

# THE CROSS & THE FLAME



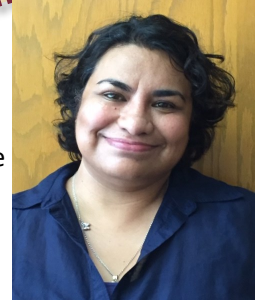
**Viroqua  
United Methodist  
Church  
221 S. Center Ave**

**MAY 2024**

## **Plan to Rebuild**

“By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire.”

Nehemiah 2.13



The story of Nehemiah may not be one of the best known in the Bible, but it is a great story. It's about a man who loved his God, and his people. Nehemiah courageously spoke the truth, stood firm in the face of opposition, and faithfully carried out an incredible task!

While the book of Nehemiah offers us extremely pragmatic lessons regarding sound leadership principles, God remains clearly visible from the beginning. Before doing anything, Nehemiah always prayed. Every step he took, Nehemiah sought the Lord's direction.

Nehemiah, who is cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Babylon, learns how devastated the city of Jerusalem is. So, he has in his heart the desire to go to the city and do what is necessary to rebuild the city. Nehemiah is able to recognize both the problem and the solution, even though he had never been to Jerusalem. He has an incredible vision of what he wants and what he expects.

What is also incredible is that the town only needed 52 days to rebuild the city wall that had been in ruins for over 120 years! They were able to do it thanks to his determination, but also to the leadership and the clear planning that they had to follow. Nehemiah took the time necessary, so that he and his people were ready.

1. **HE IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM** – the first thing Nehemiah did was inquire about the situation of the Jews, and the wall around Jerusalem. When he found out that the wall was still in ruins, and that the name of God was being mocked, he identified with the feelings of the people, with their needs, and committed himself to the cause. The people's problem became his problem.
2. **SPENT TIME IN PRAYER** – Almost immediately, Nehemiah got on his knees to pray. After praying, he asked God for the favor. Without a doubt, he received the vision and the plan to rebuild the wall during his times of communion with God.
3. **APPROACH THOSE OF GREAT INFLUENCE** – In any leadership endeavor, people of influence “can make or break” the entire project. In this case, it was the Persian king Artaxerxes. Nehemiah received from him not only permission to rebuild the wall, but also the necessary resources and support. No doubt, Nehemiah also chose key people to go with him.
4. **EVALUATED THE SITUATION** – When Nehemiah finally arrived in Jerusalem, he inspected for himself the challenge he was facing. He did it quietly, at night, personally inspecting the damage, and planning the project without interference from anyone.
5. **HE MET WITH THE PEOPLE AND PRESENTED THE VISION** – he spoke with the people, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the people who did the work. He described to them his vision of rebuilding the wall, and the spiritual ramifications of the project.
6. **HE ENCOURAGED THEM WITH PAST SUCCESSES** – With such a daunting task as rebuilding the wall, Nehemiah knew he needed to encourage the people. So, he told them the great help which God had given him, and what the king had told him.

(Continued →)

7. HE RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE – Once Nehemiah presented his plan, the people committed to being part of the reconstruction process. Each and every one committed to doing their part and without fear, they prepared to work for the good of all.

Once Nehemiah saw the need of his people and the devastation of the city, he could not be calm and live his life indifferently, so he sought to be aware of the situation and prayed to God. While Nehemiah waited for God's response, which took 4 months to arrive, he dedicated himself to designing a plan to be ready when God gave him his answer.

Nothing Nehemiah did was improvised, he had a clear vision and concrete objectives of what he needed to do and each step to take in order to rebuild the city walls. It is true that obstacles were presented during the process and during the reconstruction, but Nehemiah always turned to God in prayer, in addition to always keeping the objective in mind and relying on the people.

At this critical moment, God calls us to be part of the process of reconstruction and renewal of our church. For this we must have a clear and well-defined purpose of what we want for our future. The Book of Nehemiah teaches us about the type of leadership necessary and about the planning and rebuilding process we should consider to be the Church we have been called to be.

Pastor Erika

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Letter.....	page 1-2
Birthdays/Anniversary .....	page 2
Looking Back at April .....	page 3-4
Looking Ahead at May .....	pages 5-8
Committee Reports.....	pages 9-11
May Calendar.....	Insert

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Cole Donner	May 3rd
Ramona Abbey	May 4th
Huxley Brown	May 4th
Kathy Porter	May 8th
Hester Nelson	May 10th
Mary Ann Wheeler	May 12th
Marlo Volden	May 13th
Grant Hanson	May 14th
John Huschka	May 20th
Janet Aasen	May 24th

*God's Blessings on You!*

## MAY ANNIVERSARY

Rachel & Charles Turben      May 27th



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





Easter Play



Indoor Yard Sale



How many Methodists does it take?

***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.

***Long Range Objective***  
***Viroqua UMC***

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



# Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Event

Our congregation recently honored Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) living in the Viroqua area. Nineteen with Peace Corps experience were present and, when combined with their guests and those assisting with the event (Pastor Erika, Kristen Parrot, Cavan Fang, Mary and Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp) twenty-nine people attended. They appreciated the opportunity to have a potluck in the fellowship hall as they shared stories and displayed artifacts from their experience. The following morning, April 14, the worship service included several aspects related to service and international themes, including a brief summary of her experience by Elizabeth Roberts and slides presented by Gregg Roberts. Other RPCVs present at the service introduced themselves and stated the years and location they served.



**Zoe**  
 Thank you for your prayers and concern for my 7 year old great granddaughter, Zoe. She is recovering nicely from her surgery. She continues chemo treatments and soon they want to do radium treatments on her jaw to be sure that there are no cancer cells remaining. This will continue through the summer, so she still needs our prayers.  
 Thanks again, Janet Welch

**Viroqua UMC**  
**March / April 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.

March 24	\$1,118.74
March 31	\$3,848.93
April 7	\$1,986.98
April 14	\$1,384.44

# ONCE-A-MONTH WEDNESDAY

May 1st @ 5:30 pm!

**Special Guest Speaker  
Carolyn Dressler  
Volunteers in Mission**



## *May Sunday Servants*

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeter	Screen Operator	Communion Stewards
<b>May 5</b>	Joanne Hornby	Cavan Fang Jerry Brenneman	Alice Sloane		Phyllis Kalnins Marlo Volden
<b>May 12</b>	Gregory Cheever	Angie & Aaron Hanson	Betty Ross	Grady Hanson	
<b>May 19</b>	Jack Deters	Joanne Hornby Cavan Fang	Dale Gudgeon		
<b>May 26</b>	Cavan Fang	Marlo Volden Jerry Brenneman	Avis Marino		

## *Birthday Potluck*

Don't forget our Birthday Potluck next Sunday, May 5th!  
Tables will be decorated—one for each month of the year.



If you'd like to help with decorating tables, sign up in the Narthex today and join us on Saturday morning, May 4th, at 10:00 to make the magic happen.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and will sit at their birthday table. A short program will celebrate our uniqueness as children of God.

## Book Group

The Book Group has chosen *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James Mc Bride for our next read. This best selling book contains themes of race, discrimination, and the power of unity. We welcome everyone to join us. Our next discussion will be on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Community Meal

A Community Meal is served on the fourth Monday of every month from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Folks from the GS church began this meal as a community project. Our church served the meal last year in June and we are planning to serve again this coming June.

Everyone is invited to attend the meal. Take the opportunity to get out and eat with others—your community.

We will be asking for help with the meal on June 24th. We will need menu planners, cooks, people to transport the food, and servers. Think about it and be ready to sign up when asked.

## VERNON COUNTY OVER 50

Monday & Wednesday 1-1:45 pm Tai Chi

Wednesdays Lunch & Learn

12:15 Lunch, 1 pm Tai Chi, 2:15 pm Speaker

**All meetings, except 4/24, take place at Bethel Home's Fellowship Hall 614 S. Rock Ave. Viroqua. Watch for yard signs.**

**All speaker presentations are available live, via Zoom, at the Ontario, Readstown & Viola Public Libraries on Wednesdays at 2:15.**

**Activities are "free will donation". For questions, leave a message for Kay @ 262-384-0082 or email [over50lunch@yahoo.com](mailto:over50lunch@yahoo.com)**

May 1 Come attend the ADRC Senior Fair at Vernon Co. Fairgrounds 10 am-2 pm.

May 8 Trout Fishing the Driftless with Tina Murray of Westfork Sportsmans Club

May 15 No speaker today. Enjoy a day of rest!

May 22 **Intentional Living at End of Life** with Kristen Hillman, End of Life Doula. Takes place at McIntosh Memorial Library in Viroqua.

May 29 **Viroqua Summer Happenings** by Chris Clemens of Viroqua Chamber Main St.

**RSVP-Call Bethel Homes Kitchen 608-637-6320 to reserve lunch by Monday prior to event. Mention "Over 50". \$5 per meal.**

## Institute of Congregational Development (ICD)

Pastor Erika and Kathy Hanson attended this month's session of the ICD on April 23 and 24 in Sun Prairie. The topic was *Visioning* and the Speaker was Brad Kalajainen. He shared many practical and helpful insights he had learned while planting and growing a church in Michigan to 2,500 members.

- We learned the importance of having a clear and focused vision for our church accompanied by a plan to achieve it. Pastor Erika and Kathy will be sharing more details from the session on Monday night, April 29th at 6:00 pm. The meeting will last 1 hour and include a light meal.

## Lawn Mowing

**Spring is here and the grass is growing!** It was decided at Administrative Council that we will ask members of the congregation to take turns at the mowing. The church owns a self-propelled lawn mower and it has been tuned up and will be ready to go!

Gregory Cheever offered to mow for the month of May. Others may do it for a month or for a shorter time—whatever works best. There will be a sign up sheet. The mowing should be done on Fridays if possible.

**Open Doors Forum (a series of occasional community conversations) presents ...**

## It Ain't Easy Being Green

This lively presentation on the topic of plastic pollution will begin with a brief "Plastic 101". Then we'll test our detective skills in an interactive game of investigating everyday products to decide if they are truly sustainable. Viroqua Plastic Free is presenting this program.

**Wednesday, May 29, at 7PM**



**Everyone is welcome.**  
Program will be held in the dining hall  
of the Viroqua United Methodist  
Church

221 S. Center Ave., Viroqua  
(near the Viroqua Post Office)

*enter through the double doors facing  
Center Ave.*



**Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors**

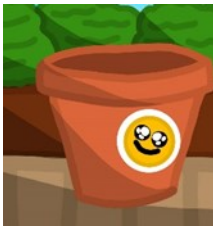
Building is handicapped-accessible, with an elevator located at  
the northwest corner, just off the parking lot

Views presented are not necessarily those of the Viroqua United Methodist Church.  
608-637-3551 [viroquawestbyumc.org/Viroqua](http://viroquawestbyumc.org/Viroqua)

## Flowerpot Workshop

May 9

April showers always bring May flowers 🌸 and now you can be ready to have beautiful flowers 🌸 in beautiful pots. Join us on Thursday, May 9th at 5pm for a creative craft workshop and light meal. We will be decorating Terra cotta pots in 2 ways: painting or using printed napkins to adhere a design to the pot. Bring your own pot (please clean off all debris and it must be dry) or they will be available for a nominal cost. If you have a printed paper napkin you love and want to use that design on your pot, please bring 2 napkins. Happy birthday napkins change a simple pot into a great birthday gift with or without flowers. Please RSVP to Verna Drake (608-632-4100) by May 6th. 🌸



105 S. Holly Avenue, Elk Mound, WI 54739  
ironcreektrinity.org | secretary.trinityumc@gmail.com | 715-879-5596

April 8, 2024

Viroqua United Methodist Church  
c/o Kristen Parrott  
1020 Defreese St.  
Viroqua, WI 54665-1830

Hello Kristen Parrott and All at Viroqua UMC!

This is to verify that I have received the completed Rainbow Covenant form for Viroqua UMC. Thank you for your church's leadership in supporting missions on every level! Wow - the missional heart of Viroqua UMC is inspiring, and I am quite sure that John Wesley would be proud of how Viroqua UMC continues to tend to these important Means of Grace! Well done!

In Christ,

Rev. Joel Certa-Werner

P.S. I am delighted to be the new coordinator of the Rainbow Covenant for the WI Conference!

## Developing Deeper Friendships

### May Online Studies



Friendships – Relationships – Community. God created us to be in community with each other **and** with Him. We see this desire throughout the stories within the Bible and we see it around us today. However, due to the recent isolation caused by a global pandemic, our society is more isolated and fragmented than ever! That time of isolation has led to an epidemic of loneliness and a mental health crisis around the world. It has revealed the importance of being connected with people and the God who loves us, yet often we do not enjoy these connections like we could or as God intended.

We invite you to join us in our May Online Bible Studies as we are inspired, challenged, and offered practical wisdom about developing and maintaining deeper and more meaningful friendships. We will also look at what it means to be a friend of Jesus, taking a glimpse at the privileges and responsibilities that come with such a relationship! Use the links below to join the studies and come along with us as we grow in our relationships with each other and with Jesus!

**21 Days to Sweeter Friendships – starting May 1<sup>st</sup>**

<https://bible.com/p/66196602/f6864af7c3f9e55d645820e53e687af7>

**Friendship With Jesus – starting May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

<https://bible.com/p/66196630/a5304f9526189411f6336459f3a0eec6>



# Administrative Council

April 17, 2024



Members Present: Gregory Cheever, Phyllis Kalnins, Kristen Parrott, Cavan Fang, Aaron Hanson, Gregg Roberts, Barb Casper, Kathy Hanson, Pastor Erika.

Kathy opened the meeting by asking these three questions for reflection: Why do people need Christ? Why do people need the church? Why do people need this particular church?

Pastor Erika and Kathy will be attending the Institute of Congregational Development (ICD) in Sun Prairie next week.

The Indoor Yard Sale will begin tomorrow.

Carolyn Hornby Dressler (Joanne's sister) will be here on May 1<sup>st</sup> for our Once-a-Month Wednesday. She will tell us about her week spent with Volunteers in Mission (VIM) in Illinois at the Mission Distribution Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Birthday Potluck will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and our church serves the Community Dinner on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Committee Reports:

**Worship Committee:** The Peace Corps dinner on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and the next Sunday morning presentation by the Roberts' were well received. Looking back at Lent, the committee hopes that the ecumenical services can be better organized next year. The Easter morning play was excellent. We thank Cavan for writing and directing it.

**Trustees:** The committee has not met for the past two months. The elevator was repaired, as was the electric meter at the parsonage. The Council was asked their opinion about resurfacing the parking lot this summer, and we decided to wait one more year. The Council also discussed mowing the lawn this season. We will ask volunteers to take turns doing the mowing. Gregory volunteered to mow in May. Aaron will have the lawn mower tuned up. It was suggested that we schedule a work day to get extra jobs done.

**Missions:** The committee helped with the Peace Corps dinner. Kristen has completed the paperwork indicating that we have completed the requirements of the Rainbow Covenant. The committee will conduct a bake sale for Temba at the Indoor Yard Sale. This coming Sunday is Native American Ministry Sunday. A special offering will be taken. Collections will be taken in May for the In Gathering hygiene kits. Kristen is pursuing scheduling a program on creating a more Plastic free environment.

**Education:** Once-a-Month Wednesday will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> with Carolyn Dressler as speaker. The OMWs will not be held during the summer months. We will have VBS.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 15 @ 8:00 pm.

# Finance Committee

April 17, 2024, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Gregory Cheever, Phyllis Kalnins, Kristen Parrott, Cavan Fang, Aaron Hanson, Gregg Roberts, Kathy Hanson, Pastor Erika.

The meeting was led by Gregory Cheever in the absence of Dan.

The Financial Secretary's Report was given.

The Treasurer's report was followed by discussion regarding how much we are overspending our income and what to do about it. There are no easy answers.

Aaron made a motion to approve both reports. Phyllis seconded. The reports were accepted.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 15 @ 7:00 pm.

Minutes by Kathy Hanson



## Worship Committee

April 4, 2024

Those present were Avis Marino, Kathy Hanson, Pastor Erika, Phyllis Kalnins, Cavan Fang, Barb Casper and Chuck Mulvaney-Kemp.

Pastor Erika opened with a prayer.

Chuck gave us an update/overview regarding the Peace Corps recognition service (4-14-24) and dinner (4-13-24). We hope this goes well and is something that we can build upon in years to come as an outreach into our community.

We reviewed Lent. Some thought that they would have liked to see each of the different churches use the same format for all the meals before or after the services. Otherwise it was a very good Lent and Easter celebration.

April 7<sup>th</sup> Pastor Erika will be on vacation, Tim Gaskell will speak and there will be no communion.

We thanked Cavan for all of his time, energy, dedication and talent he shared for the Sunrise pageant. It was fantastic and hope that we can use these things as another outreach into our community.

The choir is scheduled to sing on 4-14, & 4-21, a solo by Marcia Dooley on 4-28, 5-5, 5-12, and 5-19. The summer schedule is yet to be determined. The choir has been asked to sing for Veryl Gerdl's funeral on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>.

We talked about ways to solve the problem of the organ music light shining out into the sanctuary. We will check on repairing the light that is built into the music rack of the organ so that we don't need to use the extra lamp.

We are supposed to be thinking about long term planning for growing our church and giving it its own unique identity. Some of the suggestions are to revive the clown crew, put together a musical group, and do more pageants. These are all things that could be expanded on and done in our church, other churches, nursing homes, assisted living homes, and at community events. Also to free up more time for Pastor Erika

Cavan gave us a request from the finance committee about what people think about continuing the Sunday morning radio broadcasts. They are very expensive and a large draw on the churches budget.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 5-2-24 at 6PM

Barb Casper, Chairperson



## Missions Update

The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, June 2, at 11:45AM.

We recently completed and sent in the annual Rainbow Covenant form, which prompts us to support many different mission projects in places of need, both near and far. Rainbows represent God's promise. We delight when a rainbow brightens the horizon after a storm. Our participation in the work of the Rainbow Covenant in Wisconsin brings delight to the hearts and souls of those who are in need of God's promise. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the thank-you letter we received for participating in this covenant.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our bake sale table at the recent church rummage sale. We are grateful for those who baked, those who staffed the table, and those who bought baked goods! Together we raised \$233.50 for our missionary Temba, in Zambia.

We will be creating "personal dignity kits" for the Wisconsin Annual Conference's Ingathering, held in early June. These kits contain basic hygiene items and are distributed locally, nationally, and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. Watch for our table in the narthex during the month of May where we will be collecting contributions toward this project.

The May Mission of the Month is Peace with Justice Ministries. We will celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on May 26, the first Sunday after Pentecost. United Methodists seek peaceful solutions, create and support peace-related ministries, and learn about peaceful, just efforts around the world. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. Half of the funds collected from this Special Sunday offering remain in Wisconsin to strengthen social justice ministries in our state. The other half of the donations fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

The Missions Committee is assisting with the new forum series. The first community conversation will be held on Wednesday, May 29, at 7PM, in our church's fellowship hall. See the poster elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

# Education Committee

April 1, 2024

## Old Business:

**Easter Program:** The Easter program was enjoyed by all. Each of the participants really got into character and the roles were well casted. Our most sincere compliments to the writer of the script & the Director, Cavan. Thank you!

**Once a Month Wednesdays:** We were thinking of continuing our OMW through the Summer because everyone is enjoying them so much! However, when we started to look at our calendars for the Summer months, we quickly realized that we had many scheduling conflicts. May will be our last OMW until we begin again in October. For the May meal, we will have a breakfast meal. We will use up the pancake batter that is in the freezer, so we will not need anyone to sign up.

**2024 Scholarship:** Janette let the school know that our 2024 scholarship recipient is Rachel Diehl. She will be given her award on Awards night which is usually held the first week in May. Janette will present the award at the ceremony.

**Summer Camp:** We do not have any youth signed up for Summer Camp at this time.

## New Business:

**Graduate Recognition:** We have one graduate this year, Mitchell Hanson, who will be graduating from UW-Eau Claire with his BS in Education. We will recognize him on June 2nd during church service and present him with a devotional book.

**Sundae Sunday:** Since we have moved to the Once a Month Wednesday format for Sunday School, we do not have the normal Sunday School calendar or schedule, and not the typical Sundae Sunday occasion. We are considering having ice cream after church service one day in May. More details and discussion on this next month.

**Community Meal:** The community meal at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be handled by the congregation as a whole, not solely by the youth. Ad Council will be setting up a committee to handle this occasion. The youth will be strongly encouraged to participate and help with setup, prep, serving, and cleanup.

**Spring/Summer Activities:** Summer activities are still in the planning stages. Right now, we have the Community Meal planned for youth participation in June. July or August we will plan a picnic. More details to be worked out at our next meeting.

**Vacation Bible School:** The Ministerial Association asked us to participate in a multi-congregation Vacation Bible School this Summer to be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, as a 3 day event, sometime in July. Erika will get more information and details next time they meet. We do not have enough information at this time to make a decision, and we would also like to get Westby's input. In our traditional rotation with Westby & VBS, it would be Viroqua's turn to host VBS this year. We will invite Jane to our next Education Committee meeting.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held Monday May 6th @ 6:00 PM.

# UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

April 10, 2024

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

President Janet read "Life Signature" by Edward Grinnan.

The treasurer reported that we had a balance of \$2,372.52 in our treasury. She needed to send checks for Northcott House and the Legacy Fund which had been voted on in our March meeting.

Ardith Olson has the April Child Fund and Pat Matz has the May payment.

President Janet thanked Barb for printing and assembling the new Program Handbooks.

Hospitality II is serving cookies for church coffee in April and Hospitality I will serve in May.

Joanne gave the program "Who Do You Say That I Am?" We listed the many different names of Jesus, then each person gave her name and what it meant and how it fit in her family.

Betty served snacks for our meeting in April and Ann will serve in May.



*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**

(608) - 637-7614 — Parsonage  
encadenada100@hotmail.com

**CHURCH OFFICE**

221 S. Center Ave.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone: 608-637-3551

Email: [viroqua@viroquawestbyumc.org](mailto:viroqua@viroquawestbyumc.org)

Website: [www.viroquawestbyumc.org](http://www.viroquawestbyumc.org)

Office Staff: Kathy Hanson/Barb Casper

**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

