cares and frets and all its pains and aches, all its faults, its mistakes and blunders, has passed forever beyond my recall. It was mine; Now it is God's.

And the other day that I do not worry about is tomorrow. Tomorrow with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its perils, its large promises and poor performance, its failures and mistakes, is as far beyond my mastery as its dead sister, yesterday.

There is left for myself, then, but one day a week – today. Any person can fight the battles of today. Anyone can carry the burdens of just one day. And we can resist the temptations of today. It isn't the experiences of today that concern us, it is the remorse of what happened yesterday and the fear of what tomorrow might bring.

These are God's days; leave them to God!"

As we continue on our journey in faith and life, let's take time to keep our focus on growing healthy physically and spiritually, one day, one moment, and one prayer at a time. Let's take time to slow down to realize that we are never alone on the path of life; for Jesus walks with us and talks with us and tell us all we are his own.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



WORSHIP TIME

We are currently holding in-person worship on Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Due to Portage County's mask advisory: we recommend you wear a mask, whether you are vaccinated or not, to protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to age or other reasons while you are in our church building.

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 on Sundays at 10:30 am, except on August 22 and September 12, when we are holding the outdoor worship services. On those Sundays, the live-stream worship service will be at 8:30 am. Scroll down until you see the current live stream.

If you are not able to watch the service live on Sunday morning, 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.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP--

AUGUST 22, SEPTEMBER 12 at 10:30AM

We are excited about 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, blankets and/or umbrellas.

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



3rd and 4th GRADE BIBLE

PRESENTATION--SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Studying Scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God. St. Paul's and The Springs present personal Bibles to each third-grade student as a statement of their growing faith development. **And,**

because we did not have a 3rd Grade Bible Presentation last year, we will be presenting Bibles to fourth-grade students too.

We celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our students as a gift from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God through Christ, enhanced through the study of God's word.

If you have a 3rd or 4th grader in your life you're sharing your faith with, contact Laura Courtright at lauracourtright@gmail.com or 715/340-4523 by August 31 to order a Bible we can present to them during worship at the 10:30am outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 12, 2021.



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 August will be in support of *Family Assistance*. The money collected will provide funds to help those in need. 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 "Family Assistance" in the memo portion of the check.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



PROJECT FRESH CLOTHES

Project Fresh Clothes will once again be collecting money for vouchers given to each student who qualifies for Project Fresh Start and is identified through the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. We will again give each student a \$20 voucher to be used at Call It New, Community Thrift Store, Nice as New and Other Mothers. We will only pay for the vouchers as they are used in the stores so no money is lost. 100% of all donations will go to vouchers for students.

First Weber Realtors are again providing **matching funds of donations** for Project Fresh Clothes through the First Weber Foundation. The foundation will match all checks made payable to the **First Weber Foundation** up to \$250 per donor for July and August. Please have checks in by **August 31st**.

Checks can be mailed or delivered to the church. Please write "*Project Fresh Clothes*" in the memo on your check.

Any questions, please contact the church office 715/344-3557, Jane Zierke 715/340-4938, Cathy Martin 715/340-8426 or Mary Schultz 608/609-6271.

Thank you so much for your help with this very important mission.



Growing
KINDNESS
gardens project
a place for Community & Kindness

KINDNESS GROWN HERE

We have a new garden on the ground of our church! This growing season we've expanded our Giving Gardens by planting flowers to share with others in need of a little kindness. Creating a community garden and working with people of all ages in the garden is a great way to make friends and care for others!

Shannon Eckels leads our *Growing Kindness Garden Ministry* with her knowledge and experience with all things blooming! Come, join her and others--it's always more fun together! The *Growing Kindness Garden Ministry* meets on **Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to tend the garden and arrange flower bouquets**. People of all ages are welcome—no gardening experience needed.

If you would like to know more, or have any questions about the garden, please text or call Shannon at 715/340-6012.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

If you like to sing and are looking for a way to serve our church, please consider joining the Chancel Choir this fall. The Chancel Choir is the adult choir at our church made up of high school, college age and older.

Our primary purpose is to be a part of the Sunday morning worship service, and to reinforce the message and scripture for the morning.

We sing approximately three Sundays each month, and for any special services. We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm September through May. We sing a variety of styles of music, and there are NO tryouts. We are especially in need of soprano and altos - can you help us?

We welcome anyone who enjoys singing and using their voice as a way to Praise God! Come and try us out for a fun time! If interested, please contact Pat Laabs (director) at 715/684-9473.



JOIN N'JOY CHOIR

Sing Contemporary Songs
One Sunday a Month Lead Worship
Rehearsal: Thursdays @ 6:30 pm
Any questions? Contact Yvonne Chojnacki at 715/340-9333.



TOUCH OF BRASS

Are you looking for a meaningful and enjoyable way to serve our church? Consider joining the handbell choir! We'd love to have a few more ringers. If you would like more information or have questions, call or email Caryn Hurst at 715/592-4478 or oakhurst.quiltergirl@gmail.com.



SCRIP FUNDRAISER

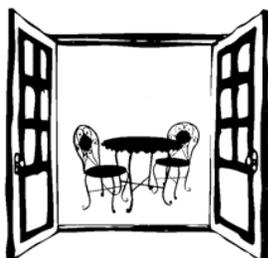
Hey everybody – we have a great new program that we started on August 1 & it's called Scrip. Right now, you can buy Kwik Trip gift cards in the office at church & with this new program you have the opportunity to buy gift cards from 750+ brands! It's a great way for us to fund raise.

You will be able to do this 2 different ways; you can use an order form & turn that in bi-weekly to the office or you can use your smart phone or tablet & go to the app store & download the RaiseRight app. The order forms can be found in the office for the time being & will follow this as well. Orders will be placed on Mondays & the cards should be here on Thursdays.

This is a great way that we can raise some funds! The funds that we raise with this will be split between the debt & loose coin. One other thing, for those that order with their phones, you will see Kwik Trip on the list, please DO NOT order Kwik Trip that way, only purchase your Kwik Trip cards in the office. We want to be sure that Mary Martha gets the proceeds from those.

If you have any other questions about this program, please let me know. You can contact me by email at jpennell@stevenspointumc.org or at 715/344-3557.

Thank you!



OPEN DOOR BISTRO RESUMES SERVICE SEPTEMBER 8 WITH A NEW FORMAT

The Open Door Bistro ministry will launch a new season on September 8 with some changes. The meal service period is being extended by 15 minutes and the schedule is changing from a weekly service to twice a month on Wednesdays throughout the school year. The Bistro ministry will serve a meal in fellowship hall from **5:15 – 6:00 pm** on the first and third Wednesdays of each month except in

September which will be the second and fourth Wednesdays. Brochures listing service dates and other program details will be available and will also be distributed via email in August.

Mark your calendars and come with your family or friends to enjoy the fellowship and simple meals together. Masks recommendations will be in accordance with church guidelines but wearing of masks is highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals except while eating. Hand sanitizer will be available for all diners to use as they approach the self-service food line.

Thank you to everyone who completed the Bistro survey circulated by email in June. We are grateful for your feedback and will incorporate the suggestions as feasible. Also, a big thanks to volunteers who are new to the service team as well as those who are returning. It's exciting to hear that people are looking forward to the reopening of the Bistro.

Although we have an initial service team roster, additional volunteers are always welcome and needed to help fill vacancies that may occur, provide relief coverage as a substitute worker or to lighten the workload as an extra volunteer. Please consider if you could help with dish washing, storing clean dishware, general clean-up, offering the blessing, providing a casserole, or helping with food prep. If you would like to serve in any of these ways or need further information, please contact one of the Bistro team leaders listed below.

We look forward to seeing you at the Open Door Bistro.

[See the enclosed brochure for dates and menus](#)

Sandy Shave (715) 592-4346; sandra.shave@gmail.com
Barb Munson (715) 341-1208; barbm72446@gmail.com
Judy Hill (715) 341-2323; len.hill@uwsp.edu
Stephanie White (715) 347-0367; stephsdesknop@gmail.com
Wendy Miller (715) 239-5088; millers3110@gmail.com
Anette Bernsteen (715) 343-1462; lbernsteen@charter.net



PRAYER CHAINS

We are in need of people who would like to join us. We will be redoing our prayer chains this fall. After receiving requests for prayers, our chains are activated. You only need to call the next person on your list and then say a prayer for those persons in need. If you wish to be added (or removed) from this ministry or to request a prayer, please call Lois Sadogierski (715/344-0615, Judy Hill (715/341-2323) or the church office (715/344-3557).



CARE CALLS

We are in need of Care callers. Care calls is a ministry that keeps in touch with our congregation. We call everyone twice a year – spring and fall. You receive a list of people to call or contact to let them know that their church cares. We use the church directory for contact information. **Please check to make sure your phone numbers, addresses and e-mail are up to date.** You can call the church office (715/344-3557) or Lois Sadogierski (715/344-0615) to update your information and to join our team.



MEET & GREET

We are redoing the format of Meet & Greet this year. Instead of the committees & ministries providing all the treats, we are opening it up to the congregation. There will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside Hazel Calkins Hall for anyone who wishes to provide a simple treat at either the 8:30 am or the 10:30 am Sunday service. You would also be responsible for set up (snacks & drinks) and clean up as needed. Dave makes the coffee, but you would need to wash up and put away the coffee pots, clean up the snacks and drinks area and wipe down areas and tables as needed. We are cutting down on the amount of food that is being served as this is intended to be a light snack.



HELP WANTED

We are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping on occasion to do a couple of tasks when Dave, our custodian, is away. Some of these tasks can be done during the day, while others can be done during the evening. We would like to put a list together of those interested and then when the need arises contact you to see if you are available to help.

If you are interested in helping with this opportunity, please contact the church office (715/344-3557) and your name will be put on the list.



ONE BIG TENT

Two years ago a group of clergy from Stevens Point and Plover gathered to talk about the needs of our community and how might we address them together as people of faith. Out of those discussions we formed an organization called One Big Tent.

Our Mission

We are a partnership of diverse, faith-based organizations working within our community, alongside community agencies, to promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and isolation and providing ready access to resources that can increase the long-term stability of individuals and families, and therefore, our community.

Our Vision

We envision a Portage County where all are equipped and empowered to lead dignified lives of wholeness and wellness with:

- food security
- adequate mental health resources
- housing security
- economic and vocational stability
- a correctional system based on restorative justice
- a community engaged in justice and peace
- faith communities growing in relationship and serving together

Our current ministry is to provide companions who will walk with people who are in need of food, work, housing, mental or physical health resources. The goal of our companions is to be a compassionate neighbor helping them access community resources, the resources of the faith communities who are part of One Big Tent, and to navigate "the system."

Our companions will remain a helpful presence to assure that---with the individual's active participation----we work together to find answers to meet their needs as much as possible. There are no restrictions or requirements to seek our help, but obviously, our ministry is focused on those who live in Portage County as the resources we help to access are found in Portage County. One's faith background or status does not matter.

Check out the information below for upcoming trainings if you would like to be involved in this ministry to our community.

Who We Are

Church Partners: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (LCMS), Beloved Community of Intercession Episcopal and Redeemer Luther Churches, St Paul's-The Springs United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA), Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, Point Fellowship-Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Tapestry Church, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Community Partners: CAP Services, Emergency Services, Evergreen Community Initiatives, Hunger and Poverty Prevention of Portage County, Operation Bootstrap, Salvation Army, United Way



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 product is on sale:

French Vanilla - 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:

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.

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.

St. Paul's-The Springs UMC
600 Wilshire Blvd
Stevens Point, WI 54481