



# CIRCUIT RIDER

June 2019

**THE WAUPUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Check out our Facebook page

**Rev. Deb Hastings – Pastor**



## **My Last From the Desk of Pastor Deb**

There have been many times over the years, when it was time for the monthly newsletter to come out, I would approach the task of writing an article with absolute dread. Year after year, month after month, I would say to myself, “What if I can’t think of anything new to say? Or what if I can’t think of anything to say at all!

Now, as I approach my upcoming retirement, and sit here composing what will probably be my very last newsletter article, I approach it with the same sense of dread! But after giving it some thought, spending a lot of time in prayer, I’ve decided to approach this article in what I would consider a retrospective of my life and ministry. But don’t worry, I won’t give you a retrospective of my entire life – for that I’d be writing a book, considering my age and life experience! 😊

I’ll begin by saying that I’ve always been a bit of a late bloomer in both my nursing and ministry careers. I graduated from my first nursing program in my mid twenties, my bachelor’s program when I turned 30, and then my master’s program when I was in my late 30’s.

Seminary was no exception. I graduated from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in May 2003, was commissioned a probationary elder in June, and on July 1, 2003, I began my first appointment at Aldergate UMC in Milwaukee.

Fast forward sixteen years, and here I am preparing to retire from pastoral ministry. I still can’t believe I’m retiring! Where did these sixteen years go?

When I accepted Christ into my life, by entering the waters of baptism, never in a million years could I have imagined what my life as a Christian held in store for me. Who would have thought God would place a call to ordained ministry upon my heart. But that is exactly what God did to me. When I think about it, I’ve always heard it said that God has a sense of humor. 😊

I’ve also heard it said that when it comes to retirement, you will know when it’s time. I have come to believe that is true. As the author of Ecclesiastes writes in Chapter 3:1, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” I take the author’s words to heart, and have come to realize that is my season to let go and journey on toward retirement.

What I’ve come to find out about retirement is this: It’s a process, and the process is not easy. As an ordained clergy moving on toward retirement, I feel like I’ve had to jump through many hoops to get to the point of being able to say, “I’m ready to do this!” And I am!

And like all major life events, making the decision to retire has caused some anxiety and concern. Being a church pastor has been a core part of my identity for many years, so it's hard to think about what my "post-pastoral" life will be like. Yet, I find my feelings of anxiety and concern somewhat tempered, as they are mixed with feelings of anticipation, joy, relief, and hope, which come from my belief that God isn't finished with me. I don't know what God's plans are for me, but I've heard it said that pastors really never retire, so who knows.

I'm looking forward to relocating back to the Milwaukee area, and living close to my children and grandson. My grandson, Greydon, who is now four was born while I was serving the Tomahawk/Spirit charge, so it will be nice to begin to have a real relationship with him. I will also be able to get to know my daughter-in-law, Thami, who will be married to my son for one year on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and whose wedding I was blessed to officiate. I have definitely missed them all since I've been away from the Milwaukee area these last six years.

As I bring "My Last From the Desk of Pastor Deb" to a close, I want to say thank you for being a part of my life and ministry as I served as your pastor these last two years. You are a nurturing and caring congregation who go the extra mile to support one another when the need arises. This is one thing I have always admired about this congregation. As I prepare to retire, I would ask for one favor: Please pray that I will discern and follow God's guidance and plans for the next chapter of my life. I will do the same for you as you prepare to move ahead in mission and ministry with Pastor Steve Miller.

And as you look ahead to the future with Pastor Miller, and by using the results of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) as a guide, it is my hope and prayer that you will be able to discern new, creative and exciting ways that will lead you into a bright and wonderful future. And as you look to the future, please know that you don't enter it alone. Jesus Christ is with you. He is your ever present leader and guide. He has been with you from the beginning, and will continue to be with you. He is the one constant in your life, and the life of this congregation.

Now I leave you with this blessing:

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

In Christian Love,

Pastor Deb

### **175th Celebration**

We would like to honor some of our more recent members, of the last fifty years or so. To do this we will need your help. If there is someone special to you, they could be a member at the present time, or may have joined the great cloud of witnesses. We need you to write a paragraph or two about them. If you have a problem choosing just one, submit as many as you would like. Please include your name. You may bring them to the office or give them to one of the committee members.

Thank you in advance.

Committee members: Marsha Schaub, June Southard, Sue Duer, Janette Ruck and Pastor Deb.

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## Executive Summary from Holy Cow Consulting

The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) was recently administered in your church. 97 persons were invited to participate; of these, 55 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that was sent to your church. A summary of that report is provided below.

Overall, approximately 6% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information indicates that members can imagine a church with a higher level of vitality than they are currently experience and are searching for a pathway that will lead them to a stronger church.

Not every question is of equal important to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- **The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.**
- **Our church changes its program from time to time to meet the changing needs of its members**
- **Our pastor makes things happen.**
- **Among most of our members there is a healthy tolerance of differing opinions and beliefs.**
- **Problems between groups in this church are usually resolved through mutual effort.**

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weakness. Your church has potential strengths related to stability and clarity of belief. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and conflict-prone.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are:

- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.**
- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.**
- **Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.**
- **Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.**
- These may warrant attention from leadership even if they are mid-level priorities.

All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation. **Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.**

If you would like to provide feedback or have any questions/concerns about this summary or would like a copy of the entire CAT results, please see Pastor Deb, Loni Wendt, Doris Core or call the church office.

### **Please Keep Up with Your Giving**

It was a hard winter for everyone.

Now we are in the spring/summer season and it is lawn mowing time. We have hired Brock Rieder to mow the lawn at the parsonage (paid for by the Pastor) and at the church. It is very important for members of our church to keep up with their giving. Please keep up with your pledges and offerings. Our June Second Sunday Offering will take place on Sunday, June 9. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

## JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



2  
9  
16  
23  
30



2 Sue Rens-Guell  
9 Laura Ten Pass  
16 Sue Reichoff  
23 Sue Rens-Guell  
30 Laura Ten Pass



2 Joyce Brown & Sue Duer  
9 Wayne & Dianne Strehlow  
16  
23  
30 Phil & Janette Ruck



2 Curt & Doris Core  
9  
16 Dan & Val Dolgner  
23 Janette Ruck  
30 Ken & Jenny Brown



2  
9  
16  
23 Ann Henderson  
30



3 Wayne Strehlow - Marsha Schaub  
10 Deb White - Jeanne Ludjack  
16 Steve Wendt - Gary Schulz  
24 Marilyn VanderSanden - Dick Walters

### **BULLETIN SPONSOR FOR JUNE**

**Joyce Brown** in memory of our parents

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Fund Raisers:**

Rummage Sale June 20, 21 & 22

**Upcoming:**

**Mark your calendars:**

June 2 – Communion

June 9 – Second Sunday Offering

June 16 - 20 – Service Committee Dream Team  
School Lunches

June 23 – Golden Cross Sunday

**Summer Lunch Program for Kids**

In mission to the children and younger families of the Waupun Community, the Service Committee of the Dream Team will be organizing lunches for children during the week of June 17. The food pantry offers its facilities for children normally receiving school lunches to pick up free bag lunches over the summer. Our volunteers will prepare lunches for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the week of June 17. New this year, we will prepare and assemble the lunches in the evenings beginning on Sunday, June 16, followed by Monday the 17th, Tuesday, the 18th from 7:00-8:00 in the Wesley Center kitchen. Our menu includes hotdogs, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and lunchmeat sandwiches. Required for each meal is a sandwich plus chips, a banana, cookies, and a drink box. Sign up's in the green folder will begin next week both for preparation of these luncheons and food donations. We appreciate your help and your donations. Last year's food bill was nearly \$400; donations greatly help to defray that expense. In advance, thank you.

Service Committee: Diane and Wayne Strehlow,  
Larry VandeZande, Marsha Schaub

**MAY ATTENDANCE**

5	51
12	50
19	42
26	40



7 June Witowich

Ann Dorgan

10 Phil Ruck

15 David Wepner

20 Marsha Schub

21 John Gysbers Jr.

24 Larry Vande Zande

26 Trisha Visser  
Nicole Van Beek

28 Julie Schelter

29 Emily Brown

**September 14-15: 175th Anniversary Reunion Weekend**

Tentative Events:

Saturday 9/14. Coffee and Conversation  
Dessert. 7-9 PM

All invited, especially former pastors and choir members, church friends. Tours of the church, "Over the Years" powerpoint, historical displays.

Sunday 9/15 175th Anniversary Reunion  
Sunday

8:00 AM Continental breakfast for present and former choir members,

9:00 Mass choir rehearsal

10:00 Worship

12:00 Congregational dinner with our guests

"Sharing the Memories" program to follow

The 175th anniversary committee invites your feedback and ideas as we progress with these plans. Speak to June Southard, Sue Duer, Janette Ruck, Marsha Schaub and Pastor Deb

**175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAUPUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**NEWS FROM**  
**MARSHA SCHAUB**

In planning for our **September 15 church reunion**, the 175 th committee is looking to invite the former choir members and instrumentalists for one mass anthem. A full list of choir reunion invitees is posted in the choir room but we are missing addresses for the following:

Carol Welch  
Rick and Penny Geiger  
Becky Loomans  
John Kirkpatrick  
Gayle Vande Berg  
Amy Yuds

If you know of their current addresses, please provide them to the church office or one of the committee members: (Marsha Schaub, Janette Ruck, Pastor Deb, Sue Duer, June Southard). **SAVE=THE=DATE** invitations will be sent in early May. Plans in progress may include a breakfast for choir members on Sunday morning followed by a mass rehearsal. In addition we will be inviting former pastors and their spouses to participate in the worship service on 9/15. If you are in contact with any of these people, please inform them of the date. Personal invitations will be sent to them as well. Plans for a welcoming dinner on Saturday evening, September 15 and a congregational dinner after Sunday worship on 9/15 are in progress. A sign up sheet will be made available to all the congregation: **SAVE THESE DATES!!**

If there is a former church member that you would recommend for a special invitation to the 175th reunion events, we would be happy to honor that request. Please provide their name, address, and phone number to the church office or one of the committee members.

We are anticipating a wonderful 175th reunion in September. Mark your calendars NOW to honor this very special church birthday!  
Marsha Schaub

Events marking the 175th anniversary of our church establishment are well underway: Historical moments have been given at worship by Janette Ruck, June Southard, and Pastor Deb Hastings. They have shared with us the biographies and preachings of our long line of ministers as recorded in our precious Jo Wiese book The History of the Waupun United Methodist Church. Four copies of the book are available for you to borrow to read. Find them in the church library.

On Easter Sunday Pastor Deb told of the initial placing of the church bell on April 21, 1935, so appropriate to our Easter 2019. The bell was rung during her Historical Moment as we connected with our past. More connections are scheduled throughout our Anniversary Year.

We are so grateful to Janette Ruck for the design of our 175th Anniversary banner hanging just outside Fellowship Hall. It carries our theme "Serving for 175 Years" and symbols of our various missions through Christ. As with all her work, it is both beautiful and appropriate. See if you can recognize the symbolism incorporated therein. Busy Janette and husband Phil have also refurbished some of the Sunday School banners from years past and hung them throughout the church. What good memories they bring back! Indeed it has been a busy 175 years.

175th committee members will meet on Friday, May 3 at 10:30 AM in the church library.

# June 2019

**Sun**      **Mon**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Board of Trustees 5:30 PM	<b>5</b> Elizabeth Circle Outing 9:00 AM	<b>6</b> Dream Team 5:45 PM	<b>7</b> 175th Anniversary Committee 10:30 AM	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 2nd Sunday Offering	<b>10</b> Worship Committee 6:15 PM	<b>11</b> Finance Committee 6:15 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Annual Conference	<b>15</b> Annual Conference
<b>16</b> Annual Conference	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Elizabeth Circle 1:30 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Rummage	<b>21</b> Sale	<b>22</b> WC
<b>23</b> Golden Cross Sunday	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Graduation Recognition	After Church: Pot Luck for Pastor Deb's Last Sunday					July 1 Welcome Pastor Steve Miller