

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,

How is your heart? Place your hand over your chest, find your heart, feel the beats. This is the gift of life you are feeling. Your heartbeat is your body connecting with your soul. I believe that the minute your heartbeat stops, your soul is released into the full presence of God. When it is put this way, it doesn't sound so bad does it? Well, we call this moment death and that is one topic everyone tries to push off as long as possible.

While I do understand that death is not usually something one looks forward to occurring, we do know that there are two things in life that can be guaranteed to happen—taxes and death. As Christians we are to not fear death because Christ Jesus conquered it in the stone cold tomb. When Jesus rose from the dead, he guaranteed that we too would find resurrection and life in full abundance.

As we celebrate February as Heart Health month alongside Valentine's Day, let us not forget God's unconditional love for all the world and all creation. God loves you! God loves me! Like it or not, God loves the person you or I cannot stand. This is why God is God. Few are able to love like God, but still as Christians, Christ has commanded us to love God and love neighbor with our whole hearts, souls, minds, and strength.

One scripture that comes to mind on this theme of God's love is from Paul's letter to the Romans. Here we read...

"With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us."

-Romans 8:31-39, (The Message)

When it is put like this for us, I do hope that we are connected closer to God and one another on how deep and wide is the love of God. Sometimes all it takes is a simple message of "I love you" or "God loves you" that makes all the difference. Jesus has embraced us in such a way that we will never ever become lost or forgotten or unloved.

(Continued on next page)

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This month I encourage you to take this message of God's love and share it with all those you encounter. Imagine how much the world could be changed if it were just told more and more, "God loves you. You are loved." A quote I offer this month in my reflections is this— "For the love of Jesus, may our nation, our world, maybe ourselves, stop fighting. Let us offer more love."

You are loved,
Pastor Kevin

Upcoming Events

February 9th

Sunday, 2/9 from noon - 2pm

Loving Start Preschool Open House

LL Classrooms

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in our Loving Start Preschool program, please attend the Open House where you can tour, learn more about the preschool and meet our teachers.

February 17th

Monday, 2/17 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.

February 23rd:

Sunday, 2/23 at 1:07pm

Milwaukee Wave Faith and Family Night

400 W. Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203

Bay View UMC will receive \$5 from every ticket sold! Invite everyone you know to this family FUN-draising event.

March 7th:

Saturday, 3/7 from 9am - noon

Hunger Task Force: Stockboxes

300 E. College Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

A Stockbox is a box of healthy foods that Hunger Task Force delivers to low income seniors free of charge. Help pack Stockboxes on Saturday, March 7th by first signing up at the Events Board.

Hunger Task Force: Stockboxes

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, 2020 from 9am 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!

Upcoming FUN-draising Event

We are excited to take part in a fundraising event with the Milwaukee Wave (soccer). They have been a supportive partner in donating tickets to several of our other events/fundraisers. The Faith and Family Wave game is Sunday, February 23rd at 1:07 pm. Bring your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, aunts, uncles, etc. The church will receive \$5 from every ticket we sell!

Included with your purchase:

Ticket to the game, \$5 give to our church, an opportunity to win a “My Prayer for Milwaukee Is_____” banner, Milwaukee Wave Drawstring Backpack and a Post-Game Autograph Session!

Sign-ups will be available in the Gathering Space or email Kelly Heipel at Kelly.heipel@bayviewumc.org

Giving: Concentrating on Our Need for God

“...they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.” (2 Corinthians 8:3b-4)

Self-denial helps us to concentrate on our need for God. It is one thing to say that God provides all the food we need, but is quite another to go without food. It is one thing to say that God provides us with income to provide for our needs, but it is quite another to give 10% of that income back to God to provide for the needs of others. Fasting and tithing are forms of sacrifice, a Latin word that comes from combining “to make” and “holy or sacred”. Over time, sacrifice has become synonymous with giving something up that is dear to us (self-denial) in order to serve a greater good, like the Kingdom of God. Lent is a good time to remember that self-denial draws us closer to God. Lenten fasting should not be pro forma as in giving up chocolate, for example. It should be real self-denial accompanied by prayer, repentance and soul-searching. Sacrificial giving is a fast from spending on yourself and is equally appropriate for Lent, especially if accompanied by prayer, repentance and soul-searching. We are called to sacrificial giving year-round, but at Lent we can especially remember Who and what our sacrifice is for. Several years ago, I was part of a Disciple Bible Study group that decided during Lent to fast by skipping food between breakfast and dinner. We saved the money we would normally spend on lunch, snacks and coffee and brought this to the class each week. In the end, we were able to donate over \$2,200 to a local feeding program for the homeless and poor. Join me this Lent in focusing on our need for God.

—Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



Amazing Love

By Steve Harper

Every language has a word or words for love. The biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek are no exception. The two main words are hesed and agapé. In both words, love reaches its apex as “love for the sake of the other.”

This kind of love includes altruism, philanthropy, etc. But it is not defined by these ideas. They reflect a commendable desire to live unselfishly, and that would

be a major step forward for some people. But hesed and agapé do not merely describe an other-orientation, they describe a sense of oneness with others.

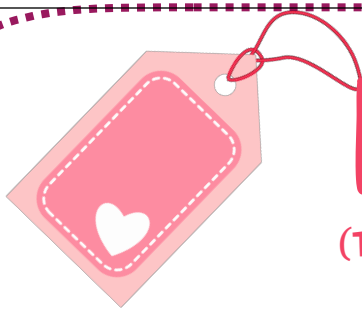
Our being created in the image of God is a good place to focus our look at God’s amazing love. It is love based in actual likeness. However, it is not a love based on our merit, but rather on our essence. If that were not so, God’s love would be spasmodic and conditional. Instead, hesed and agapé are continuous and gracious. We refer to this as steadfast love.

God’s love says, “You are mine” and in addition to the idea of our being a cherished possession of God, it means we are beloved children of God. In a very holy sense, God sees God’s nature in us, and it is a real seeing because we are made in the image of God. This means that God’s love is amazing, not because it is transactional or obligatory, but because it is a genuine Heart-to-heart relationship—a Lover/beloved relationship.

Part of the amazing nature of this love is that Jesus said we could love others the way we are loved by God. It’s the second great commandment: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Of course it means loving others the way we like to be loved (as per the Golden Rule), and it includes the psychological truth that our capacity to love others usually reflects the extent to which we love ourselves in a healthy way. But again, there is more going on in Jesus’ words than that.

Loving your neighbor “as yourself” is recognizing the oneness between yourself and another person in the same way God recognizes the oneness between ourselves and God. We love others “as ourselves” because in a genuine (though indescribable) way, they are us! Buddhists have a word for it: interbeing — an essential oneness that everyone shares with everyone else. Bringing the word alongside Jesus’ words that say the same thing, we find that love is amazing because it exists and expresses itself because of a radical oneness in the whole of creation. How we love anyone is how we love everyone. And how we love anyone is how we love God (1 John 4:20-21).

That’s amazing love.

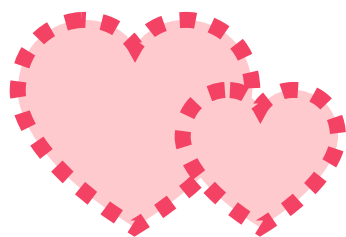
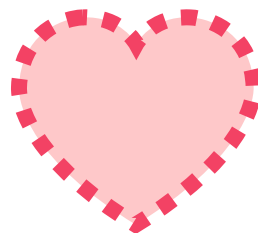


Love is...

(Through the Eyes of Children)

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

Rebecca - age 8

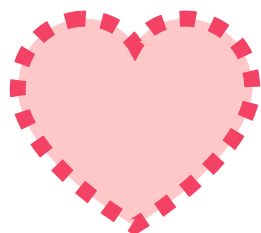
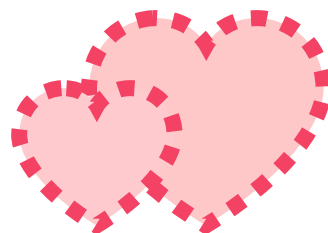


"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."

Chrissy - age 6

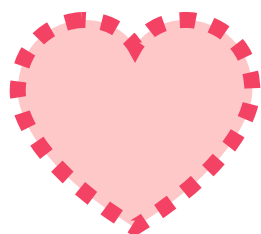
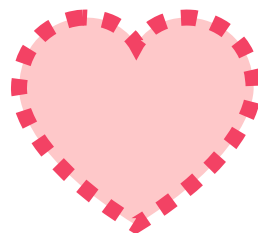


"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday."

Noelle - age 7



"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann - age 4

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross."

Mark - age 6

State of the Church 2020

By Pastor Kevin Dembinski

February 2, 2020

Brothers, Sisters, Siblings in Jesus Christ, my fellow United Methodists,

Today [February 2, 2020] I have chosen to offer an official “State of the Church” for two reasons. First to offer an official policy in regards of Bay View United Methodist Church celebrating the ministry of living into being a reconciling congregation. Second is to offer words of hope and vision as we celebrate our ministry together. In studying documents of the past and finding the official welcoming statement from June 15, 2014, I remind us....

“Bay View United Methodist Church is a faith-filled community growing closer to God through the teachings of Jesus Christ, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome here. All are cherished here, for all are children of God and created in the image of God. All are worthy of God’s love and grace.

We welcome into membership, participation and leadership all persons regardless of age, racial and ethnic background, physical and mental ability, gender, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, education, faith history, political affiliation. We welcome those who are ...[of differing abilities] and all those who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and in society... We embrace and celebrate our human diversity.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to growing grace, having fellowship and fun and making an impact in the world. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike though we may not think alike.”

I applaud the congregation in making this statement. In prayerful consideration of where The United Methodist Church next heads, and in prayerful conversation with our Accountable Leadership Board, it is my desire and the desire of our leadership here at Bay View United Methodist Church to continue living this statement in addition to this new statement....

“Bay View United Methodist Church recognizes that the gift of love is freely offered by God to all people in all walks of life. Effective immediately, let it be known that Bay View United Methodist Church will welcome all monogamous couples into sacred Marriage. I as Pastor Kevin will stand, bless, and officiate with all of those who come before the church to make a sacred covenant of love in marriage. Thus, all people, straight and of the LGBTQ Community will be open to use our facility, sanctuary, and appointed pastoral leadership for officiating all marriages for all people.”

In 2019 The United Methodist Church witnessed a heart breaking moment of history as the world witnessed a divided Methodist Church. This is of our past and we anxiously await 2020 General Conference held in May, that will continue our dialogue of where United Methodist’s find themselves in 2020. We remember the past is behind us and the future that lies ahead is unknown. So this leaves us with the present moment.

(Continued on next page)

July 2019 brought change for Bay View United Methodist Church after 12 years of pastoral leadership under Pastor Kelly. I thank Pastor Kelly for her leadership over those years and pray blessings on her new ministry at Our Lord's United Methodist Church.

Thus far you and I have embraced a six month journey. We have laughed together so much, we have learned together the beginnings of how each of us might live our faith and live life in the midst of division and uncertainty. Now comes the tough part of our journey—discovering who we are as Bay View United Methodist Church under new leadership—a new pastor. In The United Methodist tradition whether we know it or not or even whether we like it or not, each July every appointed Pastor finds out if he or she continues in the same congregational appointment or not. Change occurred as we know July 2019. As transitions take place after new appointments, The United Methodist Church embraces the policy that the appointed pastor as of July 1 is the new shepherd without turning back to any previous shepherd. There is good reason for this—it offers full hospitality of welcome to the new pastor without offering the idea that there are two shepherds who might lead so differently. It also allows incoming and outgoing pastors to grieve knowing their new appointment is there with full support in the difficult transition of saying goodbye to friends made over the years and discovering new friendship without ties now with previous shepherds. I admit this is a rather difficult moment in the lives of congregations and pastors. However the clear boundary is there so that if a new vision is offered or new way of doing ministry is to move forward, there is not a barrier of unofficial leadership standing in between any new pastor and their respective appointed congregations.

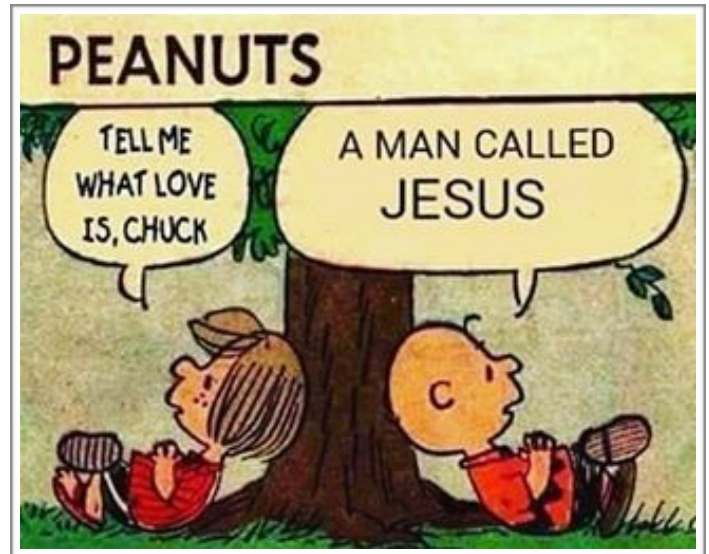
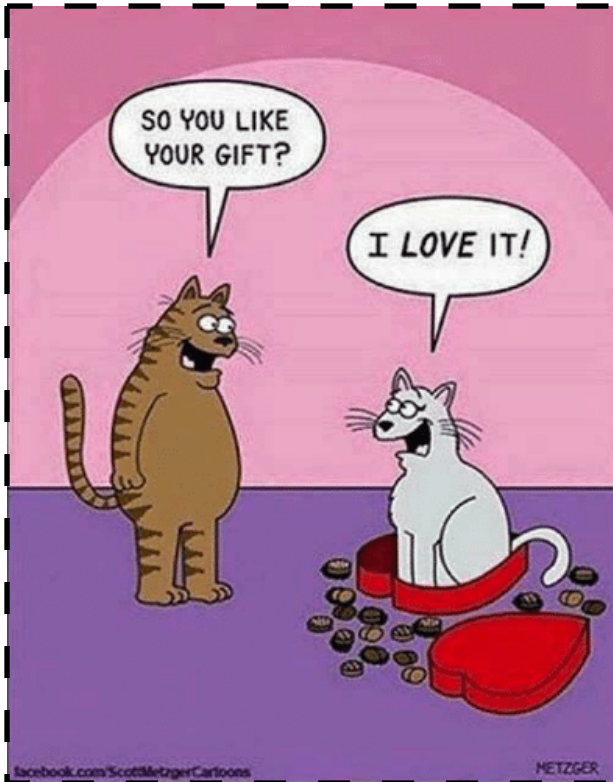
I am saying all of this knowing that it might be difficult to hear these words or become confused of what this all means. 2020 is a new day and it is a new dawn. I believe our ministries will grow, our vision will become stronger, our community involvement will also grow and it is my hope that Milwaukee will see us as the light that shines upon the hill in a world of darkness. I in addition hope that the people of Milwaukee and surrounding communities will see Bay View United Methodist Church as a place to celebrate and worship God for who you are as a child of God, a sacred place that embraces all people, and offers a spectrum of ministry opportunities to make life better and our world and community a much better place where justice is found and mercy is felt and lived as a reality. I as your appointed Pastor am praying for all of you. I envision a long-term ministry that will take me into hopefully my mid to late 40s, and when the time comes for us to part, know that I will always hold you in my heart yet find myself embracing new ministry among new people. I intend to always stand clear on this boundary of leadership.

In the next few months I will be offering listening sessions, ministry plan visioning, creative thinking and exploring especially after our General Conference held in May of where our direction might move. I ask from you to reflect, pray, visit me in my office or in a coffee shop to share your thoughts and hopes of Bay View United Methodist Church 2020 and beyond. Know that God is with us and we walk hand in hand together in our adventures. This is the day that the Lord has made so let us rejoice and be glad in it!

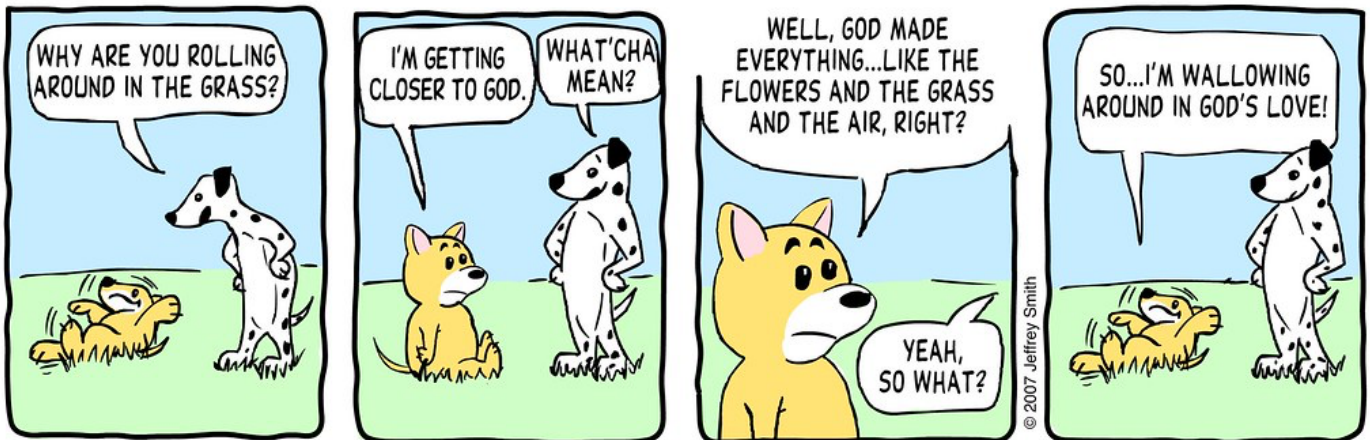
God bless you and everyone!

—Pastor Kevin Dembinski

the Laughing Circle



PRAYER PUPS By Jeffrey Smith



GOD CREATED EVERYTHING. READ GENESIS 1:1-2

www.prayerpups.com



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



January	Meals Served	Bag Lunches Served
1/5	47	50
1/12	31	50
1/19	34	31
1/26	45	50

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



Despite the snowy weather, Loving Start Preschool managed to have some fun in January Learning about dinosaurs, animals in winter, fighting germs and making ice sculptures outside near our windows.

LOVING START PRESCHOOL



We will have our Open House on Sunday, February 9th from 12:00-2:00. If you know of someone whose child will be 3 by Dec 31st, 2020, please send them our way. They may email lovingstart@gmail.com or call LSP (414) 744-4036 for a tour.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on February 20th. There will be no classes on Feb. 20 nor on Feb 21st.

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

February Birthdays

February 3rd

Debra Bernal
Valanee Schmitz
Michael Smith

February 4th

Saydee Kallio

February 6th

Muriel Blackwood
Stacy LaPrad

February 9th

Dorothy Cigale

February 15th

Ethlyn Roepke
Robert Schaefer
Kitty Schaefer

February 16th

Bob Davis

February 18th

Paul Warkaske

February 23

Robin Arpke-Lone

February 24th

Gena Heilmane
Maria Romfoe

February 26th

Nancy Grzesiak

February 27th

Ben Greenberg
Colin Grumley



February 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 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom
2 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/WBC 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	3 6:30pm District 28 Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	4 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg 5:45pm Music Team Mtg 6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal	5 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	6 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	7 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	8 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom
9 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/Faith Singers 12pm LSP Open House 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	10 7pm AA Mtg	11 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	12 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Cards Ministry 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	13 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	14 7pm NA Mtg  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	15 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom
16 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/ Faith Singers 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	17 1pm Memory Cafe 7pm AA Mtg <i>Pastor at BOOM</i>	18 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg <i>Pastor at BOOM</i>	19 10am Bible Study 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal <i>Pastor at BOOM</i>	20 6:45pm WBC Rehearsal 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central <i>Pastor at BOOM</i>	21 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor at BOOM</i>	22 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom
23 8:15am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/ Praise Band 2:30pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Mtg	24 6pm ALB Mtg 7pm AA Mtg	25 10am AA Mtg 5:30pm AA Mtg	26 10am Bible Study 12:30pm Cards Ministry 6:15pm Faith Singers Rehearsal	27 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Bay View Central	28 7pm NA Mtg <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	29 9am Men's Breakfast (offsite) 10:30am AA Mtg Women's Freedom

Bay View United Methodist Church

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Pastor Kevin Dembinski

Phone: 920-255-2402

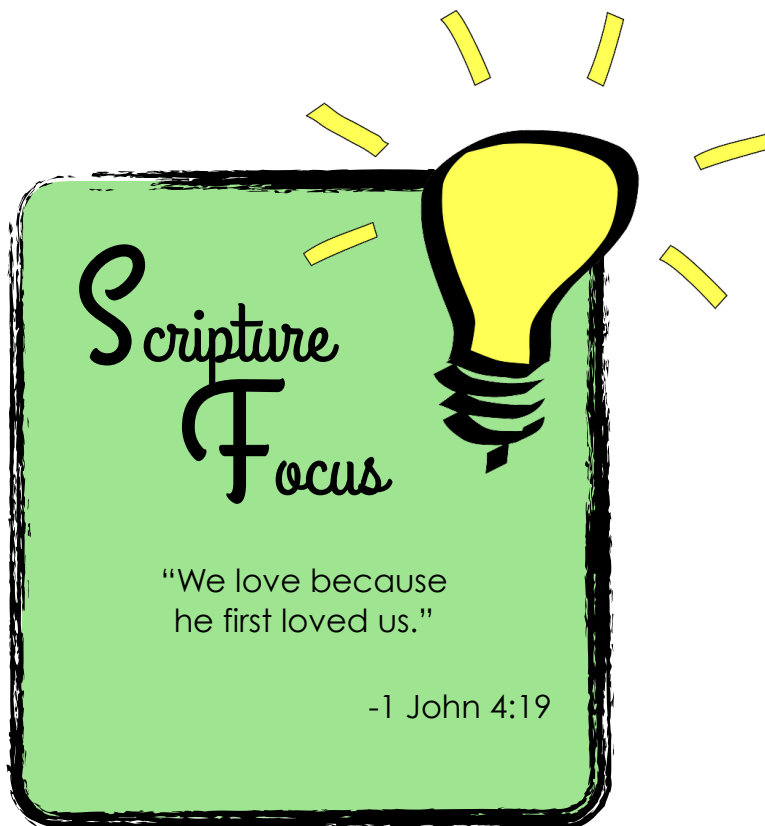
Email: pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org

REMINDER

Sunday, March 8th
is Daylight
Savings Time.
Spring forward
one hour at 2am

February
2020

We're on the web:
bayviewumc.org



== 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