



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



# THE ARK

*“Making Christian Disciples”*

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August 2023

## Main Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM

## Pastor Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

## Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
- Text “give” to 920-267-4801
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**Pastor of Hispanic Ministry:** Rev. Janet Martínez

**Adm. Asst./Family Ministries:** Debbie Tidwell

**Music Director:** David Thompson

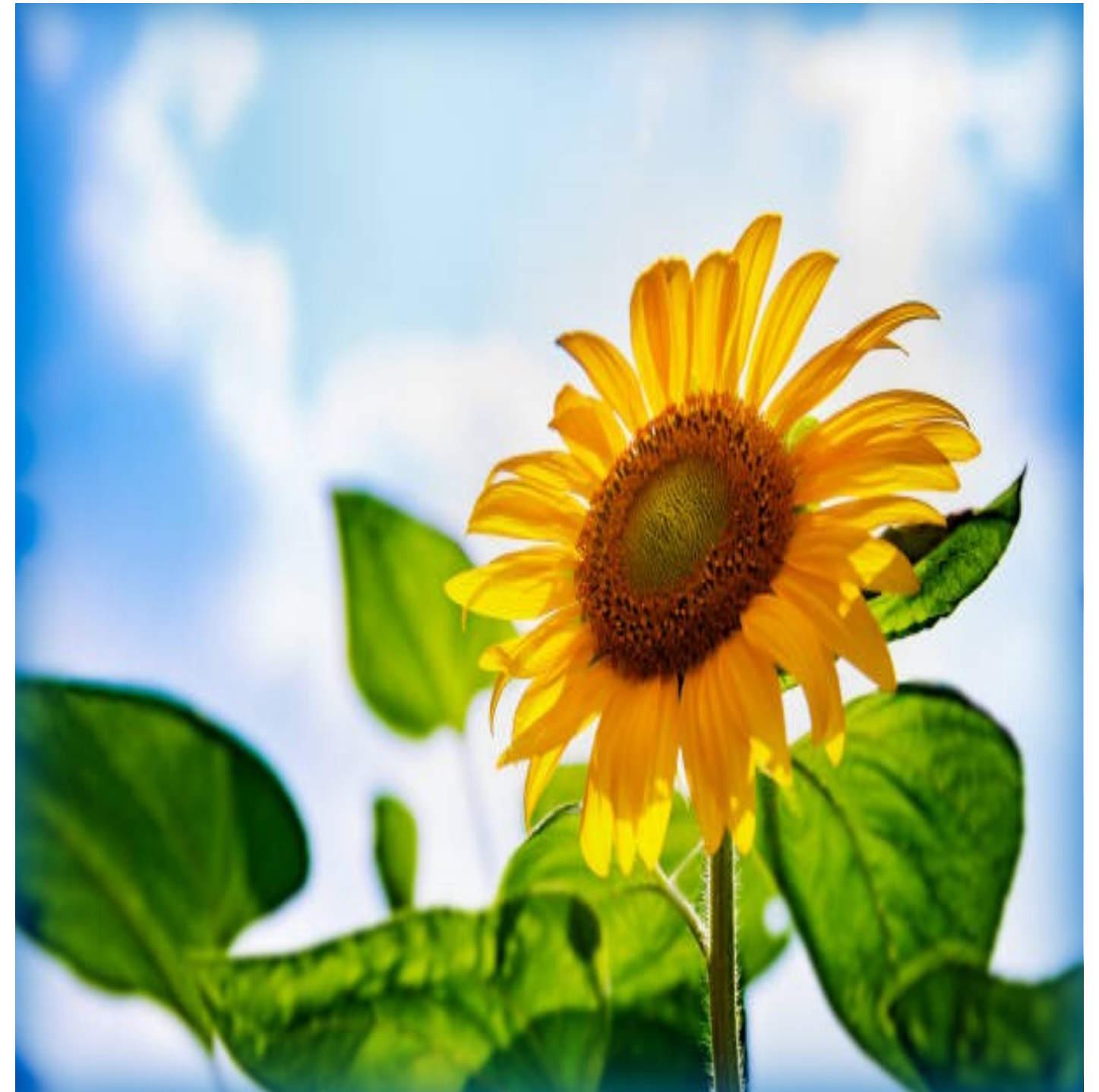
**Custodian:** Judi Balson

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.

## CONTACT US:

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# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm Trustee mtg.	2 9:30am Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:00am Communion Service 10:15am Ice Cream Recap Mtg.	7	8	9 9:30am Bible Study	10	11	12 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows
13 9:00am Service	14 10:15 Worship Com	15 1:00pm SPRC	16 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Bingo	17	18	19
20 9:00am Service	21	22	23 8:00am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Ministry	24	25	26
27 9:00am Service	28	29	30 9:30am Bible Study	31		
31						



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Dear Covenant UMC Family.

I am writing to tell you some sudden and surprising news. The SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) and I decided together on a renewal leave beginning July 18th through October 1st due to my health issue. This means I will leave my pastoral ministry for three months in order to regain my health. This sudden renewal leave was nobody’s plan or intention. My health issue was the deciding factor in this decision. This renewal leave was approved by the SPRC, our DS and The Cabinet.

Last April, when I visited South Korea, I was diagnosed with sleep apnea through a sleep test. The doctor strongly recommended having nasal surgery and start using a CPAP Machine. However, I postponed these treatments because the nasal surgery took six weeks for full recovery, and the CPAP machine sounded very uncomfortable and unnecessarily expensive. At the same time, I was overconfident about my youth and health. I thought I could handle my sleep apnea without the proper medical treatment. It turned out that I was wrong.

My sleep apnea has worsened to the point that I always feel tired even after a full day's rest and night's sleep. This tiredness continually makes me sick, negatively affecting my pastoral ministry. In particular, for the last few months, I have been sick, from catching a cold to getting Covid-19 a second time. This experience has helped me realize that I need some medical treatment in the near future. I shared my health concern with the SPRC members, and they suggested having a renewal leave to treat my sleep apnea during the summer when church activities are somewhat low. That is how I decided to take a renewal leave.

I plan to leave the United States and go to South Korea for surgery and medical treatment during the renewal leave. My last day at church will be Monday, July 17. On July 18, I will go to South Korea and see the doctor on July 20. My tentative nasal surgery date will be July 27. After the surgery, I will stay in South Korea for six weeks to be completely healed. Then, I plan to fly back to the United States at the end of September. My official date back to the church will be Monday, October 2.

Some church members might wonder why I am going to South Korea for treatment. The main reason is finance. Having a medical examination and surgery in the United States with my current health insurance will be beyond my budget. Compared to the United States, South Korea provides medical treatment at a reasonable price thanks to its national health insurance. Since I plan to apply for citizenship in the United States in 2025, this would be my last chance to be treated through the Korean national health insurance. (Currently, I am a green card holder.)

Various guest preachers will be preaching during my absence and will bring God's Word to us. Our loving lay leader, Denise Retzleff, has already arranged the guest preachers through October 1. You can see this schedule in the following chart. This might be a good opportunity for church members to listen to God's word from various perspectives. Retired Pastor Chuck Davis agreed to provide pastoral care for emergencies, such as hospital visits or funerals. You can contact him through the main church office.

I am really sorry for this unexpected leave. However, I believe this is necessary and is the best option for the church's future in a this situation. Please pray for me to be completely healed and return to the pastoral ministry with a sound mind and body. Also, please pray for my family members, especially my wife, Miyeon, because they will be staying in the United States without me for over two months. I deeply appreciate all your support and prayers. I am looking forward to seeing you soon with a healthy body and mind.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ho Lee

**Sending Forth**

The Little Food Pantry has been very successful in distributing food to those who need it. The pantry is filled 2-3 times a week at the cost of about \$25.00. We ask for your time, food donations and cash mission money which helps supply our needs. However, the need is great and our supply is limited. Included is a list of requests for food and you can use your mission envelope for cash.

Thank you on behalf of Sara Circle and Sending Forth for your generous donation as always.

Marilynn Roessler

**Food Pantry Suggestions**

Cereal, tuna, canned chicken, granola bars, cans of fruits and vegetables or individual serving sizes, microwave mac and cheese, Spanish rice packets, ramen noodles, oatmeal cereal packets, peanut butter, flour , sugar, brown sugar and health items like toothpaste, tissues, etc.

**C.C.A.P.**

The first week of July I was shopping at Pick n Save. The produce man said that he had some produce that was getting a little old, would we be able to find a use for it? I called the Salvation Army and delivered to them three more cases of bananas. This is besides the four cases we deliver each week for the Brown Bag Program. I asked how many kids are reached each week and was told over 800 kids get a lunch and we helped! We spend \$56 a week for four cases of bananas with a new school year coming up. I hope to get extra school supplies and go grocery shopping. In Oct. or Nov., I hope to do the annual clothes shopping (about\$400) If anyone would like to donate , send it to the church for CCAP.

Thank you

D.L. Jewson

See the light in others and treat them as if that’s all you see. Dr. Wayne Dyer

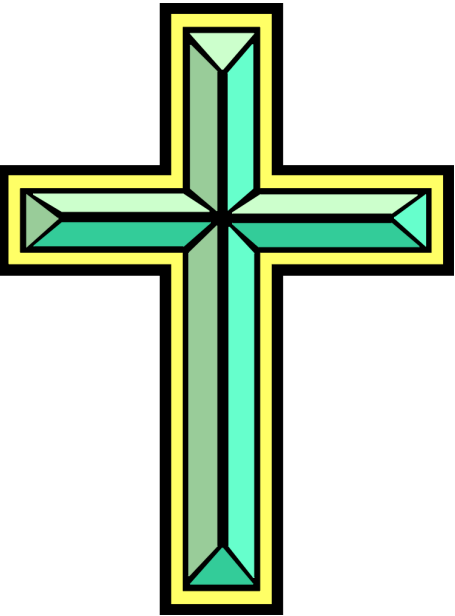


**United Methodist Men**

Your U.M.M met July 8 at Rolling Meadows. We had 5 men present. The men sent \$415 to Operation Back to School. There was a lot of discussion about the Sept. 1 Brat Fry at Festival. There will be sign up sheets for volunteers, with the proceeds again helping with our window and door replacements. It still would be nice to see 15-20 men at our meetings. I know there is so much more talent that God gave us to be put to use.

Darrell Jewson

From the Book, “Good Nite God “ given by MiriumOlmstead– God created you and he knows exactly what you need to live your life to the fullest. As your creator He can restore you at the end of a draining day, so you can play beautiful music tomorrow.



**Guest Preacher Schedule**

August 6	Communion Sunday	Rev. Chuck Davis
August 13		Rev. Tom White
August 20		Rev. Mary Balson
August 27		Lay Speaker Judy Straub
September 3	Communion Sunday	D.S., Rev. Park Hunter
September 10		Rev. Michael Morning
September 17	UWF Sunday	Lay Speaker, Denise Shaffer
September 24		Rev. Mary Balson
October 1	World Communion Sunday	Rev. Chuck Davis

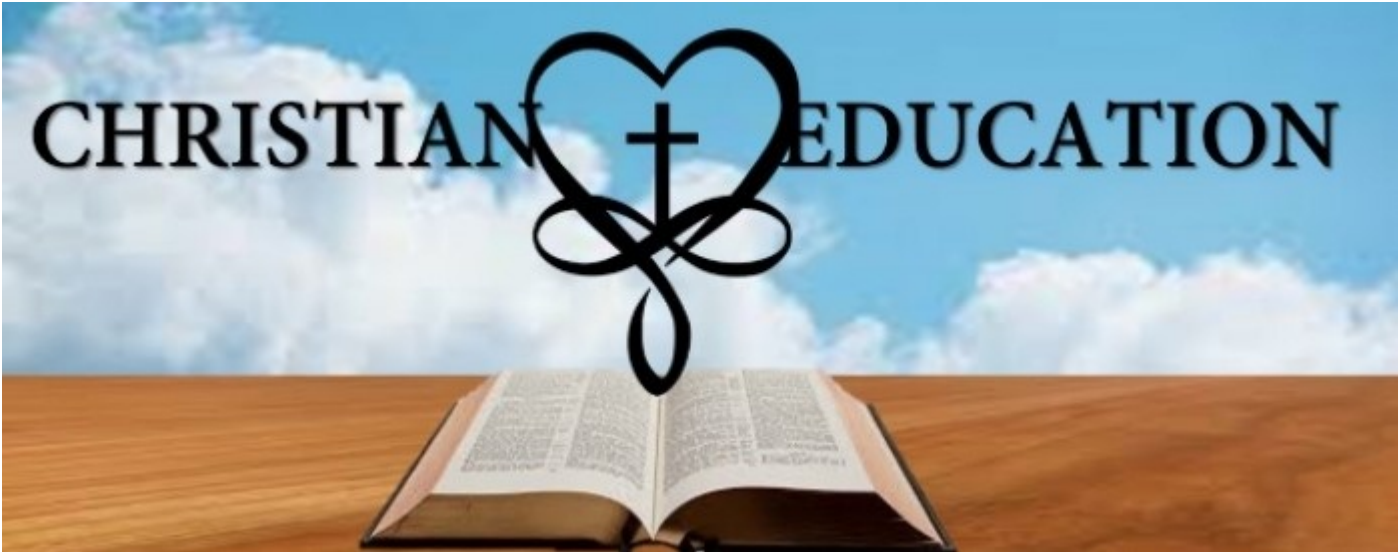
**Trustee Committee**

The Trustees did not meet in July because there were no pressing issues and we have a few projects that are being completed and/or pending. At our August meeting, we will begin planning for our annual budget for next year. Winter snowplowing needs to be addressed, along with any other issues that arise, as well as planning for the 2024 budget needs. Business as usual is going forward. Any questions or concerns, you may have, please contact any one of your Trustees.

In God’s Love,

Bill Averbek, Trustee Chair





## Bible Study Classes

### The Call - The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul

What would lead a first-century rabbi to travel for thousands of miles by sea and by land, to be beaten, imprisoned, and ultimately beheaded for his faith? It was a call—a call to turn the world upside down. This is the story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings have shaped the lives of one-third of the world’s population, a man second only to Jesus in his influence on Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

Join this small group study and conversation on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the choir room. This new series starts August, 16 2023. There is no registration, no fee, and no work between sessions. Come as you are, eager to ask questions, learn from each other and discuss. For more information contact Denise Retzleff at 920- 539-0336. We will use bestselling author Adam Hamilton’s book and video series “The Call - The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul”.

### A Word from Church Council

During each church council meeting I have been asking the committee members questions from the book, Leading Beyond the Walls by Adam Hamilton. The book focuses on key elements like strategies, ideas, and insights that can help us develop a congregation that is open to all, especially reaching the unchurched. The first part of the book is asking questions that need to be answered by church members before strategies can be developed.

At the most recent council meeting the question asked was: To whom does the church belong? The answer is that the church belongs to God. We then highlighted things we are doing that God wants us to do. (i.e. Loaves and Fishes, banana project, reading with children at Chegwin, Angel tree, Back to School, Hat and Mitten Tree, Children’s Clothing Drive, support for Pacto de Gracia, Tools of Hope)

Then we asked the question, what are the things we are not doing that Jesus wants us to do?

- Developing relationships with those outside the church
- Inviting people to our church

What could we do?

- Start small groups of 8-12 people
- Hold weekly prayer gatherings
- After visitors come to church, call them back, talk to them in-person, going to their homes and drop off a mug filled with treats.
- Pastor to send a personal letter to visitors
- Have “Be-Frienders” greet new people in church, gather their contact info, be sure to greet them the next week, and introduce them to other people.
- Start a hospitality team to get this organized

Prayer: Lord, reveal in us our weaknesses and give us the strength to grow in these areas so we can be better examples to those we disciple to. Send us out into our community to disciple others and show them how to become a member of Christ’s church, so they can also disciple to others and to the world.

Tom Retzleff, Church Council Chair





- 08/03 David Gustavus
- 08/08 Sandy Kilmer
- 08/12 AJ Averbeck  
Sandy Thern
- 08/15 Judie Duitman
- 08/18 Susan Olson
- 08/27 Sandra Randall– Krueger

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. 24- Marilynn and Rich Roessler



**Mission Offerings for August**

8-6-23 Little Food Pantry

8-13-23 Little Food Pantry

8-20-23 Window/Door Replacement

8-27-23 Window/Door Replacement



Summer is such a wonderful time of the year! I hope that you are enjoying it! Our Nursery has opened once again during the Worship Service and it has been wonderful seeing the children enjoy playing together! We are planning on having our opening Rally Day at Bay Beach Amusement Park on Sept. 17 following the Worship Service for all families of children and youth, so make sure to save the date! Sunday School will officially begin Sept. 24. This year Sunday School will take place during the Worship Service, so stay tune for more information on that! I hope that you have a wonderful August and please remember to keep praying for one another! We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future!

Peace and Blessings!

Debbie Tidwell Director of Family Ministry



**Get ready for Sunday School this Fall! We will resume regular Sunday School on September 24th! Children ages 3– 5th grade are welcome to attend.**



**The Nursery is Open!**

All children ages 18 months– Kindergarten are welcome to attend our Nursery during the Worship Service!





Hey, many of you may already know my name, but for those that don't, my name is Jacob Allickson. And The reason I am here today is because as many of you know it is my confirmation day. Some things you should know about me are I attend Campbellsport High School and I am in my freshman year and now going to sophomore year. I also enjoy riding dirt bikes, wrestling, and soccer.

The one reason I joined confirmation class was because of family. When I first started coming to church I saw Sloan doing these confirmation classes so I wanted to do them too. I don't know why, I just thought it would be fun. So after a while, I started to do some other classes with my family members, AJ, Kyle, Henry, and Brayden. And now that I was doing these things with them and they kinda pushed me into confirmation. The second reason was because I wanted to try something new. Before my Dad met Courtney, we had rarely gone to church. We probably didn't go for about 2 or 3 years until Courtney brought us to church with all the other family members. And I remember sitting there thinking to myself are all these people really praying to a God they have never seen before? And then later, I wondered why they devote so much time and money to God and the church. So it got me interested in joining the Sunday classes, and that's how it got me to be confirmed now.

Throughout the confirmation classes, they had their ups and downs but for the most part it was a fun and educational class. During our confirmation classes we read deeply several books such as, 24 Hours That Changed the World, and The Journey. And reading these books was fun when we got to class that Sunday and saw who didn't read and they would have to pay the pastor like \$10. Somehow we all had questions and read the books, Henry's readings were always questionable, but he passed I guess. But overall, I think the best part of the confirmation classes was the unique questions the pastor always asked us. Because it always made me think deeper about the topic, and because I always want to have the best question, I am kinda competitive like that.

But now after 2 long years, I am getting confirmed. And me 2 years ago would not know what to say when I got asked what I want to do now, but now I do. Now that I am getting Confirmed, I want to help out with the children's Sunday School and other education for kids at the church. I hope I can do what the church needs me to do and help where I can. Thank you everyone for listening, please.

Jacob Allickson



Hello Covenant Members!

Several members have been asking me when my son and daughter would be able to come and sing at one of our services.

This August, my daughter and my son will each be joining us in worship. My daughter Katie studied voice at UW-FDL and UW– Milwaukee, and is an accomplished singer ( as well as a phenomenal professional pastry chef!) She will be joining us on Sunday, August 13.

The following week, August 20, my son Paul will be providing our special music. Paul holds a Doctorate in Music from the University of Colorado, and is presently the Director of Choirs at Ripon College.

On the last Sunday of August, the 27th, my wife Denise will be joining our own Debbie Tidwell playing several flute duets for the service.

I look forward to you getting to meet these members of my family.

Dave Thompson

