

The Parkview Epistle

Parkview United Methodist Church

236 Maple Street North, Turtle Lake, WI 54889

March 2021

Worship Hours

Sunday School -
9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship -
10:00 a.m.

parkviewumcturtlelake.com

Contact Information

Pastor Adam Woods

Office: 715-986-2467
Cell Phone: 608-513-2937
pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 64
Turtle Lake, WI 54889

*Have mercy on me,
O God, according to your
unfailing love;
according to your great
compassion blot out my
transgressions. Wash
away all my iniquity and
cleanse me from my sin.
Psalm 51:1-2*

Reflections from Pastor Adam

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

*“For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”*

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

Ezra 3:10-13

I certainly would not be the first faith leader to describe this past year of living through the COVID pandemic as a sort of exile. While, of course, our “exile” from normal life, routines and sense of safety is nothing like the Old Testament Babylonian and later Persian Exiles, our modern imagination and worldview now have a better capacity to feel for our Hebrew ancestors and their exilic experiences.

In the books of Ezra and Nehemiah we read of the Israelite’s return to Jerusalem after the Persian exile. In the passage above, we read about the foundation being laid for a new temple after the original one had been burned and destroyed about 50 years earlier. In other words, Ezra 3 is not a description of returning to normal routines, ways and life. Instead, this is a story about the complexity of entering a “new normal.”

I certainly am not the first person to describe the current time and near future as a “new normal.” And yet, perhaps we can hear this all-too-common phrase of “new normal” with a new capacity by reading Ezra 3, especially what it says in verse 13: “so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping.” On that first day of their new normal, as the foundation is laid for what will forever be a rebuilt temple, there is an indistinguishable mix of gratitude and sorrow, joyful shouts and mournful weeping.

I highly doubt that on March 21 as some of you resume worshipping with us in-person at 10:00am there will be a similar outward sound of simultaneous weeping by some and joyful

shouts by others. However, I am sure that inwardly you are all experiencing the oftentimes indistinguishable emotions of the new normal. We are filled with joy as we see glimpses of a post-pandemic world while we are also wracked with sorrow as we mourn the death of millions worldwide and many dear ones from our own community. We are filled with grief and anger over what was cancelled last year while we are eager for what we plan to do for the first time in a long time.

We have sacrificed so much, we have endured a lot, we have witnessed great suffering and we have gained more empathy toward those who endure exile. We weep inside.

And yet, we have seen God at work in surprising ways, we have discovered resiliency we didn't experience before, we have been in awe of the ways others have shown great love to those in need, and we have gained a deeper sense of gratitude for the things that really matter in life. We shout for joy!

As the foundation for the new normal is being laid out before us and by us, let us embrace the emotions and reactions we feel. All of them. And let us sing responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever and who has, is and will forever be with us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Adam

Time to Say Thank You

The past couple years have been filled with challenges for Parkview United Methodist, as we've gone through a series of pastoral changes and the Covid-19 virus. With in-person church starting back up this Sunday and better times ahead of us, I'd like to say thank you to some of the people who have helped us continue our mission of, "Growing in our faith and reaching out in God's love," during these difficult times.

Unfortunately, I cannot thank everyone because our church is filled with giving people. Please do not feel slighted if I don't personally mention your name. Each of you is recognized by our Lord and Savior, as well as by myself and others for your contributions. Without you, our church would not be the beacon of God's love we see each time we gather, either in person or on zoom.

I would like to quickly thank the Methodist Women, however, for their efforts to spread the word of our church and God's love through the recent food drive and our Valentines drive-by. I also want to thank Jeff and Diane Hoffmann for their continual behind the scenes work, both spiritually and physically, to maintain our building and do what ever is needed whenever duties call.

I salute those who have stepped up to read scriptures, play piano and sing for our zoom services. You were there when the church asked for help. I also marvel at how Dennis Zemke has worked with our detailed financial records and done the work necessary to help us to gain assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program and how other members of our Administrative Council have helped carry on the duties that have kept Parkview running smoothly.

Pastor Sunday Adelaja once said, ""God wants every member of the Body of Christ to be a blessing one to another; that's why, everyone has to be involved in a ministry." I believe he must have been referring to the Parkview Church family.

Mark R. Fuller
AD Council Chair

New Option for Sunday Worship

Starting on March 21 you have another way to be involved in Sunday 10am worship: live and in person at church! Of course, will continue to follow standard pandemic precautions (keeping social distance, washing/sanitizing our hands frequently, staying home if we or someone in our household is sick, and wearing proper-fitting masks). We will also continue to offer Zoom worship access, a video version posted to Facebook and our church website and a radio broadcast to 89.5FM for those who want to see one another during fellowship time but would rather remain in their vehicle in the parking lot during worship.

The Zoom access information has not changed and will remain the same. From the website [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) click "Join A Meeting", enter Meeting ID 715 986 2467 and passcode 54889. From a landline or cell phone call 1-312-626-6799, then enter the Meeting ID and passcode.

During the prelude (around 9:55am) the Zoom meeting will start. Zoom worship participants will be able to hear and/or see the entire worship service, including the lifting up of personal joys and concerns. During the opening song, the Facebook Live feed will begin (around 10:10/10:15). The Facebook Live feed will be kept as a video that you can access throughout the week as well.

If you and your family do wish to resume in-person attendance please be aware of a few things.

- 1) The pews on the right side as you enter the Sanctuary will have worship bulletins set in place to mark safe social distance between households. The left side as you enter the Sanctuary will have unmarked pews. We ask that those who have received the full dose of the vaccine and have reached the full immunity point (typically two weeks after the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer and two to four weeks after J&J) sit on the left side.

In other words, right-side pews are set up for those who do not yet have relative immunity to COVID and should remain socially distanced. Left-side pews are for those who can sit closer together due to their vaccine-based immunity.

- 2) We will not be passing around the offering plate. Instead the plate and offering envelopes will be at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please deposit your offering as you enter the Sanctuary for worship since during the Offering of our Gifts and Selves we will be bringing the plate forward and praying over the financial offerings we have made.
- 3) Dress for the weather. Fellowship and visiting will need to take place outside where there is natural air flow and a much lower chance of spreading germs to one another. Plus, this will allow folks who join us for parking lot worship to visit with those who attend indoors.
- 4) There is additional seating in the fellowship hall available as both overflow if the Sanctuary is getting too full as well as an option for anyone who feels uncomfortable worshipping in the Sanctuary yet wants to be in the church.

For more information you can watch the video "[A Summary and Illustration of In-Person Worship at Parkview](#)" which is under "Announcements" on our church website: www.parkviewumcturtlelake.com.

What the United Methodist world-wide General Conference Means for Parkview United Methodist Church

For years now, there has been rumors and signs that The United Methodist Church is likely to separate into denominations that will have different stances toward same-sex marriage and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, genderqueer, intersex, agender and asexual (LGBTQIA+) clergy and bishops. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the worldwide gathering of United Methodists called the General Conference was going to vote on a plan that would separate the denomination. Due to the ongoing pandemic, however, the General Conference gathering has been officially postponed until August 2022.

What does a world-wide debate in our denomination mean for a local church like Parkview? At this point, we do not know for certain. However, if the General Conference meeting in 2022 does approve a plan to form a new denomination then local churches will have the opportunity to align with the Methodist denomination that best serves their missional identity and culture.

To prepare Parkview for the post-General Conference state of the denomination, I have several opportunities I would like all Parkview members, constituents, and friends to engage in.

First is to read over a summary of the current debate and state of division in our church that I wrote and have posted to our church website. You can find this summary by going to www.parkviewumcturtlelake.com, clicking on "The Parkview Epistle Newsletter" tab on the left-hand side and opening the document called "[Special Edition: What does the world-wide General Conference of The United Methodist Church mean for Parkview](#)". If you are reading this newsletter electronically, you can click on any of the underlined phrases to go directly to those webpages.

Second, I would like everyone to plan on attending two small group studies at some point over the next year and a half. The first is to take several weeks and consider the similarities and difference between *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* and *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines of the Global Methodist Church*. My goal is to help you all better understand your current denomination and see how it would be similar and different from the Global Methodist Church.

The second forum is a Bible study called Faithful and Inclusive: the Bible, Sexuality, and The United Methodist Church. The study is led by Rev. Rob Fuquay who pastors a large United Methodist Church in Indiana. The spirit behind this study is to help those who are not supportive of same-sex weddings or LGBTQIA+ clergy to gain insights into how fellow members of the Body of Christ, this denomination and this congregation can hold the opposite stance. Likewise, for those who are open and affirming toward LGBTQIA+ individuals, this study is an invitation to think more critically and theologically about why you hold that stance as a Christian.

I would like to begin offering these small group studies (each will take 6 weeks) starting in May. My hope is over the next 18 months to offer each of these forums at least several times to ensure that everyone has a chance to attend and participate.

I am fully aware that going through both of these small group studies will possibly have no change on individual views and positions, and that's okay. My deepest prayer as your pastor is that by actively and fully participating in these small group studies we all will better understand one another and can remain in Christian love toward each other no matter what happens in 2022.

As members of the Body of Christ and part of the Parkview congregation, we owe it to one another to be in authentic dialogue despite our differences, to remain committed to loving each other through devise times and to remember that we are each others' family members, neighbors and friends who will continue to live with and alongside one another this year, next year, and beyond.

Holy Week Opportunities

- **Palm Sunday (March 28):** 10am worship offered in-person, through Zoom and on our church website and Facebook page.
- **Morning scripture, prayer, and devotion phone messages:** Just as Hospitality chair Sheila and Pastor Adam have been doing all throughout Lent, everyone on the Parkview Phone Tree/Prayer Chain will receive a morning message during Holy Week. If you have not been receiving these daily messages during Lent, please contact the church at 715-986-2467 or email pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com.
- **Maundy Thursday (April 1):** A worship service with Holy Communion at 7pm offered in-person at church.
- **Good Friday (April 2):** A Service of Scripture and Reflection. At 12 noon, 3pm and 6pm the Passion narrative from John will be read. Worshippers are then invited to remain in the Sanctuary after the reading for a time of personal reflection and silent prayer. The noon, 3pm and 6pm readings will also be offered through Zoom and Facebook Live if you need to remain at home.
- **Easter Sunday (April 4):** 10am worship offered in-person, through Zoom and on our church website and Facebook page. *Depending on how in-person attendance is during our first two Sundays with the option of in-person worship (March 21 and 28) we may plan to have two worship services on Easter. Be sure to stay tuned for announcements via email, the Phone Tree/Prayer Chain, Facebook and the church website.*

Pastor Adam's Upcoming Vacation

Following Easter worship on April 4 and through Monday, April 12 Laurie and I will be taking vacation. There will be worship on Sunday, April 11 which you can attend in person or online. During my vacation time, please be in touch with Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair Tom Becker (715-641-1763) if you are in need of pastoral support. He will then reach out to the other United Methodist pastors in our area who are happy to help and support if needed while I am away.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March

10 Emmaline Bergmann
 11 Dale Nygaard
 12 Jeanie Brunner
 13 Sharon White
 Brett Hansen
 Ed Hougdahl
 15 Cordell Hiemstra
 17 Reese Hansen
 21 Dennis & Joy Waalen Ann.
 22 Bryan & Tara Hansen Ann.
 23 Eli Bergmann
 25 Joshua Bauer
 Kathi Zemke
 26 Addie Freer
 29 Sara Mattson
 30 LuAnn Outcalt
 Bonnie Knight

April

1 Kent Paulson
 2 Adam Hansen
 3 Jake Mrdutt
 5 Kirstin Warner
 9 Eric Solum
 10 Molly Becker
 Thomas Bergmann, Jr.
 12 Pastor Adam Woods
 Joy Stevens
 14 Tim Mrdutt
 Bernice Grathwohl
 16 Camden Hansen
 20 Jeff Heintz
 21 Ivanna Bergmann
 22 Nicholaus Betz
 23 Erik Bauer
 24 Teaghan Hansen
 27 Gary Solum
 29 Ray & Ruby Nykanen, Ann.
 30 Toni Monforton

May

2 Dayne Nygaard	10 Norman Broten	22 Rodney Turcotte
3 Steve Benes	Anna Jenkinson	24 BreAnnaa Morton
5 Harry Jeska	15 Chase Turcotte	Shawn & Nell
6 Pastor Adam &	Justin Austad	Schradle, Ann.
Laurie Ann.	Jeff Young	25 Nettie Benes
9 Camden Davis	17 Nell Schradle	26 Michael Molls
Tyler Waalen	Brandon Waalen	29 Dennis Waalen
Jeff & Sarah	21 Brandy Turcotte	
Heintz, Ann.	Renee Nykanen	
	Cassandra Higgenbottom	

March 14 - Daylight Savings
Time

March 28 - Palm Sunday

April 1 - April Fools Day

April 2 - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter

April 15 - Tax Day

April 22 - Earth Day

May 9 - Mother's Day

May 31 - Memorial Day

Peek Into Parkview's Past

Does anyone remember what was going on when this picture was snapped during Vacation Bible School in 2018?



**A Call
to Prayer
& Self-Denial**

**Llamado
a la Oración
y el Sacrificio**

**기도와
절제의 날 2021**



SHE LEADS
EMPOWERING WOMEN
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As women created in God's image and rooted in God's power, we open our hearts, extend our hands and give of ourselves and our offerings prayerfully and generously. May we deny our own way to make room for God's way, empowered to bring home community transformation. Through Christ who calls us. Amen.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) of Parkview invite everyone to join them as they participate in this denomination-wide UMW campaign.

Financial gifts offered in the envelopes at church labelled "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial" or checks with "UMW She Leads" in the memo line will go toward a giving fund controlled by the Parkview UMW. The funds we raise over the next few weeks will go to support programs in our local area serving and empowering women, children and youth.

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