

ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - SPRING 2024

THE CHIMES



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OUR MISSION

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for
the **transformation** of the world

OUR VISION

LOVE all people unconditionally;
PREPARE our hearts, minds &
hands;
SERVE in all the ways we can;
CELEBRATE GOD in all we do!

Spiritual Ponderings from Pastor Krysta

As I draft this letter, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the breeze is blowing; all signs of spring approaching. But the date on the calendar is early March. A couple of weeks away from the official date for the spring season to start. In my circle of colleagues, we worried recently that the seasonal confusion may result in a late heavy snow storm and even stated aloud the possibility of it happening on Easter Sunday! Typical human behavior. Worrying about things in the future rather than focusing on what is happening in the moment.

Our journey to the cross this Lenten season finds us in the midst of Simon Peter's shift from a fisherman to a fisher of people. He went from a stable profession among a group of family, to dropping his nets to answer Jesus' invitation to "Come, follow me." Peter found himself willing to risk his safety when he stepped out of the boat during a windstorm to walk on water at Jesus' invitation to "Come." Worry got the best of him, and Peter found himself sinking so he cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me." When Jesus asked, "Who do YOU say that I am?" Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" ascribing the title because he witnessed the transformative teaching and powerful healing of Jesus. Peter rebuked Jesus when he described the suffering and death he would experience only to have Jesus forcefully associate him with Satan because Peter set his mind on human things rather than divine things.

All of these encounters between the two of them reveal the expected life of a follower, a disciple of Jesus Christ - a willingness to lose one's life rather than to save it. A desire to focus on what is occurring right now rather than on worrying about what might happen. A commitment to step out in faith, foster a kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, and focus on the divine work of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Our humanness gets the best of us, just like it did with Peter. Yet, similar signs remind us that God conquered the grave, the tomb is empty, Jesus is resurrected. Let us join in the shouts of "Hosanna" (which means, "save us") as we seek to share our own story of resurrection.

See at church or in the community.

Blessings,

Rev. Krysta Deede

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON SUNDAY?

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship, March 24 at 8:30am & 11am

Maundy Thursday Worship, March 28 at 6:30pm

Good Friday Worship, March 29 at 11am & 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship, March 31 at 8:30am & 11am, Easter Brunch between services

Every Sunday

8:30am Classic Worship | 9:45am Fellowship & Adult Sunday School classes |

11:00am Contemporary Worship

1st Sunday of the Month

8:30am Faith Adventures on the First (pre k - 5th grade)

11:00am Faith Adventures on the First (pre k - 5th grade)

ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER BRUNCH

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Volunteers
needed



Easter Sunday, March 31st

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Adults \$10

Children (2-12) \$5

Under 2 Free

Cash & check accepted

**All proceeds help our youth on their
summer mission trip to Denver, CO!**

WORSHIP

Resurrection Stories Unlock yours.



Resurrection Stories

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

April 7: Resurrection Story: Freed

We may be imprisoned by many things. Jesus’ declaration that he had come to “set the prisoner free” can be interpreted for all of us, whether or not we’ve ever experienced being behind literal prison bars. This day, we will hear a Resurrection Story that moves from chains to freedom. We will reflect on how we can each step into freedom from whatever binds us.

April 14: Resurrection Story: Released

In 12-step programs, the first step is admitting powerlessness over anything that threatens to destroy our connection to our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to others. This week, we consider the variety of ways addiction occurs in our lives. We will celebrate the Good News that we can refocus our lives onto things that lead us to life and connection to the Holy.

April 21: Resurrection Story: Found

What is it like to literally not have a home, a place to lay your head at night? “Homeless” can also mean a sense of not feeling “at home,” lacking a feeling of belonging, feeling alone even in the midst of others. So many in this world are isolated. How can we find, and offer each other, “home” with the assurance of the presence of God and a beloved community?

April 28: Resurrection Story: Healed

Illness of mind, body, or spirit can sap us of our life passion and energy. Sometimes illness can change the course of our lives forever, asking us to adapt in ways we never imagined. And while illness is not visited upon anyone by God’s design, sometimes limitations open our eyes to other possibilities. We will look for a different perspective on how we deal with any life-altering situation.

May 5: Resurrection Story: Liberated

This country is made up of so many who escaped to the “promised land” from oppressive regimes. Throughout history, people have had to flee situations of horror. Even within our country and in our own time, there are those who live with oppression and fear. We seek to widen our understanding of what we must do to continue to work for liberation on so many fronts.

May 12: Resurrection Story: Calmed

Mental illness is one of the most common, devastating, and yet stigmatized maladies of our time. If this is an “Age of Anxiety,” we must be a church of healers and hope-givers. We will pray for those who deal with various forms of trauma and the consequences of mental illness, those who care for them, and open compassion for our own struggles.

May 19: Resurrection Story: Transformed | Pentecost & Confirmation

The Spirit is alive and moves among us as it did in the early church! The end of our series will offer us an opportunity to commit ourselves to some important and concrete goals for our mission in the world. We are a church called to mobilize to alleviate suffering and proclaim resurrection hope through the power of the Holy Spirit!

STAFF

Rev. Krysta Deede - Lead Pastor

Zoe de Boer - Director of Young People & Mercy Ministries

Jessica Gobel - Director of Children, Family & Intergenerational Ministries

Gretchen Massenburg - Coordinator of Communication & Administrative Support

Dean Gunnarson - Director of Classic Music

Zoe de Boer - Director & Accompanist of Praise Music

Sandy Koster - Accompanist

Bailey Sommerville - Nursery Staff

Sabbath keeping is mandated in the creation story, the 10 Commandments, and in Jesus' summation of them, LOVE God and LOVE neighbor. Staff members have a weekly day of sabbath. Please honor these days of their spiritual renewal:

Rev. Krysta Deede - Friday Sabbath

Zoe de Boer - Friday Sabbath

Jessica Gobel - Monday Sabbath

Gretchen Massenburg - Friday Sabbath

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Ministry Oversight Staffing Shift

"Jesus granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NRSV)

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)

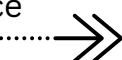
A vital part of a faith community includes the practice of spiritual discernment - setting aside intentional time to reflect, understand, and know something through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a church community, OUMC regularly listens for God to breakthrough with divine guidance to inform our decisions and choices as we seek to accomplish God's purposes in and through us collectively. Spiritual discernment is also a healthy practice for us individually.

During the past year, the primary program staff, Jessica and Zoe, spent time in spiritual discernment regarding their individual callings. Each communicated with Pastor Krysta the sense they had of God's purpose for their future ministry. In her own prayerful discernment of their named ministry calling and in conjunction with the overall ministry goals of the church, Pastor Krysta outlined a proposed ministry oversight shift to the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). SPRC reflected on the plan and affirmed moving forward. The Church Council reviewed the plan and supported it too.

Here is a general outline of the shift in major areas of ministry oversight for each staff member:

Zoe de Boer - Director of Young People, Mercy, and Praise Music Ministries

- Young People (infant to young adult): nursery and oversight of nursery staff, Sunday school, Youth Group (W.o.W), young adult social gatherings, small groups, young people mission trips, fundraising, events
- Mercy (outreach for community/denominational needs): monthly collections, adult mission trips, fundraising, events
- Praise Music (praise team and accompaniment): select, practice, play for 11am worship service



Jessica Gobel - Director of Adult, Connecting, and Intergenerational Ministries

- Adult (age 35 and over): resourcing adult small groups, adult education, and point of contact for Care Connections Chair, Stephen Ministry Leaders
- Connecting (hospitality and guest readiness): oversee overall church esthetics, develop process to connect people (new, returning, members) to ministry opportunities, implement systems of follow up, Sunday morning hospitality
- Intergenerational (events across generations): all church events, rummage sale, blood drives, prayers from the heart

A formal period of transition will begin May 1, 2024 and continue through August 1, the start of the new program year. This will give time for continued communication about the shift with the congregation. The staff will work collaboratively for a successful transition at a reasonable pace. The Pastor and SPRC will monitor the workload and staff health.

For transparency, while the majority of this shift is related to staff spiritual discernment, it also resulted from OUMC’s inability to hire an additional staff person due to financial constraints. Pastor Krysta and SPRC recognize this shift brings us to the capacity of our currently allotted staffing hours. OUMC is blessed with passionate and committed staff but we will not take advantage of that. Contingency ideas have been discussed and plans are developing if the breath of responsibility becomes overwhelming.

Here is where the congregation can support this shift. One of the main objectives for every staff member is to build ministry teams. The staff role is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” moving away from trying to do it themselves. OUMC fell into a pattern during COVID which was necessary, the staff needed to do almost everything. But that season of ministry is past. For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven so we must each embrace a time of spiritual discernment for ourselves in which we prayerfully discover what purpose God is directing us toward. And prepare ourselves to say ‘yes!’

There will be two in-person opportunities to hear more about the shift on Sunday, April 7 and Sunday, April 21 from 9:45-10:30am in the Heritage Room. If there are some who would prefer to meet by ZOOM, please connect with Pastor Krysta for a link to the 6:00pm Monday, April 15 ZOOM conversation.

Thank you for your continued prayers for OUMC, its staff and ministries as we enter into this new season of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

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Welcome to those recently baptized

Hadley Bever
Jasmine Landstrom
Freya Landstrom



Remembering those who have entered eternal life

Shanleigh Ritger - February 27, 2024
Spouse of Adam Ritger, Daughter of Deb Segler

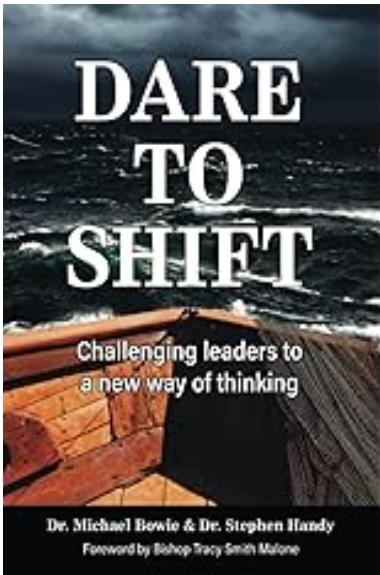
Coffee with the Pastor

Thursday, April 4
6:00 p.m.
Caribou Coffee
1202 County Rd PH Suite 200 in Onalaska



Staff Reading Recommendations

Pastor Krysta: In this book, co-authors Michael Bowie and Stephen Handy discuss how the Resurrection of Jesus caused the ultimate disruption to life, changing the landscape of the world for all time. The authors write that adaptive leadership is vital for this next iteration of ministry. To be effective, we must be nimble, flexible, and open to new ways of ministry. We can no longer rely on how we’ve always done things. We must be willing to shift and do ministry in uncommon, uncertain, and uncomfortable ways. As society continues to navigate and adjust to this new reality, we need to transform our complacent mindset into a creative one. This book will challenge readers to make intentional shifts in their understanding of relationships, leadership, stewardship, and discipleship.

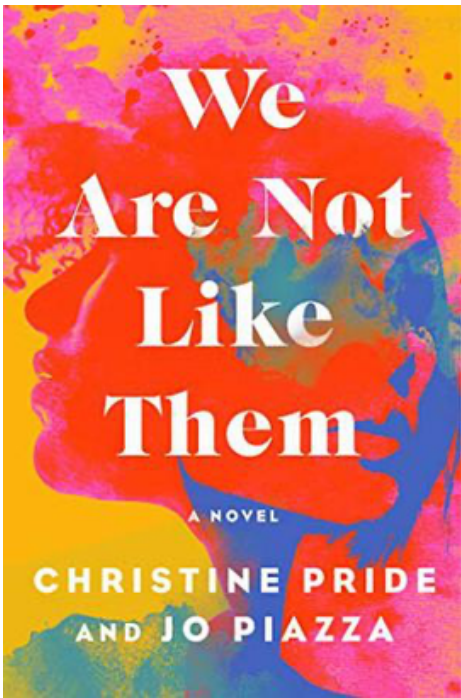
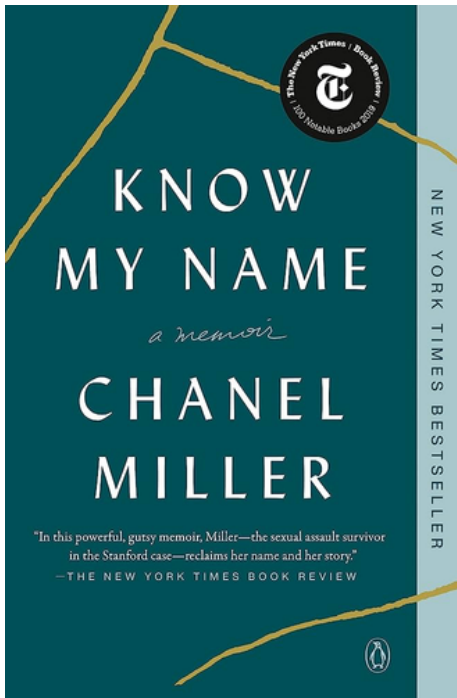


In preparation for my role as a clergy delegate to the General Conference, I am reading over 1700 pages of legislation within this publication, plus hundreds of additional articles, press releases, marketing materials, Facebook group posts, and attending numerous webinars about the primary topics being addressed at General Conference - Worldwide Regionalization, Social Principles, Book of Discipline - removing harmful language about LGBTQIA people, and more. The General Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina April 23 - May 3, 2024. Your prayers are appreciated.



Jessica Gobel: Like Pastor Krysta, I am spending every spare minute reading the legislation in preparation for the General Conference. It’s daunting, however exciting as I anticipate and am hopeful for progress within the United Methodist Church.

Zoe de Boer: Here are 3 books I’ve absolutley loved recently!



CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY



[DreamTable Day Recommendations](#)

On Wednesday, January 17, the Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey presented the DreamTable Day report which outlined her experiences of the listening sessions, leadership meeting, and all-church session. It outlined several strengths and weaknesses of the congregation as a whole. It then made five (5) recommended Next Steps to help OUMC move forward taking those strengths and weaknesses into consideration. The Church Council reviewed those recommendations and is in prayerful discernment about two (2) of the recommendations for OUMC. Those areas are Growing Generous Givers and Guest Readiness. Council is gathering resources to share with the congregation after Easter as we enter into a new season of praying for God to breakthrough and show us the way toward what is next for OUMC. If you have any questions, connect with Cathy Geister, Council Chair, or Pastor Krysta. The report is available in the church office if you would like to review it.

Congratulations!

On Tuesday, January 24th, a Special Charge Conference was held for the sole purpose of affirming the call of Erick Hunter into pastoral ministry. Erick shared his call story and was unanimously affirmed by those present to move into the formalized process toward ordination in The United Methodist Church. Thank you to all who attended as we shared in this important part of his journey and overall role OUMC has in nurturing Erick and other pastoral leaders.

Celebrate with Ruth Hallstead!

On Saturday, June 8 at 6:30pm at the KI Convention Center (333 Main Street) in Green Bay, the Wisconsin Annual Conference holds the Ordination, Commissioning, Licensing and Transfer Worship service. Ruth E. Hallstead was approved for commissioning as a provisional elder in The United Methodist Church and will take part in this worship celebration. Please consider attending to honor and recognize this significant moment in Ruth's call and the way OUMC nurtured her. There is no fee or need to register. For more information, connect with Pastor Krysta or Jessica Gobel.

Keeping Contact Information Current, Safeguarding Information

OUMC relies on current contact information and changes for each household to effectively communicate and share ministry highlights. Please contact the church office when you have an address, email, phone number change. Also consider giving your alternate address when you go for extended stays in secondary homes. We appreciate your communication about changes so we can remain connected with you.

OUMC continues to monitor scam attempts and report to the congregation ways pastor, staff or emergency stories are used to try to scam you. Please understand a staff phone call to verify information received by email is a safeguard we use. Know that the pastor or staff will NEVER ask you to provide financial resources (money, gift cards, rides) to get them out of an emergency situation or to support ministry needs. If you get suspicious requests, do not open or reply to them and report them to the church office so that we can take appropriate measures. One of the best ways to detect if something is a scam attempt, look at the originator email. If it does not include onalaskaumc.org in it, then you are probably receiving a scam. Thank you for your understanding and diligence.

CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY

Ready to Partner in the mission of OUMC?

Next Step is a casual gathering where you can learn about the history of Onalaska UMC, hear from our pastor about the beliefs and traditions of the United Methodist Church, and get to know the church a bit better.

You will also get to meet Stephen Ministers, connect with other worshippers and learn about opportunities to get connected! After you've met our pastor and learned about the church, there is a short break to offer an opportunity to decide if you want to take that next step and join Onalaska UMC. New Members are welcomed at a service of worship based on their availability.

Next Step will occur quarterly. Plan to attend on Sunday, April 14 at 9:45 am in the Gathering area. If childcare is needed, please contact the church office (608-783-3380).



APRIL 5-7 PINE LAKE CAMP

accessible, single or double rooms, each with
private bathroom available
carpooling available
new faces and returning faces welcome
low key, relaxing, and fun



Contact Jessica Gobel
(kidmin@onalaskaumc.org)
to register for the Ladies Retreat!

RUMMAGE SALE

START COLLECTING NOW!

MARCH - KITCHEN & HOUSEWARES

APRIL - WEARABLES & LINENS

MAY - OUTDOOR, LAWN & GARDEN

JUNE - "MANCAVE" & HARDWARE

JULY - KIDS, GAMES & BOOKS

AUGUST - SEASONAL

PLEASE DO
NOT BRING
ITEMS TO
OUMC UNTIL
AFTER
SEPTEMBER 8



CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY



We are looking for **vendors** for April's Spring Fling Craft Fair! If you are interested in hosting a vendor table and selling your goods, please contact Zoe at youth@onalaskaumc.org or use the QR code above! All proceeds raised by vendor fees will be donated to the high school mission trip to Denver, Colorado this summer!

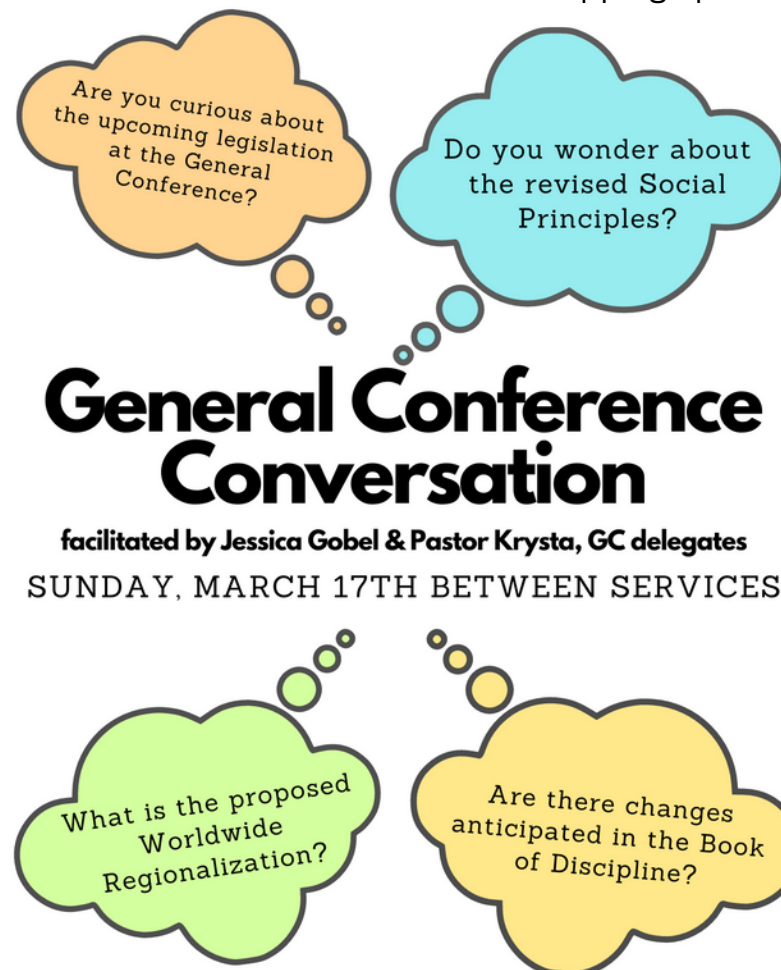


We had an amazing time offering secondhand formal dresses for sale in our Fellowship Hall to give prom-goers an affordable and sustainable shopping option!

Confirmation Sunday, May 19 (one service at 9:30am)

OUMC comes together to celebrate with our young people their decision to claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and to become members of the church. Each person within our church community has impacted these young people's faith journey. The baptismal covenant we proclaim is that we will do all in our power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. Your presence is a vital part of fulfilling that covenant.

United Methodist Special Offerings
4/14 Native American Special Offering
10/6 World Communion Special Offering



FAMILY MINISTRY

HELLO

Spring

Moms of Faith

MARCH MEET UP

MARCH 23RD @ 10 A.M.
WE WILL MEET AT A PARK (TBD)



JOIN US FOR A SMALL EASTER EGG
HUNT, BUNNY TRAIL MIX, AND COFFEE!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT BECCA HEGGE AT 608-345-5592



WHOOOOO'S IN THE NURSERY?



BAILEY & KATE



THANKS FOR BEING IN THE
NURSERY EACH WEEK TO TAKE
CARE OF OUR LITTLEST FRIENDS!

Our nursery is available during both services on Sunday mornings for any children who need a little extra attention, distraction, or loving! Nursery is located on the right hand side of the hallway past the church office.

All Church Bowling Party



Sunday, March 24
12:30-2p, pizza and goodies
Pla-Mor Lanes in La Crosse

FOOD TRUCK VBS!

SAVE THE
DATE



**SERVERS
NEEDED**

**EACH TRUCK
HAS A STORY
TO TELL**

**KIDS AGE 3 YEARS (&
POTTY TRAINED) UP
THROUGH 5TH GRADE**

August 4-8

EVENINGS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT EMAIL: KIDMIN@ONALASKAUMC.ORG

FAMILY MINISTRY

Check out what's up in Wow Peeps!

Grades 1-4
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30p

Dive into a devotion
Get your hands messy
Investigate your faith
Learn to serve
Move your feet
Be dramatic
Eat snacks!

contact Jessica!
kidmin@onalasaumc.org



(Above) Peeps Youth Group spent time making friendship bracelets for each other and their friends; (Bottom left) Our Workin' On It team was hard at work putting together new toys for the Nursery!

CALLING ALL KIDS FOR
FAITH ADVENTURES ON THE FIRST!

KIDS AGE
4+

APRIL 7

MAY 5

DURING 8:30 & 11 SERVICES



**Lake
Lucerne**

CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE | UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Pine
Lake**

CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE | UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IT'S TIME FOR CAMP!

REGISTER AT: WWW.UMCAMPS.ORG

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS UP TO \$200 ARE AVAILABLE
CAMPS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



YOUTH MINISTRY



Worship on Wednesdays:
Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm

DOVES - Grades 5-8

Confirmation - Grade 8

SOAR - Grades 9-12

Contact youth@onalaskaumc.org or scan the QR code to register your children for our youth programs!



We currently have about 40 youth involved in our Worship on Wednesdays programs! Peeps (grades 1-4) meets from 5:30-6:30 pm, and Doves (grades 5-8) and SOAR (grades 9-12) meet from 6:30-8:00 pm on Wednesday nights. With the youth and our great team of volunteers, the W.o.W. programs participate in a wide variety of lessons, Scripture studies, service projects, community involvement, arts & crafts, and more! They also volunteer for events that are happening around the church community, and spend time getting to know people of all ages at OUMC.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

young adult CLOTHING SWAP



thursday, march 21st
6-8 p.m.
onalaska umc
212 4th ave n



ages 18-35 | all genders | bring your gently used clothing, shoes, bags, and accessories to see if they can find a new home | "shop" from what everyone else brings | ALL leftover clothing will be donated to local clothing banks | membership at onalaska united methodist is NOT required to participate!

love Jesus = love ALL

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
OPEN / AFFIRMING / LOVING

Do you ever struggle because you feel like the beliefs you hold in your heart are at odds with what mainstream Christianity is teaching? Specifically when it comes to many churches' views on sexuality, identify, and human rights?

🔊 Here's the deal. This young adult ministry group is simply for people in the La Crosse area who feel similarly to what I've described above. It's a safe space for those ages 18-30s who are looking for community and connection, while being wrapped in the arms of an all-loving God.

Contact Zoe
(youth@onalaskaumc.org) to get involved!

(Photos left to right) The first young adult gathering at The Crow; OUMC Young Adults had a fantastic time going to the Taylor Swift Eras Tour at The Rivoli!



SMALL GROUPS

Adult Education

History & Mystery of the Bible - The History and Mystery of the Bible Class will resume on September 10th at 9:45 am. We will have more news about location and course of study soon. If you have not been part of the class before but enjoy a good Bible study, give us a try. If you have questions, please contact Margret Awtrey (cmawtrey2@gmail.com)

Sunday Night Study - 6-7pm: Rising Strong with Pastor Krysta

April 7, 14, 21, May 5, 19

Book available on Amazon, your favorite retailer or local library. Purchase and read a section ahead of each date.

Walking into our stories of hurt can feel dangerous. But the process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle is where our courage is tested and our values are forged. Our stories of struggle can be big ones, like the loss of a job or the end of a relationship, or smaller ones, like a conflict with a friend or colleague. Regardless of magnitude or circumstance, the rising strong process is the same: We reckon with our emotions and get curious about what we're feeling; we rumble with our stories until we get to a place of truth; and we live this process, every day, until it becomes a practice and creates nothing short of a revolution in our lives. Rising strong after a fall is how we cultivate wholeheartedness."

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
FROM THE AUTHOR OF *DARING GREATLY*

RIISING STRONG

THE RECKONING. THE RUMBLE.
THE REVOLUTION.

*If we are brave enough, often enough, we will fail.
This is a book about what it takes to get back up.*

**BRENÉ BROWN, PhD,
MSW**



SMALL GROUPS

MISSION STITCHERS

Our mission is to provide quilted items for our church family and local community members. In using our gifts and talents, we will grow spiritually in fellowship with others in our church and the community. Other related projects that involve sewing may occur.

We meet the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1-4 pm** in the last room to the right off the Fellowship Hall (downstairs).

All are welcome whether you quilt or not, so please consider joining us if you like to sew and want to share your gifts with others in the church. If you do not know how to quilt, we will teach you what you need to know. As one of us what to bring. If you are not interested in quilting, we do have other tasks that need to be done. If you do other handwork such as **embroidery, crocheting, or knitting**, you are welcome to work with us on your projects as well. We look forward to seeing you!

Reasons to give a quilt:

Life-threatening event such as terminal illness, heart failure, ALS, cancer

Life-changing event such as the loss of a child or spouse, loss of independence, dialysis, significant surgery

Save The Date!

This year's **Chicken-Q** is scheduled for **June 27th!** The proceeds from this event will benefit Mission Guatemala. Tickets will be \$12 each, and will start being sold on the first Sunday in May.



OUMC GAME DAY SQUAD

The mission of Game Day Squad is that not a single game, concert, or event passes without our youth looking out and seeing OUMC members cheering them on!

Here's how Game Day Squad works:

1. Zoe has been compiling a list of all of our youth's sporting events, choir and band concerts, etc.
2. If you feel called to be in the cheering squad of a certain sport/event, reach out to Zoe and she will get you a list of the season's events
3. You do NOT have to be a family member or friend of a member of our youth program to be on Game Day Squad! You can be someone who, for example, loves to watch soccer, so you can sign up to support our students' soccer teams!
4. Once you sign up, you will receive an "OUMC Game Day Squad" button to wear to all of the events!

Contact youth@onalaskaumc.org to get involved!



(Above) Game Day Squad hung out with Zoe & Megan at their production of "The Last 5 Years" at La Crosse Community Theater

OUTREACH

Fundraiser! Spring Flower Bulbs

Dahlias • Lilies • Perennials • Seed Mats • More!



Order Flower Bulbs &
Support Our Cause!

**Support Mission Guatemala by
ordering flower bulbs TODAY!**
Have them shipped right to your door.

Visit Our Personalized Website By 05/15:

[flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/
profile/shop/onalaskaunitedmethodistchurch](http://flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/onalaskaunitedmethodistchurch)

Contact For More Information:

Zoe de Boer; youth@onalaskaumc.org



Period Packs



COLLECTING THROUGH MARCH 2024
IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



PACKS OF PADS
(ALL SIZES)



PACKS OF TAMPONS
(ALL SIZES)



NEW WOMEN'S
UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES)



FLUSHABLE WIPES



BARs OF SOAP



FABRIC TOTE BAGS

Current Jail Ministry Needs (can be dropped off at OUMC):

- Recent magazines – all types
- Paperback Books – spiritual, fiction and nonfiction (no Harlequin romance or hardcover)
- Books written by black authors
- Books in Spanish or written by Hispanic or Latino authors
- Books in Hmong, or written by Hmong authors
- Puzzles (cardboard only in a cardboard box and no plastic baggies)
- Sweatpants, t-shirts, and sweatshirts for men in all sizes (can be second hand but must be clean)
- Backpacks (can be secondhand)
- Jackets and coats for all seasons in all sizes (can be second hand but must be clean)
- Boots or tennis shoes in all sizes (can be second hand but must be clean)
- Warm socks and clean underwear

Ongoing Collections

1st & 3rd Weeks: Food Pantry

The Onalaska Food Basket serves the regional communities of Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, Galesville, French Island, and Trempealeau. OUMC remains a top supporting faith community to help The Food Basket achieve their mission to “share Christ’s love by providing food to people in need.” On the 1st & 3rd Sunday’s we’re each encouraged to bring food items. Shopping carts are at both entrances to receive your donations.

Items in need may shift over time but in general soups, canned meat, cereal, pasta, sauce, toilet paper, personal hygiene items and basic items are in great demand.

2nd & 4th Weeks: Common Thread

Apportionment is the term used to describe the amount that each United Methodist congregation is asked to contribute to the wider United Methodist Church in support of our missions and ministries around the world.

In other words, it is A Portion Meant for Others. We sometimes call Apportionments the term Connectional Giving because it is an outward and visible sign of the connection within the UMC. The “Thread Spool” is placed out to receive your contributions on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

OUTREACH



March 5, 2024

New Episcopal Area Has a Name, Conferences' Task Forces Agree
By the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Communications Directors

The name of the new episcopal area that will include the Wisconsin Conference and the Northern Illinois Conference is the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area.

Meeting on Feb. 26 in Kenosha, the task forces in both conferences that are working on sharing a bishop starting Sept. 1 agreed on this name.

Under the creation of the new episcopal area—determined by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference earlier this year—one bishop will oversee both the Wisconsin Conference and the Northern Illinois Conference. (Episcopal areas are distinct from annual conferences, though often the geographical boundaries of the two have coincided.)

The two conferences are not merging. However, sharing a bishop will prompt more intentional sharing of ministries between the two conferences, which can strengthen both conferences' efforts.

"Each conversation among the joint task force members makes it evident that shared contacts across the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area will enrich United Methodists in both conferences," said Rev. Steve Zekoff, chair of Wisconsin's task force. "Of course, some unknowns come with moving from being neighbors to being more intentional partners in ministry. I remain excited about this adventure of discovering how our two conferences can retain distinct identities while collaborating in episcopal oversight and other ministry efforts."

Rev. Myron McCoy, the chair of Northern Illinois's task force, shares Zekoff's confidence.

"Our two teams have discovered that envisioning a new episcopal area where a bishop serves much like a pastor leading a two-point charge requires everyone to think and function very differently from what we have known," he said. "However, we are working on the fears and hopes of such an endeavor with a great deal of sensitivity and intentionality for the membership of our two conferences. Someone once said, 'All things are difficult before they are easy.' And we see our task as outlining a path to make it easy come Sept. 1."

The two groups also agreed that the bishop of the new episcopal area will have the option of receiving a housing allowance, rather than a parsonage, funded by both conferences. This will enable the bishop to determine a suitable residence location.

Lisa Wink and Rev. Victoria Rebeck, the director of communications for the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois conferences respectively, will work together on developing a website for the episcopal area. It will contain information specific to the bishop. Both conferences will link to that site from their own webpages.

Further, the communicators will compile a list of questions and answers to help constituents of both conferences to understand the new relationship.

One of the next decisions facing the two task forces is the location of an episcopal area office. The bishop would not often be in an office as much work will take place on the road—in Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, or around the world for responsibilities across the connection. Location factors include ease of traveling in both conferences as well as proximity to an airport, for the bishop's national and international obligations. Because an episcopal area is not equivalent to a conference, the episcopal area office need not be located within conference office suites.

Group members emphasized in discussion that the coming year or so should be considered a transitional time in which the two conferences and the bishop in the new area try new practices that will benefit a shared situation. It may be that some practices are different in each conference. "Flexibility is paramount," one participant said.

The two groups expect to meet together in late March.

SAVE THE DATE!!

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Saturday, June 22nd 2024
Riverside Park
12:00pm- 7:00pm

La Crosse Area Coalition of LGBTQ+ Affirming Christians

We are a dynamic Coalition of LGBTQ+ Affirming Christians from the La Crosse region. We seek to support the spiritual needs of LGBTQ+ people by providing a network of safe, welcoming, and affirming places of worship where all LGBTQ+ people are recognized and embraced as fellow children of God, created by God in God's image.

It is the Mission of the Coalition to:

1. Inform and educate member and non-member church congregations and the public about the challenges and threats LGBTQ+ people face every day and work to build a strong foundation of Christian understanding and compassion for these siblings in Christ.
2. Build a network of affirming Christian representatives who stand ready to respond publicly in solidarity with and support for LGBTQ+ people and issues.
3. In partnership with the 7-Rivers Center, identify areas of need and then act to help LGBTQ+ people and their families navigate the challenges of living in our straight cisgender-oriented society.

Stay Connected

1. Follow and Like our Facebook Page, share with others
2. Sign up to be part of our Rapid Response Team with your email and phone
 - Receive notifications via email or through our group chat on the GroupMe App

Support the Work & Mission of the Coalition

1. Welcoming and Affirming Churches who will affirm the Mission of
2. Individuals who support our Mission
3. Friends who wish to be notified of our activities and events

Church Name _____
Church Contact _____
Individual Name _____
Address _____



The **Coalition of LGBTQ+ Affirming Christians** is a dynamic group from the La Crosse region. They seek to support the spiritual needs of LGBTQ+ people by providing a network of safe, welcoming, and affirming places of worship where all LGBTQ+ people are recognized and embraced as fellow children of God, created by God in God's image. Use the QR code below to view the PDF and consider supporting the mission!

2024 Community Dinner Dates

We are **ALWAYS** looking for volunteers, so please reach out to Zoe (youth@onalaskaumc.org) to get involved.

April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

OUTREACH



We have NEW Onalaska UMC apparel available! We have different designs, and a variety of shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. To shop our three different designs, please visit these websites:

www.bonfire.com/onalaska-umc/

www.bonfire.com/johnwesleyonalaskaumc/

www.bonfire.com/all-means-all-onalaska-umc/

This apparel sale IS a fundraiser, so Onalaska UMC gets a small percentage of each sale.

Volunteers in Mission

- March 3- 8 VIM Team to Midwest Mission in Illinois to pack kits, fix sewing machines and bicycles and build school desks.
- March 17-22 Vim Team to Midwest Mission
- April 7-13 VIM Team to Mayfield, KY to help with reconstruction.
- May 12-18 VIM Trip to Pine Lake Camp to do maintenance and prepare camp for summer season.
- June 16-22 VIM Team to Red Cliff Reservation, Bayfield, WI to assist the Native American Community.
- September 26 - Oct. 4 VIM Team to Lake Lucerne Camp for Fall Clean-up and Maintenance.

For more information on these and future trips, please contact Wes Hurlburt at 608-783-2652 or weshurlburt@gmail.com

ONALASKA, WI

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

JOURNEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2703 SAND LAKE ROAD
ONALASKA, WI



2024 DATES

MARCH 20
APRIL 17
MAY 15

JUNE 19
JULY 17

AUGUST 21
SEPTEMBER 18

OCTOBER 16
NOVEMBER 20
DECEMBER 18

\$25 Cash Donation

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RUBY'S PANTRY

FINANCE

Jesus talked about money and possessions twice as much as he did about heaven and hell, five times as much as he talked about prayer, and nearly half of Jesus' parables deal with how we manage money and possessions.

John Wesley's goal was not to raise money for the church, but to lead people into a healthier, more productive, more positive life by providing practical wisdom on the relationship between their faith and their finances. Wesley's rules are not about fundraising for the church. They are about becoming more like Christ. They are about practicing the spiritual discipline of generosity so that we become generous people whose lives are shaped in the likeness of an extravagantly generous God.

Thank you to all who embraced the "Giving from Abundance" Lenten sacrificial giving challenge. The pastor and staff hear stories every week about how impact this experience has been as a spiritual discipline and how it makes them look at their "stuff" differently!

There's still time to participate. Below is the calendar. You can make a donation without using the calendar that will support World Vision. Your coin collection should be brought on Easter Sunday for a special blessing at each worship service. Thank you for your generosity!

A thick bankroll is no help when life falls apart, but a principled life can stand up to the worst.

~Proverbs 11:4 The Message

Whoever loves money never has money enough; Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

~Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV

GIVING FROM ABUNDANCE CALENDAR

- February 14: A coin for every lamp
- February 15: A coin for every light switch
- February 16: A coin for every candle
- February 17: A coin for every flashlight
- February 18: Pray today
- February 19: A coin for every box of cereal
- February 20: A coin for every can of soup
- February 21: A coin for every type of bread
- February 22: A coin for every jar of jelly
- February 23: A coin for every bottle of salad dressing
- February 24: A coin for every jar of peanut butter
- February 25: Pray today
- February 26: A coin for every ball cap or hat
- February 27: A coin for every pair of shoes
- February 28: A coin for every t-shirt
- February 29: A coin for every sweatshirt
- March 1: A coin for every pair of jeans or pants.
- March 2: A coin for every coat
- March 3: Pray today
- March 4: A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment
- March 5: A coin for every electronic video game
- March 6: A coin for every smart device
- March 7: A coin for every television
- March 8: A coin for every doll or stuffed animal
- March 9: A coin for every board or card game
- March 10: Pray today
- March 11: A coin for every box of Band-Aids®
- March 12: A coin for every bottle of vitamins
- March 13: A coin for every box of tissues
- March 14: A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.
- March 15: A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste
- March 16: A coin for every cough drop found in your house.
- March 17: Pray today
- March 18: A coin for every room in your home
- March 19: A coin for every electrical outlet in your home
- March 20: A coin for every chair in your home
- March 21: A coin for every desk in your home
- March 22: A coin for every bathroom
- March 23: A coin for every bed
- March 24: Pray today
- March 25: A coin for every Bible
- March 26: A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home
- March 27: A coin for every cross in your home
- March 28: A coin for every prayer you say today
- March 29: A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell
- March 30: A coin for every person in your family
- March 31: Bring your coins to church!