

From Pastor's Desk:

- Thank You, Covenant UMC

This is my first article for the Covenant UMC since I began my ministry here as a new pastor. In this first article, I would like to begin my writing by expressing my gratitude for the Covenant UMC church members. All UMC pastors commit themselves to the itinerancy system, expecting unexpected move and change. However, despite this commitment, leaving the beloved church community and the familiar town and going to a new church and town is still tough for all clergies and their family members. Plus, moving itself is stressful. It is the same for my family and myself. However, I would like to let you know that your warm welcoming and radical hospitality made the real difference in this difficult process.



Before officially moving to Fond du Lac, I came to the church in the middle of June to have a meeting with Pastor Joel and some SPRC members in order to discuss my moving and the ministry transition. Before these meetings, I planned to drop by the church office to bring my books in advance. I did not expect any help. Even I did not expect anyone in the church building. However, there were several people in the church who welcomed me and helped me to bring books. As far as I remembered, they were Gus, Jan, Mary, Judi, Penny and more. The small church office was crowded with people on that day. While we brought books, we chatted with each other and laughed together. You would not know how much I feel welcomed and blessed on that day.

When I moved to the parsonage on June 23rd, Diane and Penny welcomed us in the parsonage and brought some food on behalf of the church. At the same time, Mona and Shelli provided us childcare for my three active children, which was really needed for our smooth moving. Since that day till now, church members continually stop by the parsonage to help and support our moving and settling down in the parsonage. Gus made the drawer for kitchen and brought it to the parsonage. Bill Kelley came to the parsonage several times to install TV on the wall and do yardwork. Bill Averbeck came to the parsonage almost every day to make sure the rapid remodeling garage and take care of other parsonage issues. His grandsons, AJ and Braden, came along with him and helped him. Mary and Mona volunteered to find a proper kitchen island. Other trustee members did a lot of yard work for the parsonage. I must say that I have never seen trustee members this active in my seven-year ministry in Wisconsin. My family members and I deeply appreciate all church members' active support and strongly feel our church's warm welcoming. At the same time, all of us are excited to be a part of Covenant UMC.



- About Me and My Family

I believe it would be appropriate to introduce myself and my family members to you in this first article. My name is Ho Lee. My first name is Ho, but I prefer being called as Ho Lee. This is because I found that Ho has some strange meanings in the United States, and Ho Lee (like Holy) is very compatible with my profession. I was born into a family with a hundred years of Christian heritage as a fourth generation Methodist in Korea. In particular, my mother and grandfather played a vital role in shaping my faith and leading me to become a pastor.



I was married to Miyeon Kim in 2010 after dating for six years. My wife, Miyeon (I know the name is hard to remember and pronounce. One of the easiest ways is to think “Me, Young!”) is a registered nurse in South Korea as well as in the United States. She studied in nursing and worked as a nurse in both countries. We have three children: two daughters and one son. The oldest daughter is Jin Lee and younger daughter is Ha-el Lee. The youngest boy is Tay Lee. They are now 7, 4, and 2 years-old.

I started engaging in the pastoral ministry when I became a theological student in South Korea. I had served three Korea Methodist churches throughout ten years as a student pastor whose responsibilities focused on the youth group, the young adult group, and the praise band. During these ten years, I had also worked for a local welfare center and some Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) for several years in order to broaden my horizon. These experiences affirmed my calling to the ministry and led me to travel to the United States to study theology in depth.

I came to the United States in 2010 to study theology deeper by entering Boston University School of Theology right after my marriage. At the similar timeline, I joined Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church and served the same church as an intern for two years. After my internship, I served Zion Korean United Methodist church for a year as a student pastor who led Sunday school, the youth group, and the young adult group. Right after the graduation from Boston University in 2015, I was transferred from New England Annual Conference to Wisconsin one, and began my ministry as a local pastor, being appointed to Christ UMC at Merrill, Wisconsin. Since my first appointment in 2015, I have been in the pastoral ministry for 7 years. Now, Covenant UMC is my third church to be appointed as a pastor.

I have a Bachelor of Theology from Methodist Theological Seminary in South Korea and I completed my Master of Divinity at Boston University School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts. I am very passionate of building up a vital church community where people share their lives in depth to the point that they laugh together and cry together like a big family. Also, I am interested in finding ways for a local church to serve a local community as well as the global community. I love having conversation with people, especially with sweet coffee. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in a more intimate setting in the near future.

- The Direction for 2022: Relationship!

If someone asks me what the church needs to focus on in this time of transition, I would say without hesitation: a relationship! As I emphasized in my first sermon, the most important principle for the Christian life is a relationship: a relationship with God and with others. I firmly believe that this is one of the most important foundations of the church. The pastoral leadership change is the big one of the church regardless of what kind of new pastor you would have. This big change could be excitement and hope for the church. However, at the same time, it could be fear and worries of the church members due to the unpredictable future. In this uncertain time, what the faith community needs to pay attention to is the foundation, a relationship. Certainly, this is the time for prayers, which is the essential for deepening a relationship with God. However, what I would like to place an emphasis on in this writing is a relationship with other church members, especially with me.



A relationship is not free. A relationship building takes time, effort, and even money. There should be intentional time and effort to build up a deep and healthy relationship with each other. It takes more time and effort when you build up a relationship with the pastor who comes from the different culture like me. Probably, it is not what you ask for. However, thanks to God's mysterious work through the Wisconsin Annual Conference, you are stuck with me now. Let's face the reality and work on it. Let's try to get together more often to understand and love each other. I will not lie to you. It will not be very easy. However, one thing I can promise with you is that once we build up a loving relationship with each other, you would experience another level of the body of Christ as the early church had experienced. This is because we overcome the more differences between us.

For this relationship building, I asked SPRC to arrange small group gatherings with me throughout July and August. If you haven't sign up for one yet, please do it now. These gatherings will allow us to get to know each other better. In addition, my wife and I plan to have an open house one Sunday during September. I will let you know the date and time in the next newsletter. Please mark your calendar and join. Other than these official plans, please feel free to drop by the church office to have a little chat or contact me. My office hour will be 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from Monday through Thursday. My cell phone and email address are the following: 617-894-3545 / leeho0531@gmail.com.

- Church Visioning / Planning Meeting on 8/19



We will have Church Visioning & Planning Meeting on 8/19 (Friday) at 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All Church Council members (church leaders) decided to gather at the church on 8/19 and have a 5 to 6 hour-meeting to discern the vision and direction of the church and make detailed plans for the rest of 2022. I deeply appreciate all church leaders who agreed to have this long meeting on this short notice. Your passion and dedication towards the church touched me and inspired me. If you are interested in the conversation about the church vision and plan for 2022, you are welcomed to join this meeting. In addition to joining the meeting, I encourage all church members to pray for this critical meeting with God's guidance and wisdom.

- New Pastor Set-Up



I have decided on a few administrative setups such as office hour, sabbath, off day, and so on in consultation with the church leaders. I would like to share some of them. I plan to use the church parlor on the second floor of the educational building as the pastor's office, which is across the small chapel. The current pastor's office is okay, but it is somewhat small to have a conversation with other church members. Also, the location of the office is not the best for the church members to access. The office is currently in the process of changing. It will be completed by the end of August. Before that, you can meet with me in the main

office. My office hours will be **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from Monday through Thursday**. If I am not in the office during this time, it means that I am in a meeting, or I am visiting someone. In this case, please leave me a message. My sabbath is Friday and my off day is Saturday. Sabbath is my day for my own spiritual formation and my off day is for the family. It would be great if you respect these days for my own spiritual, mental, and physical health. My regular homebound church member visitation date will be the first and second Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you know any homebound church members who need regular visit, please let Mona Averbek know. (She is coordinating the regular homebound visitation.) Also, I am recruiting some volunteers who can visit those people with me on these days. If you are interested in this visitation ministry, please let Mona know.

- August Sermon

My sermon will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary for a while, probably until October. As some of you might know, the Revised Common Lectionary is the selective Bible passages from Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Psalm, Gospel, and New Testament. This lectionary is used by most mainline Protestant churches in the United States. Preaching based on the lectionary means that I do not pick up a certain Bible passage or theme for sermon by myself but study the selective Bible and preach based on it. The reason why I preach in this way is that I do not know the church members' needs, life struggles, and questions about their spiritual journey. However, I hope I can change into more theme preaching by having more deeper understanding of our church members. For this, I encourage all our church members to think about what kind of struggles and questions about your life journey and share with me. I do not know the direct answer, but at least, I begin studying about them and share how the Bible tells us about some important principles in relation to your struggles and questions through my sermon series. Your sharing will make the sermon and worship service more relevant and meaningful to your life. While waiting for your responses, I will focus on the book of Luke for my preaching according to the lectionary. It would be helpful for understanding the sermon in a deeper way if you read the book of Luke before the sermon.

LECTIONARY



- Pastor's Study Retreat on 8/30 – 9/2



I plan to have a study retreat at Pine Lake UMC Camp from Tuesday, August 30 to Friday, September 2. During this time, I will be away from my personal and professional life and focus on planning sermon series for 2022. In this camp site, I will pray, read books, and reflect on the Bible in order to come up with relevant and good sermon series for the church members. It would be helpful for me if you share some of your life struggles and questions before this retreat. Please pray that this retreat would be fruitful.

Date	Scripture and Sermon	Volunteers	Mission	Music/ Special Event
August 7 9th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Liturgist: Marilyn R. Children's: Tom R Media: Tom R, Sloan A Live: Denise R, Mona A Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	Pastor's Goodwill Fund	Tom White and Devin Scherck— duet
August 14 10th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 12:49-56	Liturgist: Darrell J Children's: Diane W Media: Diane W, Sloan A Live: Penny W, Mona A Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	Pastor's Goodwill Fund	Rev. Joel Krueger-solo
August 21 11th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 13:10-17	Liturgist: Bill A Children's: VBS Media: Judi B, Sloan A Live: Mona A, Eleanor K Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	Pastor's Goodwill Fund	VBS Celebration
August 28 12th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 14:1-14	Liturgist: Marilyn S. Children's: Donna M Media: Diane W, Tom R Live: Denise R, Eleanor K Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	Pastor's Goodwill Fund	Devin Scherck-saxophone

Church Council

Church Council met July 13, 2022. Pastor Ho Lee introduced himself and told of his journey to Covenant. Reports were given by Finance, Endowment, SPRC, Family Ministries, and Fresh Expressions. Much discussion ensued. Pastor Ho Lee presented his vision and agenda moving forward for the future of Covenant. Minutes from the April 13, 2022 were approved and are available in the hall by the Choir room. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10 at 6:30pm. - Bill Averbeck, Chair

Confirmation for 2022 - 2023

Pastor Ho Lee plans to have a confirmation program this year. The exact date of the first meeting has not been set, but it will take place in September. Parents and confirmands should plan to attend this meeting. If you are interested in the confirmation program or if you know someone who would like to confirm their faith, please contact me. I am looking forward to hearing from the potential confirmands and their parents.



Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today?

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

Find out more as we consider the meaning of each commandment, unpack how Jesus reinterpreted them, and show how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt."

You are welcome to this Bible study on Wednesday mornings in the choir room, starting at 9:30 am and concluding in one hour. This new series starts August 3. There is no registration, no fee, and no work between sessions. Come as you are, eager to learn and discuss. For more information contact Denise Retzleff at 920- 539-0336. We will use bestselling author Adam Hamilton's video series.

Back to School Fond du Lac—2022

Covenant Church is again participating in the Fond du Lac County-wide Back to School Program. This year, they hope to help over 1100 children who are in need of school supplies. Covenant will be collecting supplies from July 3 through August 7. Distribution will take place at the Boys and Girls Club on August 20.

To volunteer, visit backtoschoolfdl.org. Volunteers are needed to sort supplies, pack backpacks, and help with distribution. The dates for sorting and packing are available online.

Registration is open until August 1, online at backtoschoolfdl.org.



MUSIC NEWS

Introducing David Thompson. We have enjoyed having David join our staff this summer, and are so excited that he has decided to stay on as our Music Director!

DAVID THOMPSON was born in Detroit and graduated from Kent State University in Ohio with a Ph. D. in Music. He has taught at Kent State, and at the UW-Fond du Lac, and has been on the faculty at Marian University since 1986, where he taught music composition, theory, piano, music history, American music, liturgical music, and music business, and has directed the University Orchestra and the Women's Chorale. He is also a pianist, having been a member of the Ohio Fine Arts Trio, winners of the 23rd European Music Festival in Neerpelt, Belgium, and has solos with the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band and the Fond du Lac Chamber Orchestra on several occasions. David is the author of a book on the history of music theory in the U.S., and is a published composer of chamber music, piano and organ music and choral works. He is married to Denise Thompson, who plays the flute and works in the Fond du Lac Public Schools. He has a daughter, a stepdaughter, and three sons (one of whom also has a doctorate in music).

Choir

Choir will be starting this September, and we're eager to get started.

We'll be starting our choir practices on September 11 right after worship service in the choir room. I'm looking forward to seeing choir members from earlier this year, as well as new members who might like to join. I'm hoping that we can sing at least twice each month if not more, and also work toward some special music for Christmas.

Of course, I'm reaching out to current choir members. I'm also looking to see some people who haven't been in choir but who think they might like to give it a try. You don't have to be a great singer (although if you are we certainly want to see you), nor do you need to know all about music reading. If you like to sing, and might to participate in it as a way of contribute to our congregation, come and try it out. No auditions, no tryouts, just come to the Choir Room on September 11 right after the service. We'll be glad to see you. (But be careful! It might be fun! And it might even be rewarding!)

See you then! -Dave Thompson

Family Ministries

Our Family Ministries team along with Salem UMC, NFDL Community UMC, and Pacto de Gracia are excited to join together for Vacation Bible School, Aug 15-18, hosted at NFDL Community Church. We have a lot of exciting events planned for the "TO MARS AND BEYOND" theme. On Sunday, August 21, Covenant will be hosting the VBS/ YOUTH celebration, **morning service time at 10:00am**, to culminate the end of VBS. It will be followed by a potluck immediately after the Church service. All of the Churches will participate in this celebration.



We look forward to working together to enhance all of the Sunday school and youth to enjoy learning about God. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex by the North wall and we would greatly appreciate considering giving your time and talents to help out with some of the events. As they say, MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.

RALLY DAY is also just around the corner. With Pastor Ho Lee, our committee will be organizing our Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth classes for the upcoming school year. In addition, we are joining with Salem, Community and Pacto de Gracia for fall into Easter monthly events for our kids and youth.

Stay tuned and please, if you can, get involved to show your support for our kids. You all have already done so much, and we are greatly appreciative. Blessings, Mona Averbeck

Start Your Week Worshiping

Congregational worship brings people together, both in-person and on-line to honor and praise God. It is an intentional, sacred time set aside to hear the word of God through scripture. And through the preaching we hear God's message so that our lives, and others that we interact with, are transformed. We begin afresh in our worship style as our new Pastor Ho Lee leads us. Holy Communion will continue on the first Sunday of each month. Congregants will be welcomed to the front of the sanctuary where the pastor will offer the bread and juice, and you'll be able to select from either the prepackaged elements or those that are served individually. For those who are not able to come forward, communion will be served in the pew.

We'll sing contemporary Christian music from time to time, as well as rely upon traditional hymns for our musical choices. David Thompson, our pianist/organist would like to hear from those who can provide vocal or instrumental talent to enhance the worship services.

Our time for children and young people will be offered every Sunday. We currently have about seven people who take responsibility; however, others are invited to take leadership. You will know the scripture ahead of time, and will be offered resources to help fit your message to the scripture for that day. If you'd like to be involved, contact Kelly in the office.

Live streaming of the worship service is now happening every week. We are getting 30-40 views each week. People who are participating from a different location can worship at a time of day and day of the week that fits their needs. Through our offering on-line connections they hear the word of God whereas they may not have been able to in the past. Do you feel called to join this ministry? Hands-on training will be available for this, or to run the sound booth equipment.

The Worship Committee is inviting your feedback about any aspect of worship. Please feel free to talk to Pastor Ho Lee, Denise Retzleff, Jan Andrews, Bill Kelley, Diane Weider or Mona Averbeck. Share your ideas, questions, or your interest in volunteering in any aspect of the service.

-Submitted by Denise Retzleff, Worship Committee Chair

United Women in Faith

Sara Circle members met June 8 in Fellowship Hall. We had a potluck brunch.

Eleanor conducted the meeting and shared information about Mission-U.

Treasurer reported income from Mother-Other Banquet was \$1057.73. Each year we give the profit from the fundraiser to local charities and Methodist missions. We voted to send \$300 to Rising Sun Camp at Pine Lake, \$300 for human trafficking, and \$300 to the Senegal Africa chicken project.

We discussed Women in Faith Sunday and voted to ask Mary Council-Austin to be our speaker. We selected our woman to receive the mission pin which will be announced that Sunday.

We discussed our brunch meeting on October 5, 2022 and will ask an ARC representative to be our speaker.

September 17 is the annual district Day of Celebration at Suamico. We could carpool if some members can attend. Registration is due August 30. Dea has the forms for this.

Annual gathering is October 15 at Baraboo.

We will plan a field trip to the ARC. Jan Andrews will make arrangements.

We encourage our members to take advantage of the books we have in our reading program. There is a wide variety of subjects and are available each Sunday.

Next meeting is September 7.



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met Saturday, July 9 at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. 6 men and 1 guest were present. We welcomed Pastor Ho Lee and picked his brain for new insights into where the UMM could be giving, how the men could further serve our church and the community. Don't be surprised if in the future we have an outside service, a church picnic, or even more. I feel Pastor will bring new excitement to us!

It's not too early to start saving coins for the Goodwill fund in September. Let's blow it away this year!

The CCAP is doing well, we are still taking 4 boxes of bananas each week to the Salvation Army for the brown bag program. I am so proud of our church for doing this.

The Men will meet again August 13 at 8:00am at Rolling Meadows; we hope to see all the men there.

Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

"Make today so awesome that yesterday gets jealous."

Trustees

The Trustees have finished the remodel of the Parsonage garage. Other 2022 projects being considered are: remaining yard work at the Parsonage, some exterior Church repair, windows in the educational building need work, tree on North end of Church needs trimming, and some maintenance on the North wall and storage area. There are numerous small projects to be considered. The Trustees want to thank all those who helped in any way with these projects and in readying the Parsonage for Pastor Ho Lee and his family. Truly God's work in progress.

New United Methodist Church "Pacto de Gracia"



Rev. Scott Carlson, Rev. Janet Martinez, Pastor Ho Lee, and Rev. Park

After a year of working with the Hispanic/Latino community in Fond du Lac, Pacto de Gracia United Methodist welcomed visitors and members with an opening service on Sunday, July 10th at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Janet Martinez led the welcoming service, with the participation of Rev. Park Hunter from North East District of Wisconsin, Superintendent Rev. Scott Carlson, New Director of Connectional Ministries for the United Methodist Church of Wisconsin Conference, and Pastor Ho Lee, pastor of Covenant United Methodist Church.

For music, we had the special participation of Pastora Rosita Mayorga and Audelis Ayala as soloists, and Edi Moore and Pam Davidson as a flute duo.

Fifty-five people from nine nationalities attended: USA, Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Korea. The celebration continued after the service with a fellowship time and Hispanic food: tacos, tamales, and dessert.



It has been a year of work connecting the Hispanic community in their workplaces, stores, supermarkets, schools, etc., knowing their different needs, and doing Bible studies at home, by phone, and on WhatsApp.

Due to the Pandemic, on February 6, 2022, we started with online services. Today we have an average of 40 visits on Facebook. On March 13, we began with service in person at the small Sanctuary, officially as a church with nine adults and four children as members.

All this work was possible with your prayers, the support of Pastor Jorge Mayorga, Sara Circle of United Methodist Church from Covenant UMC, Sue Snellenberger, Josh Giese, Shepherding team integrated with pastors and members of Covenant UMC, Salem UMC, Community UMC, and the support of the three United Methodist Churches of Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac.



Audelis Ayala



Edi Moore & Pam Davidson



Pastora Rosita Mayorga

God has been working in this city and continues to work in the hearts and lives of our community. Not only do we rejoice and celebrate this opening day of Pacto de Gracia as the new United Methodist Church, but there is rejoicing in heaven because more people will know God.

Birthdays

08/03	David Gustavus
08/08	Sandy Kilmer
08/12	AJ Averbeck Sandy Thern
08/15	Judie Duitman Diane Klaske
08/18	Susan Olson
08/27	Sandra Randall-Krueger
08/30	Hilda Norton



80+ birthdays!

Dave Gustavus
Sandy Kilmer
Hilda Norton



Anniversaries

- Aug. 1- Jerry and Marilyn Stillings
- Aug. 2- Denise and Tom Retzleff
- Aug. 4- Darcy and Kevin Moore
- Aug. 11- Jennifer and Louis Averbeck
- Aug. 18- Casey and Nicklas Averbeck
- Aug. 21- Kris and Terry Shoemaker
- Aug. 24- Marilynn and Rich Roessler

ARK submission deadline is the
20th of each month at noon. Please get your content
to the office by this date for the next month's issue.

THANK YOU!



Covenant United Methodist Church
20 North Marr Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Main Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Pastor Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
- Text “give” to 920-267-4801
- Visit our website: covenantforyou.church/give

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Email: Leeho0531@gmail.com cell: 617.894.3545

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

Administrative Assistant: Kelly Braun

Custodian: Judi Balson

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