

THE CROSS & THE FLAME



OCTOBER 2024

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 Days.” 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 Viroqua and Westby 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 Himself 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 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



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OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sherman & Sherry Carney	October 12
Dan & Dawn Stalsberg	October 12
Cavan Fang & Kristen Parrot	October 14
Paul & Sonja Bjerkos	October 17
David & Lorna Peterson	October 24



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Janet Welch	October 1
Sherry Carney	October 2
Sunwoo Lee	October 10
Tom Steele	October 12
Nicolas Clements	October 12
Heidi Garrett	October 18
Paul Bjerkos	October 22
Sua Lee	October 29
Shirley Gilman	October 29
Easton Donner	October 30

God's Blessings on You!



OUR PRAYER Viroqua UMC

God, the giver of life, generous giver of gifts and abilities, help us discover our talents and have the courage to use them to serve you and our community with unimagined new purposes and deepening love for Jesus Christ. Amen.

Long Range Objective *Viroqua UMC*

Develop a unique identity by becoming servants of the community and providing Christian opportunities for all people.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley



Baked Potato Meal

with Chili or Ham & all the Trimmings

Tuesday, October 8th

4:00 pm—6:30 pm or until potatoes are gone

\$8.00

A Drive-up event at the

Viroqua United Methodist Church Parking Lot

221 S. Center St., Viroqua



Choices for Trimmings Include:

Chili or Ham

Butter

Sour Cream

Cheese

Onion

Apple Crisp With Pastor Lee



The first Apple Crisp meeting has been held. Those who attended all agreed that it was a good time! — A good chance to chat about ourselves and our church.

Groups are all scheduled to meet during October. You will receive an invitation before your scheduled time. Let the office know if you need to make a change.

ICD

Leadership Institute at UM Church of the Resurrection Kansas City, Kansas



A Couple of Take-Aways

There are 22,000 United Methodist Churches in US—we're the 2nd largest Christian Denomination in US!

Growing Churches are outward focused—Declining Churches are inward focused

Renewed Hope
(More to Come)



Nursery Helpers

Sunwoo has been in the nursery with the children every week since coming to Viroqua. We'd like to start organizing volunteers to join her. Two volunteers in the nursery would mean that we can encourage more children to come, and eventually lead to freeing Sunwoo up to attend worship.

If enough people take a turn helping in the nursery, it won't be a burden to any one person. We can use folks of all ages from teenagers to grandparents—both female and male.

Please consider this ministry and look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex if God prompts you to help with this.

October Sunday Servants

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeter	Screen Operator	Communion Stewards
October 6		Joanne Hornby Jerry Brenneman	Barb Casper		Phyllis Kalnins Janette Hanson
October 13		Miny Hirschfield Dale Gudgeon	Alice Sloane	Kathy Hanson	
October 20	Tom Lohr	Angie & Aaron Hanson	Ardith Olson	Grady Hanson	
October 27	UWF	UWF	UWF		

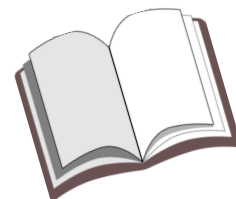
Fall Potluck

The Hospitality Committee has decided to host an All Church Potluck once each season. The Fall Potluck will be on Sunday, October 6th right after worship. Since this is World-Wide Communion Sunday, people are encouraged (but not required) to bring international dishes. Let's enjoy good fellowship around the table!

Book Group

The Book Group's next book is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book is about Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants. It's available through the McIntosh Memorial Library.

The discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* will be held on Monday, October 14th at 7 pm.



Taxi Tickets



The Hospitality Committee would like to be sure that everyone who wants to be in church is able to get here. They would be happy to make taxi tickets available to those who could use the service. Please let the office know so that we may get the tickets to you.

Viroqua UMC August /September Giving

Thank you to those who keep up their giving. This is so much appreciated, as we do our best to continue God's work.
The amount needed each week to meet our 2023 Budget is \$2,952.

August 25	\$1,000.35
September 1	\$2,585.05
September 8	\$1,027.75
September 15	\$1,031.75

God's Dream and Waiting October Online Studies

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 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 no longer supports Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.



UWF

September 11, 2024

The United Women of Faith met in the church lounge with only four members present: Janet Welch, Barb Casper, Ann Carlow and Ardith Olson.

President Janet read the report of the May meeting. Barb read the treasurers report. We have \$2,701.51.

Janet read a letter from the Child Fund boy. Jolene Gudgeon sends the September donation, Gloria Freilingner has the October donation, and Lorraine Gerdl has November.

The Lydia Circle will serve cookies before church during October and November. Ardith will do October 6th.

10-27-24 will be United Women of Faith Sunday with special readings and special music.

As Joanne was busy with the fair, we had no program.

Janet will furnish snacks in October.

Our next meeting will be held on 10-4-24.

Administrative Council

September 18th, 2024



Members Present: Gregg Roberts, Dan Brown, Heidi Garrett, Phyllis Kalnins, Aaron Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Layne Hanson, Cavan Fang, Kristin Parrott, Barb Casper, Pastor Paul.

The meeting was opened by reflecting on how our church work serves God. We serve because we love our church and we love God. We pray that our work and our church serves God in the way He desires.

A motion was made By Gregg to advertise for rent the southwest basement Sunday School room. Phyllis volunteered to clean and paint the room. It is about 250 square feet and will be advertised as office space. Heidi seconded the motion. Motion passed. Cavan will see that it gets advertised once it is ready.

A gentleman named Barry Byrne is teaching piano and guitar lessons in the chapel a couple of nights a week after school. The Trustees and SPRC led the process for approval of this. He meets the requirements of our Safe Sanctuary Policy and will make a donation of \$5 per hour for the time he is teaching.

Kathy read a letter from the organizers of the Community Meal held on the 4th Monday of each month at Good Shepherd Church. They thanked us for serving the dinner last June. We are on the schedule again for next June.

Pastor Paul tested his recipe for apple crisp by having the group taste it. He is planning to serve this at the small group meetings coming up. We all gave him the go ahead as it was delicious.

Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 13th at 6:00 pm. District Superintendent, Amanda Stein, will lead the joint Viroqua & Westby meeting. It is our turn to host this year. The evening will begin with a potluck meal.

The Administrative Council budget request was decided upon. This budget item is allocated for a lay member to attend the Annual Conference. Our request was raised to bring it in line with actual costs.

Pastor Paul & Kathy will travel to Kansas City next week to attend the Onward Leadership Institute with the ICD group. They will join the group in Sun Prairie and travel by bus.

Committee Reports

Worship Committee: Plans have been made for World Communion Sunday. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Trustees: The Trustees approved the use of the chapel for piano lessons by Barry Byrne. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Missions: The garden produce table is set up in the Narthex. Money raised from produce goes to missionary, Temba.

SPRC: The group has been updating Job Descriptions. Their meeting this month will be devoted to budget decisions.

Education Committee: Our first priority is to organize volunteers in the nursery during worship services. Confirmation will begin in October. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Hospitality: The Baked Potato Sale is coming up. Our next meeting will be on October 8th as we prepare the meal. See complete minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: October 16th @ 8:00 pm.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Finance Committee

September 18, 2024

Attendees: Dan Brown, Kathy Hanson, Gregg Roberts, Aaron Hanson, Layne Hanson, Cavan Fang, Kristin Parrot, Phyllis Kalnins, Pastor Lee



Dan Brown presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Gregory Cheever. The report was accepted.

Gregg Roberts presented the Financial Secretary's report. Some discussion was held about listing the people for whom we have received memorials given in their honor. We will look into doing this for All Saint's Sunday. The Financial Secretary Report was approved.

The group came to a consensus that we'd like to advertise and rent one more room downstairs for office space. Phyllis volunteered to paint the room in the southwest corner. Cavan will get it advertised when ready. This plan will need to be approved by the Administrative Council.

The budget was discussed. We will need to finalize this at the October meeting so that it's ready for Charge Conference. We'll call another meeting if needed.

Next meeting: October 16th @ 7:00 pm.

Worship Committee

September 5, 2024

Present: Pastor Paul, Phyllis Kalnins, Cavan Fang, Kathy Hanson, Avis Marino, Barb Casper.



1. Lining up bell ringers was discussed. We decided to keep things the way we have been doing it. With Jim gone, we are still getting used to new ways of doing things, but Kathy and Barb will continue lining up ringers on Sunday mornings for the time being.
2. 10-6-24 is World Communion Sunday. Cavan will make special bread. The choir will sing one song and there will be another song using the anklongs (a folk instrument from Indonesia and Malaysia) that had belonged to Cavan's grandfather, the Rev. Chao-Hsi Fang. We will display the Communion chalice and plate from Pastor Paul's family under the altar. We will set up a table in the narthex for people to bring items to share from around the world. Hopefully they can be brought in by Sunday 9-29-24 so that we can set up a display and label each item about its country of origin. Start announcing during the "Life of the Church" portion of the service.
3. 10-27-24 will be the annual UWF service
4. We decided to do the Advent devotionals again this year. Pastor Paul will pick out the Bible verses for us to use.
5. We have lost a couple of our committee members over the last few years. If anyone would like to serve on this committee, call Barb Casper at 608-637-3854
6. Pastor Paul wants to start singing 2 parts of the communion liturgy. This will start on 10-6-24 and they will be printed on the screen.
7. Cavan went over a list of ICD suggestions about how to make worship more engaging. There were many great ideas to implement.
8. We went over the budget for 2025 and decreased the amount on several categories.

Our next meeting will be held on 10-3-24 at 6 PM.

Barb Casper

Education Committee

September 16th, 2024

Old Business:

VBS: VBS went well. Everyone had a nice time.

New Business:

Budget: After much discussion the new budget was decided upon. The new budget represents the investment in our youth that Pastor Paul would like to see. The budget will be forwarded on for further approval.

Nursery Coverage: We would like volunteers to help watch the Nursery during Sunday Worship Service.

Sunday School: We would like to begin offering regular Sunday School again. We would like to begin this in January. We still need to find & train teachers. We will ask for volunteers at this point, but we are also considering hiring someone for this position. More details & discussions to follow as the date gets closer.

Confirmation: There will be a Confirmation class this year. There are two youth from Viroqua and one from Westby for a total of three youth. Pastor Paul will be in touch with the parents to determine when classes will be held. Pastor Paul would like to start classes in October.

The next meeting date will be Monday October 7th @ 5:30 PM in the Church Lounge to accommodate the "Apple Crisp" meetings later that evening

Missions Update

- The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, October 20, at 11:45AM.
- Our church will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6. World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people, and to model diversity among God's children. We will take a special offering that day, using envelopes that will be found inside your worship bulletins. The special offering supports World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Our gifts are a blessing to individuals who face financial obstacles while preparing for the vocation God has given them.
- This is the season of garden produce. If you have extra produce, please consider bringing it to sell (by donation) at the Missions Committee's table in the narthex. All proceeds will benefit our missionary, Temba, who runs an agricultural mission in Zambia, in Africa.

They Shall Be Satisfied

Joel Stephen Williams

- Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Mt. 5:6).
- Hunger and thirst are two of the strongest drives known to mankind. What you have an appetite for will be the determining factor deciding with what you will be filled. If you are extremely thirsty, you will probably fill yourself with water. If you have an overpowering desire for chocolate candy, you will probably eat some.
- It is significant that Jesus uses hunger and thirst to illustrate how much we ought to strive for righteousness. If you really want to be a righteous person who obeys God and lives a life of godliness and purity, that will be the result. You will be able to overcome temptation. You will not be distracted by inferior goals. If you want your life filled with spiritual goodness, God will not hold back what you need.
- God can satisfy our spiritual longing. God is able. The only question is: "Do we long for God?"

Trustees Meeting

September 10, 2024

Present: Dale Gudgeon, Pete Gilman, Aaron Hanson, Jack Deters, Phyllis Kalnins, Pastor Paul Lee, Barry Byrne

Barry Byrne attended the meeting to introduce himself to the committee. Mr. Byrne is a music teacher who would like to rent the chapel on Mon.-Th. From 3:30-5:30. He teaches guitar and piano to 15 students. His students include adults and middle schoolers but are mainly 2nd-4th graders. He works with special education students in the Viroqua school system. He has been renting space at the Commons and has been doing yard work for them during the spring and summer. He would donate approximately \$160.00/mo. to the church. He would like to store his guitar in the church. It was suggested that he might use John Eumurian's classroom for storage. It was also discussed that we need to see how this activity would fit into our Safe Sanctuary Policy. Phyllis will research this. Mr. Byrne would like to begin as soon as possible.

There were no bills to discuss.

We were notified by a letter from the City of Viroqua that water rates will be increasing 4.1%.

The committee's budget was reviewed and updated.

Pastor Paul will look into getting a color copier.

The parsonage has water dripping from the upstairs bathroom faucet. A plumber was called. We are on the waiting list for service. Also, the upstairs radiator is not working again.

The condition of the brick work of the church was discussed. This will also be discussed with the Ad Council with work possibly being done in spring.

Our next meeting will be on Oct. 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The time change will accommodate the bake potato sale.

Hospitality Committee

September 10, 2024

Members Present: Kathy Hanson, Gregory Cheever, Joanne Hornby, Alice Sloane, Avis Marino, Betty Ross, Pastor Paul

LOVE

The meeting was opened by sharing how we might share our Christian values at the fair.

LEARN

There have been no changes to the Homebound list. Pastor Paul visited the homebound folks in around the first of September. He will take communion to them on October 6, Worldwide Communion Sunday.

Avis reported that September has been a busy month for cards—lots of birthdays and anniversaries.

Kathy suggested doing an outreach Thank You Event for a community group in November. Discussion about this.

DECIDE/DO

We decided to do a November Thank You to Emergency Workers—police, fire, EMT, ambulance, and other transport services. We will invite members of the congregation to write thank yous that will be taken to each place along with a poster thanking them for their service. Cards will be placed in bulletins on October 27 and November 3, with delivery to happen mid-November.

Baked Potato Sale: We worked out details about the sale. Posters will be made and distribution of them will begin the week after the Fair. Alice will deliver posters. Kathy will order containers for the condiments, ask for a donation of sour cream from Westby Creamery, buy the ham and cheese, and check to see that we have enough foil and bags. Alice and Kathy will each make 2 pounds of hamburger chili. Joanne will chop onions.

We will meet at 11:00 am on October 8th to get potatoes in the oven and the condiments ready. We will have our meeting that day as we are working.

Our Fall Potluck is on October 6th, Worldwide Communion Sunday. We will encourage folks to bring international foods to the potluck if they are comfortable doing that.

Our next meeting is October 8th during Baked Potato prep.

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship Worldwide Communion Sunday</p> <p>11:45am Fall Potluck</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>5:30pm Education Committee</p> <p>6:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>7</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>1:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>1</p>	<p>8am Prayer Group</p> <p>6pm Choir Practice</p> <p>2</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>12pm Worship Committee</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>9am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p>4pm Bible Study @ Kathy Hanson's</p> <p>13</p>	<p>7pm Book Group</p> <p>14</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>15</p>	<p>8am Prayer Group</p> <p>6pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Finance Committee</p> <p>8pm Administrative Council</p> <p>16</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm Apple Crisp Mtg</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>9am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p>11:45am Missions Committee Meeting</p> <p>20</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>21</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>22</p>	<p>8am Prayer Group</p> <p>6pm Choir Practice</p> <p>23</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>9am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p>27</p>	<p>7pm SPRC</p> <p>28</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>29</p>	<p>8am Prayer Group</p> <p>6pm Choir Practice</p> <p>30</p>	<p>10:30am Exercise Group</p> <p>31</p>		

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly
for our congregation and friends. *We welcome you
with open hearts, open minds and open doors.*

VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTOR

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Check Us Out On Facebook!

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Adult Sunday School Class—9:00 am

Worship—10:30 am

Nursery Provided

Broadcast on

**WVRQ 1360 AM/107.3 FM or on
Facebook Live**



Viroqua United Methodist Church's Mission Statement

The Viroqua United Methodist Church exists for the purpose of carrying out Christ's Great Commission by enabling all who come to personally know the joy of God's love and forgiveness and to lovingly share this joy in the fellowship of the church and in reaching people throughout the world.

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.

John Wesley

