

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 2026**

IN THIS ISSUE

Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, VI

by Pastor Paul Lee

In the fifth chapter of Matthew, Jesus painted a picture of the inner life — humility, mercy, purity of heart. Now in chapter six, he turns outward. How do we give? How do we pray? How do we forgive? John Wesley's Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount: Discourse VI follows Jesus into these practical questions, and his answer is consistent throughout: what makes any action holy is not what you do, but why you do it. Pure intention is everything.

Wesley's central warning is about doing good things for the wrong audience. When we give to the poor, pray, or perform any act of devotion in order to be seen and praised by others, we have already received our reward — the applause of people — and nothing more is coming from God. This is what Wesley means by "hypocrisy": not necessarily lying, but doing outwardly good things with a heart aimed at the wrong target. God is not impressed by performances. He looks at the heart.

On the matter of giving, Wesley is careful not to say that all public giving is wrong. Sometimes generosity done openly can inspire others to give. The real danger is when personal glory is the motive. If the reason you give is to be noticed, thanked, or admired, the act loses its spiritual value entirely. Wesley's practical counsel is to give as quietly as possible, and to trust that God, who sees what is done in secret, will reward it in his own time and way.

Prayer comes under the same principle. The Pharisees loved to pray in public places — not to speak to God, but to be heard by people. Wesley says this kind of prayer is simply not prayer at all. It is theater. True prayer is the lifting of the heart to God, and any words spoken without that inward movement are empty. He also warns against the opposite mistake: piling up long, repetitive words as if God is impressed by volume. God already knows what we need. What matters is sincerity, not length.

This leads Wesley into a careful walk through the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus gives as a model. To call God "our Father" is to approach him with the trust and confidence of a child — but the word "heaven" reminds us that this Father is also the holy and almighty King. Every phrase holds weight. To pray "hallowed be your name" is to ask that God's character be honored in us and in the world. "Your kingdom come" is a prayer for

Message	p. 1
Pastor's Schedule	p. 2
Birthday-Anniversary.	p. 2
Sunday School.	p. 2
Mission of Month.	p. 2
Prayer Group	p. 3
Study Programs.	p. 3
Online Study	p. 4
Other Activities	p. 4
Board Minutes	p. 5
Calendar	p. 7

God's reign to grow in human hearts. "Your will be done" asks that people on earth would follow God as freely and fully as angels do. "Give us our daily bread" covers far more than food — it reaches every genuine need of body and soul.

The petition Wesley lingers on most, however, is forgiveness. Jesus not only includes it in the prayer but repeats it immediately afterward, almost as if he knows we will be tempted to skip over it. The condition is plain: God forgives us as we forgive others. This means the depth and fullness of our own forgiveness before God is directly shaped by how completely we forgive the people who have wronged us. If bitterness or resentment remains — even quietly, even "understandably" — it closes something off in our relationship with God. Wesley calls this a point of the utmost importance, and it is hard to disagree. It is the one clause in the prayer that carries its own warning attached.

The thread running through all of this is integrity — the alignment of outward action with inward motive. Wesley's Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount: Discourse VI is, at its heart, an invitation to stop performing for people and to start living before God.

~ Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul's Schedule:

Westby UMC Office Hours:

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

** Pastor Paul will be attending Annual Conference from June 4-7. He will be taking vacation from June 8-14 **

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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

The students enjoyed painting the parking posts at the park and did a good job! During the summer, we plan to have a special youth outing each month. On Sunday, June 14 we'll be going to the Jump Park in La Crosse and then eat at Pizza Ranch. Another activity will be planned for July.



Mission of the Month – VBS

While the combined VBS with Viroqua may not happen until later in the summer, it is time to start planning and to gather funds for materials to carry out that event and other youth activities throughout the year. During a recent visioning discussion, it was agreed that we feel called to serve our youth who are our future hope for a strong congregation. Finding ways to help them see the benefits of a life dedicated to the teachings of Jesus Christ while doing enjoyable activities. We are asking for donations to be given through the church with cash and checks designated for VBS/Youth activities.

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Please join our Prayer group on Thursday, June 4th at 9:00 AM. Come and help us to use the power of prayer as we pray for others and our church. Prayer is more powerful when we pray together.

The format of the Bible Study group is changing for May and June. Pastor Paul will be doing joint studies. Please refer to the May-June Study Programs article in this newsletter.



June Study Programs

Viroqua and Westby UMC are joining together for a season of study and community. We are offering two programs in June — exploring the Christian faith and the Word of God together. All are welcome. Please sign up on the Sign-up Sheet available in the church Narthex.

The June study program, Inductive Bible Study, will be held at Westby UMC. Inductive Bible Study starts with the text itself — observing what it says, interpreting what it means, and applying it to our lives. Rather than reading the Bible through someone else's conclusions, we learn to listen to Scripture directly and let it speak for itself.

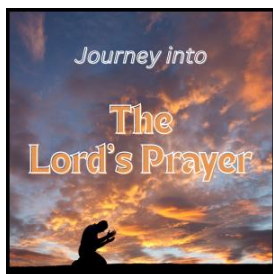
- June 21, 4:00 PM — Week 1: Observation & Interpretation
 - Who, When, Where — and where do we see the Trinity?
 - What is the timeless truth this passage is teaching?
- June 28, 4:00 PM — Week 2: Application
 - How does the Bible come into our everyday lives?

There will be a continuation of the Luke & Acts Devotional Workbook Small Group that will continue to meet in June. During Lent, many of us journeyed through the Luke & Acts devotional workbook on our own. Now we gather to share what we discovered — questions, reflections, and the moments where Scripture met our lives.

Each session is centered on sharing and discussion based on your personal devotional reading. You don't need to have completed every section to join — come as you are, bring your workbook, and share what stood out to you. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

Haven't started the workbook yet? No problem — start now and join us.

	Sunday – 11:45 AM @ Viroqua UMC	Tuesday – 6:00 PM @ Westby UMC
Week 1	May 24	May 26
Week 2	May 31	June 2
Week 3	June 21	June 23
Week 4	June 28	June 30



June Online Study – The Lord’s Prayer – The Heart of Prayer

We were taught it early on in Sunday School. We memorized it as youth. And many of us say it every Sunday during worship. It’s the Lord’s Prayer. But yet, do we truly understand it and its purpose? Sometimes, it can feel like just a ritual we do but it is so much more!

Join us in June as we discover the heart of prayer and work on a deeper connection with God. Together, we’ll learn that the Lord’s Prayer (and prayer in general) isn’t just a ritual. It’s our daily doorway into God’s heart. ***The key is in your hands. Will you unlock and open that door?***

Our June online study focusing on the Lord’s Prayer starts on Monday, June 1st and lasts the entire month. Join us at any time. All are welcome to participate.

The Lord’s Prayer (30 days) – starts on June 1

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/62779/together/80402343/invitation?token=Dgicb6Ah1cGdLU9mm3D0g&source=share>

**** Please note that the Bible.com website does not support Plans with Friends.** You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to use the links to these plans. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device.



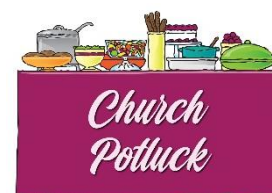
Website Review – June 1

The website review committee met on May 4 and decided on a new layout/theme for the website. Committee members have been asked to work on developing content for various sections of the website for the next meeting.

We will meet again on Monday, June 1 at 6:30 PM.

Potluck & Entertainment – June 3 @ 5:30 PM

On Wednesday, June 3rd at 5:30 PM, we’re having a potluck with entertainment during the meal. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. If you don’t have time to make a dish to share, please come anyway. There is usually plenty of food. Come for an evening of good food and fellowship!



Door of Hope Bottle Drive – Mother’s Day to Father’s Day

Please continue to fill the baby bottles with change for this fundraiser.

Please bring the baby bottles to church on Sunday, June 21st, Father’s Day.

Westby United Methodist Church – Board Meeting † May 13, 2026

Present: Verna Drake, Julie Fargen, Jean Shore, Jane Gaskell, Tim Gaskell, Pastor Paul and Linda Weilnau

Opening: Tim Gaskell 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. Jean Shore and Verna Drake motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: (Insurance update) - Verna Drake provided the financial reports for April and Year-to-Date. These reports were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. A request was made for future monthly reports to indicate which special accounts had expenses for the month. Verna Drake will set up auto payments for our insurance at the end of the summer.

Old Business:

- † Passwords – Offsite location / Key issue – Verna Drake had an extra safe key made and it will be kept off site.
- † Cemetery Clean-Up – Verna Drake will check to see what may need to be done for this clean up.
- † Syttende Mai Breakfast – Sons of Norway – The Sons of Norway have picked up a key and will start doing some set up on Thursday afternoon, then finish setting up on Friday, May 15. They have submitted the Building Use form and the check for using the building.
- † Burgers in the Park – We will do a bake sale at Burgers in the Park on July 16. A musician has been scheduled to provide entertainment for this event.
- † Website Review – update – The review committee met on May 4 and decided on a theme to use for the new website structure. We want to keep things simple for navigating the website. The committee is working on the individual church pages and Pastor Paul is working on the What We Believe section. The next meeting will be on June 1.
- † Safe Sanctuary Policy – Review – Jane Gaskell reviewed the proposed new items. Verna Drake will ask the insurance company about driving our own vehicles for youth activities. Board members will continue to review the proposed new additions to the policy before the June board meeting. We will discuss this further at the June meeting.
- † Vision Discussion – It was decided that we need to discuss this topic more during fellowship instead of at the board meetings.

New Business:

- † Hail Damage – update – Verna Drake received the information form from the insurance adjustor. Kickapoo Roofing covered the exposed areas on the west side of the building. The next step is to hire a contractor for this project. Our deductible has been paid through a donation to the church. Jane Gaskell and Verna Drake motioned to contact Kickapoo Roofing about doing this project. Motion passed. Verna will arrange a meeting with the contractor and Tim and Jane will also be at this meeting.

- ✝ Confirmation – May 31 – We need to get gifts for the students. Verna Drake will check on possible gifts.
- ✝ Graduation – Adey Oliver is our graduate. She will be giving the Baccalaureate speech.
- ✝ Father’s Day – This is on June 21. Verna Drake is taking care of a small gift of thanks for the fathers.
- ✝ Outdoor Service – Westby – Verna Drake will try to reserve Davidson Park for Sunday, July 26 from 9:00-12:00. We will have the service at 10:00 AM. The alternate day will be August 2.
- ✝ Group Activity – It was decided to have a potluck and watch a movie on June 3. The potluck will start at 5:30 PM and we will watch the movie while we’re eating.

Business from Board Committees:

- ✝ **Trustees** – Fluorescent bulbs and 2 old vacuum cleaners – disposed following cleaning day – The fluorescent bulbs have been picked up.
- ✝ **SPRC** – The committee was pleased with the number of Pastor Reviews they received. They will collate the results and give a copy to Pastor Paul.
- ✝ **Worship** – Pentecost is Sunday, May 24.
- ✝ **Youth & Sunday School** – We want to do one youth activity each month during the summer. It was decided to go to the Jump Park and Pizza Ranch on Sunday, June 14 in the afternoon and go roller skating in the afternoon on July 19. Linda Weilnau will send this information to the parents.
- ✝ **Lay Leadership** – No report.
- ✝ **Missions** – It was decided to do VBS/Youth for the June mission of the month, and Stuff the Bus will be the mission for July.

Pastor’s Report: For VBS, Pastor Paul would like to have a joint planning committee, with possible dates of Aug. 9, 16 or 23 for VBS.

- Pastor Paul will be at Annual Conference June 4-7. Layne Hanson will be the guest speaker for both churches.
- Pastor Paul plans on taking time off June 8-14. It was suggested to ask Ardith Hoff if she would be the guest speaker for Westby on June 14.
- Due to the June youth activity, we probably need to change the date of the June Bible study.

Jean Shore motioned to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Weilnau

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:30 PM – Website Review	2 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class 6:00 PM – Discussion Group	3 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 5:30 PM – Potluck with Entertainment	4 9:00 AM – Prayer Group 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	5 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	6
7 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship	8 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	9 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	10 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 6:00 PM – Church Board Meeting	11 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	12 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	13
14 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship Afternoon Youth Outing @ Jump Park	15 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	16 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	17 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	18 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	19 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	20
21 9:00 AM – Worship Service (Communion) 10:00 AM – Fellowship 4:00 PM – Bible Study	22 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	23 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class 6:00 PM – Discussion Group	24 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	25 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class	26 Pastor Paul’s Sabbath Day	27
28 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:00 AM – Fellowship 4:00 PM – Bible Study	29 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site	30 11:30 AM – Senior Meal Site 12:30 PM – Strength Training Class 6:00 PM – Discussion Group				

**** 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 courage to dream Your dreams for our church. Please open our minds and hearts and ears so we can hear Your voice to know what Your purpose is for our church. We pray in Christ’s name, Amen.

God is able to do much more than we ask or think, through His power working in us. ~ Ephesians 3:20 (NLV)