

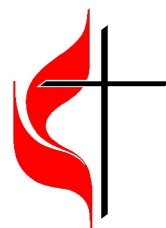
CIRCUIT RIDER

April, 2025

THE WAUPUN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Have you ever heard the expression, “I find God best “in nature,” “out on the golf course,” “on the pond fishing,” etc.? I heard it on the radio just this morning, “Nature is my church.” Why is it always something big? Purple-mountain majesties, amber waves of grain,” the vastness of an ocean, glorious sunshine, beautiful blue skies?

Maybe you’ve seen evidence of God’s reality in the wonder of our bodies: the ability to put one foot in front of the other and walk, every breath you take or each beat of your heart which happens without you even conscious of them or having to choose to breathe or beat? The ability to feel the wind on your skin or even just to see the sunshine or blue skies? What about something smaller? Much smaller? What wonders can be observed through a microscope or what marvels can be seen in the movement and development of an embryo in a woman’s womb? Where is the truth—where is the marvel—where is the evidence of the presence, grace, and love of God?

These past weeks we have been engaged in a Bible study, both Wednesday evenings and during Sunday worship, focused on “The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.” Early on, I mentioned that we would be focusing on the “red letters” in some Bibles which indicate that those are Jesus’ exact words—direct quotes. I have said that, but each time I say it, I wonder to myself, “How do we know, why do we believe, that Jesus actually said those words?” The answer is, of course, because the Bible says so.

Studying the Bible quickly reveals the similarities and the differences between each of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. How can they be different if they accurately recorded the words of Jesus? How can we have so many Bible translations: King James, New International, Revised Standard Version, American Standard, English Standard Version, not to mention the Bibles which are more paraphrases than literal translations? The Bible is, at its most basic, the revelation of who God is, what God has done, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus and a believer in God.

The kernel of this article crystalized last night during the Bible study and was then cemented by an article in the latest edition of “Christian Century” magazine which just arrived this week. The cover headline reads, “Biblical inerrancy and what has it wrought.” Is it possible that the Bible is not inerrant, that every word, every comma, every period, every paragraph, chapter, and verse are not original? What, then, is the Bible for and how can it be the foundation of our faith?

Perhaps we aren’t meant to take the Bible as an history book, or a medical guide, or a biography, but rather as an inspiration for living. The Bible certainly contains the Word of God. It tells us who God is and who we are in relation to God and it tells us what the Kingdom of God should look like while revealing to us how the present world falls short. It conveys a message: that God created, is creating, and is continuing to create the once, now, but not yet perfect world.

That perfection can be seen in our principal character and the source and foundation of our faith and our salvation. Believing in the Bible as inerrant, without error, is not what makes us Christian, according to “The Christian Century.” Believing Jesus and following Jesus makes us Christian.

Pastor Steve

It's an experience

April 2025



I love the way Pastor Rick Calhoun has talks about Easter and the resurrection. He writes:

“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was never meant to be proved but experienced. As a matter of fact it cannot be proved, as no one of us was there. We have to take the word of others who were. Those early witnesses were very passionate about their testimonies. Many were to be martyred in defense of their convictions. But ultimately the resurrection is to be experienced not proved. The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him. I decided long ago, the only proof of Easter I will ever need is memory. I remember what my life was like before I met the living Christ and I know what my life is now, as I share it with Him. I would not stand here and tell you I am always the man I should be. But thanks to the living Christ, I am not the man I used to be either. The risen Jesus Christ has made all the difference.”

Christ living within us does make all the difference. And so we come this Easter Sunday to celebrate the love and grace we have experienced all because Jesus Christ is alive!

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

A P R I L

Date	Day	Place	Description and time
<i>April 2</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>The Message of Jesus Bible Study 6pm</i>
<i>April 6</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Church</i>	 <i>Worship Service 9am</i>
<i>April 8</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Trustees 5pm</i> <i>Finance Committee/Church Council 6pm</i>
<i>April 9</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>The Message of Jesus Bible Study 6pm</i>
<i>April 13</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Worship Service 9am</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>
<i>April 14</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Worship Committee 10am</i> <i>Dream Team 5pm</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Elizabeth Circle 1:30 pm</i>
<i>April 16</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>The Message of Jesus Bible Study 6pm</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>@ UMC 6pm</i>
<i>April 18</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Good Friday</i> <i>@ UMC 12pm</i>
<i>April 20</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Church</i>	 <i>Worship Service 9am</i> <i>Easter Sunday</i>
<i>April 27</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Worship Service 9am</i>



PRAYER CONCERNS

Katie Boegh Joyce Brown Ray Dolgner Ryan Giese
 Bob Bradley Tammy Kasuboski Dean Starks
 Christopher Nord Lois Bentley Jerry Kok
 All impacted by the war in Ukraine and the Mideast

Remember our homebound:

Waunakee: Janette Ruck
 Prairie Place, Ripon: Elaine Stanton
 Hillside Manor, Beaver Dam: Joyce Berry
 Prairie Ridge: Phyllis McDowell, Loni Wendt
 Our House Senior Living, Portage: June Witowich
 To sponsor a weekly bulletin, please contact the church office.
 Sponsorship is at \$10/Sunday



4-Steve Guell	11-Helen Vanderkin
Brady Bronson	13-Wayne Strehlow
5-Suzi Chase	15-Dan Dolgner
6-Barbara Landaal	16-Jeanne Ver Hage
	24-Caleb Schulz



Ways to give and serve



- 6 White-Ludjack
- 13 Dolgner-Vande Zande
- 20 Vander Sanden-Ludjack
- 27 Duer-Schaub

If you would like to help with this ministry or have questions about it, please talk to Wayne Strehlow.

- 6 Emma Devries
- 13 Sue Rens Guell
- 17 Emma Devries
- 18 Sue Rens Guell
- 20 Sue Rens Guell
- 27 Sue Rens Guell



- April—Paper Products
- May—Personal Products
(Especially Toothpaste)

March Totals

22 Fruit Cans





Finance Committee News

Weekly giving

Giving is a sign of our gratitude to God for blessings and a testament to ministry and service around the world. Thank you for your generosity.

March 2 —\$1,820 March 9—\$1,215 March 16—\$2,120 March 23—\$1,600 March 30—N/A
 March General Fund Income: \$6,755 March General Fund Expenses: \$12,831
 Shortage/Surplus: ~~-\$~~6,076

Thank you for your faithful giving.



Waupun United Methodist Church - March 2025

2025 General Fund Budget		\$168,464.00
General Fund Offerings and Donations through 3/23/25	\$27,228.69	
Total Received		\$27,228.69
Percentage of Budget Received through 3/23/25		16.2%

2025 Apportionments Budget		\$19,800.00
Collected 1/1 - 3/23/25	<u>\$4,020.00</u>	
Total Paid through 3/23/25	\$4,020.00	
Percentage of Apportionments Paid	20.3%	
Remainder due for 2025 Apportionments		\$15,780.00



Presentation to the Congregation Sunday, March 30, 2025

As you recall, Pastor Steve will be retiring on June 30 of this year. The Staff Parish Relations Committee developed a list of Desired Pastoral Characteristics and Competencies and submitted that, along with our request for a full-time pastor to the Conference Appointive Cabinet in January.

Last Sunday District Superintendent Ebenezer Insor introduced the SPRC to our new full-time pastor, Pastor Renae Dymond. After she and the SPRC members asked and answered several questions, we all agreed that Pastor Renae and the Waupun United Methodist Church congregation will be a good fit. Pastor Renae will begin her ministry in the Waupun UMC on July 1.

Pastor Renae has 14 years of experience in pastoral ministry. She is currently the Pastor at the Shared Covenant Ministries of Horicon Emmanuel, Lowell and Juneau UMCs, where she has served since July 2018.

She told us that it was the Waupun UMC congregation that “welcomed her into the flock of the United Methodist denomination in 1991” when she attended one of our services with her boyfriend (now her husband).

Pastor Renae has been married to her husband Shane since 1992 and they have three children. Their eldest son Jacob turns 30 at the end of this month and he lives in Selah, WA. Their twins, Leah and Liam, are 16 years of age.

Pastor Renae and her husband have served families in Dodge County as Foster Parents from 2005 until 2014. They have also been serving on the Board of Directors of Love Feeds OUR World since 2017. This organization supports a feeding program and a school for children in grades 4K through 8th in a small village in Haiti.

Pastor Renae says she is looking forward to reuniting with the Waupun UMC to see what great blessings the Lord has in store for us all.

Please continue to pray for our church and for Pastors Steve and Renae during this transition process.



Thank you to the Angel who sends me flowers
& notes especially when a person needs them.
Thank You, Joyce Brown

Dear Anonymous,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers; they
brightened my day.
Nancy Z.

Thank you to the
person who had sent
me the beautiful
flowers. It did brighten
my day.
Thank you,
Marion Dolgner



A while back, the Board of Trustees arranged for the wall to the basement door to be replaced and the final piece of that repair, a new door, is now installed. This is just one of the things that the Trustees manage for the Church. Watch yet for continued restoration of the stained glass windows and then new siding of the Church. Lighting has been upgraded, a new lease will be signed with the School soon and new insurance researched and negotiated by the Conference Board of Trustees will soon be in effect. Thanks to Larry Vande Zande (Chair), Pat Stanton, Gary Chase, and Dan Dolgner for being good stewards of Church resources.



Vacation Bible , 2025, is scheduled. Save the date for June 20. The Waupun United Methodist Church will once again join with Immanuel Lutheran Church and Union-Congregational Church for a "Road Trip" of faith. If you know of any children who could benefit from on their faith journey or if you can offer your time, talk to Suer Duer and she will be happy to put you to work.



Dream Team:

Spring must be in the air since the Dream Team is looking at delivery of the flower sale bloomers in early May. Look forward to their arrival around Mother's Day, to be distributed in the Shaler/ United Methodist parking lot! Contact Gary Schultz or Jan Nickel for specifics.

More sunshine activities: brat fries are scheduled for June and Sept at the Piggly Wiggly. In coordination with brats, we will hold a bake sale showing off your many culinary skills. In honor of Pastor Steve's retirement, the June brat fry/bake sale will feature cakes 🍰🍩🍪🥞🥧 of all sizes and varieties. Think creatively!

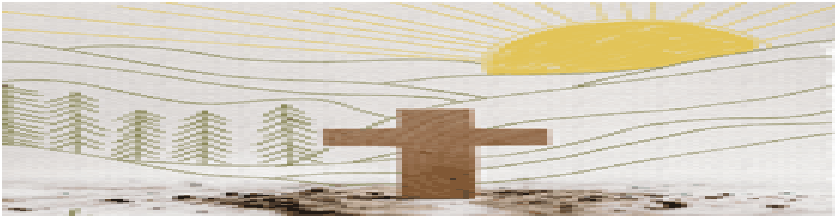
Many volunteers are needed to bring the brat fry/bake sale together. In the past we have relied on 1-2 persons to coordinate each of the 2 Friday-Sat. Brat fry weekends. We are wondering, if a Brat Fry team of 4-6 persons could be more effective and less stressful, sharing responsibilities for planning, set-up, morning supervision, noon busy time, clean-up, smaller pieces of the whole brat fry. Who would be willing to serve on such a team?? Speak to Marsha Schaub, current tired brat fry coordinator.

Say, how have you liked the mid-week texts, reminding you of meetings, weather alerts, prayer needs, Biblical verses, the iconic Wayne Strehlow jokes? Has it reached out to you "between the Sundays."? Any ideas for additional content, better format, compliments on what has been done up to now? If you are not receiving your texts, please notify the office.

Dream Team membership is open to all. We welcomed the wonderful Ann Gysbers this month. Next meeting Monday, April 14 at 5:00 in the library.



The Waupun Area Christian Ministerial Association (WACMA) will again offer a National Day of Prayer worship service on the 1st Thursday in May, May 1, at the Waupun City Hall, beginning at 6:00 pm. Singers from the area are invited to join an ecumenical choir for 1 song during that worship service: "Heal Our Land," words by Orrin G. Hatch, music by Janice Kapp Perry, and choral setting by Jack Schrader. Sandy Alsum will accompany the choir with Dianna Gedamke directing. Rehearsals are scheduled for Tuesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 24 at the Waupun United Methodist Church, at 6:00 pm. Let the Christian community come together to pray for our nation, especially in this choir. Questions can be directed to Pastor Steve Miller: 920-324-9721. Music will be provided or you can request an advance copy by email.

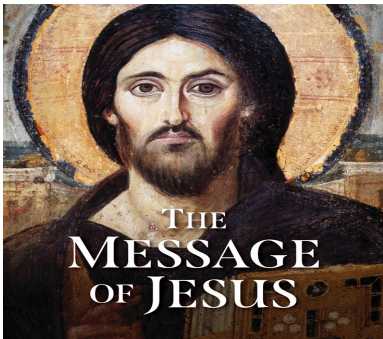


upcoming
EVENTS

2025 Lenten Bible Study

The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World

A fresh encounter with the



More than three billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught?

For the next six weeks, beginning Wednesday, March 12, you are invited to learn again, or for the first time, what Jesus actually said and how that impacts your life as a follower of Jesus.

The 6-week study will begin at 6pm each Wednesday evening until April 16, and I encourage you to be present this year although we will livestream the study. The study book is more important this year and they are available for \$15 from the church office or on-line.



Easter is fast approaching, the celebration of God's gift of new life in and through Jesus Christ. It is a day to go all-out and to beautify our sanctuary with flowers. If you would like to help decorate our Sanctuary for Easter morning with a gift of flowers, bring those flowers during Holy Week or on Easter morning that our Church will explode with Easter joy!

Thank you.

Holy Week

Wed, April 16 Bible Study @ UMC-6pm

Thurs, April 17 Maundy Thurs @ UMC-7pm

Fri, April 18 Good Friday Service @ UMC-12pm

Sun, April 20 EASTER Service @UMC-9am



Music videos can enhance our Sunday worship. However, waiting through advertisements detracts from a worship experience. YouTube offers an ad-free Premium subscription at \$14.69 (w/ tax)/ month. If you would be willing to sponsor a month of YouTube Premium to provide ad-free videos for Sunday worship, please contact the Church Office.

our Facebook page: United Methodist Church-Waupun
 check out the church website: waupunumc.com or
 email at WaupunUMC@gmail.com or
 call the Church Office at 920-324-9721 or
 For information,

Worship begins at 9am

invite you to come for worship on Sunday morning.
 along with Pastor Steve Miller



Waupun United Methodist Church



The People of the

