

The Lily Pad



“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” Solomon 2:1



ARE YOU READY TO SPRING INTO RADICAL HOSPITALITY?

During the Main Street road construction, The West Bend Farmer’s Market will be moved to 6th Ave, Poplar Street and 5th Avenue for 2023! The No. 1 Farmer’s Market in Wisconsin, will surround the Heritage Towers & Washington County Historical Society, 320 5th Ave. West Bend, WI 53095.

Farmers’ markets serve not just as a place for buying fresh produce, but also as a place for people to connect as a community, build relationships and learn where food comes from.

The Fifth Ave. Trustees and Accountable Leadership Board are thrilled to develop and initiate an outreach ministry that will extend radical hospitality and welcome to the No. 1 Farmer’s Market in Wisconsin as they relocate right outside our church door from May 20th to October 21st. With dozens of local farmers and food producers, entertainment, educational programs, community organizations, local business, crafters and more, we can expect festive experiences and fun activities during the 22 Saturdays May through October.

When churches get involved in farmers markets, they minister to farmers as well as shoppers. “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37–38)

DOWNTOWN WEST BEND ASSOCIATION FARMERS' MARKET 2023

Every Saturday | 7:30am - 11:00am | May 20th - Oct. 21st
New Temporary Location ~ off Main Street
around The Heritage Tower Center
5th Ave, 6th Ave and Poplar
320 5th Avenue

Brought to you by Downtown West Bend Association The market was established in the early 80's and is one of the largest markets in the state. Our market features over 80 vendors featuring a variety of Foods and non Food items. The market includes prepared foods, artisans, & live entertainment throughout the streets of beautiful downtown West Bend.

Fresh Vegetables
Organic Vegetables
Prepared Foods
Fresh Fruit
Plants & Flowers
Soap & Lotions
Tea & Coffee
Jelly & Jams
Pickled & Canned Goods

Baked Goods
Honey
Soup
Wool
Meats
Cheese
Eggs
Dairy
Herbs
Spices

Live Music
Artisans & more

DOWNTOWN WEST BEND

www.downtownwestbend.com | 262.338.3909

This unique community venue will afford our church the opening to foster relationships between market vendors, patrons and our church. Meaningful relationships between farmers markets and faith communities (Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church) can connect farmers to new customers and to the community in general, while increasing consumers’ access to fresh healthy food and creating a closer connection to where that food comes from. For this rare season, the Fifth Ave. leadership is committed to build such relationships.

We are in need of passionate volunteers and key stakeholders to bring into this process. The key to successful outreach is getting **EVERYONE** on board. From staff members, church members (young and young in heart) and friends; it's important that everyone be aligned on the vision for the outreach ministry; as we serve our community and share the love of Christ through radical hospitality and welcoming.

Starting a new outreach ministry doesn't have to be frightening or unproductive. As disciples of Christ, this is what we are called to do:

‘Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ - Matthew 25:34 – 40

So, what does radical hospitality look like in practice? Radical hospitality is hospitality that goes beyond being friendly; it is welcoming guests with a warmth, openness, and authenticity that significantly exceeds expectations. It is intentional hospitality that surprises and delights people by making them feel noticed, giving them personal attention, and providing excellent follow-through. It is hospitality that makes guests feel so welcome they want to return again and again.

To consistently exceed guests' expectations, Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church, we'll likely have to adopt new behaviors — to go out of our comfort zone to make our guests feel comfortable and welcome. Radical hospitality creates a feeling of being comfortable, accepted, and valued — a memorable moment that people want to repeat. Friendliness is nice, but it doesn't really create a feeling that people will remember. Maya Angelou is often attributed with saying that “people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Guests will not come back to our church because of what we do but because of how we make them feel!

We have set our goals, **RADICAL HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME**, the next step is laying out the concrete activities that will enable us to achieve them.

Within the next two weeks, the leadership will identify two to four activities that will achieve these two goals: **RADICAL HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME** during the market season. The details and specific activities will be shared, but most importantly, we will have numerous opportunities within these 22 Saturdays in which each of you will be invited to share your talents and gifts as we welcome the community to 5th Avenue!

Our prayers of blessing on the entire West Bend Farmers Market enterprise on opening day (May 20th) freshly confirmed our hope for a mighty harvest of partnership and fellowship with Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church. Hosting the market on 5th Ave. — its organizers, vendors, entertainers, and customers affords our church an exceptional opportunity to genuinely serve, welcome and fellowship with our community.

Where can you volunteer and serve during this extraordinary outreach ministry...stay tuned!

REMEMBER: SUPPORT LOCAL, SHOP SMALL, DINE LOCAL!

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT DURING TIMES LIKE THIS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS.

A Mother's Day Reflection & Prayer

For those whose mothers and grandmothers are still alive - cherish them today. Hug and kiss them. Honor them. Thank them. For those whose mothers have gone home to the Lord, remember them. For all who bear the name Christian, the name of our eternal family, let us also honor the mother of Jesus on Mother's Day. Her maternal care for Jesus still embraces all those who are joined to Him, as members of His Body, by our new birth through Baptism. Moms are an expression of God's grace towards humanity

Let us ask the Lord to open our eyes, and our hearts, to more fully understand the great mystery and gift of the Church. The unity of the church is a testimony to the truth of the gospel. The church is, in fact, a family made by the gospel. The grace of God has come in and through Jesus to call all kinds of people to be reconciled to God—and to each other—so that we together magnify the Lord.

This is the eighth Mother's Day I have faced without a mother on earth. Early Tuesday morning, January 20, 2015, my beloved, virtuous, incredibly godly mother, Emma, passed away. When I commended her to the Lord, the grief I felt was only slightly relieved by the sure and certain faith I have in the triumph of agape love and the promise of the Resurrection.

Yet, when I received the first of numerous well intended e-mails and cards - on the days after her death - from colleagues and friends encouraging me that Mother was in the presence of the Lord - which I believe with my whole heart; I discovered that the

emotions surrounding her loss were and still even today are just below the surface, only too eager to erupt again and again and again.

Grief and love are companions. I often tell others during pastoral care, that the depth of grief is a sign of the depth of love; another face of love. Today, eight years later, I'm still speaking those words to myself. However, they do not take away the hurt and pain.

We acknowledge the fact that for many Mother's Day is a difficult day. Some may struggle with bitterness, anger, or guilt. Maybe their relationship with their mom was less than what God intended it to be.

Others still are haunted by the pain of infertility, miscarriage, or past abortion; or we think of those here who are single and would desire to be married and become mothers. For many in our midst, Mother's Day may feel like little more than a cruel reminder of loss and heartache. And far too often they suffer in silence. Because these situations are often private, their pain is often overlooked and forgotten.

The list goes on: Sometimes motherhood begins with unplanned or unexpected pregnancies – at times with fear, shame, or uncertainty. We can think of single mothers who may be raising children on their own. Grandmothers who, for a variety of reasons, may be raising their children's children. Mothers of children with disabilities, and any unique challenges or demands those circumstance may bring. There are undoubtedly a variety of stories represented by the readers. And all of our experiences are unique, with differing mixes of joy and difficulty.

And so, we experience Mother's Day with a certain level of inconsistency. As Paul says, we are a body. We consider ourselves, not as separate, isolated individuals, but as those connected to one another. When one part of the body hurts, we all hurt with them.

And so, Mother's Day is a day in which we practice Paul's exhortation to "rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." We hold up on the one hand the joys and blessing of motherhood. We thank God for our mothers, and show appreciation to our moms. Yet at the same time we show sympathy, care, and sensitivity to those for whom today is difficult.

As we do so, let's pray towards that end:

Loving God, on a day like today, we are simultaneously aware of the great gift you have given us in motherhood, and yet deeply grieved by the effects of sin upon it. We can hold these two together because we know that you have given us motherhood as something good; and yet things are not always the way you designed them to be. And so, we are joyous and thankful; and yet at the same time we embrace those who mourn.

God, we thank you for motherhood. We give you thanks for mothers and grandmothers who raised us well. We give you thanks for moms who were with us during hard times, for moms who prayed for us when we were wayward, and for moms who served us in ways that often went unnoticed.

For those here who themselves have had the privilege of being mom and grandmoms, we thank you for that gift. We thank you for the joy of being able to welcome a newborn baby into the world – of seeing their first steps, and hearing their first words. We thank you for the children you have put into their stewardship, and the privilege it is to raise them to follow you.

We also recognize those in our community here who experience pain and a sense of loss today. We think of those mothers or grandmothers whose circumstances may be difficult or trying. We think specifically of those who have lost mothers, for whom today may feel like an anniversary of their grief. We think of those who long to be mothers, but mourn the absence of new life within them; those who've conceived, but suffered loss through miscarriage or abortion; those who have given birth, but endured the tragedy of having to bury their own child. ***With them we cry, O Lord, how long must death get its way at the outset of life?***

But you, O God, have answered our cry. You have shown concern for our plight by sending your very Son. He himself bore our sorrows and is deeply acquainted with our grief. Because of his resurrection, death no longer has any sting. And so, when we grieve, we now grieve as those with hope. We await a new heaven and a new earth in which all pain and suffering will be undone.

We thank you for this hope in the name Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.



HAPPY DEMISEMISEPTCENTENNIAL (175TH) CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 23, 1848 - MAY 23, 2023

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."
-Maya Angelou



PASTOR CLARISSA & BRO. MARTIN