



July 2025



THE ARK

NEWSLETTER

COVENANT United Methodist Church

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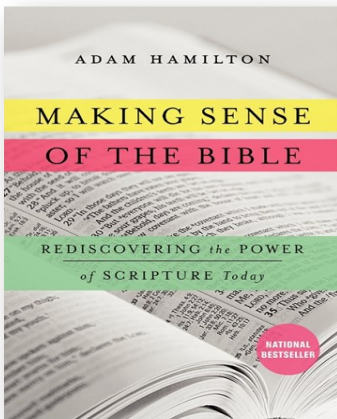
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"Covenant United Methodist Church - Fond du Lac"

From Pastor's Desk:

Discipleship Course: "Making Sense of the Bible"



I am planning to start a discipleship course this summer and fall, focusing on understanding the Bible. This year, church leaders have strongly suggested providing more opportunities for members to learn about spiritual topics, particularly the Bible. Additionally, many church members have expressed a growing interest in deepening their understanding of Scripture. In response to these requests, I have decided to offer a course that will begin in July, based on the book "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. Throughout the course, we will explore the nature of Scripture, examining both the Old and New Testaments, along with various questions related to the Bible. We will discuss challenging topics such as "Science, the Bible, and the Creation Stories," "Were Adam and Eve Real People?" and "God's Violence in the Old Testament." Together, we will explore how to respond to these questions during the later part of the course.

The class will be casual, primarily focused on conversations and discussions rather than traditional lectures. However, participants will need to read assigned chapters of the book in advance. **Classes will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, with a total of twelve sessions from July to October. Please note that we will not meet every Wednesday; instead, we will gather 2 to 3 times a month.** Below are the specific dates for the class. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet located in the narthex area or contact Pastor Ho Lee at 617-894-3545 or leeho0531@gmail.com. The book can be purchased from the office for \$15. The first date of the class is July 2nd.

Wednesday Discipleship Course

- ◇ Date: Wednesdays: July 2nd, 9th, 30th, August 6th, 27th, September 3rd, 10th, 24th
- ◇ Time and Place: **From 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Choir Room**
- ◇ Book: **"Making Sense of the Bible" (By Adam Hamilton)**

June Worship Highlights

I would like to share some highlights from the June worship service, particularly focusing on Graduation Sunday, which took place on June 1st. Lukas, Toby and Kristin's son as well as long-standing member, Leigh's grandson, was baptized and joined the body of Christ. We also recognized Sloan, the daughter of Adam and Tami Averbeck, as she graduated from high school. It was a special moment to bless her as she embarks on her future. Sloan's active engagement in church missions and ministries, along with her remarkable academic achievements, led the scholarship committee to select her as the recipient of this year's church scholarship, which was awarded during the service.



I invite all church members to pray for Sloan as she stands before the broader world. Here is her writing about her future:



"Hi, for those of you who don't know me, I'm Sloan Averbeck. I am the recipient of the LaShay Scholarship, and I would first like to thank you for selecting me for the scholarship. I graduated from Oshkosh West High School two weeks ago and plan to head to UW Platteville this fall, where I will study Pre-Veterinary Medicine in hopes of specializing in Embryo Transplants and Reproduction in Dairy and Beef Cattle. I also plan to continue my beef Hereford herd, Clay Creek Herefords, that I started last year with the hopes of producing high-quality beef cattle for FFA and 4H members wishing to show at local fairs."

July Sermon and Worship Services

- Invitation to the Book of Acts

The hope of many church members, especially those who have been part of the community for a long time and are dedicated to it, is to witness the church revitalized and growing once again. Whenever I am appointed to a church, longtime members and leaders often express how much they miss the church's heyday, when Sunday school classes were filled with children and teachers, and worship services were packed with believers. I share this dream as well: that the church I am pastoring is growing in spirit and in number. I envision Covenant United Methodist Church as a place where people encounter Jesus, become disciples, and work together to change the world into the Kingdom of God, regardless of age. I hope our worship services are inspiring and spirit-filled. I want our hospitality to make newcomers feel welcome, and for our relationships to deepen to the point where we can authentically come together as one body, laughing and crying with each other. I hope that all congregational members are dedicated to various missions that create real and meaningful differences in the world. Many of you, I believe, have dreamed of a growing and healthy church, even if it's just a part of that dream. So, what can we do to turn that dream into reality? What are some great ways to revitalize our church and promote growth?



Let me clarify: Covenant UMC is not dying. In fact, we are steadily growing in both spirit and number. Our Sunday school is expanding, and youth group engagement in church and missions is increasing. More church members are becoming involved in missions and ministries. This year, we have welcomed four new members, with another four set to join after completing new member classes. We are growing, thanks to God's grace and the efforts of church members. However, we want to be more effective as the salt and light of the world, and we aspire to grow exponentially. How can we achieve this?

I have a few ideas but do not yet have specific answers. I want to explore these questions with our church members by turning our attention to the Book of Acts. There are many resources available that discuss various strategies for church growth. However, instead of relying solely on human experiences and knowledge, I invite our church members to focus on our foundational authority, the Bible—particularly the Book of Acts—this summer. This scripture illustrates how the Holy Spirit guided people in forming early church communities and spreading the good news through them.



I do not want to romanticize or idealize the early churches mentioned in the Book of Acts; they made mistakes and faced their own challenges. Nevertheless, God established these early churches and used them powerfully through the Holy Spirit. Because of this undeniable work by God through the Holy Spirit, we can discover important characteristics and principles for a Spirit-led and God-centered church. This summer, let's delve into the teachings of the Book of Acts to uncover the secrets of being

Continued on next page

a growing and healthy church, as well as becoming spirit-led and mature Christians. Detailed information about our July sermons and worship schedule will follow.

July Sermon and Worship

DATE	CALENDAR	SERMON	WORSHIP
7/6	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	- Bible: Acts 1:1-14	• Communion • Special Music: Denise Shaffer
7/13	5 th Sunday after Pentecost	- Bible: Acts 1:15-26	• Special Music : Denise T. Penny W. Patti S.
7/20	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	- Bible: Acts 2:1-21	
7/27	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	Guest Preacher: Rev. Tom White	• Special Music : Nancy Johnston

Submitted by Pastor Ho Lee

Altar Bible Stand



There is a new Bible stand on our altar, lovingly created and gifted to our congregation. Please take the time to walk up and take a look. Numerous hours were undertaken to craft this stand.

It certainly showcases and presents the Bible as the main focus on the altar. Recognition is not wanted by the individual who made this, so if you would be so kind, please send some prayers their way. Blessings!



Submitted by Mona A.

Report on Annual Conference:

Congratulations Covenant!



We have paid our apportionments in full once again. The Conference counts on this money for Connectional Ministries within the Wisconsin Conference and around the world. 76.7% of apportionments were paid.

Many churches are facing challenges and cannot pay them in full. Thanks to our endowments, we have been able to consistently pay our apportionments in full.

On behalf of the Annual Conference, thank you!

Submitted by Diane W.

Summer Church Office Hours

We are changing Miyeon's office hours for **July and August**. Due to morning activities for Jin, Ha-el, and Tay, Miyeon will be working **from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Pastor Ho Lee will open the office at 9:30 a.m. so the church will still be open approximately the same hours.

Submitted by Diane W.

New Member Introduction

John Hammons grew up in Madison with his two brothers; he is the middle child. He worked at Oscar Meyer for two years, but he said he never was an "Oscar Meyer wiener!" John also worked in the radio broadcasting business at WORT in Milwaukee. He was known as Johnny Howler from Wolfman Jack. His inspiration was the TV show "WKRP in Cincinnati." He has a Maine coon (cat) called Marley.

John has many interests. He is great at repairing old televisions and vintage electronics. He enjoys karaoke and is addicted to Bingo. (Beth says he's very lucky in Bingo.) John has an e-bike and loves biking, hiking, hunting and the outdoors. Board games are also one of his passions. This fellow loves working in the kitchen, baking, and grilling. John is certainly a multi-talented man.



Submitted by Donna M.

Sunday School News

Our Sunday school kids and youth did a fantastic job with the service for Graduation Sunday on June 1. We are proud of those who helped to lead the worship with their songs, dances and reading parts. Thank you to the parents and teachers who help make it a success!

Some reminders for July, August and September:

- ⇒ There will be a **Sunday school teacher's meeting** following the worship service on **Sunday, July 6th**. We will discuss the upcoming Family Fun Sunday trip to Bay Beach in Green Bay. Please consider attending even if you are not currently a Sunday school teacher but do have a child who would like to join us at Bay Beach.
- ⇒ **Sunday, July 27th**, is our Family Fun Sunday trip to Bay Beach Amusement Park following the worship service. Look for a sign up on a table in the Narthex.
- ⇒ **Sunday, August 10th**, our end of summer **Sunday school teacher's meeting and picnic lunch** to discuss the **September 7th Rally Day**. We need "All Hands on Deck" to prepare for this big event to kick off the fall Sunday school season. Please mark your calendar!



Submitted by Julie T.

Graduation Sunday

On June 1st, we recognized Sloan Averbeck. Sloan was our only graduating senior this year. She had been a part of our Sunday school, confirmation, and youth programs her entire life. Sloan applied for and earned the LaShay Scholarship in the amount of \$1500. She will be attending UW Platteville in the fall for pre-veterinary medicine. We also enjoyed a wonderful program from our Sunday school children on that Sunday.

Submitted by Diane W.

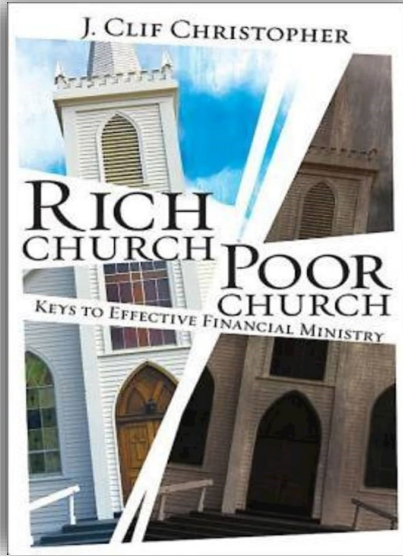
Trustee

Your Covenant Trustees are preparing for the **total asphalt removal of our parking lot and driveway**. This project will **take place after July 4th** with mid July being the start date and hopefully will not impact our congregation too much. **These 2 areas will be blocked off for one week** so the asphalt will have time to properly cure. **We request that you use the Marr St. entrance and Marr St. parking during this time.** July was chosen as the best time for this project due to the fact that summer is usually light in regard to meetings and is also a good month for curing. Another project that we are undertaking and getting an estimate on cost is **the replacement of our Sanctuary lighting** over the altar and pews. Currently 2 lights are not working properly. **Our garden person, Nancy Johnston, could use a little extra help at times in the caretaking of our Church garden and bushes.** If anyone is interested in gardening and spending an enjoyable time with Nancy, please let us know.

Your Trustee Chair, Bill Averbeck

Church Council

During our last church council meeting in May 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. We discussed the 9th chapter, "Stewardship without apology." In this



chapter Christopher points out that many churches are struggling financially every year just to get by, especially in the economic times we have today. This chapter showed how some Stewardship programs help congregations be financially sound and why others are falling short of their expectations and fail to generate the necessary income to keep the church fiscally healthy. The healthy church has a financial stewardship program that is part of the culture and DNA of the church and frequently informs its members about it and is a part of every worship service. While the less fortunate churches put the financial stewardship programs in a backroom and only bring it out once a year for a short while. What type of a church do you think we are? Please consider and

pray how you, as an individual congregant, may contribute spiritually and financially to meet our church's needs throughout the year.

- After we discussed the topic for this month's church council meeting, we moved on to the business of the church itself. Church council was informed by Bill Averbek chair of the trustee's that the repaving of the church parking lot will begin sometime in early July. Bill also informed us that the repairs to the sanctuary roof have been completed and our current roof has 3-5 more years left before the need to be replaced. Bill said we are still waiting for the electrician to replace the sanctuary lights and to hook up the TV for the security cameras in the office.
- Another item discussed, was the church's financial budget is down \$4000.00 from last year's income at this time. We needed to transfer \$9,000.00 from the reserve funds to the general funds to cover current and future expenses.
- We set the date for our **next Church Council meeting for June 30 at 6:30 pm**. Anyone wanting to attend these meetings is more than welcome.

"Take care and God Bless."

Submitted by Tom Retzleff, Church Council Chair

Mission Committee

In June, we made 30 personal dignity kits and donate more than \$200 to Midwest Distribution. July is Back to School month. On **July 6th** and **13th** our loose offering will go to **Back to School**. We will also be **collecting supplies all of July**. In 2024 they served 2429 students. 52 collection drives were held and we were one of them. They are counting on us. Items needed include:

1" Binders
Colored Pencils
Crayons
Glue Sticks
Pencils- #2
Highlighters

Looseleaf- Wide Ruled
Spiral Notebooks- Plain Colors
Spiral Notebooks- 3 Subject
Crayola Washable Markers
Dry Erase Markers-Fine Tip
Folders- Plastic/Poly

Pencil Bags- Plain Colors
Pencil Boxes
Pens- Black or Blue
Post It Notes- 3x3
Sharpie Markers
Scissors- 7". NO Blunt

On **July 20th** and **27th** our loose offering will go to **Loaves and Fishes**. We have two more times to serve in 2025 and can use the funds.

Submitted by Diane W.

Care Committee

Pastor and Care Committee continue to make visits to those members are homebound.

On May 13, our sister in Christ **Liona Brockway** passed away after a short battle with cancer. Her funeral was held on May 24th and was well attended to celebrate her life. She will be remembered by her family and friends as the matriarch of the family. She will be dearly missed. Remember her husband Jim and the Jewson family in your prayers.

Jerry Stillings is getting settling in Libertyville, Il, where he is closer to his son. The independent Living facility where he resides has many activities for him to stay active. He continues to have some health issues, so he needs our prayers.

Marge Miller passed away on Wednesday, June 11 at Hospice Hope. No funeral or visitation. Remember Dave and family to your prayers in this difficult time.

Baldwin Clasen is currently living with his Step-grandson in Newburgh WI and has hospice coming to the home. If you want to send a card his address is 253 Dove Cir. West Bend, WI 53090

Hilda Norton passed away at Edenbrook Nursing Home on Friday, June 6th. Funeral service was held on June 16. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Submitted by Jan A.



UWF : Sara Circle

UWF met for their annual June pot luck meeting. We dispersed the following funds to our various mission projects. Church driveway/paving project \$1000; Senegal school \$500; Salvation Army brown bag project \$500; Hope on the Block \$200; Pastor's good will fund \$300; Roots Rising/Milwaukee \$300.

- **UWF Sunday** will be observed **Sept. 21st** and hopefully Anita Lang will speak.
- Ice cream social details completed including bakers, workers and tasks
- **Our next meeting** will be **Sept. 3rd** and we will welcome new members.

Ice-Cream Social

The ice cream social was a success and we extend our sincere thanks to each person who came and ate as well as all our bakers, helpers serving, bussing and cleaning up. It takes many hands to do an event and we are very appreciative!! **We served 80 meals, and 10 sandwiches and 89 desserts.** Profit was \$869 as of this time. We did have some leftover pies and we delivered treats to our fire houses. They were so pleased and appreciative of our thoughtfulness.



Little Food Pantry Collection

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU from Sara Circle for your generous donations to our Little Food Pantry during the loose offerings recently. These were a great help for our daily commitment to our needy neighbors. We started this project over a year ago aware of the need, but not knowing the extent of need locally. We do put 12-15 items in it DAILY so you can understand that each item donated is so helpful! And thanks to all the volunteers who help with the daily task. **Now that the weather is warmer we are using fresh items like avocados, oranges, apples and bananas in addition to our usual items.** Again, MANY THANKS!

Submitted by Dea H.



July Birthdays

7-4	Barb Abitz	7-13	William Candlish
7-8	Dan Klaske	7-13	Suzie Rimel
7-9	Janet Lewis	7-14	Sharon Wolf
7-9	Jeff Strong	7-19	Ryan Engel
7-11	Bill Averbeck	7-20	Sara Krueger-
7-12	Annarose Austin		Zuengler
7-12	Jayda Krueger	7-23	Donald Krueger



7/6	Back to School
7/13	Back to School
7/20	Loaves & Fishes
7/27	Loaves & Fishes

July Anniversary

7-13 Donna & Ken Depies



2025 July Worship Volunteers

2025	Liturgist	Children's Time	Acolyte	Live-Streaming	PowerPoint/Sound	Ushers
7/6	Mary B.	Pastor Ho L.	Memphis A.	Mona A.	Tom R.	Bill D. (Head) Donna M./ Sandy T.
7/13	Shelli D.	Shelli D.	Ivy T.	Penny W.	Tom R.	Bill D. (Head) Dennis G./ Sandy T.
7/20	Bill A.	Diane W.	Echo W.	Mona A.	Tom R.	Bill D. (Head) Jan A./ Sandy T.
7/27	Donna M.	Diane W.	Jin/Ha-el L.	AJ A.	Diane W.	Bill D. (Head) Jan A. / Sandy T.



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30—10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm—8:00pm Disciple Course 1	3 Pastoral Visitations	4 Independence Day Pastor Sabbath	5 Pastor Day Off
6 9:00—10:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am-11:30am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting	7 11:45 am—12:45pm staff meeting 12:00 pm Staff Meeting	8 11:00am—12:00pm Circuit Meeting	9 9:30 - 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm—8:00pm Disciple Course 2	10 Pastor's Reading Day	11 Pastor Sabbath	12 Pastor Day Off 8:00 - 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage Sale Pacto de Gracia
13 9:00 - 10:00 am Worship Service	14 10:00 - 11:00 am Community Worship At Lake House 11:45 am—12:45pm Staff Meeting	15	16 County fair 9:30 - 10:30 am Bible Study 4:00—6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes	17 county fair Pastoral Visitations	18 County fair Pastor Sabbath	19 County fair Pastor Day Off 11:00 am Trillium: Purple Mar- tins and the Ledge with Lunch
20 County fair 9:00 - 10:00 am Worship Service	21 11:45 am—12:45pm Staff Meeting	22 Pastor's Reading Day (2/4)	23 8:00—9:00 am Women's Breakfast 9:30 - 10:30 am Bible Study 5:30—8:00 pm Champions Bingo Pastor's Reading Day (3/4)	24 Pastoral Visitations Pastor's Reading Day (4/4)	25 Pastor Sabbath	26 Pastor Day Off
27 9:00 - 10:00 am Worship Service 10:30 am —3:00 pm Fun Sunday-Bay Beach Amusement	28 11:45 am —12:45pm Staff' Meeting 6:30—7:30 pm Church Council	29	30 9:30-10:30am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship Meeting 6:30 pm —8:00 pm Disciple Course 3	31 Pastoral Visitations		



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- Text "give" to 920-267-4801
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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.