

the newsletter of

Community

United Methodist Church

January 2016

Glorify God

Encourage
One
Another

Share Jesus

The lofty mountains and the seas,
Being mountains, being seas,
Both exist and are real.
But frail as flowers are the lives of men,
Passing phantoms of this world.”
Reiko Chiba, Hiroshige's Tokaido in Prints and Poetry

Not all that long ago most human beings marked time by the rhythm of the seasons. It was assumed that time ebbed and flowed, it sped up and slowed down, every once in a while it stopped all together (see Joshua 10:13). But with the advent of mechanical time pieces time began to be seen as a constant, one minute to another, one year to another.

I think clocks have given us an artificial and false sense of time. The Bible speaks of ‘Kairos time,’ marking our days not by the minutes that slip by but by the importance of those moments.

I like the anticipation that comes with a new year. Forest Gump was right when he said, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get.” This time last year I certainly didn't think I would be well into a new marriage. Michelle has changed everything for me. I sometimes think God has an interesting and wry sense of humor.

For all of us this is also a good time of year to realize that we are on a journey. We should never take the gift of the days given us for granted. We are in process of going forward into a future only God knows. But because God knows, we can go with confidence, boldness and expectation. One of my favorite poems is “Ithaca” by K. P. Kavafis. It speaks of the ancient story of Odysseus' ten year voyage to come home to his kingdom of Ithaca after being in the Trojan wars. Just substitute “The Kingdom of Heaven” with “Ithaca” and there are several profound parallels. It goes in part like this:

Always keep Ithaca fixed in your mind.
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better to let it last for long years;
and even to anchor at the isle when you are old,
rich with all that you have gained on the way,
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.

*Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
Without her you would never have taken the road.
But she has nothing more to give you at least for now.*

*And if you find her poor at present, Ithaca has not defrauded you.
With the great wisdom you have gained, with so much experience,
you must surely have understood by then what Ithaca means.*

Pastor Scott



Grief Recovery Support Group

The next GriefShare session is
Monday's, January 11 - April 4, 2016 6:15-8:15 pm.

Your journey from mourning to joy!
Grief Share is a weekly seminar/support group for people
grieving the death of someone close.

It is a place where you can be around people who
understand how you feel and the pain of your loss.

At Grief Share, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.



The Way to Grow Preschool Celebrates the birth of Jesus!

On Thursday, December 17 these adorable 3 and
4 year olds shared what they have been learning
about the birth of the Savior Jesus.

Parents and Grandparents watched,
took pictures and sang along,
then joined the kids for milk and cookies!
Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU

Thank you for the kind remembrances
and gifts from various member of this
congregation over the holiday season.

They are much treasured.
Pastor Scott and Michelle

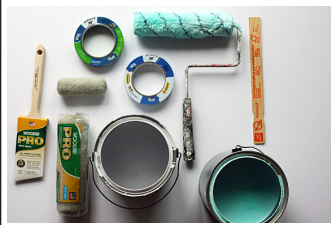
2016 Personal Scripture Verse Cards



Personal Scripture Verse cards for 2016
will be available on Sunday,
January 3 at both services.

Enjoy Painting or Taping?

Krystal will be here
painting the back room
of the nursery, and
one of the class rooms
downstairs next week.
If you have time to help
out call her!
262-210-0181.



Nursery Volunteers

If you feel tugging at your heart
strings to get involved in this
important ministry to our
littlest ones, please
contact Krystal at
262-210-0181.

We need your help to provide
a safe loving environment
for our little cuties!
We are looking at some changes
in 2016,
jump in and be part of it!

Job Opportunity Custodian

CUMC is taking applications
for a part-time custodian.
The schedule is flexible and
requires 20 hours per week.
Contact Kris Kirchner
262-534-4632 or the church
office 262-532-2323 or email -
office@extremefaith.org
for an application.

JANUARY WORSHIP THEMES

Communion
Sunday, January 3

JAN 3 - Enter the New Year Healed and Whole, I John 5:13-15, 18-21

JAN 10 - Our Vision: Glorify God, I Chronicles 16:23-33;

JAN 17 - Our Vision: Encourage One Another, Hebrews 3:12-15; 10:24-25

JAN 24 - Our Vision: Share Jesus, Matthew 28:16-20

JAN 31 - Lenten series on the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Godly Virtues.
Pride: The Spiritual Cancer Pt. 1, I John 2:15-17 Pastor Scott

January Noisy Can

To be determined...



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 9th

8:00 AM

**Bring a friend for good
food and great fellowship!**

No breakfast in February - the men will attend the
No Regrets Conference

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

Meets every Tuesday evening
at 6:30 PM, in room 13 on the
lower level here at CUMC.

"My Grace is Sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"
2 Corinthians 1:9

2016 Contribution Envelopes

If you missed picking up your envelopes in December, you will find them in the office in January.

If you don't currently have envelopes, but would like them contact the office - office@extremefaitth.org or 262-534-2313.

If you have been contributing by check, you have an assigned number that may not be in the range of our envelopes - you will still receive contribution statements at the end of the year.

Thank you!

Your donations of toys, clothes,
stuffed animals and
other items for Thanksgiving and
Christmas baskets
at Love, Inc. was extremely generous.
God's Blessing be with all of you,
The Afternoon Circle



Prayer Sunday
January 3th
9:00-9:30 AM &
12:00-12:30 PM

Do you know someone who needs prayer?
Invite them to prayer Sunday!
Teams of prayer warriors are ready and
willing to pray for those who need it
for many different concerns.
Bring your need before our Mighty God!

Pastor Scott's written sermons and a few articles
can be found on our website. Look under Welcome
to CUMC/Sermons & Articles. Printed copies of
messages are also available at the Welcome Center.

The Newsletter is available by email and on the website at
www.extremefaitth.org

If you would like to stop receiving the
newsletter by mail contact the office at 262-534-2313 or
office@extremefaitth.org to let us know.

WiReD

Youth



2015 Deep Freeze!!!

At Covenant Harbor
In Lake Geneva
January 15-17

Meet at church at 5:00
We will be stopping at Pizza Hut for dinner.
Will return by the end of second service on Sunday.
Cost is \$160 per student-
(some scholarships are available)
This includes meals, lodging,
program and all activities
except for the Giant Swing,
Indoor Climbing Wall and Zip Line.
In order for students to tailor their
experience to best suit their style,
they may add these activities by purchasing a
ticket at \$5.00 per person/per activity during the weekend.
The winter weather provides lots of opportunities for outdoor
activities. Please be prepared for the weather. Students may
want to bring \$10-\$30 for snacks and camp merchandise at
the campstore as well as to purchase their activity tickets.

What to Bring

sleeping bag
pillow
towel
flashlight
Bible
toiletries
warm outdoor clothes
(hat, gloves, jacket)-
we will be outside a lot
boots
Swimsuit (if doing polar plunge)

What Not to Bring

*Do not bring cell
phones* or any
pets, electronic
devices (including
iPods), firearms,
weapons of any
kind, fireworks,
tobacco, alcohol
or drugs.

WiReD & Sunday School Holiday Schedule

No WiReD December 23 & 30
No Sunday School for kids
December 27 & January 3
*Adult Classes may still meet,
check with your class leaders
to find out!*

**WiReD will Resume
January 6, 2016!**

Game Show Night!

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

This is an invite a friend event... you know what to do!!!

Why Kids Grow Up and Reject God—Even When They Have Amazing Parents

By Rick Malm

Bob and Carol were an amazing couple. As a young husband and father I looked up to them as role models. They were godly. They had a strong marriage. Every Sunday their family sat together in church. They even homeschooled their kids. I hoped that someday Jana and I could have a marriage and family as solid as theirs.

One day, in passing, I asked Bob why he didn't attend the mid-week service. "Oh, that's our family night."

I was impressed. We tried family night a time or two, but with small kids it felt impossible. I wished I had the discipline these folks had. But, I also thought: Why not come to church and use any other night for family night?

I also noticed they didn't put their kids in the children's ministry and youth programs. That was a little different but these were awesome parents and I could sure see great value in having the kids sit with them at church.

Time passed and something weird happened. As Bob and Carol's kids went off to college I noticed their kids didn't attend church. When my kids left home for college or work they not only immediately found a church but they got active serving in that church.

I couldn't figure it out. I was such a lousy parent compared to Bob and Carol. Our "family nights" consisted of dumping our kids in the nursery, kids church and later youth group while we attended the adult service. I was never able to pull off consistent home devotions. We sure weren't the model family. Why were my kids passionate about God, while the kids in this "perfect family" were running from God as soon as they could break free?

Bob and Carol could have been a fluke, but I've seen this same pattern over and over – great parents but their kids leave the church.

I didn't give it much thought until folks started asking me why my kids never ran from God? As a pastor I wanted to help them keep their kids on the right path but I had no idea what made the difference. I prayed and asked the Lord.

You've probably heard "Family first. Don't get so busy with church activities that your family suffers." While I agree with that I think we get into trouble if we forget our family is just a tiny part of something much bigger – God's family.

It's dangerous to separate our family from the bigger picture. The kids were seeing that their family gatherings at home had priority over gathering with other believers. It says "we" (my family) are more important than "WE" (the Family of God).

No one intended it but they were being taught that their family was the center of the universe around which everything else revolves – rather than God and His people being the center around which our lives rotate.

Suddenly it all made sense. No wonder these kids wandered away from church – which almost inevitably leads to wandering away from God. Church – gathering with the people of God – was optional, a nice thing to do once a week as long as it was convenient and didn't conflict with family or other plans.

Off at college they saw no need to get connected to the local church. They were busy with their lives, their schedule, their priorities.

I know this probably sounds hyper-legalistic but let me encourage you – when the people of God gather (a.k.a. church) you need to be there and be involved.

Not out of obligation – Jana and I never went because we had to. It just made sense, and our kids grew up knowing it was what we all did. "Family first" meant when God's folks gathered we would be there. If traveling, on vacation, visiting family, whatever, our plans, priorities and schedule revolved around connecting with God's eternal "Family First". Here's why.

Next time you barbecue, after the coals are nice and red-hot, take about six of them out and set them aside. Then set one aside by itself and watch what happens.

The "family" of six coals will stay hot awhile but not as long as the big gathering. And the poor coal that is "living on his own" – off at college or working – will cool very quickly apart from the other coals.

If you want to stay red hot in your walk with God stay connected to the big pile of coals. Keep your little family tied into the pit. As often as possible gather with the other coals where you can draw heat from them and help others by sharing your heat.

We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.

– Hebrews 10:25

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual he went into the synagogue on the day of worship.

– Luke 4:16

Rick Malm is a Christ-following husband, father of three, and grandfather. He has served as a pastor and a missionary and also brings his experience as a high school principal to his parenting blog, ParentingTales.com.

Just Imagine

Colossians 3 is one of my favorite passages of the Bible and I've been working on memorizing it. It seems no matter how much time I spend in it I discover something edifying, encouraging, and convicting in its words. It may be one of the most complete and rich descriptions of what life in the Kingdom of God looks like.

Just this morning, as I read verses 12-17, I saw these familiar words in a tad different light.

Paul begins by instructing us to "clothe ourselves" or "put on" *compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love*. In other words, first thing each day and throughout the day I make sure I've got my own self in order, reflecting the qualities and attitudes of Christ. I like *The Message* paraphrase and the idea that God has picked out a specific wardrobe for me to wear:

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline...And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it."

Then Paul instructs us in how we are to relate to each other on a one-to-one basis:

"Bear with each other and, if any of you have a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive." vs 13

Much could be written just on this verse, something worthy for all of us to meditate on, but for now I want to also include verses 15-16, which especially caught my attention today. In these verses Paul gives some very interesting and specific instructions to the *body* of Christ for the *body*:

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in the one body. And be thankful." vs 15

"Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God." vs 16

As I thought about how these words speak to us as the body of Christ, a quote by Jesus popped into my mind. This quote appears in each of the three synoptic gospels: *"Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."* Luke 11:17; Matthew 12:25; Mark 3:25

As these words sunk in, my heart mourned. The body of Christ is comprised of all believers of all Christian faith traditions: denominational and non-denominational. It is beautifully expressed in diverse styles of worship: liturgical, traditional, contemporary, and Taize to name a few. The body of Christ is God's kingdom on earth. And yet, not only is this kingdom attacked from the outside, it is increasingly entrenched as a kingdom divided, or within specific churches, a house divided.

God's kingdom will indeed prevail even if many of his "houses" within his kingdom fall, but how tragic that in some ways Christ's body does more to help the "principalities" that fight against God's kingdom than to defeat them.

The good news is that even in these times when the darkness grows darker, the light of Christ shining through us can grow stronger and brighter as a body if we intentional choose to remain united and grounded in what is the heart of our identity: "Christ, who is your life." (Colossians 3:4).

We have the greatest privilege and calling as a body to strengthen God's kingdom within our own "house of Christ" as we "let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts" and with each other, just as we have been called to do as a body. And to do this with gratitude in our hearts and thankfulness!

Just imagine how attractive and contagious Christianity would be if "the peace of Christ ruled in our one body." Imagine how God is honored and revered when we, united in love and with gratitude in our hearts, "sing all psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God" with our eyes and hearts on God, not on ourselves.

Just imagine if we, as a body of Christ, "let the words of Christ dwell in us richly", opening our hearts and minds to the teaching of God's Word, allowing it to move deep within us, transforming us degree by degree.

Just imagine if we viewed our diversity of worship styles as a symphony of expressions of praise and worship to the beautiful triune God.

Just imagine if it was *all* about our Holy God, the Father; Christ, his beloved Son, and the beautiful ever-present Holy Spirit.

Just imagine... the enemy of God would no longer be able to smirk at the body of Christ.

Just imagine...

I, for one am thankful for the privilege and blessing of being a part of this community of Christ, this body of Christ that meets at Community United Methodist Church. Together we can build up God's Kingdom as we serve God by serving each other in love and humility.

Michelle McMurray
Adult Ministries Coordinator

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year	2 9-11:00 AM CR Step Study Groups
3 Prayer Sunday following both 8:00 & 10:45 AM Services	4	5 Glory Singers Rehearsal 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery/The Landing	6 4-5:45 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM WiReD Youth	7 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	8	9 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9-11:00 AM CR Step Study Groups
10	11 6:15-8:15 PM Grief Share 6:30 PM Prayer Gathering	12 6:30 PM Worship Commit- tee Meeting Glory Singers 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM Trustee Meeting	13 6:30 PM WiReD Youth	14 6:30-8 PM Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	15	16 9-11:00 AM CR Step Study Groups
17	18 6:15-8:15 PM Grief Share	19 6:30 PM SPRC Meeting 6:30 PM Glory Singers 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	20 4-5:45 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM WiReD Youth	21 6:30 PM Missions 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	22	23 9-11:00 AM CR Step Study Groups
24 Noisy Can Offering	25 6:15-8:15 PM Grief Share 6:30 PM Prayer Gathering	26 6:30 PM Church Council 6:30 PM Glory Singers 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery	27 6:30 PM WiReD Youth	28 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	29	30
31	 <p>Trustees Up-Date January 11 - 17 all of the locks will be changed throughout the building. Those who have let us know your need for keys, a key request form will need to be filled out - every effort will be made to make sure you have them prior to the installation. Key Applications will be available in the office.</p>					

Community United Methodist Church
455 S. Jefferson St.
Waterford, WI 53185

*Happy New Year!!!
2016*



Church Office - 262-534-2313 - Pastor Scott 608-792-3515 or scott224@tds.net
www.extremefaitth.org - like us on facebook - office@extremefaitth.org
Sunday Worship Services at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am
The Way to Grow Preschool 262-534-7998 thewaytogrowpreschool.org