This article is featured in Circuit Rider:

It's a common question in United Methodist churches, posed by many a congregant to his or her pastor: "Why do we pay apportionments, again?"

Many local congregations simply dislike the apportionment system because it requires paying money from their accounts for programs that appear to produce little for them directly. At best, people simply don't know what causes they are supporting. Some United Methodists know but don't approve of some of the programs that are being funded. These programs, however, are those that the broader church approved at the Annual, Jurisdictional, or General Conference levels.

At worst, many United Methodists express concern that our boards and agencies are failing to hold themselves accountable. While I believe the general boards and agencies follow carefully the directives given to them, the perception of unaccountability still surfaces, caused in part by those rare instances when misappropriation does occur. Like many other things in our world, these are what make headlines, while well-managed and worthwhile projects go unreported.

Jesus is recorded in the Bible as saying in a variety of ways that the first shall be last and the last shall be first. The apportionment process encourages local churches to become involved in ministries to the least and the last, through ministries that extend beyond the local church. Congregations often desire to be first or even the greatest, forgetting that being the greatest means being a servant to others. Congregations I have served during my ministry are among the guilty. I can say, however, that we made progress in each church and I currently serve a congregation that has a long history of being faithful in paying their apportionments.

Bishop Paul Leeland of the Alabama-West Florida Conference prefers the term "missional giving" over "apportionments." Bishop Leeland is much closer to true the meaning of the concept, and reminds us of a powerful fact when he says, "So much of our missional giving—retirement homes, children's homes, colleges, camping ministry, evangelism, and retiree support—come through our local churches. I don't see any one church that could do all this for our conference by itself."

Consider the following benefits of apportionments:

Your congregation's apportionments help pay the cost for our United Methodist colleges and universities, with the hope that our students will become better educated and perhaps become faithful pastors and leaders within our churches. My own children received scholarships to attend a United Methodist college. That's missional giving!

Your apportionments help to afford care and support for children with AIDS, and to speak out against violence in the Middle East that is creating a new generation of orphans. Your apportionments are paying for teachers, pastors, and missionaries around the world—in Russia, Korea, and Africa, to name a few. The United Methodist Church is the only Protestant denomination allowed to maintain a permanent presence in Russia. The General Board of Discipleship's Upper Room division hosted the first ever Emmaus Walk in Russia in 2008. That's missional giving!
Africa and Korea are the fastest growing Christian communities in the world and the United Methodist Church has an active and visible presence in both of those locations. KumNon Methodist Church in South Korea is the largest Methodist congregation in the world with 112,000 members. This effort began thirteen short years ago, funded by World Service apportionments. Our funds to the World Methodist Council have made it possible for Wesleyan churches to be established in 132 countries. That's missional giving!

United Methodists gave $20.8 million to support victims of the 9/11 attacks. To date, 99% of the funds collected have been distributed with no administrative fees. The funds raised for Hurricane Katrina relief have aided 120,000 families. The 2004 tsunami relief effort was the largest ever by the United Methodist Church. That's missional giving!

When Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, FEMA realized that they were not prepared to deal with the ongoing process. They asked (first time in history) UMCOR to take over operations within Alabama because the United Methodist Church was the only denomination with the structure and resources to take on the task. That's missional giving! And that's why we pay apportionments!

Perhaps there is a better system than apportionment for the United Methodist Church, but I stand in awe at how God has used our denomination. Together, let's work to improve it and do everything in faith that God will continue to inspire and empower our Church.

Dr. Bob McKibben is from the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference and presently serves as Senior Pastor of the Marianna First United Methodist Church in Marianna, Florida.

God Bless,
Rev. Krystal Goodger

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Once again THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way for our host week of Family Promise. We started the week with 11 guests and ended with 8 guests. We are very grateful to all who helped to make the week a success. We were able to provide the guests with great food, a good place to relax and a warm place to sleep. This can only be done when you all “pitch in”. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!!

Our next host date will begin on Sunday, January 25th, 2015. We are still looking for new coordinators to take “the reins” starting in January. Maybe there are two people who would be willing to be co-coordinators. Again, Irv & Kay will walk the new coordinators through the first week and be available to stay on the team.

If you have any questions, please call Cases at 420-1004 or email iwcase@charter.net.

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All Saints Day

Sunday, Nov. 2nd, we will be honoring the loved ones our congregation has lost this year: Pastor Amos Shimko, Hubert Vickers, Sue Welch, Elmo Earleywine, Marjory Risum, Arnold Johnson, Mary Milks, Granada Laube, Alma Ross, and Margaret Gadow.

There will also be an opportunity to light a candle for anyone you have lost and wish to honor.

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Trustees Notes

The church is missing many pew bibles and grey song books. If you happen to know where any of them are please let the office know so they can be returned to the narthex. Thank you.

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for December newsletter articles is Sunday, November 16th. Thank you.
The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is:

- To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.
- To develop a creative supportive fellowship.
- To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

“World Thank Offering” November Mission Emphasis

Winona will present our program on Thursday, November 20th, at our 11:30 United Methodist Women’s meeting held in the Fellowship Hall. Following this emphasis, we will enjoy a choice of hot soups and bars for lunch with Betty, Diane, and Pat as hostesses.

The 2015 slate of officers will be presented, our pledge to the district will be approved, and additional mission gifts chosen. The 2014 mission pin will be presented during a Sunday worship service this month, too.

Thank you to all who have made mission giving so important to your faith journey. Your baking, working at bazaar events held at the Bank of Brodhead, and monthly offerings have made this possible. Thank you for your faithfulness, dear friends of the Brodhead United Methodist Women!

“Living Beyond Yourself” Beth Moore Study to Begin

The ten-month study of this Beth Moore program will kick off at our November Mustard Seed meeting on Saturday, November 8th, at 9 am in room 23. The scripture she will be reflecting upon is entitled Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23...

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

But...continue reading the next three verses. Wesley presents a compelling picture of what it looks like to have the Holy Spirit reign in our life. Just as you know an apple tree by the fruit on its limbs, this passage says that you know Christians when you see this “fruit” in their lives... these fruits are the essence of embodied Christianity.

Linda Gissing is our study guide for this first lesson entitled, Free at Last! The Nov assignment runs from page 9 through 29. A video accompanies each lesson. A few workbooks are still available for $15 each...please contact Mary (897-2399) for your copy and join us on this challenging journey.

“Pleasant View Christmas Gifts”

When the names of 13 Pleasant View residents are received in early November, you will have the opportunity of choosing a name for whom to buy a Christmas gift, along with $15 for each person. These wrapped gifts must be returned by the Sunday School room next to the Sanctuary by Sunday, November 30th, so they can be delivered to Pleasant View for distribution. Please watch your worship insert for details.

UMW executive committee will meet at the church, Sunday School room beside the Sanctuary, on Friday, October 31st, at 1 pm, to discuss and compose our 2015 Program Book.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet at the church, in the room at the top of the stairs, on November 5th, at 9:30. We are meeting on Wednesday because of elections on Tuesday. Betty Earleywine will lead us in discussing Lesson 6, from the book “More Troublesome Bible Passages”. Come and join us. Call Janice Davenport at 897-8386 if you want more information.

Sewing Circle

The sewing circle will meet Tuesday, November 11th, at 9:00 a.m. We will continue tying quilts for distribution to nursing homes at Christmas time. We can always use some extra help. Call Janice Davenport for information, at 897-8386.
THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!
You have stepped up and are doing amazing things! We appreciate all your efforts to make all of these programs work! From baking cookies, teaching, leading Bible Studies and Retreats, cleaning up after our messes, cutting out snowflakes, to leading Youth Groups- the list goes on and on. You are all appreciated and we couldn't do any of this without each of you! Please keep praying for our volunteers- we are blessed with a great group!

MOM’S DAY OUT!
Our next Mom’s Day Out will be November 8th from 10-3. Join us for some games, a craft, video, and lunch. This child care program is available the 2nd Saturday of every month and is open to the community. So, leave the kids to us and enjoy the afternoon!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
UNFROZEN is our wonderful Christmas Program this year! Parts have been sent home, music is being practiced, decorations are being made! Please be sure to attend Sunday School as much as possible this month so you can practice each week! There will be one Saturday rehearsal on December 13th from 9-10:30. The program will be Sunday December 14th at 9 am with a Cookie Hour afterward. You won't want to miss it.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA
6th-12th grade students are working hard at raising money for Imagine No Malaria. They will spend the morning of November 15th at a conference/fundraiser called ‘Don’t Bug Me’ at the Kalahari and enjoy the afternoon in the water park. Please be sure to support their efforts by donating at the display in the Library. Just $10 can save a life!

“MADE TO CRAVE”
'Made to Crave' is the new Bible Study being offered on Wednesdays through January. We are getting a jump start on those New Year’s Resolutions and working on filling our cravings with the love of a God who created us to crave more of Him! Join us! Sign up now!

“THE JOURNEY”
Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. Join us on this journey as we look at the actual road from Nazareth to Bethlehem and look closely at the characters of our nativity. Classes will be Mondays, starting on November 24th and running until December 22nd. We will have a 10am class and a 7pm class. The book is $15. Sign up today!

HELP WANTED
1/2 TIME SR YOUTH LEADER: We are looking to add 1 more person to our High School Youth Group. It would be an every other week commitment (with flexibility, of course!) on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS: We need a second person to help with several of our classrooms on Sunday mornings. No prep or teaching required, just hang out and help with the kiddos. Help needed from 2 year olds to high school - where ever you are most comfortable!

MOM’S DAY OUT: We are looking for some teenagers/adults who would like to add some community service to their resume! Preferably, sophomores and older to lead with 8th grade and freshmen helpers. Can be a one time commitment, or monthly.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: We are looking for some decorations that will be used for the Christmas program and/or VBS. We are in need to tulle (white or blue - sparkles encouraged, as many yards as we can get) and twinkle lights (white or blue) for Unfrozen and VBS. We will also need some Christmas trees for VBS in June...

Please contact the Christian Education Office or email christianedbumc@gmail.com for details and job descriptions!
IT’S FLU SEASON AND TIME TO GET THAT SHOT!!!

Influenza, more commonly known as the “flu”, is a virus that causes illness in the respiratory tract – the nose, throat, and lungs. There are many types of flu viruses that circulate in the community at any given time. Sometimes, flu can present as very mild and almost seems like a cold, while other times it can present as a severe illness that may lead to death.

During last year’s flu season (October 5, 2013 – August 23, 2014), a total of 4,645 people were confirmed to have influenza in Wisconsin. Of these, 1,778 people were hospitalized for influenza-associated illnesses. Of the people admitted to the hospital, 367 (20%) people needed intensive medical care, as the illness became life threatening. Wisconsin’s first cases for this year were identified in October.

Because the flu can be so dangerous, it is important that people take all necessary steps to prevent becoming infected with the influenza virus. The most important form of prevention is receiving the influenza vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age and older is able to get a flu shot (except for rare instances when there may be an allergy to the flu vaccine or a history of an underlying illness that may be negatively impacted by receiving the flu vaccine). Those who are young (0-4 years), the elderly (65+ years), and their caregivers should all be vaccinated to prevent severe influenza-associated illness. All others should be immunized as well so that there is not a widespread outbreak of the influenza. The more people immunized, the less people there are who are able to come down with the illness. For the farmers reading this, this is called “herd immunity”.

Besides getting the flu vaccine, it is important to maintain other precautions to avoid getting sick with the flu. It is important that individuals wash their hands frequently throughout the day, after using the restroom, coughing, sneezing, blowing their nose, etc. People should wash their hands after coming into contact with someone who is potentially sick with the flu. Besides hand washing, it is important to avoid touching the eyes, mouth, and nose. These are all ways that the flu virus can enter the body; so reducing the amount these body parts are touched by the hands will reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu.

Flu-like symptoms include: fever/chills, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (feeling very tired), vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Someone with the flu may not have all of these symptoms, however all people with the flu will develop a fever. People who have these symptoms should stay home for at least 5-7 days after becoming sick, as they can give the illness to others within that time period. People can also spread the illness 1 day before their symptoms begin.

Protect yourself and those you love this flu season by educating yourself and others and by getting your flu vaccine.

Ashley Klar, Student Nurse

and

Vicki Evenson, Parish Nurse

Brodhead Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, November 4th, 12-5pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (405 9th Ave Cty T & Hwy 104).
For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.
Use sponsor code: Brodhead.
Agrace Holiday Remembrance Program Helps People Cope with Grief

Agrace will host a Holiday Remembrance Program Sunday, Nov. 16, from 4-5pm. at the Agrace Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, 2901 N. Wright Road, Janesville. The program, which is open to the public, gives people an opportunity to honor loved ones who have died, and to learn ways to cope with grief during the upcoming holiday season. All are welcome to attend this free program, regardless of whether their loved one was served by Agrace.

As part of the program, Agrace staff will share coping skills and holiday rituals that attendees may use to honor and remember special people who have died. The program will include music, readings and a time for remembering loved ones. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one which will be displayed as the program honors their memory.

Following the program, there will be a social gathering with light refreshments. Pre-registration is not required; however, RSVP is requested by November 7 to Noelle at (608) 327-7118.

For more information about Agrace, call (608) 755-1871 or visit agrace.org.
If we have failed to list your name, or if we have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know so that we may correct our records.


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Lessons and Carols for Advent - Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 7:00pm

Midvale Community Lutheran Church 4329 Tokay Blvd., Madison
Presented by Bright Stars of Bethlehem in support of Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem, Palestine

Musicians and participants from over a half-dozen congregations in South-Central Wisconsin are preparing a special Advent experience that will bring our hearts to the Bethlehem of Jesus’ birth as well as to the Bethlehem of today. Hope is the theme of Advent, and in these perilous times our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land need our prayers and support. Through our songs, readings and donations, we will both experience hope and also share it with those who live in Jesus’ birthplace today. Don’t miss this meaningful event. If you wish to donate go to: www.brightstarsbethlehem.org/donate or send a check to BSB, PO Box 185, Mount Morris, IL 61054 and indicate "Madison event." All donations are tax deductible.
Our Beth Moore Women’s Retreat was held on Friday and Saturday October 17th and 18th. We had 19 ladies who attended and were blessed by Beth Moore’s wonderful message of how to love ourselves and others better. Thank you for your prayers and support!
Kim Johnson

Getting Ready for Family Promise
Pastor:       Krystal Goodger
Christian Ed: Danielle Jorgensen
Parish Nurse: Vicki Evenson
Custodian:   Denise Benton
Assist. Custodian: Jim Copus
Secretary:   Terri Braund

Sunday Worship Schedule
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
The worship service airs
Sunday at 11am on cable
channel 988