

THE DELLS-DELTON HERALD

Dells-Delton
Methodist Church
Wisconsin Dells
320 Unity Dr.
Wisconsin Dells,
WI 53965

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Worship Services
10:45 AM Sunday
- Bible Studies
10:00 AM Thursday
- Office Hours: Thursdays 9am — 1pm

July

2023 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

Office Phone: (608) 253-6511

pastor@dellsdelton.org

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The Methodist Church of

Wisconsin Dells

Dells-Delton

320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

www.dellsdelton.org

JULY 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Communion
Sunday



Office Hours 9-2
DD Bible Study 10a

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

*Bonnie
Morton*

Office Hours 9-2
DD Bible Study 10a

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

3rd Sunday
Offerings

Office Hours 9-2
DD Bible Study 10a

**DD Community
Supper 5-7pm**

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Fellowship
Sunday

Office Hours 9-2
DD Bible Study 10a

Cheri Nelson

30

31

Pot Luck
Sunday

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.wisconsindehllsumc.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 offering will be taken on **July 16th**. The Dells-Delton congregation will be collecting for **Second Harvest** this month. Please support this worthwhile ministry 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 **Toilet Paper** 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

Quick fix or lifestyle change? —July 2023



I have tried just about every diet known to humanity through my adult life. Low carb. Counting calories. Intermittent fasting. Weight Watchers. I've lost weight on them all. I've gained weight on them all.

One commonality I have found between losing weight and not, no matter the weight loss system, is my approach to the diet. Do I see it as an overall diet and activity lifestyle change? Or is it simply something I need to suffer through to achieve a goal weight? The former is more about health and less about numbers on a scale but requires a plan and discipline. The latter frequently allows me to get to the number but is often unsustainable in the long-term, resulting in rebound weight gain.

I would argue that we, in the church, too often approach stewardship as a crash diet. We take four weeks in the fall to talk about the importance of giving generously, we look at the church budget, and then ask people to make a pledge to support the ministries. In my mind, this approach tends to resemble (ineffective) fundraising rather than Christian Stewardship. It has little chance of either impacting people's lives or truly funding life-giving ministries.

True Christian stewardship is about discipleship. It is about lifestyle. Its goal is helping people learn how to relate to their finances and possessions in terms of their faith and their relationship with God. Success is determined on the metrics of financial healthiness, not on the number on the scale (i.e., the income line on the church budget).

This type of stewardship cannot be contained to just three or four weeks in the fall. It is about helping equip people to earn enough to meet their needs, to learn how to get and stay out of debt, to use tools like a spending plan (i.e., a budget) to wisely save and spend thoughtfully, and to experience the full benefits to giving extravagantly. I believe churches need to be as committed to helping people learn how to be faithful financial stewards as we are helping people learn how to pray.

I have learned – whether it comes to dieting or learning how to be a faithful steward – I will never fully arrive. But I am slowly learning that the true treasure of each is in the experience and the growth each journey offers.

Are you interested in helping people in your congregation take this journey? Consider helping your pastor or stewardship team put together a yearlong stewardship plan which may include offering a financial wellness class like Financial Peace University or Saving Grace, holding an appreciation celebration thanking people for all they give to make a difference in the church and community, and simply making time to regularly talk about the challenges and joys of faithful financial stewardship.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Denomination News



Disaffiliations approved by annual conferences

The chart at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/disaffiliations-approved-by-annual-conferences> shows UM News' count of how many church disaffiliations have been approved by annual conferences. The tally comes from a UM News review of U.S. annual conference reports, publicly available journals and reports of special annual conference sessions held in 2022 and this year. The General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination's finance agency, is collecting the official data on disaffiliations and church closures. But the finance agency's count of disaffiliations lags behind UM News' data because it must wait for annual conferences to submit official reports.

*Starting this year, the South Carolina Conference is not using the disaffiliation policy in Paragraph 2553 of The United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline. Instead, the conference's process is grounded in the Discipline's Paragraph 2549, which is typically used when a local church is closed because it no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. That process is detailed [here](#). The West Virginia Conference also uses the church closure process [to allow congregations to separate from the denomination](#).

Moving Forward with the Beloved Community in WI- Disaffiliation Vote

Bishop Jung preceded the vote reading from a prepared statement, saying in part, "Connectionalism is at the heart of what it means to be a United Methodist. ... While many of us lament these decisions, we must respect the discernment that has taken place. "It is not a time for taking sides, expressing anger, or cheering and clapping. It is a time for prayer and generous care for one another."

Rev. Paul Gregerson, chair of the conference Trustees, brought forth resolutions from 43 churches seeking to disaffiliate under ¶ 2553 of the Book of Discipline, which provided a limited window of time for congregations to do so, for reasons of conscience over issues of human sexuality. He reviewed the necessary steps which were previously published and are listed elsewhere. The main vote followed, preceded by Bishop Jung's prayer, and followed – while awaiting the vote results – by singing *Come and fill our hearts with your grace/peace/love*.

Vote to disaffiliate, Action item wc 400 – Approved 461 yes, 32 no.

Congregational News

Outreach Committee

Thank you all for the hard work you all did for the pie social, it was a very successful one! Good pies and wonderful fellowship! We made \$1020.00, after expenses we are able to send \$800.00 to the Smile Train! May God bless you all ! There is no Outreach meeting scheduled for July.

Anita Copper, Committee Chair



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith is not scheduled to meet again until September.

Free Community Supper

There was a good turn-out for June's grilling of hamburgers and hot dogs. This month's meal will be a spaghetti dinner. Please join us on July 20th for food and fellowship!

Bonnie Morton, Dinner Coordinator

Fellowship Sunday

Fellowship Sunday is July 23rd and Dells-Delton will meet for lunch at Trapper's Turn.

Disaffiliation Updates

Our two congregations have chosen different paths. As of July 1st, Pastor Lee is removed from ministry at Davis Corners and will only serve at Dells-Delton. Please pray that the Wisconsin Annual Conference provides pastoral care for that congregation.



Dells-Delton is officially separated from the UMC on July 1, though we still need to send in some records and alter our signs so that we are not advertising ourselves as a United Methodist congregation. The leadership will continue to define our mission and we will begin the process of deciding any denominational affiliation in the coming weeks.

There is a lot of administrative work to be done to get our website, Facebook presence, and other online issues resolved. We have a new website at dellsdelton.org and are now streaming on YouTube so that our online worship will be more stable. Let us know if you could/would help with any of these tasks.

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