



The PEAL of Zion

Newsletter of Zion United Methodist Church: Batavia
May 2023

Rev. Dan Verdegan, pastor

Cell Phone Number: 608-843-4707

From the desk of Reverend Dan:

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 13: 33, 36; 14: 16, 18

Transitions. Change. Not words many want to hear. And yet the reality of it is, it happens all the time. I think about how fast the transitions are with my son. In those moments, I want to keep him in that period while enjoying every moment. Yet, I know, he is growing and learning. So, I help him to grow and learn and be the person God created him to be.

In the next month, ZION UMC as well as my family will transition from one pastor to another, from one place to another. It is a time filled with many emotions—sadness, anger, confusion, doubt, misunderstandings, etc... It is ok to have these feelings. It is ok to work out these feelings in healthy ways.

The disciples heard from Jesus that he won't be with them for much longer. They too were scared, anxious, confused, angry and sought to figure things out. Jesus reassured them that while he won't be with them, he would send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will imbue them with power and boldness to continue the work of Jesus Christ.

God is sending Rev. Christina Droste, who will continue to do His good works—I truly believe that! God won't abandon a people who are seeking him. She will continue to lead Zion UMC faithfully. Good ministry will build up God's people so that extraordinary missions will happen and people will see God working in their lives and this community.

Let us be in prayer for all who struggle with this time of transitions. Let us not focus on our fears or unknowns, rather trust that God will provide just as He has always done.

Just as Jesus loved his disciples, so too do I love you.

Rev. Dan Verdegan

SAVE THE DATE!

June 11th will be Rev Dan's last day in the pulpit at Zion UMC. You won't want to miss this special day which will include our farewells and a pot luck meal to follow the service. Rev Dan has been part of our church family for five years, and we will all want to say good-bye as he looks forward to a new appointment in Superior, Wisconsin.

Anniversaries

May 2 Charles & Marianne Bindrich
8 Jeff & Candy McChain
17 Roy & Shelly Hartmann



May 7 Roy and Shelly Hartmann
May 14 Matt and Amie Wilson
May 21 Andy and Stacy Hron
May 28 Ralph and Sonja Zimmer
June 4 Neal and Barb LaFleur
June 11 Candy McChain family

Financial Update thru March 2023

Date 3/31/2023

Income \$45,669.87

Expenses Paid (actual) \$45,960.65

Shortfall thru March 2023 -\$290.78

Apportionments paid at 25% meaning we are \$5,073.39 behind to the conference.

All other obligations are paid in full.

Birthdays

May 5 Brian Boyd
Marcy Sheets
6 Hannah Dekker
8 Vonnie Kelling
9 Richard Bemis
10 Hewitt Dekker
Barb Pomeroy
11 Tracy Guelke
12 Madeline Hartmann
16 Neal Yoho
17 Kayla Tripp
22 Ray Hartmann
Roy Hartmann
24 Owen Wilson
26 Bill Dekker
29 Stacy Edwards

Zion UMC Cemetery News

Spring is upon us and it is time to remove all holiday decorations from gravesites. We also ask that you take away any old and faded artificial arrangements. If not removed they will be disposed of by the cemetery committee. Memorial Day is not far off, and we strive to have the cemetery in the best possible condition as we have many visitors around that time.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of the Cemetery Association. We will meet on Saturday, May 13th at 9:00 AM at the Zion UMC Cemetery, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the lounge at church. All lot owners are welcome and invited to attend.



Pasta and Pasta Sauces

The first Sunday of each month is designated as **Food Pantry Sunday**. All kinds of nonperishable food items are needed. Each month we like to highlight one type of item. This month we are highlighting all kinds of **pasta and pasta sauces**. Items can be placed in the shopping cart. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

GOT MILK?

Zion is still supplying all of the funds for the purchase of milk through the Food Pantry. The demand is UP! Thank you to all who help fill this need. Please mail milk fund donations to Zion.

The Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 310 Center St, Adell, WI

Call the Food Pantry at 920-447-2293 for appointment.



REJOICE!

Rejoice! Good things are happening at Zion.

We had an amazing Easter Service with the weather in full cooperation. Sunshine and warmth arrived in time for Easter, and these signs of the season are true gifts from God! What a beautiful day to celebrate our Risen Savior. We are filled with hope and the promise of spring.

Our "Dessert First" Stewardship program was a great success and enjoyed by all. There were some very special moments, especially the testimonials given by Dave Eisentraut, Larry Huiras, Shirley Dekker, Paul Wiedemeyer, and the Schroeders. And don't forget the desserts! Very delicious and much appreciated. Now each of us needs to hold firm to the commitments we made to increase attendance, give more, and/or participate more in church programs in the coming year.

While we actively celebrated God's Blessings during our month-long "Dessert First" program, this is something we easily can do EVERY day. Look for the good around you, know Jesus is always with you, experience joy, and share your blessings with others!

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Terri Yoho, Lay Leader

Zion UMC Trustees

April 20th, 2023

Present:

Rev. Dan Verdegan, Bill Yoho, Ralph Zimmer, Sonya Zimmer, Dion Degnitz, Stacy Edwards, Bob Hartmann

Opening prayer: Rev. Dan Verdegan

Secretary's Report: Approved

Old Business:

Tasks Completed—Pew repairs, narthex and sanctuary glass cleaned, chandeliers dusted, glides installed on tables and chairs. Exterior windows will be cleaned by Stacy E when weather allows.

New Business:

2023 lawn mowing will be continued by Dusty Kuehl.

Waxing of tile floors (3 coats at \$315) will be scheduled. Furniture and chairs will need to be removed prior

Preparing for new pastor: office will need to be cleaned along with removal/disposal of sofa. Other moving of items and furniture will be handled externally.

Leaking dishwasher will be assessed.

Sound system in fellowship hall has been reported as non-functioning. Determined that it will not be fixed at this time, since it is only used a couple of times per year and there are other viable options to provide music in that room.

Next meeting date: May 18th, 2023 at 6:30pm

Submitted by: Stacy Edwards

Volunteer Opportunity

Consider volunteering on Wednesday, September 20 until Friday, 22nd at the Midwest Mission Center in Springfield IL. Zion UMC has reserved our next dates to serve at the Center in Springfield, IL. We need to register a recommended team of six by July 3rd. Contact Larry Huiras for interest.

Update on Disaffiliation of Churches and WI Annual Conference 2023

At the Wisconsin Annual Conference (WAC) 2023, clergy and laity will vote on the disaffiliation of an estimate 44 churches. As per the vote at the WAC 2022, these churches went through a 17 step process for disaffiliating. Let us keep these churches in our prayers as well as the Wisconsin Annual Conference as we give blessings to those who depart and continue to engage in ministry and missions. While this does not impact Zion UMC in anyway, please note that there might be discussion as the 2024 General Conference of the UMC makes any decision regarding the issue of inclusion of LGBTQIA+. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to ask Rev. Dan. If you don't ask, you won't know.

Council Minutes for April 18, 2023

Present: Rev. Dan Verdegan, Barb Pomeroy, Larry Huiras, Valarie Kilburn, Shirley Dekker, Linda Gerlach, Dion Degnitz. Via ZOOM: Mark Leibham

Larry opened meeting with a short message and prayer.

Mark- Finance: Zion had some great weeks of giving. March saw giving/income of \$19,443 and expenses of \$16,892. Zion ended the month of March with a gain of \$2,550. Year to date end of March was still a loss of \$291.68- but things are looking very optimistic. Apportionments are being paid at 25%. Another 25% of apportionments is being held in savings to pay later if/when possible. There was a very generous \$10,000 gift received in April to pay towards Pastoral Housing. Zion applied for an \$3,200 Equitable Compensation Grant from WI Conference earlier this year. Will know in May if we will receive it. DOC will make recommendations at their next meeting as to where Easter offering will go.

Barb-SPRC: SPRC members will be attending an online Pastoral Transition Training on Saturday. Their quarterly meeting is April 25th.

Rev. Dan- This Sunday, April 23rd, the Pine Haven Men's Group will be singing in church. Reverend Dan outlined his upcoming sermon series "Searching for Jesus." He will be on vacation May 14th (after church) till May 19th. He will also be away the Sunday of Memorial weekend. June 4th is Graduation Sunday. The next Wednesday Services will be held May 10, 24, and 31. High School Scholarships were discussed and voted on.

Dion-At Large Member & Trustees- Will be getting Fellowship Hall and hallway floors waxed soon. Getting new pads for the Lounge Chairs. Ray Hartmann and Dion repaired some pews. Hired someone to clean the glass between the narthex and sanctuary. Boiler was inspected March 27th. Chandeliers will be dusted before the meeting on Thursday.

Shirley- ZUMY- Dishwasher is leaking. Dion will bring to trustees. Sound system in fellowship hall needs to be looked at. It is not working. Easter Breakfast went very well. Transitioning to new ZUMY leaders is going well. Working on Mission Trip coming up in June.

Larry-DOC & Circuit 12- Volunteered to serve meals for the Sheboygan Food Bank's Community Cafe in Sheboygan with Circuit 12. Volunteer opportunities for anyone interested. They serve meals at St. Luke's Monday through Friday from 10:30-2:00pm. Larry really enjoyed volunteering. Sign up online at <https://sheboygancountyfoodbank.com/ways-to-give/volunteer/> Circuit 12 made \$500 at a Brat Fry during a snowstorm. They will be working with our new Pastor and her Pastor husband with the new start up congregation based in Plymouth.

Christina Wiedmeyer- Sunday School- The last day of Sunday school for this term will be May 14th- Mother's Day.

Next Council meeting will be May 16th at 6:30pm

Closed with Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Valarie Kilburn

Zion UMC (DOC) Disciple and Outreach Committee

April 20th, Meeting

Present; Lynn Oppeneer, Rev. Dan Verdegan, Larry & Nadine Huiras, Linda Gerlach, Marilyn Thornell

-Rev. Dan opened with prayer.

-January 26th meeting minutes were viewed.

-Lynn shared "Bulletin Bites" correspondence from SCIO. They are planning summer camping activities for Bridgeway home residents. They are asking for donations of camping materials. Also, they are focusing on donations for their pantry needs in May, such as Mac and Cheese and jarred spaghetti sauces. We will put a collection basket in our Narthex for donations from Zion UMC. Mark sent our 2023 annual commitment to SCIO of \$700.

- Rev Dan reported that the team of 6, (Rev Dan, Shirley Dekker, Dale and Marianne Hartmann, Norb and Janice Kramer) will head to the Midwest Mission Center, (MMC) in Springfield, IL April 26-28 to volunteer. They will take our collection of shampoo along for Dignity Kits. We wish them safe travel and a good experience.

-On September 20-22 are our next booked dates to volunteer at the Midwest Mission Center. With Rev Dan being gone, Larry will take over as our contact with Pat from the Center for this trip. It is recommended that we register minimum of 6 individuals by July 3rd. One half of the registration of \$30 each will be due. Please promote the mission trip for September.

-Rev Dan announced the In Gathering collection for Annual Conference on June 9th-11 is Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits for the tornado victims of the US. We agreed since we just gave shampoo to the (MMC) and collection of food for SCIO in May, we could take a collection through the summer months for items to make the kits and our volunteer team in September would take them along to the (MMC). Larry and Nadine will put together example kits to view after June 11th.

-There is Fellowship opportunities coming up were we can celebrate. On Mother's Day on May 14th Lynn will organized flower plants for our mothers in attendance. On Confirmation Sunday, May 21st, Marilyn will organize dessert after service. On Graduation Sunday, June 4th, Linda will organize dessert after service. This will be Rev Dan's last service also in the pulpit.

-The Noisy Can collection of \$209.96 from the last three months will be used for our annual budget of Sunday school supply costs. We discussed what we should do with the next 3 month's collections. The idea of donating funds to Gable on The Pond and Kettle Moraine Assisted Living centers for adult activity supplies was discussed. Rev Dan stated that the local Eccumental church Lenten services collections will go to Gables on the Pond. We can support Kettle Moraine. Rev Dan will find a contact from Kettle Moraine and tell them our intent.

-We discussed on how we could use the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter offerings towards outreach. We agreed that the \$182 from Maundy Thursday and Good Friday go to Robin Barclay of Random Lake to support material for "Dresses for Africa children". We will invite Robin to speak on June 25th at our service. We decided to recommend that \$250 of the Easter offering is given to Midwest Mission for Tornado relief kits and 50% of one month's Conference apportionment of \$1128. The remainder amount is used towards general budget costs.

-Zion's The Sounder newspaper weekly advertisement size was reduced. The ad cost \$1200 per year was reduced to \$800 per year.

Next meeting will be in August with Pastor Chris.

Submitted by; Larry Huiras

Notes From Your Parish Nurse

Nancy Eberhardt, RN

Dear Friends of Zion UMC,

God's richest blessings to you and your loved ones! We may have stress related to uncertainties or problems in relationships, spiritual wellbeing of loved ones, finances and health. God's word reminds us, "...You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You"-Isaiah 6:3. This month I want to discuss the relationship between **Stress and Spirituality**.

What Does Spirituality have to do with Stress?

Stress refers to physical, psychological and spiritual responses to demands. It isn't the demands themselves, as much as "believing in one way and living in another". Stress isn't the distance we pedal as much as it is the *distance between what we value and what we do*. When the people and activities that are important to us receive little of our time and energy... we feel **STRESSED!** Our faith can help us to creatively live with our values, rather than in opposition to them-Acts 17:27-28. This perspective may explain why persons with terminal illnesses can live with more joy and peace while facing major losses. The World Health Organization calls stress "A Global Epidemic".

Striking Stress with Spirituality

The following are suggestions for how we can live lives characterized by more peace and wholeness and less stress.

Renew yourself & feed your spirit. This is our most effective Stress Buster! (Psalms 103:5; Romans 12:12; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Titus 3:5).

Embrace the present. Avoid obsessing on what needs to be done next or what went wrong yesterday, so you can fully appreciate God's presence next to you (that's why it is called the present!)(Luke 10:38-42).

Living with Hope & Joy. Seeing God active in our lives...not just surviving from one crisis to the next. (Habakkuk 3:18; Romans 12; Isaiah 40; Psalms 25; Psalms 147:11).

Live a Grateful Life. Thankfulness breeds contentment (Colossians 3:15). "Love wholeheartedly, be surprised, give thanks and praise"(Brother David Stendl-Rast).

Stand like a Mountain...Flow like a River. Use God's perspective in judging which situations require strength and which call us to 'ride the waves' and flow with changes (Exodus 14:13; Psalms 93:5; Psalms 46:4; Isaiah 66:12).



Please let the office know if we missed your anniversary or birthday? Month, day, and year (which we never publish) helps when putting into our system.

May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> No Wednesday Service	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Cemetery Association meeting 9:00am
<i>14</i> Last week of Sunday School	<i>15</i> Rev Dan vacation start	<i>16</i> Admin Council meeting 6:30pm	<i>17</i> No Wednesday Service	<i>18</i> Trustee meeting 6:30pm	<i>19</i> Rev Dan vacation end	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Confirmation Sunday	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Rev Dan vacation start	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Rev Dan vacation end	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			