

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings in Jesus Christ,

As we come to the close of Black History month in February, the work must continue to remember and tell the story of African Americans. There is so much yet to learn. This past month, our Accountability Leadership Board (ALB) agreed to read together a book entitled "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Race" by Robin Diangelo.

I have just started to read it and take many notes for further conversation with our faith leaders. To give you a glimpse of some of the topic, I share the opening words of the author.

"The United States was founded on the principle that all people are created equal. Yet the nation began with the attempted genocide of Indigenous people and the theft of their land. American wealth was built on the labor of kidnapped and enslaved Africans and their descendants. Women were denied access to that right until 1920, and black women were denied access to that right until 1965. The term "identity politics" refers to the focus on the barriers specific groups face in their struggle for equality. We have yet to achieve our founding principle, but any gains we have made thus far have come through identity politics.

The identities of those sitting at the tables of power in this country have remained remarkably similar: white, male, middle- and upper-class, able-bodied. Acknowledging this fact may be dismissed as political correctness, but it is still a fact. The decisions made at those tables affect the lives of those not at the tables. Exclusion by those at the table doesn't depend on willful intent; we don't have to intend to exclude for the results of our actions to be exclusion. While implicit bias is always at play because all humans have bias, inequity can occur simply through homogeneity; if I am not aware of the barriers you face, then I won't see them, much less be motivated to remove them. Nor will I be motivated to remove the barriers if they provide an advantage to which I feel entitled."

There is so much to discuss from these two paragraphs. Yet I want to focus on the last part which speaks about being aware and being motivated. As we continue to advance into the season of Lent, we are invited to be re-motivated for greater causes in our lives and in our faith. Where do you need motivation? What will it take for you to become motivated?

Many barriers get in our way from building relationships. We too often allow our differences in thought divide community rather than grow together in community. One area that I would invite Bay View United Methodist Church to become re-motivated is in race relations and building a multi-ethnic, all inclusive congregation. I celebrate the hard work the congregation has already done over the years. Yet, as we know, there is always room for growth.

Are we aware of the discriminations that take place towards people of color here in the Milwaukee area? Are we aware the difficulties it truly is for a person of color to take a walk freely in their own neighborhood?

(Continued on next page)

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While Milwaukee is known for their festivals on the different ethnicities, Milwaukee is still considered the most segregated city in Wisconsin and even of our country. Why? I am guessing it is because we have separated into different festivals and parts of town rather than learn the barriers each culture and each person faces in our community.

Yet, do not lose hope. Just taking the time to read, listen, and talk about these issues is already a sign of a brighter future and one that will create a difference. I would encourage you to take time this Lent to read with our church leadership *White Fragility* so we can begin asking the questions, raise awareness, and bring forth a plan how we as United Methodists can and will be the difference our community and our world needs.

Let the journey continue....

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

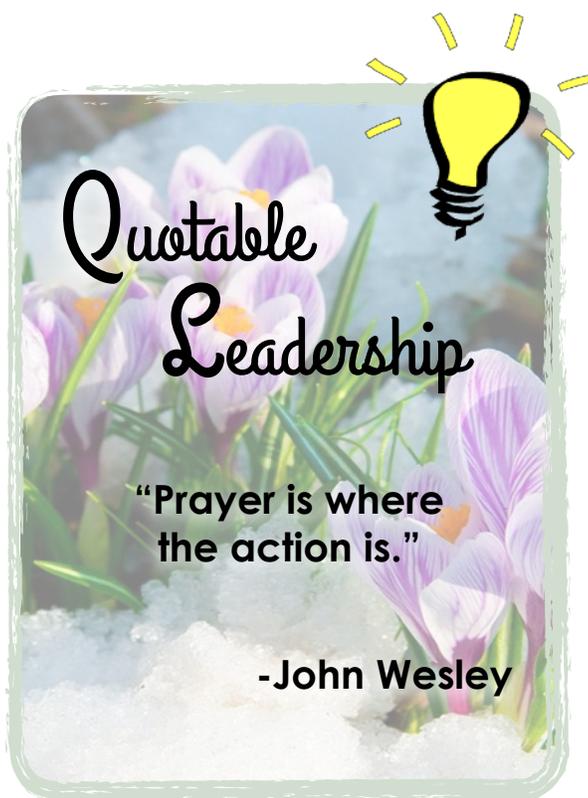
Virtual Coffee Half-Hour will be held

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!



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.

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.



“Is It Time for Change?”

By Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

“Even now,” declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.” (Joel 2:12-14).

With February comes the cold dark days of Lent. Are you ready? Are you ready to seriously look inside yourself? Are you ready to be honest about what is godly and what is not? Are you ready to change? Change is a great theme word for Lent (and all of 2020). Many things changed health, wealth, and politics. It changed without us trying and definitely without us wanting it to change. But in Lent, things change because we make them change. It is our time to change our habits, minds, action, and internal/external words to become more like Christ. Do you need to change your change? Think about how much you give to the church. Should/can you give more? Maybe your answer is “I don't know.” Think about this: How much do you spend each month going out to eat. How much money do you spend on coffee? How much money do you spend on fun item, hobbies, and events? Now compare those numbers to the amount you give to God each month. Do you need to make a change?

St. Patrick Fun Facts



St. Patrick taught the Irish about God by illustrating the Trinity through the shamrock. He used the shamrock's leaves to symbolize the Three in One: The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit.



St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was captured by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland from Scotland in the early 5th Century.



St. Patrick experienced a vision which he believed to have received from God, asking him to teach the Irish people about Jesus Christ.



St. Patrick instituted what is known as the Croagh Patrick Hike, where he prayed that Ireland would always keep their Christian faith. To this day, young and old hikers follow that famous route in pilgrimage.

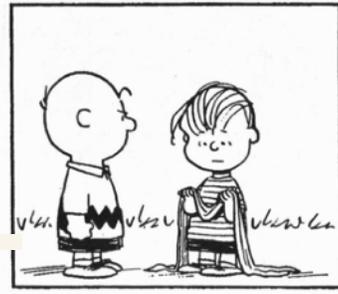
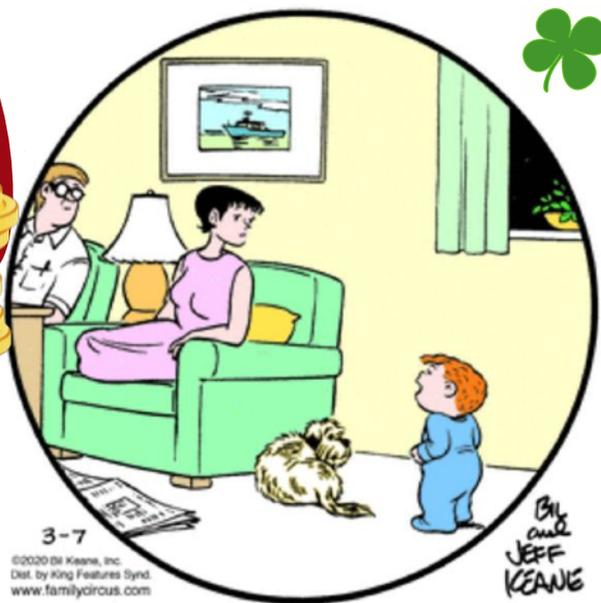
The Trinity

Just like the leaves on each shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity. First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son, and the Holy Spirit together as One.



SPRING
FORWARD

**Set Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
Sunday, March 14th at 2am!**

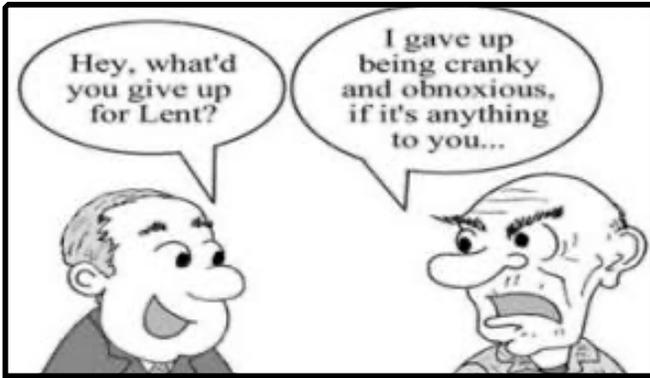


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By
and
JEFF
KEANE

"Will you wake me up so I can watch the clock spring forward?"



It is with great sadness that we have decided not to open Loving Start for the remainder of the spring semester. After looking over our families' responses and meeting with the Church school board it was clear that we could not open our doors like we had hoped. As you know, this decision did not come easy for any of us.

LOVING START PRESCHOOL



At this time, Loving Start has begun preparing for next fall enrollment. Please talk-up our program with family and friends. We invite you to check us out at our website, www.lovingstartpreschool.org and on our Facebook page. Call us at (414) 744-4036 to arrange a tour.

We are deeply sorry that we had to remain closed this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

Fondly,

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

March 11

Heather Haile

March 15

Yvonne Smith

March 16

Allan Eckoldt

March 17

Kyle Haile

March 18

Peg Humphrey

March 21

Verlie Mae

Tranmal

March 27

Bob Baker

Mackenzie Moebius



March 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	2	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	12	13
14 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 10:50am Coffee Hour on Zoom 2:30pm Bread & Jam 	15	16	17 3pm Bible Study on Zoom 	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	29	30	31 3pm Bible Study on Zoom	 <p>JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE: www.facebook.com/BVUMC</p>		

Bay View United Methodist Church

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Pastor Kevin Dembinski

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March
2021

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org



WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAYS

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BVUMC:

9:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,
Wednesday
9:30am - 1pm

Friday
9:30am - 3pm

☰ Hope is here. ♥ Love is here. 🐦 Family is here.