

*Our Savior's & Gilmanton United
Methodist Churches*

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Return Service Requested



Thursday, August 21
4:00—5:30 pm
Mondovi County Shop

REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(continued from page 4)

Four churches were discontinued: Blanchardville UMC, located in Blanchardville, WI; Pleasant Prairie UMC, located in Kenosha, WI; Ridgeway: Grace UMC, located in Ridgeway, WI; and Siren UMC, located in Siren, WI.

As at other Annual Conferences, the Recognition, Commissioning, and Ordination Service continues to be a very special service. Three deacons and six elders were ordained. Three clergy transferred from other conferences/denominations. Eight people were licensed for ministry.

The United Methodist Church has a new “vision” statement: “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” The new vision statement serves as a catalyst for transforming within the church, guiding its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This “vision” statement does not replace our current “mission” statement.

Additional fun and memory making for me was eating a true Korean meal with Pastor Kim and his wife. Also, the sharing of a table with Pastor Cadavos from the Iola UMC, the church where my sister, Rebecca Maus, is a member, brought a new friend into my life. And, greeting former pastors Joeng and Claire, and Pastor Claire's little Lena, was a good addition to my time there.

I again thank you for the opportunity to represent Our Savior's and Gilmanton United Methodist Churches at Annual Conference. I continue to pray for our local churches and also the United Methodist Church throughout the world. We, the laity, are so important. If there is no laity, there is no church. Let us continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, as we love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

OUTREACH

AUGUST 2025



Our Savior's, Gilmanton & Montana Salem United Methodist Churches

Living as “People of One Book”

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As we enter August, the final season of summer, we find ourselves at the halfway point of the year—a perfect time to reflect on the Lord's grace and renew our hearts in His presence. During this season, I want to encourage all of us to focus on one thing: reading the Bible.

John Wesley once described himself as a “man of one book.” To him, the Bible was not merely a reference but the center of life and the compass of faith. He firmly believed that through the Bible, God speaks to us, and within its pages, we can experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Inspired by Wesley's faith, I hope our community can come together to focus more deeply on the Bible. In particular, focused Bible reading over a short period offers the following benefits:

- Gain a comprehensive view of God's redemptive story and understand the flow of Scripture.
- Move beyond fragmented knowledge to experience the depth of complete faith.
- Become more sensitive to God's Word and attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Enrich prayer and meditation while applying Scripture more concretely.
- Share the joy of reading and discussing the Word together as a community.

By reading 40 chapters of the Bible daily, you can complete the entire Bible in one month. Alternatively, you can divide the reading into 3–4 months according to your schedule. Utilizing Bible websites or YouTube audio Bibles can also be helpful. For those with visual impairments or difficulty concentrating, listening to audio while reading can be a great aid.

As we continue seeking ways to engage with Scripture in our daily lives, I encourage those who prefer listening to explore English audio Bible platforms such as BibleGateway or the EasyEnglish Bible. These resources provide accessible and meaningful opportunities to hear God's Word—whether during daily devotionals, quiet moments of reflection, or while on the go.

This August, I invite each of you to take one step closer to the Word. May you hear the voice of the Lord speaking through the Bible and experience the joy of living within His will.

I pray that the grace of His Word fills your days abundantly.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17


In the love of the Lord,
Rev. Hyuntae Kim Ph.D.



Happy Birthday!

- 8/1 Julie Brunsch
- 8/1 Luanne Swanson
- 8/1 Paula Thompson
- 8/3 Barb Plank
- 8/4 Pat Luethi
- 8/5 Hadlee Poeschel
- 8/5 Judy Schwartz
- 8/6 Alison Gilbertson
- 8/6 Darlene Saxe
- 8/7 Randy Moy
- 8/8 Jade Jehn
- 8/9 Clarence Pichler
- 8/9 Mason Thornton
- 8/9 Logan Thornton
- 8/10 Kristen Bishopp
- 8/17 Irma Fuller
- 8/18 Brad Gibson
- 8/18 Olivia Saxe
- 8/19 Grace Boley
- 8/21 Nathaniel Bishopp
- 8/21 Reid Christ
- 8/21 Debbie Duncanson
- 8/21 Dave Holden
- 8/21 Dave Saxe
- 8/22 Toni Ede
- 8/23 Randy Johnston
- 8/24 Laura Detzler
- 8/24 Bruce Schaffner
- 8/26 Katie Sandberg
- 8/26 Macie Stambaugh
- 8/30 Orvilla Ede
- 8/30 Bob Luethi





United
Women
in Faith

August 13
12:00 Potluck at OS
Christmas Bazaar
meeting to follow
potluck

Keep in Prayer...

Robin Brunsch—rehabilitation.
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.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you and sincere appreciation goes out to Roxanne Allemann and her dedication to the music ministry of Montana Salem UMC for numerous years. Thank you for sharing your gift. We look forward to singing with you in church. May God continue to bless you, Roxanne.

Happy Anniversary!

- 8/6 Jim & Holly Hesselman
- 8/13 Larry & Becky Davis
- 8/18 Matt & Sara Thompson
- 8/20 Jay & Kolleen Branger
- 8/25 Jim & Deb Coppage
- 8/28 John & Nettie Rosenow

QR CODE FOR
ONLINE GIVING –OS



Hot Dog Pillowcases—Hot Diggity Dog!

Bring your sewing machine and material and help us make Hot Dog Pillowcases to be donated to children! Sewing not your thing? How about cutting or ironing? Anyone can help!

Wednesday, August 20, at Our Savior's UMC, 9 am to ???

Fabric needed for a pillowcase:

- One piece 27" x 42"
- One piece 3" x 42"
- One piece 9" x 42"

Please bring a dish to pass;
BBQs and cheesy hashbrowns will be provided.


If you have questions, please contact Linda Johnston, Jane Schultz, or the church office.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Buffalo County Fair Weekend	2
3 Holy Communion 8:00 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 8:00 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	11	12 6:30 pm OS Worship Committee Meeting	13 12:00 pm UWF Potluck at OS with Christmas Bazaar meeting to follow	14	15	16
17 8:00 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	18	19 6:00 pm SPRC Meeting at Gilmanton	20 6:00 pm OS Council Meeting	21	22	23
24 8:00 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship Food Pantry Sunday						



August Worship Service Helpers at Our Savior's			
	Greeters/Ushers	Worship Leader	Money Counters
Aug 3	Linda Johnston & Rita McDonnell	Rita McDonnell	Jay Branger & David Saxe
Aug 10	Leah & Mary Beth Pichler	Rita McDonnell	Jan Bechel & Stephanie Stamm
Aug 17	Stephanie & Lily Stamm	Mary Beth Pichler	Linda Johnston & Leah Pichler
Aug 24	Terry Stiner & Ann Yelle	Katie Sandberg	David Saxe & Jay Branger
Aug 31	Bob & Sue Stoughton	Ann Yelle	Katie Sandberg & Bill Lier
Camera Operator: Saul Ness			



Refreshments will be served before church at Our Savior's on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month, starting at 10 am. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BY: ANN YELLE...LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2025 Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Madison, Wisconsin June 5-8. I have been a lay member to Annual Conference for Our Savior's and Gilmanton churches for approximately 15 years. The theme for this year's conference was, "Grace is Sufficient."

The plenary sessions, or the business of the church, was quite ordinary this year. There were no controversial issues. Probably the biggest, out of the ordinary items requiring a vote, were the proposed amendments to the United Methodist constitution. In 2024, General Conference passed several proposed amendments to the United Methodist constitution. These pieces of legislation only become official once they are ratified by two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate members to annual conferences worldwide. Thus, we voted on these four proposed amendments but received no information as to how the Wisconsin Conference voted, as the votes will be added to the votes of other conferences. The four areas voted on were:

- Reorganization: The worldwide church would be reorganized into equal "Regional Conferences."
- Racial Justice: The denomination's long-time support for racial justice would be strengthened.
- Inclusion in Membership: The words "gender" and "ability" would be added to the list of characteristics that do not bar people from membership.
- Educational Requirements: Clergy delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences would meet certain educational requirements.

In the plenary sessions we were updated via reports and presentations from various committees, boards, ministries, etc. that operate with the Wisconsin Conference, or in partnership, or supported by the Conference. As a connectional church, the UMC is involved in many areas locally and throughout the world. One ministry, Global Ministries, serves as the missionary arm of the UMC, dedicated to following the example of Christ by aiding those in need. A mission of Global Missions that Our Savior's and Gilmanton UM Churches participated in was supplying Dignity Kits. This year, 23 kits were made and taken to the Midwest Mission's truck at Annual Conference. They join 1,340 personal dignity kits, 591 home care buckets, and \$7904.29 collected and taken to Annual Conference by our churches in Wisconsin. The gathered items will be taken to Midwest Mission's warehouses and subsequently distributed, locally and throughout the world, as needed in times of disaster. The Trinity United Methodist Church in Elk Mound is now a permanent collection site for Midwest Mission.

Statistics were shared. Statistics come from the EZRA report, that churches need to submit electronically, by February of each year. Some highlights of the 2024 statistical report are:

- Wisconsin has 375 United Methodist Churches and 36,117 professing members.
- Thirty to forty percent of the churches in Wisconsin have a full-time pastor.
- The average church size in Wisconsin is 94.1 members, and the median church size is 55.5 members.
- Membership trends showed a drop of 36 percent in the eight-year span to 2024.
- 210 local churches paid 100 percent of their 2024 apportionment payment.
- For 2026, the minimum compensation for Elders, Provisional members, and Associate members serving full time will be \$51,745.
- The Conference received donations to more than 100 programs, such as UMCOR, World Hunger and Poverty, US Disaster Response, Bread for the World, totaling over 1.1 million.

Challenges that occurred in 2024 included the transition from Church Mutual to M3, for church property insurance. The transition was necessary due to significant raising of rates and non-renewals of church property by Church Mutual. The transaction was rougher than expected, and thus M3 continues to work on answering questions. Our Bishop, Bishop Schwerin, oversees 800 churches now that Wisconsin Conference and Northern Illinois Conference share a Bishop. Due to the number of churches and the distance involved, he is often "putting out fires."

Activities that we shared in included an excellent Bible Study, worship, communion, singing, praying, meeting new people, reconnecting with people met over the years, etc. In addition, we shared in a Service of Remembrance, where 38 people connected to the Wisconsin Conference, who had died since the previous conference, were honored. We also honored pastors for their length of service, beginning at 25 years and ending with two pastors retiring with 76 years of service. The appointments of pastors to new churches and the names of clergy retiring were read. Retirees included 17 elders, 7 licensed local pastors, and 3 pastors from other denominations serving among us. Locally, and in our Charge, the Durand/Arkansas/Ono-Plum City churches and Whitehall church are still in need of a pastor as of July 1. (continued on page 7)

AUGUST 2025

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Mark Your Calendars!

The OS Christmas Bazaar is coming!

Saturday, November 1

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Please be thinking of what you can bring!

Friday 10/18 Lefse Prep
Saturday 10/19 Lefse Making 9 am
Saturday 10/25 Rosette Making 9 am
and Packaging at 9:30 am.



- Food
- Crafts
- Boutique



Pickle News



We are set to begin pickle making on Monday, August 11th, and Friday, August 15th at OS. Thank you to everyone who I spoke to and positively said "yes" to helping. If you were not contacted and would like to help you can call me at 715-579-4562 or email me at ckramschuster@gmail.com. I still do not know the starting time, as it depends when the cucumbers can arrive at church, but I'm assuming around 9:00. I will send an email out close to the 11th with info. John and I went to church and washed and sanitized the jars that were returned. We have a little over 200 now but we plan to process 400. If you would like to donate a dozen jars you can drop them off anytime at the church. They need to be wide-mouthed quart canning jars like Kerr or Ball. This would be so helpful. I am hoping for more used jars to be dropped off but you just never know. See you on the week of August 11th and thanks again to making this project work!!! For those of you who don't realize this, the selling of 400 jars will generate \$4400+ for our church.

Come Worship With Us!



Montana Salem 8:00 am



Gilmanton 9:30 am



Our Savior's 11:00 am