

The Friendly Communicator

October 2023

From the Pastor's Desk...

". . . faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

- James 2:17 (NIV)

What is faith? It is a strong and firm belief in God and religion, and it is a spiritual reliance rather than proof. As a noun, it is a system or theory of belief. As a verb, it is an act of trust and confidence, which is evident in your commitment to living out your beliefs in practical ways.

Faith is based on application because it prompts you to act as a demonstration of your faith. Faith is unseen because it is an inner attitude and an inner certainty that God is a living God. It is a way for humans to respond to the divinity and humanity of God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Confidence in God's power and will motivates our minds to act and live by faith. How do you develop faith?

Remember God's faithfulness to you—your personal experiences of God's help and intervention in your life.

Pray often to feel more connected to God. Remember God's promises—they apply to you as well. TRUST God's plan for your life, all of humanity, as well as the global community.

Oftentimes, our circumstances can give us pause when doubts and fear beckon us and threaten to derail our faith. Be encouraged—know that God is walking your journey beside you. God knows, understands, and is acting on your behalf. Something to THANK God for!

Remember these words from the song "We Walk by Faith."

"We walk by faith and not by sight, led by God's pure and holy light!

Prepare us for the journey, Lord, and may we know your power and might as we walk by faith and not by sight."

Be strong and HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH!

Pastor Gwen

Office Hours: Tuesday–Thursday | 9:30 a.m.–1:30p.m.

Please call ahead to confirm a time.

I am always available for pastoral care, emergencies, and home visits. Please contact me at the church office, or my cell phone number to schedule a day and time. If I'm unavailable, Rev. Dr. John Jones IV is available for emergency contact.

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October Birthdays

- 3 Pat Shawgo
- 6 Samuel Koss
- 7 Christopher Spitzer
- 8 Barb Winski
- 12 Rev. Charles Graves
- 13 Chad Beutin
- 15 Michelle Caswell
- 15 Kim Kosobucki
- 18 Adriann Kupka
- 24 Michael Arnold
- 26 Margery Krueger
- 28 John Keinert
- 29 Jane Cordie

October Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 4 | Jeremy & Nancy Koss | 26 years |
| 9 | Lynn & Lorna Stoecker | 58 years |
| 10 | Joseph & Alisha House | 15 years |
| 18 | Karl & Nancy Byleen | 49 years |
| 27 | Chad & Sheila Beutin | 33 years |

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know, and we'll add it to our records.

The third Sunday collection for October 15th for Milwaukee Christian Center is **Soup/ravioli (no Ramen noodles)**. The hygiene products are **razors and shaving cream**.

Rest[ore] Retreat

October 27-28 | Camp Tamarack

Formally "Fall Out of Camp"

Save the date! October 26-27 will be workdays and October 27-28 will be retreat/workdays as we wind down from the summer season and get ready for the winter weather.

Shalom Retreat

Join us for our Shalom Retreat, October 6-8, 2023, in Euclid, Ohio. This will be a beautiful, life-changing experience where you have the opportunity to meet and learn from like-minded women. Relax, reflect, and reconnect with yourself and God. Our Shalom Retreat is an unforgettable journey of transformation that will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired. We invite you to join us for this unique experience! Register now to begin your journey towards inner peace.

To register and find out more, visit:

https://abwomensministries.org/event/Details.aspx?EventId=67&blm_aid=22177

Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study **Tuesdays at 11 AM (in person and via Teams)**. The Teams link is:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9395927572331?p=fmHD1GD01BNfMYMi>

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August 27, 2023 Financial Reports

General Receipts

Envelopes/loose offerings	\$8,889.00
Loose Offerings	\$118.50
Church School	\$155.00
Total	\$9,162.50

Miscellaneous Receipts

Music Anthem	\$137.00
Pow Wow	\$50.00
STATE J. Nowakowski	\$19,803.80
Mil. Mynmar Church	\$300.00
Total	\$20,290.80

Communion Offering

M.C Center	\$240.00
Grand Ave Club	\$150.00
Total	\$390.00

Memorial Fund

Duane Kirk	\$550.00
Total	\$550.00

Mission Offering

O.G.H Sharing	\$130.00
O.G.H Hawaii	\$70.00
Total	\$200.00

Deposited Total \$30,593.30

Communion Offering

Communion offering for October 1st is the **Salvation Army**.
<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Regional Executive Minister

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, with Sunday, October 8th Clergy Appreciation Day. We are thankful for all those who serve the Lord in this vocation.

Responding to God’s call into ministry is not an easy path for anyone, but especially since the pandemic began. The Hartford Institute for Religious Research conducted a survey in 2021 and learned that 68% of pastors reported that 2021 was their hardest year in ministry ever.

Barna Group learned in 2021 that 38% of pastors had considered quitting full-time ministry. 90% of clergy report working between 55-75 hours per week. 50% of pastors feel unable to meet the demands of the job, and 80% of seminary and Bible college graduates will leave the ministry within the first five years of the job. There is no such thing as the perfect pastor.

There are at times theological disagreements, differences over priorities among church leaders, and sometimes just plain personality conflicts between pastors and church members. A healthy Pastoral Relations Committee that meets regularly (not just when conflict arises) can help navigate those issues and provide space for clergy within congregations to share their struggles and receive support from the church. If we remember that we all serve a mighty God and are partners in ministry together, grace and humility can enter in.

The Regional Office can provide support and guidance for a Pastoral Relations Committee to serve both the church and pastor. I invite you this month to show your appreciation for pastors, chaplains, and other ministerial leaders in your life. Happy Pastor Appreciation Month to all our clergy!

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell - Executive Minister

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FROM THE DIREKTR..

Singing in the church choir—this statement strikes fear in many people's hearts. Why? I don't know, but I have heard all kinds of reasons from people about why they won't/can't/don't sing in the choir. All of them are based on fear—fear of stepping out of their comfort zone and fear of failure. Well, fear is overcome by knowledge, so here are ten reasons to sing in the choir.

1. It is a calling and a privilege.
2. It gives you an opportunity to express your love for the Lord.
3. It is a group activity.
4. It allows you to participate in a vital ministry.
5. It gives you an opportunity to share the good news.
6. It allows the message of the gospel to be imprinted on your heart and mind.
7. It allows you to get to know wonderful people.
8. It allows you to participate in something bigger than yourself.
9. It is the closest thing to heaven on earth.
10. It allows you to develop your faith through the songs.

Imagine having to work on these ten things individually! If you join the choir, all these things will happen—I guarantee it. Knowledge is power!

See you Wednesday evening at 7:30!

Mary Schecher

3Gs PICNIC: FUN IN THE SUN!

On an absolutely perfect September day, the 3Gs gathered for their annual picnic at the home of Debb and Jeff Jaeck on lovely Phantom Lake. The sun was shining, and the temperature was in the upper 60s, just a wonderful day to be outside enjoying God's beauty.



In addition to gathering to fellowship, we were also there to celebrate Charlotte Jaeck's 93rd birthday! It was great having the opportunity to see her again.



There was plenty of time to chat as our food was being grilled by Jeff, Debb, and Dakota (Debb's son).



Everyone brought their own food, as well as a dish to pass, so there was a great variety, from burgers and brats to chicken and sandwiches. Soda, water, and ice were supplied.



A 3Gs picnic would not be complete without a pontoon boat ride on the lake! Driven and narrated by Co-Captains Jeff and Debb, we spent almost an hour-and-a-half touring both Upper and Lower Phantom Lake. A splendid time was had by all. Food, fellowship, and fun! What more could we ask for?



Mark your calendars now for our Christmas Party, December 14 at the Brass Key! You won't want to miss it!

Historical Reflections: Joint Baptist Church Service

Three local Baptist churches, First Baptist Church of West Allis, Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, and Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church, have cancelled their normal Sunday services and scheduled a joint combined service to celebrate World Communion Day at noon on Sunday, October 1st on our church's lawn. Pastors Gwendolyn Y. Young, Jason Mack and May May Latt will lead the service. Later, we will "break bread together" at lunch.

You might ask, "When was the last time our Church participated in this kind of service?" During the last 100 years, some of us have attended services at national, state, or area conventions/meetings but regular services were still conducted at our church.

Going back to 1841, some of the members of the disbanded Milwaukee Baptist Church probably attended the Greenfield Baptist Church until their church resumed in 1843. We have ties to our sister churches. Some our Church members gave birth to the Underwood Church, and we provide facilities for the Milwaukee Myanmar Christian Church.

In 1843, the Baptist churches of Greenfield (now West Allis) including that church's folks in Hart's Mills (Wauwatosa), Brookfield, and Granville worked together to get a common preacher who preached at each of their separate churches/locations on a rotating basis. By the end of the year, probably because of who had the funds for the preacher, for every two Sundays in Wauwatosa there was one Sunday for Greenfield and one for Brookfield.

On November 24th, 1844, the name of the church became the Baptist Church of Greenfield and Brookfield while all business meetings were to be held in Hart's Mills. Enoch Underwood was named clerk pro tem in December 1844. By September 1845 we asked Enoch Underwood "if he got to preach to us one half of the time." We sent a delegation to the Brookfield church for Underwood's ordination ceremony (12/9/1849).

On November 6, 1845, the Hart's Mills members formally formed their own, separate church. Our records from the Greenfield Baptist Church do not mention this. There had been disputes over slavery, the U.S. Constitution, and the distance between the small settlements. Our records do not mention this. Hart's Mills was growing much faster. Transportation was walk or use a horse on muddy dirt streets.

While Underwood began his ministry at Hart's Mills, our "Church met November 6th, 1852 and voted to dissolve." On March 26th, 1864, the Church met and "voted to rescind the previous vote of the dissolving of the Church." The Hart's Mills folks built their initial building in 1853. As a smaller, economically poorer settlement, our first building was built in 1869.

Enoch Underwood served the Wauwatosa Church for 38 years and concurrently served Honey Creek folks for 23 years (1850-1873) until he resigned for health reasons.



This is the 90th of periodic historical articles.