

WELCOME

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & WILDWOOD CHAPEL



CUMC Worship Services

Sunday at 10:30am

Sunday School 9:00am

Wildwood Worship Services

Sunday at 9:00am



SEPTEMBER 2020

Good News Gazette

FINANCIAL NEWS FOR 2020

	<u>Current Month</u>
Income	\$8080.98
Month Expenses Paid	\$5681.00
Difference	\$ 2399.98

During this period of COVID-19, when places are slowly opening for in-person business again, *Christ United Methodist Church and Wildwood Chapel are holding in-person worship services.* We understand that not everyone is comfortable attending in-person services yet, so the services are being recorded from Christ UMC and made available to view online by the Monday following the service. You can find videos of our worship services at the following locations.

our website **MerrillChristUMC.org.**
 You Tube Channel Christ UMC Merrill
 Our Face Book page **Merrill Christ United Methodist Church – Merrill WI**

Sale of the Parsonage

Everyone should have already received their packet regarding the sale of the parsonage. This is a sad moment for our congregation as we make this decision. The parsonage is a true gift that has served our congregation well for many years. But now is the time to make a change. If you have any questions, call Trustee Chair, Little Jo Hernandez, Church Board Chair, Tom Fox, or me, Pastor Laverne, or participate in the informational meeting/**Charge Conference on Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 PM.** You can ZOOM, call, or come in person. **Voting will take place Thursday, September 10, 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the church.** Drive in, pick up a ballot at the church door, mark your ballot and then drop it in the box at Door 2. Results will be announced in the September 13 worship information.



I want to thank everyone for their wonderful thoughtfulness in wishing me a "Happy Birthday." I am indeed very blessed, but even more to be serving Christ with you.

Thank you!
Pastor Laverne



Given the destruction of Hurricane Laura on the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas and further north, the United Methodist Committee on Relief has set up an Advance Special

to help victims clean up and restore their homes. If you would like to donate, just put "Hurricane Laura" on your offering and 100% of your offering will go to help with relief efforts. Thank you for your generosity.

Wildwood Chapel News

AUGUST MISSION PROJECT

In years past, Wildwood Chapel designated the Fill the Gazebo project as the mission for July and August. Because of the issues surrounding COVID-19, the Fill the Gazebo project did not happen this year. But the Food Pantry still needed help. Now, more than ever, people are in need of food and other supplies that the Community Food Pantries can provide. So Wildwood Chapel collected \$285.00 of monetary donations for the Merrill Community Food Pantry. The funds will be used to purchase the supplies necessary to meet their needs into the fall and winter months. Thank you all for your participation in the mission work of the church.



September/October Mission Project

With COVID-19 being so prevalent in our lives this year, and people being so affected by it physically, emotionally and financially, Wildwood Chapel has selected UMCOR COVID-19 as the mission project for September and October. Funds donated will be used throughout the country to provide aid for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, hygienic supplies, etc. where supplies are needed most.

If you are interested in giving to this mission, please mark your check or envelope COVID. Thank you for your support of this mission work to help those in areas hardest hit by this disease.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Connie Stein

09/17

REMINDER

Wildwood Chapel has begun holding in-person worship services. There are a number of safety measures in place to help keep all in attendance healthy. These measures include removal of some pews and spacing of the rest to allow for social distancing, a supply of hand sanitizer and the option of wearing face masks while you are in the church building. If you prefer to stay away from worshipping in person at this time but wish to stay current with your offerings, you can mail them to Sandy Huxtable at N2913 County Line Rd., Gleason WI, 54435. If you need anything, please call the church office at (715)536-4676. Stay well and God Bless!

2020 Missions

Jan/Feb	Blankets and Tools \$265.00
March/April	Seeds / money for Jackson Area Ministry \$80 plus seeds
May/June	Flood Buckets \$175.00
July/August	Gazebo/ Food Pantry \$285.00
Sept/Oct	UMCOR-COVID-19

Nov/Dec

St. Jude's

Food Pantry Schedule

Jan/Feb	Antigo
Mar/Apr	Merrill
May/Jun	Antigo
July/Aug	Merrill
Sep/Oct	Antigo
Nov/Dec	Merrill



--Christ Church Birthdays--

Bob Klessig	09/03
Sally Gavic	09/04
Wayne Marrier	09/06
Mike Clark	09/09
Charlie Hoffman	09/10
Riley Olson-Sliwinski	09/12
Lily Berndt	09/13
Jay Ellen Brown	09/14

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



Tom Fox	09/14
Kay Hall	09/18
Susan Sternot	09/22
Ed Kemery	09/26
Lincoln Berndt	09/27
Stan Gavic	09/27
John "Wally" Wallace	09/27
Sharon Hernandez	09/29

Church Library News - Book Review



Because of the Coronavirus and the church having limited access, there will not be a library book of the month for September.

During these trying and chaotic times we recommend that you read your Bible or daily devotions to help find encouragement, peace and acceptance.

Pastor has been leading a Bible Study on the book of Genesis. If you are looking for somewhere to start, that is a good place to begin.

Stay safe.



MISSION NEWS

Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens

The Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens program has come to an end for the summer. This is the program in which we partner with St. Stephens UCC, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran churches to provide a lunch to kids in the community who may not have access to lunch when school is on summer break. Because of the various restrictions brought on by COVID-19, we had to operate this program much differently this year.



The program ran from July 6 through August 28. Christ Church was the central location for all of the meals to be picked up by the child or a parent. No meals could be eaten on site. The child was expected to eat at home. Meal pick up was available Monday thru Friday. Each of the five churches still provided the meals on their assigned day of the week. They all just operated from CUMC.



The program served 1224 meals this summer. This is a lower amount compared to other years, but we were still able to provide a much needed service to the community.

We are very grateful to our volunteers who helped make this mission possible. Norma, Rachel, Chrissy, Nicole, Sharie, Barbara and Paulette, thank you for giving your time and talents to this program. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are also very thankful to CHIPS for supplying us with buns at no cost for some of our meals and to the Merrill Community Food Pantry for their contributions of juice drinks, milk, fruit, raisins, cheese sticks and snack bars. These donations helped us serve the meals at minimal cost.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing—Traditional & Online



Dear Friends,

We hope that you will join us again this year in the tradition of packing Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes OR building a shoebox online. Check out the Samaritan's Purse website to see modifications to shoebox packing in order to ensure that children around the world are still blessed with great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/covid-19/>

If you choose to make traditional shoe boxes, we encourage you to follow local guidelines and use personal discernment by shopping in stores or online for shoebox items. (Please remember no candy, gum, liquids, or toothpaste can be included.) Boxes and brochures will be available at church and can be found near the coat rack in the gathering room.

Sunday, November 15 is the absolute deadline for dropping boxes off at the church building.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Amy & Rachel Bergmann
715-536-8355
bergmann_sfx@yahoo.com



COVID-19 has really messed up our lives, at every level. Since our churches were closed in March and reopened in June, we have tried to reach everyone with means to continue worship. Those without computers, we mail bulletins and printed sermons. For those with email, we send links for bulletins, sermons and online worship via Facebook, YouTube and our Webpage. Plus, in person worship is available with physically distanced seating, masks and hand sanitizer.

We have had our struggles with technology, notably YouTube not allowing us to include music in our recordings. But we are still working on options. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Please complete this survey by returning it in the mail, by email, Facebook post, or phone call before September 8.

PLEASE, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. Mark all that apply.

- I want to continue to receive the bulletin and sermons **IN THE MAIL**
- I want to continue to watch the worship service on **Facebook**
- I want to continue to watch the worship service on **YouTube**
- I want to continue to watch the worship service off the **church's webpage**
- I would attend a worship service in the **church's parking lot** (staying in the car) and listen to the service live on the radio
- I want the option to attend the worship service **in person**
- I would attend a **ZOOM** worship service
- I would like to be part of a **ZOOM fellowship group**
- I would like more information on our **ZOOM** Sunday School, Youth Group, Prayer Group, or Bible Study

Additional comments on the worship service, or how we can keep our church family connected. Any ideas for activities or ministries is greatly appreciated.

Name (optional) _____

Pastor's Page

What a wild ride we have been on these last six months!! COVID -19 pandemic brought with it lockdowns of churches, schools, businesses, and community activities. Summer has brought us some relief, but constant reports of people testing positive, keeps our anxiety high. Our lives now include facemasks and physical distancing, IF we even go out. Shopping is done online. Family or friends pick up our groceries. Family get togethers happen electronically. Hugs and human touch are missed.

Our hearts are broken by reports of discrimination based on skin color or ethnicity. We know Jesus died for the sins of ALL PEOPLE. God created us with diverse skin colors, and different talents and personalities, and he expects us to LOVE all people, including our enemies. That means each one of us must look inside ourselves to see where we need to let go of prejudices, preconceived ideas, and unloving thoughts so that we can better love our neighbors, our enemies and ourselves. As each of us asks Christ's help to clean the sin of our lives, we will see a cumulative change in our communities and the world.

Our lives have been disrupted even more by reports of the violence going on around the country, and our own state. We grieve the devastation of wildfires, hurricanes, and other storms. We can't stop the violence in other places. We can't help clean up after all storms. But we can pray. That is part of why we are engaged in a **community prayer walk** where all Christians are invited to pray in front of **Merrill City Hall on Wednesdays from 5 – 6 PM.** (Meet at Christ UMC parking lot at 5:00 PM.) We want an end to violence and discrimination. We want peace. We want healing, and wisdom, and strength, for ourselves, for our medical personnel, our government leaders, our educators, and our families.

With fears of an increase in COVID cases on top of the flu season, and with the stress of the upcoming presidential election, we need prayers more than ever! So, we will continue to stand in front of city hall, silently praying, to let our community know that they are cared for and prayed for. We are also a witness to the community of our faith in an all-powerful, all loving God, who embodies truth and justice and mercy.

God tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

If we want healing for our community, our nation, and our world, we have to pray. But first we have to acknowledge OUR sin and change OUR ways. In repenting of our sin, Jesus can change our hearts and equip us with power to heal and restore our lives and our country. Thank you for joining me in this all-powerful ministry – that needs no buildings! Jesus trusts us so much that he has equipped us with His Holy Spirit to do all that Jesus has done, and EVEN MORE. (John 14:12) **You are powerful when you pray!!**

God bless you,

Pastor Laverne



Bible Study

While we have already begun our study of Genesis, you can still join the group. We meet Thursday nights at 6:30PM via ZOOM, an online communications app. Please let Pastor know if you want to attend so she can send you an invitation.

Prayer Team

Our Prayer Team has also gone online via ZOOM. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please let Pastor know so you can receive an invitation.

In the wake of yet another tragic shooting, this time much closer to home, there was something beautiful. I read an article in the news that included a statement by Julia Jackson, mother of Jacob Blake, the Kenosha man shot Sunday by police after an altercation, and felt her words and sentiments were so touching they needed to be shared. In her remarks, she addressed the rioters who've brought violence and destruction to Kenosha allegedly as a way to seek justice for her son, asking them to examine their hearts.

The meaning of her words was emphasized by the humble, quiet manner in which they were delivered. She said: *"We really just need prayers. As I was riding through here, through the city, I noticed a lot of damage. That doesn't reflect my son or my family. If Jacob knew what was going on as far as that goes, the violence and the destruction, he would be very displeased."*

"So I'm really asking and encouraging everyone in Wisconsin and abroad to take a moment and examine your hearts. Citizens, police officers, firemen, clergy, politicians, do Jacob justice on this level and examine your hearts. We need healing. As I pray for my son's healing, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, I also have been praying even before this for the healing of our country. God has placed each and every one of us in this country because he wanted us to be here."

"Clearly, you can see right now that I have beautiful brown skin. But take a look at your hand, and whatever shade it is, it is beautiful as well. How dare we hate what we are. We are humans. God did not make one type of tree or flower or fish or horse or grass or rock. How dare you ask him to make one type of human that looks just like you."

"I'm not talking to just caucasian people. I am talking to everyone: white, black, Japanese, Chinese, red, brown. No one is superior to the other. The only Supreme Being is God himself. Please, let's begin to pray for healing for our nation. We are the United States. Have we been united? Do you understand what's gonna happen when we fall? Because a house that is against each other cannot stand."

"To all of the police officers, I'm praying for you and your families. To all of the citizens, my black and brown sisters and brothers, I'm praying for you. I believe that you are an intelligent being just like the rest of us. Everybody, let's use our hearts, our love, and our intelligence to work together, to show the rest of the world how humans are supposed to treat each other. America is great when we behave greatly. Thank you."

Considering all the pain and shock Ms. Jackson must have been going through so soon after the shooting, she offers us all an amazing statement of faith. I thank her for her generous and faith-filled words, and I hope her prayers – and ours – are answered.

Pastor Laverne

Wesley Small Group

Wesley Small Group is going online! We will be meeting via Zoom on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to participate, so please join us in discussion and Fellowship!

The meeting ID is **4301611974** and the password is **5YadZc**

Please contact Sandy or Debbie if you have any questions about connecting online! We look forward to seeing you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We will be continuing Sunday School throughout the fall, so if you know of any children who would like to participate in a safe, online environment, please contact me! It has been an amazing experience connecting with the children during this difficult situation. What a blessing it has been to have the appropriate technology available to us, as we continue with our Sunday School Ministry!

God Bless!

Debbie





~ SEPTEMBER 2020 ~



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion	7 Labor Day Holiday Church Office closed	8 Charge Conference re: Parsonage 5:30p Church Board 6:30pm	9	10 Parsonage vote via drive thru at CUMC	11	12
13	14 SPPRC 3:30pm	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		C = Christ Church W = Wildwood	Sunday Worship: W = 9:00am C = 10:30am