



July 30, 2023

First United Methodist Church

615 Broadway St. Baraboo, WI 53913

Phone: (608) 356-3991 Email: fumc@baraboomc.org

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9am – 2pm

Rev. Cathy Christman Cell Phone: (231) 342-3728

Email: pastor@baraboomc.org

Online Worship at 9:00am. Sunday

In-Person Worship at 10:30am. Sunday

Children's Sunday School & Adult Study Class on Summer Break



Sunday, 7/30/23
Christmas Dinner Offering
Special Preacher, Drew Bromley



Dear Friends,

This has been an interesting week. I've been so grateful for those who have reached out in response to the protest we experienced on Sunday morning after our in-person worship. Thank you for your care, your witness, and your love.

In case you missed it, Baraboo First UMC and Baraboo First Congregational were verbally attacked on Sunday morning as our worship services concluded. 3 protesters from an organization (that doesn't appear to be local) were on the public sidewalk shouting accusatory words, biblical gibberish, and hate towards women, LGBTQIA+ siblings in faith, and towards the institutional church. It was jarring, scary, and painful. This noise was awful, as we had just concluded a beautiful service about love. The next day, on Monday night, these same people and some local persons were protesting an event at the Al Ringling Brewery right next door. It was a hard couple of days.

This week, I have been replaying these events in my mind. What would I have done differently? What could I have done to diffuse this? What should I have done in response to this injustice?

The responses to those questions are different for each of us. It does not mean the responses are wrong. My priority at the moment was personal safety. I am livid that these people violated that sense of safety for our people in this sacred space. We have worked hard to be a welcoming and affirming congregation. What can we do to continue that and grow into that identity even more?

A small part of me wanted to be the one confronting the people - joining the yelling and telling them they are wrong for what they are doing. The bigger part of me cringes at confrontation like that. I did not want to engage with them as it would have been more fodder for their fire.

Where do we go from here?

Civil unrest/protests are found throughout all of Scripture. They are used to make a point clear, and create a catalyst for change. When the norm around you is chaos, hate, ignorance, the civil unrest/protest needs to look like the opposite. For our faith, that is speaking life, giving words, working diligently for peace, acting in love, and educating ourselves and our community on how to foster healthy change. When we speak life, give freely, breathe peace and act in love, we are doing our kingdom building work that we pray for each and every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. Our faithful civil unrest looks so absurd in the face of the world, that people must recognize faithful action is different from hateful reaction. Love will be our grounding and our guide.

I hope to hear from more of you as you discern where God is leading you in response to this past weekend. I hope

you're eager more than ever to come and fill your cup with us in worship! We are better together, in community. If you are feeling nervous, unsafe, anxious about this experience, let's talk. What can we do to restore that sense of peace and safety?

Peace,
Pastor Cathy

People on our prayer list:

Joe Kimmel	George Burgess	Ellie Kennedy
Jim Kieffer	Jean Krueger	Ronni Verboom
Cam Kennedy	Gilles Verboom	John Taapken
Marilyn Hatfield	Janell Miller	
Larry McCoy	Fran Wilson	

Youth Events**August 6**

Afternoon at the lake with the Kells-

Watch for specifics in your email!!

3:00pm – 7:00pm (rain date: 8/20)

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**This week:**

July 31	Leon Miller
July 31	Janice Taylor
August 3	Shawn Elsner
August 4	Abbyjo Prieve
August 5	Ann Renn
August 5	Ben Shrake

Next Week:

August 7	John Ellington
August 8	Greg Martin
August 11	Diana Fox

Honor Flight Needs Your Blessings with "Mail Call"

We have a veteran church member who is going on an honor flight this fall. There is an opportunity to bless him with a "mail call."

They need to be mailed to "George Burgess" at his son's address: N2692 Grove Rd., Lodi WI 53555. Please have these in the mail before September 10.

Samples of your letters are below:

"We are proud of your service, and we say thank you with all our hearts."

"Thank you, George, for serving your country and for the sacrifices you endured as a soldier."

"Thank you for standing in our defense at a time when our personal freedom, our very way of life, was in serious jeopardy. Because of sacrifices by you and your Armed Forces colleagues, our country remains strong and free."

"We love you, and thanks again for giving of yourself for our freedom today."

"We admire you for your strong faith in God, joy of life, kindness, love for others and, of course, your wonderful sense of humor."

"You have done so much in your life, and now you can add this special Honor Flight to your list."

"We truly appreciate what you did for us and our country. We love you!"

"Thanks for your kindness, gentleness, and wonderful sense of humor."

"Thank you for the service you gave to our country and the protection you helped provide so that we all are able to live in a free country."

"I want to offer thanks for your service and for the life you provided to your family afterward. Enjoy this honor today."

"I'm proud to commend you for your service to your country and happy to hear you'll be going to Washington, D.C."

"Enjoy your trip, and I hope you get to see some of your old buddies."

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW HE'S GOING TO FEEL RECEIVING ALL YOUR "MAIL CALLS"? SO EXCITING.

(7/23/23)

UWF Updates by Janet Brice

The Mission U gathering that our unit hosted this weekend was a great success. Our guests were so appreciative and said things like, "We were treated like queens," "This is a perfect host church," "You have a good team". AMEN TO THAT!

BIG THANKS TO:

Alice Schellenberger who staffed the A-V booth, made arrangements with the city for parking, schlepped tables, tidied the rooms, helped serve meals, helped prep the communion elements, etc. etc. The table schlepping was a big job. They wanted every table we had and Alice even brought a couple from home.

Kandie Beckwith who worked with Alice to get the rooms tidied and set up and ordered the croissants for the sandwiches.

Rajeane Bender helped with menu planning, ordered food, did a lot of the shopping, and a lot of the food prep including cooking the spaghetti, helped with communion prep, etc. etc. Oh! And sat at the top of the stairs after the session in the sanctuary started to greet the late comers and keep an eye on things.

Diana Fox helped with menu planning and shopping.

Keri Olson, Brenda Schick, and Sandy Jackson helped Rajeane and me set the tables, serve the food, and clean up for the lunch shift. Keri also took a few photos. Sandy came back to clean up after the supper shift and brought along her able assistant, Jerry.

Peggy Bonnell and Pastor Cathy joined me and Rajeane to prepare and serve supper. Tim O'Keefe joined us a little later and was very popular with the guests when he served the sherbet.

We all worked on clean up and it went quickly. Many hands make light work. (They don't make up those expressions for nothing).

Pastor Cathy served communion and was the hostess with the mostess.

Mike Pullen got all the A-V needs organized and set up before leaving for Virginia. He had to wrestle with a screen in the fellowship hall. We appreciate his talents and willingness to work with us.

Tim came back on Saturday and assisted our custodian Josiah Finklea tidying up and schlepping tables and chairs. Because of the potluck today, there wasn't quite so much schlepping necessary. They left a lot of the tables in place.

I apologize if I forgot anyone. Your efforts were very much appreciated.

I'm so pleased at how well it went. Thursday was hectic while they were getting set up and organized and asking for help with this, that, and the other thing. And LOTS of tables. Friday and Saturday hummed along pretty well.

It's been an honor to host these events the past couple of years but we hope this is it for a while.

Pen Pals:

In addition to our at-home members, we have "pen pals". These are members who live out of town. We send them cards when we do our at-home member projects.

The list includes Pat Carlson, Vera Lowery, and Ellie Kennedy. Rosemary Herndon and Lou Ann Ward have recently moved out of town to be near family. Laurie Willhouse moved to California a few years ago but is still connected with our church community.

Would anyone be interested in writing to them? Let me know and I'll send addresses.

Cookie Project for At-Home Members

How about a summer cookie project for the at-home members? I have some great recipes using cake mixes and a minimum of ingredients. We could get together someday and bake them. Barb has provided darling cards. I have a supply of white paper lunch bags if someone would like to decorate them. Anyone interested, let me know.
(7/23/23)

Administrative Council & Finance Meeting

The Administrative Council and Finance Committees held a joint meeting on Wednesday, July 19th. A six month financial report, which gave an optimistic picture of Members and Friends giving, was presented.

The Love In Action Committee was granted a request for \$750 annually for two years from the Program Development Fund to support a 'Sauk County Pride' initiative.

An Accountable Leadership Board 'Guiding Principles' draft document was reviewed.

Goal Setting for 2024-2025 was set in motion. (7/23/23)

For everyone out there!!

Tim O'Keefe has a new email.

(7/23/23)

timokeefe867@gmail.com

If you have him in any of your address books, please make sure you change it to the one above. The other ones he had are no longer in service. Thank you.



**American
Red Cross**

Baraboo Community Blood Drive

St Paul's Lutheran Church
727 8th St.

Friday, August 18th

11:00am - 5:00pm

For appointment call: 1-800-733-2767

Or visit:

RedCrossBlood.org

Sponsor Code: Baraboo

All presenting donors will be entered for a chance to win a Summer Fun Grill Package including:

- Wireless Bluetooth Portable Travel Speaker**
- 60qt. Wheeled Insulated Portable Cooler**
- Standup Propane Gas Grill**

Value: \$325 (not redeemable for cash)
(7/30/23)

THIS WEEK AT FUMC

Sunday.....
.....July 30

9:00am Online Worship with Rev. Cathy
 10:30am In-Sanctuary Worship with Rev. Cathy
 Christmas Dinner Offering
 Guest Preacher: Drew Bromley

Monday.....
.....July 31

6:00pm Card Class

Tuesday.....
.....August 1

9:30 Oak Park Place
 9:30 UWF Executive Board Meeting
 2:30pm Neighborly Free Store (Lower Level)

Wednesday (Office Hours: 9am - 2pm).....August 2

Thursday (Office Hours: 9am - 2pm).....August 3

Friday(Pastor's Sabbath Day).....August 4

6:30am Friday Discussion Group (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday.....
.....August 5

NEXT WEEK AT FUMC

Sunday.....
.....August 6

9:00am Online Worship with Rev. Cathy
 10:30am In-Sanctuary Worship with Rev. Cathy
 3:00pm - 7:00pm (rain date: 8/20)
 Children/Youth afternoon at the lake with the Kells

Monday.....
.....August 7

6:30pm SPRC

Tuesday (Office Hours: 9am - 2pm).....August 8

2:30pm Neighborly Free Store (Lower Level)
 7:00pm Love In Action Committee

Wednesday (Office Hours: 9am - 2pm).....August 9

Thursday (Office Hours: 9am - 2pm).....August 10

Friday (Pastor's Sabbath Day).....August 11

6:30am Friday Discussion Group

Saturday.....
.....August 12

(7/30/23)





FREE LUNCH



Mon - Fri
11:30am - 12:30pm **ALL AGES WELCOME**
July 24th - Aug 31st

First Presbyterian Church
416 Ash St
Baraboo

Our church was invited to help provide lunches for the Baraboo community during the six weeks that the school district does not have a lunch program. The meals are served at the First Presbyterian Church. The FUMC is responsible for Wednesday meals. Today we served 43 meals. As the word spreads, that number will grow. Thank you to Marcia Everts, Kris Statz and Pizza Ranch for helping with today's lunch!!! If you would like to help serve or donate cookies/bars please [text Brenda Schick at 608-963-5201](tel:608-963-5201). Thank You!!! (7/30/23)

Christmas in July
Emmanuel With Us
All Year Long
Christmas Dinner Special
Giving Opportunity



 Baraboo First UMC

Christmas Dinner Special Giving Opportunity

Christmas dinner, wherever you find yourself on December 25, is a special occasion. Baraboo First UMC has a tradition of providing a meal on Christmas Day for all who may be in need - in need of a meal, of company, of fellowship. It is a day to celebrate Emmanuel - God With Us, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the past, people have volunteered as a family, in memory of loved ones, and simply to make this holiday special for others. It is the season of giving after all! Our fellowship hall (and anywhere anyone can sit) fills with people feasting, conversing and sharing in the spirit of the season during the meal. The volunteers create special bonds also that make this event even more meaningful. This Christmas Family grows each year.

The Christmas dinner is everything that embodies our Wesleyan value of doing all the good you can.

For 2023, we have a new coordinator for our meal - Wendy Collins. In thanksgiving for her leadership, and in praise for this tradition, you are invited to be a part of our Christmas Dinner by celebrating Christmas in July - Emmanuel with Us All Year Long. You will find a green envelope with this invitation. Please consider a financial gift towards this meal. Your gift can be returned via the FUMC offering plate or through the FUMC church office. Please make sure it is marked: Christmas Dinner. Thank you, Wendy, for saying yes to leading in 2023. Thank you Baraboo First UMC and our surrounding community for your love and support. Merry Christmas! Joy to the World!

After the incident at the church last Sunday, Janet submitted this poem she had written back in 2004, but which is very prevalent today. Enjoy!

WHO TO BELIEVE?

She tells me my beliefs are wrong.
She's a true believer, her cause
is strong.
I'd better repent before it's too late.
Or no one can guarantee my fate.

He says his church is the way to go
Because the Bible tells us so.
He says my church is telling lies
If they say it tells us otherwise.

Still others strive to save my neck
So I won't be burning up in heck.
I'd better change what I do and say
To save my soul. It's the only way.

I'm sure you understand my plight.
Everybody thinks they're right.
Everybody thinks I'm wrong.
My prayers don't count nor does
my song.

They've all made it their urgent goal
To rescue me from shoveling coal.
But since even none of them agree,
I'll just leave it between God and me.

Janet K. Brice (2004)





<https://quotesgram.com/funny-humidity-quotes/>
