

BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings in Christ,

Happy New Year! Day one of those resolutions. We got this! Although let us come back to those resolutions at the end of the month or in February and see how it is going then. Each year we set dreams and hopes for the new year and unfortunately it does not take long before the dreams are lost and the hopes are forgotten.

We gain a new beginning. A fresh start. It is now after Christmas and I am sure someone out there is already counting down the days until Christmas 2020. Yet there is work to be done first. There are several months to claim and live before that moment.

As we begin a new year, we begin in the season of Epiphany in the life of the church. What a great theme to claim...light in the midst of darkness. The prophet Isaiah gives this prophecy that the time would come when light would overtake the darkness. The light would proclaim victory. This light is found in Christ. We too have the light within us as children of God. I appreciate Eugene Peterson's words from *The Message*:

“Get out of bed, Jerusalem!
Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.
God's bright glory has risen for you.
The whole earth is wrapped in darkness,
all people sunk in deep darkness,
But God rises on you,
his sunrise glory breaks over you.”

You might better know this verse in this translation, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” This is no time for darkness. This is the time of light. This is our time to wake up and live into the light of God found in Jesus Christ.

The season of Epiphany is all about those light bulb moments of faith or as one likes to put it, this is the time of “the 2x4 from God”. We cannot ignore the blessings found in Christ and given by God. The world might claim that this is just our time of darkness and no hope. Yet as Christians we need to say this is just not true. Look to Christ. Jesus is the answer. Jesus is our hope. Jesus is our light.

In your writing of your resolutions of the year and thinking new dreams and desires for the next 365 days, I as your Pastor ask one thing...somewhere in that process write down on paper or place in your mind the words: “God is light—Christ is light—Shine bright child of God.” If it were up to me, this would be our theme for the next year. Oh what the heck, let's make this our theme of the year.

To help this become lived out then in our lives I want us to think of those places of darkness in our church, our communities, our homes, our families, our own lives. Then consider how this can be changed with God at work in our lives. Where can we bring God's light? Where can we ourselves shine bright?

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...As I conclude this letter, I am already writing notes for January to begin this new adventure of living God's light. In the midst of resolutions of reading thru the Bible in the year and reading one more book than last year which was a total of about 30, I now add—"God is light—Christ is light—Shine bright child of God."

Live God's Light,
Pastor Kevin

Upcoming Events

January 1st:

Friday, 1/1

Church office closed in observance of New Years Day.

January 17th–19th:

Friday, 1/17 through Sunday, 1/19

Winter Camp Weekend

Lake Lucerne

Winter Camp 2020 weekend— games, fellowship and fun!

January 20th:

Monday, 1/20 at 1pm

Memory Cafe

LL Cafe

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, individuals with early to moderate Alzheimer's and their care partners (as well as those who worry about memory problems) are welcome to come and participate in fun, engaging activities.

FUN-draising 2019 Totals

Golf Outing

\$2,433.10

Cookie Walk

\$2,250.00

Secret Angel

\$508.00

Kringle Sale

\$300.00

**THANK YOU for making our
events in 2019 a success!**

Hunger Task Force: Stockboxes

Saturday, March 7th 9am-noon

A Stockbox is a box of healthy foods that Hunger Task Force delivers to low income seniors free of charge. Each box contains 16 nutritious items including rice, cereal, juice, beef stew, pasta and vegetables. They need a group of volunteers on March 7th from 9a.m. to noon at 300 E. College Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207 to help pack Stockboxes. Please contact Diane Evans for information or questions: dbevans2@icloud.com or (781) 424-1504 (text preferred). Sign up at the Events Board!



MITTENS & MORE

Thank You Letter

milwaukeepbs.org



A Viewer Supported Service of

MILWAUKEE AREA Technical College



MILWAUKEE
PBS

December 10, 2019

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Bay View United Methodist Church:

Many sincere thanks to you for your generosity in sharing your talent to create so many beautiful items for this year's drive. THANK YOU!!

Your donated items will keep many warm this winter.

Each fall, Milwaukee PBS organizes its "*Mittens & More*" Community Service Drive, and this year was the 12th annual drive. A grand total of 8781 mittens, gloves, hats and scarves were collected and given to 47 agencies and schools in southeastern Wisconsin and distributed to children and families in need.

This year Milwaukee PBS partnered with: Back on the Rack Consignment Boutique, Ben Franklin Crafts, Clear Water Outdoor, Collective Coffee, Fredrick's Hallmark-location including Oshkosh, Grafton Yarn Store, Heaven and Earth Acupuncture, Ovation Sarah Chudnow, Sew Much More, Sew N' Save, Springs Water Park, Milwaukee Center, Studio S Fiber Arts and Milwaukee Area Technical College--Downtown, North, South and West Campuses for their support and serving as collection sites. Boxes for the drive were donated by The Home Depot.

Thank you for being an *individual donor*. Such a special gift from you!!

Again, my heartfelt gratitude for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Julie Hill Lehr
Manager, Marketing and Community Engagement
Milwaukee PBS

5 Ways to Mark Three Kings Day

1. Read the Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) for the Epiphany of the Lord aloud with your family or class. Re-read it and allow the story to speak to you in some new way. Discuss the insights each person gained by reading it a second time.
2. People in Mexico, Spain, France, and Germany celebrate the day by sharing "King's Cake." Download a recipe from the Internet and bake it. Don't forget to place a symbol of the baby Jesus in the batter. This could be a small bean or an almond. The one who gets the slice of cake containing the symbol is considered to be especially blessed.
3. Gather with your family, neighbors, friends, or students, and take turns talking about the gifts you have each been given during this Christmas season. Move the conversation beyond that of material gifts in order to consider the ones that nurture heart and soul.
4. Work with someone at your parish to organize a visit with your family, friends, or students to a nursing home. Bring small gifts to share with the residents. Afterwards, consider the ways you could "step out" in order to share your gifts with others during the coming year.
5. Go from room to room in your home and consider the way each space is blessed. Resolve to make your dwelling a hospitable place in which to receive others. How can you make your home more gracious to friend and stranger alike?



Kelly Heipel: Happy New Year

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year's Eve spent with family and friends. This year's Secret Angel Gift Shoppe was such a fun event! I am incredibly grateful for the people who came together to make the shoppers' day so special. The children were so excited and happy and it was all because of the amazing people we have in our church community. From the people who made donations to the set-up crew to the bakers, greeters, Angel Shoppers, wrappers, and servers- THANK YOU! We were able to assist 54 children this year and raise over \$500. Because of the volunteers efforts and time, those 54 children were able to experience the 'joy of giving' when their family members opened the gift that they picked out especially for them! If you happen to find items in your home, on clearance throughout the year, or if you received a gift this Christmas that you can't use or don't want, that you think would be a good fit for the Secret Angel Gift Shoppe, please feel free to drop it in the office at any time THROUGHOUT THE YEAR as I will be collecting and organizing all year long. Thank you!

Roof Update

Bob Schaefer has been busy constructing beautiful lawn ornaments made out of a portion from the old church roof, while Jean Larsen painted beautiful designs on the old roof slate. Order forms are available in the ML Gathering Space, with all proceeds going toward our roof balance.

Check out the goal thermometer in the ML Gathering Space to keep track of our progress! Thank you for keeping our roof commitment in mind as you prayerfully give. We want to keep our Church building stable, strong and safe for generations to come.

Epiphany Humor: Didn't Make the Sermon

Working on my sermon for Sunday about the Wise Men. For a long time I thought I would use this story as the beginning, and we will see if I should have stuck with that idea, but before it falls into the trash folder I thought I would share it here.

It is the obligatory "If the Wise Men Had Been Women" joke:

What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men?

They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.

But what they would have said when they left...?

"Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that gown?"

"That baby doesn't look anything like Joseph!"

"Virgin? Yeah! I knew her in school!"

"Can you believe that they let all of those disgusting animals in the house?"

"I heard that Joseph isn't even working right now!"

"And that donkey that they are riding has seen better days too!"

"Want to bet on how long it will take until you get your casserole dish back?"



Minister's Delight (As Made by Pr. Kevin)

Ingredients

☐ 1 box yellow cake mix

☐ 1/2 cup melted butter

☐ 1 can cherry pie filling

Directions

Melt butter and combine with yellow cake mix; mixture will be crumbly. Set aside.

Put the can of cherry pie filling in a crock pot. Sprinkle butter and yellow cake mixture onto cherry pie filling. Bake in crock pot on low for 3 hours, then enjoy!

4 Ways to Approach the New Year with Jesus

By Daniel Darling

And so it is that the calendar has (finally!) flipped and we have begun a brand new year. Last year—with its mix of joys and sorrows, goals met and goals missed, friendships gained and friendships lost—is behind us.

For many, New Year's is just another holiday. For others, it's a time of deep reflection, both on the past year and on the one ahead. For followers of Jesus, New Year's has no unique significance. There's no central biblical narrative informing our celebrations.

But this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar. Moses asked of the Lord, "Teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12). Time—seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years—is a gift to us from a good God. To wisely follow him, then, is to redeem our time (Eph. 5:16).

New Year's can also remind us of the new birth. In a sense, each day with Jesus is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. We are, after all, new creation people, and we serve a King who renews us daily by the Holy Spirit.

Setting goals for a new year are an important sign that we're intentional about glorifying God in our callings—work and business, home and church, private and public witness. When we work and plan, even in seemingly insignificant endeavors, we're fulfilling the cultural mandate (Gen. 1:28). In this age, we're blessed with an abundance of resources to help us to maximize our time: digital tools, productivity experts, and inspirational blogs.

But before we write out our goals, we should begin in the heart. The temptation for Christians is to make our plans and add a dollop of Jesus on top, rather than allowing him to form in us the desires and motivations to do his work.

So whether or not we're making concrete goals or more abstract ones, whether we're writing down resolutions or foregoing them altogether, here are four important steps we can take, as we peer into the new year, to draw closer to Christ.

1. Remember

The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Eccl. 12:1). In January, the year is young and the opportunities seem fresh. So many productivity gurus preach a gospel of self-empowerment, but as gospel people, we know the fragility of human life. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator.

I love the words of hymn writer Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960):

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Continued on next page)

2. Repent

Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty, evidenced by the changing of seasons, should then lead us to repentance. His goodness breaks us in fresh ways as our sin is exposed by the light of his glory. But this isn't a morbidly introspective, navel-gazing exercise. To repent is to rejoice. We claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 because we know our forgiveness has already been purchased at the cross.

Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. This is why confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God.

How can we begin new plans and journeys in 2020 without first allowing his light to penetrate the darkness of our hearts and to reveal areas in need of growth? How can we start hustling and working and dreaming without first renewing our joy in the One who directs our steps?

3. Renew

New Year's should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Before we begin grand plans to lose weight or develop a new skill—good creational goals—let's begin by renewing the core commitments we already have.

Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes—loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. We must reject the lie that says success requires abandoning family commitments.

We should also renew ourselves to the faithful body life of our local Bible-treasuring, gospel-preaching church. The local church is the locus of God's mission in the world, where we gather in community to declare Christ's kingship each week, and where we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Commitments to marriage, family, and church don't always look or feel significant. But faithfulness in these core things over a long period is a radical, countercultural life. They form the habits of a disciple and show the world what it looks like to be a Christian.

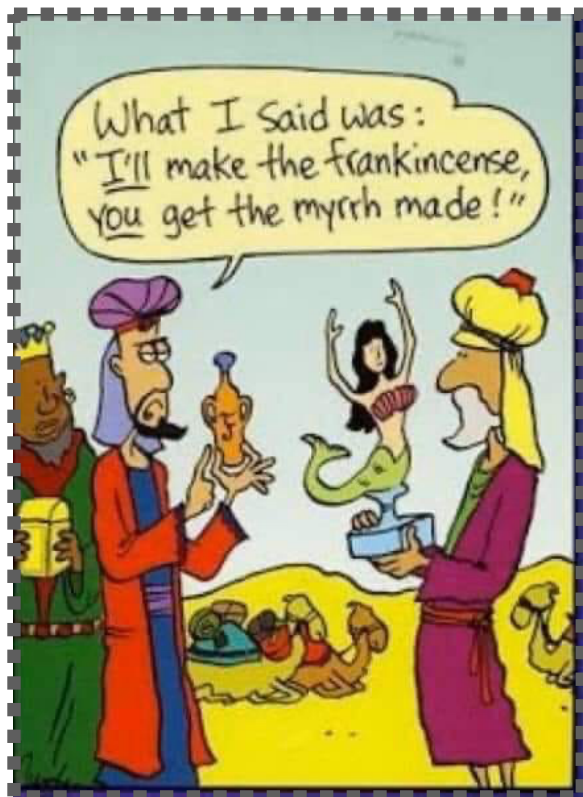
4. Rest

New Year's should be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet our heady goals in 2019. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures, unchecked boxes, and disappointment at the scale. The gospel tells us that he loves us in the midst of these.

It's not the voice of your Savior, but the whisper of the enemy that says you have less worth because you blew your resolutions. A "more successful 2020" will not make Jesus love you any more. He's the One, after all, who calls broken sinners and empowers them for his mission. Failed apostles, former persecutors, recovering Pharisees—his body is full of them.

Second, we should plan to physically rest. We don't often do this on New Year's. We plan to work and hustle. But do we schedule time to reflect and acknowledge our need for sleep and leisure? Rest isn't a sign of laziness or weakness; it's a sign of spiritual strength and confidence that when we close our eyes, our lives are in the grip of a sovereign God. To sleep is to say that we're not God and that the world can go on without us.

So as we make our plans, let's remember that even in our failures, we serve the One who remembers our frame and knows we are dust (Ps. 103:14). We make plans, but we hold them lightly. We entrust our future, not to Evernote or Google Calendar or a reading list, but to the King who holds the world in his hands.



Bread & Jam

Thank you to all who help and support the Bread & Jam Community Meal Program. We simply cannot run this program without the help of our wonderful volunteers!

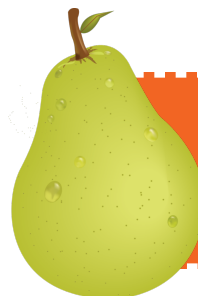
There is also a sign up for volunteering on Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm - 5:00pm to help serve meals. We need volunteers **every Sunday**, so please don't hesitate to look for a date where we could use your help! Talk to Jan Kosanke on Sunday morning, or e-mail her at breadandjam@bayviewumc.org.

For more information, please contact Jan Kosanke at breadandjam@bayviewumc.org



December	Meals Served	Bag Lunches Served
12/1	54	44
12/8	55	49
12/15	49	49
12/22	53	47
12/29	58	47

Sign up on the events board
or use the QR code below:



2019 Totals

2,878 Meals Served
2,482 Bagged Lunches Given



Our Loving Start Preschoolers spent most of last month making family gifts and practicing for the Christmas Sing-Along—which was wonderful! The children also filled a laundry basket with 33 jars of peanut butter and jelly for our church's Bread and Jam. We made gingerbread cookies which ran away. We had to search for them throughout the building! The Butterfly Room had two Kindness Elves that went home with different children each night. Each child was encouraged to do an act of kindness. Some examples were baking cookies, helping grandparents and spending time with family.

LOVING START PRESCHOOL



Students had a day off on Dec. 20 while teachers came in to clean and thoroughly sanitize all areas of the preschool. Afterwards, teachers were able to prepare curriculum activities, as well as plan for a few upcoming family events.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you all a joyous New Year! In January we look forward to learning about dinosaurs and what animals do in winter.

—Ms. Debbie, Ms. Annie, Ms. Mary, and Ms. Karen

January Birthdays

January 1st

Becky Thomas
William Payne

January 2nd

Andrew Corrao

January 3rd

Tyhesha Shumpert

January 6th

Emily Kallio

January 9th

Brenda Gebhardt

January 10th

Shirley Lone
Scarlett Kallio

Don Evans

January 15th

Phyllis Ditch

January 18th

Gwen Erdman

January 19th

Samantha Wold

January 20th

Cheryl Berry

January 24th

Jan Kosanke

January 27th

Fran Knepper

January 28th

Sue Neiderheiser

January 30th

Gary Haase

January 31st

Luis Torres




January 2020

KEY:

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
ALB: Accountable Leadership Board
FSF: First Sunday Forum - Missions
LSP: Loving Start Preschool

MLCS: Main Level Concert Series
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
			1  Office Closed <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	2 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	3 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	4 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>
5 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/Faith Singers 2pm Grief Share 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	6 6:30pm District 28 Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	7 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	8 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	9 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	10 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	11 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom 12pm Women's Freedom AA Potluck
12 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/WBC 2pm Grief Share 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	13 7pm AA Mtg	14 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	15 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	16 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	17 7pm NA Mtg Winter Camp <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	18 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom Winter Camp
19 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/ Faith Singers 2pm Grief Share 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg Winter Camp	20 1pm Memory Cafe 6pm ALB Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	21 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	22 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	23 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	24 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	25 9am Men's Breakfast (offsite) 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom
26 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/ Praise Band 2pm Grief Share 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	27 7pm AA Mtg	28 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	29 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	30 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	31 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	

Bay View United Methodist Church

2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone: 414-744-4036

Fax: 414-744-4928

Email: officeadmin@bayviewumc.org

Pastor Kevin Dembinski

Phone: 920-255-2402

Email: pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org



January
2020

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org



Quotable Leadership

You must learn, you must let
God teach you, that the only
way to get rid of your past is
to make a future out of it.
God will waste nothing.

-Phillips Brooks

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

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS:

8:15am Worship
10:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
9am - 3pm