

# THE CROSS & THE FLAME



**September 2026**

## Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, IX

In this ninth discourse on the Sermon on the Mount, Wesley turns to Jesus's teaching that no one can serve two masters. He reads Matthew 6:24 as an absolute claim rather than a matter of degree. A person cannot hold divided loyalty between God and mammon, because the two demand opposite dispositions of the heart. Wesley defines mammon broadly. It is not only gold and silver but everything money can buy, including ease, honor, and sensual pleasure. To serve mammon is to make riches, or what riches provide, the object of one's ultimate desire and trust.

Wesley argues that serving both masters at once is impossible on several grounds. It is impossible psychologically, since love naturally excludes rival loves of the same kind. It is impossible practically, since a person who tries to please both God and the world ends up satisfying neither, gaining the discomforts of religion without its joys. And it is impossible morally, since the behavior required by one master constantly contradicts the behavior required by the other. From this he concludes that a Christian must worship God alone, seeking nothing in heaven or earth but God, and aiming at nothing except to know, love, and enjoy God.

This exclusive devotion, Wesley says, is the foundation for the next part of the passage, Jesus's instruction to take no thought for food, drink, or clothing. He is careful to clarify what this command does not mean. It does not forbid ordinary forethought, planning, or honest labor for one's needs. What it forbids is anxious, distrustful care, the kind of worry that treats material provision as though it depended on human effort alone rather than on God's providence. Wesley reads the examples of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as illustrations of this providence. Neither labors in anxiety, yet God sustains them, and human beings, who are of far greater worth, have even less reason to be consumed with worry.

Wesley connects this teaching back to the opening command about two masters. Anxious care for material things is itself a form of serving mammon, since it reveals where trust actually lies. The remedy is to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, trusting that other needs will be provided along the way. He closes by reflecting on Jesus's counsel that each day has enough trouble of its own, reading this as an invitation to live in present trust rather than borrowing anxiety from tomorrow. For Wesley, singleness of devotion to God is what makes such freedom from worry possible.

Pastor Paul

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## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Layne & Janette Hanson | September 6  |
| Aaron & Angie Hanson   | September 8  |
| Tom & Sheryl Steele    | September 12 |
| Jesse & Jessica Janzen | September 19 |



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| David Peterson  | September 1  |
| Deanna Fortney  | September 2  |
| Gregg Roberts   | September 6  |
| Jerry Schroeder | September 7  |
| Mallory Tunks   | September 9  |
| Landon Hall     | September 10 |
| Luke Garrett    | September 11 |
| Kristen Parrott | September 12 |
| Pete Gilman     | September 15 |
| Barb Huschka    | September 15 |
| Jim Porter      | September 18 |
| Jack Deters     | September 18 |
| Dawn Stalsberg  | September 21 |
| Layne Hanson    | September 25 |
| Reid Brown      | September 26 |
| J.R. Maly       | September 27 |
| Aaron Hanson    | September 30 |

***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.



**Sherman Carney Turns 90!**



## VBS



## Painting

Pictured here are just a few of the workers involved with the painting of the Narthex and hallway. Below, see a the list of those who helped in any capacity.

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Peach Hoiland   | Angie Hanson    |
| Phyllis Kalnins | Janette Hanson  |
| Gregg Roberts   | Marlo Volden    |
| Gary Mageland   | Aaron Hanson    |
| Sonja Bjerkos   | Maxine Olson    |
| Kathy Hanson    | Mitchell Hanson |
| Kelli Schultz   | Layne Hanson    |

(Please let us know if any names have been omitted.)



## Library Moved

Thanks to Kristen , Cavan, and Pastor Paul for moving the church library to the lounge! Stop in to see the change! The lounge seems more homey and the books are easy to access. The former library is now Pastor Paul's office.



## FOOD PANTRY

**We sent 49 pounds of food to the Food Pantry in August.**

**Thanks to all who contributed!**

## Memorials

**A Memorial was received in memory of Richard GerdI this month.**

## Book Group

Two books will be discussed and compared at the September meeting of the Book Group. They are *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis and *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts. Members will read one or both of the books and we'll see where the discussion goes. We thought it would be fun to look at both the Founding Father and his wife.

All are invited to join the group at any time. Books may be obtained through McIntosh Memorial Library.

The meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, September 14th.



## September Sunday Servants

|                     | Ushers                               | Greeter      | Communion Stewards               |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>September 6</b>  | Peach Hoiland<br>Cavan Fang          | Barb Casper  | Phyllis Kalnins<br>Kelli Schultz |
| <b>September 13</b> | Mary Mulvaney Kemp<br>Janette Hanson | Alice Sloane |                                  |
| <b>September 20</b> | Peach Hoiland<br>Chuck Mulvaney Kemp | Barb Casper  |                                  |
| <b>September 27</b> | Anita Frels<br>Joanne Hornby         | Betty Ross   |                                  |

## Center Street

The Center Street Construction project is moving ahead. Terhune Street is under construction now, so we have construction on both sides of us. The parking lot is the best way to access the building. Center Street is open (gravel), and the parking lot is accessible. Neither driveway to the parking lot has been poured, but we are assured that they will do one at a time so that we always have access.

## Church Website Updated



Our current Viroqua-Westby combined church website was developed three years ago. It was suggested recently that we review the website and give it a refresh. In April, a committee of people from both churches and Pastor Paul began the process. It was decided to adjust it and make it more of a marketing tool to attract new people as well as being an information place for current church members. The goal was to make it easier to navigate and be more informative for people looking for a church.

After several months, the updated website is ready and will go online early September. The website address will remain the same [www.viroquawestbyumc.org](http://www.viroquawestbyumc.org). Please take a few minutes to peruse the website and find out what is new. Thank you to the committee, Linda Weilnau, and Pastor Paul for the time and effort contributed to make this update possible.

## Reception of New Members

**New members will be received and welcomed into our fellowship on Sunday, September 13th. See Pastor Paul if you want information or have any questions about this.**

## Fall Potluck

Our Fall Potluck will be held after worship on Sunday, September 13th. Plan to join us to welcome new members, enjoy a good meal, and fellowship together.



## Rummage Sale

The dates for the Rummage Sale have been set—October 22nd and 23rd. Lots of items are accumulating in the Fellowship Hall. You can add to what we have any time.

Saying a prayer takes a minute.  
*Fixing our eyes on God takes a lifetime.*



# 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—anytime 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.



**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**

**RESORT INFORMATION**



**SCAN THE  
QR CODE  
TO VISIT  
THE RESORT  
WEBSITE**


[www.pueblobonito.com/  
resorts/sunset-beach](http://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!**

## September Online Studies - Adjusting Our Thoughts

Sometimes one of the greatest challenges we face is being able to adjust our thoughts and attitudes so we can make them more Christ-like. Another challenge is determining who the enemy is when we're facing difficulties in our life.

During this month's online studies, we'll receive some words of wisdom from Joyce Meyer on how to know who we're fighting and how to adjust our thoughts to be more Christ-like.

Here are the links to this month's online studies:

### **Know Your Enemy – 10 days – Sept 1**

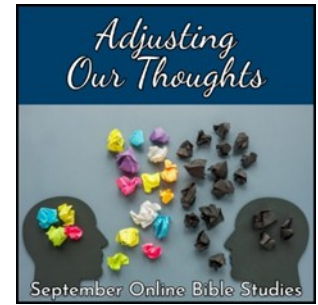
Link for Bible App on mobile device: <https://bible.com/reading-plans/16459/together/81734154/invitation?token=K4BFdcwzRIMmZW2LO3yJUg&source=share>

Link for Bible App on computer: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/16459-know-your-enemy>

### **Power Thoughts Devotional – 14 days – Sept 13**

Link for Bible App on mobile device: <https://bible.com/reading-plans/822/together/81734168/invitation?token=R24mEoNoWbkYSIF0Z1G5sA&source=share>

Link for Bible App on computer: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/822-power-thoughts-devotional>



## Missions Update

Our missionary, Temba Nkomozepe of Mujila Falls in Zambia, shared his newsletter with us earlier this summer. Here are a few highlights:

### **New Bus and Tractor**

I truly count myself among the most blessed missionaries.

Let me share a quick story. Sometime last year, we received visitors from Michigan. Around that time, we started discussing big project options that a very generous individual wanted to donate to us. When the options were presented, this kind gentleman simply said:

"Tell Temba we can do both – and let's work on a third." What a mighty God we serve!

It took a lot of "Africa time" from the time the funds were sent until we took delivery of the much needed machinery. Today, I write to thank that same generous person (whose name I'll share as soon as he gives me permission) for a brand new John Deere 75HP tractor and a beautiful blue 29 seater Mitsubishi Rosa bus. The tractor will help us a lot around the farm and with our construction supplies, while the bus will be instrumental for the success of our primary and trade schools.

### **Pigs**

Running a farm in a remote area comes with real challenges. We bring in inputs, feed, medicines, and breeding stock from far away, hoping everything goes well so we can supply our local community at fair prices and send produce to markets hundreds of kilometres away.

Truth is, it doesn't always work. Disease, theft, or costs that just don't pencil out... the risks are always there.

But sometimes... Everything clicks. Last year, we retained just over 20 sows for expansion and earlier this year, we added 2 new boars in January. In May and June, the first-time mothers farrowed a whopping 131 piglets in May, with more on the way!

Our buildings are overflowing (a good problem to have!). We'll definitely need to expand soon. I'm very grateful to my team: Kennedy and Idess crushing it during the day and our capable watchmen taking on extra pig duties at night. And thank you so much for your moral and financial support that helps us pull off these seemingly impossible endeavors.

### **Vocational college – glass panes and roofing dormitories**

Our proposed vocational college/trade school is now at a very advanced stage. We have poured in the concrete for the floors, plastered the dormitory walls and covered 90% of the walls with paint. We are now installing the plumbing after which we will start laying tiles, of which some are already onsite. As we continue working on the finishes we have been promised that council and fire department workers will soon come to inspect and issue us with a certificate that the education regulators require. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that it won't take "Africa time". I'm so grateful to God for the Grace and vision; to Antigo UMC and you all for your moral and financial support.

(pictures on next page)





## Church Council Meeting

August 19, 2026

Attendees: Layne, Pastor Paul, Kathy, Greg C. Gregg R. Phyllis

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome/Review of Mission Vision</b><br>1. Joint retreat with Ministry Team?                                                                                                                                                            | 1. We set a date for a joint meeting of Council and Ministry Team—September 26th.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Pastor Paul led us in prayer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Old Business/Follow ups</b><br>1. Christmas Eve Offering<br>2. Signage and redecorating committee update<br><br>3. <a href="#">Church Council Bylaws</a><br><br>4. Sexual Harassment policy<br><br>5. Center Avenue Construction update | 1. Re-visit in September<br>2. Narthex and entryway have been painted. Banners are being made by the committee to help decorate these areas. The floor inside the front door needs replacing.<br>3. Needs to be addressed at the joint meeting with Ministry Team. 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.<br>4. This should be on the agenda for the joint meeting with the ministry team. Council members should come back with questions next month to review for the meeting. When the Policy is approved, we may use AI to help develop training for people to help with learning the policy.<br>5. Sidewalk out front has been poured. We will always have at least one driveway to our parking lot available. |



|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Financial New Business</b><br>1. <a href="#">Treasurer's Report</a><br><a href="#">Simple Financial Report</a><br><a href="#">Balance Sheet</a><br><br>2. Financial Secretary's Report | 1. Summary for July: Spending out-paced deposits by approximately 76%. July had no Vanco deposits but if you did consider the monthly average of \$1,000 the percentage would be 51%. The YTD spending vs deposits stands at 38% negative. The good news is the actual expenses are under the approved budget by 8% or \$7,200. The check-book balance is \$16,535.54. Submitted by Gregory C.<br><a href="#">AI podcast summary.</a><br><br>2. The new fund should be named Project 1 Capital Improvement Fund rather than Signage. |
| <b>Trustees</b><br>1. Rental Space<br><br><br>2. Capital Improvement Fund.                                                                                                                | 1. Lydia Shauf has inquired about space for a singing group. They would like to use the fellowship hall on Thursday nights. They should fill out the facilities use form and will need to sign the hold harmless agreements for all the people involved.<br><br>2. The proposal was shared. It was decided to hold off on the carpet for the narthex and hallway. The rest of the items on the list are designated as the Project 1 Capital Improvement Fund.                                                                        |
| <b>Pastor's Report</b><br>1. Korean cooking demonstration<br>2. Gone September 29-Oct. 1 for School of Leadership.                                                                        | 1. Pastor asked permission to do a demonstration on September 24th here at the church. This is being organized by the library. Permission granted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Motions for Approval—All approved</b>                                                                                                                                                  | Motion #1: Approval of <a href="#">July Minutes</a> with a correction under the Old Business Comments #11. It says see #3, but it should say see #2. Another addition to Motion 5 from the July minutes should state that the major repair was for Elevator Repairs.<br>Motion 2: Approval of the Treasurer's report.<br>Motion 3: Approval of the Financial Secretary's report                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Announcements/Adjourn</b><br>Next Meeting Date                                                                                                                                         | October 16 (We will not have a regular meeting in September due to the combined meeting on September 26th.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## *Ministry Team Meeting*

August 9, 2026

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

| Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Notes/ <b>Action Items</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Opening Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Pastor's Vision & Ministry Discussion<br><a href="#">Preaching Plan</a>                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1. Pastor will be gone on October 18th. Cavan will fill the pulpit.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">Ideas, and questions from the Church Council</a><br><a href="#">Financial Secretary's Report</a>                                                                                                                                                  | 1. Balances in the funds from the Financial Secretary Report were shared                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Worship &amp; Music Old Business</b><br>1. Outdoor Worship Review<br><br><br><b>New Business</b><br>1. Choir will begin in September, dates to be determined<br>2. August 30th is blessing of the backpacks.<br>3. New members inducted on September 13th. | 1. Is this one of those things we always do that we need to keep doing? Should we try to make the outdoor service more of a special event with music, blessing of the pets, make it a revival or historical camp meeting with our local Methodist churches? |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Missions &amp; Outreach Old Business</b><br/>1. Golden Cross Sunday August 9th</p> <p>2. Garden Produce Table through September</p> <p><b>New Business</b><br/>1. <a href="#">Mexico Vacation fundraiser</a><br/>2. World Communion Sunday in October<br/>3. Mission will be doing the bake sale during the Rummage Sale</p>                                                                                                                                                                | <p>1. Phyllis did slides and Cavan made announcement last week. Benefits of special Sundays is that we reach out to the world and also the Conference notices we are participating.</p> <p>1. The Silent Auction has begun and needs to be promoted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Hospitality Old Business</b><br/>1. Kathy H. is the lead for the Rummage Sale and will develop a committee for October.<br/>2. Welcoming team could be 3-5 people that ensure that visitors are informed and welcomed<br/>3. Quarterly Potlucks will continue. We'll plan to set dates ahead at ministry team meetings. Next one is September 13. Fall theme.<br/>4. Baked potato fundraiser in October<br/>5. Shut ins<br/>6. Meatball dinner in February<br/>7. Birthday celebrations</p> | <p>1. The date has been set for October 22nd &amp; 23rd. Lots of rummage is accumulating in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <p>3. Fall/Harvest/ Back to School/Grandparents themes. Layne will announce in church.</p> <p>4. Alice will coordinate with Kathy. Proposed Date is October 8th.<br/>5. Alice has a committee. They will meet on September 3rd.<br/>6. Meatballs were purchased<br/>7. Sherman Carney today, Pete Gilman in September.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Education Old Business</b><br/>1. VBS Planning update<br/>2. Fall Sunday School Planning</p> <p>3. Blessing of the Backpacks—August 30<sup>th</sup>.<br/>4. Library/Chapel</p> <p><b>New Business</b><br/>1. Youth group will meet twice per month beginning in September. First one will be bible study. Mitchell will lead a fun session for the second meeting. On August 22nd—Youth group is going to Mall of America.</p>                                                              | <p>1. August 16th. Pastor is meeting with teenagers tomorrow. 10:00 am Saturday is setup time.<br/>2. 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?</p> <p>4. It was suggested by Church Council to the Redecorating committee that the library be moved into the lounge, to become a combination meeting room/library. This might help the library be more visible and also allows the chapel to stay a chapel. The move has been made.</p> |
| <p><b>Lay Leader / Discipleship Old Business</b><br/>1. Lay Leadership -We need to promote Lay leadership in our church with the congregation. (Using online resources and classes for interested people)<br/>2. Mission trips for kids and adults?</p> <p>3. Pizza Party/Watch Party Conference Videos</p> <p><b>New Business</b><br/><a href="#">Usher/Greeter/Welcoming</a></p>                                                                                                                | <p>1. The conference is having a laity retreat in the first weekend of August.</p> <p>2. Volunteer In Mission (VIM) gave a presentation at Annual Conference, encouraging people to participate in their "mission trips for grownups." Can we send our kids on their mission trips? Through VIM? Midwest Missions?</p> <p>3. August 23rd and August 30th?</p> <p>We should try to recruit a person to take over Chuck M-K's role as recruiter.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Next Meeting: September 13th at 11:45 (tentative based on combined Church Council Meeting)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



# September 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                           | Tuesday                                                 | Wednesday                                                                 | Thursday                                                                 | Friday                                  | Saturday                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                 |                                  | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>1</b>                      | 8:30am Prayer Group<br><b>2</b>                                           | 10:30am Exercise Group<br>1pm Outreach Committee (Homebound)<br><b>3</b> | <b>4</b>                                | <b>5</b>                                           |
| 9am Adult SS<br>10:30am Worship w/ Communion<br><b>6</b>                                                                                                        | <b>7</b>                         | 10:30am Exercise Group<br>1pm Banner Making<br><b>8</b> | 8:30am Prayer Group<br>6pm Choir Practice<br><b>9</b>                     | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>10</b>                                      | 9am Redecorating Committee<br><b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                                          |
| 9am Adult SS<br>10:30am Kids SS<br>10:30am Reception of New Members<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:45am Fall Potluck<br>4pm Bible Study @ Kathy Hanson's<br><b>13</b> | 7pm Book Group<br><b>14</b>      | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>15</b>                     | 8:30am Prayer Group<br>6pm Choir Practice<br><b>16</b>                    | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>17</b>                                      | <b>18</b>                               | <b>19</b>                                          |
| 9am Adult SS<br>10:30am Kids SS<br>10:30am Worship<br><b>20</b>                                                                                                 | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br><b>21</b> | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>22</b>                     | 8:30am Prayer Group<br>12pm Soup Group<br>6pm Choir Practice<br><b>23</b> | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>24</b>                                      | <b>25</b>                               | Joint Council & Ministry Team Meeting<br><b>26</b> |
| 9am Adult SS<br>10:30am Kids SS<br>10:30am Worship<br><b>27</b>                                                                                                 | <b>28</b>                        | 10:30am Exercise Group<br><b>29</b>                     | 8:30am Prayer Group<br>6pm Choir Practice<br><b>30</b>                    |                                                                          |                                         |                                                    |

*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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Website: [www.viroquawestbyumc.org](http://www.viroquawestbyumc.org)

Office Staff: Kathy Hanson/Barb Casper

### **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.