

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
 September 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Start the New Season with God

by Pastor Paul Lee

*And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.
 – 1 Samuel 3:10-11 –*

September always gave me a feeling of a new start. When I was a seminarian in South Korea, I had a very busy summer season. After many mission trips and VBS during the summer, I returned to school in September. Many church families return to church from their summer vacation, and the church ministry should be ready for the fall and winter seasons in September. Personally, my wife and I should help my son with his new start to the school year.

Each person has a different style or routine to have a new season. Some people will have a break time before starting something new. Some people may clean rooms and homes. However, I believe that Christians should listen to God’s voice to start the new season before doing something to others. When young Samuel heard the calling of God, he did not try to do something for God. His first response was, “Speak, for your servant hears.” With quiet and calm, Samuel tried to listen to God before he started his life as a judge of Israel.

After the beautiful and fabulous summer season, I hope this response from Samuel could be our response before starting the new season. “Speak, for your servant hears.” I hope this could be our prayer when we start a day, a week, and a season. So, we can begin our day and season with the voice of God.

Pastor Paul

Pastor’s Message p. 1
 Pastor’s Schedule p. 2
 Birthday – Anniversary. . p. 2
 Prayer Group p. 2
 Bible Study Group p. 2
 Mission of Month. p. 2
 Sunday School. p. 2
 Growing in Faith p. 3
 Online Study p. 3
 Board Minutes p. 3
 Calendar p. 5



Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

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

Contact Information:

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September Birthdays

Sept. 18 – Lois Gerling

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Prayer is a powerful tool that God gave to us, and He wants us to use it, individually and as a group.

Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, Sept. 5th for our monthly prayer group time.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our church ministries and church members.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

We will not be having a Thursday morning Bible study session in September. We want to allow Pastor Paul some time to decide what book of the Bible to study next and to plan for this Bible study.

We will resume this Bible study in October.

Bible Study



Mission of the Month – Heating Assistance

September is the time people in need are applying for help to heat their homes during the upcoming winter. There are several agencies that can help, depending on what kind of help is needed. Some utility companies, such as Xcel Energy and Madison Gas and Electric, offer programs directly. Government agencies such as The Department of Human Services, ADRC and Couleecap also have programs. If you are able to help, you may contact whichever entity you would like to give to and give directly. For example, some people add a small sum

of money to their own monthly energy bill designated for heating assistance. However, if you would like to give through the church you can make your check out to the church and put "Heating Assistance" on the memo line, and we will see that the money is distributed appropriately. Last year we gave our donations through Couleecap.

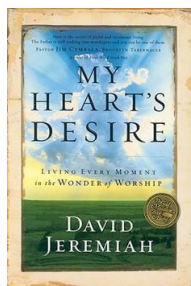
Sunday School News

Kids and adults had a great time at the Super Hero Adventure VBS hosted by Viroqua UMC on August 18th. We started the afternoon with a photo booth and face painting, then added music, games, food and of course, water balloons. One of the highlights was balloon animals made by Pastor Paul. Thank you to Pastor Paul, Sunwoo, and the Viroqua church family for hosting. Thank you, Westby church family for your donations and brownies and thank you Westby kids and parents for the afternoon.

Planning ahead: Sunday school will begin on October 6th. Pastor Paul will be doing a backpack blessing that day during the church service. Bring your backpack and your family at 9:00 AM!

Fellowship time starts around 9:45 AM ~ Sunday school will follow at 10:00 AM. School is beginning and we're praying for this year to be a blessing for you!





Growing in Faith Study Group

This month will be starting a new book, *My Heart's Desire* by David Jeremiah. In this book, it explores how we can make worshipping God a moment-by-moment experience in our daily lives by learning to live a lifestyle of worship. We will begin discussing chapter 1, "A View from a Throne", on Wednesday, Sept. 18th at 6:00 PM. You're welcome to join the discussion even if you don't have the book.

September Online Studies – Trust in God

When life is all sunshine and rainbows, it's easy to say that we trust in God. However, our lives are not devoid of stormy seasons that crash as waves and violent winds, tossing us up and down with the aim of taking our focus off of God. When times get tough and we face those stormy seasons of life, do we actually trust Him? Is that trust evident in the way we live our lives?

Join us this month as we work on our trust in God during both the calm and the stormy seasons of our lives! Together we will be learning to release the things we can't control and finding the courage to step out in faith to follow God's calling for our lives! We will be utilizing two 14-day studies to help us build up our trust in our Mighty God! Use the links below and join us in September!



- Trusting God Day by Day – starting September 1st
 - <https://bible.com/p/68348513/15f4197092a7ce817ab4f8ca9eeaeaf8>
- In My Boat: Trusting God in the Midst of the Storm – starting September 15th
 - <https://bible.com/p/68348563/214891716193079b6db8315dd51ffb36>

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.

Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting 🕊 August 14, 2024

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

Opening: Tim Gaskell opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the August newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Jane Gaskell and Ardith Hoff motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for June. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. With our new pastor, the payroll expenses are reduced about \$200 per month. Verna Drake reported that the water bill did come back down after it was so high earlier this spring. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- ✝ Burgers in the Park – final numbers, changes for next year? – We made a profit of \$271. Overall, the attendance has been down for this event this year. It was suggested that if we have a performer next year, we need to put them in the main shelter, so they are closer to everyone and not so far away.
- ✝ VBS ~ August 18 – Update – VBS will be from 4-6 PM at Viroqua UMC. There will be a simplified agenda. Pastor Paul will be doing the music and a short message, and Sunwoo will be doing face painting. “Super Heros” is the theme. There will be a meal around 5:30 PM. Jane Gaskell reported there will be about 7 students from Westby who plan to attend VBS.
- ✝ West Entrance Modification – Update – Verna Drake hasn’t received any updates from the latest contractor that she contacted.
- ✝ Communication with Viroqua UMC – We would like to develop a process for planning joint activities to help improve communication about these events. Tim Gaskell will start a conversation about this concern with Kathy Hanson. It would be nice to know about a month in advance about joint events.

New Business:

- ✝ Growing in Faith – 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 6 pm
 - Topic, book, or book of the Bible – Ardith has a DVD series that could be a possibility. It was also suggested to study about living a life of worship. It was decided to discuss this more during fellowship on Aug. 18th.
 - Start date – Sept. 4
- ✝ Thursday morning Bible Study (4th Thursday) / Thursday morning prayer group (1st Thursday) – It was decided to have the Thursday morning prayer group in September. We will postpone having the Thursday morning Bible study until October to give Pastor Paul some time to prepare for leading this group.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✝ **Trustees** – Verna Drake reported that the outdoor vent slates have been painted on the northwest section. We need to purchase new reflectors for the posts along the retaining wall because some have fallen off.
- ✝ **SPRC** – No report.
- ✝ **Worship** – There was a visitor last week. We need to pay attention that when we do have visitors, we make sure they have a bulletin and explain about the offering plates. We will put the bulletins and the offering plate on the same table.
- ✝ **Education** – Sunday school will start in October.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff is working on putting some of the newer website articles into a book.
- ✝ **Missions** – The mission of the month for September will be heating assistance.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Paul would like to have a possible blessing of the back packs on the first Sunday in October, the 6th. Pastor Paul plans on calling the visitor this week.

- If Pastor Paul has to miss a regular Thursday office hour during the week, he will come a different day.
- He wants to try and meet the church families and individuals to get to know each other better. We are to let Pastor Paul know when there are any events to attend in our community.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilmann

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM - Fellowship	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	4 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	5 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	6 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	7
8 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	13 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	14
15 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing In Faith Study Group	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	20 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	21
22 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	26 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	27 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	28
29 ✠9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM - Fellowship	30					

**** 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)