

THE CROSS & THE FLAME



**Viroqua
United Methodist
Church
221 S. Center Ave**

MARCH 2024

THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS TAKES US TO THE EMPTY TOMB

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11: 25-26



Who doesn't like to be given another chance in life? Personally, I always appreciate when I am given an opportunity to begin and reflect. Lent is a time of new opportunities; it is forty days to reevaluate how you connect with God.

In a special way, we have an opportunity to exercise self-control and spiritual discipline in the face of the material things of this world. Hence, many practice abstinence, fasting, stop eating meat on Fridays, do charity work, give their time to others, and others return to the Church to pray in community. And all this has one objective, to prepare us for the celebration of Easter. Thus, at Easter you will be reborn in the life of faith with the Risen Jesus Christ. So, let's see how we can walk our journey to meet the risen Him again.

First Sunday of Lent

I believed that temptation and trial were the same thing; However, I learned that temptation seeks to make you fall, get lost, and destroy what you have built spiritually for many years. The test, on the contrary, seeks to make you grow and demonstrate what you have learned. Have you ever wondered why the more you want to get closer to God, the more you want to do good, the more you want to live a new life is when temptations appear?

In the Gospel of Matthew 4: 1-11, he presents you with a human Jesus. This is the Jesus with whom you can identify. This is a Jesus who fights the temptations that you and I have to face every day. Temptation, whether power or fame, is intended to make you forget God and doubt his divine providence. What I like most is that at the end of the Gospel Jesus triumphs and overcomes temptations because he was guided by the Holy Spirit.

Second Sunday of Lent

I always imagine that the season of Lent is like the experience of climbing a mountain, as we walk week after week until we reach the summit, which would be Easter. That is the moment in which, after a long path of forty days of climbing with your prayers, sacrifices and abstinence, you meet the Risen Jesus, the living, resurrected Son of God, who conquers death, who has the power to transform you, who is present and gives meaning to your existence at all times. And knowing this truth is the best experience you can live and share with others.

Third Sunday of Lent

Human being could survive days without eating but he cannot go days without drinking water. In the gospel of John 4: 1-15, Jesus meets the Samaritan woman. And as you know, in the Gospel always, always, the encounter with Jesus is a transformative encounter. The Samaritan came to the water fountain because she knows that she needs water to survive. And it is in this natural experience, in the search for something basic like water, that the profound encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman occurs. The Samaritan woman, because of her sincere dialogue and because of her total openness to Jesus, receives a gift more valuable than the water itself that she was looking for. The most important thing is that she not only discovers who Jesus is, but she asks him to give her that living water to quench her spiritual thirst.

(continued →)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

It is a gift that you can see the sunset, the faces of the people you love, and the beauty of the world around you. It is said that there is no worse blind person than someone who does not want to see.

The encounter with Jesus touches and transforms the heart of those who allow themselves to be embraced by the grace of God. In the Gospel of Mark 10.46-52 a blind man wants to see. Although the blind man asks Jesus for the ability to physically see, Jesus gives him more than he asks for. Jesus restores his dignity as a son of God, and his integration into the community. It is interesting how the others who could see, did not see the blind man with dignity; On the contrary, they saw him with eyes of contempt, they judged him, they blamed him and they did not recognize the possibility that a change could occur in him. Faith in Jesus is a gift He wants to give you so that you can see the world and others through the eyes of God.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

I wonder, what would be our life, how would we live our sufferings without the experience of faith and without the experience of Jesus? The gospel of John 11 presents us with a very human Jesus, close to pain, who loves and cries at the loss of a friend, Lazarus. Jesus is present and gives comfort to his friends.

But, the most fascinating thing about this story is that Jesus gives a definitive and unique response to the experience of death that will mark the history of the believer. Jesus identifies himself as the resurrection itself, and as life itself. Jesus reveals that we do not have to wait for the future; that in Jesus, God is life itself in the here and now; and that those who believe in Jesus live forever. This message gives hope and changes the way we think and feel about the experience of death.

EASTER SUNDAY

This is the most important day for every Christian, since with the resurrection of Jesus, our faith gains meaning.

Let us go out to meet the risen Christ, let us celebrate with joy and joy the wonderful promise of enduring life. Let us prepare our hearts, bodies and souls to live the day when the Lord showed us his light.

Pastor Erika

Long Range Objective *Viroqua UMC*

Develop a unique identity by becoming servants of the community and providing Christian opportunities for all people.

OUR PRAYER Viroqua UMC

God, the giver of life, generous giver of gifts and abilities, help us discover our talents and have the courage to use them to serve you and our community with unimagined new purposes and deepening love for Jesus Christ. Amen.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley



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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Skarda	March 1st
Dan Dustin	March 4th
Alice Sloane	March 4th
Joan Everson	March 10th
Avis Marino	March 12th
Lorna Peterson	March 13th
Jayden Dustin	March 15th
Sheryl Steele	March 19th
Phyllis Kalnins	March 20th

God's Blessings on You!



MARCH ANNIVERSARY

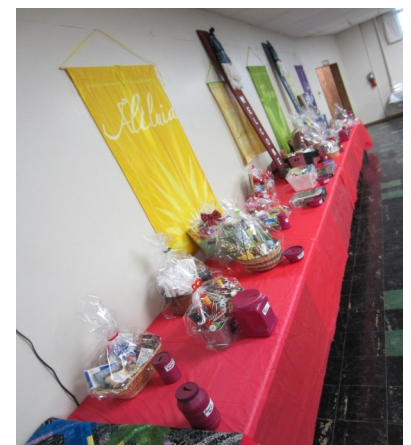
Dan & Lana Dustin March 7



Chili Cook-off Results

1st Place	Chili #4 (Westby UMC)	\$332.00
2nd Place	Chili #1 (Good Shepherd Lutheran)	\$249.00
3rd Place	Chili #2 (Viroqua UMC)	\$166.00
4th Place	Chili # 3 (St. Mary's Catholic)	\$83.00

Many THANKS to everyone who helped in any way.



ONCE-A-MONTH WEDNESDAY On TUESDAY (Day Change for Lent)

March 5th @ 5:30 pm!

We have a place reserved for you!

Be sure to come!



MG

March Sunday Servants

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeter	Screen Operator	Communion Stewards
March 3	Cavan Fang	Janet Welch Tom Lohr	Dale Gudgeon	Huxley Brown	Phyllis Kalnins Marlo Volden
March 10	Heidi Garrett	Cavan Fang Janette Hanson	Betty Ross	Luke Garrett	
March 17	Gregory Cheever	Mary & Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp	Alice Sloane	Finn Brenneman	
March 24		Aaron & Angie Hanson	Barb Casper	Grady Hanson	
March 28 Maundy Thurs		Joanne Hornby Marlo Volden	Betty Ross		
March 29 Good Friday		Janet Welch Barb Casper	Alice Sloane		
March 31 Sunrise		Aaron & Angie Hanson	Joanne Hornby		
March 31 10:30 Service		Joanne Hornby Jerry Brenneman	Betty Ross		

Housekeeping Duties—Sign Up Is Available Each Week

In Jim’s absence, the Trustees and Council have made the decision to cover the Housekeeping duties voluntarily for now. If we can manage this, it will help our financial situation a great deal, as well as offer opportunities for all of us to serve the church.

The duties have been identified and divided up so that each job should be manageable. A person can sign up for one week or several, depending on your schedule. A new chart will be available each month.

Below are the duties. Take a look and identify something you will consider doing. Then sign up on the chart in the Narthex for the weeks you will do it.

Thanks so much! Let’s all help to keep our building clean!

Housekeeping Duties (Weeks Start on Sunday and End on Saturday)

<u>Sunday Morning</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>	<u>Vacuum/Dust</u>	<u>Dry/Wet Mop</u>	<u>Bathrooms</u>	<u>Fellowship Hall</u>
* Open doors @ 8:30	* Dust	* Narthex	* Front & Back	* Clean bathrooms	* Dry mop floor
* Turn on lights	* Dust mop	* Chapel if needed	Stairs	(5)	* Wet mop as
* Clear walks in front & back—salt if needed	under	* Lounge if needed	* Front Entryway		needed
* Ring the bell during worship	pews	* Dust all areas as needed	* Hallway to Lounge		
* Turn off lights & lock up after church	* Vacuum Carpet	* Vacuum outdoor front steps as needed	* Overflow room as needed		

Easter Lilies

You are invited to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate our church sanctuary for Easter. They may be given in memory or in honor of someone.

The cost is \$17.00 each

Please turn in your order form by March 17th, 2024



Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Make your check payable to Viroqua UMC.


Number of plants _____ Total Amount _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Lent/Easter Services



Wednesday, February 21st	Immanuel Lutheran	5:00 pm Worship	6:00 pm Dinner
Wednesday, February 28th	Viroqua United Methodist	4:30 pm Taco Supper	6:30 pm Worship
Wednesday, March 6th	Good Shepherd Lutheran	5:30 pm Dinner	6:30 pm Worship
Wednesday, March 13th	Zion Lutheran	5:00 pm Worship	6:30 pm Dinner
Wednesday, March 20th	Bethel Lutheran	5:00 pm Worship	6:30 pm Dinner
Sunday, March 24th	Viroqua UMC Palm Sunday Parade	10:00 am	
Thursday, March 28th	Viroqua/Westby Joint Maundy Thursday @ Viroqua		6:00 pm
Friday, March 29th	Viroqua UMC Good Friday	1:00 pm	
Sunday, March 31st	Sunrise Service	7:00 am	
	Easter Breakfast	8:00 am	
	Easter Worship	10:30 am	

March Online Study – Easter: The Worship Initiative



The month's online study will be a continuation of the Lenten study we began in February. This study commemorates and meditates on Jesus in the days leading up to Easter. If you haven't started this study yet, we invite you to join us on this Lenten journey as we deepen our faith in Jesus and encourage each other as we reflect on His life, death, and resurrection.

Here is the link to join this Lenten online study:

Easter: The Worship Initiative - <https://bible.com/p/64054829/7ef4faab8152d3bf3fef40ba84a82855>

This online study and more can be accessed through the Bible App or bible.com website, which are free resources. In addition to wonderful devotional and reading plans, they provide a verse of the day, and you will be able to read the Bible in a wide variety of versions. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at www.bible.com.

Please note that Bible.com online will no longer support Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.

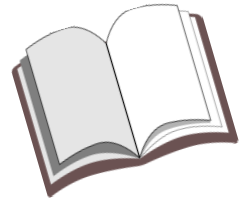
“Indoor” Yard Sale

The “Yard Sale” will be held on April 18th and 19th in the Fellowship Hall. You may bring items for the sale anytime. Call the office to arrange for dropping off items.



BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm to discuss *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. A new book will be chosen following the discussion. Look for the title in the bulletin. The group chooses books concerning social justice or other current issues. Everyone is invited to join the group. We meet about every 6-8 weeks.



Administrative Council

February 21, 2024



Present: Cavan Fang, Kristen Parrott, Kathy Hanson, Barb Casper, Pastor Erika, Aaron Hanson, Layne Hanson, Phyllis Kalnins, Heidi Garrett, Gregory Cheever, Dan Brown.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Erika.

Chuck Mulvaney Kemp and Shelley Brennehan were in attendance and joined pastor Erika in requesting that we sponsor a community presentation entitled "Voices From the Border." Chuck has heard the presentation and found it to be humanitarian, non-political, informative, and respectful.

After lots of discussion, we decided to table the decision for now. We want to take some time to think about our church's role and goals when it comes to difficult discussions.

Pastor Erika will be attending a ten-month **Institute of Congregational Development**. The sessions are held once a month for two days each. We will send one lay person from either Viroqua or Westby along with her each month. Lay people will divide up the months.

Announcements:

The Newsletter will be out on Sunday, February 25th.

People are starting to receive their pictures from the Universal Church Directory. The Directory itself is still in the works.

The Taco Supper will be next Wednesday, February 28th. All youth and parents will need to help.

Lenten Services are beginning. The first one was at Immanuel Lutheran earlier tonight. See the complete schedule elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Conference Statistical Report is due on February 29th. It is being completed.

Cleaning of the building is going well so far. People are signing up. Thanks to everyone who is helping.

A report of the Chili Cook-off was given. See the results elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have been asked to serve the Community Meal at Good Shepherd in May. This meal is held on the 4th Monday of each month. We decided we can't do it in May, but we'll request a different month.

Committee Reports:

Education: The Taco supper will be held on February 28. Our outdoor activities have been cancelled this winter because of lack of snow.

Missions: The Art Silent Auction will begin on Sunday, February 25th and run for one week. UMCOR Sunday will be observed on March 10th.

Trustees: The keys for the Safe Deposit Box have been found! They were in the safe the whole time we have been looking for them! Layne Hanson is renting the room previously known as the Youth Room. We are looking at renting out more rooms to generate income.

Worship: The group is planning for Lent and Easter. See their minutes.

Hospitality: There will be a Birthday Potluck on the first Sunday in May. See complete minutes.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 20th @ 8:00 pm.

Trustees Meeting

February 13, 2024

Present: Pastor Erika, Aaron Hanson, Pete Gilman, Dale Gudgeon, Jack Deter, Phyllis Kalnins

Pastor Erika opened the meeting with a prayer.

We are working through a learning curve as we try to see what has to be done without a custodian. Cleaning supplies will be purchased from Walmart. We have dropped the laundry service for used rags. This can be restarted at any time, if needed. We will also need to find a system for battery replacement so that the microphones do not go dead during the service.

Bills were the following:

Snow removal

Dec. \$357.50 for 1 plowing and 2 salt applications

Jan. \$355.00 for 3 plowings and 2 salt applications

Kevin Frederickson's bill for shoveling was about \$600.00 which has been paid.

The Ad council is exploring ways to generate funds for the church. It was decided that renting some of the unused rooms might be beneficial. Layne Hanson has rented the pool room. The pool table will need to be moved, probably to the old choir room. The old choir room needs to be cleaned out and organized.

The sign-up for housekeeping duties is going well. We are asking church members to please help by doing thing that you think need to be done or, if you are not able to do the task, please let the office know so that we can have someone else do it. Several church members have volunteered to regularly do the following: Cavan will change the parameters and maintain the audio system. Barb and Kathy will put water in the piano's humidifier. Phyllis will do the communion set-up. The liturgist will take the offering to the office with another selected person. The choir will maintain the choir loft.

We have an old vacuum with attachments that needs to be discarded.

Our safe deposit box at the bank can not longer be accessed. The Ad Council approved the \$300.00 needed to have a locksmith drill open the box. Jerry Schroder and Aaron Hanson will have this done.

The SPRC chair and the Chair of the Trustees will do their annual walk-through of the parsonage on Thursday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m.

The garage door at the parsonage still needs to be repaired. The repair will cost about \$400.00, although we do not have an estimate yet. This is a shared expense with the other churches.

We need to be careful when unlocking the elevator door. If you need to do this, ask someone to show you how before you attempt to do it yourself.

Hospitality Committee

February 15, 2024

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Kathy.

The Homebound list was reviewed. We just lost Veryl Gerdl. We'll add Ken Tucker to our list as long as he is in the nursing home.

Avis reported on the cards she sends.

Pastor Erika and Barb told about their positive visit and communion time with the folks at Maplewood. They will go to Vernon Manor next.

Barb will investigate what we need to do to provide taxi cab rides to church for some of our members.

We will plan a Birthday potluck to be held in May. Folks will sign up to decorate tables for each month. People sit at their birthday table for the meal. This potluck will be held on May 5th. We'll have birthday cake for dessert.

We discussed what to do for our homebound folks at Easter time. Kathy has an idea she will show to folks for approval. We'll put them together at our next meeting.

We put together our basket for the Chili Cook-off. We ended up with a nice collection of recipes.

Our next meeting is on March 21st @ 1:00 pm.

Worship Committee

February 1, 2024

Members Present: Pastor Erika, Barb Casper, Cavan Fang, Kathy Hanson, Jolene Gudgeon, Phyllis Kalnins, Avis Marino

Pastor Erika opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotional booklets will be distributed on February 11. Also the coin banks for those who would like to participate.

Lenten services listed at the time of this meeting. Some churches still undecided.

2/14 Ash Wednesday 1 p.m. Viroqua UMC 6 p.m. Westby UMC

2/21 Immanuel Lutheran 5 p.m. Meal to follow service.

2/28 Viroqua UMC 4:30 p.m. Taco Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten service.

A Bible study beginning February 20 will be held on Tuesdays 12-1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch.

Forms for Easter Lilies will be in the newsletter and bulletins.

Palm Sunday service 3/24 will feature a parade of palms outside, weather allowing, and in the sanctuary as the service begins.

Maundy Thursday service 3/28 will be held at VUMC. Time to be announced.

Good Friday service 3/29 will be held at VUMC at 1 p.m.

Sunrise service 3/31 will be held at 7 a.m. There will be a play featuring actors of all ages. Rehearsals will begin last week of February.

This committee will furnish a basket for the chili cook-off fundraiser.

There will be a program and potluck honoring Peace Corp members on April 14.

Discussion was held on job sharing of janitorial duties.

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2024.



Finance Committee

February 21, 2024

Members Present: Kathy Hanson, Gregory Cheever (Treasurer), Aaron Hanson, Layne Hanson, Cavan Fang, Phyllis Kalnins, Pastor Ericka Martinez-Flores, Heidi Garret, Dan Brown (Chair); Absent, Gregg Roberts (Secretary)

Opening Prayer (Pastor Ericka)

Joys and Concerns (Pastor Ericka)



Secretary's Report: (Gregg Roberts absent, no report provided)

Treasurer's report (Gregory Cheever): January's offering were unusually low. Current activity suggests an annual deficit of \$30,450.32. Suggestions to balance the budget include: reducing radio expense, housekeeping expense reduction, cut apportionments, staff salary.

Cavan Fang: Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as given, Second by Phyllis Kalnins, Motion carried.

Fundraising (Kathy Hanson): Chili Cook off report—Attendance was down, total net revenue down at least \$1000 compared to last year though we had one less church. Gross revenue this year was \$2499.

Summer fundraising idea: Rib cook off with other churches (Heidi)

April 7th, Special Finance Committee Budget Meeting potluck at 12 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM

Viroqua UMC January /February Giving

Thank you to those who keep up their giving. This is so much appreciated, as we do our best to continue God's work.

The amount needed each week to meet our 2023 Budget is \$2,952.

January 28	\$1,736.08
February 4	\$2,754.05
February 11	\$9,058.11

Education Committee

February 5, 2024

Present: Kathy, Janette, Joann, and Heidi

Old Business:

Once a Month Wednesdays: Our next OMW is in two days. Pastor Erkia has a craft activity planned for the evening. As it gets closer to summer, we will discuss continuing OMW through the Summer. The March OMW will be on Tuesday, March 6th because of Lenten services on Wednesday.

Safe Sanctuary Policy: Heidi spoke with Phyllis about who needs to get background checks performed. It was decided that since all activities have multiple adults present, background checks were not necessary at this time. If in the future, there are not always many adults present, we will need to run background checks at that time.

Youth Winter Activities: Youth Movie Night was a fun time. The kids enjoyed the movie. Living Waters Winter Fun Days will most likely have to be canceled due to no snow. Whitetail Ridge Snow Tubing is scheduled for Feb 24th, more than 2 weeks away. The weather may turn to be more seasonal by that time. Whitetail Ridge does make their own snow, so as long as it is cold, this should be able to go on as scheduled.

Taco Supper: The Taco Supper will be held on Wednesday February 28th @ 4:30 PM. Prep and decorating will take place the night before on Tuesday February 27th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for workers as well as donations. It was decided that we would raise the suggested offering to \$10/person. We are also hoping that Gregg can get a QR Code that we can have next to the offering basket so that people can pay with their phones. Parents of youth are needed to help prep & serve the day of the supper. Youth are needed to decorate and help during the supper.

2023 Scholarship: Grant Hanson was our 2023 scholarship recipient. He recently submitted his enrollment verification and the funds will be distributed to him soon.

New Business:

Easter Program: The Worship Committee is working on a drama production for Sunrise Service on Easter morning. There will be adults and youth participating in it. More information will be shared as we know more. Worship Committee is tentatively planning 4 rehearsals prior to Sunrise Service.

Lenten Activities for the Kids: There will be "fun" offering sheets given out at the beginning of Lent for youth to participate in. If youth want a small box to put their offering in, there will be some available. We are also counting the Taco Supper as a youth activity.

Chili Cook Off Basket: Each committee is asked to bring a basket for the Chinese Raffle that will be held during the Chili Cook Off. Our committee decided to get a \$25 movie gift certificate. The motion was made by J. Hanson, and seconded by K. Hanson to use Education Committee funds to purchase the gift certificate. Motion passed unanimously.

2024 Scholarship: A motion was made by J. Hornby, and seconded by K. Hanson, to reduce the scholarship amount to \$250 this year. Motion passed unanimously.

Summer Camp: 2024 Summer Camp information has arrived at the Church Office. A poster will be hung on the bulletin board. Any church youth who wish to attend camp has the opportunity to apply for a "Campership" to help offset the cost of attendance. Inquire at the Church Office for more info, or visit the website.

Our next meeting date was set for Monday March 11th @ 6:00 PM

Missions Update

The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, April 7, at 11:45am.

Thank you to all of the artists who have contributed to our silent auction of art. This annual event helps to raise money for our missionary Temba in Zambia. The silent auction runs from Sunday, February 25, through Sunday, March 3. Artwork is displayed with bidding sheets in the narthex. Get your final bids in by 11:45AM on Sunday, March 3, and good luck!

This year, UMCOR Sunday will be observed on Sunday, March 10. We observe this special Sunday every year on the 4th Sunday of Lent. "UMCOR" stands for the "United Methodist Committee on Relief". UMCOR is our church's relief agency, similar to the Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

UMCOR Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business," making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

Offerings given on UMCOR Sunday help to keep our denomination's relief agency strong. Please mark your donations "UMCOR Sunday" and send them to our church office, or use the envelope provided in the bulletins on March 10.

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

February 14, 2024

The United Women of Faith met in the church lounge with the following members present: Barb Casper, Ann Carlow, Ardith Olson, Phyllis Kalnins, Joanne Hornby and Janet Welch.

President Janet Welch opened with a meditation from Guideposts "Morning With Jesus 2024".

The Treasurer's report was read with a balance of \$2,340.51.

The Secretary's report was not read since the last meeting was in November. December was a dinner at Borgen's and January was cancelled because of weather.

Child Fund for February is Hester Nelson and March is Barb Casper.

Cookies and coffee for church in February: 2-4-24 Janet Welch, 2-11-24 Barb Casper, 2-18-24 Joanne Hornby and 2-25-24 Phyllis Kalnins. March will be served by Hospitality III.

Our group is donating a basket of waffle fixings for the chili supper event. President Janet is getting changes ready for a new handbook.

The membership form for 2024 was inadvertently not sent to the District Office so we have not received any mailings for 2024. Janet will contact the district.

Ardith served cookies for snacks. Joanne will serve in March.



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Deuteronomy 31: 8

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly
for our congregation and friends. *We welcome you
with open hearts, open minds and open doors.*

VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTOR

REV. ERIKA MARTINEZ-FLORES

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Check Us Out On Facebook!

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Worship—10:30 am

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am

**Broadcast on
WVRQ 1360 AM/107.3 FM or on
Facebook Live**



Viroqua United Methodist Church's Mission Statement

The Viroqua United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of carrying out Christ's Great Commission by enabling all who come to personally know the joy of God's love and forgiveness and to lovingly share this joy in the fellowship of the church and in reaching people throughout the world.

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.

John Wesley

