

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,

Summer is wrapping up and I am still dazed on what happened over these past few months. No State Fair, no festivals, no parades, no fireworks, new normalcy of how we shop in stores, the wearing of masks. This list seems so long and so frustrating. However, the really sad part is that it is only the tip of the iceberg. This pandemic has caused an increase in domestic violence, suicides, crime, murder, and most of all we cannot forget the police brutality and racism.

You would almost think that I had just described to you years worth of events. I have not. All of this has occurred in 2020. By the time you read this, I will have delivered my sermon based on Romans 12. This was a tough sermon to deliver, yet a sermon that I feel needed to be delivered. As I write this letter, we are just a week after the Kenosha shooting of Jacob Blake. I read an article recently that if pastors were not, particularly those in Wisconsin, mentioning this incident (I see it as attempted murder), society would view the pastor and the greater church as out of touch.

Friends, the last thing I want is for the world to see the Church of Jesus Christ as being out of touch. When Jesus saw injustices or a need for action, he stood his ground and responded. We too must respond. Thus, I am turning again to Romans 12. If we are looking to see what God might tell us in these days, I believe it would be these words:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

If you want to know my thoughts on this passage, I invite you to turn back to our worship service from August 30th. I choose these words as a way forward. If we have genuine love and we truly are loving God and loving neighbor, we will do a few things and help the world choose this as a way of life.

- 1) Hate what is evil
- 2) Cling—hold fast—to what is good
- 3) Love one another

(Continued on next page)

Contents

- 1-2 Pr. Kevin's Message
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 Bread and Jam, Jim Wells
- 4-5 New Daily Routine
- 6 A Way Forward Bible Study
- 7-8 Trying Times, Electronic Giving
- 9 The Laughing Circle
- 10 LSP, Birthdays
- 11 September Calendar
- 12 Contact Info

For us to do this of course we have to define what is evil and what is good. We maybe have to define what is meant by love. Is it the fluffy love offered on a greeting card on Valentine's day, or is it a more deeper love of compassion and mercy that is not afraid to embrace one another in suffering, to take on the suffering of others?

Our world is struggling, and I believe has always struggled in understanding what is evil and what is good. I say this because this is why we have hundreds of thousands of movies about good and evil—which side wins in the end? We have images of light and dark. Do not hide the light of God in a dark world. However you choose to live into this scripture, please do not be afraid to live this scripture. Our world needs you and me to make this as a way of reality more than ever before.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin

Upcoming Events

Monday–Saturday

Every Monday through Saturday at 10am

Daily Devotional

www.facebook.com/BVUMC

Join Pastor Kevin on Facebook Live
for a daily devotional based on Scripture.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 10:30am

Weekly Bible Study

Zoom

Study the weekly lectionary scriptures with us on Zoom!

E-mail pastorkevin@bayviewumc.org to be added to the group.

Sundays

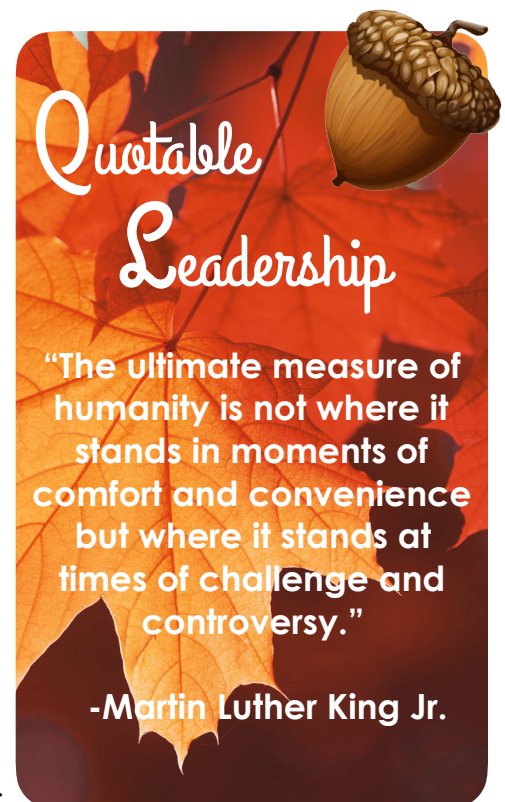
Sundays at 9:00am: Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom

Zoom Information: <http://bayviewumc.org/wordpress/events/>

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

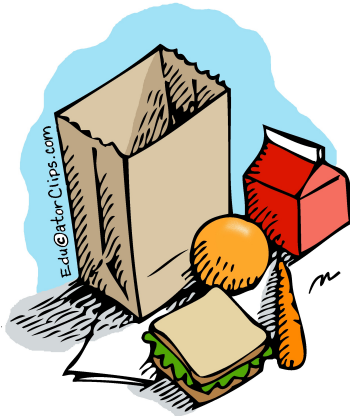
Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/BVUMC

Meet us at 9:00am on Zoom for Virtual Coffee Hour every Sunday, then hop over to Facebook Live at 9:45am for our service of worship! If you would like to be e-mailed the bulletin and hymns to follow along, 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 need volunteers to help 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.

“Resilience in Clay Jars”

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed,” (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

There is much being written about the need for resilience in our home lives, in our churches, in our communities and in our institutions. Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties; think of the tree that bends but does not break. Clearly, the Apostle Paul had resilience in mind when writing to the Corinthians. There are three things that I believe a resilient church needs:

1. Devotion to a vision of ministry and mission.
2. Knowledge of the spiritual gifts of members and friends of the congregation (the “treasure in clay jars”).
3. Nurturing of gifts through spiritual disciplines of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

In these pandemic times, we will need to discover and nurture resilience because, first, our affliction will not be ending any time soon. Until there is an effective vaccine that has been broadly implemented (2 or 3 or more years in the future), church attendance will be dangerous to members over 60 or those with chronic illnesses. Our churches must be resilient, second, because we are not going back to where we were. A mix of online and in-person worship, participation and giving will be the new normal going forward. Finally, we must be resilient because the newcomers we need to survive will judge us according to how we adhered to Christian values during the pandemic. In all ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.

“Establishing a New Daily Routine During the Pandemic”

By El Camino Health

A few months ago, you had your routine down. You could sail through your day on autopilot, with hardly a thought as to how to fill your time. But over the last several months, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought everyone’s routine to a screeching halt. So, now what?

Our days are going to continue look different for a while, so it’s important to establish a “new (temporary) normal.” In these unprecedented times, we need to remain flexible to best handle the situation. However, implementing some structure into our days can go a long way in helping us maintain our health, our productivity, and our social and emotional well-being. So, let’s look at some simple things we can do to keep life feeling structured, fulfilling and somewhat normal.



Keep Your Morning Routine

Whether or not you’re leaving your house, you should still get up, get dressed and carry on as usual. Shower, brush your teeth, shave, do your hair/makeup — even if nobody’s going to see it, you’ll feel it. These are undoubtedly stressful times, and it’s important to maintain a feeling of optimism and normalcy. A pajama day here and there is fine, but too many may dampen your spirits.



Set Work Hours

If you’re one of the many Americans working from home during the pandemic, you may be trying to figure out how to be productive in both your home and work roles, without sacrificing one or the other. Setting work hours for yourself during this time, can help you get more done and alleviate guilt. For example, you won’t feel pulled to clean the house during work hours and you won’t feel pulled to reply to work emails outside of work hours. Another way to help you transition between work- and home-mode is to establish a dedicated workspace. You complete all your work in this space and leave it when the workday is over.



Helping Your Kids with School Work

For those of you trying to work from home and simultaneously school your kids during all this, the best advice we can give is to adjust your expectations and be kind to yourself. You’ve got a lot on your plate but having realistic expectations can make the situation much easier to navigate.

One of the biggest ideas to understand is that you don’t need to try to replicate a school day for your kids. Set school hours for them, just as you set your work hours, and do what you can during those times. You can reach out to their teachers to gauge what their expectations

(Continued on next page)

Keep or Establish Healthy Habits

If you had been living a healthy lifestyle before the coronavirus hit, don't stop now! It's important to keep our bodies healthy and our immune systems strong — especially in the face a pandemic. If your lifestyle wasn't the healthiest before, why not use some of this extra time we have on our hands now to improve it now? Healthy habits include: eating nutritiously, exercising regularly, maintaining an adequate and consistent sleep schedule and spending time outdoors each day.

Be Informed, but Not Overloaded

With things changing so quickly, it's important to stay informed about the virus and the actions we as citizens are being asked to take. However, there's a difference between staying informed and being sucked down the rabbit hole of information. Checking the news a couple of times a day is useful, but set a time limit for yourself — maybe 20 minutes or so — and then cut it off.



Stay Connected

Humans are social beings — we're designed that way! So, even though we're not able to be physically close to one another right now, it's imperative that we stay socially connected. Thankfully, we live in the digital age, which makes that so easy. Using Zoom or FaceTime or even a good old fashion phone call, aim to have at least one personal conversation a day.



International Day of Peace: September 21, 2020



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on the 21st of September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

Let us all individually find quiet time during our day on Monday, September 21st to unite in prayer for peace— not only for our country, but for our entire world.



A Way Forward Bible Study

The sermon series and small group packet created by Brian McKee and the We Race Ahead Team has been thoughtfully crafted to be a roadmap exploring some of the most important topics on Biblical unity and race for our current times.

See this four week period as one where you are safe to take your guards down. While at the same time, you'll be challenged to consider root issues of racism and where you can make a positive impact within your sphere of influence.

As you lean in, you will build new cross-cultural relationships and expand your experiences around becoming one with a group of diverse people. Please remember that these next few weeks are only pieces of a longer life-long journey that we must each take as We Race Ahead. For more information on diversity training, workshops or events, please contact info@weraceahead.com

How to “attend” this study:

One of the best ways to participate with We Race Ahead is by joining one of the 4 week virtual small groups. They will meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:30–8:00pm and Saturday mornings from 9:00–10:30am beginning September 15th. To register for one of these groups, please go to www.weraceahead.com. Under the “Resources” tab click on “Participate”. Towards the bottom of the page you will find “Virtual Small Groups”. Pick a day of the week that works best for you and click on “Register Via Zoom” (Pastor Kevin plans to attend the Thursday night group).

The Sermon Series “A Way Forward” will begin on Sunday, September 6th and will go through Sunday, September 27th. Topics will include:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Week 1 | “Made In God’s Image & The History Of The American Church” |
| Week 2 | “Trauma And The African-American Experience” |
| Week 3 | “Systemic Injustice & Mass Incarceration” |
| Week 4 | “Segregation & A Way Forward” |

This will be a series that you will not want to miss! Invite your friends, family, neighbors to join us in online worship over these several weeks. These are critical topics that are very relevant in our world and local communities. You are also highly encouraged to take the next step by joining one of the small groups offered as well.

“Living in Trying Times”

By Kevin W. Rhodes

People today live in circumstances very different in some ways than previous generations. The constant bombardment of a news cycle that went from the day to day grind of the newspaper and eventually network news to the 24-hour cycle of CNN and then Fox News to the minute by minute cycle of social media has taken its toll on the modern psyche.



We have come to anticipate bad news, and in the process, it has desensitized our soul. The call for realism that now has extended even to fictional characters in television and movies based upon comic strips (consider that irony!) has produced the expectation that most of life requires superhuman strength just to handle the problems of the 21st century. However, the truth remains that we invite most of this negativity into our lives unnecessarily instead of proactively building a faith designed not only to survive but also to thrive regardless of the external environment.

David lived in times just as trying as anything we face today, though removed from us by three millennia. He knew all too well the soulful challenge of facing outside adversity without allowing it to destroy the spirit within, and his emotional words of Psalm 140 provide a welcome guide for our own spiritual trial.

If we can learn nothing else from David, the value of turning to God in prayer would prove sufficient (Ps. 141:1-2). When overwhelmed by life's problems, prayer remains the best first action you can take. Through prayer we can channel all of your fear, all of our anxiety, and all of our anger into a humble request offered to the LORD of heaven and earth, knowing He will listen to the righteous as surely as welcoming the specific worship He has requested (John 4:24).

However, prayer alone does not answer all tests of life, though it does bring them into perspective. We still must exhibit personal self-control lest we allow our problems to provoke a reaction in us just as wrong as the problem we face (Ps. 141:3-4).

Regardless of the constant chatter that characterizes the society today, we must work at controlling our speech so that we do not resort to retorts, retaliation, or response in kind to handle attack but rise above such wickedness rather than finding ourselves comfortable among the world's folly. Moreover, instead of letting the tragedy of the moment rule our hearts, we can benefit greatly by learning from the experience (Ps. 141:5-7). The most negative of experiences can offer numerous learning opportunities. Through them we can learn to listen patiently to constructive criticism, to accept correction when necessary, and to oppose evil without letting it affect our character. With such determination, even in the harshest of circumstances, the faithful child of God can still grow in faith (Ps. 141:8-10).

(Continued on next page)

Spiritual growth can flourish in the midst of turmoil and trial if we use it properly. During such times, we should focus on God more and more, giving ourselves over to the spiritual as a refuge from the onslaught of evil offered up by a world addicted to sin. In response to the diet of excess provided by Satan, we should instead enrich our souls. The trying of our faith, properly considered, can hone our ability to overcome temptation (Jas. 1:2-4). Most of all, spiritual situations such as these grow our faith by reminding us to focus on controlling ourselves and letting God handle the rest.

The idea that this life should have no difficulties and that hardship somehow argues against God remains one of the persistent lies Satan repeats endlessly because the faithless hear it so eagerly.

Failing to learn from Job they also ignore the lesson of Jesus. By allowing Satan opportunity to influence creation once completed, evil and its children—sin, suffering, and adversity—have an impact on our lives. However, Satan does not get to determine the full extent of that impact; we do. While we necessarily suffer due to the poor decisions of others, of generations past, and of ourselves, and while that can impact our health and comfort, we have the power at our disposal to decide how to react to these things. We do live in trying times, because that is the nature of this world. Therefore, rather than feeling sorry for ourselves, we should respond with trust in God and with a life characterized by rising above Satan's challenges in imitation of our Savior. We can indeed live and prosper spiritually even in trying times when we do not allow those times to define us but instead define ourselves by the glory of eternity (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

Electronic Giving

Linda Kreider, Financial Secretary

I would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving during this time of great uncertainty. There are a couple of different electronic options for you to use to make your monetary gifts at this time if you are not mailing in your giving envelopes. First, there is one option that I would suggest **not** to use, which is PayPal. There is a fee charged by PayPal for each transaction. For example, if your gift is \$500.00, PayPal will keep \$11.70 as a fee which reduces the amount of your contribution to a total of \$488.30.

A good option for giving is the EFT program, which the church has been using for many years. You have the option of having your gift automatically taken from your savings or checking account on a weekly or monthly basis. If you're interested in this option, please contact me.

A new and completely fee-free option for giving is the Venmo app, which you can download on your phone. If you choose this option, you will need to download the app to your phone and follow the steps in the app to set up your free account. You will need to initiate each individual gift and be sure to designate where you want the gift applied, i.e.: \$xx.xx to general budget, \$xx.xx to apportionments, \$xx.xx to roof fund, etc.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My phone number is (414) 303-6408 and my email is finsec@bayviewumc.org. Thank you again for your prayerful giving!

the Laughing Circle

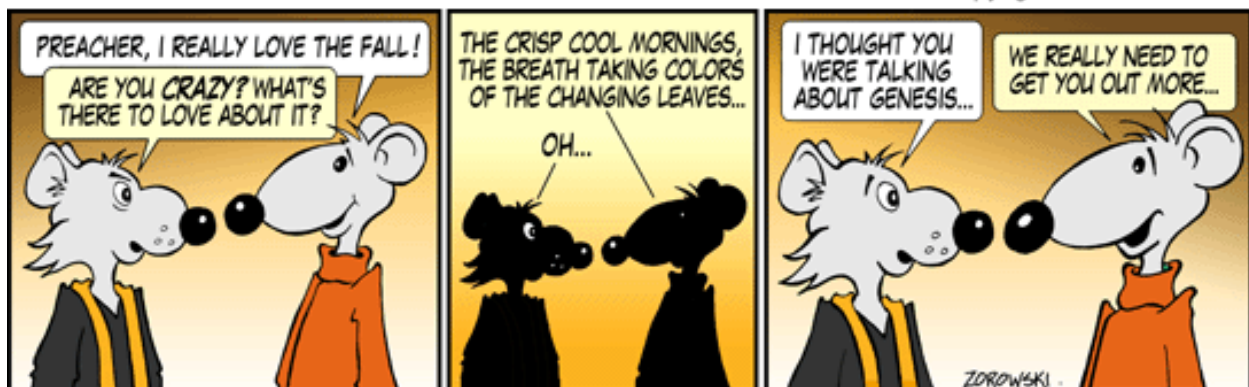


"All our summer shade
is falling down!"



Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



We have just finished a meeting with the Loving Start Preschool Board.



The safety and wellbeing of all children, staff and families at Loving Start Preschool is the utmost importance to us, and it is with this in mind that we have come to the agreement that we must delay the start of the 2020-2021 school year due to the increase of Covid-19 throughout the state.

Loving Start Preschool made the difficult decision not to open our doors in September. We are anticipating re-opening the preschool in January 2021. As always, the health and safety of children, families and staff are the most important priority.

Miss Annie, Miss Karen and Miss Mary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 2
Daniel Warkaske
September 3
Alysha Scholz
September 8
Sue Kreider
September 10
Katie Botsford

September 11
Eric Heipel
September 13
Jean Barden
Fiona Grumley
David Longe
September 15
Megan Erickson

September 20
Eric Tranmal
September 25
Barbara Holdorf
September 28
Terry Garside
September 29
Peter Jackson



September 2020

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 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	2 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom	3 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	4 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	5 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live
6 9am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	7 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 	8 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	9 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom	10 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	11 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	12 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live
13 9am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	14 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	15 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	16 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom	17 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	18 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	19 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live
20 9am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	21 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	22 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 	23 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom	24 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	25 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	26 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live
27 9am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom 9:45am Worship Service on FB Live 2:30pm Bread and Jam Bagged Lunch Ministry	28 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	29 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live	30 10am Daily Devotional on FB Live 10:30am Bible Study on Zoom			

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



September
2020

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
9am - 1pm
Friday
9am - 3pm