

From Pastor's Desk:

- Spiritual New Beginning

The exciting summertime has almost gone, and the fall is just around the corner. Yes, we are already in September. While having lived in the United States for 12 years as a seminarian and a pastor, one thing that I have learned is that September is the time of the new beginning in this country. All children, youth, and college students begin a new school year in this time. They usually have exciting experiences during summer as well as good resting. Then now they come back to their normal school lives with the renewed spirit. This is not only for young people, but also for all people regardless of their age. Many people usually had a vacation, family reunion, or special event during the summer. Now, they are ready to come back to their routine. It would be truer if you are living in Wisconsin. Since Wisconsin has a short summer and long winter, people become wild with a lot of outdoor activities during Summer, such as camping, fishing, golfing, hiking, and so on. However, after Labor Day, they begin coming back to their routine. From this perspective, it is safe to say that September is the time of the new beginning.



You might wonder why I begin my writing by talking about rhythm of our lives. This is because the rhythm of our lives is deeply related to the rhythm of our spiritual journey. Taking a good vacation, having a family reunion, and joining a summer event or festival could be seen as not only summer activities, but also spiritual activities. They are all needed for the healthy spirituality. Go camping, fishing, golfing, and hiking are also good ways to experience God in the nature. Many churches, which deeply

understand the relationship between people's rhythm of lives and their spiritual rhythm, try to have special events or missions during summer to encourage their church members to experience God through these new and exciting ways, such as church picnic, camp, mission trip, VBS, and so on. They are necessary for the spiritual growth. However, only having an exciting summer would not be good for the quality of life as well as our spiritual journey. We need both an exciting summer and calming fall for balanced and healthy life as well as spiritual maturity. As summer has gone and fall has gradually come, we should come back to the spiritual routine. In this sense, September is not only life new beginning, but also spiritual new beginning.

In this time of spiritual new beginning, I invite you to your spiritual routine. I invite you to worship, fellowship, and mission. If you are those who have disconnected from the life of the church with some reason and yearning for spiritual renewal, September would be the great time to be reconnected with the life of the church and try your spiritual renewal. I know that Pandemic has messed with our spiritual routine for last two years and many Christians have difficult time in recovering their spiritual routine. Now is the time to try. Now is the time to come back. Now is the time of new beginning. If you have been faithful to the life of the church, I strongly encourage you to invite your friends, family members, and neighbors, especially, those who haven't connected with any faith communities, to the life of the church in September. They might think about connecting with a faith community, waiting for your invitation. In addition, September could be the time for you to deepen a relationship with God by trying some new spiritual practices or participating in new missions. You can find a lot of opportunities for renewing your spiritual journey from the following writings.

New Pastor / New Leadership / New Music Director / New Mission

I think this September is the best time to try new spiritual journey because you have a new pastor. I began my ministry in Covenant UMC as a new pastor last July with excitement. Certainly, the leadership transition in the church can be unpredictable. Whether you like or not, a few things will be changed although I am trying not to change too much, respecting the church tradition. This change could bring discomfort and inconvenience to some church members. However, at the same time, this change could be an opportunity for many church members to resume their spiritual journey in a refreshing way. In order to make this change for spiritual new beginnings, church leaders and I have prepared by having countless meetings. As I am counting the number of meetings with church leaders, there were more than 40 meetings in last two months. Many of them took more than two hours. In particular, one of the meetings, Church Leader Visioning and Planning Meeting on 8/19, lasted for 6 hours. *(Once again, I deeply realize how dedicated church leaders we have. Thank you for all your commitment!)* As a result of these meetings, church leaders and I could plan out the rest of this year in detail and build up new missions and ministries in the church, which will provide church members with new spiritual beginning. *(You can see 2022 detailed church plan on the standing bulletin board in the narthex.)*

1) Worship



The worship service has changed. Currently, we will try to have a blended worship service in which people praise God with familiar traditional hymns as well as new contemporary praise songs. Also, we plan to have a band in the future. If you know anyone who can play the guitar, bass, or drums, or if you are interested in the playing music instruments or singing, please let me know. SPRC hired a new music director, David Thompson, and he will lead the choir from September.

If you experience the presence of God through singing, you might be interested in participating in the choir. Their first practice day is September 11th, right after the worship service. Furthermore, we will resume Bell choir from September. Throughout the year, Bell Choir plans to praise God once a month. Their first practice will be September 12th (*Monday*) at 6:30 pm. One of my beliefs is that the more people get involved in the worship, the better worship service will be. Thus, I open worship service volunteer opportunities to all the church members, such as liturgist, greeter, usher, sound booth, PowerPoint, Live-streaming, and Children's Time. The Sign-up sheet is on the information desk. Please sign up and build up the great worship service together. Participation in the worship service is one of the best ways to experience God vividly.

2) Sunday School / Youth Group

Sunday School and Youth Group are ready to go. Sunday school will be held on Sundays right after the worship service. There will be Bible stories, crafts, music, dance, and fun activities. Mona, the coordinator of Sunday school, and Donna, the teacher, already planned out the schedule until next January. This group is for pre-K children to



5th grader. Youth group will be held on Sundays at the same time. They will gather weekly and have some time to explore their faith. Also, they will have some fun activities such as going to a farm, watching a movie, having a costume Sunday, having a lock-in, go bowling and so on. Diane, the coordinator of youth group, and Judi and Bob, the teachers, are ready to welcome youth members. Youth group is for 6th grader to 12th one. Both groups will kick off on September 11th with fun events, called Rally Sunday. On that day, we will have a fun time with some games and lunch. If you know some young families, please invite them to these great programs. If you are interested in helping in these ministries, please contact me. We need more teachers!

3) Chegwin School / Pacto de Gracia

I have found two potential mission areas that our church community needs to pay attention to in the future. The first one is Chegwin School. Chegwin Elementary School is very near to our church, serving the people in the downtown area whom our church community also needs to reach out and serve. As you might notice, many children in this area come from impoverished families. Our church leaders reached out to Chegwin and had a meeting with its principal and staff on 8/16. Through this meeting, we learned there are a lot of things we can do for making differences in this downtown area, especially for children and young families. Now, many church leaders from different committees and small groups will try to find the ways to support these children and young families in cooperation with Chegwin. Please tune in to their new suggestive missions



The other mission area that we need to focus on is Pacto de Gracia UMC church. Pacto de Gracia UMC was founded last year by sharing our church building. The main focus of this church is to reach out Hispanic immigrant communities and share good news with them. As a shepherding church, we need to find a way to support them to be flourished. In addition, reaching out to these marginalized people is something the church should do for transforming the world into the kingdom of God. According to the founding pastor, Rev. Janet, three areas are important for helping this new faith community:

transformation, home food, and English. If we can support these three areas with our time, talent, and finance, I believe it will make a big difference. Our church leaders and I are finding the most effective ways to support this church. Please tune in to our suggestive missions in the future.

4) New Pastor's Office

The most important mission of the church is a relationship: a relationship with God and others. Because of this, I tried to reach out to the church members as many as I could last two months. That is why I had six different small group gatherings to meet the church members and get to know them. However, after these gatherings, I realized that there were still a lot of church members that I did not have a chance to talk with. I plan to reach out to these church members. Do not be surprised or alarmed if I contact you. What I try to do is to get to know you by having a little conversation. If you would like to contact me, please do that by dropping by my office, emailing me, or calling me. My personal email address is leecho0531@gmail.com and personal phone number is 617-894-3545. In order to enhance accessibility to pastor, I changed the pastor's office thanks to Trustee's help. Now, the pastor's office is the previous church parlor, which is located in the second floor of the educational building, across from the small chapel. My office hour is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm from Monday through Thursday. Please feel free to drop by.



Pastor's Study Retreat on 8/30 – 9/2



I plan to have a study retreat at Pine Lake UMC Camp from 8/30 (Tuesday) to 9/2 (Friday). 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 some books, and reflect on the Bible in order to come up with relevant and good sermon series for the church members. Please pray that this retreat would be fruitful. Because of this retreat, I will not preach on 9/4. Instead of me, a retired clergy, and beloved church members, Mary Balson, will preach. However, I will join the worship service on 9/4 and lead the communion on 9/4.

- Rally Sunday (Kick-Off Day for Sunday School & Youth Group)

We will kick off Sunday school and youth group on September 11th. On this Sunday, we will have some time to reflect on the importance of children and youth ministry and think about how we as the Body of Christ support this ministry through the worship service. According to the church tradition, we will present the Bible to the children who are in the 3rd grade. Also, we will have some special time and ritual to recognize and install Sunday school and Youth Group teachers for this new school year. The light fellowship prepared by the teachers will follow the worship service. Children and youth members are invited to the games to have some fun time with teachers.

Confirmation Orientation on Sep 18th

Confirmation Orientation will be held in the church on September 18th(Sunday) at 6:30 PM. In this confirmation orientation, I will share the general information about 2022-2023 confirmation process, such as the confirmation schedule, requirements for confirmands, the guidelines for parents and mentors and so on. Confirmands, parents, and mentors are expected to join this orientation. This year, all confirmands are required to have a mentor from the Covenant church community. A mentor should be a professing member who are more than 21 years old. If any confirmand has difficulty in finding a mentor, do not hesitate to contact me (617-894-3545 / leehe0531@gmail.com). I will help you to find mentor from the church community. I am looking forward to seeing all confirmands, parents, and mentors in this meeting.



Date	Scripture and Sermon	Volunteers	Mission	Music/ Special Event
Sept 4 13th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday	Lectionary: Luke 14:25-33 "Towers of Commitment, Sacrifice, and Generosity"	Liturgist: Children's: Shelli D Media: Live: Denise R Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M, Jan A	Sunday School	Josh Giese-solo Guest Preacher- Mary Balson
Sept 11 14th Sunday after Pentecost First Choir Practice	Mark 10:13-16	Liturgist: Children's: Diane W Media: Jacob Live: Eleanor K Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	Sunday School	Denise Thompson-flute Bible Presentation RALLY DAY!
Sept 18 UMW SUNDAY 15th Sunday after Pentecost 1st Sunday School	Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14 "We Have This Mission"	Liturgist: Eleanor K Children's: Bill A Media: Henry Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	UMW Mission (TBD)	UMW SUNDAY Guest Preacher: Mary Council-Austin
Sept 25 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Lectionary: Luke 16:19-31	Liturgist: Donna M Children's: Tom R Media: Brayden Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Dave M	UMW Mission (TBD)	Choir

Family Ministries

With the start of September and the kids going back to school, we must also gear up for Rally Day and the start of Covenant's Sunday School, Youth, and Confirmation programs. Planning this year's course of instruction has already started. Rally Day will be September 11 with a lunch, meet/greet Pastor Ho Lee, the youth group's input to build their own program and some games. Rally Day will also be the installation of SS workers and the presentation of third grade Bibles. This year it will be Charlize Averbeck. Congratulations Charlize! Pastor has already scheduled the learning materials and direction for our lower grades through February 2023. More info will be coming. So glad to have direction and support from Pastor Ho Lee to advance and enhance our Family Ministries program.



VBS Week was a WONDERFUL SUCCESS with 23 kids in attendance. At our joint celebration on Sunday, August 21, we had 95 adults and 19 children in church! A Huge THANK YOU to Community Church and Sue Snellenberger and her crew for orchestrating "To Mars and Beyond" and hosting this event at their Church, and praise God together as one body of Christ. Regardless of their age, all participants became children before God and praised God with singing and dancing. In addition, they raised 300 dollars through loose offering for the next VBS. Thanks to our church members' hospitality, we had a light lunch together following the worship service. Thank you for all your participation and support for this great ministry. All four UMC churches in Fond du Lac plan to keep having a joint VBS every year. Please keep this great children's ministry in your prayer.

. A lot of volunteers were involved from NFDL Community, Salem, Pacto de Gracia, and Covenant to make VBS successful. Without volunteers where would our churches be?! -Mona Averbeck and Pastor Ho Lee



Sending Forth Mission

On August 3rd we served 170 people at Church of Peace. Thanks to everyone who helped serve this meal. Because, due to Covid, all meals are served curbside it involves a lot of movement we really appreciated all the help. Our next date to serve is November 3rd . So please put that on your calendar. We can always use new volunteers.



Missions for September:

Sept 4: Sunday School

Sept 11: Sunday School

Sept 19: United Women in Faith Sunday-

Sept 26: Women's mission to be determined

Our next meeting will be held on September 3rd at 10:45 in Fellowship Hall. We would welcome any new members.

On August 8th the school supplies collected for Back to School were delivered to the Boys and Girls Club. The loose offering for July check was also sent. Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission.

United Women in Faith

Our September meeting will be in Fellowship Hall on September 7th at 10:45am. We have a number of issues to discuss including the brunch for the October meeting, UMW Sunday, new books available and plans for the remainder of the year. Eleanor will do the lesson in September and items to donate for the Arc are craft items. Please plan to join us!



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men met Saturday, August 13 at Rolling Meadows for their monthly breakfast and meeting. 4 men and 1 guest were present . We held a live-discussion as usual. We hope you will attend in September for fellowship, a delicious meal, and discussion. Our September meeting will be held Saturday, September 10 at 8:00am.

Liturgists and Communion Stewards - Part of the Worship Team

The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries defines the role of the Worship committee as follows: to work with the pastor and others so that the congregation will have opportunities for worship celebrations that focus on God, help people of all ages grow in their understanding of the gospel, and become better equipped for daily living as faithful disciples.

One way in which worship is enhanced is through the involvement of liturgists. Every Sunday a liturgist assists the pastor in leading worship. They lead congregational participation such as the Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer, and share the Scripture reading. They open the Offering time with an invitation and close it by leading the Prayer of Dedication. On Communion Sundays, the liturgist may assist the Pastor in serving the bread and juice. All readings and prayers are supplied to the liturgist by email or mail, in order to make their task easy. If you would like to become a liturgist, please sign up on the form at the information desk in the narthex. (FYI-Narthex means that portion of a church building between the outside door of the building and the entrance door to the sanctuary.)

Another important part of worship is communion. Judi Balson sets up the communion table. Bill Kelley insures there is an adequate supply of the pre-packaged elements. Communion stewards (Loraine Jagow, Suzie Rimel, Denise Retzleff) purchase the bread and prepare the elements (juice and bread) for the table. Ushers direct congregants to the table. The ushers and communion stewards work together for clean-up. As you can see, there are a team of people working behind the scenes to help bring you a meaningful experience. We would like to invite you to be part of the communion preparation team.

Your task is only once every three to four months, as we rotate the responsibilities. Talk to one of the communion stewards for more details and to be included on the team.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff, Worship Committee Chair

World Communion Sunday – October 2, 2022



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations.

World Communion Sunday is both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. To enhance our experience of global communion, the altar will hold bread donated by individuals that they made from an international recipe or one that represents their culture or heritage. Please sign-up by contacting the church office, or signing up on the form in the narthex, indicating your name and the country or culture represented. Deadline to sign-up is Sunday, September 25. Bring your bread to the church by 11:30 am, on Thursday, September 29, with your name and the country/culture represented attached to the package. Join us on October 2 when together, we will use traditional Korean juice and bread to participate in Holy Communion.

Cancelled Stamp Savers

I want to extend a big THANK YOU for all the cancelled stamps I have received over the summer. I will be mailing a large envelope of cancelled stamps soon. Please give your cancelled stamps to Nina Krueger or Marilyn Stillings. Thank you for your continued support for the Marion Mission Storehouse located in Marion, Indiana. Please remember that prepaid postage is not accepted. -Marilyn Stillings

CHOIR

Sunday September 11 is our first Choir practice of the season. We'll be meeting at 10:15 after the service, in the Choir Room.

This year our Choir will be singing on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Our first appearance will be at the service on the fourth Sunday of September. I'm going to try for a mix of styles, some traditional, and some a bit more contemporary. I'm also hoping to start thinking about the holiday season coming up.

As the new Director, I'm looking forward to meeting you if you're one of our current Choir members. It's going to be a bit of a learning process for me, as I find out what sorts of music our choir excels at, and what our singing experiences are. And I'm hoping you'll like my style of rehearsing and directing. I tend to be pretty laid-back in rehearsal, but I also have a good sense of what I want us to sound like as a group, and a pretty good idea of how to achieve it.

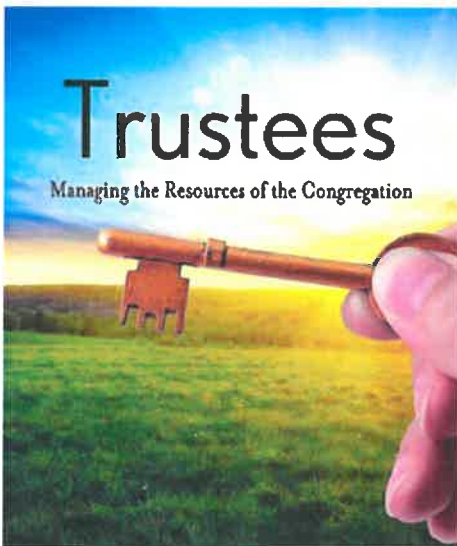
I'm also hoping that some of you who are former Choir members will consider coming back and re-joining us. I think you'll be glad you did.

And finally, if you haven't sung in choir before but have ever thought about it, now is the perfect time to join us. (At least come and give us a try.) There are no tryouts or auditions--just come to the Choir Room at 10:15 on Sunday the 11th--we'll had you a folder, welcome you, and be glad to see you.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in our first choir practice. -David Thompson



Trustees



The trustees have replaced all the Exit signs as safety in our building is of importance. The radon test of the parsonage passed and the cleaning of the vents was also completed by Kirby of FDL. Parsonage garage is finally complete and looks great. The large tree on the north side of educational bldg. was trimmed and the small tree removed. Cleaning of the west side and west and east hopefully has been completed last month. The Pastor's office will be relocated to the parlor area to make a more functional area for Pastor Ho Lee to meet with staff, church members, Confirmation class and any counseling that may occur. There will be a need for an upgraded desk, chair and book shelving as well as phone access hookup. A request for a Smart TV to be placed on the wall of the Narthex is being discussed for easier viewing for the congregation, visitors and others along with request to move the livestreaming over to the sound booth area. Moving the livestreaming over to the sound booth will lessen the amount of people needed for livestreaming and running the sound booth every Sunday. There is no need to remodel the sound booth area as all it needs is rearrangement of items already there. Our internet connections need an

additional 2 more hookups to further enhance the efficiency and better capabilities of hearing for the congregation. If approved by the Endowment Committee, Diener Painting will wash and paint the north end of the Educational Bldg. which has mold on it and does not look good. Repair, reseal, or replacement of the east entrance windows is being investigated as the seals are loosening. Hall lights are being upgraded to LED for savings cost. Repair of the fire door closures and the security screen in the server room is being discussed. More to come next month. God Bless, Bill Averbeck

Birthdays

- 9-4 Penny Werner
- 9-4 Diane Duncan
- 9-7 Lois Chipman
- 9-8 Darrell Jewson
- 9-11 Bob Balson
- 9-13 Rich Roessler
- 9-19 Dan Patt
- 9-21 Jennifer Colla
- 9-24 Tami Averbeck



80+ birthdays!

Lois Chipman
Rich Roessler

Anniversaries



- Sept 19– Dave and Marge Miller
- Sept 22– Gordon and Arlene Schultz
- Sept 26– Ted and Lois Chipman
- Sept 28– Jim and Liona Brockway

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!



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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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Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

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