



*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
July 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Summary of John Wesley's Sermon, "The Scripture Way of Salvation"

John Wesley's sermon "The Scripture Way of Salvation" explains how people are saved and grow in their faith, using simple ideas from the Bible. He focuses on Ephesians 2:8, which says, "By grace you are saved through faith." Wesley wants people to understand that salvation is a gift from God, not something we can earn by being good.

First, Wesley says that we are saved by grace. Grace means God's kindness and love that we don't deserve. We receive this grace through faith, which means trusting in Jesus Christ. Faith is not just believing with your mind—it means truly depending on Jesus in your heart.

When someone has faith, God forgives their sins. This is called justification. At the same time, God also changes their heart. This is called regeneration or being "born again." It's like starting a new life. From that point on, the person begins to live differently, wanting to please God and do what is right.

But salvation does not stop there. Wesley teaches that we are also sanctified, which means we grow to become more like Jesus. This is a lifelong journey of spiritual growth and becoming holy. God gives us the strength to turn away from sin and do good things. Wesley says that good work does not save us, but they are proof that we have real faith. If someone truly believes, they will show love, patience, peace, and other good qualities.

One special idea in Wesley's teaching is Christian perfection. This doesn't mean being perfect, like never making a mistake. Instead, it means having a heart full of love—loving God with all your heart and loving others as yourself. Wesley believed that with God's help, Christians can reach a point where they no longer have bad thoughts or selfish desires controlling them. This is also something we receive by trusting God, not by trying hard on our own.

In simple terms, Wesley says salvation is a journey. It begins when we first believe and are forgiven (justification), continues as we grow to become more like Jesus (sanctification), and can ultimately lead to a life filled with love (Christian perfection). All of this is possible only because of God's grace and love. We must always trust in God from beginning to end.

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Wesley's message is that God wants to save us, change us, and fill us with God's love—and all we have to do is believe and keep trusting God.

July Birthdays

July 7 – Adey Oliver

July 19 – Julie Fargen

July 27 – Dusty Oliver



Sunday School News

The kids had a blast at the Adventureland Jump Park in LaCrosse in June on our Sunday Funday. It was good to be together and watch our kids have so much fun. It is heart warming to see them treat each other so kindly, no matter their age.



Vacation Bible School is coming soon! This year will be a LEGO themed VBS “Build Your Faith” on Sunday, August 10 from 4:00 – 7:00 hosted by Westby. Viroqua UMC will be joining us. We are working on details now, so if you would like to help out, please contact Jane as soon as possible – 608-606-0317.

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please continue to exercise your prayer muscles by joining us at 9:00 AM on Thursday, July 3rd 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 – Stuff the Bus

July is our traditional month to help Stuff the Bus with school supplies. The Macintosh library in Viroqua sponsors the collection of supplies for needy families in the county. A container will be in the narthex of the church to collect such things as back packs, pencils, rulers, crayons, spiral note books, glue sticks and scissors. These supplies need to be at the church by August 6th so that they can be delivered, sorted and packaged for distribution well before school starts. You may bring supplies to the church any time between now and August 6th. We will make an appointment to drop our donated items off. If you prefer to donate money toward this project, you can write a check to the church and put “Stuff the Bus” on the memo line.



Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Please join us on Thursday, July 24th at 9:00 AM for our monthly Bible Study group. This month, we will continue our discussion of 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, the 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.



July Online Study – Lord, Hear Our Cry: 30 Day Prayer Challenge

Prayer. It's how we communicate with God. We share our hearts. We pause to listen for wisdom and guidance. However, all too often we can treat it as a measure of last resort rather than a constantly open dialog to our loving Creator. When your prayer life becomes stale, you can stray from God's path and lose your focus.

In July, we are hoping to motivate you to return to a vibrant prayer life as we challenge you to pray boldly and consistently for 30 days. Together, we will embark on a journey to reignite our prayer lives, opening our hearts so that prayer truly becomes an essential part of our everyday lives. By the end of the month, we will be able to live a quote from John Wesley: "All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God."

We invite you to join us for this prayer challenge, beginning Tuesday, July 1st. Use the link below to join the study/challenge and re-ignite your prayer life!

Lord, Hear Our Cry: 30-Day Prayer Challenge – Begins July 1st: https://bible.com/reading-plans/1502/together/74723498/invitation?token=M4ZQXSCc4dg4A2P_F2sZ8w&source=share

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

At this time, we have decided to put this study group on pause. Please be praying about the direction this study group should go, and its purpose.



Visioning & Planning Meeting – Update

On June 14th, we met to begin the discussion about visioning plans for our church. The discussions went well and were thought provoking. Thank you to those who were able to attend this discussion session.

We need everyone's help with the next step, which is praying daily for God's direction and guidance as we move forward so we know exactly what He wants us to do as a church for serving Him and serving others.

We want to share our thoughts each Sunday after fellowship and discuss what God is telling us. When we feel that we know what God wants us to do, then we'll proceed to create a detailed vision statement and determine how we will carry out God's vision for our church body. Thank you!

Joint Outdoor Worship Service in the Park – July 20th

Our annual Joint Outdoor Worship Service with Viroqua UMC is scheduled for Sunday, July 20th at 10:00 AM. This year the service will be held at Eckhart Park in Viroqua. Please bring your own lawn chair.



Outdoor Worship Service

After the service, there will be a potluck and time for fellowship. You're invited to bring a dish to share, but if you're not able to bring something, don't worry, there will still be plenty of food. Please bring your own plates and dinnerware. Beverages, cups and napkins will be supplied. In case of rain, we will meet at Viroqua UMC.



Coming Soon – “BURGERS IN THE PARK” – July 17th

On Thursday July 17th, our church is the assisting sponsor for Burgers in the Park. This is an opportunity for our church family to work with others outside of our church and in the community. We need church wide participation in any or all of the following ways:

1. Help serve food between 5-7pm (1st or 2nd hour)
2. Bake your favorites for the Bake Sale. Please bring your baked goods to the church by 1pm on the 17th.
3. Work at our bake sale table
4. Assist with prayer fence ribbons
5. Cut and/or wrap baked goods at church from 3:00-4:45pm on the 17th
7. Spread the word about the event to bring in a good crowd



Having a Bake Sale is our only way to make money at this year's Burgers in the Park.

The meal price has been reduced to \$5 per plate to make it more affordable for all, and that cost just covers the expense of the food.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex at church to indicate what type of bar, cookie or other baked item you will provide. We are doing a sign-up sheet so we hopefully don't have several people bringing the same item. It will be helpful to have a wide variety of baked goods. Please do not cut bars or any other larger baked goods items. We will cut them at the church to have a uniform size. Any baked good items are welcome. Dessert is not included with the meal so some of the bake sale items will be sold in single servings for those wanting a dessert.

We have arranged to have live music by Roddy Dull, so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music when you are able. Thank you for helping with this event!

Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting ✝ - June 11, 2025

Present: Ardith Hoff, Julie Fargen, Verna Drake, Tim Gaskell, Jane Gaskell, Jean Shore and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Tim Gaskell opened with prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report: Verna Drake provided the financial reports for May. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Verna Drake reported that there will be extra pastoral expenses for attending the Annual Conference, the first weekend of June. \$600 was pulled from the cemetery CD for stone care. Ardith Hoff and Jane Gaskell motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- ✝ West Entrance Railings – We want to have handrails placed on the south side and part of the west side of the cement walkway of the west entrance. Tim Gaskell will contact some contractors to get bids for this project.
- ✝ Back entrance repair – Fred Fronk – Verna Drake reported that Fred Fronk will have this repair work completed by the end of June for about \$230. The fallen tree was cut up and removed for \$35.
- ✝ Insurance – update – Verna Drake reported that we are still waiting for the audit of the square footage of our church building from the insurance company.

- ✝ Church Cleaning – We discussed as to whether to continue with our current cleaning person, who is supposed to clean the kitchen and the bathrooms twice a month. It was decided to continue with this person. Verna Drake and Jane Gaskell will review the cleaning list to see if adjustments can be made to possibly reduce the tasks on this list.
- ✝ Vision Meeting – June 14 – The list of questions for this discussion was emailed to the congregation prior. We will start at 8:00 AM and everyone will bring their own lunch.
- ✝ Small Group Meetings – Verna Drake created the groups. Someone will be contacting the members of each group to arrange a meeting time for each group.
- ✝ Burgers in the Park – July 17 – Verna Drake purchased a section of fence to use for the Prayer Fence. We will have people write prayer requests on pieces of ribbon and then tie the ribbons to the fence. Our church will then pray for these prayer requests. Verna arranged for someone to perform music during this event. We will have a bake sale at this time and have a sign-up sheet so we don't have several people bringing the same item. We'll package some of the baked goods individually so they can be purchased for dessert. We will need people to be cashiers for the bake sale and some people to help serve the meals. The baked goods need to be at the church by 1:00 PM on July 17. Linda Weilmann will make blank name tags so we can let people know who we are and that we're part of Westby UMC.
- ✝ Growing in Faith Study Group – It was decided to pause this group for now and see how it may fit into our Vision Planning.

New Business:

- ✝ Father's Day – It was decided to give out some homemade cookies and Jane Gaskell will make a note to put on the bags.
- ✝ Outdoor service – July 20 @ Ekhart Park, Viroqua – This service will be at 10:00 AM. There will be a potluck afterwards and everyone needs to bring their lawn chairs for the service. Linda Weilmann isn't able to attend this service, so Verna Drake will record the message and scripture reading.
- ✝ Cybersecurity Warranty Statement – This item was discussed and then signed by Tim Gaskell.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✝ **Trustees** – Verna Drake has the paint and will start painting the narthex before the end of June.
- ✝ **SPRC** – An email was sent out, requesting that the SPRC groups from both churches meet to discuss the percentage each church pays for the pastor's salary.
- ✝ **Worship** – Guest speakers in June – We may need a guest speaker for June 29. Someone will see if a person from Viroqua can do both churches that Sunday.
- ✝ **Youth** – June 22 Jump Park Fun Day | VBS Planning – The youth will be going to the Jump Park during the afternoon on June 22. The tentative date for VBS is Aug. 10. Jane Gaskell said she is considering a Lego theme. VBS will be with Viroqua UMC and planning will begin in July.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – Ardith Hoff said she has been writing more essays for the website.
- ✝ **Missions** – The mission of the month for July will be Stuff the Bus because this organization wants the school supplies delivered to them the first part of August.

Pastor's Report: No report available at this time.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilmann

July 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class | 2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site | 3 9:00 AM - Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class | 4 | 5 |
| 6 ☛9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship | 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 | 12 |
| 13 ☛9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship | 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 | 17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class | 18 | 19 |
| 20 ☛10:00 AM – Joint Worship Service w/Viroqua UMC 11:00 AM – Potluck after Worship | 21 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site | 22 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class | 23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site | 24 9:00 AM – Bible Study Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class | 25 | 26 |
| 27 ☛9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship | 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 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM –Strength Training Class | | |

**** 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)