

THE DELLS-DELTON HERALD



Dells-Delton
Methodist Church
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

December

2023 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

Office Phone: (608) 253-6511

pastor@dellsdelton.org

The Methodist Church of

Wisconsin Dells

Dells-Delton

320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

www.dellsdelton.org

- 2) Calendar of Events
- 3) Our Stewardship
- 5) Congregational News
- 9) Note From the Pastor

DECEMBER 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Communion
Sunday



Office Hours 9-2
Bible Study 10am

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

12pm
Admin Council

NO Office Hours
NO Bible Study
JoAnn Luke

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Hymn Sing Service
3rd Sunday
Offerings—Center

Office Hours 9-2
Bible Study 10am

12pm Methodist
Women of Faith

*Victoria
Georgeson*

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Christmas Eve Service
5pm

***Christmas
Day***

NO Office Hours
Bible Study 10am

31

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our Stewardship

We Depend on Your Faithful Stewardship

Last month we asked you if you have a plan for your giving. This month we will ask you to commit to that plan. Our church can be so thankful for its faithful members. We have many members who don't miss a Sunday or a function during the week when there is one. Others mail in their offerings when they know they will not be with us for a time. However, we know that there are Sundays that people are gone and cannot attend church. Remember that the bills still have to be paid, even when you aren't there. We count on your weekly support to meet our budget.



If you cannot join us, or simply forget your offering, please remember there also are one time and automatic giving options available online at our website (give.dellsdelton.org) or by using your phone to scan this little QR code →



Thank You for Your Participation in Missions

This month, our 3rd Sunday mission offerings will be taken on **December 17th**. The congregation will be collecting for the **Salvation Army** 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 Methodist combined pantry donations. This month we are collecting **toothbrushes and toothpaste** 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 and youtube.com/@DellsDelton



Missions

GMC Ministry Giving

The council approved partnering with the GMC to provide support for families of pastors in Ethiopia. The need is \$300 a year to provide support for food and basic needs for the families, with 100% of the donations going to those families. The GMC is hoping to also connect the congregations with these families, but will also need to protect their identities in this hostile area. There are 119 families that the GMC is hoping to support with the churches that are already in the GMC. Your council believes this is an important mission that we can easily support.



Our Stewardship

Why December 25th — December 2023

Did you ever wonder why we celebrate Christmas on December 25th? Jesus didn't have a birth certificate, so how do we know when Jesus was really born? Because the Bible offers no date for Jesus' birth, the placement of the nativity is up for debate. But there are three explanations that land us on December 25th.



First, the Christian historian Sextus Julius Africanus had identified the 25th as Christ's nativity in the 3rd century. Chronographers reckoned that the world was created on the spring equinox and four days later, on March 25th, light was created. Since the existence of Jesus signaled a beginning of a new era, or new creation, the Biblical chronographers assumed Jesus' conception would have also fallen on March 25th, placing his birth in December, nine months later.

The second theory proposes that early Christians were convinced that Jesus must have lived upon earth for an exact number of years. Therefore, the date on which he died would also have been the same as the date of his conception. Because they believed that he was crucified on March 25 (and therefore conceived on March 25), his birth would have been placed nine months later, on December 25th.

The final theory concludes that December 25th was chosen at Rome because it was also the date of the winter solstice in the Julian calendar and a popular pagan feast celebrating the birthday of the invincible Sun. The pagan feast was established by Emperor Aurelian in 274 A.D. After Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, he wanted to draw people away from these pagan festivities and point to Christ as the true Sun of Righteousness, and so instituted at Rome the feast of the Nativity on the same date.

So, you can take your pick as to which theory you believe has us celebrating Christmas on December 25th. No matter what option you choose—or even if you believe we have the date all wrong — Christmas is a reminder that God has come near and that the world and our lives will never be the same.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Jeremiah 29:11

~ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Outreach

Good Morning, Pray every one is doing well and enjoying the holidays. Outreach is going to send \$240.00 to smile train from the donations at pancake supper. Our next fund raiser isn't until June 15 for pie social. Enjoy Advent and each other! May God bless you all!

Outreach Committee



Dells-Delton Women of Faith

Greetings!

Our November was a huge success as we finalized the Christmas goody bags and picked Christmas songs for our Hymn Sing on December 17th. That day will truly be a busy one!

Mark it on your calendar that we will be going to River's Edge on December 17th after service for our Christmas luncheon. Also before that we need to assemble the Christmas goody bags. Please don't forget to bring some cookies/treats for Fellowship on December 17th.

After church service on January 7th we will be taking down both Christmas trees, many hands make the work lighter

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 17th, 2024 at 12:00 pm., Anita Cooper will be providing Fellowship treats and a program.

Even though we will not be having meetings in January and February, we will still providing Fellowship treats for the third Sunday in those months. Michelle Bushweiler for January and myself for February.

Christmas Blessings,

Bonnie Stratton

Fellowship Sunday

No Fellowship Sunday this month, but have a blessed Christmas Eve.

Bible Trail

The Bible Trail is now closed for the year. Please let Dave Kaiser know if you're willing to help with opening it in the spring and preparing it for use. We are continuing work on the website for the Bible Trail and want to have it ready for next season. Please let us know what could or should be shown there. The website is wdbibletrail.com

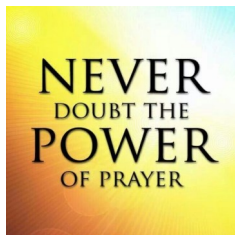
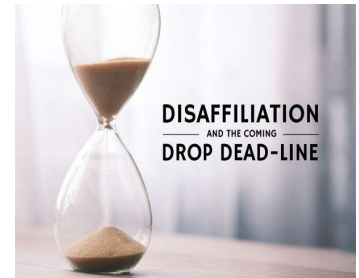


Congregational News

Disaffiliation Updates

We have submitted our final statistical report and had our final visit from the United Methodist Church to verify we have completed all of our steps, including removal of all United Methodist logos and signage.

We are in the process of updating our signage for the building, property and directional street signs. The new signs are currently being made and should be ready for installation in a few weeks. Additionally, we are working on a new informational sign that should provide added visibility for our services, events and bible trail.



Prayer Points

You should have received a prayer postcard recently as part of our focus on prayer. Each month we will provide a focal point for our prayer lives and the prayer point postcards will be provided as a helpful tool. Our goal is that our church becomes more and more a "house of prayer."

We are also trying to be consistent about praying for our services on Sunday mornings. There is nothing formal about the group, and anyone who is present five minutes before service is encouraged to participate. The pastor is asking that we pray the worship will build our community and connection with God, that the message would be clear and understood, and that all would be prepared and refreshed for the coming week. Please help us in this effort since prayer is the foundation of our connection to God.

Content

We are looking for help to put useful information on our Facebook page and website each week to improve our communication with each other and the Wisconsin Dells community.

Let us know if you are willing to help. We will show you how easy it is to do, and how only five minutes of your time helps connect us to our neighbors. We hope to share this task among several people, so any little bit will help.



"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time."—*Oswald Chambers*

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting 9 October 2023, 12:00 pm

Attending: Pastor Lee, Pat Holton, Bob Pendleton-Chair, Anita Copper, Wendy Lombard, Sue White, Shirley Nelson, Tim Hinkel, Pat Holton, Bonnie Stratton, and Melody Hinkel-Recorder; (Bonnie Morton, Lisa Helm, and Ellie Urban, sat in as guests)

Meeting called to order at 12:25 pm

Opening Prayer: Pastor Lee

Prior Meeting Minutes:

Moved to accept-Bonnie motioned to approved, Anita-seconded it; all approved.

Treasurers Report:

Wendy provided the Treasurer's Report:

Sue reports she will send a thank you card to Joann. The committee agrees that all council members will sign the card. Sue sent thank you cards to more recent donors.

Bonnie motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Anita second it, all approved.

Old Business:

Paster Lee reports all of the existing signs will be updated the week of October 9th.

Tim reports that he talked to the Makowski's and also talked to the City of the Wisconsin Dells to make sure we could put up a sign on the pole located on Makowski's property. Both approved. Tim reached out to the City of Reedsburg and was able to get the two electronic signs they are taking down to find out what they want for the signs. Tim was able to get both signs, originally quoted for \$25,000.00 each, for \$100.00 for both of them. All he asks is that we, the council, sign a thank you card and send it to the City of Reedsburg.

Tim notes we will need to work with the city to get power to the pole with a meter.

New Business:

Recommendation to include up-coming events in the bulletins.

Mission Statement Worksheet review (continued):

Bob requests the council members review the list of things we do and assign who will be accountable to get them done in the future.

Attached is a digital copy of the list and a document on how to create a mission.

Request to have a cap on the building of the Website by Pastor Lee. A motion by Tim to make the cap at \$500.00, Anita second it, all approved.

Outreach:

There was a Rummage sale on October 6th and 7th. We made \$1,880.40. Most of that will be going to the Food Pantry. Anita reports they will keep \$200.00 for expenses.

Outreach committee will determine how much the church will give to the Reedsburg Christian Radio Station.

Tim H asked that when we post who the proceeds are going to that is should be broader instead of a specific community. It's still telling the truth, but it would encompass many more people to participate.

Tim H recommends the church send thank-you cards to non-members who help out at events, particularly the kids that help out. All agree this should be a practice. Cards should be written out by the head of the committee or their designee.

Tim also asks that everyone hang a flyer someplace for each of the events.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting
9 October 2023, 12:00 pm

Finance:

Sue states housing and parsonage fund has been combined to one account/fund. Sue is waiting for the certificate. Bonnie will make sure Woman of Faith's account gets moved to Dells-Delton Methodist Church.

Building Corporation Board:

Approved for the kitchen door to swing into the multipurpose room.
Approval of bathroom sign placement for wayfinding.
Episcopals approved the delay of the renovation of the sanctuary.
The majority of the discussion was on the exterior renovation for the removal of the led paint.
Approved the automatic door openers on the exterior main doors and then to have a removable.

Worship Committee:

The Worship committee's next meeting is October 11th.
There's been a request that the cross be moved onto the altar during services that do not include communion.

UWF

Next meeting will be Sunday, September 17th. New name Dells-Delton Methodist Woman of Faith or Dells-Delton Woman of Faith (DDWF)
Bonnie read the new purpose of the committee.
Next meeting is Sunday, October 14th.

Staff Parish Relations Council (SPRC):

No report

Pastor's Report:

Trip to the Global Methodist Leadership committee was a success.
Global Conference is in two weeks where Lee will be ordained.
We do have someone who will develop our website. Lee is waiting for information from Bob and then we can move forward in developing the website.
United Methodist is requesting to have historical records going back to the beginning of the church opening. It doesn't matter that the church was not always United Methodist.

End of meeting prayer: Pastor Lee

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Next Meeting for Dells-Delton Methodist Church Administration Council: November 12th, 2023, after service.

One administrative note:

Pastor Lee received a second letter from the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee concerning our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church questioning if there need to be changes made to the Corporation and demanding some changes to the use of our facility. We are formulating a response to the Diaconal office at this time.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Advent is upon us. This is a season of preparation and celebration as we recognize that God fulfills His promises. Sometimes it becomes difficult to be certain in hope because of challenges and setbacks that seem to push our hope further away. The Jewish people spent 400 years waiting on God to speak with them, as they saw the world change twice over—first when the Greeks came, and then when the Romans took over.

As many of you know, Michelle and I have been waiting for running water at our new house. We have a well, and we can get to the water, but we have no working sinks or toilets; and it is getting cold outside. We've had the outdoor facilities, and they work fine. Many in the congregations still remember living without toilets, but it is still not pleasant using an outdoor bathroom when it's below freezing.

And our plumbers came, and then left.... with the plumbing unfinished. They finally said they'd return in early December, after leaving in early November. But, they did complete some very important connections for me; namely the toilet flanges. So, I've installed toilets that work as long as you bring a bucket of water along.

We have to remember that. We may not have the whole promise, but sometimes we have enough of it to solve the immediate concerns before us. God had promised deliverance for the Jewish people but He also provided for their immediate relationship. The problem they had was accepting what they had. They were willing to ignore the relationship they had in the hope for the promise that would be coming.

Sometimes we do the same. We are too busy looking forward to remember to look around. We get caught up in all of the troubles that happen in our homes, workplaces and communities while forgetting that we have a God who listens and responds in all of these difficulties. But we need to be prepared.

John was sent to prepare the hearts of the Jewish people; to turn their attention back to God and realize that they each had a relationship to maintain. God sent His Spirit to be with us, so we are prepared to be His people and minister to the world until Jesus returns to subdue evil. But, just like the Jewish people, we need to listen to the message and respond to the call. We need to build our relationship with God so we are His people.

The final week of November we had a service of renewal. Wesley brought this into the Methodist church so that we would remember and recommit to our covenant with God, to be His people. It was an annual service that was practiced at the beginning of the year. But the church year begins with Advent, and our ministry in the GMC is also beginning, so this is the perfect time to remember whose we are and what we are to be.

So, remember the covenant of renewal that we celebrated. If you lost your copy, I will have the covenant available for you to take and keep before you. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, our promised Savior, we also celebrate the birth of renewed hope—for both the Christian Church and our congregation here at Dells-Delton.

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@dellsdelton.org