



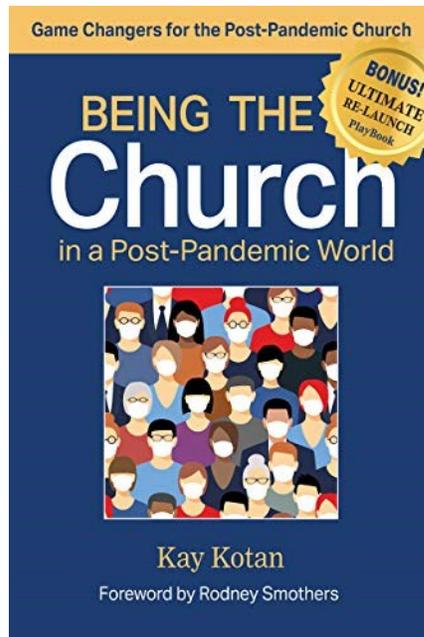
SALT

Our Lord's United Methodist Church

April 2022

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Exciting Times Ahead!

Members of the Accountable Leadership Board are joining other leaders from across the state to attend a virtual workshop led by Kay Katan on her latest work, "Being the Church" in a Post-Pandemic World on Saturday April 30, 2022.

Easter Flowers

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for Easter flowers to help beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. As a reminder, if you ordered flowers please take them home with you following the Easter Sunday worship service. Each pot will be labeled so look for your name. If you cannot be at church on Easter Sunday and would like to schedule another time to pick up your flowers, please call the church office at 414-425-7030.





A Word from Pastor Kelly

“Getting There”

Our Lenten path to the cross and the empty tomb continues from March into April. Together, we’ve welcomed Spring and more daylight while we’re awake; some have sighted robins and I have iris popping up in my garden! The “Good Enough” book study, with its’ hybrid format, has welcomed participants from Missouri to Michigan in a bi-weekly check in with a Zoom/in-person connection that has been an inspiring gift to a long season! And, the bells are ringing again in worship!

Our Re-Entry Team has given the ‘go ahead’ with mask optional building entry as it continues to encourage distancing mindfulness and the honoring of personal choice.

The Resurrection Garden for Easter Sunday will be beautiful with your varied plant selections that will celebrate, honor and remember! It seems that our journey is lightening a little bit and at the same time, we get closer and closer to crucifixion. We’re getting there, just not quite yet.

As I type this, I’m about to take a week of vacation. It’s time. I’m realizing just how long in coming true rest has been, for me, due to the pandemic travel constraints laced with my own fear (and yes, procrastination too). It occurred to me recently that this is my first ‘in-person’, in the Sanctuary Easter with you and I’ve been your pastor for three years! As unique as this time has been, it is also a unique gift for our future.

Easter is a launch point, this year! It will be a time and an opportunity rising up out of crisis (historically and in our global recent history). Kay Katan, UM writer, speaker, says that, “Crisis is an accelerator...and the church learned that...it could change.”

I am taking time now to rest and recharge because proclaiming “He Lives” this year, perhaps like no other, is an opportunity to reframe how Our Lord’s lives here at 5000 S. Sunnyslope Rd. Your ALB (Church Board) is beginning to actively vision; we’re exploring branding, space usage and expansion ministry engagement with community partners. Teams are reactivating regular meetings, resuming projects and looking ahead with a wide-open hope.

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Where is your Lenten journey taking you? Is Easter Sunday just a date on your calendar or is 'getting there', with your church community the mark of a renewed liveliness in you? We have weeks left yet to travel this Lent. If your path has been diverted from actively connecting – hear once again: There is a place for you here at Our Lord's! Come, as you are and join us, as God leads us, in "getting there"!

Pastor Kelly

Point of Connection

Virtually connect Tuesdays and Fridays
on

Point of Connection
@ 9:30 a.m.

Live on Pastor Kelly's [Facebook](#) page
and then posted on the church [web-
site](#).



Our Lord's church directory is available on the web at [Instant Church Directory.com](#) for those members who are listed in the directory. Updates to the directory are immediately available from the Instant Church Directory mobile devices app and the website. If you would like a printed copy of the updated directory, contact me at the church office at 414-425-7030 or by [email](#).

Please let the church office know of any changes of address or phone numbers as soon as possible so we may keep our information up-to-date. If you have any questions or need help navigating the website or app, please let me know - I'm happy to help!

Tabitha Manning
Office Administrator

Moving from Pandemic to Endemic

The Re-Entry team is happy to announce that starting March 20th, 2022, masks will become optional within the church building. We have been carefully following the numbers of Covid cases which have now met the previously determined benchmarks of steadily declining cases, decreasing percentage of test positivity and declining numbers of hospitalizations and deaths. This doesn't mean that Covid has been eradicated and that we no longer have to be vigilant.

The difference between an epidemic, a pandemic and an infection that has become endemic is based on the disease's rate of spread. A **pandemic** is an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across a large region (multiple continents or worldwide) affecting a substantial number of individuals. **Epidemics** are generally limited to a particular region and its spread can be contained or expected. A pandemic is international and "out of control". A disease outbreak becomes **endemic** when it is consistently present but more predictable or stable in numbers (like the seasonal flu). Current thinking is that Covid will be with us for many years, but because of vaccines and newer treatment options will become more manageable and therefore we will move out of the "pandemic" state.

We are continuing to encourage social distancing by using every other pew when in the sanctuary and by trying to stay at least 3 feet away from others when socializing. We will continue using the individual communion sets and individually place the offering in the containers at the front of the sanctuary and in the narthex to minimize sharing common surfaces. However, you will notice that the Bibles have been returned to the pews and the hymnals no longer need to be left on the seat to "air out" after use. We are holding off a bit longer on resuming coffee hour or any kind of food service within the church. Gradually we hope all these things will be back as they were before.

We are encouraging individual responsibility for keeping everyone safe. If you develop symptoms please get tested and if you should test positive and you have been at church please notify the office. Please stay at home if you are not feeling well – services will continue to be available via social media and/or the church website for the foreseeable future. As always we wish to do no harm while welcoming all to God's house. We will be a mask affirming congregation so that those who wish to continue wearing masks will feel as comfortable as those who feel safe without one.

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We will continue to monitor the numbers and will make changes to these guidelines as warranted. Please feel free to contact any member of the re-entry team with questions or concerns.

Paul Davis @ pdavis@moorefoundationcc.com

Pat Mehring @ ptmehring@wi.rr.com

Dave Smith @ dsmith@milwaukeeerigging.com

Pastor Kelly @ pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org



Zach McCanna	4/2	Jacob Beer	4/19
Abby Kesler	4/4	Mary Schulz	4/19
Chris Gyax	4/5	Derek Holschbach	4/23
Steve Jacobs	4/7	Phillip Piasini	4/26
Sophia Veit	4/11	Aaliyah Ware	4/28
Jim Gratz	4/13	Becky Beer	4/28
Lacey Beer	4/16	Becky Johnson	4/29





Mondays	Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/3	Worship service w/Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 4/6	Lenten book study "Good Enough" Zoom/in-person, 12 noon Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room Handbell practice, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, 4/10	Palm Sunday worship service w/handbells, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, 4/13	Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room Handbell practice, 5:15 p.m.
Thursday, 4/14	Maundy Thursday worship service, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 4/15	Good Friday worship service, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday 4/17	Easter Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, 4/18	Church office closed Monday Funday, 10:00 a.m., Garden Room
Tuesday, 4/19	Cathedral Center meal delivery (see article on pg. 14)
Wednesday, 4/20	Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room Handbell practice, 5:15 p.m.
Friday, 4/22	May SALT articles due
Sunday, 4/24	Worship service, 9:30 a.m. Confirmation retreat hosted by Our Lord's, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 4/26	ALB meeting, 6:30 p.m., Garden Room/Zoom
Wednesday, 4/27	Mission Crafters, 1:00 p.m., Garden Room Handbell practice, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, 4/30	Serve meal at The Gathering, 10:00 a.m. (meet at church at 9:30 a.m. to carpool) (see article on pg. 14)



Listening to God's Call: Past, Present and Future

God's first call for this church was 55 years ago when Clyde Cross was selected to establish a mission church in the SE corner of New Berlin. He went out into the neighborhoods nearby – going door to door to invite people to participate in this endeavor. Wor-

ship started off site, the parsonage was built and became the next place of worship; money was raised to build the church and in 1968 the congregation moved into the original church building.

The congregation grew and, over the ensuing years was called to raise funds to build a 2nd story educational wing in 1981, to purchase a new pipe organ in 1988 (we had previously had 3 smaller “used” organs), and in 1996 to build the new sanctuary which we enjoy today.

Each of these steps was in response to the “vision” for the church at that time.... and each presented its own set of challenges related to fundraising. In May 1985, the congregation was invited to participate in “One Great Day of Giving” with a goal of raising \$25,000 outside of pledges to focus on Debt Reduction (paying down the principle of the Mortgage from the 1981 addition), purchasing the new organ and support of missionaries to Pakistan and the Philippines. Obviously many heard God's call that day as the congregation responded with \$19,170 towards those goals.

By 1989 it was clear that decisions needed to be made for expansion and growth in order to move forward with the vision of the church which at that time was “to encourage membership growth through quality Christian fellowship, education, services and facilities”. Several committees worked over the next 5 years to gather and review data and incorporate input from the congregation to come to the final decision that a new sanctuary needed to be built. A building committee completed the planning process and groundbreaking occurred April 9, 1995. Bill Bucholz, Building Committee Chair, later wrote about the “Miracles” which occurred just after groundbreaking, when the committee received word that the construction company had underestimated the cost and wouldn't be able to build the sanctuary at the agreed upon price. Faith resulted in a change of heart from the construction company as well

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as other donations of labor and materials and the project proceeded as planned. Construction began July 31, 1995 and our first service was conducted in Feb 1996. "Listening to God's Call" kept things on target even when it appeared that it wouldn't happen.

A "Building Enhancement Campaign" started in 1997 to provide funding for further transition projects including remodeling the old sanctuary, building the new kitchen, completing and furnishing the Wesley Room, finishing the Narthex and providing additional Sunday school, administrative and meeting spaces. Our guiding principle during this time was "Christ Before Us in All We Do".

By 2005 our Mission statement was: "Making Christ known in a most excellent way" and we moved forward with a "Debt Free in Three" Capital Funds Campaign to eliminate the debt that had been carried from the previous building expansion projects. In the announcement that went out to the congregation, Pastor Chris stated "We believe that God is calling us as a congregation to be good stewards of our church home and to eliminate the debt in the next three years. This action will not only give us the freedom to look forward to a glorious future of witness, but it will actually make that future become a reality." This was a special pledge over three years (2005, 2006, & 2007) to work specifically towards debt reduction and was in addition to the normal pledge that went towards operating expenses. The theme for this Campaign was "Bridging the Gap, Building a Community, Fueling the Future".

Our congregation has faced different challenges over the last few years: declining membership; changing demographics of the members; and the Coronavirus pandemic which separated us "physically" for a time and forced us to adopt new ways of worshipping and reaching out to members. We are beginning a phase of new opportunities and with that will come a re-evaluation of our current mission statement to see if it still accurately reflects who we are and what we want for our future. This may require additional sources of funding and we want to be as creative with this as we can. We continue to be a congregation of great generosity both in monetary giving and with time and talents. There may be additional ways in which you can contribute to the church...either to meet ongoing financial responsibilities or to move forward with new endeavors.

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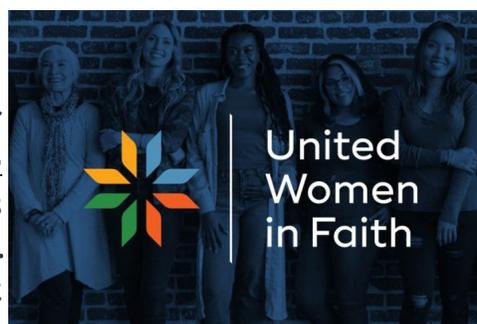
I turned 72 last year and had to start taking the minimum required distribution (MRD) for tax purposes from my IRA. I was pleased to discover that if I donated that money as a Qualified Charitable Distribution that I did not have to pay taxes on it. The church qualifies for that designation so I used that money to complete my pledge for the year. I plan to continue using my MRD in this way and wanted to share this information in case others weren't aware of this option.

Be listening.... For what God is calling you to do next.

Submitted by Pat Mehring

United Women in Faith

As of early March 2022, this is the **NEW NAME** for the organization formerly known as **United Methodist Women**. The rebranding/renaming includes this new logo and new programs for women of all ages. The new name also provides opportunity for current UMW members whose local churches might choose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, and women from other faiths who wish to join.



Look for new programs launching throughout 2022, both online and in person.

Checks can still be made out to United Methodist Women during the transition.

Visit United Women of Faith at uwfaith.org for more information and to see videos.



Handbell practice has been moved to Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. beginning March 30th. Contact Becky Perreault at becky.perreault72@gmail.com if you have an interest in playing handbells - beginners are welcome!

Naughty Leprechaun Pays New Berlin Preschool a Visit

Preschoolers arrived at school on March 17th and 18th to find their preschool room and bathroom in serious disarray!



There were leprechaun footprints all over the bathroom walls and counter top, and he didn't even flush!!





The leprechaun seems to have snuck into the preschool room during the night with a plan to cause as much mischief as possible. There was much chatter amongst the children about how to “trap” the leprechaun, but it appears he outsmarted everyone and got away - THIS time!



Monday FUN DAY

In the Bible there are many stories about hospitality and being welcoming to others. It tells us we are all children of God and we are to be kind and loving and reach out to those around us.

So, we invite you to come to the Monday Funday fellowship that meets on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Garden Room. Our next gatherings are April 18th and May 16th.

We listen to and discuss a devotional, improve our brain power with games and puzzles, and have great conversations with each other. Hope to see you there and make new friends!

If you have questions or concerns or would like more information, please call Rebecca Radick at 262-679-2710.



Mission Crafters

Mission Crafters meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. We are making bookmarks for area elementary schools, water filter socks for Water With Blessings, as well as hats, scarves, and mittens for United Methodist Children's services. You are invited to come for all or part of the time and enjoy fellowship as we work on these mission projects. Bring your new ideas for work we could do! Contact Debbie Huyck at debbiehuyck@gmail.com for more information or to get a ride.





Our words can be powerful! How are your conversations going? Do they bring confidence or are they hurtful?

Words that are used for gossip or judgement of others can drain our energy and affect our spirits. When we speak negatively, it not only affects our relationship with others, it also affects our relationship with God.

Though we may think our words are insignificant at first, unkind words can spark into a raging fire. James 3:5 tells us, "The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider when a great forest is set by a small spark." Wouldn't it be better to keep the fire from starting in the first place?

One way to do this would be to practice this mantra: "Stop, Breathe, and Pray". When caught in a negative conversation, stop and think about the direction it is going and pray for the right words to change the atmosphere.

When we are down, feeling alone and just trying to survive one day at a time and someone tells us, "Do not worry! Stay strong and you will come through this" instead of using judgmental words about our situation, it can change our lives!

Words from our Heavenly Father found in scripture can strengthen us daily, regardless of our circumstances. Paul writes in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." God's words are loving and powerful and will never change. As we focus on them and carry them forever in our hearts and minds, they will change our lives and we can become stronger!

Prayer: "Gracious God, with Your help, may our words be pleasant, sweet, and healing. Please, never let us forget Your words are loving and will make us stronger, in any situation. Amen."

*Submitted by Rebecca Radick
(Excerpts from "Upper Room", April 2015)*



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

“So do not lightly read of Jesus’ intention to bring good news to the poor by failing to think about what is good news to a poor person,” said George Outen. “Let the church not gloss over the upheavals caused by releasing the captives and liberating the oppressed. Things are never the same when the blind receive their sight and the broken-

hearted are healed.” (From Guidelines: Church and Society, Advocating for peace and justice, General Board of Church and Society.)

Here are some ways to serve and learn as we engage in the work of being advocates for peace and justice:

April 1: Registration Deadline for WI UMW Mission Action Day (Virtual) \$10

April 5: Election Day! A responsibility we have is to exercise our right to vote. Be sure to check out your community/city’s website to learn more about the elections in your community or go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/>

Typically there is a lower turn out for school board elections. Public schools are designed to serve the entire community so be sure to know the names of your school board member candidates and their positions.

April 9: WI UMW Mission Action Day Virtual Event 9 a.m.-Noon “A Time to Connect With Our Native American Sisters” Topics include “Native American Maternal Health, Past and Present” and “Facilitating Transformative Change for Native American Women”.

April 19: Cathedral Center Meal: Various food items are needed for a supper to be transported to the Cathedral Center. Servers are not needed at this time. This is a chance to participate from your very own kitchen and you will be blessed while blessing those experiencing homelessness. Please contact Linda Suminski or Wenda Cichucki for more information.

Continue to **pray** for peace in Ukraine. Some folks have chosen 7 - 9 p.m. Central Time to pray for Ukraine since this is the early morning time when attacks occur there. Remember those remaining in Ukraine, those fleeing, the children separated from their families, for families who have lost family members to the violence of war, for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

cont.

Give to UMCOR. Did you miss UMCOR Sunday in March? It's never too late to give to UMCOR. Wanting your donation to go directly to Ukraine? By writing "Advance #982450-Ukraine" in the memo line of your check, the office will know how to direct your gift.

Look for more information on volunteering for The Gathering, and for ways to participate in gardening projects this spring/summer!

Submitted by Mary Schulz

Serving at The Gathering

The Gathering is a meal site for the homeless and hungry. Due to Covid the meals are prepared in to-go containers and given out at the door by The Gathering coordinator. The Ascension Lutheran Church meal site prepares 120 meals on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays. The date reserved for Our Lord's UMC to serve is Saturday, April 30th. Please consider helping us serve! The guests are very thankful and appreciate our service. If you would like to help, email Margo Hoelzer at margohoelzer@gmail.com. We will carpool from the church parking lot, leaving at 9:30 a.m. and returning at about 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Margo Hoelzer

Serving at The Cathedral Center

We have the opportunity on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, to make dinner for approximately 50 women and children at the Cathedral Center in downtown Milwaukee. This is a homeless shelter and has been a mission at Our Lord's for over 25 years. Some of you have been a part of this mission work.

We are trying to organize the preparation and drop-off of a meal on a more regular basis again after COVID hit. As of now we are taking meals to the shelter rather than serving in person. We need your help to make this a success. We are looking for contributions of main dishes, salads/fruit, dessert, and beverages. A sign-up sheet is located on the Welcome Table in the narthex. You may also indicate your interest in helping by emailing Linda Suminski; LSuminski@wi.rr.com OR Wenda Cichucki; lcichucki@yahoo.com. Food items need to be dropped off in the church parking lot by 4:30 p.m. on the set date so we can deliver them to the shelter for a 5:00 p.m. meal time. ALL are welcome to participate and we look forward to your support. Thank you!

Submitted by Linda Suminski and Wenda Cichucki

There's a place for you here!



Join us for Sunday worship!
9:30 a.m.

There are three ways to worship—choose what works best for you!

***In-person worship in the church sanctuary (masks are optional.)**

***Worship from the comfort of your vehicle in the church parking lot. Services are broadcast through speakers mounted in the parking lot.**

***Watch the live-stream of our services on our [Facebook](#) page, or watch at a later time on our [website](#) or [You Tube](#) channel.**



Want to know “What’s Happening” at Our Lord’s?

A weekly electronic newsletter containing information about upcoming events is sent out on Sundays. If you aren’t currently subscribed but would like to be, [email](#) the church office.

A monthly calendar of events is posted on our [website](#).

**OUR LORD’S
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Visit our website!

