

THE UNITY CORNERS HERALD

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Worship Services
 - 9:00 AM Sunday — Davis Corners
 - 10:45 AM Sunday— Dells/Delton
- Bible Studies
 - 1:00 PM Monday — Davis Corners
 - 10:00 AM Thursday —Dells/Delton
- Office Hours: Thursdays 9am — 1pm

United Methodist Churches of

Wisconsin Dells

Dells-Delton and Davis Corners

320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

www.wisconsindellsumc.org



June

2023 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

Office Phone: (608) 253-6511

pastor@wisconsindellsumc.org

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JUNE 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | 1 Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10a <i>Samantha Beckett</i> <i>Donna Marsich</i> | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Sunday  | 5 DC UWF 1pm | 6 | 7 DD UWF 12p Lunch Monks @ Wilderness <i>Liz Phillips</i> | 8 Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10a <i>Carolyn Koval</i> | 9 ANNUAL CONFERENCE GREEN BAY | 10 |
| 11 ANNUAL CONFERENCE GREEN BAY | 12 DC Bible Study 1p <i>Tristan Rees</i> | 13 <i>Wally Zeppelin</i> | 14 | 15 Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10a DD Community Supper 5-7pm <i>Rose Fisher</i> | 16 <i>Sally Dean</i> | 17 DD Pie Social 11-1 |
| 18 DD Outdoor Service 3 rd Sunday Offerings | 19 DC Bible Study 1p | 20 | 21 DD 10 am Worship Committee | 22 Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10a <i>Brian Otte</i> | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Fellowship Sunday | 26 DC Bible Study 1p <i>Barbara Steinweg</i> | 27 | 28 | 29 Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10a | 30 <i>Joann Phillips</i> | |

Our Stewardship



Sending in Your Offerings

Thanks to those who have been giving by mail or online even when they are unable to join us in person. We know that you want to be in church and share in the offering of the church, but sometimes it just doesn't work. When that happens, you can send in your offering or check out our giving page on our website (give.wisconsindeல்லsumc.org) or use your phone to scan this little QR code →



You can make one-time donations to either church, and also give to third Sunday missions, our Bible trail or something else that you would like to support. Our online giving also allows you to set donations on a weekly or monthly schedule if you like automatic giving. You can even do this while you're in church on Sunday mornings.

Please do take a look and let us know if anything needs to be corrected or improved.

Planning our Stewardship

Disaffiliation effects will impact our congregational budgets over the coming months, some will be beneficial, some will not. Finance committees will be meeting in June and we hope to have a modified budget in place by early July. Please do carefully consider your giving as we prepare for ministry moving forward.



Thank You for Your Participation in Missions

This month, our 3rd Sunday mission offerings will be taken on **June 18th**. The Davis Corners congregation will be collecting for **Camp American Legion** and the Dells-Delton congregation will be collecting for **Heiffer International** this month. Please support these worthwhile partner ministries with your additional offering as we work together to bless and care for the communities around us and those much less fortunate.

Please continue to bring items for the Holy Cross and Dells/Delton United Methodist combined pantry donations. This month we are collecting **Adult Diapers** for the pantry. Please be aware that the pantry is also looking for volunteers to help them in their current need.

Be sure to check out the Dells/Delton and Davis Corners Facebook pages!

facebook.com/UMCdells or facebook.com/DavisCornersUMC



Our Stewardship



AI Generosity? —June 2023

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has been all over the news lately as technology companies begin to break new ground with things like [ChatGPT](#). The conversation usually centers around whether AI technology will be helpful (increasing productivity), harmful (taking people's jobs), or cataclysmic (leading to machines taking over the world).

Out of curiosity, I asked one of my social media apps that has AI to tell me a story about the impact of generosity. This was its response.

"Once there was a wealthy businessman who decided to donate a significant portion of his fortune to charity. He gave to several causes, including education, healthcare, and the arts. His donations enabled many people to access opportunities they would not have had otherwise.

One of the students who benefited from the businessman's donation was a young woman who had grown up in poverty. She was able to attend college and pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. After graduating, she went on to work in a rural clinic, where she helped many people who had limited access to healthcare. The young woman's work inspired others to follow in her footsteps, and soon the clinic became a hub for community development.

The businessman's generosity had a ripple effect that touched countless lives and transformed a whole community."

I (Jason not the AI) thought that was a pretty good story. I will say, however, it is nowhere near as meaningful as stories I've heard people tell about how they were personally touched by someone's generosity or how being generous changed them. It's not just the story that's inspiring, but the personal, human element that is inspiring.

With that in mind, I'd encourage you to share stories of how your church's ministry either made a difference in your life or you have been impacted by the practice of generosity. It is through the telling and hearing real life stories that generosity spreads and lives are changed.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him — *John Piper*

Denomination News



Remembering United Methodism’s maestro

If all the Rev. Carlton R. “Sam” Young had ever done was edit The United Methodist Hymnal, he’d have a secure place in United Methodist history. But he did so much more.

“Young was the undisputed dean of Protestant mainline church music at the end of the 20th century as a church musician, composer, educator, hymnal editor, choral conductor and mentor,” said C. Michael Hawn, professor emeritus of church music at Perkins School of Theology.

Young died May 21 at the VA Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. He was 97.

As church exits rise, proposed budget drops

The United Methodist Church will look and operate very differently going forward.

That was the frequent refrain at a May 17-19 meeting that saw the denomination’s financial leaders shrink an already record-low proposal for the denominational budget in the wake of new projected losses from church disaffiliations and closures. The leaders also heard input on reducing the number of United Methodist bishops.

Yet even while grieving the departures, the leaders also discussed The United Methodist Church’s opportunities to revitalize and share God’s love with renewed vigor. The GCFA board now is proposing a 2025-2028 denominational budget of about \$370.5 million to next year’s General Conference, the denomination’s top policymaking assembly. That’s about \$3 million less than the budget the finance agency began working on last fall.

North Georgia lifts disaffiliation pause

ATHENS, Ga. (UM News) — The North Georgia Conference board of trustees announced June 2 that it has officially lifted the pause on churches going through the disaffiliation process. The decision follows two civil court rulings ordering the conference to allow churches that sued the conference leadership to vote on disaffiliation. Also on June 2, the conference approved disaffiliations of two congregations in Augusta after a Columbia County Court judge ordered the conference to hold the votes.

Read more at <https://www.umnews.org>

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Outreach

The 5th annual Pie Social and lunch is Saturday, June 17th from 11-1. We need everyone who can bake or supply pies to please do so and have your pies to the church by 10am. Please keep up the good work attending the free suppers and providing desserts. Bonnie is doing such a great job on the free suppers! Thank you to all who attend and help with clean-up!

Anita Copper, Committee Chair



Dells-Delton UWF

Thank you to everyone who provided salads/desserts, helped set-up, serve and clean-up. It was such a blessing to have so many volunteer their efforts. The luncheon grossed \$652. UWF will meet for our spring lunch at Monk's at the Wilderness at noon Wednesday, June 7th. No meetings are scheduled during the summer.

DD Community Supper

There was a very good turn-out for May's baked chicken dinner. Only three meals were left at the end of the evening. Thanks to the many hands who helped. For the June 15th meal, Pastor Lee, Tim & Dave will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. Please join us! Bonnie Morton, Dinner Coordinator

Fellowship Sunday

Fellowship Sunday is June 25th and Dells-Delton will meet for lunch at McAllister's Deli.

DD Spring Clean-up

Thanks to everyone who helped with the cleanup of the church grounds. There are still things to do, so if you missed helping out you can still help us clear debris and address and groundskeeping issues.

Davis Corners Bible Study

For Bible Study we are watching "The Chosen" and also doing the book Women of the Bible. We do this on the Mondays, except the first Monday of the month.

"We are secured not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because he holds tightly to us." - RC Sproul

Congregational News

Davis Corners News

On Monday, May 8th 2023 we had our Women in Faith meeting. We had 10 women present. Beth did opening prayer. We gave money to missions last month and received thank you cards from them. They were very appreciated. Thanks received from Lifewater, Buddha Box and Humane Society.

We have decided to not participate in the pie social this year due to the uncertainty of joint churches.

Carolyn read after the winter god sends the spring. A poem by HSR. We discussed the upkeep of the church grounds. We have trees taken care of now and the lawn mowed. Thank you to Stump X and Diane's great nephew Jacob Rockwell.

Soup Supper is on hold for now as is too early to discuss October. Too far in the future.

Next meeting date is June 5th 2023.

Carolyn Koval, Women in Faith President

Disaffiliation Updates

Our two congregations have chosen different paths. On May 25th, The Davis Corners congregation voted 14 to 9 for reconsideration of the February vote. The congregation then voted 14 to 9 to continue disaffiliation, which was short of the 2/3 majority needed. Davis Corners will remain with the United Methodist denomination and will separate from the charge with Dells-Delton on July 1.



The Dells-Delton church has paid all disaffiliation costs and will be incorporating and setting up for our new entity soon. Annual Conference will be held June 9th—11th and will vote to approve or deny the churches applying for disaffiliation. The Conference as indicated that all churches will be voted on at once on Friday afternoon, so we are praying that this process will go smoothly. A farewell worship service is planned for Saturday evening to honor those congregations that will separate from the United Methodist Church.

Following Annual Conference, all churches approved to disaffiliate will need to provide their historical records to the Conference Archives, complete any remaining administrative requirements, and have their new legal entities in place to receive their finances and property.

Please be prepared to help with the collection of records, filing of new paperwork, discussing all of our options and moving forward as a congregation as we complete these final steps.

The disaffiliation process needs to be fully completed before December 31, 2023 or it is cancelled.

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." – C.S. Lewis

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Administrative Council— 16 April 2023, 12:00 pm

Attending: Pastor Lee, Pat Holton, Anita Copper, Sue White, Wendy Lombard, Kathy Radcliff,
Shirley Nelson, Tim Hinkel, Melody Hinkel-Recorder

Opening Prayer: Pastor Lee

Prior Meeting Minutes:

⇒ Moved to accept-Wendy Lombard; second Anita; Copper; all approved.

Treasurers Report:

⇒ No report this month-Wendy will present activity next month.

⇒ Pastor Lee presented the account balances as of 4/16/2023.

- Memorial Savings: \$51905
- Checking: \$62550
- Savings: \$23840

Old Business:

⇒ Websites when looking up United Methodist Church are outdated. We need someone Pastor Lee can give administrative rights to update the websites. We will ask Bob Pendleton when he is back.

⇒ Need to get the next steps completed for the new corporation.

- Discussions of disaffiliation with the United Methodist and affiliation with another church such as the Global Methodist Church took place.

New Business:

⇒ Need to look at legal aide to assist with the creation of the documents needed for the new corporations.

Outreach:

⇒ Next event is the Pie Social on June 17th. Otherwise, they have not met to additional report.

⇒ The women gathered at Portage for a luncheon on Maundy Thursday.

⇒ Brat sale is August 12th.

⇒ Tim Hinkel recommended that the Pancake supper, this fall, is held on a Saturday night instead of a Wednesday. Also, advertise the free supper on the radio and Facebook.

Finance:

⇒ Pastor Lee needs to add Sue White and Melody Hinkel on the Church credit card.

Building Corporation Board:

⇒ Building Corporation Board meets Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

- Clean-up day is April 29th.
- Tim Hinkel is going to recommend putting up the large monitors Pastor Lee has for the slide shows in the Sanctuary.
- Pastor and Tim are going to replace the lights in the meeting room.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Administrative Council—April 16, 2023 (cont)

Worship Committee:

- ⇒ Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.
 - Will be discussing when we will have the outdoor service. She is thinking maybe May or June.
- ⇒ Pastor Lee will be announcing the instructions for communion for a few months to help folks acclimate to going to the rail again.

UWF:

- ⇒ Met April 5th. Nailed down everything for the Salad Luncheon. Date is May 4, 2023, 11:00am to 1:00 pm. Asking those who brought things last year bring again this year. Still need help with serving and taking care of the tables. Also, will need help with clean-up.

Staff Parish Relations Council (SPRC):

- ⇒ Have not met. No update.
- ⇒ Need to pull together SPRC to determine if Pastor Lee's insurance.

Pastor's Report:

- ⇒ Pastor is grateful for Sue White, Anita Copper and Shirley Nelson sorting and organizing files in his office. The report they are not done.
- ⇒ Pastor will officially be an Elder for the Global Methodist Church as of July 1, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Next Meeting: May 7, 2023, after service.

Final Edition of the Herald & Dells-Delton/Davis Corners charge

Our two congregations have chosen different paths. The nearly century long partnership between the congregations of Dells-Delton and Davis Corners is coming to an end. Since Dells-Delton is leaving the United Methodist Church, and Davis Corners will remain, our District Superintendent has said they will provide pulpit supply for Davis Corners beginning in July.

This will change a few things for both congregations. Firstly, our combined budget plan will effectively end on July 1st, separating Davis Corners and Dells-Delton financially. We will have to reconcile all payments and final office, travel and reimbursable expenses as we end this partnership. The Dells-Delton congregation will be able to negotiate a new compensation agreement with Pastor, and Davis Corners will have a similar opportunity when the Conference supplies them with their clergy. Both congregations will also have to adjust their insurance slightly because of these changes in employees.

Along with these changes, our connection through our newsletters will be coming to a close this month. Hopefully, both congregations continue to thrive and find ways to do ministry in concert.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both”

Sometimes there are choice to be made. Some are easy, others are not. Often you can struggle with the decision and its implications, but other times the decision is made for you and you just handle the consequences. Some decisions cause an abrupt end to things, and are final.

Disaffiliation was always going to come at a cost. Some of it was going to be financial. Some of it was going to come with the difficulties of responsibility in building something new; something that would have to be able to stand on its own. We knew the process and the decisions that were going to be made to continue, but now we find that we are partially stopped and partially continuing.

Davis Corners has stopped their disaffiliation process. This has caused as much stress for some as disaffiliating did for others. This decision, however, is irrevocable. Davis Corners will remain with the United Methodist Church whatever the benefits or consequences may be. Our two congregations will separate their ministries more completely, at least for a season. We will no longer be yoked together - sharing finances or pastoral care - for the first time in about 100 years. This will be a different season, and a different path.

Frost concludes that poem with “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” Here our journeys separate. From this point forward, the congregations will have different stories to tell and they will travel very different roads. We hope that both congregations will be blessed on the roads they have chosen, but we all will have our blessings apart from one another.

Wesley once wrote a sermon on schism from what is written 1 Corinthians 12:25. We need to be very cautious when we separate ourselves from one another, but Wesley also points out that schism is something we cannot have within a church. And that unfortunately is where we are. We are in two places and going in two different directions. We were two locations. Two different congregations that were working marvelously well together and growing in both relationship and ties. That season is now coming to an end and we must wish each other well and then part ways. There will be opportunities to be together, but this relationship is ending.

What do we do? We travel the road before us. Dells-Delton is travelling the path before them with a future full of questions and very few answers. Davis Corners has their path travelling in another direction with the certainty of a few things, but many unanswered questions as well. Which is the better path? We don't know yet, and we may never know. Hopefully we have chosen our paths because we are certain, or assured at least, that ours is the better of the two.

Perhaps one of us is correct, or maybe we are both wrong. Yet still, Paul calls for harmony in the body and follows that with an entire chapter that defines love. Perhaps that is what we should read first.

Peace and Blessings!

Pastor Lee

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday this month. We hope we have all of the birthdays on the calendar. Please let us know if we've missed anyone.

**Additions, Corrections or Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to: news@wisconsinindellsumc.org