

THE CROSS & THE FLAME



June 2026

Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, VI

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 7* 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 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 7* is, at its heart, an invitation to stop performing for people and to start living before God.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Letter	page 1
Birthdays/Anniversaries	page 2
Looking Back at May	page 3
Looking Forward	pages 4-6, 8
Reports.....	pages 7-10
June Calendar	page 11

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Sunwoo Lee	June 9
Mary & Chuck Mulvaney Kemp	June 20th
Carolyn & Gerald Schroeder	June 22nd
Anita & AJ Frels	June 30th



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Rita Olson	June 4
Elizabeth Roberts	June 6th
Mary Mulvaney Kemp	June 7th
Marlo Volden	June 13th
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!

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.

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



The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Our Graduates



Finn Brenneman

Finn will be attending Northern Michigan University to study fisheries and wildlife biology.



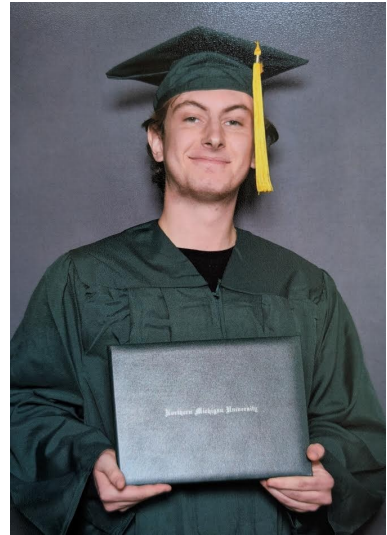
Kalia Schultz

Kalia is undecided about what she will be doing.



Gradyn Hanson

Gradyn will be entering a plumbing apprenticeship and also learning HVAC skills.



Ansel Brenneman

Ansel graduated in December from Northern Michigan University with a major in Environmental Studies and Sustainability and a minor in Biology.



Finn & Gradyn receive the Helen Paulsen-MacInnis scholarship given from our church

Study Programs

Inductive Bible Study – 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

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?

Luke & Acts Devotional Workbook — Small Group

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.

	Sunday · 11:45 AM Viroqua UMC	Tuesday · 6:00 PM Westby UMC
Week 2	May 31	June 2
Week 3	June 21	June 23
Week 4	June 28	June 30

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

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Psalm 126: 3

<i>June Sunday Servants</i>			
	Ushers	Greeter	Communion Stewards
June 7	Joann Hornby Mary Mulvaney Kemp	Alice Sloane	
June 14	Miny Hirschfield Janet Welch	Betty Ross	
June 21	Marlo Volden Mitchell Hanson	Avis Marino	Phyllis Kalnins Janette Hanson
June 28	Joanne Hornby Peach Hoiland	Barb Casper	

Redecorating

More than likely you have noticed the look of things changing around here. A redecorating committee committed to updating our look and feel has been organized. Please be patient as they try different things—changes may stay or they may change again. If you have any ideas or would like to join the group, there is a sign up sheet. The group will also be looking at signage, both inside and outside of the building.

Father's Day

On Sunday, June 17th, we honor and celebrate fathers, grandfathers, and father figures. Thank you, guys, for all the care encouragement, and examples you share with those around you. May God bless you richly on Father's Day.



Community Dinner

Looking to connect or serve?

Our church is scheduled to serve the Community Dinner on June 22nd. We will be serving brats, hot dogs, baked beans, deviled eggs, pickles, and cake. Everyone is welcome. This is a big Community Outreach for our church! Please check the sign up sheets in the Narthex to see how you can help.

Book Group To Participate in Declaration Book Club

Thomas Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, which created the United States. To celebrate the Declaration's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, Monticello has launched Declaration Book Club, featuring short readings, lively videos, and probing questions to spark discussion of our past, present, and future as one people, created equal. What did Jefferson and his cosigners declare in 1776—and how do we pursue life, liberty, and happiness today?

Our church book group has decided to join the 3 episode series of the Declaration Book Club over the summer months.

Meeting 1: 1776 - held on June 8th.

Meeting 2: 1826 (the 50th anniversary of the Declaration) - held on July 13th.

Meeting 3: Legacies (legacy & influence throughout history) - held on August 10th.

All are invited to join this study during the summer months. Discussion meetings will be held at the church at 7:00 pm.

For more information go to www.monticello.org

Summer Music

The Choir will be taking a well deserved break during the summer months. They have worked hard and added greatly to our worship experience for the past 9 months. Thank you to all of the members and especially to Cavan who has done such a great job of finding and arranging wonderful selections that help to relay the message of the day.

Others are encouraged to provide special music during the summer months. Instrumental music is welcome as well as vocal. If you or someone you know would be willing to serve by providing special music, please choose a Sunday and sign up in the Narthex.



RUMMAGE SALE



Rummage Sale

Please keep the church Rummage Sale in mind when cleaning out. Things can be left on the tables along the north wall in the Fellowship Hall.

The sale will be in October, so you have plenty of time, but don't wait till the last minute!

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 June 1st.

<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.



Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous be shaken.

Psalm 55: 22

United Women of Faith



- Those present: Joanne Hornby, Betty Ross, Barb Casper, Phyllis Kalnins and Janet Welch.
- President Janet read a prayer poem "Generous and Loving God."
- Janet read the minutes from the April meeting.
- Treasurer Barb gave the Treasurer's report as \$3,067.55.
- Child Fund sponsors are: Pat Matz in May, Betty Ross in June, Joanne Hornby in July and Phyllis Kalnins in August.
- Sunday Cookies and Coffee: Hospitality I in May, Lydia Circle in June, Hospitality II in July, Hospitality III in August, and Hospitality I in September.
- June 7th is Joanne Hornby June 21st is Janet Welch
- June 14th is Barb Casper June 28th is Phyllis Kalnins
- We voted to pay up to \$1,000.00 for a new water fountain in the hallway by the bathrooms and up to \$50.00 toward a new soup pot for the kitchen,
- As we've had our Christmas party cancelled because of weather, Phyllis suggested that we have it at a different time.
- We'll discuss it in the fall.
- Joanne led the program based on 70 years of women's groups in our church.
- Our next meeting will be held on September 9th and Phyllis will serve.
- Janet Welch President

Church Financial Update - April 2026

Thank you for your faithful support of Viroqua United Methodist Church and its ministries.

During the first four months of 2026, your giving has helped make possible many important parts of our shared ministry, including:

- **Worship and spiritual leadership** through pastoral support, worship planning, music, and church staff
- **Mission and connectional ministry** through our United Methodist apportionments and outreach giving
- **Christian education and faith formation** programs and materials
- **Care for our church home** through utilities, insurance, maintenance, and building operations that keep our facilities welcoming and functional for ministry

Through April, church giving and other revenue totaled **\$32,981**, while expenses for ministry and operations totaled **\$49,288**. Church savings/trustee resources have helped support ministry needs during this period.

We are grateful for the congregation's generosity and commitment to the work God is doing through our church. Every gift helps support worship, service, fellowship, and ministry in our community and beyond.

If you would like to see a more detailed financial report, please contact the church office.

Note: these figures represent the budget portion of giving. Missions, including the radio broadcast, are not included.

Center Street

You surely have noticed that street work is happening in the neighborhood of the church! City officials have met with us to inform us about the project and hear our needs for access. If everything goes according to schedule, work on our block should begin near the end of June. Weather and any problems they find underground can have an impact on the schedule.

Terhune Street will also be redone, but not until later. We won't be without access at least on one side of the building. The city understands that access to our parking lot is a priority because of the elevator, and they will do their best to keep it accessible as much as possible.

We will keep you informed about when the work on our block will begin, and every week while it is in progress.

Church Council Meeting

April 22, 2026

Attendees: Pastor Paul, Kathy, Gregory C., Layne, Aaron, Phyllis

<p>Opening Prayer</p>	
<p>Old Business/Follow ups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christmas Eve Offering (Re-visit in September) 2. Replace AED pads 3. Signage and redecorating committee update 4. Small Group Startup Communication Form 5. Church Council Bylaws 6. Parsonage update 7. Use of UWF funds update 8. Sexual Harassment Policy 9. Health team? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The pads will be ordered by Phyllis. This particular pad is not covered by the grant. 3. Asking for donations of items for consumption in the church is a concern, that it may hurt our offering. 5. Questions on term limits: Can a person serve more than 2 consecutive terms if in a different position? Yes, they can. The 2 consecutive terms applies to each individual position on the church council. A Leadership Development Representative will need to be found. We will also need a chair for next year, and will need to set up a rotation for positions going off. 6. Brent Welch is willing to look at the parsonage and give his opinion. 7. UWF has approved \$1000 for a new drinking fountain. Aaron will look into options to purchase. They also approved \$50 for a new soup pot for the kitchen. 8. Phyllis is working on a draft.
<p>Financial New Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treasurer's Report 2. Financial Secretary's Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Layne will develop a simplified report for the Newsletter. Detailed reports are available on request in the office. 2. Financial Secretary's report was not available.
<p>Trustees New Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Center Avenue 2. Lift Repairs 3. Parking lot basement windows 4. Sanctuary Carpet 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The city will meet with us to discuss the demolition of the street and sidewalks this summer. It is scheduled to begin the 2nd week of June. 2. Aaron is working to find the best options. 3. These need repair. They were temporarily fixed that winter, but need replacing now. 4. Spaeth's is scheduled to come to fix the carpet where the pews were taken out.

<p>Pastor's Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new sound system was used for Facebook today. 2. Pastor will be gone June 7th for Annual Conference, and June 14th for vacation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports were generally favorable with improved sound. 2. Layne will fill the pulpit on June 7th and we're hoping for a report from Temba for June 14th.
<p>Motions for Approval—3 motions carried.</p>	<p>Motion 1: Approval of April Minutes Motion 2: Approval of the Treasurer's report Motion 3: Motion 4: Phyllis has requested that memorials given for Erika be designated to the redecorating/signage committee. The trustees will have the authority to spend the money as needed.</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	

Ministry Team Meeting

April 12, 2026

Members Present: Alice, Cavan, Pastor Paul, Kristin, Layne

<p>Worship & Music Old Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will start using liturgists again, but only for Scripture. Layne will recruit readers. Paul will also recruit youth to read as well. 2. Outdoor Worship (July) This is Westby's year to host. 3. Hearing may be an issue, we may need to do some education about the loop system 4. Pentecost will be May 24. <p>New Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gluten-free Communion 2. Summer special music 3. Is it appropriate to clap for the choir? 4. May 31-Graduates will be celebrated 5. Annual Conference is June 7th. Pastor will be gone 6. June 14—Pastor also gone. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Variety and participation of readers has been great. We need to be accurate about whether it is a Gospel or Scripture reading. 2. July 26 in Davidson Park. Layne will talk to Aaron about using his UTV to help transport people. 3. Layne will mention in announcements to see how many people are struggling with hearing. 4. Wearing red and bringing geraniums. Pastor will talk to Phyllis about doing the altar display. 1. People are not consistently taking gluten-free bread. We will try to be sure that people know where to find it. 2. May 24 or 31 will be the last week for choir. Kathy will make a signup sheet to recruit people to share their musical talents throughout the summer. 3. Pastor says yes! 4. Pastor will have gifts. 5. Layne will preach. 6. Tim Gaskell will preach or there will be a message from Temba.
<p>Missions & Outreach Old Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor will connect with Temba to get a message from him, and we will spotlight him for a service. Paul will schedule this in coordination with his summer schedule 2. Native American Sunday April 19 review 3. Conference In-Gathering coming up. Kristen is recruiting donations for hospitality kits. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We ended up doing Native Am. Sunday for 2 weeks. The video seemed to be effective. 3. This is in the newsletter, Kristin has been collecting pledges and donations before church.

<p>Mission & Outreach New Business</p> <p>1. Peace With Justice Sunday</p>	<p>1. Cavan and Kristin will find a video to use for Peace with Justice Sunday. Pastor will download it so we don't end up seeing ads</p>
<p>Hospitality Old Business</p> <p>1. Kathy H. is the lead for the Rummage Sale and will develop a committee for late summer/early fall.</p> <p>2. Welcoming team could be 3-5 people that ensure that visitors are informed and welcomed (Layne and Cavan and Chuck M-K working on this)</p> <p>3. Community Meal is June 22. Committee has been formed (Alice, Kathy, Barb and Peach).</p> <p>4. Quarterly Potlucks will continue. We'll plan to set dates ahead at ministry team meetings. Layne will organize the promotion of this.</p> <p>5. Mother's Day review</p> <p>Hospitality New Business</p> <p>1. Homebound Gifts? Alice will recruit help from the former Hospitality Committee to help with this.</p> <p>2. Website is being reviewed. What do we think is important to present on the web?</p> <p>3. Encouraging name tags need to be emphasized</p> <p>4. Father's Day Breakfast?</p>	<p>3. There was a planning meeting this week, plans are progressing nicely. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex to recruit donations and workers.</p> <p>4. Next potluck will be September 13.</p> <p>5. Plants are the best gifts for Mother's Day</p> <p>1. Alice is working on finding a committee.</p> <p>2. Linda Weilnau has been the leader of this project. We need to come up with an introduction page for our church (1-2 paragraphs) Layne will work on it. Pastor is working on the "What we believe" section.</p> <p>4. Pastor will discuss with Peach.</p>
<p>Education Old Business</p> <p>1. Youth group update</p> <p>2. VBS Planning update</p> <p>4. Suggestions for an education lead?</p> <p>5. Sundaes Sunday May 24 Layne will work with Paul to coordinate supplies</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>1. Camp Promotion (suggested by the Church Council)</p> <p>2. Camping trip?</p> <p>3. Can we promote programming of our church through the school? If so, how.</p>	<p>1. Attempts to plan an event for June were unsuccessful due to everyone being busy. Shooting for July.</p> <p>2. August 16? (This request from Westby) Planning team will be formed.</p> <p>4. If we can't find a lead, let's write down questions/items we need input from the teachers for and Layne will communicate with them.</p> <p>5. Changed to May 17th because of Memorial Day on the 24th. Served upstairs – great turnout.</p> <p>1. Camp Sunday is required by the conference. Layne will coordinate with Joanne Hornby.</p> <p>2. Pastor is considering a youth camping trip in the future. Can camp funds be used to support this?</p> <p>3. Layne will connect with Jeremy Hill to get some guidance.</p>
<p>Lay Leader / Discipleship Old Business</p> <p>1. Small Groups</p> <p>2. Welcoming Committee update</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>1. Church Council Bylaws</p>	<p>1. Concerns include the term by-laws (doesn't feel like it connects with a church), may be too informal, etc.</p>

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30pm Website Meeting 1	10:30am Exercise Group 2	8:30am Prayer Group 3	10:30am Exercise Group 4	5	6
9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7	7pm Book Group 8	10:30am Exercise Group 9	8:30am Prayer Group 10	10:30am Exercise Group 11	9am Signage/Redecorating Team 12	13
9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Ministry Team Mtg. 4pm Bible Study @ Kathy Hanson's 14	6pm Council Visioning Meeting 15	10:30am Exercise Group 12pm Community Dinner Planning 16	8:30am Prayer Group 12pm Soup Group 6pm Church Council Mtg 17	10:30am Exercise Group 18	19	20
FATHER'S DAY 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Communion 11:45am Luke & Acts Devotional Workbook 4pm Inductive Bible Study @ Westby 21	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10 am Community Dinner Prep 5pm Community Dinner 22	10:30am Exercise Group 23	8:30am Prayer Group 24	10:30am Exercise Group 25	26	27
9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Luke & Acts Devotional Workbook 4pm Inductive Bible Study @ Westby 28	29	10:30am Exercise Group 30				4

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

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OFFICE HOURS

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**

Check Us Out On Facebook!



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.