

Outreach

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

August 2026



Pastor's Corner

Making Pickles, Growing Together

Dear Friends in Christ,

July was an unusually hot month, but during our pickle project, we were blessed with a stretch of cooler weather. It made the work much more enjoyable and comfortable for everyone.

Our pickle project is a long-standing tradition in our church. It is more than just making pickles. It is an important ministry that helps prepare for our Christmas Bazaar. The money raised supports our church's ministries, and part of it also helps people in our community. Working together reminded us that even a simple task can become a meaningful act of love and service.



As always, church members and friends came together to help. Some prepared the cucumbers, others filled the jars, and others helped with the final canning process. As we worked side by side, we shared stories, laughed together, and enjoyed each other's company. Watching everyone work together warmed my heart.

This year, I had the opportunity to join others in preparing the cucumbers for the first time. As we worked together, I found myself thinking about making kimchi in Korea. Kimchi is an essential part of Korean meals. In many Korean churches, people gather each winter to make kimchi together for fellowship meals. We often made a little extra to share with neighbors who were in need. What I remember most is not the kimchi itself, but the conversations, the laughter, and the friendships that grew as we worked together.



Our pickle project reminded me of those days. Although we come from different cultures and speak different languages, there is something special about people coming together to make something with their own hands. It is not just about making pickles. It is about building relationships, sharing life, and growing as a community.



The Bible tells us that the church is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). Just as each part of the body has its own purpose, every person in the church has a role to play. Some serve in ways that everyone can see, while others serve quietly behind the scenes. Every act of service matters, and God uses each one to strengthen His church. Our pickle project was another reminder of the joy of serving together and the blessing of belonging to the body of Christ.

August is a time when summer begins to give way to a new season. My prayer is that the joy and fellowship we shared during the pickle project will continue in our worship, our ministries, and our daily lives. May we continue to encourage one another, serve one another, and grow together in faith as God has called us to do. (continued on page 4)



August 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 am Joint Worship with Holy Communion at Gilmanton UMC; Special Music by Worship Team	3	4 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting at OS	5	6	7	8
9 8:30 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	10	11	12 12:00 pm UWF Potluck and Bazaar Update	13	14	15
16 8:30 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	17	18	19 6:00 pm OS Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 8:30 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:30 am Montana Salem Worship 9:30 am Gilmanton Worship 11:00 am Our Savior's Worship; Food Pantry Sunday	31					

August Worship Helpers at Our Savior's			
	Greeters/Ushers	Worship Leader	Money Counters
8/2 (G)	Gilmanton Members	Terry Plank	Katie Sandberg, Montana and Gilmanton Members
8/9	Jan Bechel & Linda Johnston	Katie Sandberg	Jay Branger & Jan Bechel
8/16	Jay & Kolleen Branger	Ann Yelle	Stephanie Stamm & Leah Pichler
8/23	Randy & Dora Johnston	Rita McDonnell	Linda Johnston & Bill Lier
8/30	Bill & Karen Lier	Mary Beth Pichler	Mary Beth Pichler & Katie Sandberg

Happy Birthday!

8/1 Julie Brunsch
 8/1 Luanne Swanson
 8/1 Paula Thompson
 8/2 Ella Kent
 8/3 Barb Plank
 8/4 Pat Luethi
 8/5 Hadlee Poeschel
 8/5 Judy Schwartz
 8/6 Darlene Saxe
 8/7 Randy Moy
 8/8 Jade Jehn
 8/9 Clarence Pichler
 8/9 Mason Thornton
 8/9 Logan Thornton
 8/17 Irma Fuller
 8/18 Brad Gibson
 8/18 Olivia Saxe
 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
 8/30 Orvilla Ede
 8/30 Robert Luethi

Happy Anniversary!

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

Keep in Prayer:

Members who are in long-term care facilities
 Military veterans
 Firefighters, EMTs, police, and military personnel
 Brothers and sisters in Christ around the world

Memorial Given

A memorial was given in memory of Irv Yelle by family and friends.

(continued from page 1)

Thank you to everyone who took part in the pickle project. I am also grateful for all who support our church through your prayers, your service, and your faithful presence.

May God's peace and grace be with you and your family each day.

In Christ,

Pastor Hyuntae Kim, Ph.D.

UWF Potluck & Bazaar Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, at noon at Our Savior's. Linda J. will provide gluten-free BBQ and buns. We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendars!

The Christmas Bazaar is just around the corner! Join us on Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Savior's for a day of holiday cheer and community fun.

We invite you to consider what treasures you can contribute—baked goods, candies, handmade crafts, quilted items, garden décor, produce, antiques, and collectibles.

Grandma's Cupboard is in special need of antiques and collectible items. Please check at home for anything you'd be willing to donate.

We will once again be making our traditional lefse and rosettes! Watch the bulletin and newsletter for dates and times for making rosettes and lefse.



REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Ann Yelle, Lay Member to Annual Conference

The 57th session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held in Madison, Wisconsin, June 4-7, 2026. For close to 20 years, I have been a lay member to Annual Conference for Our Savior's and Gilmanton churches. Now the representation includes Montana-Salem too. The Conference began with an unusual experience, one that got us pumped up for three busy days. Participants of the UW marching band gave us one-half hour of entertainment, after which we began our work. Our work centered around this year's theme of "Practicing Hope." This ongoing theme began with Bishop Schwerin's opening remarks.

The plenary sessions, like last year, were quite ordinary and not controversial. Plenary sessions are the business of the church. In the plenary sessions, we were updated via reports and presentations from various committees, boards, ministries, etc., that operate within the Wisconsin Conference, or in partnership, or supported by the Conference.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church. This means the UMC is involved in many areas locally, as well as throughout the world. As I reported last year, one ministry, Global Ministries, serves as the missionary arm of the UMC, dedicated to following examples of Christ by aiding those in need. Due to devastation caused by flooding and wind in the United States this past year, this missionary arm utilized programs such as UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to coordinate relief. Relief areas included flooding victims in Wisconsin. As we have done for a number of years, dignity kits were filled by our congregations. This year, 22 kits were made and taken to the Midwest Mission's truck at Annual Conference. They join 2,452 personal dignity kits, 238 home care buckets, and \$11,050.11 collected by our Wisconsin United Methodist churches and taken to Annual Conference. The gathered items are then taken to Midwest Mission's warehouses

and subsequently distributed, as needed in times of disaster, locally and throughout the world.

Statistics come from the EZRA report that churches need to submit electronically by the end of February each year. Some highlights of the 2025 statistical report are:

1. The number of United Methodist Churches in Wisconsin is 376, a change of -1.8 percent.
2. The United Methodist Church in Wisconsin has 34,233 members, down 5.1 percent from 2024 to 2025.
3. The average church size in Wisconsin is 93 members, and the median size is 57 members.
4. Over a period of seven years, membership trends of the UMC in Wisconsin showed a drop of 39 percent.
5. There were 230 churches that paid 100 percent in apportionment payments for 2025, which is an increase.
6. The minimum compensation for Elders, Provisional Members, and Associate Members serving full time will be \$53,297. The minimum compensation for Local Pastors serving full time will be \$48,219. These are 3 percent increases.
7. The method for figuring apportionment payments for churches has been tweaked. It is easier to understand. A change for one church no longer affects all the churches. It continues to be based on membership and expenses. The first 25 members are not counted. Figures from 2027 are based on 2025 numbers. Apportionment figures will be available sooner, probably around August 1.

There were challenges in 2025. The change in insurance to M3 continued to bring questions by church congregations. Presently, medical insurance presents issues. Staffing changes in the financial area of the Conference occurred. The Conference Center has undergone renovation. Statistical information is needed from all churches, in a timely

manner, for the determination of each church's apportionment payment.

We shared in many activities during the Conference. Bible study, worship, communion, singing, praying, meeting new people, reconnecting with people met over the years occurred. In addition, we shared a Memorial Service, where 15 retired clergy and 2 retired diaconal ministers who had passed away since the last Annual Conference, were remembered. Pastors were honored for their length of service, beginning at 25 years and ending at 77 years. The appointment list of pastors to new churches was read. Throughout the Wisconsin districts, many churches were still in need of a pastor as of July 1. Our District, the Northwest District, had only three churches still in need of a pastor. Three churches, Sullivan UMC, Bristol UMC, and, locally, Arkansaw UMC, were discontinued. Retirees included five elders and four licensed local pastors.

Once again, the Recognition, Commissioning, and Ordination Service was a very special service. It included: (1) Five new certified lay ministers; (2) Four people licensed for ministry; (3) Three licensed local pastors who completed their course of study education; (4) Two clergy commissioned as provisional elders; (5) One clergy commissioned as provisional deacon; (6) Three elders ordained; (7) Four transfers from other UMC conferences.

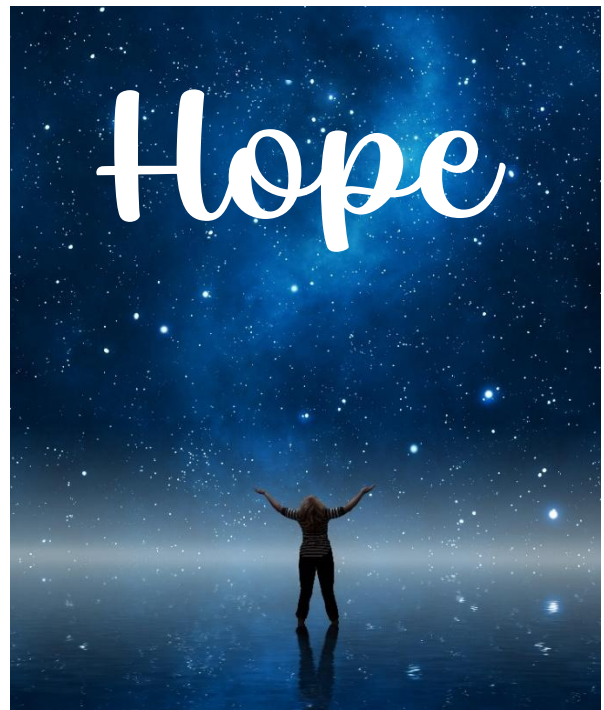
Three people were licensed as local pastors, three people were commissioned for work as an elder, one person was commissioned for work as a deacon, and three people were ordained as an elder. Additionally, four individuals were recognized as elders through transfer from another conference.

Two new things this year were very enjoyable. They were Grab and Go and a Laity Social. The Grab and Go sack lunch learning session that I chose was "4,444 Miles of Methodist Missions-Bolivia and the Baltic States." A home for the elderly was only a dream in a Bolivian community 20 years ago, but the dream was blessed by God and built with hope

and prayer. In the Baltic States, missionaries needed to rebuild hope. Religion had ceased from 1944-1991, while occupied by Russia. Individuals during that time had to hide their faith underground. The Laity Social, held at Bethany UMC, provided the opportunity for Laity to mingle and share with one another in an informal setting.

I again thank you for the opportunity to represent Our Savior's, Gilmanton, and Montana-Salem United Methodist Churches at Annual Conference. I continue to pray for our local churches and the United Methodist Church throughout the world. "Practicing Hope" is the responsibility of all of us.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace." Romans 15:43



Our Savior's, Gilmanton &

Montana Salem United Methodist Churches

210 N Eau Claire Street
Mondovi, WI 54755



Pastor Hyuntae Kim

Email: nthtkim@gmail.com

Office Phone: 715-926-5354

Office Email: osumcmundovi@gmail.com

Website: www.oursaviorsumc.org

Return Service Requested