

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

February

2024 Newsletter

Pastor Lee Bushweiler

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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

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 	5	6 <i>Serenity Nelson</i>	7	8 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am	9	10
11 12pm Admin Council	12 <i>Bonnie Stratton</i>	13	14 <i>Joint Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm</i>	15 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am Community Supper 5pm	16	17
18 3rd Sunday Offerings— Samaritan's Purse	19 6pm Corporation Board	20	21 5:30p Lenten Soup Supper & Study	22 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am	23	24
25 12pm Fellowship Sunday @ Trapper's	26	27	28 5:30p Lenten Soup Supper & Study	29 Office Hours 9-2 Bible Study 10am		

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) 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 **February 18th**. The congregation will be collecting for the **Samaritan's Purse** 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 **bar soap** 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 Great Lakes Conference is hoping to support and they have 107 currently supported by local churches (including ours.) Thank you!



Our Stewardship

Practice, Practice, Practice —February 2024



Believe it or not, even though Christmas feels like it is just behind us, Lent is about to begin (Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year). In the church, Lent is a period of 40 days (not including Easter) during which we re-examine our lives and our faith practices as we prepare for the coming of Easter. The practice of re-examination and recommitment dates to the very beginning of the church as new members prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday. We may ask ourselves, however, **why is the observation of Lent important to us today?**

The reality of the situation is, if we don't take the time to re-examine what's important to us and practice the basics of faith, we run the risk of forgetting who we are, where we've come from, and what God has done in our lives. Every professional sports team gathers before the season begins and focuses on many of the things the players have done since they were small children. In baseball, they field ground balls (and coincidentally, Spring Training also begins on February 14 for many teams this year). In football, they go over tackling and blocking. In basketball they dribble and pass. These are adults who are the best players in the world, and yet their coaches start them off at the very beginning every year. Only the teams who've mastered the basics have a chance of contending for a championship.

As Lent approaches let's be encouraged to get back to the basics of faith. Come to worship regularly. Take time to become a part of a study group to grow in your faith together. Pray daily. Give generously both your time and your money. The basics aren't just for the young or inexperienced in faith. They are for everyone — from the youngest child to the champions of faith who've been an inspiration to us.

Let's take time to refocus on the basics as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Mission – the mission of a church is a broad statement that explains why the church exists and does not change often. The Book of Discipline states that the mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision – a vision is what a church wants to achieve, in a defined period, to contribute to its mission. It is aspirational. It points to where the congregation believes God is calling them to be in the future (usually within a few years). Consider the transformation in the community and world that will occur because of their work in that time.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Women of Faith

Greetings!

Even though we haven't had a meeting in sometime I feel we have been keeping busy. Huge thank you for those of you that have helped taking down the Christmas trees and decorations and with the two funeral meal preparations. Please keep these two families in your prayers.



Start praying and thinking about how we can help those in our community with the gifts that God has given each of us. Can't wait to hear about your ideas at our March meeting.

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 a meeting in February, we will still be providing Fellowship for the third Sunday in that month. I will be providing for Fellowship in February.

Blessings,

Bonnie Stratton

Fellowship Sunday

Fellowship Sunday is February 25th at Trappers' Turn this month.

Worship Committee Notes

Worship Committee met January 17, 2024 and wants you to be aware of a few things. About 5 minutes before Worship service begins, an usher will follow Rev. Lee to the altar, then light the candles. We are trying to provide a time of reflection and prayer before service begins.

During Communion, the usher on right side of pew directs congregation to center aisle then to the altar for communion, returning by the side aisle. We will try use this whenever possible.

Ash Wednesday service on February 14 may be joint with Holy Cross. Rev. Lee will discuss with Father Mike and decide on a worship time. Weekly Lenten Holy Land video series and soup supper begins on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 for 5 weeks.

The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 at 5:00, before the Lent soup Supper.

Shirley Nelson, Acting Secretary

Congregational News

Dells Delton Corporation Board Meeting

Summary from January 24, 2024

Members present: Reverend Lee, Sue White, Dave Kaiser, Holly Pennington, Tom Reeder, Bud Seufzer, Fr. Michael and Tim Hinkel

The meeting opened with a prayer by Reverend Lee.

Minutes presented and approved for 10/25/2023 meeting.

Treasurers Report Treasurer report presented and approved.

Old Business:

Church siding update-a contractor is coming to the church on 2/1/2024 to evaluate and get the information they need to provide an estimate.

The Dells-Delton Methodist Signs changes are still in the finishing stage.

Bathroom signs will be done soon.

It was decided to put the renovation of the Sanctuary on hold.

Outward swing on the kitchen door was complete.

Corporation Board By-laws are in the process of being changed.

Narthex thermostat is installed and functioning properly.

End of Life presentation was discussed.

New Business:

Corperation Boards members will be selected and officers will be elected at the February 20th meeting.

We will be purchasing two new oil wick candle lighters to replace two of the wax wick candle lighters.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 20th, at 6:00 pm.

Please let Reverend Lee, Tim or Sue know if you have anything you would like brought forward to the Corporation Board. Thank you.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Methodist Church - Administrative Council Meeting 10 December 2023, 12:00 pm

Attending: Reverend Lee, Pat Holton, Bob Pendleton-Chair, Anita Copper, Wendy Lombard, Sue White, , Tim Hinkel, Pat Holton, Bonnie Stratton, and Melody Hinkel-Recorder; (Bonnie Morton, Ellie Urban, Dave Kaiser, Butch and Helen Miotke, sat in as guests)

Absent: Shirley Nelson, Lisa Helm

Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm

Opening Prayer: Reverend Lee

Prior Meeting Minutes:

No motions made to approve minutes this meeting.

Treasurers Report:

New: A certificate of deposit earning about 5%.

The movement of all the UMC accounts to the DDMC reflect on the statement now.

Reverend Lee will close out the DDUMC credit card account.

Wendy wants to increase our buying power on the current DDMC credit card. Wendy has asked Sue to raise the limit on the card.

There will be an open line item of the Thursday night supper and Outreach on the statement starting in January.

Givify account has been linked to the new DDMC bank account.

The foundation account is now called the Dells-Delton Methodist fund.

Sue White presented an updated statement of the Memorial Fund.

Old Business:

Reverend Lee reports all existing signs are still being updated.

Anita provided a list of charities to Bob Pendleton who created a poster to put up on the bulletin board. Bob presented the poster to Admin Council for approval to put up on the bulletin board and to put in the 3rd Sunday bulletin.

New Business:

Bob recommends having a thank you card that can be handed out to the guests at the Free Supper, to visitors and kids that attend service. A possible promotion of the Church of a Joyful Noise.

Give attendees of the Outreach events information about the church services. ie: Service time.

Mission Statement Worksheet review (continued):

Called by God to joyfully serve our community and beyond.

As the Disciples of Christ, we go forth within our communities to serve, care for, and share with all the hope of the Gospel.

Because we serve God, we serve others.

Through our community of God loving Christ followers, we strive to change lives through our fellowship and outreach.

Outreach:

Next Outreach Committee last meeting was Wednesday, November 29th, at 1:00 pm.

The committee discussed they would like to continue having fellowship Sunday every 4th Sunday and having the potluck on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Congregational News

Dells-Delton Methodist Church - Administrative Council Meeting 10 December 2023, 12:00 pm

Outreach:

There is a free Pancake Breakfast on January 20th, 2024, as a joint effort with Bridgepoint Church from 8-11 am. Tim will talk to Father Michael to see if Holy Cross would like to be part of the breakfast.

The committee did develop a comprehensive list of the different organizations we contribute to. Most all the organizations are the same as in past years, there is one or two different organizations.

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

Outreach will send the designated \$25/month to the Reedsburg Christian radio station. These funds will come out of the General Funds.

Finance:

Sue presented the 2024 budget. We will be operating in the red next year.

Reverend Lee noted the 2023 budget indicated we would be operating in the red for this year also.

Bob Pendleton recommend we no longer order the large print of the Upper Room. Wendy will look for a phone number to take care of this.

We agreed as a body to support the GMC Ethiopian with \$25/month.

Two checks will be written to the Great Lakes Region GMC and then the GMC for \$140.00 for the entire the entire year.

2024 fees for the Regional GMC are \$614.00.

2024 fees for GMC are \$1845.00.

Building Corporation Board:

Much discussion took place about what the Episcopalians want for monitor covers. Reverend Lee will have another discussion with Father Michaels.

Linda Scott is going to get the new dishwasher racks ordered.

Worship Committee:

Shirley needs candle lighters and readers for the advent candle.

DDWF

Tuesday afternoon this month the checking account will be switched over to the new DDWF group.

Lisa Helms has agreed to be the new treasurer.

Reverend Lee, Sue White, and Bonnie Stratton will hold the next meeting on Thursday, December 14th, at 3:30 pm at the Ringling Theater.

The 3rd Sunday this month the group is getting together for their Christmas lunch at the River's Edge.

Staff Parish Relations Council (SPRC):

No report

Reverend's Report:

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

Recommends there is a congregational approval of the budget.

The membership section of the by-laws is the only portion needing completion.

Reverend Lee will wear his robe on Christmas Eve.

End of meeting prayer: Reverend Lee

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.

Next Meeting for Dells-Delton Methodist Church Administration Council: January 14, 2024, after service.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Winter disappeared in a hurry!

It is funny that we expect there to be some stability in the weather. We know from experience that things are usually not what we expect, and the averages are what happens when you put all of the odd things together. There are very few days that seem to be average.

This seems to be true of our faith as well. We have extraordinary days of both strength and weakness, but very few that seem to be average. Our faith is usually moving us along through the challenges of the day, or we are completely unaware of the fact that God is travelling beside us. We remember on Sunday, but sometimes the busy in the week leaves us doing our things without thinking twice about our fellowship with Christ.

In just a few days we will be entering the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is coincidental with Valentine's Day this year, which is appropriate. Lent is a season of penance. A time of mourning and recognition of our condition. It is a very difficult time for us to grasp because we are an Easter people. I'm not saying we can't appreciate the sin problem we have, but the problem is that we know Easter all too well. We have been rescued and we have great hope, so it is a challenge for us to also lament. We know there is a problem and we know it will continually cause us grief, but we also know that God has already provided the remedy.

So maybe Lent is more of a celebration for us, yet we still mourn. The victory we enjoy has come at a terrible price; the death of Christ. Our God, the unchangeable and eternal Creator, had to send the Son from the throne room to a fallen world to die for us. The eternal God had to experience death to redeem His creation. Sometimes we forget the extraordinary nature of God's gift to us, and the intensity of His love for us.

This year we have a long February and Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day to help us remember that sometimes the extraordinary is what makes everything possible. As we remember Christ's temptation and prepare our hearts for the Easter resurrection, let's take a good look at the faith that has been entrusted to us. Remember that God has restored our fellowship with Him, so it is time for us to embrace all that He is offering us.

We will have our Lenten suppers and study on Wednesdays. This year we are coordinating with Holy Cross, so we may have more join us and more conversations, but it will still be a time of preparation. This Lent we should use the time as preparation: a time to renew and understand God's commitment to us, and our commitment to Him. Then we can celebrate Easter resurrection with the joy and hope we should have every day. To God be the glory.

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