

Fennimore United
Methodist Church
Stitzer United Methodist Church
1450 Second Street
Fennimore, WI 53809

Rev. William “Bud” Budzinski, Pastor

Pastor Yang, Associate Pastor

Church Office: (608) 822-6797

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Website: <http://www.fennimoreumc.org>

E-mail: fennimoreumc@tds.net

“Always Wear Snake Boots!”

It was a beautiful, warm May afternoon in North Carolina. The sun was shining and there was a nice breeze as I headed out to do a little turkey hunting with my bow. I set up on a ridge with my back to a large oak tree, settled in, waited a little while, and started calling. Nothing happened for a while, but I just kept calling sporadically. The warm day and the nice breeze caused me to snooze a couple of times. But then I thought I heard a gobble in the distance. I called, but no response. Then I heard it again-- a definite gobble and it was getting closer. I am watching and I see movement ahead of me about 60 yards, coming down a game path. I get my bow ready and hear another gobble, definitely getting closer. Ready, I see a shape and it is getting closer. Whoa, not a tom but a hen. She kept coming and eventually passed within 5 yards of me. The tom was still coming, the gobbling sounding closer and closer. Finally, I saw him at about 50 yards, pacing back and forth, not getting closer now but gobbling expecting the hen or me to come closer to him. The other hen had stopped making noise and now I had the tom's full attention. Then, after about 20 minutes, the tom starts coming toward me and I am ready. My bow is in position, the tom is closing in and I patiently wait.

About 20 yards from me, there is a small tree down and when the tom gets there (hopefully), I will have a shot. As he draws closer, I am ready and then he stops. He jumps a little bit and is agitated. He gobbles and quickly heads off away from me, and I have absolutely no shot. I am perplexed. I had not moved and I believe there is no way he could have seen me. How did I spook him?

Curiosity got the best of me, so I got up and went over where the tom last stood, stepping over the downed tree. I looked back toward where I was and there was no way that tom could have seen me. I was perplexed. I felt something brush against my boot, thinking it was a branch I had kicked with my foot. It snapped back again and I pushed it away with my bow and kept looking around. The third time it hit me hard and I looked down and jumped. I had stepped into a hole of young copperheads and they had been striking at my boot. I got out of there and was glad I was wearing my snake boots and that I hadn't been bitten.

I was a little rattled but no worse for the wear. However, the next morning brought me to reflecting about the previous afternoon. I woke up and my shin and ankle were sore and upon further examination, quite bruised. I went to the doctor and discovered the snakes had struck me so hard they had caused bruises, but no bites. Wow, thank goodness for snake boots.

I should have known better than to step over that downed tree without looking. I was very fortunate that I was not bitten, and I learned a few lessons from it.

What were those lessons? We need to think things through before we make decisions. Rash decisions very rarely make good decisions. Before we make decisions, we should pray for God's guidance. The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." (Psalm 32:8) I knew better than to step over that tree without looking.

In addition, life is going to give you bumps and bruises and try to knock you down. That is life. But when those things happen, God gives us strength to get through. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?" (Psalm 27:1)

Finally, always wear snake boots! No, always read your Bible because its wisdom gives us strength and guidance! May you have a blessed and prosperous 2019!

But in the end it's only a passing thing, this shadow; even darkness must pass.

Pastor Bud

January 2019 Mission

Heifer Project International

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Heifer empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but the approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market. When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

The core of Heifer Project model is Passing on the Gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities.

The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. They do this by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves, and it's thanks to the generosity of donors that makes it possible.

Through this month's mission, we have the power to give a hungry family the training it takes to feed themselves and their children, as well as help their community. Together, we can change the world, one family, one community, at a time.

And it all starts with YOUR gift.

For more information, visit:

www.heifer.org



UMW News:

Happy New Year to all! Well another year has gone by around the world traditions to celebrate the New Year are varied.

If you live in :

Scotland – smash unused or seldom used dishes against the doors of friends to ward off bad spirits and welcome happier times

South Africa - throwing unused goods from windows sends a signal to the universe that you have let go of grievances (this could include furniture ☺ so be careful)

Isle of Man, Scotland - First Footing is the key. The first person entering your door is the key, seek/invite a good person to be the first to bring good luck to your household

Spain - come hungry to a New Years Eve celebration and eat twelve grapes the last twelve seconds of the year for good luck. (seedless is suggested)

Philippines - circles represent coins and bring wealth, so the more circle shapes you can collect the better. Twelve round fruits signal you will be raking in the dough

Brazil - Wear White for New Years Eve, for a year that promises luck, wonder and adventure

Turkey – Smashing Pomegranates on doorways! The belief is good fortune for the coming year is proportional to the amount of seeds expelled, so really put some muscle behind it!

Ireland - The Irish believe banging bread against the walls on New Year's is supposed to chase away bad luck and evil spirits allowing good to be invited in

In Fennimore ? What is your tradition? OR maybe a resolution? I think mine will be ... Everyday try to do something good for another! A past pastor of ours once said, if you can lay your head down on your pillow at night, having done good for another, you have done well. I think we all should try that!

The UMW wishes all a Healthy and Happy New Year! God Bless Everyone!

Who's Serving in Fennimore in January?

Ushers

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1/6/2019	Stenner's	Sheckler Family
1/13/2019	Kreul's	Wehrle's
1/20/2019	Miller's	Connie Neal
1/27/2019	Grimme's	Nelson's

Kid's Time

Date	8:00 AM
1/6/2019	Maggie Kartman
1/13/2019	Krista Demo
1/20/2019	Confirmation
1/27/2019	Confirmation

Greeters (Sanctuary)

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1/6/2019	Rands'	Sheckler Family
1/13/2019	Kreul's	Wehrle's
1/20/2019	Davis Family	Linda Stephenson
1/27/2019	Handfelt Family	Nelson's

Communion Assistants

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1/6/2019	Stenner's, Burkum's, Kreul's	Brent and Mary Sheckler

Liturgist

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1/6/2019	Tonia Schildgen	Brent Sheckler
1/13/2019	Phil Alm	Jackie Wehrle
1/20/2019	Karla Witzig	Connie Neal
1/27/2019	Linda O'Kane	Judy Nelson

Acolyte

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
1/6/2019	Keira Kartman	
1/13/2019	Brogan/Corbin Demo	Ethan Sheckler
1/20/2019	Ava Winkers	
1/27/2019	Drew Torgeson	Jackson Sheckler

*Wash me,
and I will be
whiter than snow.*

Psalm 51:7

Remember our Friends at:

Orchard Manor
Doris Schneider

Good Samaritan Center
Nip Leffler, Dave Lindow, Gerry McReynolds,
Dennis Freymiller, Jeannette Schneiderwind

Sunset Fields
Donna Blackburn and Paul Rector

Morningside
Cheryl Burr

Meet Pastor Yang!

My name is Yeng Yang even though my past parishioners called me Pastor Yeng or Pastor Yang. Eventually the name Tou or Pastor Tou might be heard as well and that is fine with me also. I was born in Ashtabula, Ohio in 1980 and both of my parents are Hmong refugees from Laos. My father fought alongside the United States military during the Vietnam War in which he was wounded by a piece of shrapnel during the conflict. Before speaking more about myself I like to share a little bit on how my parents came to the United States.

After the fall of South Vietnam my parents were forced to flee to Thailand since their homeland of Laos had become hostile to any groups that had sided with the United States during the Vietnam War. During this time many nonprofit and Christian groups started to sponsor Hmong refugees to the USA to escape persecution. My parents were eventually sponsored by a Lutheran family in Ohio and in the late 1970's moved from Thailand to Ohio to begin a new life. Even they would create a new life and family here with eventually consisted of 3 daughters and 3 sons. In the early 1980's my parents decided to move to Wausau, Wisconsin since many of their family and friends had ended up moving there.

I was 3 years old when my parents moved to Wausau. My parents were already Christians before coming to the United States and enrolled my siblings and I into a Lutheran elementary school while we attended a Roman Catholic Church on Sunday. It was not until I was 12 years old that my family decided to become United Methodist and I have called myself United Methodist since then. My family and I were very active in church activities and it was there at my local church where I learned about The Bible and what it meant to be a Christian.

After high school I worked for a short while but eventually found my way to the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where I ended up graduating with a history degree. I planned to enter teaching but wanted to repay my loans before going forward so I moved back to Wausau and found a job at a local factory. I always had a feeling that God was calling me to the ministry but it became even more evident during my time at the factory. Many of my co-workers would comment on how pious I was and said I would make a good pastor. I personally took this as God using others to point me towards professional ministry.

After three years at the factory I decided to enter the pastoral process and entered Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. My years at Garrett really helped form my theology and my understanding of God's word and will probably impact me for the rest of my life. As a seminary student I was involved a new church start in Northern Illinois and also was a church intern at a Milwaukee UMC church located on the Southside of Milwaukee. While at Garrett I was asked by Bishop Jung if I would take my first appointment in Green Bay which I did. I ultimately came to oversee the growth of two church – one located on the Eastside of Green Bay and the other being in a small rural town called Denmark. Even though both congregation were extremely different they both believed in the power of God in their own ways which helped me to expand my own understanding of God's love in our lives at the same time. My last appointment was at Agape UMC in New Berlin in which I served for a year and a half.

I am excited to start my new appointment at Fennimore and Stitzer UMC. I know it will be a different challenge from anything I have experienced in the past but I am willing to step up to it. After talking to our District Superintendent Scott Carlson, Pastor Bud, Pastor Ty, and along with members from both churches – there seems to be many great things going on and I want to be part of it. I do hope to learn as much if not more from the two congregations and their leaders as you learn from me. With God on our side there is nothing impossible. God bless everyone and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Yeng Yang

*Thank
you*



To

Upcoming Dates —

the amazing Christmas Carolers who came to my home. It was absolutely wonderful and made my day!
Eldeen Oechsle

January 13 — Youth Impact Field Trip
Galaxie Skate Center, Richland Center
Christian Music Skate Night

Meet at FUMC at 3:30 PM Sharp!



Thank You to all whose attended Christmas Eve Worship! We were happy to have you join us! We had well over 500 in attendance.

January 19 through 20 — Youth Impact High School Winter Retreat at Pine Lake
Please contact Katie Volz-Oyen for more information ASAP.

Departure: 4 PM Friday, January 18

January 20 — NO Youth IMPACT

January 27 — IMPACT Youth Group
4:30 to 6:30 PM
FUMC Basement

All students Grade 6 to 12 welcome!

God Bless!
Fennimore United Methodist
Church Staff

A Message for 2019

From Franklin Graham (Son of Billy Graham)

“As we come to 2019, pray that our nation would turn its eyes to God and His Son Jesus Christ who paid the debt of sin with His own blood. His wisdom is limitless and His love is unfailing.”

“For those who have put their faith and trust in Christ, you can take comfort in knowing that no matter what comes, He has promised, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’ (Hebrews 13:5). Are you beginning 2019 with Him?”

December 2018
Attendance

December 2 — 229
December 9 — 369
December 16 — 216
December 23 — 134
December 24 — 524
December 30 — 122