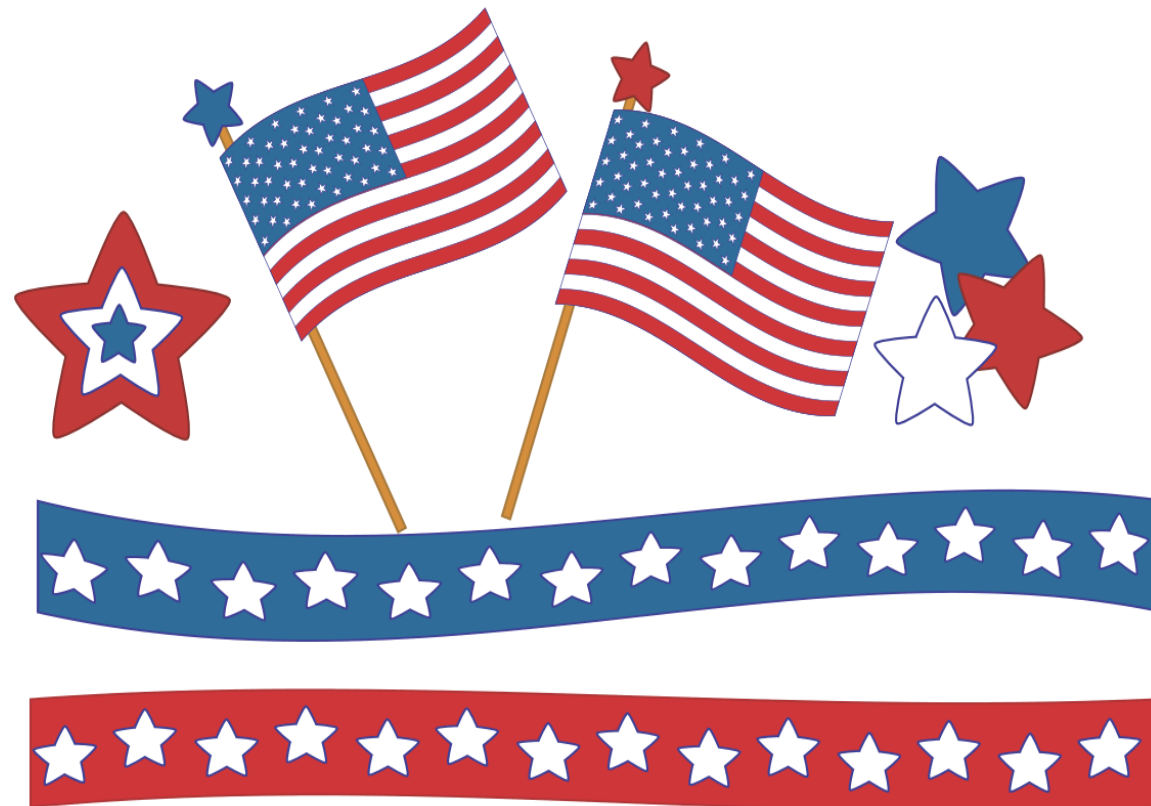


July 2022

GoodNews

Love God · Welcome All · Serve Everyone



GRACE NOTES

Lead with care

Where we are now as a church is fluid both locally and institutionally. People have left because of differences in perspective. Beloved members of the faith have passed on. New people have come and felt welcomed to stay and belong and give of their gifts in worship, in prayer, in presence, in funds, and in witness.

As of July 1, I will be appointed to the Wesley faith community for the eighth year. This is the longest I have served a church. The past years have brought change in how we church. The past three years have definitely given us great challenges. The changes, though, have helped us evolve into a community I am excited to discover what God can do through us.

Another change at Wesley is my appointment going from full-time to half-time. The leadership and I decided that it was the only way I can still serve Wesley due to financial uncertainties. The Bishop and his Cabinet approved that decision and gave me two years as a half-time pastor to give Wesley time to regroup and recoup.

I am still discerning what the change to half-time means. Michelle Christensen and the Staff Parish Relations Committee are working with me and the lay leadership to address the needs of the whole church community. As we live through this change, I would like to make explicit what you are already doing implicitly.

The Wesley faith community is innately welcoming and caring. We step up with donations when there is a need in the community. But even as we lead with care for the Kenosha, state, national, and global communities, I invite you to lead caring for one another within these church walls. That is the best evangelism or witness we can show God's love. We lead with care for the people in our family, in our faith family, AND in our global family. What happens to one happens to all. When one is hurt, all are hurt. When one is loved, all are loved.

So, I invite you to look out and care for the others with me. Ask these questions:

How are you? How are you holding up?

For what are you grateful?

What may I pray for you?

Summer is here and we are in the midst of vacation, travel, and summer activities.

Remember God in all you do. Live with care and lead with care.

Pastor Grace



- 4 Chris Herigstad
- 6 Liam Valentine
- 13 Matthew Mulroy
- 15 Kelli Garnett
- 15 Joy Buttke
- 17 Andrew Hansen
- 17 Jennifer Ricchio
- 17 Shawn White
- 19 Betty Raddatz
- 24 Joy Delwiche
- 24 Dylan Ricchio
- 26 Gale Thompson
- 27 Elaine Young
- 31 Ava Christensen-Bara
- 31 Grayson Christensen-Bara
- 31 Dodie Smith



- 2 Colton White
- 3 Elijah Fegley
- 5 Estellia Barrientos
- 7 Evette Wint
- 20 Gorman Dugan
- 22 Bob Dorsey
- 28 Sue Cooper
- 31 Mary Borckardt
- 31 Russell Maxwell

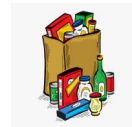


- Brandon Trumbo
- Virginia Roders
- Jason Adam Patterson
- Tom Brehm
- Marna Frank
- Ruth Callan
- Ellen Shuemate

To keep our list updated, we will remove names after 30 days. Please notify the office to place/replace a name on the list. Thank you for your help with this ministry.



**SHALOM FOOD
PANTRY
COLLECTION**



Arnold Parise graciously offered to step forward and take our donations to the Shalom Center Food Pantry! I can't thank you enough for helping out. You are appreciated!!

Thank you for your donations!
We continue to collect nonperishable items for the pantry. You may drop them off at the church from 8-noon, Monday through Friday or on Sunday morning .

As always, thank you for your generosity!

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

“CHRISTMAS IN JULY”

By Alan Mulroy

As an amateur astronomer, allow me to report: June 21 was the longest day of the year.

Some of us take note of it, Many didn't. But in another time, another age, everyone noticed. As the solstice passed and then as winter came on and days grew shorter, people were filled with fear and dread that the sun was truly going away, never to return. Imagine that world. Imagine we are sitting in a very dark place—maybe the inside of a house (most only had one room), maybe a field on a starless night. And imagine we are shoulder to shoulder, gathered in a circle. We are huddled together, not so that we feel squeezed or trapped; but so that we are warm and so that we know we are not alone.

And imagine that we are gathered together around a light. A candle. A campfire. A lamp...Something which allows us to see one another's faces, as well as the light itself. Something that kindles warmth, in our hands or in our hearts.

This is the truth. This is where we are. In this place. Around a great light. Hear it, from the song of Elizabeth.

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

This forms the core of the prayer known as the "Hail Mary", or for those of you with a more classical bent, the "Ave Maria"

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Into this time and season, when to ancient minds, it might seem as though the world was coming to an end, comes the light and blessing of Jesus. Why was Mary blessed? Was it something that she earned? Well, no. Just as neither you nor I can do a thing to earn God's Blessing and redemption, Mary was filled with grace and blessed by God. You hear it in songs, see it in movies, and commercials. "Christmas is about--- insert pop-culture message here" Let us remember though, they get it JUST EXACTLY WRONG. Christmas is coming, and it is NOT about just the right gift, or tradition, or food, or even family and friends. It is about the coming into this world of darkness of the Great Light of Christ. But it has been Two thousand years and more. How do we see and feel the presence of Christ in the world today?

We just passed the longest day of the year. From now until late December, days grow shorter and nights longer. In some ways, it is deep night in our world now. A night of the soul, where our faith is tested, and many are found wanting. Church attendance continues to decline, and the numbers of those who claim faith in God are fewer year by year. In the words of G.K. Chesterton, ***The first effect of not believing in God is to believe in anything.***

And we see that in the world around us, don't we? How many of you hear the calls to 'Build a Kingdom of Heaven on Earth'? As though such a thing were even possible! Or in the religious embrace of environmentalism, there are even people who claim to 'marry' trees and rivers! Why, as the Pew Research Center has found, do 1.5 million Americans identify as Wiccans (witches) or pagans, outnumbering Presbyterians?

Paganism differs from atheism in that it allows for a spiritual dimension to life and creation, but not an omnipotent, benevolent God. The power is in the creation itself, which is why so many New Age adherents find divinity when they look at a sunset, a flower, a tree, or a river. They are very different from, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" Increasingly, "the universe" is replacing references to God in current TV shows and movies.

More



“CHRISTMAS IN JULY”

Continued

Again, How do we see and feel the presence of Christ in the world today?

Elizabeth saw it. Do you? *Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*

And why was Mary blessed? *And blessed is she that believed*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth saw that Mary was blessed because she trusted in the Lord.

Each of us, made in God’s image, carries the presence of God within us. When we act in imitation of Christ, doing good works, showing mercy and kindness and compassion to one another, then we show the presence of Christ to others, for we are indeed acting as his hands on this Earth. But, just as we show Christ to Others, so do each of them show it to us.

The Winter Solstice is the reverse of what we just experienced. That is the day when the ancient world let out its breath, in a collective sigh of recognition and relief that the light was returning, the light was coming once again. In that world, as the days began to grow longer again, the people held festivals and celebrations to mark the return of the sun. The Roman Festival took place on December 25. They called it *Sol Invictus*, the Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun (S-U-N).

So, let us have Christmas in July. Just as we Jesus-followers spend Advent waiting for the light, pushing back against the darkness by lighting one more candle each week. As the world (or even maybe our own internal world) grew darker, still we have been insisting: Soon comes the Light, the Unvanquished Son of God, the Light of the World. God’s Great Answer to us that we are seen, we are loved. He is coming!



Treat Bringers for Coffee Hour

JULY

- 3 Joy Buttke/ Crystal Tuchalski
- 10 Margaret Christian
- 17 Deon Frieri
- 24 Patti Sloca
- 31 Joy Delwiche

Counters Schedule



- 3 Jean Thompson/Lana Frank
-Krause
- 10 Patti Sloca/Arnold Parise
- 17 Bill Thurau/ Lana Frank-
Krause
- 24 Patti Sloca
- 31 Joy Delwiche



DATES IN JULY

- Sun 7/3 Scrip Orders Taken
- Mon 7/4 Office Closed
- Tuesday 7/5 UWF Meeting 9:30 am
- Thurs 7/7 Knitting/Crocheting 6:30 pm
- Wed 7/13 Deborah Circle UWF 6:30pm
- Thurs 7/14 Knitting/Crocheting 10:00 am



United Women in Faith

Cyndi's Circle" is now the **Deborah Circle**. Our next meeting will be July 13th at 6:30 pm.

Terry's Circle of the UWF will be meeting Tuesday, July 5th at 9:30a.m. Hope to see you there.



From the left:
Dodie Smith, Cyndi Wolf,
Heather Briscoe, Patti Sloca



Ann Bradshaw, Lorrie Peterson, Alice Hill,
Terry Miller, Atha Atkinson and Dodie Smith



From the left:
Lorrie Peterson, Dodie Smith,
Patti Sloca, Heather Briscoe

30 am

re

our

The Faithful Pig Keeper

Stewardship at Wesley

Wesley Wishlist:

Elevator---Our elevator has been out-of-service for a couple of months. We have received an estimate of \$6,500 to complete the repair. This will include installing a new motherboard. Otis Elevator Co. has also estimated that after this repair, our elevator should be functional for another couple of decades. The cost for a new elevator would range between \$25,000 and \$110,000, so doing the repair would be the most cost-effective option. One way to help Wesley with the cost of the repair would be to donate specifically for this project. You can do this by writing "elevator" on your giving envelope or by going on the Vanco website or app and making a one-time donation with "elevator" in the note.

Amazon Smile---When making purchases from Amazon, please consider donating to Wesley by using Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile donates a small percentage of every purchase to the church directly. You can go to smile.amazon.com and choose Wesley United Methodist Church as the charity.

Scrip---On the first Sunday of every month, you have the opportunity to purchase gift cards at face value for local and nationwide retailers. Wesley receives a percentage of every gift card purchase. For more information, please visit the Scrip table in the narthex, or see Beth Brooks.



Financial Facts: May 2022

Monetary Gifts and Other Income--\$11,106.55

Expenses--\$14,748.03

Net Funds—(\$3641.48)

2022 Budget—(\$18,581.46)



Wesley United Methodist Church
4600-60th Street
Kenosha, WI 53144



**Love God
Welcome All
Serve Everyone**

**The People of the United
Methodist Church
JULY 2022**

Ministers: All members and friends
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Grace Cajjuat
gcajjuat@kenoshawesley.org
Lay Leader: Alan Mulroy
amulroy@wi.rr.com
Administrative Assistant: Janice Mowry
jmowry@kenoshawesley.org
Custodian: Jean Thompson
gnjthom@wi.rr.com
Treasurer: Nancy Mix
nancymix@gmail.com

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday Worship: 9:00
Livestream anytime after 9:00
Phone: (262)-654-8122
Email: wesleyumc@kenoshawesley.org
Web Site: www.kenoshawesley.org