

Newsletter

MAY 2021

Worship God.

Follow Jesus.

Serve Others.

“See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” Matthew 6:28-30

Dear Friends in Christ,

We surely live in a glorious part of the country. The orchards, vineyards and other ornamental trees and shrubs have been especially glorious this Spring. And while we have been anxious for warmer temperatures, the cool nights and days have served well to prolong the blooming of all these flowering varieties. If you haven't already done so, you will want to drive through the country side and sing praises to God the Creator as you witness such natural beauty.

Two things can happen as you observe such beauty. First, you can praise God for such creative genius and beauty. The colors are glorious and so is our God. And second, you can thank God for providing such beautiful surroundings and for providing for the needs of your life. And that is the lesson Jesus suggests in the teaching quoted above.

Seeing the beauty and glory of all creation brings us to a place of thanksgiving for all that God does to sustain and keep each of us. And Jesus then suggests that with such observation we should not worry about the provisions of life. If God provides for the birds of the air and the grass of the fields, will He not even more care and provide for each of us?

The second verse of the hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” reads as follows:

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

Let us all rejoice and give thanks this beautiful spring.

Blessings,

Wade Panse, Pastor

FUTURE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (update)

As most of you know, the future of the United Methodist Church includes a likely division into two or more new denominations. It is only the General Conference of the UMC that can act upon and authorize such division. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has three times caused a postponement of the meeting of the General Conference. The anticipated meeting is now scheduled for August/September 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. Some churches have decided not to wait for such formal action and have taken initiative to leave the present UMC. The nearest church to have taken such action is the Granger Community Church in Indiana which separated from the UMC last summer.

Over the last couple years we have had local church FORUMS for discussion of the imminent schism including the options and impact of such division. But because there has been no change recently, our next church FORUM will be scheduled for next Spring, 2022, in advance of the General Conference session. Of course if you have questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Panse. He would be happy to discuss with you personally the developments so far in the global UMC.

Please include our Methodist denomination in your prayers.

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS through MAY 26

You are invited to join with us on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 for Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. Our Pastor, Wade Panse, will lead us in an interesting study of "Great Questions from the Bible". While we are unable to enjoy refreshments together, we can still enjoy and participate in study and discussion of Holy Scripture.

Class will begin promptly at 11:00. So please join with us for this hour of lively conversation and learning. Bring your own Bible and bring a friend or family member if you wish. The Lord will be there, and we hope you will be too.

May 5	Is the Young Man Safe?	2 Samuel 18:32
May 12	What Shall I do with Jesus?	Matthew 27:22
May 19	Why?	Judges 6:13
May 26	Can the Ethiopian Change His Skin?	Jeremiah 13:23

Thank you note received:

Thank you for the Easter card and gift.
It was so nice of you to think of me.
Arden May

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

Interested in becoming a member of this local church and sharing in our ministry and mission? Our pastor is offering membership orientation on three Monday mornings, 11:00, May 3, 10 and 17. Together we will consider basic Christian beliefs, distinctive Methodist beliefs, and responsible church membership. If interested in participating in this class, please contact the church office or Pastor Panse directly.



As we return to in-person worship this spring, it is nice to have altar flowers to brighten up our sanctuary. If you cannot bring in the flowers, you may leave a \$20 check with the church secretary and she will purchase the flowers for you. The flowers may be dedicated to whomever you choose. Also, many of us will soon be having flowers in our home gardens! Sign up in Wood Hall.

JUNE 4 & 5, 2021

A celebration of progress and perseverance as the Imagine Cass vision of the new streetscape and the Stone Lake beach is unveiled.



You are invited to join in the fun and enjoy live music, fireworks, beer garden, kid's activities, food trucks, corn hole tournament, farmers market & kayak rentals.



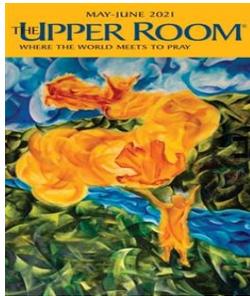
Can you sing? Play the guitar, violin, piano or other? Do you know someone who can? We would welcome any special music to our weekly online or in-person worship. Please let the office know if you can provide.



On Sunday, June 13, we will be honoring our graduates in the Class of 2021, both from high school and college. A small reception will be held following the service.

The Administrative Council of the church is looking for someone who knows enough about automobiles to investigate the need for, and also help locate, a van for members in need. If you, or someone you know, can help us, please contact the church office. Thank you so much.

Don't forget we are still collecting "God" Dollars in the jug in the sanctuary. "God" dollars are bills with a prominent G on the face, and a serial number beginning with the letter G. All monies collected go to worthy causes in the community. Thank you.



May/June Upper Rooms are now available. You will find them at the entrance to the sanctuary, in Wood Hall, and in the mailbox behind the church. We are happy to mail one if you ask the church office.

SERMON SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

May 2		God's Love	This Is How We Love	1 John 4:7-21
May 9	Mother's Day	Jesus Christ	This Is Our Victory	1 John 5:1-6
May 16	Ascension Sunday	Eternal Life	This Is Our Life	1 John 5:9-13
April 23	Pentecost	Holy Spirit	What Does This Mean?	Acts 2:1-21
May 20	Trinity Sunday	Salvation	The Verse We All Know	John 3:1-17



MAY

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
Day!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 
2 Worship 10 AM Communion 	3 Membership Orientation 11 AM Patti Panse Melissa Tobakos	4 Alek Dahlgren	5 Bible Study 11:00 AM	6	7	8
9 Worship 10 AM Mother's Day	10 Membership Orientation 11 AM Bill & Sue Loux 	11	12 Bible Study 11:00 AM	13	14	15
16 Worship 10 AM Noisy offering - PROJECT GRADUATION Lauren Woodhouse	17 Membership Orientation 11 AM	18 Sewing Sowers meet 10 AM Bill & Erin Westrate 	19 Bible Study 11:00 AM	20	21	22 Lutheran Church food pantry 11:30 - 1
23 Worship 10 AM	24	25	26 Bible Study 11:00 AM Kaye Weller	27	28 Kimberly & Larry Garver 	29 Char Hiemstra
30 Worship 10 AM	31 Memorial Day 					

If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office know.