

BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings in Jesus Christ,

As I sit down to write this letter, it is snowing outside and wow does it look like a mess to drive on the roads. However, at the same time, I find it peaceful and setting the tone of finding time for reflection. This is a great image as we begin the season of Lent.

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So often I turn to the image of wilderness during the season of Lent. Many of us can imagine being out in a deserted place with the hot sun beating down on us, causing us to become thirsty, tired, and overheated. We search for a place of shade and for a cool refreshment to enjoy on a break from the sunshine. Yet in the wilderness, there is no promise of finding such respite.

The wilderness is a strong Biblical image. We remember Moses and the Israelites traveling 40 long years through the desert (ahh...40 days of Lent, excluding Sundays). They grumbled, complained, searched for meaning, even in the promise of arriving at the Promised Land of milk and honey. If you had to explain to another person how the past year or the current year thus far has been like a wilderness, what would that look like? Would it be you alone in the desert? Grumbling? Would it be a place of community traveling towards a goal?

Wilderness also has strong Biblical support of it being a journey that brings one closer to God. I think that for me, this is why I love the image of wilderness during the season of Lent. I want to reconnect with God and renew my love of the many spiritual disciplines that give me meaning. For me, Lent is a time of inward reflection but also a

community time of reflection to measure how our love for God and neighbor is working.

On Ash Wednesday, I will be available for Drive-Thru prayer and reflection while placing an ash cross on your forehead or hand. (Done safely thru the one time use of a long Q-tip). In addition, each family and household will receive a packet of seeds. When you get home, plant the seeds and watch them grow during the season of Lent. By the time we get to Easter Sunday, we can imagine and celebrate together the great growth we took over the past weeks. We will together bloom and blossom in the love of God and love for neighbor.

I encourage you as well to travel with me on a spiritual journey of prayer, Biblical readings, fasting and attending worship online. This is how I imagine we will work together in our spiritual disciplines:

Prayer—Pray for our church community of Bay View United Methodist, for me as your pastor, for congregation members and for the prayer needs you see listed in the weekly bulletin. Let us pray every day at noon a simple prayer: “God guide us; God reshape us; God renew us.”

(Continued on next page)

Biblical Readings—What if we spent the season of Lent reading the Gospel of Mark? Read one chapter a day and take Sundays off as a free day. By Easter, we will have covered the whole Gospel!

Fasting—Consider giving up something that you will notice that you are without—such as watching TV on a certain day or all 40 days (God bless you); Facebook; eating meat on Fridays and enjoy a nice fish dinner; or instead of “giving something up”, maybe consider “giving more” of yourself towards a charitable cause.

Attending Worship online—We are still gathering as community of faith and have the opportunity to now go to church (online) safely several times a week to renew our faith. See how churches of other faith traditions worship. What do you notice? Maybe write in a journal of what you experience. Where did you sense the presence of God in that time of worship?

You see, there are many ways to grow closer to God and one another in these next 40 days. Are you ready for the journey?

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 3pm

Weekly Bible Study on Zoom

Study the weekly lectionary scriptures with us on Zoom!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83173053327>

Sundays

Sundays at 9:45am: Facebook Live Service of Worship

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/BVUMC

Virtual Coffee Half-Hour will be held

after worship at 10:50am

Zoom Coffee Hour Link:

<https://bayviewumc.org/wordpress/events/>

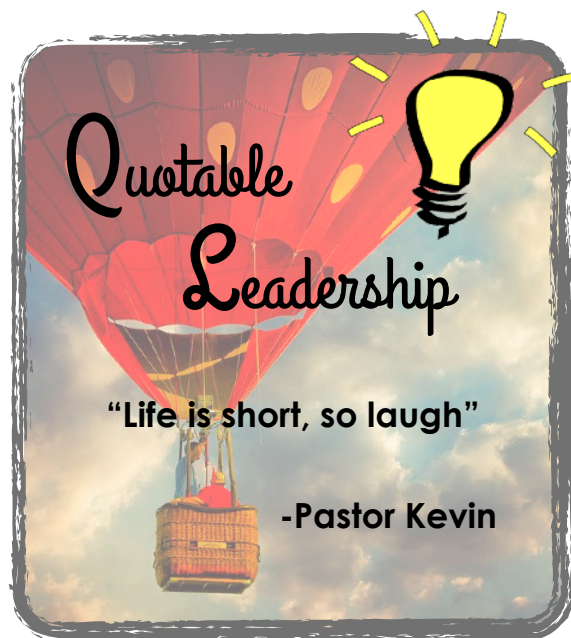
Meet us at 9:45am on Facebook Live for our service of worship, then hop over to Zoom after worship for a half an hour of coffee-time fellowship! If you would like to be e-mailed the bulletin and hymns, please e-mail: officeadmin@bayviewumc.org to be added to our weekly email list!

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th from 12pm-1pm or 4pm-5pm

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday Blessing

We will be conducting a drive-thru Ash Wednesday service on Pryor Avenue. See pg. 4 for details.



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!

During this global pandemic, we have been unable to serve weekly hot meals— but that hasn't stopped our ministry. We are still handing out bagged lunches every Sunday from 2:30pm-3:30pm at the Pryor Avenue Door.



Prior to the pandemic, we were serving hot meals to 50-75 people each week. After the pandemic and shut down began, we switched to bag lunches. One of the people we reached, Kenneth Malone, left Bread & Jam \$200.00 in his will. Another attendee dropped by the church and gave \$50.00 from his stimulus payment, along with a big 'thank you' to our program.

We reach an important group of people in our community with Bread & Jam. Monetary donations help, but we also need food donations and volunteers to assemble and pass out bagged lunches. Please don't hesitate to reach out for a date where we could use your help. Talk to Jan Kosanke via e-mail at breadandjam@bayviewumc.org if you'd like to assist.

“Giving is Love and Love is Giving”

By Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

“God loves a cheerful giver.” Why do you give? Why do you put money in the plate? Why did you sign up for EFT? Is it to keep the lights on? Is it out of obligation? Is it because “it is just the thing you do”? In this month of February, when consumer products turn red, chocolate, and velvety, society asks us to think about love. We give gifts to others because we love them. Could it be that we give in church (online) because of Love? We are called to give to God because God loves us. We are called to give to God because we love God. We are called to give, not begrudgingly, but cheerfully! When we give, we are saying, “I love you God!” We are not saying, “Fine, here you go God.” Why do you give? Look inside of yourself right now. Be honest. Why do you give? When the plate passes you, what goes through your mind? In this time of online giving, has your giving changed? Have you been giving more or less? More or less often? Why? Always remember, you cannot out give God! God loves us and has, does, and will do so much for us. So, in response, we give back to the Lord. We give out of LOVE.

Reflecting on the Lenten Season

People often don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up candy or sitting through weekly Stations of the Cross come immediately to mind. Words like "sacrifice" "discipline" and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.



Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to "return to God with our whole heart."

Lent is a meaningful time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities. Invite family members to share their thoughts, hopes, and desires for Lent. Decide to support one another in whatever you choose to do. As you journey through this annual second chance, remember that each step brings you closer to the welcoming arms of our loving God.

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17th: 12pm-1pm or 4pm-5pm on Pryor Avenue

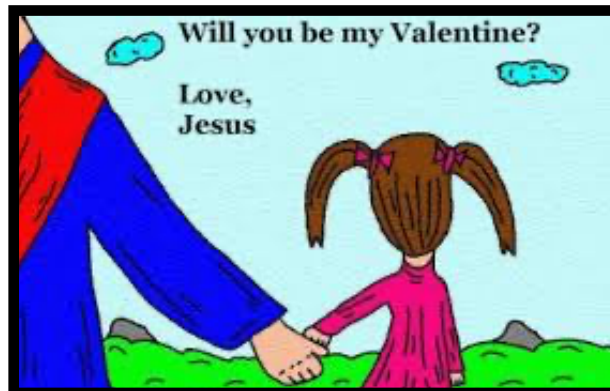
We invite you to experience a Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday blessing on Wednesday, February 17th from 12pm-1pm or 4pm-5pm on Pryor Avenue.

This year to respect COVID-19 regulations, ashes will be placed on top of hands with prayer or on foreheads with a long Q-tip. In addition, each family will receive a flower seed packet to plant during the season of Lent. We will gather updates during Lent on our plants to express our celebration of growing together with God.

Drive-Thru
PRYOR Avenue
for Blessing



the Laughing Circle



CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

MOSES, FLOWERS AND A
STONE TABLET CARD?
YOU...<UUUUGN>...REALLY...
<UUUUUGN>...SHOULDN'T
HAVE...<PHEW>...



MOSES - A TIMELESS ROMANTIC

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



02-14-2000

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski

LORD, WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE
PEOPLE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?



You should tell them love is
kind. Love is not envious or
arrogant or rude... it bears
all things, believes all things,
hopes all things and endures
all things... Oh! You
better tell them one
other thing too...



Do not
forget the
flowers!

WOW... YOU REALLY DO
LOOK OUT FOR US GUYS!



For the safety of our children, families and staff, Loving Start Preschool will remain closed until further notice. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 safety regulations and meet with the preschool board on a monthly basis.

LOVING START PRESCHOOL



We want to extend our thanks to Bay View United Methodist Church and all our dedicated families for their continued support! We hope everyone stays healthy and safe!

-Ms. Annie, Ms. Karen and Ms. Mary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 3

Deb Bernal
Valanee Schmitz
Michael Smith

February 6

Muriel Blackwood
Stacy LaPrad

February 9

Dorothy Cigale

February 15

Bob Schaefer
Kitty Schaefer

February 18

Paul Warkaske

February 26

Nancy Grzesiak

February 27

Ben Greenberg








February 2021

KEY:

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
ALB: Accountable Leadership Board
FB Live: Facebook Live
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	 Groundhog Day	3 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	4	5	6
7 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	8	9	10 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	11	 Chinese New Year	13
14 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry 	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday 12pm-1pm Drive-thru Ash Wednesday 4pm-5pm Drive-thru Ash Wednesday 	18	19	20
21 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	22	23	24 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	25	26	27
28 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry						

Bay View United Methodist Church

2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone: 414-744-4036

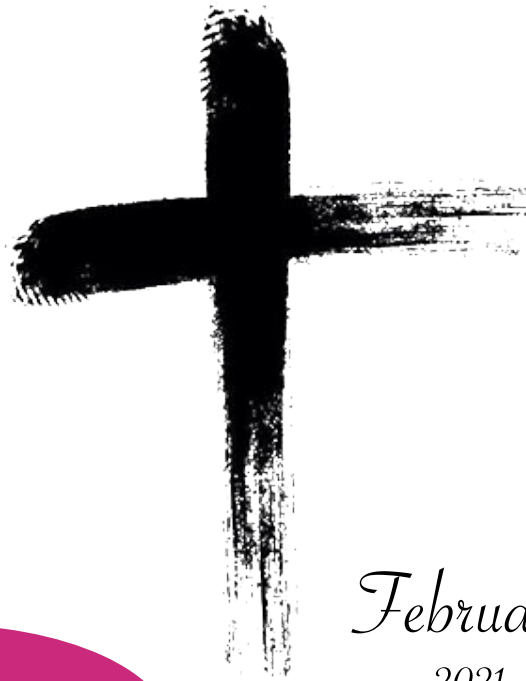
Fax: 414-744-4928

Email: officeadmin@bayviewumc.org

Pastor Kevin Dembinski

Phone: 920-255-2402

Email: pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org



February
2021

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org



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

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BVUMC:

9:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,
Wednesday
9:30am - 1pm
Friday
9:30am - 3pm