

210 N Eau Claire St
Mondovi, WI 54755

Phone: 715-926-5354

Email: osumcmundovi@gmail.com



Return Service Requested

Community Events

Mondovi Sharing Table



Wednesday, February 14
4:30—6:00 pm
Zion Lutheran Church

Ruby's PANTRY

Thursday, February 15
4:00—5:30 pm
Mondovi County Shop



OUTREACH

Wisconsin Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Episcopal Office
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



Dear Laity, Clergy, and Congregations of the Wisconsin Conference,

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your commitment to our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We know the disaffiliation process throughout The United Methodist Church and our local faith communities has been difficult. In acknowledging this challenging season, we also hold true to the power and glory of God, that in our "proclaiming the good news of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor," our connection is strengthened.

Together, we are meeting physical and spiritual needs locally. We celebrate persons responding to God's call to serve (lay and clergy).

Because of our United Methodist connection, we celebrate: 100% apportionment payment to the general church

- Missional support through the Advance Specials and Special Sunday Offerings
- Wisconsin Conference Licensing School
- Harmony Choir
- Beloved Community Initiative
- Bolivia partnership
- Board of Laity – Certified Lay Ministers program
- Camps and camp scholarships
- New Ministry Plants, including chartering new congregations
- UMCOR Disaster response
- ...and so much more!

Because of our collective time, talent, gifts, service, and witness, we can celebrate and will continue celebrating all that will emerge in 2024.

As we look to the future, let's remember the importance of our United Methodist connection and our profession as disciples of Jesus Christ. **Thank you** for doing your part as a layperson, clergy person, or faith community member in the Wisconsin Conference; you are strengthening our connection as we focus on God's faithful future.

With great appreciation,

The Wisconsin Conference Appointive Cabinet

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
Barbara Certa-Werner, Clergy Assistant to Bishop
Tsuker Yang, North Central District Superintendent, Dean of the Cabinet
Park Hunter, North East District Superintendent
PyungAhn "Peace" Kim, North West District Superintendent
Amanda Stein, South West District Superintendent
Ebenezer Insor, South East District Superintendent
Sue D'Alessio, Director of Connectional Ministries
Scott Carlson, Director of Congregational Development

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hyuntae Kim
Cell: 617-780-4178
Email: nthkim@gmail.com

Church Office
Hours: Tue & Thu; 10-3
Phone: 715-926-5354
Email: osumcmundovi@gmail.com
www.oursaviorsumc.org

Birthday Blessings!

- 2/2 Jenna Gibson
- 2/2 Brystal Thompson
- 2/3 Heather Gibson
- 2/4 Brendan Williams
- 2/5 Gabby Scott
- 2/8 Randy Bechel
- 2/8 Camden Bellemare
- 2/10 Jane Gilbertson
- 2/11 Mike Bruning
- 2/11 Mark McDonough
- 2/11 Sonny Sandberg
- 2/14 Jaylynn Frei
- 2/14 Sofia Sandberg
- 2/16 Sterling Bishopp
- 2/18 Christopher Miller
- 2/18 Andrew Sandberg
- 2/19 Emerson Larson
- 2/19 Austin Poeschel
- 2/20 Randy Poeschel
- 2/21 Kay Johnson
- 2/25 Linda Sandberg
- 2/28 Mike Fillmore



Keep in Prayer...

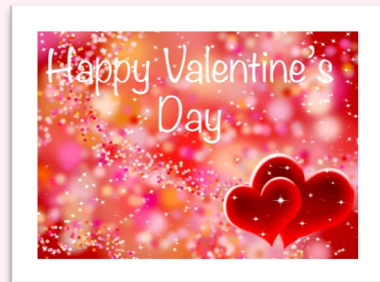
Rescue of hostages (Israelis, Americans, and others) abducted by Hamas. Israeli soldiers. Protection, restoration, and salvation of Israel. U.S. Military. Nations in peril: Israel, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, U.S. against Palestine, Iran, North Korea, China, Russia.

Members who are in long-term care facilities.

Military veterans.

All firefighters, EMTs, police, and military personnel.

Brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.




United Women in Faith

February 14, 2024

Anniversary Blessings!

- 2/21 Brandon & Chelsey Saxe

A gift of money was recently given by family in memory of the Lieberman Family



Worship Service
February 14
 6:30 pm at Our Savior's combined
 Gilmanton & OS

Mondovi Police Department K9 Fund



Our Savior's Church Council has resolved to donate 10% of the proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar, \$724, to the Mondovi Police Department for the K9 Fund.

CONTACT INFORMATION!

In an effort to keep mailings and communication lines current, please let the office know if there are any updates to be made to your address, phone, or email.

Thank you!

Lenten SOUP Sermon

Wednesdays
February 21 & 28,
March 6, 13, 20, 27
12-1 pm at Our Savior's UMC

We will serve soup, cheese, crackers, and bars. We have a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Please sign up to make soup, bring crackers, cheese. People will be called to bring bars. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for the event, so we have an idea of how much soup to make. See you there!

SPRC (Jim Williams, Chair)
 Jim reported he had nothing new to report.

Sonny Sandberg and Dave Boley will discuss snow shoveling.

Worship Committee (Lori Boley, Chair)

Lori reported the Worship Committee met on December 5, 2023, to make plans for Advent and Christmas Eve services. They discussed Advent candle lighting.

They discussed having 9 families to read for the Festival of Nine Lessons on Christmas Eve and also carols to be sung.

Next meeting is January 9, 2024.

It was decided the decorations will stay up through church on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Sonny Sandberg reported it worked well putting the decorations up as a congregation.

F3 Report (Dora and Randy Johnston, absent)

Linda Johnston reported F3 needs cooks.

Old Business

Dave Boley reported he has not received a proposal yet from Kim Negus regarding use of the church.

Per Dave's request, the following information from November has been added to the December minutes for Council approval in January.

Dave Boley reported that he informed Kim Negus (Music Therapist) of the Council's decision on her request to use the facility in the following manner:

We need a more firm proposal from you as to specifically when and how much you'll use the church facility.

Of greatest significance is the insurance issue. You stated you have liability insurance, but the Council needs a more clear understanding of the

physical setting (building) liability your business has. An example that was thrown out is if one of your clients were to slip and fall in the building and hurt themselves, many members of the Council feel that that is your firm's responsibility, not the church's responsibility, and we are not clear from our own insurance company if we would be covered in that circumstance.

We need to determine rent. We could not bring the issue to a vote because we do not have enough information – neither from you nor our insurance company – to make a motion to vote on.

New Business

Jan Bechel presented the final figures for the 2023 Christmas Bazaar and pickle pre sales. Tithing back to the community will be discussed in January.

Jay Branger reported four items that stood out to him from Charge Conference that he felt should be addressed.

- Preparing a ministry plan.
- Preparing a budget for the year.
- Safe Sanctuary policy. Dave Boley will follow up.
- Listing of members to be contacted for removal from membership list by 1st listing, 2nd listing and then removal.

Motion to adjourn made by Jan Bechel, seconded by Julie Brunsch. Motion carried.

Dave Boley closed with prayer.

Account Balances

- Checking**
\$4,481.48
- Elevator Repair**
\$524.00
- Local Disaster**
\$390.00
- New Ministries**
\$2,019.80
- Christmas Walk**
\$5,400.00
- Scholarships/Youth Awards**
\$260.00
- Sunday School**
\$620.00
- Total Account Balances**
\$13,695.28



Highlights from the Council Meeting—December 21, 2023

Council members present: Pastor Kim, Dave Boley, Lori Boley, Ann Yelle, Debbie Duncanson, Linda Johnston, Julie Brunsch, Jim Williams, Jan Bechel, Kolleen and Jay Branger, Sonny Sandberg.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dave Boley.

Breakthrough prayer read in unison by Council members.

Pastor Kim played a video of F3 and Confirmation Christmas caroling.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Motion to accept November 2023 Secretary's Report made by Kolleen Branger and seconded by Julie Brunsch. Motion carried.

Finance Committee (Jay Branger, Chair)

After final financial report numbers are reported at the end of the year, Jay will prepare a letter to the congregation regarding finances.

Executive Summary (Julie Brunsch, Treasurer)

Checking account totals are as follows: Beginning balance of \$18,355.33; deposits of \$7986.21; interest of \$9.12; expenditures of \$14,022.45; uncleared transactions of \$400.00 with an ending balance as of November 30, 2023, of \$11,928.21. Checking account reconciled with bank statement. Internal account balances are Checking \$2754.41; Elevator Repair \$524.00; Local Disaster \$390.00; New Ministries \$2019.80; Christmas Walk \$5400.00; Scholarships/Youth Awards \$260.00; Sunday School \$580.00 for balance of \$11,928.21. Other accounts: Building/Restoration \$1978.18; Youth Fellowship Account \$4163.15.

Current checkbook balance is

\$210.02 with bills due by end of the year/month of \$1456.02 with one Sunday left in December.

Julie will redeem credit card points of \$25.00.

Debbie Duncanson inquired about the scholarship/youth award account. Discussion ensued and this will be readdressed in the spring.

Memorial Report (Ann Yelle, Chair)
Balance as of October 31, 2023, \$19,048.26 with credits of \$5.82 and no debits. Ann placed \$15,000.00 into a CD at Alliance Bank per last meeting which matures on September 20, 2024. Ending balance of Memorial Account \$4,054.08.

Finance Secretary (Kolleen Branger)

Kolleen reported she had nothing new to report since last meeting.

Motion made by Jim Williams and seconded by Debbie Duncanson to accept the November 2023 Executive Summary, Memorial and Finance Secretary Reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

November 16 to December 21.

Visits: Four.

Circuit meeting.

American Lutheran Home service with communion.

Clergy zoom meeting.

December 25-27, 2023 – Winter Retreat of the Korean Caucus of the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Confirmation class.

Participated in F3 Christmas caroling with confirmation attendees and their moms.

Debbie Duncanson reported that the Membership Committee will be meeting in January. They are working with Pastor Kim in caring for

members of the congregation. They have talked about being bold in sharing caring for members of the church. They sent postcards to the 2023 graduates. Debbie presented the Council members with a print out "Be The Church." This presentation will be published in the newsletter.

United Women in Faith Report (Linda Johnston, Chair)

Linda reported the United Women in Faith had their candlelight service in December with 13 women and Pastor present. There was no meeting. Linda Johnston and Julie Brunsch served.

Trustee Report (Sonny Sandberg, Chair)

Sonny reported the elevator is not working again. Sonny contacted All Star who will come on December 22. Sonny inquired about them monitoring the telephone. The battery back-up works fine. There will be no charge for this visit as this is a call back.

Sonny talked to TKE who reported they will need a written statement to be removed from their service agreement. Jay will prepare a statement to be sent to TKE regarding discontinuing our service agreement with them.

Sonny will contact All Star regarding a service agreement. Jay Branger made a motion to begin a service contract with All Star for twice a year maintenance and discontinue service agreement with TKE. Jim Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Dave Boley and Sonny had a meeting with an assessor of the church for Church Mutual. The main interest was the stain glassed windows. Jay Branger will contact Church Mutual agent for further information. Jay Branger brought the new mailbox for the church.

What's Possible Through Our Connectional Giving:

Your Apportionment Dollars Planned for 2024

▼ GLOBAL CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

We are connected nationally and internationally to ministries through our Conference apportionment payments to the General Conference, supporting:

- Africa University
- Black College Fund
- General Administration of GCFA
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund (25% stays in Wisconsin and is available for our Board of Ordained Ministry)
- World Service Fund - worldwide missions
- North Central Jurisdictional Conference Fund
- Episcopal Fund to support Bishops

▼ CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

- Operations of Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne camps and retreat centers
- Advocacy, social justice, and monitoring groups
- Support for health and welfare agencies like Northcott Neighborhood House, UM Children's Services and Harbor House
- Support for our active caucuses representing a range of cultures
- Communications and technology to connect with churches through weekly Enews, district communication, Soul Food from Bishop Jung, and devotionals.
- Membership and support of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Salaries and benefits for Conference staff

▼ LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Over 20 New Ministries are being funded for a total of \$480,000
- Critical Mission funding totaling \$125,000
- Support for The Institute of Congregational Development and Instituto de Desarrollo Congregacional
- Salaries and expenses for district superintendents, the Assistant to the Bishop and two District Administrators
- Moving expenses for pastors moving to and from appointments and retirements
- Legal immigration assistance for new pastors
- Assistance to clergy and churches with emergency financial needs

▼ CLERGY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

- Connectional Table provides leadership to our conference committees and training
- Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice Initiatives
- Training for Church renewal through Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI)
- 5 campus ministries supported through Board of Higher Education and Student Ministries
- Recruitment and nurturing of future and current ordained ministry
- Assistance to churches to pay minimum compensation for full time clergy
- Health insurance for all active, retired, and disabled clergy and their families
- Coordination of pension benefits for active clergy, disabled, and retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses

▼ CONFERENCE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

- Operation and maintenance of the Conference Center in Sun Prairie
- Archives office supporting research and history
- Accounting, legal and other support administration

Worship Service Helpers			
	Greeters/Ushers	Worship Leader	Money Counters
Feb 4	Jim & Gloria Williams	Katie Sandberg	Stephanie Stamm & MaryBeth Pichler
Feb 11	David & Lori Boley	Brendan Williams	David Saxe & Jay Branger
Feb 18	Jan Bechel & MaryBeth Pichler	Ann Yelle	Jan Bechel & Katie Sandberg
Feb 25	Randy & Dora Johnston	Dannica Zingshiem	Linda Johnston & Lorraine Diener
Camera Operators: Lori Boley & Saul Ness			

Ash Wednesday: Beginning of the Lenten Journey

by Nancy Ferguson, Retired Minister and Certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent

The church season of Lent is marked by the bookends of Ash Wednesday on one side and Easter on the other. Lent gives Christians the opportunity to prepare for the gifts and glory of Easter by reflecting on our need for God's salvation and restoration. As humans created by God, we are finite and fallible; yet God loves, saves, and restores us. Recognizing the limitations of human existence alongside the amazing grace of God in Jesus Christ enhances the meaning and significance of Easter as the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We begin this time of reflection by observing Ash Wednesday, which focuses on human mortality and sin and acknowledges our need for God's overwhelming grace. As we begin our journey to the cross of Good Friday, the empty grave, and the gift of new life on Easter morning, Ash Wednesday sets the tone for the spiritual challenges and practices of Lent.

Lent is composed of the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, not including the Sundays of those six weeks. It has long been the practice of the church to understand Sundays as mini-Easters anticipating the Day of Resurrection. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon meaning "spring" and is traditionally understood as a time of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter.

The Great Three Days, sometimes called Triduum or Pasch, beginning with sunset on Maundy Thursday through sunset on Easter, conclude Lent and declare the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. Each year, we travel with Jesus through the Last Supper, the prayers and betrayal in the garden, the Crucifixion, and the empty tomb. We eat the bread of Communion and rejoice with alleluias on Easter morning for the gifts of salvation and life that overcomes death.

Lent has also been understood as a time of preparation for the renewal of our baptismal covenant. In the early church, candidates for baptism spent as long as three years preparing to be baptized. The last 40 days were known as the "scrutinies," when candidates examined themselves and church leaders determined whether they were ready to be baptized. Later, Lent became that time when all Christians were invited to consider their need for spiritual renewal. This was common practice by the time of the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

According to *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, "Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. . . .

The service focus [is] on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ." Ash Wednesday then is a time to

reflect on our nature as finite, sinful people and on God's nature as forgiving and redeeming. On Sunday morning, many of us confess our sins and declare that we are sinners. Ash Wednesday gives us the occasion to stop—or at least to slow down—and to reflect on what exactly it means for us to acknowledge that we are sinners and that we will die. Recognizing these realities gives depth to our gratitude for God's love and grace.

Biblical Understandings of Sin

The Genesis 3 story of the Fall gives us an overview of sin as the broken relationship between the humans and God. God created the man and woman in a garden and instructed them not to eat fruit from a certain tree. However, they failed to obey God's command; and when God sought their presence in the cool breeze of the evening, they "hid themselves from the LORD God" (verse 8). Not only did they break their relationship with God, their disobedience led to a breach in their relationship with one another. In fact, the man seemed to blame God as well as the woman. "The man said, 'The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate'" (verse 12). As a consequence, both the man and the woman lost their innocence and were driven from the garden to live lives marked by sin and by suffering and death. Verse 19 provides the reality that marks our observance of Ash Wednesday: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (NRSV).

The Old Testament uses a variety of words to express a complex understanding of sin. The cluster of meanings includes the concepts of "missing the mark," "transgression," "iniquity," "rebellion," and "evil." Life with God and with one another as God's people was based on covenant relationship with God and with one another. Sin was understood as any action that harmed that covenant community. The prophets often denounced oppression of the poor and vulnerable as a specific example.

The New Testament continues with these traditional understandings of sin. John the Baptist called for repentance and baptism "to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins" (Mark 1:4). The Gospels present the ministry of Jesus as closely involved with salvation from sin (Matthew 1:21; John 1:29). Romans 3:22-23 presents Paul's understanding of God's work of salvation through Jesus Christ: "God's righteousness comes through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who have faith in him. There's no distinction. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory." On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge our own sin, our need to turn again to God, and our reliance on God's love and grace.

(continued on page 5)



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting	2	3
4 Holy Communion 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	5 Dartball-Home	6	7 No confirmation; there WILL BE F3	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship; New Members Ceremony; Choir Sings	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 12:30 pm Membership Committee 2:00 pm UWF 5:30-7 pm F3/Confirmation 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:00 pm Council Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	19	20	21 12-1 pm Lenten Soup & Sermon 5:30-7 pm F3/Confirmation	22 Newsletter deadline	23	24
25 8:30 am Gilmanton Choir Practice 9:00 am Gilmanton Worship; Choir Sings 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	26	27	28 12-1 pm Lenten Soup & Sermon 5:30-7 pm F3/Confirmation	29		

(continued from page 4)

The Company of Believers

Ash Wednesday is much more than a day for individual piety. It involves gathering in community to be marked by the cross of ashes. The Invitation to the Observation of Lenten Discipline read before the Imposition of Ashes reminds us of this. The invitation tells us that Lent was traditionally a time to prepare for baptism and for those who had separated themselves from the community to be restored by penitence and forgiveness. It invites us to remember that in the early days of Christianity, "the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith." None of us come to either the days of Lent or the joy of Easter morning alone. We are joined by the company of believers—not only the ones who sit beside us on Ash Wednesday, but also those who have made the Lenten journey through the centuries. It is the latter who have left us guidance for how to prepare for the resurrection of Christ. They have left spiritual practices to enable us to walk through the valley of these 40 days and to engage with our sin and mortality and to receive with gratitude God's love and grace.

The service for Ash Wednesday invites us to "observe a holy Lent: / by self-examination and repentance; / by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; / and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." Thus, the service offers the opportunity to consider these disciplines and the ways in which they can contribute to our Lenten journey.

Practices for the Lenten Season

In her book on the church seasons, *To Dance With God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration*, Gertrud Mueller Nelson describes the three disci-

plines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, which are central to Lenten living. Occasions for prayer are both communal—in the congregation and family—and private. Our communal prayers remind us of our relationships in the world—of our interdependence and our mutuality with others. Private prayer allows us time to come into God's presence in order to reflect on our own self and relationship with God.

Nelson writes, "Fasting is a form of self-denial which traditionally involves the limitation of foods we take in or an abstinence from meat." Fasting has long been a practice of many Protestants, including Methodists. John Wesley thought this an important practice and fasted on a weekly basis.

Almsgiving provides us the discipline of giving to others and can take many forms. Nelson invites us to give out of joy and thanksgiving for what we have rather than out of guilt we may feel over the poor and sick. Almsgiving during Lent can include money for missions such as One Great Hour of Sharing, hours spent in a food kitchen, or care packages for military serving overseas.

The Destination for the Lenten Journey

The great glad news is that the story does not end with the confession of our sinfulness. For immediately after we confess, we hear the words, "In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven." The story does not end with a tomb and death. The story culminates with Christ's victory over death. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the journey to Resurrection.

This article originally appeared in FaithLink.