



Fennimore
Stitzer
United
Methodist
Church

1450 Second Street
Fennimore, WI 53809

January and February 2025
Newsletter

*January and
February 2025*

NEWSLETTER



Our Call as Disciples of Jesus Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we are advancing in the history of humankind, the problems we are facing in our society today have increased every single day. We have so many social, political, religious and family conflicts that for some of us, those issues have no easy solutions. It is the job, however, of the government and politicians, educators and religious leaders to bring us solutions to the issues we are confronting in the world today, but it is also the job and effort of every citizen to work in collaboration with other organizations to make this world a better place for our children and for our children's children. We need to appeal to the goodwill of the people to put aside individual agendas, personal interests and even our own ego, so we can work together to create a better world for future generations.

There is no doubt that we have a common enemy, which is ignorance. This form of evil floats in society, in family, government, churches and organizations that always rise against the common good, while others work hard to move forward in reaching the common

good in any giving society, country, church or organization. These evil forces could be defined not only as ignorance, but as egotism, personal agenda, discomfort, intolerance, disagreement, and the idea that we can stand alone as an island, as well.

In today's world, the crises that we have been facing during the last two and a half decades is affecting all the inhabitants of our planet earth and needs individual collaboration. The sharing of intellectual and financial resources and ideas will lead humanity to prolong life on planet earth, rather than working for the destruction of all forms of life in our habitat. In all areas of knowledge, art, science, sports, sociology, psychology, and political science where we have human association, the collaboration of every individual is vital to preserve human dignity throughout society.

We need to be aware that in all of these areas of knowledge mentioned above, whenever a group of people come together and want to carry out their on mission, those who work in a team approach will be able to successfully accomplish whatever they set their minds to do. A nation could stand united and defeat their obstacles and enemies whenever they find a leader who puts the priorities of the nation first, rather than their own personal agenda. The same thing is true when church members or a sports team finds a pastor or a coach that will lead the 'team' to victory after victory. They need to work together for the common good of the team, setting aside any issues that divide them or are preventing them from working together toward reaching the common goals that will lead the team, the church, the nations or a company to success. Otherwise, they will be defeated.

Fennimore and Stitzer UMCs are two congregations that have faced many challenges since their foundations and most recently after the General Conference of 2024. I am sure that we are going to face many other

challenges in the near future. But we need to remember that the 'captain' who is leading our congregation to a safe arrival at our final destination is none other than Jesus Christ! We are called to work together as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave instruction to his disciples, so that when we reach our final destination we can be rewarded with the crown of life. In the meantime, Jesus is calling us to unify our efforts, our faith and our ministry so we can learn and teach others the way of the Lord. We are to be faithful to the call of our vocation, which will allow us to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of all the nations in the world.

The following steps are essential: God calls us to the fellowship of believers. There we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and then we receive training from the church leaders to develop those gifts. When we are prepared and ready, we are sent into the world to call others and make them disciples of Jesus so they can be incorporated through Christian Baptism and Confirmation into the life of the church. It is a continuous process that needs to be repeated over and over again until the Lord calls us to his presence.

Since the beginning of the Christian church, the followers of the Lord have been working at making disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ. They were in the midst of many conflicts, persecutions and martyrdom. Witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ is synonymous with becoming a martyr of the Christian faith. A martyr is someone willing and ready to die for sharing the truth about God and Jesus Christ. A disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ always places the task of the gospel first.

Final note: Please protect yourself from this cold weather, but even more important than that it is to protect ourselves from the cold religion that paralyzes us from meeting every week for worship, communion, and Bible study. Fight against the type of cold that paralyzes

Christians and those who are not yet Christians from responding to the will of God.

Let us pray... *Lord, I pray for your body the Church, that you may remove from us everything that freezes our body and mind from serving you. Lord, helps us to be more effective in our vocation and ministry. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.*

Celebrate love this February!

In Christ,

Pastor Rey Diaz

Sunday Schedule

Fennimore: Worship at 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM
Christian Education (Ages 3 to Grade 6): 9:15 AM
at Fennimore UMC

Confirmation: 7:15 PM at Fennimore UMC

Stitzer: Worship at 10:30 AM

FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Welcome 2025

January and February

Article by Kim Cathman

We have to ask if your New Year Resolutions still stand? If they are going strong or have went down the tubes ... be thankful that each new day gives us another chance to begin fresh!

Dear Lord, thank you for this new day you have given me. Today, please help me to focus on what is right instead of all that is wrong. Help me to change what I can, and leave everything else in your hands. May your joy be my strength and your peace fill my heart.

So, you don't have to keep those resolutions all year! Think about keeping them one day at a time.

NEWS

United Women in Faith ended 2024 with a Potluck and distribution of our Cheer boxes and gifts for those in care facilities. It's a night of fellowship we look forward to every year. We actually gave out 21 Singles and 15 Doubles, plus 11 Care Facility gifts.

In addition, we sent gift cards to those members who are too far away to deliver to. And a couple of members went shopping for folks from the "Angel Tree". These are missions we love to end the year with. God Bless all the ladies who made this possible!

We have received many cards of Thanks and many in person Thank Yous, and we post them on the bulletin board.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 26th at 6:00 PM at the church. Please join us as we map out our year.

FUN FACTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

- January and February are typically the coldest months in the Northern Hemisphere, depending on location.
- January typically has the second-highest average snowfall of any month in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, following February.
- **Wisconsin's record low temperatures in January have been as low as -37° F in Lewisburg in 1917 and -23° F in Sparta in 2024.**
- **The state's record snowfall in January has been 40.4 inches in Madison in December 2008.**
- The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Northern Hemisphere (-67.7°C/-89.9°F) was documented in January 1885 in Verkhoyansk, Russia. However, the lowest temperature ever recorded on Earth (-128.6°F/-89.2°C) was in Antarctica on July 21, 1983.

- The Southern Hemisphere experiences summer during January.

FULL MOONS

- The January Wolf Moon was full on the 13th of the month and it was huge and bright. I hope you were able to view it.
- February's Snow Moon is on the 12th. Love Moon for the month would be a more fitting name, but I'm not in charge of that!

The rest of 2025 are:

March: Worm Moon on the 14th
April: Pink Moon on the 12th
May: Flower Moon is the 12th
June: Strawberry Moon on the 11th
July: Buck Moon on the 10th
August: Sturgeon Moon on the 9th
September: Corn Moon is on the 7th
October: Harvest Moon on the 6th
November: Beaver Moon on the 5th
December: Cold Moon on the 4th

I wonder why January's is not called the COLD MOON!?! It seems like it would fit!

JANUARY

- In Scotland, "first-footing" is practiced on New Year's Day, where the first person to enter a home brings gifts for luck.
- Eating 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve is a Spanish tradition believed to bring good luck.
- In Japan, people eat toshikoshi soba (year-crossing noodles) on New Year's Eve for good luck.
- Many cultures believe that what you do on January 1st sets the tone for the entire year.
- In some parts of the United States, eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is thought to bring prosperity.

FEBRUARY

Because February usually has 28 days, once every 6 years, it's the only month to have 4 full 7-day weeks. In the years that aren't leap years (otherwise known as common years), February and March start on the same day of the week.

Everyone loves to talk about Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, and the Super Bowl in February.

However, the big news in February is that pitchers and catchers report kicking off spring training for a new baseball season. What's a more true sign of spring? Play Ball!

Let's find a little out about **Valentines Day!** For centuries, St. Valentine's Day has been celebrated in several countries all over the world in a variety of ways. But why do we celebrate this day of love? Who was St. Valentine? Why do we celebrate on [February 14](#)?

The true history of St. Valentine is unclear, and the earliest reliable information we have comes from the Catholic Encyclopedia. In 270 A.D. the Roman Empire still ruled Europe. The Empire outlawed the growing Christian religion and all things associated with it, including the Christian marriage.

The emperor, Claudius II also outlawed marriage for his soldiers, thinking that a married man didn't make as good of a soldier as a single man. During this time, a Christian priest named Valentine lived near Rome and secretly performed many outlawed marriages. Eventually, he was found out by Claudius II and was executed for his religion and for performing the marriages. This martyrdom made him a Saint, and he is celebrated in the Catholic Church on [February 14](#).

The first written association with St. Valentine's Day and love is thought to be Geoffrey Chaucer's poems published in 1382. In the poem he speaks of a tradition of writing "valentines" to your sweetheart. (Although it is not known if the tradition actually existed or was invented by Chaucer). Other written accounts of St. Valentine's Day being associated with love include Shakespeare's Hamlet and writings by John Donne.

Most "valentines" were handwritten until around 1850 when they began to be mass produced in factories. In the 1950's the practice of sending valentines was extended to giving gifts such as flowers and chocolates.

In modern times, the holiday is increasingly commercialized. According to the U.S. Greeting Card Association, over 190 million valentines are sent each year in the U.S.

The stories, legends, and relics of these saints are shrouded in mystery and controversy and have inspired various traditions and customs over the centuries.

Note: Of course, we know the commercialization of this holiday is based in "profit" and as consumers, we fall victim to it. But, if we think about it, it is all about LOVE!

Of course, we can enjoy the gifts and giving of tokens of love to our families, but we must keep in mind that **ONE LOVE** is above all others.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 affirms who Jesus is, why he came to earth, and what belief in him results in. This verse depicts how great God's love for the world is that he would be willing to offer up his son for us, which was an enormous sacrifice on God's part. It is because of God's sacrificial love that those of us who believe in Jesus and follow him gain eternal life.

From the UMC Cookbook 1996

January is **National Soup Month** – nothing warms you up like a bowl of warm soup!

Cream of Broccoli Soup
Recipe from Joann Schrader

1 Cup Water
2 Chicken Bouillon Cubes
1 – 10 oz pkg Frozen Broccoli *or can use fresh*
1/3 Cup Flour
1 Cup Half and Half (or part skim)
1 ½ Cup Processed Cheese *cubed or grated*
2 Cups Milk

In a large pan, cook broccoli in water; do not drain. Put milk, cheese and flour in blender;

process until smooth. Add to Broccoli; add half and half (or milk).

Cook over medium heat, stirring often until mixture is hot and thickened. Makes 6 servings.

NOTE: Thin down if too thick. May also use part or all cauliflower.

Stay Warm! Be Thankful for every new start of the day! Thank God for the LOVE he gives ...

Dear Lord, Is it possible, O God, possible that you can love such as I? Yet I know it is true. If I allowed myself to doubt your love, all would be lost. Thank you, God, thank you for loving me. Help me never to betray such wonderful love. Amen.

Care Facility Residents

Please keep our residents in your prayers!

Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing

Vicki Quincy
Sue Lewison

Orchard Manor

Bill Rotramel
Doris Schneider

Park Place Senior Living

Geraldine Croft
Duane Furrer
Joann Schrader
Anna Grunder

Soldiers Grove Health Services

Janet Barnes

Riverside Transitional Care (Lacrosse)

Donna Blackburn

Aspire Senior Living (Oshkosh)

Harriet Brun

Dwight Parker Library Expansion/Renovation

Submitted by JoAnn Wiederholt

Our current 100 year old beautiful historical library is in need of expansion and renovation. With extensive community input, our library board is prepared to move our library into the 21st century. The new plan will include a large divisible meeting room that can accommodate up to 65 people and can be operated outside of library hours. Our renovated library will be ADA accessible, have an expanded children's area, and a new teen focused area. Technology resources will be expanded and improved to provide our patrons with the latest technology available. Our new library will truly be a community center and will partner with area schools, health care facilities, organizations and employers to provide greatly expanded services and events.

We were so fortunate to receive a 4.25 million grant to fund our project, but our total cost is 5.75 million, so the library board is asking our community for help. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. In the new addition, a prominent donor board will be displayed to recognize our contributors. All donations of \$1,000 or more will be added to the donor board. I would like to challenge our congregation to contribute a combined total of \$1,000 so our United Methodist Church will forever be recognized as a generous donor for our new library/community center. Please designate if you are donating on behalf of Fennimore or Stitzer United Methodist Church. Checks should be made out to Dwight Parker Library Building Fund. Anyone interested in donating towards the \$1,000 goal (no donation is too small) can either put the donation in the weekly offering or contact JoAnn Wiederholt at 608-723-9125 or jwieder@tds.net.

Thank you

United Women in Faith – Thank You for the wonderful gift box! It made me smile and brought joy to my holiday season! Much appreciated!
God's Blessings, Eldeen Oechsle

To each of you in my Church Family,

Yes, I have so appreciated your continued prayers, cards and words of encouragement as I now continue my "new life" here at Dove Healthcare.

My wish for each of you is that not only you have a wonderful Christmas, but that 2025 will bring each of you continued blessings and wonderful events and experiences.

Each of you **is** a blessing in my life and may our friendship and good blessings continue for each of you in our new year 2025.

With my sincere thanks!
Sue Lewison

Thank you to the congregation for the wonderful Christmas bonus! It is greatly appreciated. Also, to the United Women in Faith for the "Cheer Plate"!

Rosemary Collins
Chelsea Wanek-Bedward



Still Waters (Psalm 23)

Song by Leanna Crawford

Great Aunt Maurine said at a hundred and three
Write scripture on your heart for when you need it
'Cause anxiety hates Psalm 23
So just say it to yourself 'til you believe it
And I'm feeling like I'm needing it right now

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Oh, I know You are with me, my Father, my friend
Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days
I know by Your still waters, I'm safe

Lord, I believe You can set me at ease
Turn this broken piece in me to peace and quiet
I know there's power in Your word
So I'll say it over and over 'til my soul's reminded

Oh, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Oh, I know You are with me, my Father, my friend
Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days
I know by Your still waters, I'm safe

Still waters run through any valley I could find
I'm laying fear down here at Heaven's riverside
Your word has been true in every season of my life
I believe, yes, I believe still waters run through any valley I could find
I'm laying fear down here at Heaven's riverside
Your word has been true in every season of my life
I believe, yes, I believe

Oh, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Oh, I know You are with me, my Father, my friend
Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days
I know by Your still waters I'm safe



Noah M. was baptized at Fennimore United Methodist Church on January 19, 2025.
God Bless Noah!