

# 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

January

2024 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

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

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

The Methodist Church of

Wisconsin Dells

Dells-Delton

320 Unity Dr. Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

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

# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am <i>Barbara Jantz</i>	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 	8	9	10 <i>Melody Hinkel</i>	11 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am	12	13 <i>Judy Nelson</i>
14 12pm Admin Council	15	16	17	18 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am <b>Community Supper 5pm</b> <i>Shirley Nelson</i>	19	20 <i>8am Pancake Breakfast</i>
21 3rd Sunday Offerings—Center	22	23	24	25 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am	26 <i>Michelle Bushweiler</i>	27 <i>Pam Dickerson</i>
28 12pm Fellowship Sunday @	29	30	31			

# Our Stewardship

## We Depend on Your Faithful Stewardship

Last month we asked you to commit to a plan for your giving. This month we will ask you to admit 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](http://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 **January 21st**. The congregation will be collecting for the **Heating Assistance Program** 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 **deodorant** 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)



## 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

## Active Discipleship — January 2024



A University chaplain had an interesting conversation with a student that came to see him one day. He writes:

"I was wondering what I ought to do about the exam," she said, "then I looked at this bracelet" (here she gestured to the "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet on her wrist), "and I said to myself, 'I am going to just say a little prayer, relax, and look after myself.'"

And I thought to myself, "I can think of at least a couple of other things Jesus might tell you to do — like get over to the library and get busy studying for this exam."

Devoid of specific content, insubstantial, vague "spirituality" may be our contemporary Christian undoing. We have rendered Jesus into someone so vague, amorphous, and flimsy that he makes little claim upon us. Jesus has become a fashion accessory, something tied to our wrist, a comfort, never a challenge. What would Jesus do? Whatever we do, it appears.

This short story reminds me of what a challenge Christian Discipleship. It is easy for us to become a member of a church, attend several times a year, give a little money, and to sit back and relax because we all know that God's grace is free. And yet, we forget that while God's love is given to us freely, if we allow it to grab ahold of us, it changes our lives. Our priorities are no longer our own, but God's. We pray that "God's will be done," not only in a general sense, but particularly in and through our own lives. This means becoming an active part of our community of faith. Giving our energy to worship, instead of being a passive observer. Actively loving and serving our neighbor, instead of just praying for them and hoping for a miracle. Spending time with God in prayer and study. Letting generosity be the top priority in our finances, not just giving what's left over after we've gotten ours.

Christian Discipleship is a difficult enterprise. Thank God we have grace to support us and strengthen us. And thank God we have a community of faith to help us along and to hold us accountable.

*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

# Congregational News

## Dells-Delton Outreach

Our next fund raiser isn't until June 15 for our annual Pie Social, but we will have several things happening. Our first **ecumenical** Pancake Breakfast will be held **8am on January 20th**. Bridgepoint and Holy Cross will join us to host the community for fellowship and food on that Saturday morning!



## Dells-Delton Women of Faith

Greetings!

A huge thank you to all our ladies that set-up and decorated the Christmas trees, assembled the Christmas Goody Bags for the children and passed them out. Also want to thank Sue White and Pastor Lee for helping organize the Hymn Sing. We had twelve people attend our Christmas luncheon and all had a good time.

Please don't forget that 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 p.m., Anita Copper will be providing Fellowship treats and a program.

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

New Year's Blessings,

Bonnie Stratton

## Fellowship Sunday

Fellowship Sunday is January 21st at UNO's this month.

## 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](http://wdbibletrail.com)

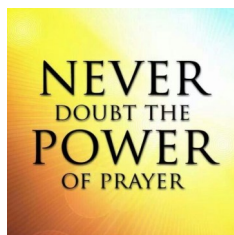
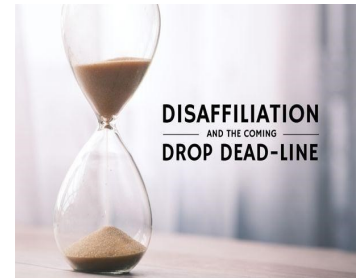


# Congregational News

## Disaffiliation Updates

We have completed the entire process of leaving the United Methodist denomination and affiliating with the Global Methodist denomination. Our new signage should be prepared and installed this month and we are also completing the updates to our online presence.

Work on a new informational sign that should provide added visibility for our services, events and bible trail is continuing and we will provide an update next month on our progress.



## 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.



"Remember that wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure."—Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist* (*Matthew 6:21*)

# Congregational News

## Dells-Delton Methodist Church - Administrative Council Meeting 12 November 2023, 12:00 pm

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

**Absent:** Wendy Lombard

Meeting called to order at 12:25 pm

Opening Prayer: Reverend Lee

### **Prior Meeting Minutes:**

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

### **Treasurers Report:**

Wendy provided the Treasurer's Report via email. Council reviewed the report, there is a \$10,000 memorial gift that needs to be removed from the income to the Memorial Fund.

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

### **Old Business:**

Paster Lee reports all existing signs are still being updated.

Tim reports an agreement has been created for the Makowski's. Tim gave the Makowski's the agreement to review on Friday, November 10, 2023.

We still need to go to the city to fill out the application and pay the fees of ~\$125.00 per side/sign.

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

Bob plans for follow-up to the Signage project in May 2024.

Anita will provide a list of charities to Bob Pendleton who will create a poster to put up on the bulletin board. He will present the poster to Admin Council for approval before putting up.

Anita asked about the Fellowship treats: Tim and Melody are planning to bring treats for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, The third Sunday treats will be provided by the DDWF, Forth Sunday is Fellowship Sunday, and Fifth Sunday Potluck. A question arose as to whether we should do a potluck every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and eat out every fifth Sunday. Bob will send out a survey to the congregation to get feedback.

### **New Business:**

#### **Mission Statement Worksheet review (continued):**

Bob had the council count off of threes. Each Group will decide when they will meet and create a mission statement. Homework is for each group to bring back the next AC meeting, a 13 word or less mission statement.

#### **Outreach:**

October, the Outreach Committee had a successful Pancake supper. Anita reports they received \$240.00 for which they will give to the Kid's Ranch.

Next Outreach Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm.

We will develop a comprehensive list of the different organizations we contribute to.

Recommendation to stay a little bit more generic when noting the organizations being donated to.

#### **Finance:**

Next meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to discuss next years budget

UMC Annual Conference sent \$4821.50 refund from the disaffiliation.

We will change the name of the Safe Deposit Box from the United Methodist Church to Dells-Delton Methodist Church. Melody, Wendy and Sue will remain the named individuals on the Safe Deposit Box.

# Congregational News

## Dells-Delton Methodist Church - Administrative Council Meeting 12 November 2023, 12:00 pm

### **Building Corporation Board:**

The kitchen door to swing into the multipurpose room is complete.

The bathroom sign placement for wayfinding is being created.

Need to talk to Linda Scott and Vickie about the dishwasher racks.

The majority of the discussion was on the exterior renovation for the removal of the lead paint-on hold. Tim is going to contact a contractor to reside the church.

The automatic door openers on the exterior main doors is waiting on an estimate.

New by-laws need to be created with the disaffiliation from UMC and placing the monitors on the walls.

### **Worship Committee:**

Reverend Lee will continue to announce for parishioners to turn off their cell phones.

The Cross will be moved onto the altar during services that do not include communion.

Recommend Tuesday evening church service.

Calling tree was created to communicate funeral and extreme weather conditions.

Encourages sharing personal experiences and how our faith impacts others.

Move the council meetings to the Multipurpose room.

Need volunteers to provide rides to church and events.

Next Worship Committee meeting, Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **DDWF**

Dells-Delton Woman of Faith (DDWF)

Reverend Lee provided the forms the group needs to book the use of the Multipurpose room.

November 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a Hymn Sing.

Christmas luncheon on December 17<sup>th</sup>

Checking accounts will be switched over soon.

November 30<sup>th</sup> the Christmas tree will be put up in the Sanctuary with just lights up.

The committee will provide treats for after service every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

Preparations of Christmas goodie bags for children.

Current membership is 15.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> after service.

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

No report

### **Reverend's Report:**

The Dells-Delton Methodist Church is officially a Global Methodist Church

The request from the GMC is to give an apportionment of 1% of our operating income to the Global Church and 3% to the Regional Church.

This year the amount is \$140.00. Bob motioned to approve the request. Anita approved, Tim 2<sup>nd</sup> it. All approve.

The Global Methodist Church is trying to sponsor some of our Ethiopian Pastors and their Families. The majority of the admin council approved this request.

We have someone to do our websites for the Church and the Bible Trail.

The UMC received our historical records and has officially released us from their conference.

The next annual conference is in May in Marion, Indiana. In the fall will be the convening conferring will be in Costa Rica.

Reverend Lee will wear his robe and stole on special occasions.

Reverend Lee will email the by-laws to Melody to put with the minutes.

End of meeting prayer: Reverend Lee

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Next Meeting for Dells-Delton Methodist Church Administration Council: December 10th, 2023, after service.



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# NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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It's hard to believe that another year has passed, especially as the grass seems to get greener with each passing "winter" day. But Advent has come and gone, and we are turning the calendar to a New Year.

This has been an interesting year: full of challenges and disappointments, as well as victories and monumental changes. 2023 marks the end of the disaffiliation clause in the United Methodist denomination for congregations in the US, and 2024 will determine the possibilities for many of our fellow Methodists around the globe. As difficult and disheartening as the process was for us, we know that others will still be going through this next year; so we need to be praying for all the Methodist churches around the world this coming year.

Additionally, there will be some fierce fighting in our former UMC denomination as they hold the first post-pandemic Conference to try to chart a path for that denomination. The Global Methodist denomination will also hold its convening Conference this year as it tries to establish the foundation for this new fellowship of churches. Sir Austen Chamberlain apparently wrote to a friend saying "Many years ago, I learned from one of our diplomats in China that one of the principal Chinese curses heaped upon an enemy is, 'May you live in an interesting age.' Surely no age has been more fraught with insecurity than our own present time."

I think this is true of many times. Michelle and I have been blessed with at least three years of "interesting times" as we've been embattled with building a home, caring for her parents, dealing with the issues of the UMC and GMC, and staying engaged with our congregation. I don't think you know how much your prayers and presence have supported us through all of this difficulty; but you have made a difference. Wesley thought the Methodists could be more if they used their finances more effectively. "*Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can*" were the points of his sermon on "The Use of Money." While true, this extends to time and talent, as well as all other gifts we have - most notably PRAYER.

James (*James 4*) says we do not have because we do not ask or we ask with wrong motives. We have needs and desires but we do not humble ourselves and ask for the resources and guidance we need to draw close to God and His will for us. Jesus talks about prayer as He concludes the sermon on the mount (*Matthew 7*) saying we need to ask because the Father stands ready to give all good things. Prayer is essential in all we do as believers.

So, I am asking you to continue in what so many of you have been doing—praying for guidance and stepping out wherever the Spirit is leading you to be for the building of God's kingdom; here and in eternity.

We are blessed as a congregation. We had a challenging year, and will have more challenges in front of us, but we are also moving forward together in hope. God is on the throne and Jesus has our salvation secured, so all that we need to worry about is what we must do right now. Keep praying for our congregation, mission and leadership as we try to engage our community with the hope and fellowship we have to offer through Jesus. Look to God for strength and guidance, and then trust He will empower, equip and guide us as His body.

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@dellsdelton.org](mailto:news@dellsdelton.org)