

*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
June 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Repentance

by Pastor Paul Lee

Last time, 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 the 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" by someone self? Wesley taught people repentance starts when the Holy Spirit lights a human to see their sin. The Holy Spirit opens people's eyes, spirits, and hearts to see humans' sin, and 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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Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

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

** Pastor Paul will be attending Annual Conference June 5-8 and on vacation June 23-29.*

Contact Information:

Direct Office Phone: 608-638-7627

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June Birthdays

June 7 – Donna Perkins & Ann Shaw

June 11 – Jane Gaskell

June 18 – Verna Drake

June 20 – Kay Zogg



June Anniversaries

June 11 – Roger & Kay Zogg



Sunday School News

Hailee Janzen celebrated her confirmation with her family and church family on May 25th during worship. Thank you for sharing your faith statement Hailee and welcome to the church family! You are a blessing!

Coming up: Sunday Fun Day – June 22 @ 2:00

We will be going to Jump Start Adventure Park in LaCrosse with Pastor Paul for the afternoon. We will meet at the church. Jane will contact everyone with exact timing and details.

Planning ahead:

VBS will be in Westby in August. Dates will be finalized soon. Please get back to Jane with the best August Sunday date for your family if you haven't already.

Suggestions and ideas are welcome!

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please continue to exercise your prayer muscles by joining us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, June 5th for our monthly prayer group time. Prayer is a gift from God and a powerful tool that He gave to us. He wants us to use it, individually and as a group. Thank you for your continued prayers for our church ministries, church members and our community.



Mission of the Month – VBS

Our Sunday-School students look forward to attending special activities at the church, in the summertime. Regular school is no longer in session and Sunday School does not meet on a regular basis. Our kids especially enjoy getting together with children from the Viroqua church, at our annual Vacation Bible School. VBS, will be at the Westby church, this Year, and everyone is welcome to participate— children and adults. While the curriculum for this year has not been formalized, we need to collect funds to be ready to purchase the materials needed to make it a memorable occasion for all. Please make checks out to the church, with VBS on the memo line. Thank you!



Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Please join us on Thursday, June 26th at 9:00 AM for our monthly Bible Study group. This month, we will start discussing 1st and 2nd Corinthians. We will continue to use the inductive Bible study method.

Please read through both books to understand the story. Read a 2nd time and underline or color in different colors the who (names, titles, groups, etc), time (time of day, year, time of year), trinity (God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit) and where (places, town names, etc).

During Bible Study discussion will be about observations, questions, answers, and life application of the Corinthians books. Even 2000 years later we can apply it to our current day lives.

June Online Study – 30 Day Challenge for Positive Living

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.

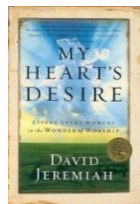
Studies show it can take 18 to 254 days to form a new habit, so join us for this 30-day challenge to spend time with God each day and work towards starting a new habit and see how God can help us become more positive, one day at a time.



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.



Growing in Faith Study Group

As we continue our discussions about the book, *My Heart's Desire*, by David Jeremiah, we'll be discussing chapters 9 & 10 in June. We'll meet on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:00 PM to discuss chapter 9 and on Wednesday, June 18th to discuss chapter 10. Please join our discussions to find out how we can incorporate worship more into our everyday lives.

"Tea Time" Groups with Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul wants to continue to have conversations with us, in small groups, to discuss how this first year of ministry has been going and other thoughts you may have about our church. Pastor Paul will contact each group to schedule a meeting time and place to have our "Tea Time" discussions.

Here are the groups:

Group 1: Richard & Irma Allen, Verna Drake, Roger & Kay Zogg, Lois Gerling, & Adrian Hoff

Group 2: Ann Shaw, Ardith Hoff, Sharon Sharratt, Jean Shore, Linda Weilnau

Group 3: Julie Fargen, Kelly & Jill Bjornstad, Cody & Michelle Janzen

Group 4: Tim Gaskell, Maranda & Dusty Oliver, Adey Oliver, Ethan & Lisa Janzen

Group 5: Jane Gaskell, Donna Perkins, Ashlynn Davidson, Kari & Geno Davidson





Baby Bottle Drive for Door of Hope

The Door of Hope Baby Bottle Drive fundraiser continues until Father's Day, June 15th. During this time, we're being asked to save our pocket change and put it in baby bottles. Please bring your baby bottles to church on Sunday, June 15th. Thank you for helping!

Visioning & Planning Meeting – June 14th

Our church will have a visioning and strategic planning meeting on June 14th from 8:00-2:00, depending on how long it takes for the discussions. We will talk about our church's future and vision through 5 strategic questions.



Here is the list of categories and questions we'll be considering during this meeting:

1. Front Door. How will we engage new people? Who are you trying to reach? Who is your target? What is their lifestyle and age range? Does your church have a culture of "welcome" for new people?
2. Spiritual Formation. What will create the transformation? If new people show up, what's your plan to help them connect with Christ and each other?
3. Communication. Do we have a clear identity and know who we are? Who are you? What do you value? Why should people attend your church? Do you know your own identity? What do people in the community say about your church?
4. Clear Vision. What bold moves will we make this year? What might the church look like in 3-5 years? Where are we headed? What are the 2-3 big things we will attempt in the next 1-2 years?
5. Finance and Operations. How will we fund and structure this vision? What is our plan to fund the ideas and visions that God gives us? Will we add any staff in the coming years? Which ones first? How can we execute the vision?



Burgers in the Park – July 17th

Planning Ahead: Burgers in the Park will be July 17th with serving from 5-7pm. This year Bethel Buttik Foundation is running it, and we can still be a sponsor; however, with the lower cost of \$5/plate we will not earn any profit from the meals sold.

We have decided to have a bake sale during the serving times..... so, start getting out your favorite recipes. All baked goods are welcome, cookies, breads, pies, cakes, cupcakes, etc. Items will be sold in various amounts such as 4 cookies or a dozen cookies. We will also need some people to man the bake goods table.

Bethel Buttik Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you to all who helped make the Bethel Buttik Volunteer Appreciation dinner a success!!! The bars were delicious, servers and prep people worked hard, and clean-up crew were fast and efficient. Thank you card from BB is on offering table for all to read.



Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ☩ - May 14, 2025

Present: Verna Drake, Julie Fargen, Jean Shore and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Verna Drake opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April board meeting were emailed to the board and published in the May newsletter, so they could be reviewed prior to the meeting. Julie Fargen and Verna Drake motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for April. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Verna Drake and Julie Fargen motioned to move \$7,000 from the checking account

into the Money Management account so we can receive a higher interest rate. Motion passed. Jean Shore and Julie Fargen motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- ✚ West Entrance Railings – This discussion will be tabled until the June meeting because the people with the information about this topic were not available.
- ✚ Insurance Update – Verna Drake reported that we are still waiting for an audit to verify the square footage of our building, so we can get a possible reduction in the insurance rates.
- ✚ Safe Sanctuary Policy – Review & Vote – Motion was made by Jean Shore and Julie Fargen to approve the Safe Sanctuary Policy that was drafted on 4/20/2025 and presented at the April board meeting. Motion passed.

New Business:

- ✚ Railing for Back Entrance – Fred Fronk came and looked at this item. He said it would be about \$230 to fix the railing for the back entrance. Jean Shore and Julie Fargen motioned to have Fred Fronk do this repair. Motion passed.
- ✚ Church Cleaning – The current person who is paid to do the cleaning in the kitchen and restrooms, is supposed to be cleaning these areas twice a month. We've noticed that this isn't being done on a regular basis or to the quality standards we expect. We need to discuss how to proceed regarding this concern at the June meeting.
- ✚ Mowing – We are currently paying \$30 per time the lawn is mowed, and Connor is mowing for us again this year.
- ✚ Visioning Meeting – Pastor Paul let Verna know that he would like to have this meeting on June 14 or 21. It was decided to have this meeting on Saturday, June 14 and it will be from 8:00-2:00 (if needed). Linda Weilnau will add this meeting to the May 25 bulletin and post it on Facebook and the website.
- ✚ VBS Planning – Jane Gaskell let Verna know that we will start planning for VBS in June and will be working with Viroqua to plan this joint event. VBS will be held at Westby this year.
- ✚ Small Group Meetings with Pastor Paul – Pastor Paul had requested to have assistance with creating 3-4 small groups for these teatime meetings. Verna Drake will help with this.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✚ **Trustees** – Verna Drake will paint the narthex in June. Verna indicated the cracks in the parking lots are getting bad. It has been about 2 years since the parking lots have been seal coated. Midwest Asphalt indicated they can do this for \$1,657. Verna Drake and Jean Shore motioned to have Midwest Asphalt seal coat the parking lots and repaint the lines. Motion passed.
- ✚ **SPRC** – Verna Drake reported that the Viroqua SPRC is at an impasse regarding what percentage each church should pay for the pastor's salary. They are waiting for input from our district superintendent regarding this.
- ✚ **Worship** – Confirmation Sunday (May 25) – Hailee Janzen will be confirmed. Verna Drake will check into a possible gift for Hailee from the church.
 - There will be a joint worship service on July 20 at Eckhart Park in Viroqua with a potluck after the service.
- ✚ **Education** – There will be a Fun Day for the Sunday School group at the Jump Park in La Crosse, sometime in June.
- ✚ **Lay Leadership** – No report.
- ✚ **Missions** – No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul will be at Annual Conference June 5-8. Tim Gaskell will be the guest speaker on June 8.

- Pastor Paul may be taking a vacation the last week of June. He will ask someone from the Viroqua church to give the message at both churches on June 29.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

June 2025

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 6:00 PM – Growing in Faith Study Group	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 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 8:00 AM – Vision Planning Meeting
15 <i>Father's Day</i> ☩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 2:00 PM – Sunday Fun Day for Youth	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 9:00 AM – Bible Study Group 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 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site					

**** 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)