



*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
October 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from Pastor Paul

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

– Exodus 12:14 –

My family and I experienced two amazing things: the “Fair” and the “High School football game.” The fair was great, and many people talked about it a lot. My family had already experienced several big events like the “Wild West.” We could not imagine how big and famous the fair was. On the day of the fair, my family and I were surprised by the fair. Not only the size of the event but also the involvement of the people surprised us. People looked forward to the fair, and lots of people enjoyed the fair. My son also enjoyed the rides, and my wife and I enjoyed lots of amazing food. Only my daughter should wait until the next year to take a ride because she was not tall enough. After the fair, I could hear a lot of fun stories from church members about their fair experiences in the past. We learned that the fair was a huge festival with a long history.

My family heard about a high school football league and was looking forward to going to see a real football game. We decided to go to the football game between Westby and Viroqua High School. We expected that it would be just teenagers’ small game. However, once we arrived at the Westby football field, we were shocked by the size of the game. There were a lot of people who came to see the football. It was not a teenager’s event. All the community people came to the game and enjoyed the football. Players and each team staff member looked like professionals. People were really involved in the game, and all generations enjoyed the game. It was a big festival that all generations could enjoy.

Our God is the God of festivals. When God revealed Godself to the people of Israel, God ordered Israel to remember God’s work through the festival. Each festival in the Bible represents how God worked and engaged in the people’s lives. Hebrews celebrated each festival to remember God’s guidance and covenant to them. The festival was a joy for the people of Israel and a celebration of God’s work.

Through the fair and the football game, I learned about the communities’ memories in our history and the connections between generations and generations. I believe that our church also has a lot of events and festivals that God gave us to remember God. October is the planning and preparation month in the church. The church

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needs to prepare a charge conference and plan Thanksgiving and December for Christmas. In the midst of busy work, I hope we can remember how God worked in our lives and our church. Amen.

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

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

*** Pastor Paul will be on vacation October 21-27*

Contact Information:

Direct Office Phone: 608-638-7627
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October Birthdays

Oct. 10 – Sunwoo Lee
Oct. 29 – Sua Lee



October Anniversaries

Oct. 1 – Kelly & Jill Bjornstad
Oct. 3 – Richard & Imgard Allen
Oct. 8 – Dan Schreiter & Verna Drake



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 continue to exercise your prayer muscles.

Please join us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, Oct. 3rd for our monthly prayer group time.

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Due to Pastor Paul being on vacation the last week of October, there will not be a Thursday morning Bible study group meeting this month. In looking ahead, the 4th Thursday of November will be Thanksgiving and the 4th Thursday of December will be the day after Christmas, so this group will not meet again until January 2025.

Mission of the Month – Operation Christmas Child



The mission of the month for October is Operation Christmas Child. This is one of our favorite November traditions. A gift box is sent to kids around the world who have never experienced the meaning of Christmas. There are a few ways to support this mission. Shipping for each box is \$10, so monetary donations are always welcome. Small toys or school supplies that will fit inside a shoebox sized tote are also welcome. Suggestions are age-appropriate toys, t-shirts, socks, hair clips, toy jewelry, etc.

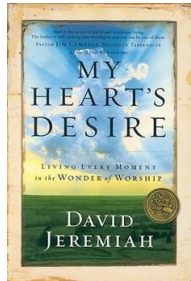
Please do not include the following: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

We have a goal to pack 12 – 15 boxes this year. The Packing Party will be during Sunday school in November.

Sunday School News

It's finally here! Sunday school begins 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!

Fellowship time starts around 9:45 ~ Sunday school will follow at 10:00. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!



Growing in Faith Study Group

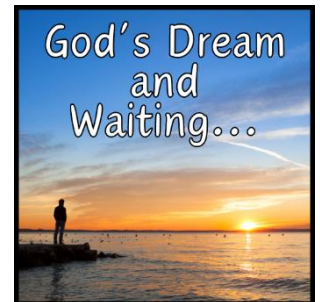
This month will be discussing chapters 2 and 3 of *My Heart's Desire* by David Jeremiah. On Oct. 2nd we'll discuss chapter 2, and the chapter 3 discussion will be on Oct. 16th.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Anyone is welcome to come and join the discussion even if you don't have the book.

October Online Studies – God's Dream and Waiting

During our life, we probably periodically wonder as individuals and as a church body what does God want us to do or are we doing what God wants, are we following the dreams He has for us? The first online study for this month can help us strengthen our belief so we can be faithful to God and have the assurance we are following His dreams.

While we're following God's dreams for us, there may be times when there are pauses in God's plan and we need to wait for the next part. The waiting period can be challenging and cause us to become weary in anticipation of the next part of God's plan. The second online study for this month will help us to look at waiting in a different perspective and find a way to remain grounded in God and trust in Him while we wait.



Please use the links below to join us this month as we dream and wait.

- God's Dream for Your Life (19 days) – begins on Oct. 1
 - <https://bible.com/p/69119668/be108ac551a34fc6f7a14f2794e4ddb>
- Wait in Him (11 days) – begins on Oct. 20
 - <https://bible.com/p/69119688/096233b9fa8cc44f267ed0991894e8ca>

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.

VISIT
NOW
WITH
Pastor Paul

Personal Time with Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul would like to get to know everyone better through an informal, friendly visit. To do this, Pastor Paul would like to arrange a time to visit with you either at the church, your house or a coffee shop or restaurant. Please contact Pastor Paul via telephone or email (262-393-8416 or pastor.dplee@gmail.com) to schedule a time and day to visit. It would be helpful if everyone could have their personal time with Pastor Paul scheduled before Thanksgiving. This will also be a good opportunity to get to know him better.

World Communion Sunday – Oct. 6

World Communion Sunday is a United Methodist Church celebration emphasizing the value of education and training. People are encouraged to make donations which support young adults. Half of the donations go towards World Communion scholarships for college students in the United States and other countries who are pursuing ordained ministry. Another portion of the donations go towards grants to support training for inclusion, diversity, equity and access. These donations also help to fund leadership development in the United States and other countries.

Backpack Blessings – Oct. 6

On Sunday, Oct. 6, we are going to have a backpack blessing during worship. We encourage all students, preschool to college, to bring their backpacks to the worship service so we can pray for each student and their backpacks, to ask God to watch over and help the students during school this year.



Pastor Appreciation Breakfast – Oct. 20

Please join us on at 8:15 AM on Sunday, Oct. 20 for a Pastor Appreciation Breakfast before our worship service. We want to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Paul for his service to us and our church. This is going to be a potluck breakfast, so we ask everyone to bring a breakfast dish to share. Coffee and milk will be provided. Come and help us to say “thank you” to Pastor Paul.

Westby Business Trick or Treat – Oct. 31

During the Westby business Trick or Treat time on Oct. 31, our church will be handing out a treat again this year. We will be giving the children small flashlight keychains. If you would like to help handout treats with us for this event, please watch the bulletins for more details for the time of the business trick or treat.



Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting † September 11, 2024

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

Opening: Tim Gaskell opened with prayer.

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

Treasurer’s Report: August Financials will be sent later this month.

Old Business:

- † West Entrance Modification – Someone said that there are some new contractors that we could contact regarding this project: OG Concrete and One Shot. It was mentioned that we should also contact Janzens. Tim and Jane Gaskell will contact these contractors. There is the possibility of doing this ourselves, but we would need to check into the ADA requirements before doing it ourselves.

- ✝ Communication with Viroqua UMC – Tim Gaskell talked with Kathy Hanson and Pastor Paul about our concerns with communication between the churches for joint activities. Pastor Paul suggested that for now, he will be the go-between for delivering messages between the churches.
- Growing in Faith Study – (Begins September 18) – This group will be reading and discussing “My Heart’s Desire” by David Jeremiah. We will discuss the introduction and 1st chapter for Sept. 18. It was suggested that we write down possible questions to discuss.

New Business:

- ✝ Westby Business Trick or Treating – Halloween is Thursday, Oct. 31st. It was decided to hand out treats again for this event. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to order about 200 small flashlights with pumpkins on them from Oriental Trading. Motion passed. These flashlights were on sale for \$5 for 12 flashlights. Linda Weilnau will place the order. Jane Gaskell will order batteries for the flashlights.
- ✝ Christmas Tree – It was suggested that we investigate purchasing a new Christmas tree. The current tree has strands of lights that don’t work anymore and some of the branches are breaking. We would like the new tree to be about the same height and not have any pre-strung lights. Jane Gaskell will start gathering information about the cost of a new tree.
- ✝ Charge Conference – The Charge Conference forms are now available online.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✝ **Trustees** – Weeding has been done and the bushes have been trimmed. We still need to have some lights replaced in the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- ✝ **SPRC** - No report.
- ✝ **Worship** – Backpack Blessing October 6 – Jane Gaskell will send information about this to the Sunday school families. Linda Weilnau will post information about this on the website and Facebook.
- ✝ **Education** – Sunday school begins October 6 – Jane Gaskell is sending out information to Sunday school families about the start of Sunday school. It will be held after the worship service.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff is turning her most recent website articles into a book and will consider publishing it.
- ✝ **Missions** – Operation Christmas Child will be the mission of the month for October. Jane Gaskell will write the newsletter article for this.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Paul reported that Charge Conference will be on November 13th from 6:00-8:00. This will be for both Viroqua UMC and Westby UMC. Linda Weilnau will check to see where it was held last year.

- Pastor Paul will be going to Kansas City on Sept. 24-27 for ICD.
- Pastor Paul will be taking a vacation on Oct. 21-27. Ardith Hoff will be the guest speaker on Oct. 27.
- Pastor Paul would like to meet with everyone individually to get to know us better. These meetings can be at our homes, the church or another location.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	1 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing In Faith Study Group	3 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	4 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	5
6 ☪9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	7 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	8 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	11 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	12
13 ☪9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	14 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	15 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing In Faith Study Group	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	18 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	19
20 8:15 AM – Pastor Appreciation Breakfast ☪9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	21 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site Pastor Paul on vacation	22 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class Pastor Paul on vacation	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site Pastor Paul on vacation	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class Pastor Paul on vacation	25 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	26 Pastor Paul on vacation
27 ☪9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School Pastor Paul on vacation	28 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	29 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	30 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	31 <i>Halloween</i> 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class Business Trick or Treating Downtown		

**** 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)