



THE ARK

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

COVENANT United Methodist Church

(920) 921-4949

www.covenantforyou.church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

July Sermon Services

Compared to the variety of summer events and missions of the church, we do not have a lot of unique rituals and events in the worship services during July. I plan to bring our church members' attention to Jesus' best teaching, "Sermon on the Mount," exploring its depth together by taking this opportunity. It would be beneficial to read the book of Matthew, chapters 5-7, the whole of Matthew, or the four gospels in the Bible along with this sermon series. If you want to explore Jesus' teaching more deeply, I strongly recommend reading two books, *"Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven"* (written by Amy-Jill Levine) and *"Jesus' Plan for a New World"* (written by Richard Rohr.)

Special Guest Preacher

Reverend Forrest Wells



There are still a few special events in the July worship services. One of them is to have a special guest preacher. Reverend Forrest Wells, a former District Superintendent of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and my mentor, plans to come to our church on July 14th and bring God's message to us. His message is sure to inspire all our church members.

Certified Lay Minister

On July 21st, we will recognize Denise Retzleff as the first certified lay minister at the Wisconsin Annual Conference. I will explain the meaning of being a lay minister in another article below.

I must emphasize that she went through a lot of training and classes to be equipped to do various church ministries. We will celebrate her completion of a somewhat long training and look forward to her ex-

DATE	CALENDAR	SERMON	WORSHIP
7/7	Proper 9	- Sermon on the Mount 6: - Bible: Matthew 5	- Communion - Nursery
7/14	Proper 10	- Guest Preacher: Rev. Forrest Wells	
7/21	Proper 11	- Sermon on the Mount 7: - Bible: Matthew 5	♦ Recognition of Certified Lay Minister Denise Retzlaff
7/28	Proper 12	- Sermon on the Mount 8: - Bible: Matthew 5	

Pastor's Reading Week & Vacation

Pastor Ho Lee will have a "Reading Week" from July 1st (Monday) to 3rd (Wednesday). In this "reading week", the Pastor plans to pay attention to reading books regarding the upcoming sermon series.

The week is beneficial for both the Pastor and the congregation because he can improve the quality of sermons (even make shorter sermons possible!). Plus, he can do more pastoral ministries, such as visitation, church administration, meetings, and missions, by reducing the time for preparing sermons each week.

On Independence Day July 4th, the church building will be closed. In the middle of July, July 15th (Monday) to 16th (Tuesday), the Pastor will have a short **summer vacation** to have family time.



Certified Lay Minister: Denise Retzleff

I (Ho Lee) am excited to announce that our church lay leader, Denise Retzleff, completed all the classes and training and became the first certified lay minister at the Wisconsin Annual Conference. You can better understand how to become a certified lay minister by reading Denise's article.

"Denise completed the requirement to serve as a Certified Lay Minister (CLM) and was recognized by the Wisconsin United Methodist Annual Conference on June 8th in Green Bay. A CLM is a certified lay speaker who has been called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, preach, lead small groups, establish community outreach, or develop new faith communities. The CLM works with the supervision of a clergy person. A CLM is not clergy and may not conduct the sacraments of baptism or communion.



She received approval from the District Superintendent and Covenant UM Church Council to enter into the program. She completed four online classes on the topics of worship and preaching, administration, Methodist history, and Wesleyan heritage, congregational care, faith formation, and introduction to The Book of Discipline (the laws and processes by which United Methodists govern themselves). She formed a Mutual Ministry Team (MMT) that included Pastor Ho Lee, Diane Weider, Mary Balson, Dea Hebel, and Mona Averbeck. They supported her involvement and reacted to assigned lessons and appreciate their feedback, time, and support.

Denise was interviewed and approved by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, then finally approved by the Conference Board of Laity (CBOL) on March 18th. My role is to be in congregational leadership, working with the Pastor and others for the growth and mission of the United Methodist Church. At this time, some of her involvement is as a member of United Women in Faith, chair of the Worship committee, facilitator of Bible study on Wednesday mornings, serving on the task force to initiate small groups this fall, stewardship committee, lay leader, finance committee, church council, staff parish relations committee, Pacto de Gracia Shepherding team, communion steward, liturgist, live stream team and praying for the church."

I (Ho Lee) have learned from my ten-year pastoral ministry in Wisconsin that the church ministry cannot be successful without active engagement and dedication of church leaders and members. Our denomination, the United Methodist Church, recognized the importance of the laity in the church ministry a long time ago and has tried to find a structural way to encourage the laity's active involvement in every aspect of the church. As a result, they developed three different levels of laity ministry: lay servant, lay speaker, and lay minister. The lay servant is one who completes one basic class and is certified by a congregation to serve a local church. A lay speaker has completed a basic and more than one advanced course and is certified by DCOM (District Committee on Ordained Ministry) to serve and preach to a local church and churches in a district. Lay ministry, which is new to the Wisconsin Annual Conference, is the one that has completed all basic and advanced courses and a year-long intensive course to serve and preach not only to a local church but also to all the churches in an annual conference.

From this basic understanding, you can easily see how much time and effort Denise had invested in serving our church. I believe many of you already recognize her sacrifice and love for the church from her countless engagements in the church ministry. Her somewhat long list of engagements above does not cover all her activities in the church. Recognizing her dedication to the church and celebrating her becoming a certified lay minister on **July 21st** is appropriate. However, recognition and celebration will not be enough. We need to pray and support her to extend her good influence not only on our church but also on other UMC churches at the annual conference level.



I also want to encourage church members to consider themselves to be lay servants, lay speakers, and lay ministers. I know many church members are searching for a way to make their lives meaningful. How can it be more meaningful than investing your time and effort to build up a healthy church community as a catalyst for the transformation of the world? You might be reluctant to jump in because you lack experience and knowledge. That is why many churches in the Wisconsin Annual Conference provide various training to be equipped for the church ministry. If you are interested in pursuing these laity ministries, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sunday School News

- Report on Graduation Sunday, June 2nd



2023 – 2024 Sunday School came to an end by celebrating kids' graduation on June 2nd. On this special Sunday, Sunday School kids led the worship service by participating in various worship orders, such as hymns with dance, call to worship, dramatic scripture reading, sending hymns, and blessings. We had a special time to bless our high school graduate, Jackson G. Also, we express our gratitude to Sunday school teachers.

- VBS

We plan to have an ecumenical VBS (Vacation Bible School) this year under the theme "Hero Hotline." Through stories in both the Old and New Testaments, this VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides for Bible Heroes who help make the mission possible through following Jesus, Helping Others, Working Together, and Showing Grace. All four UMC churches in the Fond du Lac area, Covenant, Salem, Community, and Pacto de Gracia, will work together for this VBS. Here is more information about it.

- ◆ When? - **Monday, July 29th – Thursday, August 1st**
- ◆ Time? - **4:30 PM to 7:30 PM**
(Dinner & Snack will be served.)
- ◆ Where? - **Covenant UMC** (20 N. Marr St. Fond du Lac)
- ◆ Age? - **3-year-old kids through 5th graders**
- ◆ Registration Fee? - **It is Free!**

Please invite kids you know to join this great program and if you would like to volunteer for this program, please contact Pastor Ho Lee.





TRUSTEES

Your Trustees have worked diligently to maintain your Church and keep it looking good and functionally safe. We have developed a 5-year plan over the last several years. This plan is as follows: parking lot and driveway, carpet/pew upgrade, scrolling outdoor sign and painting outside of Church. At this point, it appears that the parking lot and driveway is the most apparent need at this time. This project has been discussed the last few years, but we had put it on hold. We believe that this area is the original pavement from when the Church was built in 1988. It has been seal coated several times and the pot holes have been fixed a few times but they always break open, thus, our liability increases due to possible injury not only to our congregation, but to the public.

These projects, along with the money needed to address them will be discussed in the future and the Trustees will continue to engage with the congregation on these projects.

With God's Love,
Bill Aeverbeck, Trustee Chair



CHURCH COUNCIL

During our June church council meeting we read from the book Rich Church/Poor Church by Clif Christopher. The book gives our church leaders ideas to assess the financial condition of our church. The book gives us effective ideas towards stewardship, to continue with fiscal success and generous giving. We discussed the first chapter, "Why do we give to the church?"

Dear Lord, we come to you today asking for guidance. We sometimes feel lost and overwhelmed, and we need your help in finding our way. Please open our eyes and heart to the direction you want us to take. Help us to make wise decisions that will lead us closer to your path for our lives. Give us the strength and courage to persevere when times are difficult. Lead us with your truth and love, so that we may live a life that brings glory to your name. Thank you for your guidance and protection. Amen

Submitted by Tom Retzleff, Church Council Chair



MISSIONARY VISIT

On Tuesday July 23rd, Covenant United Methodist Church will host a United Methodist missionary from the General Board of Global Ministries. Rev. Eliad Dias dos Santos, a native of Brazil, who currently serves the poor through the Methodist Church of Italy, will be visiting Wisconsin for one week prior to returning to her home in Brazil for a time of respite.

Eliad was ordained in 1990 and served as a pastor in churches in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She participated in international training on conflict resolution, mediation, and human rights protection. But it was working with women prostitutes that converted her. Through that experience Eliad promised God that she would work for people the church doesn't normally take in: prostitutes, street people, transgender people. Eliad believes that as Christians, we are the presence of God in the lives of those people who are excluded, helping them materially, but (also) mainly fighting for a more just world.

Before starting her missionary assignment in Italy. Eliad coordinated a project for migrant women and children in Brazil. Describing her mission call, Eliad said, "I don't worry about what might happen a few years from now. God, who ruled the world before I was born, will take care of me even when I die. My part is to improve the present moment and collaborate for a better future for all people.

Rev. Eliad will be the guest speaker at a 12:00 potluck luncheon to be held at Covenant Church on **July 23rd**. Members of Covenant UMC, as well as persons from Salem UMC – Fond du Lac, Community UMC – North Fond du Lac and Ripon Immanuel are invited to attend.

Submitted by Mary Balson



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM met on Saturday, June 8th at Rolling Meadows Restaurant with 7 members in attendance. As always we opened the meeting with a prayer and then I read a thought piece "Why God never got tenure at a university".

We discussed the upcoming church picnic and who will perform what tasks as well as what can be done for our church and our community. We acknowledge and support the need for adult child care on Sundays for Pacto de Gracia. If any one is able to help on Sunday afternoons would be a great help and you do not need to speak Spanish. Please contact Mona Averbeck for further information.

"Church should be your excuse for missing everything else."



The school year is over, and thanks to Covenant we were able to provide 304 cases of bananas and 720 boxes of cereal that went to a lot of kids. Thank you Covenant! I always make sure they know it comes from our church.

For June we will deliver for summer school to two schools and the Boys and Girls Clubs at PIER and the YMCA.

We are still gladly accepting donations of Pick n Save, Spend \$100 get \$9 or \$11 dollars off coupons.

"Missing church is a MISDEMEANOR, the more you miss DE MEANER you get."

*Submitted by Darrel Jewson
U.M.M. Chair*

LOAVES AND FISHES



Hi Everyone! Well, it is that time again. We just served at Loaves and Fishes last month, however, due to several openings becoming available this year, Covenant again stepped up to the plate.

We will be serving another meal on **July 24, 4-6 p.m.** at Church of Peace on Military St. Our congregation has been very generous with their time and donations to serve the needy in our area. Our meal consists of Pump N Pantry chicken, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, bread, bananas, cookies and milk.

As always, a sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex. We want to thank all who help out and a great big thank you to our Youth who also give of their time. Many blessing to you all.

Submitted by Nancy Johnston and Mona Averbeck



UWF had their meeting and annual picnic June 5th. We made plans for upcoming events and voted to hold an ice cream social again. The committee is finalizing plans. Please save the date so you can enjoy the event and if possible help however you are able.

We distributed funds to various mission projects as follows: \$100 to the Bishops' retirement fund for scholarships, \$400 to our youth group for mission trip, \$500 to Little Food Pantry, \$300 each to Save A Smile and Harbor House and missionary in Italy. \$200 each to Brown Bag, Beacon House and Boys & Girls Club. Next meeting will be September 4th.

Submitted by Dea Hebel



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference was a good one this year. There was definitely less tension, fewer worries, and lowered stress, after years of arguments over human sexuality that ultimately led to disaffiliation -- it was nice to attend a good conference to just breathe deep and relax. No more ugly arguments and no more uncertainty about our future as United Methodists.

The General Conference dealt with three major concerns: Regionalization with 28 paragraphs removed from the Book of Discipline allowing conferences to govern the way that works best for them; Removal of Restrictive Language from the Book of Discipline allowing gay clergy to be commissioned or ordained and stating that marriage is between two consenting adults; and Revised Social Principles looking at equality for all.

We voted on consolidating our districts from five to four. We will now be in the Southeast District. The US is also going from 39 bishops to 32. We will share a bishop with Northern Illinois. We are not merging conferences, just sharing a bishop.

We have to say good-bye to our Bishop, Hee-Soo Jung. We were fortunate to have him for 12 years (four years longer than normal thanks to COVID). In addition to being a wonderful Bishop, he recruited Pastor Ho Lee to Wisconsin. For that alone, I am grateful. We are still waiting to hear who our new bishop will be. Many are projecting that it will be Dan Schwerin who was assistant to Bishop Jung until he was appointed Bishop to Northern Illinois so he is knowledgeable about both conferences.

We were also able to witness Denise Retzleff being honored as a Certified Lay Ministry. She and her classmate A.J. were the first two people to achieve this in the state of Wisconsin. It is an honor to have Denise as a leader at Covenant.

We supplied 14 dignity kits for the In Gathering at Annual Conference. I believe that at one point in the weekend I saw a sign that said 1400 kits had been donated. Thank you for being a part of it.

Mark Your Calendars for the Missionary Visit Tuesday, July 23rd we will host missionary Eliad Dias Dos Santos for a potluck/luncheon. Eliad is from Brazil and is serving in Italy. Please join us at noon with a delicious dish to share and learn about Eliad's mission.

Submitted by Diane Weider



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Loose Offering

In July we will collect Back to School Supplies and contribute our loose offering all month long.

This project was a labor of love for Eleanor King who helped with the distribution of supplies for many years.

There will be baskets in the Narthex to collect your supplies and if you don't want to shop, you can donate money instead. Let's make Eleanor smile down on us.

Youth Mission Trip

The Youth have decided that they would like to go to Logan County, West Virginia for their Mission Trip in the summer of 2025. Please watch for fundraisers and a way to support our Youth.

Submitted by Diane Weider

New Member Feature – Joyce Kindschuh



Joyce grew up on a farm in Waushara County, near the small villages of Pine River and Poy Sippi. She attended business college in Oshkosh, and then worked for five years as a sales service assistant in the dairy section at Marathon Corporation in Menasha. Joyce was a trail blazer because the job was originally just for men, but the men wanted to connect directly with customers as salesmen rather than be in the office. So she was hired for this job. There were 200 office employees at the time. She received orders from salesman in the western region of the US. She did whatever was necessary to prepare the ice cream and other dairy product cartons to be printed in the factory.

Joyce met Calvin, her husband-to-be, when she was dancing at the Eagle's Club in Oshkosh. They were married 24 ½ years, and she became a dairy farmer's wife. They have four children – Jeff (in Oklahoma), Patti, Curt, Steve (in California), 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Joyce loves to cook, bake and try new recipes. One of her favorites is poppy seed torte. She shared her joy of cooking with young people as a volunteer 4-H foods leader for many years, and as a foods superintendent at the county fair for 22 years. Other hobbies include games like Scrabble and Dominos, and card games like Sheepshead, Uno and Phase 10.

She has done lots and lots of travel. She's been to all 50 states and to many international destinations. Her favorites were to Egypt to see the pyramids and ride a camel, to Israel to float in the Dead Sea, and to Russia to see a ballet. Other trips took her to Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, the UK and other foreign nations.

Joyce turned 94 years young in April and hopes to live to 100, as long as she can care for herself. A favorite Bible story is one she remembers from her childhood when she was told the story of baby Moses being put into a basket in the Nile River. His mother was hoping to save him from the pharaoh, and later on God used him to save a nation. A favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff

Prayer Works



Prayer Group

Prayer is our conversation with God. Pastor Ho lee has preached about how to pray, why we pray and what to pray about. Now we are putting into action what we've learned from these sermons.

On Sunday mornings from 8:45 to 8:55 a.m. we will pray ten minutes before worship service. An individual from worship committee will lead the prayer time. We will meet in either the Choir Room (located across from the kitchen door) or in the garden on the west side of the church. We will pray ten minutes for those who are worshipping, for those who are not able to be present, and for those taking responsibilities for the worship.

All are invited to be part of this prayer circle. Just stop in with a prayerful heart.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff

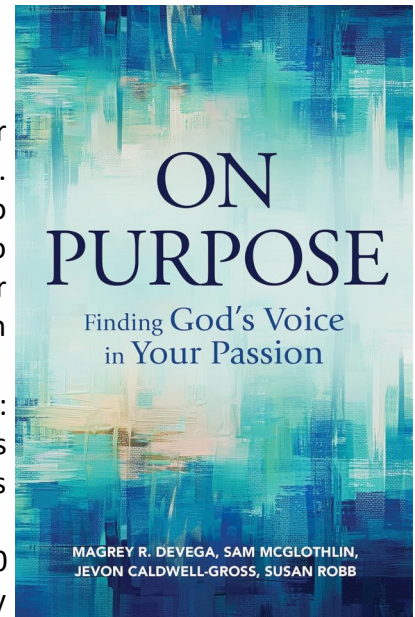
INVITATION TO CLASS

On Purpose – Finding God's Voice in Your Passion

We are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives. That's as basic an ingredient to the human experience as they come. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are.

The Wednesday morning Faith group will explore On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion, through videos and discussion. This study will help us see God's purpose for our lives, how to open ourselves to God's voice, and how to take the first or next step to follow God's call.

We will meet each Wednesday beginning **July 3rd** from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the choir room. Drop in and join the conversation. If you have any questions feel free to contact Denise Retzleff at 920-539-0336.



Submitted by Denise Retzleff



SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH 4:30—6:30 P.M.

Sara Circle is making plans for this event which will be very similar to last years' successful evening. We will be needing help again and asking our youth to participate. This is a way they can earn funds for their mission trip next summer. A portion of the profit will be for our Little Food Pantry.

Please mark it on your calendar and tell your friends and neighbors!

Submitted by Dea Hebel

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks so much for your continued support as it is being used daily by our neighbors!

The warmer weather allows us to put in canned fruits and vegetables (not peas or green beans). Canned chicken, tuna, granola bars, cereals, microwave mac & cheese, Spanish rice packets, ramen noodles, peanut butter, tortillas and wraps (watch date on them), and hygiene items such as toilet tissue, Kleenex, toothpaste. Every item is so appreciated!



Submitted by Dea Hebel

TAXI SERVICE TO CHURCH



Covenant Church has an agreement with Quality Cab (920-929-8888) to provide a taxi service for anyone needing a ride to a church service or activity. You must call the cab company on Tuesday or Wednesday to schedule your ride. Be sure to tell them to charge it to the Covenant account.

Wheelchair cab service may be available on weekdays but not on Sunday mornings.



YOUTH FOR CHRIST DONATION

Covenant UMC recently donated to the mission of Youth for Christ in Fond du Lac. This donation helps them to step into the world of today's teenagers with the love of Jesus in a world that continues to be a challenging place. The mission was very grateful and appreciate our efforts to help them share Christ with teens, no matter their life circumstance.



Please Update Your Church Member Information

Since I was appointed to Covenant UMC as a pastor, I have tried to update church member information by creating new directories and changing church software. As a result, now the church has correct basic information about the church members, such as name, address, and other contact information. However, we still need to update more information about the church members to serve them better, such as birthdays, anniversaries, schools, and family relationships. For this, I ask all the church

members to fill in the church member information form that you can find in the Narthex area and submit it to the church office or pastor Ho Lee in June. Many church members have already done so, but more need to be submitted. All of this personal information will be kept in the church office and strictly used for the church community only. Also, do not be surprised when Diane W. asks you to take your picture. This is to update your picture on the church database software program.



Mission Offerings for June

- 1st Sunday (7/7) Back to School
 2nd Sunday (7/14) Back to School
 3rd Sunday (7/21) Back to School
 4th Sunday (7/28) Back to School



JULY BIRTHDAYS



07/04 Barb Abitz	07/13 William Candlish
07/08 Dan Klaske	Suzie Rimel
07/09 Janet Lewis	07/14 Sharon Wolf
Jeffery Strong	07/19 Ryan Engel
07/11 William Averbeck	07/20 Sara Krueger-
07/12 AnnaRose Austin	Zuengler
Jayda Krueger	07/23 Donald Krueger

July Worship Volunteers

DATE	Liturgist	Children's Time	Ushers	Acolyte	Live-Streaming	PPT/Sound
7/7	Darrell J.	Pastor	Gary M. Donna M.	Charli A. Memphis A.	Mona A.	Tom R.
7/14	Denise S.	Denise S.	Sandy T. Jan A./Brayden A.		Penny W.	Tom R.
7/21	Bill D.	Shelli D.	Jan A. Sandi T./Brayden A.	Kyle A.	Denise R.	
7/28	Bill A.	Denise R.		Jin L. Ha-el L.		Tom R.

**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**
 YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's Reading Day	2 Pastor's Reading Day	3 Pastor's Reading Day 9:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Sara Circle 1 pm Loom Mission	4 Church Closed	5 Pastor Sabbath	6 Pastor Day Off
7 9 am Worship Service	8 10 am Community Worship Service - Lake House 4:45 pm Small Group Meeting	9 6:00 pm Happy Hour Weaving	10 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm VBS Meeting	11 Visitations 4:30 pm Finance Meeting	12 Pastor Sabbath	13 Pastor Day Off 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9am-3pm Rummage Sale Pacto de Gracia
14 9 am Worship Service Rev. Forrest Wells	15 Pastor's Vacation	16 Pastor's Vacation	17 9:30 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Loom Mission	18 Visitations	19 Pastor Sabbath	20 Pastor Day Off 11:00 am Good-Bye Worship Service for Bishop at First UMC in Madison
21 9 am Worship Service	22	23 12:00 pm Missionary Lunch 6:00 pm Loom Mission	24 8:00 am Women's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Loaves & Fishes 5:30 - 8 pm Champions Bingo	25 Visitations	26 Pastor Sabbath	27 Pastor Day Off
28 9 am Worship Service	29 4:30-7:30 pm VBS	30 4:30-7:30 pm VBS	31 9:30 am Bible Study 4:30-7:30 pm VBS			



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Covenant United Methodist Church

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THE ARK *Covenant UMC*

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Main Office Hours

Mon-Thurs
9:00AM-1:00PM

Pastor Office Hours:

Mon– Thurs
9:00am-3:00pm

Submissions deadline is no later than the 15th of each month at noon.

Please get your content to the office by this date for the next month's issue.