

THE CROSS & THE FLAME



JUNE 2025

Repentance

Last month, we talked about two pillars of Wesley's understanding of salvation. Those two pillars were Justification and Sanctification. Actually, those two ideas about salvation were not Wesley's own ideas. Before Wesley, Luther, and Calvin had already developed the ideas of Justification and Sanctification. What Wesley did was, with those ideas, he showed a more detailed process of salvation that connects Justification and Sanctification.



The very first step of salvation that Wesley mentioned was Repentance. In Wesley's understanding, repentance was not the simple behavior of a human. It was not just saying, "I am sorry, I am not going to commit sins again." For Wesley, repentance was fully turning away from sin and fully turning back to God with a whole heart. In addition to this understanding, for Wesley, repentance was that a human realizes, "I cannot avoid death because of my sin. How can I avoid this death? I need something or someone who can save me from this death!" Therefore, to start repentance, which is the first step of salvation, a human should see and realize, "I am a sinner."

Then, how can a human realize, "I am a sinner"? Wesley taught people that repentance starts when the Holy Spirit enables a human to see their sin. The Holy Spirit opens people's eyes, spirits, and hearts to see their sin. Humans cannot save themselves.

Since faith is the only requirement for salvation, Wesley taught that faith and repentance are together. Repentance is the first step of salvation, which means there cannot be true faith without Repentance, and there cannot be true repentance without faith.

Wesley also taught people repentance is not only a one-time work. It is a whole life process, and he taught people to repent every time when they make any mistakes before God. People should continue to return their hearts to God.

According to Wesley's teaching, repentance opens the doors of life for Christians. When we start our first step of repentance, the grace and love of the sacrifice of Christ will be precious to us. This month, I hope the Holy Spirit lights us and guides us on the way to salvation to start the first step, repentance.

Pastor Paul

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JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Sunwoo Lee	June 9
Mary & Chuck Mulvaney Kemp	June 20th
Carolyn & Gerald Schroeder	June 22nd



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Rita Olson	June 4
Elizabeth Roberts	June 6th
Mary Mulvaney Kemp	June 7th
Henry Roberts	June 17th
Jolene Gudgeon	June 19th
Kalia Schultz	June 20th
Jackie Maly	June 23rd
Irene Fortney	June 30th

God's Blessings on You!

happy
birthday

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





Helen Paulsen MacInnis Scholarship

Viroqua UMC holds and manages this scholarship fund. Each year the Education Committee decides how much and to whom to award the scholarship.

- This year we were very proud to award Wynne Roberts and Reid Brown each \$1,000 towards their college expenses.
- Janette Hanson made the presentations at the Viroqua High School Awards night on May 7th.



May 11

We were all treated to several reasons to celebrate on Moher's Day, May 11th!

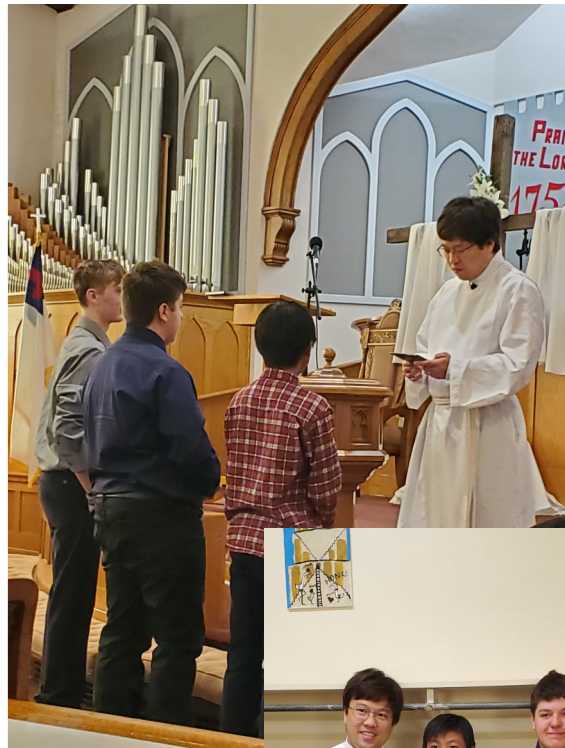
Women were honored by receiving flower plants.

Youth played and sang for the special music (along with some "young at heart" assistance).

Pastor Paul's May 13th birthday was celebrated with a cake following the service.

Great Day!!





Confirmation

May 18, 2025

Sawyer Clements, Henry Roberts, Luke Garrett



Confirmation Fun Night



Viroqua UMC April/May 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 2025 Budget is \$2,635.

April 27	\$1,221.22
May 4	\$4,835.96 (Includes \$2,106 from rummage sale)
May 11	\$1,838.80
May 18	\$1,270.35

Radio Fund Pledge Drive

Approximately 2/3 of the money needed to fund the Radio Ministry has been pledged! Since the last newsletter, \$300 of new gifts have been pledged or donated. Thank you so much! This brings us to \$2,100 of the \$3,240 needed to fund the Radio Ministry.

Pledge cards can be found in the pews and pledges may be made at any time.

Thanks for your support!

Viroqua UMC Radio Ministry

5/31/2025

The radio ministry is an important ministry that reaches shut-in's, passer-by's, and many others that are unable to attend church in person. Continue reading to understand how you can be a part of sharing God's love with other's.

You can be a part of sharing God's love, too! **Make a pledge today!**

To make a pledge, scan the QR code below, or on Sunday morning offering, or calling the church office (608-637-3551).

The "Radio Ministry" for the Viroqua United Methodist Church is funded with direct contributions from listeners and members of the church. Starting in 2025, the back-up funding comes from a designated fund "Wills & Memorials". Previously the back-up funding came from the general budget or weekly offerings.

WVRQ

1360 AM

107.3 FM

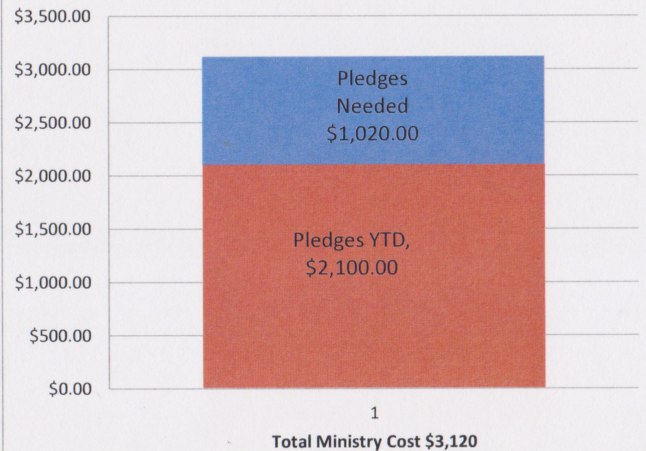
Sunday Morning

10:30am - 11:30am

**Make
A
Pledge
Today!**



Viroqua UMC Radio Ministry



Make a pledge to announce a 'Birthday', 'Anniversary', or 'In Memory' of a loved one on the Sunday of your choice!

Visioning Team

The Visioning Team met by Zoom on Tuesday, May 13th. Members present were Pastor Paul, Gregory Cheever, Mitchell Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Layne Hanson, Elizabeth Roberts.

We shared impressions gained from a reading given to us by Pastor Paul.

We were then asked to share ideas about short term targets. Many of them had to do with the building and how we can make it more inviting. We will ask the Trustees and Council for their input.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 17th @ 6:00 pm.



Graduate Recognition

Our high school graduates, Wynne Roberts and Reid Brown will be recognized during the Worship Service next Sunday, June 1st.

You will be able to congratulate them personally over ice cream sundaes after church.

Sundae Sunday

Sundaes with all the trimmings will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service next Sunday, June 1st. Everyone is invited to join the Education Committee as they honor all youth with Ice Cream Sundaes.



Teen Group

The first meeting of the new Teen Group will be on Wednesday, May 28th at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

PENTECOST

June 8

Pentecost Sunday commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. It is sometimes regarded as the "birthday" of the Christian Church, because it marks the beginning of the apostles' public ministry and the spread of Christianity.

Traditionally, we have brought red geraniums to church on **Pentecost Sunday**. They are then planted under our outdoor sign to signify that the Spirit of God is alive in this church.

Please plan to bring a red geranium for this purpose again this year on June 8th. Also, plan to wear red that day.

FATHER'S DAY

The Hospitality Committee is making plans to honor all Dads and Lads on Father's Day with a breakfast. We don't want to give away too much, but watch for an invitation!

Outdoor Worship

(Looking Ahead to July)

Our annual Picnic in the Park Service is scheduled for July 20th this year. It is a joint service with Westby and we look forward to worshipping with them in the open air (unless it rains). Be sure to bring your own lawn chair, plates and dinnerware, and a dish to pass. Coffee/cups, napkins, salt & Pepper will be supplied. If you are unable to make something to bring, don't let it stop you from attending. We always have plenty of food.

In case of rain, we will meet in the church.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School will be held for the first time on June 15th. Kids should come to the worship service with their parents and then the group will go outside early in the service. There will be games, snacks, and other activities including a Bible story reading time.

We need an adults and youth to help out each Sunday. The idea is to take turns so that no one person will be doing it every Sunday. Look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex.!

We Need More Lawn Mowers!

Sign up in the Narthex if you can take a turn!

<i>June Sunday Servants</i>				
	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeter	Communion Stewards
June 1		Joanne Hornby Jerry Brenneman	Betty Ross	Phyllis Kalnins Janette Hanson
June 8		Miny Hirschfield	Avis Marino	
June 15		Chuck & Mary Mulvaney-Kemp	Barb Casper	
June 22		Joanne Hornby Marlo Volden	Ardith Olson	
June 29		Janet Welch Cavan Fang	Alice Sloane	

Community Dinner

- The menu has been set for our Community Dinner on Monday, June 23rd:

Brats, Hot Dogs
Macaroni Salad
Veggie Tray
Cake & Ice Cream

- We will need help to make the food on Monday morning, transport the food to Good Shepherd, serve the meal, and clean up afterwards.
- We will also need monetary donations to help purchase the food.
- Sign-up in the Narthex.

Book Group

The Book Group is currently read ***The Anxious Generation: How The Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing An Epidemic Of Mental Illness*** by Jonathan Haidt We will be discussing it on Monday, June 9th.

If you'd like to find a copy of the book, let the office know.



30 Day Challenge for Positive Living June Online Study



Having a positive attitude and outlook is good for your physical and mental health, but sometimes this is a difficult thing to do. Since we are weak and sometimes falter, our relationship with God can help us to have a more positive attitude, especially if we make it a habit to turn to God in prayer and praise each day.

Studies show it can take 18 to 254 days to form a new habit, so join us for this 30-day challenge to spend time with God each day and work towards starting a new habit and see how God can help us become more positive, one day at a time.

This study will begin on Sunday, June 1. Please use this link to join the study:

<https://bible.com/p/74321311/7c8dcefaf5653c61d043445000d3459e>

This online study and more can be accessed through the Bible App on your mobile device or the 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.

United Women of Faith

May 14, 2025

Members present: Barb Casper, Phyllis Kalnins, Ardith Olson, Ann Carlow, Janet Welch, Joanne Hornby and her sister Audrey.

President Janet read a meditation from the Guidepost called "Walking in Grace".

President Janet read the Secretary's report from the April 9th meeting.

Treasurer Barb gave the treasurer's report of \$1,808.51.

Child Fund for the summer is May – Pat Matz, June – Betty Ross, July – Joanne Hornby, August – Phyllis Kalnins, and September – Jolene Gudgeon.

Cookies & Coffee for Sunday morning:

May is Hospitality I

June is Lydia Circle - June 1st is Barb Casper, June 8th is Betty Ross, June 15th is Janet Welch, June 22nd is Phyllis Kalnins, June 29th is Joanne Hornby

July is Hospitality III

August is Hospitality II

September is Hospitality I

President Janet read a card from Eileen Bennett, a member of the South West District Team, saying it was nice seeing us at the Spiritual Growth Retreat on Sat April 26th at Lancaster UMC. Joanne, Betty and Janet attended. It was so nice seeing Pastor Erika. Robin Kelby, who serves as a Volunteer Steward at the U.W. Madison Arboretum, led the retreat with "Finding Our Roots in Restoration Ecology."

Phyllis Kalnins led us in a very interesting program.

Ann Carlow provided snacks.

Our next meeting will be on September 10th with Barb Providing snacks

Janet Welch



Finance / Administrative Council Committee

April 27, 2025

Members Present: Aaron Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Layne Hanson, Phyllis Kalnins, Cavan Fang, Gregory Cheever (Treasurer), Gregg Roberts (Secretary), Pastor Paul Leek Barb Casper Kristen Parrott, Dan Brown (Chair)



Kathy announced that the Rummage Sale prep is in full swing. The sale will be held on May 1 & 2.

We will serve the Community Dinner on June 23rd. Phyllis, Barb C. Kathy, and Alice Sloane will meet to decide on a menu and then recruit help and donations.

Our next meeting date falls on Mother's Day. Because of the conflict, the group decided to not meet in May. Since our regular June date falls on Father's Day, we will meet on June 22nd.

There has been an inquiry about building space for rent. Gregg will follow up with the individual.

Discussion was held regarding fees for building usage. Because of the high cost of maintaining this building, we feel that we need to ask for donations, and outside groups seem very willing to give them. An updated form with suggested amounts will be brought to the next meeting.

Missions Committee: See update elsewhere in this newsletter.

Worship Committee: The committee will meet this coming week. See minutes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Trustees: The lower elevator continues to have problems. Aaron is working with Arrow Lifts. The Trustees decided to seal coat the parking lot this summer. It hasn't been done for a couple of years. The suggested ask for snowplowing help from our neighbors, the Clines, is 40% of the plowing—nothing for salt. Gregory will figure the amount.

Treasurer's report (Mr. Cheever): Current annual budget deficit is approximately \$13,600.

The treasurer's report accepted as given. Layne made a motion, Aaron seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to transfer \$15,000 from the endowment to general fund as of June 1. Aaron made a motion, Phyllis seconded. Motion carried.

Suggestion to reseal the parking lot as a Capital Improvement rather than general maintenance. Gregory Cheever made the motion, Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

The secretary's report (Mr. Roberts) accepted as presented. Aaron made a motion to accept, Barb seconded. Motion carried.

Sonja Bjerkos checkbook audit results needed. Gregory Cheever will get statements together for the 2024 audit.

There will not be a May meeting. June meeting will be 6/22/25.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Hospitality Committee

May 13, 2025

Members Present: Barb Casper, Alice Sloane, Kathy Hanson, Avis Marino, Betty Ross

Kathy opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes from our April meeting and the homebound list were reviewed.

The Homebound list was reviewed. Workers at Bethel Oaks do encourage visitors for the residents there.

Avis' May cards: 11 birthday & 1 anniversary.

Old Business

The Rummage Sale and Mother's Day flower gifts were revisited. They both went well. It would be preferred that the flowers be a bit bigger and more in bloom, but people seem to appreciate them anyway.

Coffee time in the Narthex seems to be well received. We feel that more people are stopping on their way through.

New Business

Confirmation: Kathy has ordered flowers for the confirmands to wear and will get a cake ordered this week.

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Committee (continued)

Barb will pick up the flowers and Alice will pick up the cake., The two of them will set everything up for serving.

Sundae Sunday will be held on June 1st after the worship service. The Education Committee will be responsible for that.

Father's Day: We decided to host a breakfast for all men of the church on Father's Day. We will send invitations around June 1st and will want RSVPs so that we know how many to plan for. The menu was planned. We will need some more females to help prepare and serve the food.

Community Dinner: Some planning was done for our serving of the dinner on June 23rd. We are planning on brats, hot dogs, macaroni salad, veggies, with cake and ice cream for dessert. We will need donations of money, cakes, and workers—both to make the food and to work that night. Sign-up sheets should be out by Memorial Day weekend.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th.

Trustees Meeting

May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Aaron Hanson, Jack Deters, Pete Gilman, Phyllis Kalnins

Jack opened the meeting with prayer.

We have had problems with the lower-level elevator again. During the yard sale a shopper got stuck in the elevator. This required a kitchen step stool and 3 helpers to get her out safely. The repairman was here again. He concluded that the problem was a technician error from the previous service call. Hopefully there will be no charge for this service call.

Bills received from the elevator company. It has taken about 5 trips to get the elevator repaired.

\$1000.00 annual service contract fee

\$663.95 service call

\$ 446.40 service call

Strang's bills for the parsonage:

March \$576.70 fixed 2 heating zones and reset the toilet

May \$245.00 cleared the drain in the basement sink

We have received an offer from the Willet Company, a stained-glass inspection firm, to evaluate the condition of our windows at no charge. The trustees decided to let the service come and inspect our stained-glass windows. Aaron will contact the company to set a date for the inspection.

At the rummage sale it was noted that a shopper in a wheelchair could not get through the Fellowship Hall doorway. We will measure the doors to evaluate what might be done to correct the problem.

We needed to deny the request of a person who was asking to rent our kitchen. The inspection of the kitchen would be very expensive as well as the cost of the certification. The kitchen would then need to be upgraded to a commercial level which is cost prohibitive.

Several issues are being referred to the Finance/Ad Council Committees. We need a specific description of the room we are trying to rent—square footage and inclusions such as heat, A/C, Wi-Fi, etc. plus the rent amount. We need to know if the church will require the renters to have insurance for their space and possessions. Also, are we going to allow a business which requires customers to come to the church?

The trustees would like to know if we will be allowed to use a handyman's services to do some needed repairs around the church. This would be a pay per task situation. Do we have the money to afford such a service?

The Ad Council has approved our request to blacktop the parking lot this year.

Our next meeting will be on June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Missions Update

The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, July 6, at 11:45am.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our bake sale table at the recent church rummage sale. We are grateful for those who baked, those who staffed the table, and those who bought baked goods! Together we raised about \$175 for our missionary Temba, in Zambia.

We will celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on June 15, the first Sunday after Pentecost. United Methodists seek peaceful solutions, create and support peace-related ministries, and learn about peaceful, just efforts around the world. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. Half of the funds collected from this Special Sunday offering remain in Wisconsin to strengthen social justice ministries in our state. The other half of the donations fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

Education Committee

Members Present: Pastor Paul, Kathy, Janette, Heidi, Avis

Old Business:

1.Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success! It was attended to by several of our church kids as well as several community children and their parents. Everyone had a wonderful time. We plan on repeating this activity again next year.

Sunday School: Outdoor Sunday School Games will be starting on Sunday June 15th. We will distribute a sign-up sheet to get volunteers to help with this. We will need 1 adult with a background check, or 2 adults to supervise in order to be in compliance with the Safe Sanctuaries Policy. We plan on playing classic yard games with the kids and ending with a Bible story. We hope to offer this each Sunday through the Summer before traditional-style Sunday School can start this Fall.

Pastor Paul has met with Mitchell and they will be starting a Teen Group. They will hold their first get-together on Wednesday May 28th. At this meeting the teens will have the opportunity to plan some fun activities for the Summer.

Confirmation Update: Confirmation will be held on Sunday May 18th. A cake will be ordered to celebrate the confirmands, along with flowers. Pastor Paul will pick up both on Saturday May 17th. Gifts have also been purchased for each confirmed and will be given out by Pastor Paul during the Confirmation Ceremony.

Sundae Sunday: Will be held on Sunday June 1st in conjunction with Graduate recognition.

2025 Scholarship: Wynne Roberts and Reid Brown are the 2025 scholarship recipients. They will both receive their scholarship announcement at the High School scholarship awards ceremony being held on Wednesday May 7th.

Graduate Recognition: We will recognize our graduates on Sunday June 1st. Gifts are being ordered for each.

New Business:

1.Community Meal: Our church is hosting the Community Meal at Good Sheppard Church the 4th Monday in June. A separate committee has already planned the menu. We will encourage teens & our youth to help with this event.

Summer Activities: The teens will decide these for themselves when they meet with Pastor Paul & Mitchell on Wednesday May 28th.

VBS: Westby is hosting VBS this year. Pastor Paul will connect with Westby to determine the date and activities. He will share those details when they become available

Next Meeting Date & Time: Next meeting will be held on Monday June 2nd, 2025 @ 6:00 PM at church

*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

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Adult Sunday School Class—9:00 am

Worship—10:30 am

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.