



United Methodist Church of Owatonna

May 2024

Greetings Brother's & Sister's in Christ,

Although I don't remember the exact date 4 years ago – I vividly remember being at Evangel United Methodist Church in Rochester for an orientation on what was going to happen at General Conference in May of 2020. Our Minnesota Annual Conference was gearing up to host United Methodists from around the globe to Minneapolis – I still have one of the beautiful purple scarves many faithful hands knitted. Yet on that day in 2020 all I kept thinking was “this will never happen.” Covid had already begun to spread and I knew it would eventually reach us and all global travel would be restricted.

I also remember the tension and bitterness that permeated throughout the room. Even before the votes were cast our denomination was at a breaking point over the issues surrounding homosexuality. A lot has happened since that day 4 years ago. Churches have left our denominations, some to a new denomination that was formed The Global Methodists, and others to denominations that are more traditional. Below is an excerpt I found at umnnews.org:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/us-delegates-name-general-conference-goals>

“We hope that the gathering in Charlotte, N.C., will bear witness to a more perfect way of faithful service to Christ, who makes all things new and reconciles all people unto himself,” said the delegates’ statement, referencing [2 Corinthians 5:16-20](#).

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

The delegates said they “**pray that we may transcend the conflicts that have so long divided us.**”

Their statement comes as United Methodists are grappling with [the disaffiliation of 25% of the denomination’s U.S. churches](#) over the past four years. Those churches left under a policy instituted by the special 2019 General Conference that allowed churches to leave with property “for reasons of conscience” related to homosexuality, if they met certain conditions. The disaffiliation policy expired at the end of 2023, but a number of proposals submitted to the coming General Conference seek to extend disaffiliation.

Continue to pray for our church and our denomination The United Methodist Church –yes from now on we are UNITED in Christ. ~Pastor Lisa

United Methodist Church of Owatonna

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Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-4734 (Main Office)
Email: oumcoffice1@gmail.com

Website: www.owatonnaumc.org

Find us on Facebook:

Owatonna United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Connect Club

Livestream: www.owatonnaumc.org & Facebook

A Prayer For May:



May you be happy.
May you stay healthy.
May you feel safe.
May you find comfort.
May you sense peace.
May you give love.
May you possess courage.
May you have faith.
May you spread joy.
May you be kind.

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MAY WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

May 5-11: Carole Schroeder; Aaron & Bethany Schroht: Adeline, Weston, & August Schroht, Sawyer & Devin Sanford, Makenzie & Olivia Jacobson; Randal & Audrey Schroht; David Schroht; Thomas Schroht; Anthony Seykora

May 12-18: Derald & Linda Shaw; Rosalind Shore; Kari Shubert; Kevin & Julie Smith: Nate & Alexis; Laura Souba; Brenda Staats

May 19-25: Gary Staats; Gaylene Steckelberg; Mary Alice Stewart; Sara Jean Stewart; Reid & Daria Stransky: Joseph, Zacharia, Jerome and Darian; Katie Swanson

May 26-June 1: Breanna Terpstra; Kevin & Debbie Terpstra; Robert & Rebecca Turnbull; Lanny & Naomi Uber; Kermit & Suasan Urbain; Howard & Mary Van Binsbergen

WHY WE PRAY? As Christians, we should be reminded to ask for God's guidance and pray over our friends, family and members of our congregation. Please just take a minute or two daily to have a conversation with God. You can be on a walk, driving, getting ready in the morning...there is never a time that doesn't work for God. He always has time to listen to your prayers!

Our Breakthrough Prayer:

Holy Spirit stir in us this truth in our daily life. The same power that the Father used to raise Jesus from the dead is at work in us. Breakthrough, speak, show and inspire us so we may follow where your Spirit is leading us next at OUMC. AMEN



Newsletter Deadline

For June Newsletter

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024



Pastor Lisa Vick is available for home visits and counseling when requested, as well as hospital visits when informed.

Remember that the hospital does not inform us of your admission. Pastor Lisa can be reached at (612) 558-5316.



Council of Stewards Meeting Date:

Sunday, May 19th, 2024
10:05 a.m./Matthew Room



May 17th, 2024
In the Fellowship Hall
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Meal

May 15th, 2024 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Menu:

Hamburgers served on a bun, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, chips and a cookies.



May Birthday's

Keith Loquai	5/1
Michael McColley	5/2
Mavis Higgins	5/5
Kathy Jackel	5/6
Kyle Huisenga	5/7
Patricia Holm	5/8
Pat Bentley	5/9
Brant Dirks	5/10
Pam Mount	5/10
Derek Harvey	5/12
Breanna Terpstra	5/12
Jan Yahnke	5/13
Ben Huisenga	5/14
Greg Matthes	5/15
Marian Miller	5/15
Elliot Jenkins	5/16
Don Miller	5/16
Bruce Dirks	5/16
Trisha Hortop	5/18
Jeremy Saufferer	5/19
Todd Schneider	5/19
Karl Luiken	5/21
Katie Swanson	5/24
Carole Schroeder	5/24
Shirley Olson	5/27

May Anniversaries

Larry & Wanda McLagan
 Jay & Kathryn Krause
 Dave & Jill Hoggard
 Donald & Carolyn Huff
 Robert & Rebecca Turnbull
 Steve & Amy Mussman

Meeting dates:

*** United Women of Faith Board Meeting:**

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in
 the Matthew Room

*** Charity Circle Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 28th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
 in The Fellowship Hall

*** Faith Circle Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2024
 at 9:00 a.m.



Join the *KnitWits* in the Matthew Room every Thursday at 4 p.m. to enjoy needlework, conversation and fellowship. Brenda Ambe is a great resource for knitting challenges and will be present to assist with projects.



Join the UWF for coffee in 2024 May 8th, 2024

They meet at Hy-Vee on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. What could be better than coffee and fellowship in the morning? Please know that ALL ladies of the church are welcome to come to any UWF event.



~Notes from The Choir Loft~



Greetings from the Choir Loft! In May we celebrate the 6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday/Memorial Day Weekend.

6th Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday, May 5

Our anthem today is "Down to the River to Pray," arranged by Sheldon Curry. Believed to have originated during the era of slavery in the early 1800's, this Appalachian-flavored spiritual is a genuine heartfelt plea for prayer. It became familiar when it was used in the 2000 film, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and reminds us that no matter how difficult life may be, there is always hope, and we are never alone in our struggles.



Mother's Day – Sunday, May 12

On Mother's Day, the ladies of the Chancel Choir will sing "In a Mother's Heart." The music is written by Thomas Keesecker, with verse 1 adapted from *The Motherhood of God* by J. S. Cutler (1854-1930). The text speaks to the wonderful correlation between the love of God and the love of a mother.

Pentecost Sunday – May 19

The Chancel Choir will sing "On the Day of Pentecost," by Douglas Nolan. The joy and mystery of Pentecost comes alive in this anthem. Written in a Celtic-like folk style, Nolan uses tone painting to portray the wind and flame of that pivotal day presented in Acts 2.

Memorial Day Weekend and Trinity Sunday – May 26

Beginning of Special Music During the Summer Months

~Mary Hitzeman



Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a **Love Offering** for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

The theme of the [2024 Annual Conference](#)

—which will take place May 29-30—is “Jesus. Redeemer.”



Our **Love Offering** this year will help our neighbors—in Minnesota and around the world—heal from trauma and find safety.

- Thirty percent of the **Love Offering** will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine.
- Thirty percent of the **Love Offering** will go to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network.
- Thirty percent of the **Love Offering** will go to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services’ new Restoring Waters facility.
- Ten percent of the **Love Offering** each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

May Mission of the Month



What's Happening in our Conference:

General Conference will be April 23-May 3! If you want to know more about what is happening use these resources:

[ResourceUMC's General Conference](#)

[webpage](#) and [UM News](#). The Minnesota Annual Conference [Facebook page](#) will have regular updates as well. Also we will be posting update on our Owatonna UMC Facebook page.

Delegate Rev. Carol Zaagsma has asked us to remind our churches to get General Conference news from these official sources.



On Sunday, May 19th. 2024
Wear Pentecost Colors Sunday!
Fill the Sanctuary with the colors of fire!
Wear Red, Orange and Yellow

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.



SAVE THE DATE!

AUGUST 5TH—8TH 9:00 to 11:30



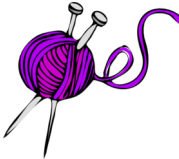
The Theme is "UP"

Planning meetings for May are:

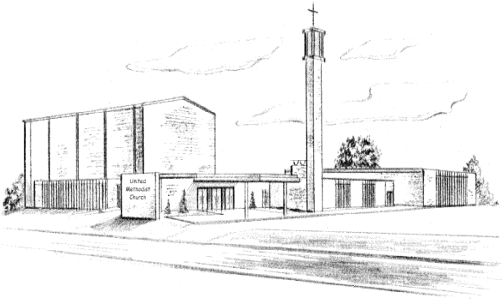
Tuesday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the Matthew Room

Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

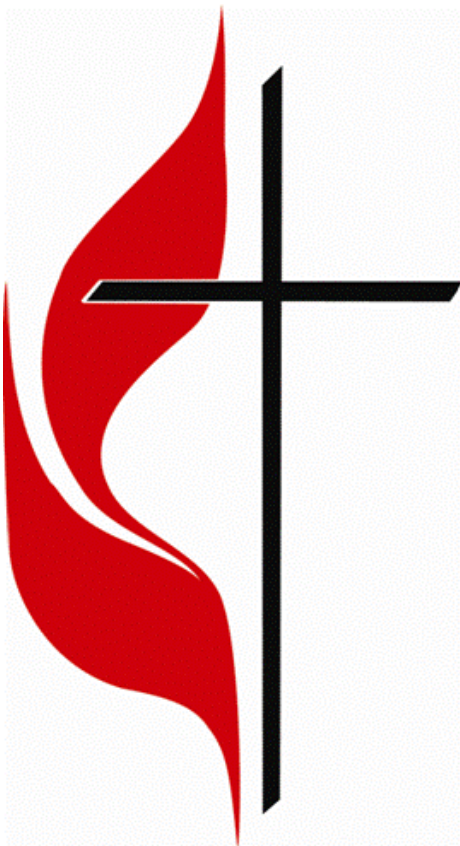


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Monday's are Pastor Lisa's Day Off. Please call the office for any assistance needed. 507-451-4734		1  May Day	2 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m. Nat'l Day of Prayer	3	4
5 * Worship w/ Communion @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. *Olson Wedding Shower in MR 1 to 4 p.m.	6 Nurses Day	7 * Pastor Lisa: Ministry Luncheon at OCC @Noon * UWF Board Meeting @ 1 p.m. in Matthew Room	8 * Coffee at Hy-Vee @ 9:00 a.m. * Pastor Lisa @ Bridgewater @ 9:30 a.m.	9 Ascension Day * KnitWits @ 4 p.m.	10	11
12 Ascension Sunday * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. * Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. Mother's Day	13	14 * PEO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the FH * VBS Planning @ 2 p.m. in the Matthew Room	15 * Newsletter Deadline * Community Dinner 6-7 p.m. *VBS Planning @ 7 p.m. in FH	16 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m.	17 * Craft Day 9 a.m.-4 p.m. In the FH	18 Armed Forces Day
19 Pentecost * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. * Council Meeting @ 10:05 a.m. in the Matthew Room	20	21 *Pastor Lisa off Personal Day	22 * Faith Circle @ 9:00 a.m. in the FH * Pastor Lisa @ Bridgewater @ 9:30 a.m. *Newsletter Assembly @ 9:30 a.m. in Matthew Room	23 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m.	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m.	27  Church Closed	28 * Charity Circle @ 2:00 p.m. in the FH * Pastor Lisa gone to Mn. Annual Conference	29 * Pastor Lisa gone to Mn. Annual Conference	30 * Pastor Lisa gone to Mn. Annual Conference * KnitWits @ 4 p.m.	31	
						MR: Matthew Room FH: Fellowship Hall

Owatonna United Methodist Church
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Pastor Lisa Vick
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Return Service Requested



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME
GROW IN GOD'S LOVE
SERVE ALL PEOPLE**

~MAY~

Sunday worship services
are available 24-7 on

www.owatonnalive.com

You can also watch live on
Facebook at 9 a.m. Like our page to keep
up to date on events at OUMC!