



*Our calling is to reach all people
with the life-changing power of
God's Love and Grace available to
all through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

The Westby United Methodist Church
welcomes **everyone** with open arms and open
hearts as indicated in Romans 15:7 (NIV):
*Accept one another, then, just as Christ
accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*



Westby United
Methodist Church
July 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

An Introduction from Our New Pastor, Paul Lee

I am so glad to introduce myself and my family to brothers and sisters in Christ.

My name is Paul Lee, my wife is Sunwoo, my son is Soho, and my daughter is Sua.

My wife and I were born in south Korea, my son was born in Hawaii, and my daughter was born in Evanston, Illinois.

I was born in Seoul, South Korea, and grew up in South Korea, China and New Zealand. I decided to devote my life to church ministry in New Zealand and then went back to South Korea to study theology. I completed the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Theology degree courses at the Methodist Theological University in South Korea. I started my first ministry in 2008 as the worship director. Then, I experienced many parts of church ministry, such as children's, youth, young adult and senior ministry.

My wife and I came to the United States in 2018. We started our honeymoon in a missionary training school in Kona, Hawaii. I completed a Bible study and teaching course there. Then, I came to Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary to do the M.Div. degree course and to become a UMC pastor.

My Master of Divinity degree course study was completed in June, and I am very excited to serve Viroqua and Westby UMC. I dreamed of doing Methodist ministry, and it is my honor to start the ministry at Viroqua and Westby UMC as a pastor of UMC. I am looking forward to meeting God's people and hope to share God's love and grace with the church family soon.

Pastor Paul

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Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Pastor Paul's schedule will be determined sometime after he arrives.

Pastor Paul will be unavailable July 1-7 to allow time for him and his family to move into the parsonage and begin to become settled.

Contact Information:

Direct Office Phone: 608-638-7627

Parsonage Phone: 608-637-7614

Email: pastor@virouqawestbyumc.org

July Birthdays

July 7 – Adey Oliver

July 19 – Julie Fargen

July 27 – Dusty Oliver



Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Due to the 4th of July being the 1st Thursday of the month, we will not be having a Morning Prayer Group meeting this month. Please continue to flex your prayer muscles daily on your own. Thank you for your prayers for our church ministries and church members.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

This group finished the study of Titus in June, so we'll be starting a new book of the Bible this month. Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, July 25th. We'll have a discussion at this time with Pastor Paul to determine which book to study next. We invite you to join our study and together we grow in knowledge of his Word to strengthen our faith and our commitment.



**Bible
STUDY
Join us!**



Mission of the Month – Stuff the Bus

The Westby Methodist Mission of the month for July is "Stuff The Bus". As usual, we will collect school supply items in early July so that they are ready to deliver before the end of the month. The supplies donated are distributed to families in Vernon County for whom buying school supplies is a financial hardship. With the high level of poverty in the county, any help parents can get during this expensive back-to-school season is very much appreciated. Families who wish to sign up to receive supplies must register by July 21 at <https://form.jotform.com/241295118494158>.

People who wish to make donations of money can also do so one line or make checks out to the church with Stuff the Bus on the memo line. Those who wish to donate supplies should bring them to the church before Sunday July 21. We can consult the supply lists for each school in stores to get suggestions of what supplies are needed. Be aware of things that may be forbidden at certain schools such as gel pens, or certain kinds of glues or paints that are known to be problematic. Backpacks are especially welcomed, and there is always a big need for standard items such as #2 pencils, spiral notebooks, folders, rulers, erasers, calculators, scissors and Crayola crayons (but not Dollar-Store crayons). If you bring the items to the church before the deadline, we will see that they are delivered. We need to make an appointment to deliver supplies directly to the place they will be stored for distribution by contacting Maggie Strittmater at m.strittmater@wrlsweb.org or by calling 608-637-7151 ext. 7.

Growing in Faith Study Group

With the concern about growing our church and finding ways to reach out to the community, this study group will be doing a study, "Untapped: Discover the God-Size Potential of Your Small Church". This study is from the Small Church Ministry website, and we'll be discussing session 4 this month. We will meet at 6:00 PM on July 17th. Please come and join the discussion and hopefully we'll be inspired to increase our impact as individuals and grow in unity through these studies.



July Online Studies – God's Refreshing Fruit Salad

There's nothing like a refreshing fruit salad on a hot summer day! This delightful dish is not only pleasing to the eyes, but it refreshes the body and spirit with its melody of flavors and tasty juices. Similarly, God has prepared a fruit salad for you, one that not only refreshes your body and spirit, but it energizes the people and community around you! If you haven't guessed, we're talking about the Fruit of the Spirit which just happens to be the focus for our July online Bible study series! We invite you to join us as we dive into Biblical truths and encouraging stories about how the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our lives. Together, we will reflect on what it means to abide in Christ as the Vine and watch as the fruit of the Spirit bloom into our lives.

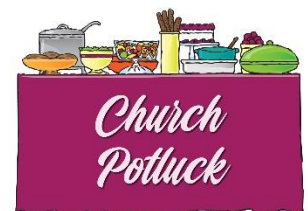
This Bible study series features two studies that will refresh your body and spirit as you learn more about the Fruits of the Spirit. Use the links below and join us on the vine!

- Sprout: 21 Days for the Fruit of the Spirit to Bloom in Your Life (Beginning July 1)
 - <https://bible.com/p/67254207/68bf9cbf43091ff3fcc64ecd45d4a064>
- The Fruit of the Spirit by Rick Renner (Beginning July 22)
 - <https://bible.com/p/67254261/06a381308fb1af3135c4493578f04be2>

These online studies and more can be accessed through the Bible App or [bible.com](https://www.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.

Potluck – July 14 @ Viroqua UMC

A potluck to welcome Pastor Paul and his family will be held at Viroqua UMC, around 11:45 AM, following Viroqua's worship service. There will be a few words of welcome and a time of fellowship. Everyone from both churches are welcomed to attend this event.



Burgers in the Park – July 18



On July 18th, our church is the sponsor for *Burgers in the Park* from 4:30-7:00 PM. *Burgers in the Park* is always on Thursday evenings and was started by Pastor Gary Daines back in the 1990's. Every *Burgers in the Park* has a sponsor who is a non-profit and supplies workers, salads, and desserts. This will be our second time sponsoring this event with the goal of outreach into our community and netting a profit of \$250-\$400. The event can have up to 200 people in attendance, but it is up to us. How you say? We need to promote the event and hopefully bring in the number of people needed to make it a success. The city will advertise in the paper and Viroqua radio station. We advertise all the other ways we can think of plus invite by word of mouth.

Dean Olson, a friend of Verna's, has agreed to play his guitar and sing that evening for entertainment. We will also need workers for that evening, and people to make salads and desserts. There are many ways for our entire church family, children included, to help. This will be an excellent way for Pastor Paul and our community to meet each other. Be watching for a sign-up sheet at church, we will need salads and bars to feed 150, plus at least 5 workers per shift. Thank you for helping our church outreach into our community.

Joint Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck – July 21

This year, the Joint Outdoor Worship Service for Viroqua UMC and Westby UMC will be held at Davidson Park in Westby. The service will be on Sunday, July 21 at 10:00 AM. Following the service, there will be a potluck meal. We can use this time to welcome Pastor Paul and his family to our communities.



Please bring a lawn chair to use during the service. For the potluck, please bring a dish to share, serving utensils for the dish and your own eating utensils and plate. Coffee and lemonade will be provided, along with drinking cups and napkins.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this joint outdoor gathering.

Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ☩ June 12, 2024

Present: Pastor Erika, Julie Fargen, Ardith Hoff, Jean Shore, Kelly Bjornstad and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Pastor Erika opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the June newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Jean Shore and Julie Fargen motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for May. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Ardith Hoff and Julie Fargen motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- ✚ VBS Planning – Update – Pastor Erika has an outline and some ideas for VBS that she will share with Jane Gaskell and Heidi Garrett, from Viroqua UMC, before she leaves.
- ✚ West Entrance Modification – Update (Verna has left 2 phone messages for Ron Bjerkos (B&W Construction) about approach to automatic door. He knows there is a board meeting on the 12th and I wanted something from him, but nothing as of yet.) Verna Drake received a voicemail from Ron on June 13th with the following information: Ron said he is spinning his wheels in mud and if by God's grace he will get to us at some time.

New Business:

- ✚ Guest Speakers – June 30 & July 7 – Cavan Fang will be the guest speaker on June 30 and Tim Gaskell will be the guest speaker for July 7. If needed, Ardith Hoff can be a backup speaker for July 7.
- ✚ Create Updated Directory for Pastor Paul (with pictures?) – Linda Weilnau will work to get updated pictures of everyone and send the updated information to Pastor Paul via email. It was decided to wear name tags in July to help Pastor Paul learn our names.
- ✚ Joint Outdoor Worship on July 21- This will be at Davidson Park in Westby. The service will begin at 10:00 AM, followed by a potluck. Pastor Erika suggested that we have a simple service and ask Pastor Paul if he'd like us to do something different since it will only be his 2nd Sunday with us.
- ✚ Burgers in the Park – July 18 (Burgers in the Park July 18th we have Dean Olson arranged to play guitar and sing. We will need to decide what salads/bars and then have a sign-up sheet out probably by July 1st.) – It was decided to provide cole slaw, potato salad, watermelon and a variety of bars for this fundraiser.
- ✚ Possible Gathering to Meet Pastor Paul? – It was decided to use the potluck after the Outdoor Worship service as the special gathering since many people from both churches will be there. Linda Weilnau will let Kathy Hanson know about this.
- ✚ Laptop for Church? – Linda Weilnau suggested that the church purchase a laptop which can be used by the pastor when they are at our church, and it can also be used with the projector for showing things in the fellowship hall or even outside. Linda mentioned that the college will be having some used laptops available for sale. The cost is \$200. The laptop is a Dell Latitude 5500 model, is 5 years-old, has an i7 processor, 8 GB of memory and a 512 SSD hard drive. Ardith Hoff motioned to purchase a used laptop for \$200 from Western. Jean Shore seconded the motion. Motion passed. Linda will obtain the tax exemption information from Verna and discuss the details for making this purchase with her.
- ✚ Meals for Pastor Paul and His Family – To welcome Pastor Paul and his family, Verna Drake suggested that we help to provide some food at the parsonage, gift card to Walmart and a gift card to a local restaurant and possibly a restaurant in Westby. Viroqua UMC is providing paper goods and some food. Pastor Erika suggested that we make some meals and drop them off at the parsonage, which will be a good way to introduce ourselves and make the welcome a little more personal than just providing gift cards. Linda Weilnau will email Pastor Paul to find out if they have any food allergies or preferences.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✚ **Trustees** – Kelly Bjornstad reported that he still needs to change some lights in the kitchen.
- ✚ **SPRC** – No report.
- ✚ **Worship** – Pastor Erika said communion will be served during the service on June 23. We should ask Pastor Paul if he wants to serve communion on July 14th. Jane Gaskell will be providing music videos for the worship service on June 23 and 30 since she will be out of town.
- ✚ **Education** – No report.
- ✚ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff said she has written 5 more articles for the website and will send them to Linda Weilnau.

✠ **Missions** – Ardith Hoff reported that the July mission of the month will be Stuff the Bus.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erika said that Cavan Fang will give a short report/summary about Annual Conference on June 30. She will give some of the documentation from the June ICD class to Linda Weilnau so Linda can scan it and send it out via email to everyone.

- Institute of Congregational Development - Scott Carlson said that instead of having Pastor Paul joining the ICD courses in the middle, it will be better for Pastor Paul to attend the sessions next year. This would not cost us anything. They still need to make a final decision about this. The members of our congregations who are currently attending the ICD sessions will continue and finish the courses.
- Pastor Erika will not be able to move until the 1st week of July, because the current pastor in Lancaster will not be moving out of that parsonage until around June 26.
- We need to gather information about Westby UMC and give it to Pastor Paul when he arrives.
- There are potentially 3 confirmation students for next year, 2 from Viroqua (Luke and Henry) and 1 from Westby (Hailey).
- We should contact the newspaper, Vernon Times, about the change of pastors. Linda Weilnau said she will email Angie Cina about this and will copy Viroqua UMC. We should also let the other churches in Westby know about changing pastors.
- We need to contact the local funeral homes and give them Pastor Paul's contact information.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

**** Remember to join us at 3:20 PM each day for being unified in prayer to pray for our church and how we can reach and serve others, while serving God ...**

“God, Give us the courage to dream big dreams. Please open our minds and hearts so we can have new breakthroughs to Your new possibilities. Amen.”

God is able to do much more than we ask or think, through His power working in us.
~ Ephesians 3:20 (NLV)

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	4 <i>Happy Independence Day!</i>	5 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	6
7 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	8 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	12 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	13
14 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship 11:45 AM – Potluck @ Viroqua UMC	15 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing in Faith Study Group	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class 4:30-7:00 PM – Burgers in the Park	19 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	20
21 ☩10:00 AM – Joint Outdoor Worship Service @ Davidson Park 11:00 AM – Potluck after worship	22 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	25 9:00 AM - Morning Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	26 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	27
28 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	29 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	30 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	31 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site			

