

# 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

## AUGUST

### 2023 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

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[pastor@dellsdelton.org](mailto:pastor@dellsdelton.org)

- 2) Calendar of Events
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The Methodist Church of

Wisconsin Dells

Dells-Delton

320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

[www.dellsdelton.org](http://www.dellsdelton.org)

# AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
				Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10am		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion Sunday 				Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10am	<i>Todd Hartman</i>	<b>Brat &amp; Bake Sale @Walmart 9am-1pm</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Leadership Council 12p	<i>Mary Norwood</i>			Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10am	<i>Tim Hinkel</i>	
				<b>Free Community Supper 4-6pm</b>		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
3rd Sunday Offerings				Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10am		<i>Nancy Edwards</i>
27	28	29	30	31		
Fellowship Sunday @ Monk's		<i>Jason Geissler</i>		Office Hours 9-2 DD Bible Study 10am		

# 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.dellsdelton.org](http://give.dellsdelton.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

As we move through the summer, it's a great time for us to plan for our continuing stewardship. There are always things to be done and check on at our campuses so please do ask the Trustees if they need help with anything, and let us know if you see something broken or out of place. Stewardship is all about sharing the resources we have: time, talent and treasure, to be the church to our community.



## Thank You for Your Participation in Missions

This month, our 3rd Sunday mission offerings will be taken on **August 20th**. The congregation will be collecting for **Veterans Care Trust** 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 "**Stuff The Bus**" **school supplies for the food pantry** 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 our Facebook and Youtube pages!

[facebook.com/ddmethodist](https://facebook.com/ddmethodist) and [youtube.com/@DellsDelton](https://youtube.com/@DellsDelton)



# Our Stewardship

## Quick fix or lifestyle change? — August 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*

# Newsletter Changes

## Changes are Coming

You are certainly aware that the Dells-Delton Methodist Church is now separate from the United Methodist denomination. We do have a few things to complete before everything is finalized, but the process is nearing completion.



The articles from the UM News service will no longer appear since we no longer have “a dog in the fight.” If and when we complete an affiliation with a new denomination, we will include news articles from them. If you wish to read United Methodist news, it can be found at [umnews.org](http://umnews.org)

## Financial News



So why is the United Methodist Foundation article still on the previous page? Because they will still carry our invested funds until we move them, and while they are affiliated with the United Methodist Church, they provide services to all Wesleyan denominations and churches.

Starting next month, we will also be including more financial information for our congregation as we move forward independent of denominational control.

## Leadership Reports

We are hoping to have reports from more areas of our planning as we move forward. Discussions have begun about affiliation with the Global Methodist Church, which will call on us to be more focused on our local ministry. This includes our “outreach” and our “inreach” as we strengthen our congregation and our witness.

Pastor Lee has asked the leadership to plan on producing short, monthly updates for each area of our ministry. Hopefully you will receive messages from our chairs as they make plans for our ministry together. Expect reports from Outreach, Worship, Trustees and Council as they coordinate our efforts to be an effective witness in the community.



# Congregational News

## Dells-Delton Outreach

Outreach is gearing up for our cookout at Walmart on August 12th. We need baked goods and help setting up and tearing down and selling! We are going to set up at 8:45am on Saturday the 12th and meet as a committee as we set up and do the sale. Thank you all for your help! I pray we have wonderful fellowship and sell a lot for Kids Ranch! Thank you and God Bless you all!!



## Altar Flowers at Dells-Delton

Holy Cross has invited us to help supply flowers for the altar on Sundays. If you would like to honor a loved one, acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, special occasion, or for no particular reason at all, there is a sign up sheet above the counter in the narthex and an instruction sheet on how to go about doing this.

## Dells-Delton Women of Faith

With our departure from the United Methodist denomination, the UMW/UWF group is reorganizing and determining how to best move forward. Bonnie Stratton has agreed to take the lead on this effort, so please let her know if you have any idea or can assist as this ministry reorganizes.

## Fellowship Sunday

Dells-Delton will meet at “Monk’s at the Wilderness” Sunday, August 27th following worship.

## Bible Trail

The Bible Trail needs a bit of work, and that is in the works now that the heat has broken. Please let Dave Kaiser know if you have tools, time and talent for helping with the upkeep of our trail so it can be enjoyed by anyone who visits. Advertising has been placed in the informational racks throughout the Dells, so we will likely have some people visit “the only Free Attraction in the Dells.”

Check out the website at [wdbibletrail.com](http://wdbibletrail.com)



# Congregational News



## Disaffiliation Updates

Our congregation has now separated from the United Methodist denomination and our partnership with the Davis Corners congregation has come to an end. While we are saddened by the losses, we also have a number of opportunities as we move forward.

The Leadership Council of the Dells-Delton Methodist congregation has recommended affiliation with the Global Methodist denomination. Should this be approved by the congregation, we will begin our new journey with them. Many of the churches departing the UMC have already joined the GMC. The GMC will provide some accountability but will also be held accountable by member congregations.

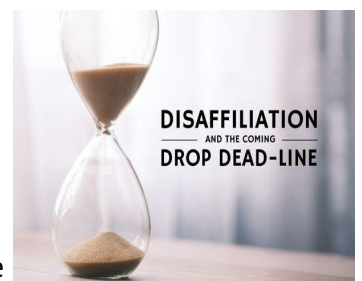
The GMC will provide for pastoral credentialing and benefits administration so the task does not fall to local congregations, however it is not planning to provide much administrative oversight or missional administration. Local congregations will be expected to grow in missions and discipleship, and the denomination will provide us access to and information about tools to help us grow.

Unlike the UMC, this relationship would be voluntary with expectations on both sides. Should we not live up to GMC standards, we could be removed from membership. Likewise, should we think the denomination is not living up to GMC standards, we can decide to leave without any penalty.

## Disaffiliation Final Steps

The disaffiliation process is coming to an end and we need complete the final steps of the process before December 31st.

You may have notice the office has been greatly cleaned up, including all of the filing cabinets. Several people have worked together to collect the historical documents we are required to surrender to the UMC to complete the disaffiliation process. We will be delivering those documents to the Conference this month, as well as completing a final statistical report.



Depending on the outcome of our denomination vote, we will also need to determine new signage for the building, property and directional street signs. We cannot use the trademarked "Cross and Flame" or the words "United Methodist" on our advertisements, so these will need to be addressed.

We will be asking the congregation for ideas on how we should proceed in the coming weeks. If you do have any ideas for these sign changes, or know of a resource we can use, please contact Bob Pendleton so that we collect all the information needed to implement this final requirement.

# Congregational News

## United Methodist Church Administration Council Meeting 4 June 2023, 12:00 pm

**Attending:** Pastor Lee, Pat Holton, Bob Pendleton-Chair, Anita Copper, Wendy Lombard, Kathy Radcliff, Shirley Nelson, Tim Hinkel, Melody Hinkel-Recorder

Meeting called to order at 12:15 pm

Meeting postponed at 12:31

Meeting re-called to order at 12:35

Opening Prayer: Pastor Lee

### **Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Moved to accept-Wendy approved, Anita-second; all approved.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Wendy provided the Treasurer's Report

We paid the UMC \$45,290.61 for the fees due, by May 31, 2023, for the Disaffiliation.

This was taken from the Checking account.

\$10,000.00 was taken from the savings account and transferred into the checking.

All accepted the treasurer's report.

### **Old Business:**

We need someone Pastor Lee can give administrative rights to update the websites. Bob Pendleton recommends we get someone younger to put content onto the websites.

Bob requested a QR code; and, Pastor Lee states he can create a QR code for whatever event we have.

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

Incorporate in Wisconsin

Bob Pendleton moved to change the corporation from Dells-Delton United Methodist Church to Dells-Delton Methodist Church. Wendy seconded the motion. All approved.

There will be a separate meeting to complete the Incorporation process.

Meeting for the Dells-Delton Methodist Church took place on 6/4/2023 to name the new Executive Committee and other committee officers.

New Executive Committee and other officers will remain the same as the officers for the officers for the Dells-Delton United Methodist Church committees.

Create bylaws indicating the set of rules put in place to govern how the nonprofit is operated. Includes name, purpose, statement of faith, other governing documents.

Pending on future affiliation

Apply for an EIN if there are any employees anticipated for the Dells-Delton Methodist Church.

File for exemption for Wisconsin Sales and Use Taxes

Transfer our bank accounts, insurance, and other business contracts to the new corporation.

Annual Conference coming up June 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

Mission Statement:

What is our role as a church? What is it we really want to do? What are the main things we do?

What, how, and why do we do the things we do?

Brainstorm (see spreadsheet Pastor created) Bob will re-categorize.

Tim motions we re-evaluate all events, the timing, and where the proceeds are going to.



# Congregational News

## **Outreach:**

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

Tim purchased airtime on WRDB and they are going to air advertisement for the Pie Social.

Brat sale is August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tim Hinkel recommended that the Pancake supper, this fall, is held on a Saturday night instead of a Wednesday. The Outreach Committee decided to leave the supper on a Wednesday.

## **Finance:**

Pastor Lee needs to add Sue White and Melody Hinkel on the Church credit card. He has the paperwork, just needs to get together with these ladies to complete the process.

## **Building Corporation Board:**

The Building Corporation Board met Wednesday, April 18th, 2023.

Tim Hinkel is going to recommended putting up the large monitors Pastor Lee has for the slide shows in the Sanctuary.

Tim talked to Bud Seufzer and/or the Scotts, who made some headway on the piles of brush being removed off the grounds.

Will need to remove the cross and flame off of the sign as of July 1st.

Bob would like to request from the Board to place an electronic sign on the hill so traffic from both directions can see the sign at some point in the future. JNI signs provided a quote for this type of sign. We are not able to set up an electronic sign, at this time. Bob is going to talk to Nick Schultz or someone who knows him to discuss where we can place a sign for the church.

Tim motioned to table the electric sign venture to a later date. All approved.

## **Worship Committee:**

Met on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Discussed when we will have the outdoor service. Shirley reports it will be June 18<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Tim requested Shirley take to the Worship committee to have someone come in to play guitar for one of our services. Shirley agrees to take request to committee.

## **UWF:**

After June's UWF lunch on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> there will not be any meetings until fall.

## **Staff Parish Relations Council (SPRC):**

The council will have a meeting prior to the end of June. Best time Tuesday afternoon or all-day Wednesday to determine if Pastor Lee's insurance.

## **Pastor's Report:**

Davis Corner reversed their disaffiliation vote. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, Davis Corner will not longer be a sister congregation.

At the Annual Conference this coming weekend, we will be voting once on the disaffiliations and then that will be the end of it.

Global Methodist Church will be a Provisional Conference starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

End of meeting prayer: Pastor

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Next Meeting as the new Executive Committee for Dells-Delton Methodist Church: July 9, 2023, after service.

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# NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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Last month there was no pastoral letter and I had a few people ask if the last page hadn't been printed or was lost. This month we have eight pages, so this is the back side and I can't claim we just happened to lose a page!

As you can guess, it's been a very busy season. We've figured out how to function separate from the UMC and Davis Corners, got things sorted with insurance (which was interesting), and continued the process of building the GMC for those congregations wishing to join. I am officially a clergy member of the GMC, though I am considered inactive until the Dells-Delton congregation chooses to join.

I find that I am incredibly tired for someone who is "inactive." This is not a complaint against the GMC, on the contrary there needs to be a place for people not serving a GMC congregation in this interim period. What I find amusing is how inaccurate labels can be.

We all hear horror stories of labels falling off of bottles or medications going into the wrong containers or incorrect expiration dates being printed on food items. Labels are meant to be important because they indicate what we are dealing with; whether or not there is a hazard that we need to see. But we also have labels meant to deceive: free-range, organic, natural.

My great fear is that there is another label not being applied with care: Christian. That label was first applied as a complaint—the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (Acts 11:26) Paul and Barnabas had been teaching for about a year, and a large number of people began following "The Way." You knew they were doing this because there was a way to follow "The Way." And that was discipleship, you had a practice that demonstrated what you believed. And they were persecuted.

We don't have that persecution. No one forces us to choose or announce where we stand. We don't need to be confrontational, and these early disciples were certainly not. But they were firm in their belief and living, just as we should be. As Methodists we have a long history with being deliberate and practiced in our faith, yet that has not been our hallmark for some time. Perhaps it is time to recover that as we chart the future for this congregation and ourselves. Make a plan, and make that happen.

Discipleship is one of the things that the GMC is pushing; an expectation that we do things to grow in faith and in practice. I think they are right. Regardless if we join that denomination or not, we need to take that good idea and put it into practice. If we fail to grow in our relationship with God and each other, we will be very lucky if we can hold on to any faith at all. That would not be wise at all.

Peace and Blessings!

*Pastor Lee*

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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.

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\*\*Additions, Corrections or Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to: [news@wisconsinidellsumc.org](mailto:news@wisconsinidellsumc.org)