



BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

Opportunities Abound!

Hello dear Methoducks! How is summer going? I trust that as many of you take time for vacations, excursions and the like that you are also taking time to include God in that fun! God relishes in our joy and I know that as God delights, so do God's people! Thanks be to God that we have this wonderful season that rejuvenates our spirits and expands our connection to people and place.

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The engaged, worshipping, serving community is my delight any time of year! We've been active and visible both inside and outside the Church walls this summer and more opportunities abound for this month as well!

We have 2 (two) opportunities to gather for Chill on the Hill at Humboldt Park: on Tuesday, August 4th and Tuesday, August 11th, as we will participate in stage sponsorship both nights with our tent up along the south side of the hill. Friends, this is a chance for the greater neighborhood to "see" who we are, how fun we are and how welcoming we are to ALL people! We need YOU to sign up (or call Paula) to participate in games, face painting (hoping that Rainbow Randa will feel up to attending!) fellowship, set up and clean up. Both weeks have lots of room for YOU to join in the fun! Pass out ducks, give out stickers, cut open popsicles or just be willing to tell your best story about being a "Methoduck" ! Loving Start Preschool will also join us and their bubbles are always a big hit!

Additionally, on Wednesday August 19th we will celebrate our second annual "HamBINGO" night at Hamburger Mary's on KK and Bay – Bingo starts at 8pm. Bring the family for an early dinner and then pick up the sitter so that adults can join in the Bingo fun that's more suited just for them! The fruit of this event is 10% of the dinner/drinks of the night and 100% of the Bingo card "donation" which we suggest be the same as last year: \$10 for 10 games. There will be great Bingo prizes, (no silent auction this year) and we hope YOU'LL bring your friends for a fun night out!

As I write I know of 2 Methoducks who are headed to the mission field, (Richard to PA and Mary to Alaska) I know Finance is working on Golf Outing tallies and plans for Fall Stewardship (please pick up your Financial Giving Statements in the Gathering Space – they will not be mailed this quarter!), I know that Worship and Music teams are visioning out through Christmas and I know that SPR is grateful to welcome back a great ministry team and staff for 2015-2016! Lastly, I know that I am blessed to serve alongside of you!

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Opportunities...

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Friends, as Fall looms before us, with it's schedules and obligations, don't miss out! Let us continue to come together for ministry, fellowship and fun as, by the grace of God, the hard work of preparation and the vision of the faithful, opportunities abound!

"Where two or three are gathered, there I will be in the midst of them." ~ Matthew 18:20

Pastor Kelly

So What's In Your Mailbox?

A couple of weeks ago someone was kind enough to send me a thick envelope (it cost them three "forever" stamps!) full of Bible tracts and assorted clippings of scripture - all condemning homosexuality. This person evidently is not in agreement with how our church interprets the welcoming love of God which we believe extends to ALL God's children.

On the one hand, I applaud this person's commitment to what they believe. A commitment so strong they are willing to take the time and energy to reach out as he or she did. On the other hand, I would have taken their whole argument a bit more seriously if they had included their name and address so we might connect and maybe even sit down over coffee to talk over our differences...and maybe even our similarities.

Now to be honest, I would normally just toss something like this in the circular file, especially because it was anonymous. But I'm telling you about this because of something I read in preparation for leading our Wednesday morning Bible study. It was the week that Pastor Kelly was attending a funeral. So even though I wouldn't be preaching, it fell on me to lead the class. (That's the joy of having two of us!)

One of the passages was from 2 Samuel, and it spoke of how David was called to become king after the death of Saul, and then also how he claimed Jerusalem to be his "holy city." The lectionary selection was 2 Samuel 5:1-5 and then 9-10. Do you ever wonder why some verses get passed over? In this case the omitted passages had to do with prohibiting "the blind and the lame from coming into the house of the Lord."

One of the commentaries I looked at in preparing for that class said, "Verses 6-8 were omitted from the lectionary out of sensitivity to those in our Christian family who suffer these conditions." Obviously times have changed and we no longer exclude people because of physical limitations. Remember Ron and Linda Schultz who were members with us for a time? They were both sight-impaired. How about Dave Rosing? Dave is one of our most faithful ushers, but one who moves about the sanctuary with the aid of a walker. And let's not forget our beloved Linda Kreider, who for over a year has used a walker to get back and forth to her piano. All of these people, if we still accepted those verses as the absolute gospel truth, would be excluded from worshipping with us.

Why then is it so hard for some of us to accept the presence of people who simply chose to love in a different

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So What's...

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manner than our own? After all, their love of God is the same as ours. Their desire to worship is the same as ours. And most important of all, they are blessed and beloved children of God just the same as anyone else.

There are countless other passages in scripture that we no longer take as seriously as people once did and we even gloss over other passages that hit too close to home for many of us. After all, Jesus had a lot more to say about how we spend our money than how or whom we should love. But he does continue to call us to love all and to exclude no one. That's what I try to do and I'm proud to say that's what our church strives to do. Amen!

Pastor Andy



Show someone you care: tell them about the GriefShare program.

2pm on Sundays

Contact Al at (414) 628 - 4671

~no meeting August 23rd~



Hamburger Mary's HamBingo

100% of every Ham-Bingo card goes to BVUMC.

Where: Hamburger Mary's
2130 S Kinnickinnic Ave

When: Wednesday, August 19th
8pm - 10pm (approx.)

Cost: Bingo Cards are a requested donation of \$10ea. Food and drinks not included. BVUMC receives 10% of the night's food profits.



Chinooks Game

Wednesday, August 5th
6:35pm

If you plan to carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 5:15pm.

2015 Chill on the Hill Dates

Pastor Kelly

Family night is Tuesday, August 4th

- Loving Start Preschool will be there with bubble fun and I have weighted ducks – anyone want to organize a “Duck Pond game”?

The next week, Tuesday, August 11th

- We'll been “chillin” with freezer pops and the “Chuck a Duck game”

The whole season's lineup of musical groups is posted on the CUBE and the volunteer sign up sheets are up on the CUBE. Volunteer spots will be first come first serve for set up and strike helpers and folks to pass out ducks, play the games and talk to folks who stop by about our ministry.

Ministry Spotlight

It's the Stories: A Reflection on Missions

Often those of us with a heart for mission-type work get excited over trying to answer questions. Questions like, "How can we help?" "What will have the greatest impact?" "Will our monetary resources be used properly?" Some of the social, economical, and health problems we seek to address run deep and wide, and these may be worthy questions.

I attended "A Dinner of Hope" hosted in our community at Hide House on June 25th. I entered the event with some fear in my heart. I knew Kwizera Ministries was a US counterpart set up to support Solace Ministries in Rwanda. I was afraid because genocide is a huge, terrible topic and I would be listening to a survivor tell his story.

It's stories that can sear us to the core and ignite us to action. Stories are a great and heavy gift to the listener. You can never "unhear" a story. Were these honest accounts from Rwanda in the mid 1990's something I was "ready" to hear? Assuming I was "ready enough" I was afraid of feeling too small to make a difference.

We have to listen to the stories. It's the stories that transforms history to reality. It bridges the "them" to "us". That night I listened to Yves Nyamushanja tell of watching his community crumble as Tutsi people fled to churches for safety and came face to face with Hutu neighbors willing to slash and slaughter them. Hearing Yves recall a day when he at age 12, was the only one to walk out of the church alive was wrenching.

Jean Gakwandi spoke next and I was amazed that he was present as he is the original founder of Solace Ministries (established 1995). He believes that "the first step of the healing process is to listen to survivors, comforting them". At Solace Ministries survivors are able to tell their stories and listen to each other. This itself is a gift greater than material objects. They received the gift of knowing they were not alone. To paraphrase, Yves states that without that, they would have gone crazy. It's the stories that allow us to momentarily be with and be there for another person.

Jean points out that we need to listen vigilantly because history rewrites itself very quickly. He states he is discouraged that the numbers of Tutsis murdered seems to shrink every year: as if 2 million dead is a travesty, but one million doesn't sound so bad. When people get transformed from stories to numbers they lose their humanity. The goal of Solace is to "become an alternative family for survivors, restoring their dignity and creating networks of support for individuals who are traumatized, lonely, poor, and desiring hope as they confront an uncertain future.

How gracefully Jean and Yves answered my initial fears and questions! We can help by listening. They affirmed that just seeing people in the US gathered for a dinner to support their community helps to validate and build self worth and hope. Aren't those precious gifts? Yes, we can also buy (super strong) coffee, beautiful woven baskets and colorful beaded necklaces. But at the core of all missions is the restoration of humanity. Let us carry this forward. More information is available: www.kwizeraministries.org and www.solacem.org

Katy Meyer

Bread and Jam Needs You!



Summer is here and we need volunteers each week. Calvary UMC, which usually takes one weekend a month, does not volunteer in the summer. More people are off on holidays so that narrows our volunteer base. If you have a Sunday that you can spare, please sign up. You don't have to know how to cook. We can always find a job for you making lunches, setting tables, serving food, washing dishes - these are all important tasks that help keep us serving the community every week. Please help if you can. [Click here to see available dates.](#)

Jan Colson - Volunteer Coordinator

Do Not Stand Idly By: a market-based approach to preventing gun violence

If you are concerned about gun violence and would like to learn more, Judy Banta will be having a house meeting about this campaign being introduced all over the country, and considered by our Southwest Common Ground. Contact Judy Banta at (414) 704-9594 or sign up on The Cube to attend. We meet at 6:30pm on August 13th at Judy's house.

Stewardship: Imagine Wisconsin Anew

Wisconsin Conference of UMC has not been able to fund their budget fully for a number of years. This is more than an inconvenience, it is a tragedy. As they receive less, they are able to do less.

Wisconsin paid its General Church Apportionments at less than 100%—after two decades of paying in full. For years they have been forced to reduce, cut, or eliminate ministries and programs as apportionment giving decreased from churches. Bottom line is 94% of their budget directly funds United Methodist mission, to see where it goes check the bulletin board in the front entrance.

Last year we worked hard and paid our apportionment in full. Thanks be to God! Lets keep it up.

Your Stewardship Team

2015 July Giving Record						
Fund	Rec'd This Month	Needed Monthly	(Short)/ Over This Month	Rec'd This Year	Needed This Year	(Short)/ Over This Year
General	\$11,491	\$17,851	(\$6,360)	\$96,124	\$124,960	(\$28,836)
Apportionment	\$1,740	\$2,361	(\$621)	\$16,263	\$16,527	(\$264)
Totals	\$13,231	\$20,212	(\$6,981)	\$112,387	\$141,487	(\$29,100)

Although not collected, the apportionment total for the month of \$2,314 was paid.

Loving Start is off for the month of August. Summer camp was a lot of fun, we had a great field trip to Cream City Swirl. We have enjoyed watching the big machines tear up the road, but hope it is finished by September. We have been learning about zoo animals and we went on a Safari looking for clues and hunting for animals.

We enjoyed marching in the 4th of July parade. Including those in the parade we saw 45 former, current or next year students. Two former students who are juniors in high school came up at the end of the parade to tell us that they met at Loving Start and are still the of best friends.

We have a few openings for fall, mostly in our afternoon class. If you know of someone who would be interested, have them call for a tour.

LOVING START
PRESCHOOL



Miss Martha, Miss Debbie, Miss Mary and Miss Karen, Miss Nicole

Birthdays

August 4th

Susan Rice

August 7th

Andrew Oren

August 8th

Sharon Felber

Tim Jorin

August 10th

Peggy Greenberg

August 12th

Nancy Radtke

August 16th

Anna Bierer

August 18th

Eryn Jackson

August 19th

Margaret Morgan

August 20th

Peter Krempel

Janet Kumbier

August 21st

Ronald Jackson

August 22nd

Melva Mayo

August 23rd

Gordon Steckler

August 24th

Deborrah Baldwin

August 27th

Noah Moebius

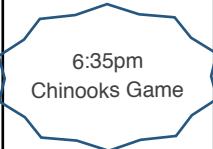



August 2015

KEY:

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
 ESCP: East Side Chamber Players
 FSF: First Sunday Forum - Missions
 LSP: Loving Start Preschool
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous

PEP: People Enjoying People
 SECA: South East Clergy
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations
 WBC: Wesleyan Bell Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	3 7pm AA Mtg	4 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm Chill on the Hill Family Night	5 10am Bible Study 12:30pm SECA 6:35pm Chinooks Game  6:35pm Chinooks Game	6 7pm AA Mtg	7	1 10am SE District Celebration 10:30am AA Mtg 8 10:30am AA Mtg
9 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	10 6pm Finance Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	11 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm BVUMC at Chill on the Hill 6pm Trustees Mtg	12 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Cards	13 6:30pm Do Not Stand Idly By mtg 7pm AA Mtg	14	15 10:30am AA Mtg
16 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	17 1pm Memory Café 7pm District 28 AA 7pm AA Mtg	18 9:30am Circuit 33 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm Chill on the Hill	19 Clergy Day 10am Bible Study 8pm HamBingo  8pm HamBingo Hamburger Mary's	20 Clergy Day 7pm AA Mtg	21	22 10:30am AA Mtg
23 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	24 7pm AA Mtg	25 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm Chill on the Hill 7pm LSP Orientation 7:15pm SPR Mtg	26 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Cards	27 7pm AA Mtg	28	29 10:30am AA Mtg
30 8am Worship 9am Coffee Hour 9:45am Worship 2pm GriefShare 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	31 7pm AA Mtg	1 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6pm Chill on the Hill	2 10am Bible Study	3 6:30pm Faith Singers Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7:30pm WBC Rehearsal	4	5 10:30am AA Mtg

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Pastor Andy Oren

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August
2015

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org

The Latest from Common Ground's July 23rd meeting:

- Over 50 CG leaders attended a bilingual meeting
- We discussed what we heard in 21 house meetings with over 220 people
- The top two issues were Need for Youth Recreation/Park upgrades and Street Safety
- We VOTED to take on these top two issues and go into action
- We have over 300 people committed for the Action on August 2nd

Street Soccer Day ACTION

August 2nd 1:00pm

Location, TBD--Near Kosciuszko Park

Save The Date!!

Common Ground Southside Leaders will be having a public action on August 2nd! CG and Liga Juvenil Garcia are hosting a street soccer tournament and a public action. This action will call attention to the fact that our kids need safer places to play and safer streets!

If you can attend [Click this Link](http://commongroundwi.org) or visit commongroundwi.org

Be sure to indicate how many people you can bring with you as an individual or from your organization.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:00am Worship
9am Coffee Hour
9:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday
8:30am - 1:30pm

Tuesday through Friday
8:30am - 2:00pm

== Hope is here. ♥ Love is here. ♻ Family is here.