

THE CROSS & THE FLAME



August 2026

Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, VIII

Discourse Eight takes up Matthew 6:19-23: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

Wesley insists that the purity of intention he has already described in giving, praying, and fasting must extend to every ordinary corner of our lives. He explains Jesus's image of the eye in a striking way: the eye is to the body what our intention is to the soul. When our eye is single, fixed wholly on God, our whole life is filled with light, holiness, and even happiness. When it is divided, chasing after earthly things alongside God, our whole life grows dark, restless, and full of ungodliness and unrighteousness.

From here, Wesley turns directly to money. He is careful to say that Jesus does not forbid providing for our own basic needs or our family's, nor does he forbid saving what is reasonably needed to keep our work free of debt and to leave something for our households. But beyond that reasonable measure, Wesley says plainly, saving is forbidden. To lay up treasure on earth beyond what we need is not a small failing; Wesley calls it nothing less than murdering our own souls, because it substitutes trust in riches for trust in the living God.

He does not shy away from hard words for the wealthy. Quoting Jesus's warning about how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom, Wesley presses further: the danger is not wealth itself but the deliberate, calm desire to acquire more of it. He asks who will warn this generation of that danger, and reminds his hearers that riches, however comforting they feel, cannot buy happiness or hold off death. He asks his readers directly whether the richest people they know are truly the happiest.

The sermon closes with a call to stewardship. Whatever we have beyond our genuine need belongs, in effect, to the poor, and hoarding it while others go hungry or unclothed makes us accountable before God for suffering we could have relieved. Wesley's remedy is not guilt for its own sake but a redirected gaze: give with a single eye and an upright heart, be merciful as our Father is merciful, and hold whatever we have loosely, as faithful stewards rather than owners.

Pastor Paul

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AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Gregory & Mary Cheever	August 9th
Jack & Mary Deters	August 10th
Josh & Heidi Garrett	August 29th



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Stalsberg	August 4
Sherman Carney	August 6
Angie Hanson	August 7
Janice Primmer	August 8
Charles Turben	August 18
Amanda Clements	August 19
Dan Brown	August 21
Christian Dach	August 24
Almina Hirschfield	August 25
Tom Lohr	August 27

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.

Center Street

The Center Street Construction project has moved on from the block in front of our church. The street is gravel, but fully passable. It is expected to remain this way for several weeks until they come back to do curb, gutter, and sidewalks.

Terhune Street will be started next—the side of our building.



August Sunday Servants

	Ushers	Greeter	Communion Stewards
August 2	Aaron & Angie Hanson	Avis Marino	Phyllis Kalnins Marlo Volden
August 9	Janette Hanson Joanne Hornby	Barb Casper	
August 16	Mary & Chuck Mulvaney Kemp	Avis Marino	
August 23	Mitchell Hanson Joanne Hornby	Alice Sloane	
August 30	Anita Frels Chuck Mulvaney Kemp	Betty Ross	

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 16th

4:00—7:00 pm

Hosted by Viroqua & Westby
United Methodist Churches

202 East State Street, Westby



MUSIC | GAMES | FOOD | FUN
BRING A FRIEND!

Declaration Book Club

The third and final meeting of the Declaration Book Club will look at legacies left by the Declaration of Independence. The study will trace the Declaration's legacy and influence throughout history, from Seneca Falls to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and beyond.

The meeting will be held on Monday, August 10th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

For more information go to www.monticello.org

Folks are invited to join the group at any time.



Painting/Moving Week

Calling all people who can donate some time during the week of August 10th—15. We will be painting the Narthex and front entryway. There will also be some furniture to move, so men and teenagers are most welcome.

People are asked to come whenever they can spare a couple of hours throughout the week. Please sign up as to when you are planning to come. This will help in the planning. Many hands make "light work!"



(The Narthex will not be blue!)



Rummage Sale

Please keep the church Rummage Sale in mind when cleaning out.

Donations can be left on the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

The date is being discussed and will be out very soon.

Living a Joy-Filled Life

August Online Bible Study

Joy. It's one of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. However, today's fast-paced world can often leave us feeling drained and even depressed. Thankfully, amid the pressures of life, God offers us something deeper than relief: joy that leads, strengthens and sustains. So, what does this joy look like and how can we experience it?

Let's discover a joy-filled life together! You are invited to join us in August for a series of studies focusing on joy. Each day, we will dive into the Book of Philippians to help us experience a deeper, steadier joy that remains strong even in difficult seasons. We'll explore how true joy grows through gratitude, humility, purpose, peace and contentment in Christ. And in the end, we will be guided toward the kind of joy that cannot be shaken!

Our August online studies focusing on Joy start on Saturday, August 1st and lasts the entire month. Join us at any time. All are welcome to participate.

Please use these links to join the study through the Bible App on your mobile device:

A Life in Christ (14 days) – starts August 1st

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/33048/together/81111475/invitation?token=gpX5jYvybUOtVXSdiGD12A&source=share>

Life of Joy (7 days) – starts August 15th

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/66816/together/81111485/invitation?token=kHKfQpJMMHKB6NpXozzmQ&source=share>

Unshakeable Joy (10 days) – starts August 22nd

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/70718/together/81111491/invitation?token=MB7Jobe1Mzpzl4FQxY5Mjw&source=share>

If you don't have the Bible App, you can use these links to start the plans by yourself on your computer:

A Life in Christ (14 days) – starts August 1st

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/33048-philippians-a-life-in-christ>

Life of Joy (7 days) – starts August 15th

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/66816-life-of-joy-lessons-from-philippians>

Unshakeable Joy (10 days) – starts August 22nd

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/70718-unshakeable-joy-a-deep-dive-into-philippians>

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 first set of links to these plans. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mo-



Silent Auction

Our church has been gifted with this beautiful vacation opportunity to use as a fundraiser. The Council has decided to do a silent auction which begins now and will run until November 1st.

A bid includes a seven-night stay for up to four guests with Pacific Ocean views, a kitchenette, and an optional all-inclusive package covering meals and beverages for approximately \$650 per person. Travel is flexible in 2027. It does not include airfare. Passports are required.

7-NIGHT STAY • TRAVEL ANYTIME IN 2027 • FLEXIBLE DATES

A Week

in

Paradise!

**100% OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT
VIROQUA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

One Week at

**PUEBLO BONITO
SUNSET BEACH
GOLF & SPA RESORT**
CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

SPACIOUS JUNIOR SUITES
(2-4 GUESTS)

**SPECTACULAR POOLS
& OCEAN VIEWS**

**AWARD-WINNING
DINING**

**RELAXING SPA
EXPERIENCES**

**CHAMPIONSHIP
GOLF NEARBY**

**SEASONAL
WHALE WATCHING**

YOUR WINNING BID INCLUDES:

Seven-night stay in a luxurious
Junior Suite

ONE KING BED
(Up to 2 guests)

OR

TWO QUEEN BEDS
(Up to 4 guests)

- ✓ Beautiful Pacific Ocean views
- ✓ Kitchenette
- ✓ Private balcony or terrace
- ✓ Full access to Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach amenities

OPTIONAL ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE*

Available when you reserve your stay.
NOT included in the winning bid.

Approximately
\$650
PER PERSON

Includes:

- Unlimited meals
- Unlimited beverages (including alcoholic beverages where offered)
- Round-trip airport transportation
- Complimentary shuttle service between all three Pueblo Bonito Resorts
- Complimentary shuttle service into downtown Cabo San Lucas

Pricing is approximate and subject to resort rates at the time of booking.

TRAVEL ANYTIME DURING 2027

- Flexible travel dates
- Arranged with the winning bidder
- Subject to availability
- Passport required
- Airfare not included

YOUR WINNING BID DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Optional All-Inclusive Package
- Personal expenses
- Excursions

SEASONAL WHALE WATCHING

Visit between **DECEMBER** and **APRIL** for one of Cabo's most unforgettable experiences. Humpback and gray whales are frequently seen from the resort's oceanfront overlooks.

For an up-close adventure, an optional whale-watching excursion is available to book through the resort.

RESORT INFORMATION

THIS IS A SILENT AUCTION PLACE YOUR BID!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR BID ONLINE AT ZEFFY

zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/viroqua-united-methodist-church-silent-auction

AUCTION CLOSING NOVEMBER 1

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT THE RESORT WEBSITE

www.pueblobonito.com/resorts/sunset-beach

**Every Dollar
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**
 100% of proceeds support
Viroqua United Methodist Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

**YOUTH
PROGRAMS**

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

**LOCAL
MISSIONS**

**GLOBAL
MISSIONS**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRIES AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE!

Stewardship Moment

	<u>6 Month Income</u>	<u>6 Month Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
2026	\$53,148	70,849	-\$17,681
2025	\$56,996	\$70,779	-\$13,783

In an effort to keep you informed about the financial health of our church, the Council has decided to provide this report which compares the first half of this year to the first half of last year. Direct your questions or comments to the Council.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support.

Missions Update

Our congregation will observe Golden Cross Sunday on August 9. The offering taken on this special Sunday benefits the Wisconsin Conference's Health and Welfare Ministries. The conference has 14 of these ministries, serving persons of all faiths and races as an outreach of the United Methodist Church.

The ministries are divided into three categories: Family and Children's Services, including Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee; Senior and Disability Services, including Morrow Home in Sparta and Schmitt Woodland Hills in Richland Center; and Health Services, including the hospitals ministry in Madison. Please give generously on Golden Cross Sunday.

This is the season of garden produce. If you have extra produce, please consider bringing it to sell (by donation) at the Missions Committee's table in the narthex. All proceeds will benefit our missionary, Temba, who runs an agricultural mission in Zambia.

Together we are sharing God's love all around the world!

Church Council Meeting

July 22, 2026

Attendees: Kathy, Greg C. Gregg R. Phyllis, Layne, Dan, Paul, Aaron (by phone)

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Opening Prayer	Kathy opened with a prayer.
Old Business/Follow ups	
1. Christmas Eve Offering	1. Re-visit in September)
2. Signage and redecorating committee update	2. Pastor would like his office moved to the current library. The library could be moved to the chapel to be part of the Sunday School room there? What about the idea of converting the lounge to library and the chapel to "Chapel/Meeting Room"? Gregory

Old Business/Follow ups (continued) 3. Church Council Bylaws 4. Parsonage update, Market Analysis? 5. Use of UWF funds update 6. Sexual Harassment Policy 7. Health team? 8. Center Avenue Construction update 9. Lift Repairs 10. Parking lot windows 11. Sanctuary Carpet repair	The Church Council recommends that the library and meeting room be combined in the current lounge. This way the chapel can stay intact. Greg C. suggests a gas insert for the fireplace in the lounge. The Narthex and Stairway is first on the list to be updated. The redecorating committee is requesting paint and supplies for these areas. Banners are being made by the committee to help decorate these areas. The floor inside the front door may need replacing. Seland's Carpet in Coon Valley is going to come to give us some ideas for the entryway and Narthex, and to look at the carpet in the sanctuary. Greg C. suggests that we the Trustees should submit a major repair plan for the next meeting so trustees money can be set aside. A motion by Greg Cheever was made to create a major repair proposal of \$5000 for paint, flooring, and unknown needs. 3. 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. We need a plan to discuss these bylaws with the Ministry Team in preparation for Charge Conference. 4. Phyllis shared a market analysis from Oakwood Realty. 3 similar houses in the area recently sold. His best estimate of the value of the parsonage would be to list around \$349,000. We will continue to monitor local properties for a possible replacement of the parsonage. 5. Drinking fountain? Needs to get done. 6. Phyllis has a policy written and is working on review. She distributed a copy of the policy for review for next month's meeting. 7. It is suggested to have a health team in the church that is responsible for responding to medical emergencies. We don't feel we have the staff to create a true health team, but maybe we could assign roles to people in case of emergency and provide some training (cpr, aed, etc...) 8. Street is drivable currently. They won't be back to work on this block for a while. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks will be next but probably not for a few weeks. 9. A \$2281.02 bill is due for repairs. A motion was made by Aaron to authorize a major repair for the amount of \$2281.02. 10. The windows in the parking lot have been fixed by Kathy and Maxine. There are more windows that also need repair in the same manner. They will be put on hold for now. 11. See #3
Financial New Business 1. Treasurer's Report Simple Financial Report Balance Sheet 2. Financial Secretary's Report 3. Verna Drake Donation 4. Newsletter Financial Communication Form	1. Budget Summary....This months review is being done by Google AI. This 8 minute audio overview takes the treasurer report and explains the financial story for Viroqua UMC. I look forward to hearing your feedback about the AI explanation. 2. Ministry team needs to see this report to know what money they have budgeted to use. A line item for signage should be added to the report. 3. Auction will open in early August. Layne and Kathy will begin promoting soon. 4. Dan will work with Kathy to get this form completed. This is a simple semi-annual report to show giving compared to operating expenses.

Trustees New Business 1. Pam Hughes Violin Lessons 2. One side of the parsonage garage door will not open. It needs to be replaced.	1. We need to know if her lessons are for profit or non-profit. We'll wait to hear from her again. 2. Aaron should contact the repairmen.
Motions for Approval—All approved	Motion 1: Approval of June minutes Motion 2: Approval of the Treasurer's report. Motion 3: Approval of the Financial Secretary's report Motion 4: Approval of the motion by Greg Cheever to create a major repair proposal of \$5000 for paint, flooring, and unknown needs. Motion 5: Approval of the motion made by Aaron to authorize a major repair for the amount of \$2281.02. Motion 6: Approval of the motion made to pre-buy meatballs for the next Meatball Dinner as Westby Locker is closing in August.
Announcements/Adjourn Next Meeting Date	August 19th at 6:00 pm

Ministry Team Meeting July 12, 2026 Members Present: Cavan, Kristin, Layne, Paul, Alice, Peach	
Worship & Music Old Business 1. Outdoor Worship (July) This is Westby's year to host. 2. Father's Day review New Business 3. Use of Videos during the Church Service?	1. July 26 in Davidson Park. Cavan will coordinate the recording for the radio. 2. We had people write things they appreciate about fathers and they were read in church. This seemed to go over well, but more notice may be needed if we choose to do this again next year. A combined Mothers and Fathers day committee would be suggested for next year. 3. Ruby? Ideas would be a montage of pictures to show before/after the service. Possibly an informational slideshow. Maybe a video about something that happens in the sermon. Cavan will discuss with Elizabeth.
Missions & Outreach Old Business 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 New Business 2. Golden Cross Sunday is usually in August. August 9th	1. Have not gotten a response from Temba yet. Temba wanted to come for annual conference, but wasn't able to get a visa. 2. This mission supports local nursing homes. We'd need to plan a Sunday, get it in the newsletter, have a special offering. Also a Video for promotion the week before. Kristen will get the newsletter article to Kathy.

Hospitality Old Business 1. Kathy H. is the lead for the Rummage Sale and will develop a committee for October. 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) 3. Community Meal review. 4. Quarterly Potlucks will continue. We'll plan to set dates ahead at ministry team meetings. Next one is September 13. Fall theme. 5. Baked potato fundraiser in October 6. Homebound New Business 7. Meatball Dinner in February 8. 90th Birthday celebrations	1. Leaning towards an earlier date, maybe September. Lots of rummage is accumulating in the fellowship hall. 3. Went very well. We forgot to have a greeter at the door. We served 123 people, plus carryouts. A menu change is probably in order (Barbeques?) Cakes were a nice touch. 4. Fall/Harvest/ Back to School/Grandparents themes. Layne will announce in church. 5. Alice will coordinate with Kathy. 6. Alice has a committee. They will meet on September 3rd. 7. Since Westby Locker is closing, it has been proposed to buy meatballs now and freeze them. Can we buy a small freezer? Layne will suggest to Trustees. 8. Sherman & Sherry Carney–August, Pete Gilman–September
Education Old Business 1. Youth group update 2. VBS Planning update 3. Fall Sunday School Planning 4. Library/Chapel New Business 5. Annual Conference–Cavan attended a session on “Making Room For Young Faith”	1. Groups are continuing. 2. Pastor has recruited some help from parents. Westby parents are still responding. Layne will coordinate planning with Paul. Due to construction we will host at Westby. 3. SS will start September 13. Paul will contact the former teachers to see if they are willing to continue. A concern is the Safe Sanctuary policy and if it's being followed correctly. Do we need a teacher and an assistant in each class? Maybe ushers can help monitor? Do we need to replace the door to the SS room to one that has a window? 4. Paul would like to move his office into the library. The library will be moved into the chapel. The redecorating committee and trustees will set a moving date. We need paint and a budget for that project. Kristin would definitely like the library to stay a library.
Lay Leader / Discipleship Old Business 1. We need to promote Lay leadership in our church with the congregation. (Using online resources and classes for interested people) 2. Mission trips for kids and adults? New Business 3. Fair Booth? 4. Pizza Party/Watch Party	1. The conference is having a laity retreat in the first weekend of August. 2. Volunteer In Mission (VIM) gave a presentation at Annual Conference, encouraging people to participate in their “mission trips for grownups” 3. The idea was raised to organize a fair booth. Is this something we should pursue? We do not feel we can support this idea at this time. 4. Layne and Cavan will plan two Sundays for the watch party.
Next Meeting	August 9th @ 11:45

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/ Communion 11:30am Rummage Sale Committee Mtg	3	4 10:30am Exercise Group	5 8:30am Prayer Group 1pm Banner Committee	6 10:30am Exercise Group	7	8
9 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Ministry Team Mtg. 4pm Bible Study @ Kathy Hanson's	10 Painting/Moving Week 7pm Declaration Book Club	11 Painting/Moving Week 10:30am Exercise Group	12 Painting/Moving Week 8:30am Prayer Group	13 Painting/Moving Week 10:30am Exercise Group	14 Painting/Moving Week	15 Painting/Moving Week
16 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 4pm VBS	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 10:30am Exercise Group	19 8:30am Prayer Group 12pm Soup Group 6pm Church Council Mtg	20 10:30am Exercise Group	21	22
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship	24	25 10:30am Exercise Group	26 8:30am Prayer Group	27 10:30am Exercise Group	28	29
30 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship	31	1 10:30am Exercise Group	2 8:30am Prayer Group	3 10:30am Exercise Group 1pm Outreach Committee (Homebound)	4	5

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**



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.