

*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  
August 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

## Moving

by Pastor Paul Lee

*And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

– Exodus 13:20-22 –

The main theme of the last month of my life was “Moving.” Since I have moved a lot in my life, I expected that this move would not be difficult. However, as someone said, “Moving is always not happy.” This move was also not easy for my family. I wished to move in the middle of June to settle down well before starting the ministry. But the moving schedule was not set up as I expected. My school did not allow me to extend my stay at the school apartment, so my family was in a situation where we had to move out on June 30th and move into the parsonage on July 3rd. My family was depressed because of the delayed moving date and the worries of moving to a very new place.

While I was disappointed by many issues related to the move, God made me imagine the Hebrews in the wilderness. Hebrews in Exodus can be described as the people of “Moving.” They did not know when or where they would move. They just obeyed God when the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire moved. And every step of their moving, God always prepared their food, drink, and places to stay. I decided not to be worried but just to see how God led my family during the move.

Fortunately, the Annual Conference provided accommodation for three days, so my family did not need to drive long distances at once. God also prepared a great town and community. My family already feels at home in Westby. My son said, “Daddy, I want to live here forever!” Also, my family received a warm welcome from our church families. Many pastors told me that not many churches greet a new pastor like our church. They told me, “Paul, you are blessed because you could start your ministry at great churches.” My heart and soul were full of disappointment and worries when I saw my situation. But, when I started to believe in God and rely on God, my disappointment and worries turned to gratitude and blessing.

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Now, in my life's journey, the pillar of cloud and fire stopped here for a moment. The new chapter of our journey started. I do not know what story God prepared for our church. However, I am sure that God is with us in this new chapter, and the pillar of cloud and fire is with us. Hope we can expect God's work rather than have worries. I hope we can start this new chapter with joy, gratitude, and excitement in God's presence.

Pastor Paul

### Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

- Thursdays (9:00-12:00)
- Anytime by appointment

### Contact Information:

Direct Office Phone: 608-638-7627  
 Cell Phone: 262-393-8416  
 Email: pastor@virouqawestbyumc.org

### August Birthdays

Aug. 1 – Tom Sharratt

Aug. 3 – Adrian Hoff

Aug. 14 – Maranda Oliver



# Let's Pray!

### Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> for our Prayer Group. Prayer is a powerful tool that God gave to us, and He wants us to use it, individually and as a group. Thank you for your continued prayers for our church ministries and church members.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> as we begin a new study. We invite you to join our Bible study group and together we can grow in knowledge of his Word to strengthen our faith and our commitment.

### Bible Study

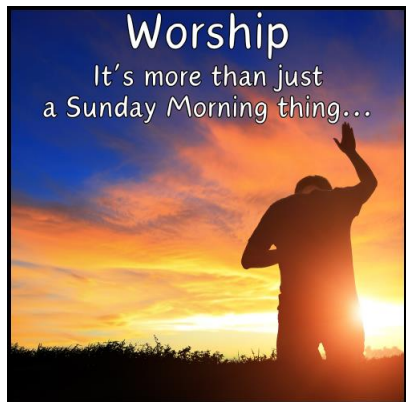


### Mission of the Month – Door of Hope

The Door of Hope (DOH) is a Pregnancy and Family-care Center located at 304 N Washington St, Viroqua, WI 54665. The organization provides a variety of services focusing on helping women, couples and families to better care for their children. While DOH is not able to receive tangible items, of the kinds we used to provide, they do welcome financial donations. This valuable resource, dedicated to protecting the wellbeing of children, deserves our support. You can give to Door of Hope directly, online at <https://www.viroquahope.com/>, or by attending their annual Corn Boil in August (watch for flyers) and through the church by writing Door of Hope on the memo line on your check or by putting money in an envelope with Door of Hope written on the outside. We are grateful for your donations in the past and encourage you to continue supporting this on-going mission.

## Growing in Faith Study Group

During the month of August, we're going to take a break from this study group. We do need to decide what book to read and discuss next or whether we want to study a book of the Bible or see if Pastor Paul has any suggestions. We'll talk about various ideas during the fellowship times in August so we will be ready to start a new topic in September.



## August Online Studies – Worship

Worship. What is worship? Is it going to church once a week on Sunday mornings to sing hymns and listen to our pastor's message? Or is it more? How does God want us to worship Him? Should we worship God beyond Sunday mornings and find ways to worship Him throughout the day, every day?

We'll find the answers to these questions in the online studies that have been selected for this month. Please join us this month as we find ways to incorporate worship into our daily life and make worshipping God a regular activity of our lives.

Here are the links to the studies about worship:

- Everyday Worship – 6 days – begins on Aug. 1
  - <https://bible.com/p/67831519/fc5fa4269b3f6b28d90504c3d1c39b41>
- Living Worship – 7 days – begins on Aug. 7
  - <https://bible.com/p/67831553/9599d67d41a43118af395bd1cf63260b>
- Lifestyle of Worship – 7 days – begins on Aug. 14
  - <https://bible.com/p/67831574/0800a49a67477f753709afa116232b0d>
- Worship Without Walls – 7 days – begins on Aug. 21
  - <https://bible.com/p/67831592/4fb4e1258fcac76448ede64b6bff7b11>

*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](https://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.*

## Vacation Bible School – Aug. 18th

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be on Sunday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. The exact time is yet to be determined, but it will probably be similar to previous years and be for a few hours, starting later in the afternoon. VBS will be held at Viroqua UMC this year.



We will probably need people to help present the lessons, do crafts, help serve the meal and possibly provide additional donations. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jane or Pastor Paul. As more detailed information is available, it will be posted in the Sunday bulletins, the church's website and our church's Facebook page.

## Burgers in the Park Update

Thank you to all who helped make “Burgers in the Park” a great community event for our church to participate in again. Thank you for making delicious salads and bars/cookies. The many hands that came to work, the event was wonderful. Also, a great opportunity for Pastor Paul to acquaint himself with others from Westby.



We did make \$72 in the donation basket and will be reporting what the event profits were as soon as the Chamber of Commerce lets us know the amount. Thank you again to all those who helped make “Burgers in the Park” a success!

## Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ☩ July 10, 2024

**Present:** Verna Drake, Ardith Hoff, Julie Fargen, Tim Gaskell, Jane Gaskell, Jean Shore, Pastor Paul Lee and Linda Weilnau

**Opening:** Pastor Paul opened with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the June newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore 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. Verna indicated the June expenses were a little higher due to the insurance payments being quarterly instead of monthly. We are paid ahead for what we owe Viroqua UMC, so they are going to use some of these funds towards the parsonage repairs. Verna indicated that the water meter reading was extremely high, but there weren’t any events which would have caused this. She is going to keep watching this.

### Old Business:

- ☩ VBS Planning – on hold for Pastor Paul – Viroqua UMC will be the host this year and it will be sometime in August. Jane Gaskell will ask Heidi Garrett from Viroqua when they will be able to meet with Pastor Paul. Linda Weilnau will email Pastor Paul the rough draft that Pastor Erika had created.
- ☩ West Entrance Modification – next steps? – Finney Concrete & Construction has been contacted about doing this job. Verna Drake called them and sent them pictures, so they can send an estimate.
- ☩ Updated Directory for Pastor Paul – update – Linda Weilnau sent this to Pastor Paul before he started.
- ☩ Joint Outdoor Worship – July 21 & Potluck for Pastor Paul – This event will be held at Davidson Park and start at 10 AM. We will plan the music for this service and provide the sound system. We will also provide coffee, lemonade, napkins and some extra plates. Verna Drake will make large lemonade ice cubes, so it doesn’t get watered down when the ice melts. Verna will provide the lemonade. We will ask Donna Perkins if we can borrow her 30-cup coffee pot, because the electrical connections on the church’s large coffee pots aren’t good.
- ☩ Burgers in the Park – July 18 – Verna Drake reported that we don’t have to put the salads in individual containers, we will be able to dish them out on the plate. We have enough workers and people to bring salads and bars.
- ☩ Laptop for Church – update – The laptop has been purchased. Linda Weilnau gave the sales receipts to Verna Drake. Linda will finish preparing the laptop, installing software and adding user accounts, and then bring it to church.

**New Business:**

- ✝ Potluck @ Viroqua UMC to welcome Pastor Paul – July 14 – This will be at 11:45 AM and we are invited to attend.
- ✝ Communication with Viroqua UMC – There is a concern that communications between Viroqua UMC and Westby UMC could be improved. Discussed the possibility of having a liaison from each church meet with Pastor Paul periodically. This topic will be tabled until the August meeting, so we have more time to think about it.
- ✝ Membership List – annual review – Jane Gaskell reported that the membership list is up to date and current from after Charge Conference last fall.

**Business from Board Committees:**

- ✝ **Trustees** – Verna Drake power washed the outside walls of the building, and she did a lot of weeding, so the weeding is caught up. Verna will try to find someone to paint the roof vents on the west side of the fellowship hall. There are still some more lights to replace in the fellowship hall and kitchen.
  - It was decided to turn on the fans in the sanctuary during exercise group and meal site times to help circulate the air more during the summer.
- ✝ **SPRC** – Pastor Paul is here!
- ✝ **Worship** – Jane Gaskell will have a meeting with Pastor Paul to discuss the worship format.
- ✝ **Education** – VBS will be during August.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff described what she does to Pastor Paul (writes articles for website, fills in as a substitute speaker).
- ✝ **Missions** – The Door of Hope will be the mission of the month for August.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Paul thanked us for the meals that were provided during their move into the parsonage. Pastor Paul let us know that God thanks us for monitoring and taking care of His church and staying with Him through and since COVID.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

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**\*\* 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)

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August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> - Prayer Group <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> –Strength Training Class	<b>2</b> Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> – Worship Service (Communion) <b>10:00 AM</b> - Fellowship	<b>5</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>6</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> – Strength Training Class	<b>7</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>8</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> –Strength Training Class	<b>9</b> Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> – Worship Service <b>10:00 AM</b> - Fellowship	<b>12</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>13</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> – Strength Training Class	<b>14</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>6:00 PM</b> – Church Board Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> –Strength Training Class	<b>16</b> Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> – Worship Service <b>10:00 AM</b> – Fellowship <b>VBS @ Viroqua UMC</b> - time to be determined	<b>19</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>20</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> – Strength Training Class	<b>21</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> - Morning Bible Study Group <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> –Strength Training Class	<b>23</b> Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> – Worship Service <b>10:00 AM</b> - Fellowship	<b>26</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>27</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> – Strength Training Class	<b>28</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site	<b>29</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> – Senior Meal Site <b>12:30 PM</b> –Strength Training Class	<b>30</b> Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	<b>31</b>

