



Fennimore
Stitzer
United
Methodist
Church

1450 Second Street
Fennimore, WI 53809

December 2020 Newsletter



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2020

NEWSLETTER

“Get busy living or get busy dying.”

We have a choice.

Pastor Bud

I could see the angelic, pale face looking down upon me. She looked sad and I could see fear in her eyes. I should have taken it as a warning... All of a sudden, I got hit from behind and it jolted me so hard I thought I was broken in half. Then someone hit me from the right side and I could see stars. Thoughts raced through my head... would I survive? My life passed before my eyes. The next shot I saw coming and I tried to avoid it but to no avail. My whole body shook. I no longer had control. I could not turn, I could not back up, I could not go forward. I could not steer my way out of this so, I raised my hands, pulled the red flag and surrendered.

Lori and I had gone home to Thorp for the 4th of July and went to the Demolition Derby. We walked into the pits to see my brother who had prepared a couple of cars for the Derby. He saw me coming and came up and asked if I would like to drive one of the cars. The driver he had was not able to, so he was desperate. I had helped friends and neighbors prepare cars and had raced a few times, but it had been a few years since I had done it. I said I would and really forgot that Lori was with me, I was so excited. Lori went up into the stands and I got the car ready and would be in the third heat.

I was a bundle of nerves, anxious and excited and the adrenaline was high. I was pumped! The heat came and I entered the

ring, took my position, and waited for the start flag to wave. I was going to impress Lori with my driving and ramming. It would be awesome! I looked up into the stands and there was Lori, white as a ghost. I had not asked her what she thought about all of this and I could see the fear and worry for me. I waved but she was frozen in her seat. The flag waved, I looked at her and backed up to ram another car when I got hit. I tried moving but kept getting hit. I finally broke free and got a couple of hits in and then got hit again, so hard that the steering wheel came off in my hands. Knowing I was a sitting duck, I pulled my flag and was out of the race. It was fun but short-lived. Exhilarating but sobering. I haven't been in a Demolition Derby since then, although I have had a few accidents. I was glad I gave it a shot (Lori not so sure) but it was time to move on to other things.

Today I think that many of us feel that we are in a Demolition Derby, getting hit from every side. Or we are on a train and we are going off the tracks. We feel we have no control and no matter which way we turn, there is bad news and darkness and negativity. Life is going to give us its best shot and we will get up. We must remember that we have a choice. Again, one of my favorite quotes from the Shawshank Redemption: “Get busy living or get busy dying.” We have a choice. We can get out of bed or stay in bed. We can mope around, or we can smile. We can be positive or negative. We can try or we can give up.

“If you find yourself in the deep-down dark, this is not the time to give up. Take your eyes off the door that has closed and look to the window that has opened. That's where the light of heaven rushes in.” (Kyle Idleman, Don't Give Up). This is the time to keep fighting, keep believing and God WILL give you the courage to keep going.”

No matter what our world is like, I will continue to be hopeful and will try to continue to make



a difference. To be grateful, to be positive, to keep moving forward even when life is tough. Because, you see, my steering wheel is not broke. As Carrie Underwood so eloquently sang, I am letting Jesus take the wheel. When I let that happen, I know I will get through and you will to. God bless and God's got this!

*“Sometimes You Don't Get to
Pick Your Friends”*

Pastor Yang

My youngest brother has always been a lover of all sorts of animals. Whether it was fish, birds, dogs, or cats – he loved them all and they seemed to love him back as well.

One day my brother came back from the Marathon County State fair with a pair of baby ducks and chickens. We didn't live out in “the country” but we did live in the suburbs with a fairly large yard. Maybe that was the reason why my parents thought it was okay to purchase a pair of ducklings and chicks for my brother. The first few weeks were easy since the new pets were small and cute but as they grew and became more active, we had to find a place for them to live. Fortunately, my uncle did live out in the “country” and we made the 45-minute trip to his chicken coop. We dropped off the ducklings and chicks and my uncle said he would take care of them as long as we helped with the food, which we did.

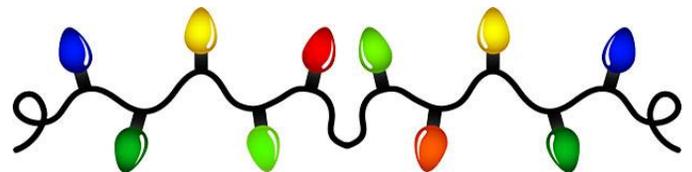
At least once a week we would visit our pet birds, but we soon noticed that even though they weren't the only chickens and ducks there they continued to walk together as a flock instead of joining the others. This wouldn't be odd except for the fact that two were ducks and the other two were chickens. We concluded that since the four grew up together they probably saw each other more as a flock, if not actual family. Sometimes our lives are like that as well. We move to places or get into situations where we find ourselves befriending or allying ourselves

with people we would least expect. We might not be totally comfortable with it, but we do the best we can because it's probably not only the best move for us but for the others as well. Paul and his relationship with the Jewish communities that followed Jesus was the same way. They first distrusted Paul, but the more Paul worked for God, the more the followers of Jesus had no choice but to trust Paul and vice versa.

Working together and trusting one another may not be easy and it may not be as we imagine, but that that does not mean it cannot work. As long as we set our goals and work earnestly to fulfill those goals with the guidance of God I do believe nothing is impossible.

In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus reminds us that we should not only love our neighbors but love our enemies as well. This doesn't mean we should love evil doers or reward their evil doing, it means we should treat them in a way that makes them turn from their evil ways and into the path of goodness and righteousness. Whether a person acknowledges your efforts or not is up to them. All we can do is our best to show them the type of love that God shows us. A love that shines not only on the good but also those who might not be so good at heart.

If we love in this way, we can assure that no one in our community is left out of love and that all are given a chance to enter God's kingdom on Earth.



UMW – Fennimore

December is the twelfth and final month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

Before January and February were added, it acted as the tenth and final month. This explains its name, which comes from the Latin decem, meaning "ten".

The December's full Moon has traditionally been known as the **Full Cold Moon** by some Native Americans or also as the **Long Nights Moon** because it rose during the "longest" nights of the year, which are near the December 21st winter solstice.

Moon Folklore – *If a snowstorm begins when the Moon is young, it will cease at moonrise.*

Quarterly Meeting – Our annual potluck will look a little different this year. We still do plan to meet on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00 PM for our meeting. We would like to see you there, but for every one's sake, please wear a mask. We can social distance to a point as well during the evening. We will be ordering take-out pizza. COVID restrictions do not allow us to bring in individual dishes to consume. We will still be putting our CHEER PLATES together and delivering them after our meeting and pizza.

Creation Team – We decided not to meet in November. We will start back up next year when COVID subsides. We do have covers for sale for the holidays, however. If you wish to see them, please stop in at the Church. They will be located in the Narthex. If you wish to purchase one, you can leave the money with the office or in the envelope provided.



From the
UMW 1996 Cookbook:

Fudge Sauce
Nellie Furrer

1 Cup Chocolate Chips
½ Cup Butter or Margarine
2 Cups Powdered Sugar
1 ½ Cups Evaporated Milk
1 tsp. Vanilla

Melt chips and butter in saucepan; add sugar and evaporated milk.
Stir; bring to a boil.
Cook for 5 minutes; add vanilla.
Keeps well in refrigerator. Spoon out amount needed. Can reheat in the microwave.

NOTE: This would make a great homemade gift for Christmas! Pretty little jars with a red ribbon!

Prayer:

All you children of God, rejoice and be glad because a Savior has come to earth. The greatest miracle of all time has taken place. The child of God has come to earth in human form. He has been born not in a castle or in a palace, but in a poor man's stable. How humble our God is and so great is his love.
Merry Christmas to you!

Unknown

The UMW misses everyone! We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stay well. Stay safe.
We will all be together soon.

Food Pantry Needs:

Chicken Noodle Soup
Canned Fruit
Cereal
Mixed vegetables
Pasta
Mac and Cheese

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all of you who donated or packed a box for Operation Christmas Child! This year we were able to pack an amazing, 50+ boxes! We have wrapped up our virtual curriculum for the fall semester and our team is working on a few things for the Christmas Season. Coloring sheets were sent out to all families, we would like them returned to church once completed so we can spread some Christmas Cheer with the residents at Divine Rehabilitation! As always, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for our Christian Education Program, please let us know!

Depot Exchange

The Depot Exchange is still in need of volunteers! **However**, they are currently not allowing volunteer groups and are limiting the amount of volunteers per day. Please give them a call at (608) 822-4060 to schedule a time to volunteer! They would greatly appreciate it.

Thank You

Thank You for all the prayers, cards, phone cards, flowers and well wishes for our 70th Wedding Anniversary!

Virgil and Marilyn Brodt

Christmas Eve

SERVICES



Join us for Christmas Eve Service from the safety of your own vehicle! We are working on a "Drive-In Christmas Eve" service(s). So, stay tuned for further details!

Here's what we do know:

Service Times

Fennimore –

3:00 PM, 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Stitzer –

7:00 PM