



BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION Newsletter

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

YES, I Believe that:

“Hope IS here! Love IS here! and Family IS here!”

I cast this phrase as a vision a year ago. We were ending a year of anniversary celebrations that took us back through so much good work and shared ministry and our advent liturgy prompted this phrase week after week and just seemed to reflect who we are as a community moving forward. So, I put it out there with hope that what I felt I saw our community to be would be lived out in the days ahead. Yep! This year, in review, has been blessed with many hopeful, loving and family affirming experiences!

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Through the many weddings, funerals, the monthly meetings and special events we have been hopeful, loving and family to one another and to our community. Through our expanded meal ministry, our overwhelming vote to become a reconciling congregation, our summer ‘duck’ outreach events at the parades and Chill on the Hill and through mission to Texas, the Dakota Reservation, the WVa Children and to the orphanage in India we have been hopeful, loving and family to those in need and those wanting to connect to God and to a church community.

Communication has become a keystone to our ability to open doors to information, opportunities and updates well beyond the Sunday morning announcements. And, for me, ending the year with an absolutely blessed intergenerational children’s Christmas service confirmed for me that we ARE hope, love and family in this place! Thanks be to God!

I can only vision more of the same for 2015, friends! I truly feel we are beginning to embrace and reflect the reason we stand here on the corner of Clement and Kinnickinnic (yep, you know how I say those street names!) Our *leadership* is stepping up to offer new ideas and is stepping out with a boldness that offers a hopeful vision for our future. Our *ministries* have gelled as expressions of unconditional and tireless help for friends and strangers alike and that is love in action. And, our *community* sees us as a safe and welcoming place for ALL people and I can’t think of a better way to vision God’s family.

Our call to offer hope, love and a sense of belonging is worthy work and is praising and honoring of the God who offers each of us the same through Jesus, the Living Christ among us. Amen.

Peace to each of you in the new year,

Pastor Kelly

Stepping Outside of Ourselves...How Do We Start?

Happy New Year to ALL! When I shared a message on December 14th I ended by quoting from the hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas*; “Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and love to ALL.”

That idea of offering love to God and love to all is not simply a seasonal thing but is a year-round challenge. Hear these words from Hebrews 13:

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Now I’m not suggesting that every stranger we meet is an angel in disguise but it does prompt us to consider how we are called to interact with people we don’t know...and especially with people who are different from us...in whatever way we might understand the word “different!”

Our Bible is full of many examples of welcoming the stranger and caring for the least of these but have you ever wondered how other faiths approach this same challenge? Whether you have or not I’m asking you to do so now and to consider joining me on Sunday, January 25 at the Unitarian Church West at 13001 W. North Avenue for a program entitled “How Does Your Faith Inspire You to Treat the Stranger?”

This program, which runs from 2pm to 4:30pm, is being sponsored by The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee in collaboration with Brookfield Elm Grove Interfaith Network. During this time we will be invited to “delve into the teachings of many traditions and learn more about each other.”

I think this is a great way to begin 2015. I plan to go and my hope is YOU will come with me. We can carpool!

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

With Gratitude

Pr. Kelly

Thanks to all who led Advent Wreath Readings and Candle Lighting:

Week 1: The Haile Family: Heather, Kyle, Adam and Sydney

Week 2: The Lone/Maddalena Families: Scott, Joe and Robyn

Week 3: The Trillium Family: Ellen, Joy and Mary

Week 4: The Advent Rainbow Family Program Family: Jan Kosanke, Sally Warkaske

Christmas Eve: The Liebenstein Family: John, Jan, Judie and Kai

Christmas Sunday: The Praise Band Instrumentalists: Linda, Sue, Stacy

Thanks, once again, for the beautiful wreath stand built by Bob Schaefer and the new weekly banners and garland for it prepared by Kitty Schaefer. Thanks, also, to the worship team for a beautiful Sanctuary setting for the season!

(please watch the green sheet and join them in the strike – many hands make light work!)

New Year, More Blessings

As I write this looking forward to 2015 I am still so grateful to all of you at BVUMC for being a teaching congregation. Thank you for all of your support as I continue to grow into my pastoral identity. You may not even know that you are doing it in the moment but each way that I am involved in life of the church, even small conversations before the service, help me to grow. Thanks for being a teaching congregation. Also, a big thank you goes out to all those who make the cookie walk happen. That was a big effort and I was excited to be part of the process!

In the coming months I look forward to connecting through small groups. We'll have two more small group gatherings: one on January 10th at 10am at John and Jan Liebenstein's house. Then on Sunday, January 11th, parents are invited to a small group conversation during the Sunday school hour at 9:15am. I'll also be leading a Lenten Bible Study. More details will be coming on that in January.

This year is going to be full of big transitions for me and I look forward to the opportunities that I'll have to learn from you all, whether it be a one on one conversation, a small group or Bible study, or in worship together. May God be with you in this new year.

Pastor Eddie

A most blessed New Year from your church leadership team and staff:



Jan Colson, Judie Liebenstein, Jean Larsen, Peg Humphrey, Kitty Schaffer, Heather Haile, Julie Oren, Judy Banta, Aurelia Schultz, Jeannie Schultz, Gwen Erdman, Paula Zarling, Linda Kreider, Stacy Johnson, Mark Humphrey, John Liebenstein, Debbie Baldwin, Liz Torres, Debbie Bernal, Kelly, Andy and Eddie.

Jesus Calls Us to Act

Pr. Kelly

In the flurry of holiday busy, travel and celebration I didn't want us to lose sight of this important Circuit 33 action step. A truly inspired meeting brought about the following communication to our Bishop and our District Superintendent. I offer it to all of you as active members of Circuit 33 with hope that we will respond together on January 4th at Red Arrow Park.

Dear Bishop Jung and Rev. Thompson, *(edited for Connection)*

As Circuit leader, I convened the Milwaukee Circuit 33 monthly ministers meeting on December 9, 2014, hosted by Whitefish Bay United Methodist Church.

As we continue to understand the way Circuit 2.0 will emerge in our circuit, we engaged in a table sharing of each leaders impressions of both people and passion that could be catalysts for shared/new ministry. It was immediately evident that all of our churches share a common thread for justice and that was a unifying revelation for us. Our ensuing discussion brought to all of our minds the current climate of institutional injustice that exists in many cities across the country, including Milwaukee. This prompted our collective passion toward heartfelt leadership combined with an invitation to action.

Below are 2 brief sentences that ground our voices as Christian leaders and the crafted statement we will be sharing with Milwaukee news sources with hope of publication.

As Circuit 33: Our key motivation is to be a prophetic voice for the United Methodist Church in Milwaukee.

As Ministers: Our key motivation is to shed light on the unjust climate in our city and our nation. Additionally, we commit ourselves, as pastoral leaders, to facilitating dialogue/education/action in our city.

"We, United Methodist ministers in greater Milwaukee, come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

We come with an awareness of persistent grief, suffering and frustration, acknowledging racial injustice in our city and across the nation.

We know, we hear and we see many who are struggling through and because of this institutional injustice.

We hear the cries and see the tears of our sons, daughters, mothers and fathers and it moves us to commit ourselves to being change agents as we engage with intentional responses to general and also specific unjust action.

As United Methodist ministers, our first intentional action is to pray together for peace and justice. Join us for a time of prayer on Sunday, January 4th at 4:00pm at the Red Arrow Park Skating Rink, 920 N. Water Street Milwaukee, WI 53202".

Sincerely,

Ministers in Circuit 33

Afi Dobbins, Rachel Tshishinen Chingej, Susan Patterson-Sumwalt, Justin Lowe, Rob Odum, Daniel Yang, Jennifer Emert, Andy Oren, Nancy Lanman, Gerry Harrison, Juan Garay, Amparo Reyes-Garay, Dawn Helton-Anishinaabequa, Kelly Fowler

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Jesus Calls Us...

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P.S. And, Our Bishop Responded!

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Thank you so much for your intentional leadership.

I hold people in City of Milwaukee and all nations in this special time.

I will join you in my prayer to advocate the Justice and mercy ministries.

I celebrate with Circuit 33 for prophetic presence in such time like this.

Please let me know how I can be alert and work together for just society.

Amazing Faith Dinner Dialogue a Huge Success!

Pr. Andy

On Wednesday, December 3rd, a dozen folks from Bay View United Methodist, Christ United Church of Christ, Tippecanoe Presbyterian, Unity Lutheran, Prince of Peace Lutheran and the Islamic Society gathered at the home of Ziad Hamdan to share a meal and a time of guided conversation. We're hoping to do more of these with the hope of building community among our local congregations. Here's what our participants had to say of their experience:



"It was a great experience, sharing while enjoying wonderful food. I especially enjoyed hearing how the three members of the Islamic Society LIVE their faith. As our host Ziad said, "We are all brothers and sisters, all descendants of Adam and Eve." This was a very good way of learning our similarities and respecting our differences." – Judy Banta

"What a wonderful evening of discussion and sharing of ideas. I loved the listening part and was glad I didn't ask a question that was too hard to talk about! The food was wonderful and so much. Thank you for the opportunity

that I enjoyed last evening." – Kay Putney

We'll be looking to do another of these locally but if you would like to experience one in the greater community go to www.interfaithconference.org. There are five dinners scheduled including one in St. Francis. If you would like to attend one of our local dinners please let Pastor Andy know.

Secret Angel Gift Shoppe #1 – WONDERFUL!

Pr. Kelly

We launched with a whisper into the community with a spirited work crew of volunteer ‘angels’ who have already given me ideas for next year’s gift shoppe!

We netted \$ 147.25 thanks to generous start-up donors. Thanks to Trish Dentice, Anya Ricord and her friend, Barb Holdorf, Wendy Boedecker, Jan Colson, Jeannie Schultz, Linda Becker, Miss Debbie Bernal, Kathleen Borders, Judy Banta, April Dillon, Pr. Eddie, Judie Liebenstein, Paula Zarling and Paul and Jacqui Akert for providing key vision, organization and leadership to this new event.

(and my apologies if I missed someone in this list).

Thanks to all of the donors of great items (I hope you all have a box labeled at home for items to collect and bring next year!). Thanks for the gift wrap, tissue paper, ribbon, bows, tape, jewelry boxes, gift bags and scissors (watch those after holiday sales this year and stock up to supply the gift shop next year!). Thanks for the hospitality items (soup, cookies etc.) and most of all thank you for your support in this new event for Children’s ministries.

Bravo!

Pr. Kelly

The 2014 Children’s Expression of Christmas offered at the 10:45am service of worship on Sunday December 21st was, to quote many of you, “The best we’ve ever seen!” The content! the use of space! the costumes! the cutest ever tree trimmers! the strong and patient tree trimmers helpers! and ALL of the speakers (across the ages)! Just terrific!

BIG thanks to Judie Liebenstein for taking this program idea and guiding a wonderful vision for it and to Miss Debbie Bernal for outfitting all of the children in their nativity costumes. Thanks to Jan Kosanke and Sally Warkaske as well for helping the tree trimming angels fly!

I’m not sure if this wonderful program is now a new “tradition” or is too special to ever be repeated!!! BRAVO! And Thanks be to God!!

Basic Lay Servant Class Offered

The Basic Lay Servant Class will be offered in Circuit 34 on January 16th and 17th. Basic Lay Servant class is the entry point to leadership within the United Methodist Church. Once this class is completed, there are other more targeted classes on leading small groups, leading prayer, preaching, discovering spiritual gifts, and many others.

The class will be held at Christ United Methodist Church in Watertown (112 Hall Street), and will be led by the Circuit 34 clergy (Jan Beutin, Ron Kral, and Kelly Jahn). On Friday night, the class will run from 6:30 – 9:30. On Saturday, we will meet from 9am to 5pm with a continental breakfast and lunch served. The entire 10 hour class will be completed in one weekend! The cost will be \$11. Please sign up no later than January 9th so we can make sure to have enough books. E-mail JCUMCPastor@gmail.com or call Kelly Jahn at 920-342-3599 with questions or to sign up. Please also provide your phone number, as we realize that January weather can be fickle.

More Small Group Opportunities

Pr. Eddie

I want to continue to get to know more of you in this New Year! We will have two more opportunities for me to meet you all in small groups this January.

Saturday, January 10 at 10 AM at John and Jan Liebenstein's House

Sunday, January 11 at 9:15 AM at Church (Young Families Please!)

Look for the sign-up sheets on the Cube or email me at pastoreddie@bayviewumc.org

First Sunday Forums

Opportunities for you to learn about all types of Missions and how your apportionment dollars are at work. The first Sunday of each month from 9:15am to 10:15am we will have a speaker who is or has been involved with a mission outreach either locally or in another part of the world. The forums will take place in the Sanctuary.

- January 4th: We welcome Laura Engel and Vicki Jensen from Interfaith Older Adult Programs.

Fascinating information awaits your learning and presence. We hope you will be there!

Automatic Emergency Defibrillator

Pr. Kelly

Thanks to a very generous family in our congregation we will be receiving this important piece of emergency medical assistance equipment this month! A final presentation will be made to Administrative Council on Monday, January 12th and Trustees will care for the follow-up details the following night at their monthly meeting. Please pray about being a first responder and watch the weekly green sheets and CUBE sign-up for training opportunities

Sunday School Collection

Sunday school children will once again collect travel sized toiletries for our bread and jam folks. Especially needed are items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, deoderant, socks for men and women, lotion, nail clippers, and kleenex. We will make up treat bags and include collected items for Valentines week. A basket will be placed in the church office for the items.

Thank you,

Sunday School Staff

Unity Lutheran Open Door Free Clinic

Beginning January 3, 2015, the Open Door Free Clinic will be open the first Saturday of each month with sign-in at 9:15am, and beginning Wed., Jan. 7, the clinic will be open EVERY OTHER Wednesday with sign-in at 4:30pm. A listing of dates and other information may be obtained at the website Opendoorfreeclinic.org.

Human Relations Day is January 18, 2015

Together, We Extend a Helping Hand to Those in Crisis so They can Overcome Formidable Obstacles

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential. Please use the special envelopes in the pews to contribute to this cause.

Read a story about the impact you are making with your gifts.

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/impact-articles/blanketing-teen-moms-in-love>

The Tally on a Paperless Connection

We went through the number of copies used and it looks like we have been very good this year compared to the previous year. In total, we used 94,334 copies, 5,646 of which are color copies. That is over 14,000 fewer copies (1,360 fewer color copies) than we made during the previous 12 months. That's a 13% reduction in paper use in one year.

Part of the enormous difference comes from moving to a paperless Connection newsletter last January, and includes the added benefits of reduced postage and reduced paper used. As we are always looking for ways to run more efficiently, this was a perfect place to start. This is a huge feat for any organization looking to cut unnecessary costs. Hurray for us!

Paula Zarling

2014 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	\$14,633	\$17,181	(\$2,548)	\$164,142	\$206,172	(\$42,030)
Apportionment	\$1,756*	\$2,314	(\$558)	\$27,116	\$27,768	(\$652)
Totals	\$16,389	\$19,495	(\$3,106)	\$191,258	\$233,940	(\$42,682)

*Apportionments were paid in full

The Finance Team would like to thank you for your faithful giving in 2014. Blessings for the new year.

Missions News

United Methodist Children's Services has initiated 3 new programs in the last several months.

- 1) With a \$100,000 grant from the Zilbur Family Foundation they are enhancing social services to the 70 families that live in their low-income housing.
- 2) With the Milwaukee Public Library, they are piloting a program for early literacy at their Growing Tree Children's Center. This is aimed at brain development and early literacy.
- 3) Providing leadership in sustainable neighborhoods, a Milwaukee Police Department federal grant enabled UMCS to organize 6 events for police officers to interact with residents around the Washington Park neighborhood.

United Methodist Children's Services is supported in part by our apportionments. UMCS continues in need of additional support for continuing these important programs.

Ann Pier

Winter Camp!

It's that time of year to get ready for winter camp at Camp Lucerne. Camp runs from Friday, January 15th through Sunday, January 18th. Cost includes 2 nights lodging, 4 meals and more laughs than you can imagine. This weekend has no age limit and no limit of fun. There only a couple of spots left, and still a bit of scholarship monies to help those who need it to make the trip. For more information, see the sign-up sheet on The Cube or call (or talk to) Judie Liebenstein at 744-1190.

Ministry Spotlight

by Katy Meyer

Focus On: COOKIE WALK: Sunday December 14th, 9am-3pm

Christmas came early for me this year as I walked into the Gathering Space and was delighted to find that the packing boxes I brought were not enough to contain the generosity of our congregation. Pastor Kelly asked me for a count of items, but I lost count at around 60 and didn't have the heart to unbox and count over :)

We also received sponsorship for multiple Christmas dinners, as well as batteries to run some favorite toys. Our shipping costs were also funded by kindhearted donors.

What amazes me about a giving program like this is that individuals and families here... near Bay View, Wisconsin, are reaching DIRECTLY into the homes of children across the country. The very item you put in your Target shopping cart will be unwrapped by a child in West Virginia! Perhaps this child's hopes for a special toy are guarded. Perhaps their parents look on anxiously as they open their gift. I truly believe these gifts are getting to the right people at the right time and will bring some brightness and joy to days ahead.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR LOVE, SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY! IT IS APPRECIATED.

Loving Start Preschool had a wonderful Christmas Program. The children brought in food for the Bay View Community Center Food Pantry, and money to support

Bread and Jam. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. In January we look forward to learning about what animals do in winter.

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

LOVING START PRESCHOOL



January 1st

Scarlet Kallio
William Payne

January 4th

Paul Gibson

January 6th

Emily Kallio

January 9th

Brenda Gebhardt

January 10th

Elsa Eggert
Don Evans

January 15th

Phyllis Ditch

January 18th

Gwen Erdman

January 20th

Cheryl Berry

January 22nd

James Felber

January 24th

Glenwood Haggith
Jan Kosanke

January 27th

Francine Knepper

January 28th

Sue Neiderheiser

January 30th

Doris Chavez
Gary Haase

January 31st

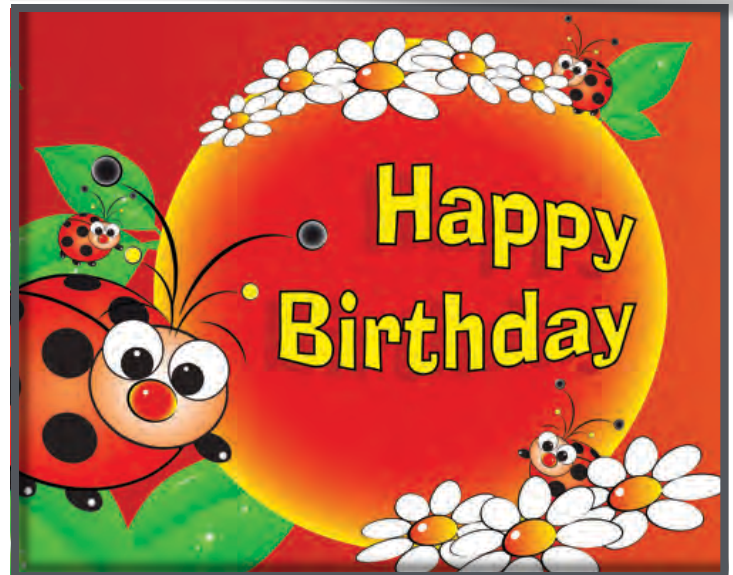
Luis Torres

February 1st

Vivian Beyer

February 3rd

Debra Bernal
Valanee Schmitz



KEY:

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BAY VIEW United Methodist Church

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Pastor Andy Oren

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January
2015

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org



Out of the Heart of our Community
ALL Are Welcome at
Bay View United Methodist Church

2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave
bayviewumc.org
(414) 744 - 4036

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

WINTER SERVICES:

8:15am Worship
9:15am Coffee Hour &
Sunday School
10:45am Worship



Please Recycle

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday
Thursday, Friday
8:30am - 2:00pm

Wednesday
8:30am - 1:30pm