



*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 November 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

## Thanksgiving

by Pastor Paul Lee

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.  
 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

“When trees are caramelized, and the wind is crisp like an apple, we know fall has come to us.” I read this quote from an article that introduces the Caramel Apple. Since fall is my favorite season, I thought this quote expressed fall really well. I expected to see a beautiful fall season in Chicago, but I could not because the strong wind blew out all tree leaves before they were colored well.

My family spent a great summer season here, and we met such a beautiful fall season. All the colored trees are so lovely. Cool weather leads my family for a walk. I used to enjoy the beautiful fall season in South Korea. However, I heard that South Korea’s fall season has shortened due to global warming, and I have not seen such a beautiful fall season since I left South Korea in Hawaii and Chicago. So, the fall of this year is so special for me. It made me give a lot of thanks to God.

If we only focus on the leaves that need to be cleaned and the chilly weather, we will not be able to see God's beautiful nature and will only be caught up in depressing feelings. “Give thanks in all circumstances” opens our eyes, minds, and hearts to see how God works in our lives in all circumstances. God gave us a lot of gifts that we can feel the grace of God in many places of our lives. I hope we can find the little gifts God has hidden in our lives and give God many thanks in this month of November. Amen.

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
Growing in Faith . . . . .	p. 2
Sunday School. . . . .	p. 3
Online Study . . . . .	p. 3
Other Activities . . . . .	p. 4
Board Minutes . . . . .	p. 5
Calendar . . . . .	p. 7



*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.*



## Sunday School News

Our Sunday mornings have been such a blessing. We are learning about David, the Psalms and singing praise songs.

On November 17, during Sunday school @ 10:00 we will be getting ready for Operation Christmas Child in November. A gift box is sent to kids around the world who have never experienced the meaning of Christmas – which is more than gifts. They learn about Jesus and how much He loves them.



Our kids will help get the Christmas store ready for packing. You are welcome to donate any small items that could be included in the shoe box sized tote. We have a goal of 12 – 15 boxes this year. Each box requires \$10 for shipping. Suggestions: age-appropriate toys, school supplies, t-shirts, socks, hair clips, combs, toy jewelry. No toothpaste or hard candy. Do Not Include: 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; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

- November 10 ~ Set up the Christmas Store & write messages
- November 17 ~ Packing Party

### Planning ahead:

*No Sunday school classes on the Sunday following Thanksgiving – December 1.*

*The tentative date for the kid's Christmas program is December 15.*



## November Online Studies – Growing in Gratitude

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, it's not surprising when we all start to think about all we are grateful for. Gratitude, and the act of thanksgiving, naturally offers us a way of embracing all that makes our lives what they are. However, it should be more than just a momentary good feeling. We are called to live a life filled with thanksgiving!

To become better at the practice of thanksgiving, we are going to focus on gratitude during the month of November through our online Bible studies! We invite you to join us on a 28-day journey through a series of four studies as we learn more about gratitude and aim to live a life full of thanksgiving!

To join these studies, simply use the links below! We look forward to growing in gratitude with you!

- Acts of Gratitude for Ordinary Days – Starts Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>  
<https://bible.com/p/69525491/704b248b31472567d2bb11cbab059336>
- The Power of Gratitude – Starts Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>  
<https://bible.com/p/69525538/99415be70781c73fb970cdec5fbe7dd8>
- Real Hope: Gratitude – Starts Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>  
<https://bible.com/p/69525557/096fa8569e86e4a3f62fcdc560f3b0fd>
- Transform Your Life Through Gratitude and Prayer – Starts Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>  
<https://bible.com/p/69525565/1732eb9f39e6bcef7e2b5f42206a94b4>

*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.*

**VISIT**  
NOW  
WITH  
**Pastor Paul**

### Personal Time with Pastor Paul

If you haven't had your visit with Pastor Paul yet, please remember to schedule a time for an informal, friendly visit with him.

Pastor Paul can 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.

### Gratitude Wall

The tree in the back corner of the sanctuary has been decorated for fall. We will continue with our tradition of having a Gratitude Wall on the window in the back of the sanctuary, by the tree. During the month of November, please write what you are thankful for and place it on the window. God is very good to us, so we should be able to easily fill the window with notes of gratitude. Sticky notes and markers will be available on the chairs by the window.



### Daylight Savings Time Ends – Nov. 3rd

It's time to fall back. Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, so turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, Nov. 2nd.



### All Saints Sunday – Nov. 3rd

On Sunday, Nov. 3rd, we will be taking some time during our worship service to remember our loved ones who passed away this past year. If you have anyone you would like to remember at this special time, please give their name to Linda by Wednesday, Oct. 30th.

### Honoring Veterans – Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

We will be honoring veterans and those who are currently serving in the military on Sunday, Nov. 10th. If you have served in the military, please let us know so we can honor you at this time. If you know of anyone who is currently serving, please give their name and what branch of the military they are in, to Linda by Wednesday, Nov. 6th.



### Charge Conference – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

This year, our Charge Conference will be held at Viroqua UMC on Wednesday, Nov. 13th. There will be a potluck meal at 6:00 PM, followed by the Charge Conference meeting. Our district superintendent, Rev. Amanda Stein will preside over the meeting.

### Community Thanksgiving Meal – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>

The Westby Community Thanksgiving Meal will be on Thursday, Nov. 28th from 11:00-1:00 at Our Savior's church. The meal is dine-in only, no carry outs. This meal is sponsored by the Westby Lions. Our church has been asked to provide 7 pies for this meal. The pies can be dropped off at Our Savior's church on Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> between 9:00-5:00.



If you would like to help in other ways with this community meal, the Westby Lions are looking for volunteers to help cook the turkeys, help with setup, serving and cleanup.



## Christmas Cookie Walk – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

Ready, get set, bake! It's time to start thinking about our annual Christmas Cookie Walk fundraiser and dig out your favorite Christmas cookie recipes or find some interesting new recipes to try and bake for this event. We hope to have a wide variety of cookies, homemade candy and other baked goods donated.

The Christmas Cookie Walk will be held 9:00-12:00 on Saturday, Dec. 7th. In addition to donations of cookies, candy and other baked goods, we will need volunteers to help with

the following:

- Hanging up flyers around the area
- Setting up the tables and decorating
- Day of the sale – keeping trays stocked, cashiers, clean-up crew

Sign-up sheets will be available the last part of November. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

## Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting † October 9, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Paul Lee, Julie Fargen, Ardith Hoff, Jean Shore, and Jane Gaskell

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the October 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 September. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Verna recommended to move \$7,000 from checking to a Money Management account for an additional 1.2% interest. Ardith Hoff and Jean Shore motioned to approve the treasurer's report and to move the specified amount into a Money Management account. Motion passed. Verna provided a draft of the 2025 budget. It was reviewed and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### Old Business:

- † West Entrance Modification – Jade at One Shot Concrete stopped at the church last week and discussed specifics for a concrete handicapped ramp to run along the side of the building to the South. He will be providing an estimate.
- † Pastor Appreciation Breakfast – will be October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 prior to the worship service. This will be a potluck.
- † Westby Business Trick or Treating, October 31 – Supplies have arrived - 192 Flashlights and AA batteries. Due to Main Street road construction, trick or treating will be in an alternate location. The Westby Chamber will announce details when available.
- † Charge Conference & Forms – The Charge Conference is scheduled for November 13 at Viroqua UMC. This will most likely be a potluck followed by the conference. Pastor Paul will confirm the start time. Charge Conference forms are due October 30<sup>th</sup>. If there are issues logging into the UMC Portal to complete forms, contact the district office.

- ✝ Christmas Tree – Jane found trees online from \$400 to \$900. It was suggested to look on Black Friday or after Christmas for sales. Pastor Paul found trees more than half price on Amazon Prime Days that end tonight 10/9. **Note:** Jane ordered a 9-foot Dunhill Fir (without lights) for \$149, normally \$579.

#### **New Business:**

- ✝ Thankful Tree / Gratitude Wall – The fall tree is decorated. It was decided to continue the tradition of the Gratitude Wall beginning November 1.
- ✝ Thanksgiving Service – Pastor Paul would like to have the Thanksgiving Service during the regularly scheduled morning worship service on November 24.
- ✝ Advent Devotional Booklet with Viroqua UMC – Pastor Paul will be choosing verses for the advent devotional.
- ✝ Cookie Walk – Save the date: Saturday, December 7 from 9 – 12.
- ✝ November Board Meeting – will be held during Fellowship Time on 11/17. The Charge Conference on 11/13 is scheduled during our normal meeting time.
- ✝ AED: Purchase or grant – Jane contacted Vernon Memorial Healthcare for AED recommendations. A grant program is available through them, and we received the form to apply. Jane also contacted Vernon County since an AED would also be beneficial for the meal site. The county hasn't responded yet.

#### **Business from Board Committees:**

- ✝ **Trustees** – There are still lightbulbs out in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Paul volunteered to assist with this.
- ✝ **SPRC** – No report. Verna will be completing the Charge Conference report.
- ✝ **Worship** – The Backpack Blessing was held October 6<sup>th</sup>. Veterans Day and All Saints Day were discussed.
- ✝ **Education** – Sunday school started on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will begin in November. Pastor Paul will have parent meetings in October.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith will be sharing the message on October 27<sup>th</sup> during Pastor Paul's vacation.
- ✝ **Missions** – The November missions are Baskets of Love and Norseland Nursing Home Christmas gifts.

#### **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Paul ~

- ✝ Visited Ann Shaw and shared Communion with her.
- ✝ Contacted by a family requesting a place in the cemetery for a family member's ashes.
- ✝ Assisted a homeless person with shelter over the weekend.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jane Gaskell

---

## November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	2
3 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	4 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	5 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	6 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site  6:00 PM – Growing In Faith Study Group	7 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	8 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	9
10 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	12 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	13 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site  6:00 PM – Charge Conference @ Viroqua UMC	14 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	15 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	16
17 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship, Sunday School & Church Board Meeting	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	19 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	20 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Growing In Faith Study Group	21 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class	22 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	23
24 ☩9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	26 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	27 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	28 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 11:00-1:00 – Community Thanksgiving Meal @ Our Saviors	29 Pastor Paul's Sabbath Day	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)