



THE CROSS & THE FLAME



Viroqua
&
Liberty Pole

United Methodist
Churches



P.O. Box 127, Viroqua, WI 54665

March 2016



Viroqua & Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches Mission Statement

The Viroqua & Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches exist 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.

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John Wesley Quote

REF: <http://christian-quotes.ochristian.com/John-Wesley-Quotes/>

“When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous. Now, if that man when he gets all he can and saves all he can, does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man!”



The Cross & The Flame is published monthly by the Viroqua and Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches for our congregation and friends. *We welcome you with open hearts, open arms and open doors.*

VIROQUA UMC/OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon on Thursday & Friday

LIBERTY POLE UMC

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Viroqua UMC Service Assistants

Ushers

March 6th	Cavan Fang/Dan Casper
March 13th	Ardith Olson/Janet Welch
March 20th	Trygve & Irma Overbo
March 25th	David & Lorna Peterson
March 27th	Aaron & Angie Hanson

Greeters

March 6th	Annabel McGarry
March 13th	David Peterson
March 20th	Dan Casper
March 27th	Aaron & Angie Hanson

Liturgist

Sonja Bjerkos

Liberty Pole UMC Service Assistants

Ushers/Greeters

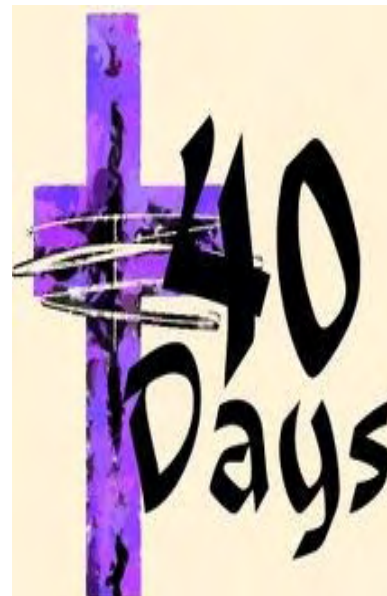
March 6th	Neil & Casey Funk
March 13th	Neil & Casey Funk
March 20th	Brittany Deaver&Chandlor Volden
March 25th	Brittany Deaver&Chandlor Volden
March 27	Brittany Deaver&Chandlor Volden

Liturgist

Brian Funk

Lent is a season of forty days, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Because Sundays celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, they are not included in the forty days. In the Bible, the number forty appears in the story of the flood, in Israel's wandering in the wilderness and in the life of Jesus. The number forty is often a symbol of ruin and renewal, testing and teaching.

Lent is a time for us to remember the ruin that sin brings to our lives, to repent and receive God's forgiveness. After his baptism, Jesus "was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:13). During these forty days we remember how our Lord stood in the place of sinners, in our place, and resisted every temptation of the devil. On the cross, the innocent Son of God suffered the punishment we deserved for our sins.



March Scriptures

March 6th, 4th Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion/ Intinction

Psalm 32 UMH 766
 Psalm 15
 2 Timothy 2:8-14
 Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75
 "In Christ's Strength, We Can Keep Our Promises"

March 13, 5th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 126, rsp. 2 UMH 847
 Leviticus 16:20-22
 2 Corinthians 5:12-21
 John 19:1-16
 "The Cross: The Restoration of Justice"

March 20th, Palm Sunday

Psalm 31:1-16, rsp. 1 UMH 764
 Zechariah 9:9-10
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Matthew 21:1-9
 "Palm Sunday Was Short Lived"

March 24th, Maundy Thurs.

Psalm 116:1-19, rsp. 2 UMH 837
 Ezekiel 37:24-28
 Hebrews 9:11-15
 Luke 22:39-48
 "Jesus Comes to You in the bread and Wine"

March 25th, Good Friday

Psalm 22:1-18, 25-31, rsp. 1 UMH 752
 Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 Matthew 27:45-54
 "The Cross and the Brokenness of Good Friday"

March 27th, Easter Sunday

Psalm 118:14-29 rsp. 2 UMH 839
 Jeremiah 31:1-6
 Colossians 3:1-4
 Matthew 28:1-10
 "God Delights In Breaking Seals"



Viroqua United Methodist Women Meeting Minutes, Feb. 4th

Our UMC/Lydia Circle met Feb. 4th in the church lounge.

Janet Welch gave a short program and was hostess. The group made valentines for Vernon Manor.

Our 2016 Program Booklets are being printed and should be ready by our March meeting.

At this time we are planning to have the Salad Luncheon on May 11th.

The Lydia Circle and the 4 Hospitality group will furnish either 3 dozen cookies or a pan of bars for the Ecumenical Lenten Service at our church on March 2nd.

Calendar of Events:

March 2: Ecumenical Lenten Service at Viroqua.

March 3: UMW/Lydia Circle in Lounge - Lorraine Gerdle hostess

March 4: World Day of Prayer at Good Shepherd

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Party at Vernon Manor—Barb Casper will furnish one dozen brownies

March Child Fund—Barb Casper

April 2: Mission Action Day—Columbus UMC

Care and Nurture Committee Minutes—Feb. 9th

Present: Pastor Jean, David Peterson, John Eumurian, Gloria Freilinger, Joanne Hornby, Mary Fox, and Janice Fortney.

Pastor Jean opened the meeting with a prayer.

In review—The clowns have several appointments to perform at various places.

Plans are being discussed for the youth. We are happy with the results of the “Big Thing.”

Plans for the Lenten season observance are almost complete.

The Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. time slot for this meeting is not working well for Pastor Jean. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9th. We will see if that is better for her schedule.

John closed the meeting with prayer at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Freilinger

Happy Anniversary

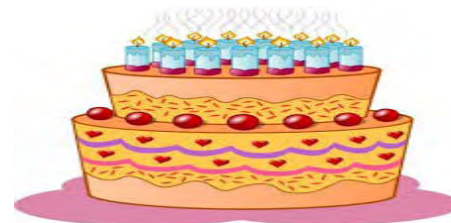
Chuck & Mary Mulvaney-Kemp (V) March 12th

Dan & Barb Casper (V) March 21st



Birthdays

Kathryn Schultz (V)	March 1st
Carole Funk (LP)	March 3rd
Alice Sloane (V)	March 4th
Savanah Zitzner (LP)	March 4th
Vickie Doan (V)	March 7th
Judy Christianson (LP)	March 8th
Avis Marino (V)	March 12th
Mary Mulvaney-Kemp	March 12th
Timothy Moran (V)	March 13th
Lorna Peterson (V)	March 13th
Shirley Haakenson (V)	March 14th
Jayden Dustin (V)	March 15th
Melissa Ritter-Robson (LP)	March 16th
Kristy Weis (LP)	March 16th
Sheryl Steele (V)	March 19th
Amanda Gardner (LP)	March 20th
Phyllis Kalnnin (V)	March 20th
Roger Thompson (LP)	March 20th
Tolla Lepke (LP)	March 21st
Aaron Zitzner (LP)	March 22nd
Valerie Lind (LP)	March 24th
Cheryl Zitzner (LP)	March 24th
Dennis Thompson (LP)	March 28th
Jeremy Jerome	March 31st



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April newsletter is March 23rd. Please provide your submissions as early as possible so that we produce the best newsletter possible!

Thank you!

Special Thanks from UMCOR

We received two thank you letters from UMCOR for the gifts they received on December 31st in the amounts of \$348.50 and \$5.00 to the General Board of Global Ministries through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of the United Methodist Church. One hundred percent of our contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Paul Lee Webster Advance #11865Z.

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. UMCOR responds to natural or human-made disasters that overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR provides practical, proactive support to the most vulnerable survivors of chronic or temporary emergencies due to natural or civil causes. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering and deliver aid to people without regard to race, religion, politics or gender



Rooted in God's Grace

Grace can be defined as the love and mercy God gives us because God wants us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it. We read in Ephesians 2:8-9 (NRSV), "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast."

In *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way* by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, we read "Grace is God's presence and power to create, heal, forgive, reconcile, and transform persons, communities, nations, and the entire cosmos. Where God is present there is grace, God's power to renew and transform." John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, described God's grace as threefold: prevenient, justifying and sanctifying.

The Book of Discipline (Paragraph 102) states, "Although Wesley shared with many other Christians a belief in grace, justification, assurance, and sanctification, he combined them in a powerful manner to create distinctive emphases for living the full Christian life."

Wesley understood grace as God's active presence in our lives—God going before us to prepare us for "wholeness and healing," a life of love of God and neighbor. This presence does not depend on human actions or human response. It is a gift that is always available, but that cannot be refused.

LP Administrative Board Meeting Minutes—Feb. 4th

Present: Bill and Sandy Marohl, Barb Robson, Pastor Jean and Steve and Tamie Thompson.

Meeting was held at Bill and Sandy's house. Pastor Jean led with Devotions and prayer.

Secretary's Report: Read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Read and approved.

Old Business:

Discussed having only one Brat Sale at Nelson Agri Center this year. It will be a joint venture with both women and men.

Discussion on filling remaining positions from Charge Conference.

Discussed the problem of ice on the blacktop and ramp at church.

New Business:

Pastor Jean talked about the Joint Lenten Schedule. We will be having a joint Lenten Service at Liberty Pole this year.

Discussed lawn mowing for the summer. Will check into getting a couple of bids.

Bill had a breakdown in the Treasurer's report of what it cost to run the church on a monthly basis. There will be more information on this in the future.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and lunch.

Thanks to Bill and Sandy for opening their house for our meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Tamie Thompson.

LP UMW Meeting Minutes—Feb. 10th

Present: Sandy Marohl, Amy Hardy, Joyce Funk, Lynn Zitzner, Judy Erickson, Rita Burckhardt, Deb Deaver, Alice Diehl and Fae Zitzner.

Meeting was called to order by Sandy and UMW Purpose was recited.

No Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

New Business:

Discussed Lenten Services.

Discussion on Brat Sales at Nelson Agri Center. It was decided that we would only have one sale this year with both men and women helping. Sandy will check with Agri Center for available dates.

Discussion on ways to sell cookbooks and fundraise.

Sandy led the program on Hunger.

Closed with the Table Prayer.

Rita Burckhardt served lunch.

Server for March will be Tamie Thompson.

Submitted by Fae Zitzner, acting Secretary.

Christian Education Committee Meeting Minutes—Feb. 9th

Present: Kathy Hanson, Pastor Jean, Janette Hanson, Joanne Hornby,
Avis Marino

Approve minutes: Minutes were approved by consensus.

Reports:

Sunday School: Prior materials have been used in the two younger classes which is going well. Attendance is still spotty. The last day of SS will be Sunday, May 8th. Joanne said they have some old materials from her adult class that could go somewhere. It was mentioned that they could be put out for others, reused, or go to a nursing home.

Youth: The youth will meet Wed., Feb. 17 at 3:30 pm. The youth at Viroqua will be doing a flag presentation at the end of the month and at Easter. There are some upcoming clowning shows, which are during the day. The Taco Supper is coming up, which is a fundraiser for the youth. Children and their parents are needed to help at the event.

Old business:

MacInnis Scholarship- Janette has sent in the form to the UM Foundation to disburse the scholarship money to last year's recipients. She will ask Jenny S. at the school to send the scholarship form letter to her attention.

VBS: The VBS committee will meet after this to decide on materials and a date for VBS.

Fortney Meal: The Fortney meal will be prepared for Sunday, Feb. 21. We will bring spaghetti, coleslaw, garlic bread, and cookies. Kathy will cook the spaghetti @ 4:00 p.m. that day and deliver it.

New business:

Taco Supper: Pastor Jean will have Kris send the Taco Supper poster to the area churches and put one up on the door. We will announce it in church starting Feb. 21 and ask for donations for the food supplies. Kathy offered to use the juice from the BIG thing fundraiser. The youth will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tues., March 1 to decorate and prepare some of the food and to help out at the event.

Easter Breakfast: Easter is on Sunday, March 27. Plans will be discussed later in March. Joanne offered to make her rolls again.

Other business:

Next meeting: March 15, 1:00 pm

Lenten Bible Study

The five-week Lenten Bible Study will continue on the following Wednesdays (March 2nd, March 9th, and March 16th) from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch! We will meet in fellowship hall @ VUMC.

Resources: "Through the Bible in One Year"
Virgil W. Hensley



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes —Feb. 16th

Present: Pastor Jean, David Peterson, Cavan Fang, Gregory Cheever, Sonja Bjerkos

Devotions: Pastor Jean

Financial Secretary's Report

The report was reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Gregory Cheever gave the Treasurer's report. He reported that offerings supported 68% of January expenses. The checkbook balance as of 1/31/2016 is \$1,982.14. Report was accepted.

The Big Thing Report

A BIG Thank You to everyone who helped make the Big Thing Fund Raiser a success.

Live Auction	\$1,110.00
Silent Auction	741.00
Cash & Carry	429.00
Meal Donations	829.00
	\$3,109.00

A motion was made and seconded that 10% be set aside for future fundraisers and 10% of the Big Thing Funds be used for apportionment payment.

Advance Course for Lay Servant Ministries
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Circuit 12—North Central

Invites you to an Advance Course for Lay Servant Ministries

The course title is **Leading Worship**

When: Sunday March 6th & Sunday March 13th 2016

Time: 1 pm – 5:00 pm

Where: 308 N Main St., Plainfield, WI 54966

Presenter: Rev. Paul E. Gregersen, Almond/Plainfield UMC Pastor

RSVP: Rev. Paul Gregersen. Cell or text #608.558.7968 or email

csumc09@tds.net. There is no charge for this course.

We will use the book ***Worshipping with United Methodists***. The book may be ordered from Cokesbury. **The ISBN is: ISBN -13: 978-0-687-33526-8, Author Hoyt L. Hickman.** Please order the book and bring it along.

Please read ***Getting Started, What Is Christian Worship and The Basic Pattern of Worship and Its Origins***

Bring Snacks if you wish to snack!

See you soon!

VIROQUA UMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING—Feb. 16th

Members Present: Pastor Jean, Gregory Cheever, David Peterson, Cavan Fang, Janet Welch, Kathy Hanson

The meeting was opened with a reading from the Upper Room by Pastor Jean. Pastor Jean updated us on the plans for Lenten services.

Worship Committee meets next on February 26th at 6:30.

Stations of the Cross will be held for 2 days – Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (March 22 & 23). On Maundy Thursday there will be a soup supper followed by a drama and communion. Prayer Vigils are planned to be held more often. The first one was Friday, February 12th to start the Lenten season. Another will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

UMW

See minutes in newsletter.

Care & Nurture Committee

See minutes in newsletter.

Trustees Committee

Discussion was held concerning snow removal and the payment of those bills.

Finance Committee

A motion was made by Greg to create a separate line item for money from the Big Thing designated to create a fundraising account. The motion was seconded by David. Motion passed. Janet made a motion to allocate 10% of the money raised from the Big Thing for apportionments. David seconded. Motion passed.

Education

The Taco supper will be held on March 2. An Easter breakfast will also be held. Discussion was held about the authority of the Administrative Council. Research into the guidelines for each committee will be done and more discussion will follow.

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Janet seconded. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Kathy Hanson.

Sunday School Scoop

We have been studying about John the Baptist and moving towards the Sermon on the Mount. There sure are many interesting things in the Beatitudes. Like, this should be our Attitude, i.e., being humble and showing mercy and thinking of others before ourselves.

LEAP's

At our regular Wednesday afternoon meeting we had 5 youths. We played some games, had a lesson, and enjoyed snacks.

Prayer Vigil

A BIG Thank You to all involved in the Lent Prayer Vigil. And, remember the prayer vigil on Maundy Thursday, March 24th at VUMC.

United Methodists Believe—Bishop Kenneth L. Carder**United Methodists affirm the historic Christian faith as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.****WE BELIEVE IN THE TRIUNE GOD, THE TRINITY—FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT**

- God the Father/Creator, who brings creation into existence, upholds and reveals the ways of life that make for peace and wholeness, and ever works to heal and transform life through the power of love.
- God the Son, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of a new creation, who through his life, death and Resurrection saves us and all creation from the power of sin and death.
- God the Holy Spirit, who comforts, sustains, guides and empowers us to participate in God's life and mission in the world.

WE BELIEVE EVERY PERSON IS A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD

- Whom God created in God's divine image, with inherent worth and dignity.
- Who confronts and suffers the distorting and destructive effects of sin in this life.
- Whom God has reconciled in the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, defeating the powers of sin and death.
- Whom God seeks to make holy and whole, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, transforming us into Christ-likeness.

WE BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH AS THE COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND COMING REIGN IN JESUS CHRIST

- Where people worship God joyfully, proclaim God's Word faithfully and share the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.
- Where all people are welcomed and nurtured as God's sons and daughters.
- Where people are initiated into Christ's body and nurtured toward Christian maturity through worship, prayer, study, fellowship and service.
- Where the light of God's love, justice and peace exposes and overrules evil, injustice and sin.
- Where we participate in God's mission of inviting, preparing and enlisting disciples of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, into the hurting places of the world and among the outcasts and the forgotten .

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE REVEALS THE WORD OF GOD

- Authoritative in matters of faith and practice.
- Containing the story of God's mighty acts of salvation in creation, in faithful engagement with people through the ages and supremely in Jesus Christ.
- The primary source for understanding the nature and purposes of God.
- Interpreted in the power of the Holy Spirit present in the community of faith.

We Believe in the final triumph of God's reign of compassion, justice, generosity and peace

- Anticipating the first fruits made possible today through the power of the Spirit and the reign of Christ.
- Discovering a renewed creation where sin, suffering and death are overcome and God's victory is complete.
- Celebrating with all the faithful who are raised to live eternally in God's loving presence.
- Extending God's love to the whole creation, with God's mercy redeeming all God's works, all that God loves.

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THE CROSS & THE FLAME



March 2016 EVENTS

March Calendar enclosed

Viroqua UMC offers 2 Sunday school classes from
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Prayer Meeting, every Thursday - 1:15 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Liberty Pole United Methodist Church— 9:00 A.M.

Viroqua United Methodist Church— 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Liberty Pole UMC— 9:15 A.M.

Viroqua UMC— Adults-9:00 A.M., Children-10:45 A.M.