



1450 Second Street
Fennimore, WI 53809

July – August 2026 Newsletter

Pastor BLURB

Christian Song of the Month

(*Write Your Story* by Francesca Battistelli)

Lyric focus (Chorus):

"I'm an empty page, I'm an open book, Write your story on my heart, Come on and make your mark, Author of my hope, Maker of the stars, Let me be your work of art: Want you to write your story on my heart."

Scripture focus: Psalm 8:3-4

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Hello everyone! I'm your new Pastor, Pastor Jadyn. I'm so excited to be able to worship with you all!

I wanted to start our Pastor Blurbs with my all time favorite Christian song: *Write Your Story* by Francesca Battistelli. Francesca Battistelli has been my favorite Christian artist since I was ten years old. I sang her song *Free to Be Me* as one of my first church solos, and sang frantically along to her *Breakup Song*, boldly and anxiously saying that fear didn't own me. But *Write Your Story* has a very special place in my heart. Every Sunday, I listen to it on my way to preach. It warms my heart and gives me courage every time.

Something you'll get to know about me is that I'm a prolific writer and a dedicated reader. I devour books, and if you make the questionable choice to ask me about my novel writing, I'll chat your ear off. So the lyrics of

Write Your Story speak strongly to me. Because no matter how well I write, I know that my work will always pale in comparison to the Lord above, the ultimate Writer and Creator. And I love the idea that my life is a story that God writes! I want to be an empty page for Him; I want God to move His mighty hand, and write my story with great inspiration. How incredible that the Maker of the stars shapes me into His work of art! It reminds me of one of my favorite passages of scripture, Psalm 8:3-4: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

The God who created breathtaking sunsets, rippling waves, majestic mountains, and all of the stars in the sky also created us! And incredibly, our creation is not the end of the story; he continues to shape us as we grow in love and relationship with Him. I pray each day that I can be a vessel for God, that I may go and do His work, and I pray the same for each of you. If you've never heard *Write Your Story*, I encourage you to give it a listen this month. My prayer is that it blesses and encourages you as much as it has encouraged me.

Pastor Jadyn



Fennimore United Methodist Church:

9:00 AM Worship (June, July and August)

Stitzer United Methodist Church:

10:30 AM Worship

FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Article by Kim Cathman

It's July and half of 2026 is already behind us ... WOW! When I was young and my mom would say 'my how time flies', I thought ... she's a crazy woman, what does she mean by that? Well, now I know ... it does fly!

July is a lot of things – besides being the mid-way point of the year!

It's a red, white and blue celebration as we celebrate our Independence Day, it's summer vacations, lazy days at the pool, hot dogs and watermelon, cookouts ... all the joys of summer!

The July full moon is the **"Buck Moon"**: traditionally named after the male deer, whose antlers are in full growth mode during this time of the year.

In the US, July is humorously and officially recognized as National Ice Cream Month and National Hot Dog Month, celebrating classic summer cookout foods.

I think we can all relate to ice cream and hot dogs, right?

Here's a recipe from the FUMC 1996 Cookbook to help support your ice cream treats!

FUDGE SAUCE

Nellie Furrer

1 Cup Chocolate Chips
1 1/2 Cup Evaporated Milk
1/2 Cup Butter
1 tsp Vanilla
2 Cups Powdered Sugar

Melt chips in butter; add powdered sugar and evaporated milk.
Stir; bring to a boil.
Cook for 5 minutes; add vanilla.
Keeps well in refrigerator.
Spoon out amount needed; reheat in microwave.

It's summer and the garden is producing it's treasures. Here's another tasty recipe from the cookbook!

This recipe sounds easy, a cool and quick taste of fresh cucumbers without all the canning processes.

REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

In Memory of Mary Rosemeyer by Audrey Doan

7 Cups Sliced Pickles
1 Cup Vinegar
1 Cup Sliced Onion
2 Tbl Celery Seed
1 Green Pepper
1 Tbl Salt
2 Cups Sugar

Mix sugar, vinegar, celery seed and salt together until dissolved.
Pour over pickles, onion and pepper; store in refrigerator.

NOTE: Did you know our cookbook has more than just recipes....in the back there is a Household Hints section, and it has its own Index! So many great hints!

If you do not have a cookbook, we keep one in the kitchen, and you can always copy a recipe if you wish.

MIDWEST MISSION

We put up information on the bulletin board in the hallway to the fellowship hall. It has info on what Midwest Mission does and takeaways. We learned more about it at Annual Conference in June. If anyone has questions call the office. Take a handout. Sewing projects and some directions are there if you are so inclined.

Save the Date!

For the United Women in Faith, July is planning and prep for the Salad Luncheon. We will meet soon and plan the call list. We have it set for Wednesday, the 26th of August.

Creation Team: We received a gift of several quilt tops to tie.

We will be assisting with VBS soon. St Peter Lutheran Church and our Church will present, Rainforest Falls! This year it will be at Fennimore United Methodist Church, August 9-12. More information is available on Facebook.

A SUMMER PRAYER

Gracious Creator, thank You for the radiant gift of summer.

As we embrace the warmth of the sun and the beauty of creation, we ask that You guide our steps through the casual days of this season. Grant rest to our minds and refreshment to our bodies.

In times of work, play, and travel, may we feel Your constant presence and hear Your gentle voice.

Open our hearts to joy, and help us to see Your light in every moment.

Amen.

Care Facility Residents

Please keep our residents in your prayers!

Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing

Sue Lewison
Linda O'Kane
Marlene Everson

Orchard Manor

Bill Rotramel

Park Place Senior Living

Joann Schrader
Anna Grunder

Register for Vacation Bible School Here!

A colorful poster for "Rainforest Falls 2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL". The title "Rainforest Falls" is in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, "2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL" is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The dates "SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12" are in a black, sans-serif font. The location "ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ARE TEAMING UP!" is in a black, sans-serif font. The venue "HELD AT FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 1450 2ND STREET FENNIMORE, WI 53809" is in a black, sans-serif font. The age range "AGES 4 TO THOSE ENTERING GRADE 6" is in a black, sans-serif font. The times "FREE SUPPER: 5:00 PM" and "VBS: 5:30 - 8:00 PM" are in a black, sans-serif font. The poster features a vibrant illustration of a rainforest scene with a waterfall, surrounded by various tropical plants and flowers. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "Rainforest Falls" with the tagline "Exploring The Nature of God".

Rainforest Falls
2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND
FENNIMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ARE TEAMING UP!

HELD AT FENNIMORE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH:
1450 2ND STREET
FENNIMORE, WI 53809

AGES 4 TO THOSE ENTERING GRADE 6
FREE SUPPER: 5:00 PM
VBS: 5:30 - 8:00 PM

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring The Nature of God

FROM THE Church Office

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Most days we are in the office outside of these hours and we work remotely as well.

School Supplies for Operation Christmas Child:

August is the perfect time to purchase school supplies as they're typically on sale! We pack school supplies in our "shoebox" gifts for Operation Christmas Child – items like glue sticks, markers, notebooks, pens and pencils! The only school supply item we cannot use is liquid glue. Donated items can be dropped off at Fennimore United Methodist Church at any time. Last year we were able to send out boxes and share the love of Jesus to over 50 kids across the world!

Welcome our New Pastor, Pastor Jadyn!

Pastor Jadyn is a Wisconsin native who is eager to do ministry with the Stitzer and Fenimore churches. She's here with her husband Vibhav, who she met while she was getting her undergraduate in English Literature at UW-Madison. She graduated from Candler School of Theology with a Master of Divinity. She believes that the church is the people in it, and the best way to get to know the church is to get to know people's stories. When she isn't Bible study planning or writing sermons, she loves to dance, write romance fantasy novels, play Stardew Valley, and eat Italian food. She also loves to hang out with her husband and her cat Hammy!



Pastor Jadyn, husband Vibhav, and cat Hammy

Stay Tuned for upcoming Bible Study plans with Pastor Jadyn!

Thank You, everyone for your support in my (Chelsea) first year of motherhood! Our son Walker is ONE! Before parenthood, I never thought I would say "Walker, stay out of the toilet" so many times a day. We have a busy, busy boy on our hands and enjoy every minute of it!



2026 Wisconsin United Methodist Church Annual Conference Report

Submitted by Mandy Henkel

Practicing Hope – Keep a Grip on Hope!

Who Attended: Pastor Rey, Kim Cathman & Mandy Henkel

- By show of hands, who has ever attended Annual Conference in the past?
- First, I just wanted to express my gratitude for the opportunity to attend. We learned so much - I took 12 pages of notes, including a full page of brainstorming!

A Few Stats

- In the Wisconsin UMC, the median number of members in a local church is only 56.
- Churches are five (5) times more likely to close if they have a reduction in the number of female parishioners, especially those over age 60.

Voting – Along with several other items voted on, one key vote was an update to the apportionment formula, which was approved.

- By show of hands, who knows what apportionments are?
 - o Simply put, they are the funds each local church - including Fennimore and Stitzer - contribute to the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. These funds are put towards various conference expenses,

and also the statewide and global missions the UMC supports.

- Kim and I enjoyed learning more about these missions by visiting the many booths and representatives while at Annual Conference.

- o In 2025, 230 out of 360 local churches (64%) paid 100% of apportionments – including Fennimore & Stitzer!

- The previous apportionment formula was complicated and would require a lot more time to explain than we have right now...
- The new formula is much simpler, grounded in the intent to be fair and equitable across the whole conference.
- Using 2024 data, this new formula generated results within 5% of the current formula for every church in the conference.
- New formula = \$80/member (excluding the 1st 25 members) + 11% of 2025 operational expenses (based on the statistical reports we submit)

Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean

This was one of my favorite parts of the Annual Conference – and I'm going to paraphrase the message:

Based on Acts 27-28: Paul's Shipwreck – In brief, this is about how....

Paul survives a violent storm and shipwreck, trusting God's promise that everyone will survive—and they do.

After the wreck, on the island of Malta, Paul is protected from harm, performs healings, and gains favor with the people, continuing his ministry.

The book ends with Paul arriving in Rome and continuing to preach the gospel, showing perseverance and God's faithfulness through hardship.

Dr. Creasy Dean highlighted three key truths following this lesson:

1. The same ship that broke, also saved them.
2. They found themselves on an unknown shore.
3. If Malta saved Paul ... could it save us?

She challenged us to think differently about church:

- Church is not about butts-in-seats, it's about walking alongside people.
- Some people think young adults are less religious – however, they are not less religious, but they are religious in different ways.

When we in the United Methodist Church say OPEN DOORS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, we are called to rethink how we use our spaces and how we serve.

- Could our building and grounds be a community space, safe space, or other shared space?
- Could we imagine things like dinner church, church café, garden co-op, or even a workspace (job training, homework)?

Instead of asking, "how do we get people to come to us?", we are challenged to prayerfully consider how we, the people of the church, are serving our community.

This message connects beautifully with Brandee's message from last Sunday on Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. A great first step is to complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory she shared – I thoughtfully completed that inventory, did anyone else?

Friday Night – Celebration of Ministry Worship

My other favorite part of Annual Conference:

Pastor Rey, Kim, and I were blessed to get the opportunity to attend the Celebration of Ministry Worship service, which was great! During this service, our new Pastor, Jadyn Meyer, was commissioned for the work of an elder, and we witnessed her Clergy Robing, where her parents were there to place her Pastoral Robe on her as part of this ceremony.

Again, I just want to thank you all for this opportunity to attend Annual Conference and I leave you with a question from the Conference to prayerfully consider – How can we?

LOVE BOLDLY - SERVE JOYFULLY - LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

Blessings of a Christian Friend

E N C O U R A G E M E N T U N N L
N O I T C U R T S N I J W B C J P
H U M I L I T Y N L Q Y Z D O P E
S M M K E I O D F P X J N P R S R
R N M M J N T N C D O E W P R L S
I U E R N S D Y G U I C L J E N P
E N N R C P K N Z R C M O W C X E
H I T J J I O Q F F N B V I T N C
T T O Y J R Q L M N N Q E H I E T
N Y R U Y E R V W Q F K N M O H I
I Y I K T I T T S L Z J O S N T V
O X N R G Q F K W X Z A R S H G E
J G G L Z X F A M I L Y I X Q N P
F B E A R B U R D E N S Z T N E P
S E R V E O N E A N O T H E R R G
G L E X H O R T A T I O N U T T V
C G Y L D R V N P R A Y E R A S G

serve one another
perspective
joint heirs
correction
inspire
unity

encouragement
instruction
girlfriend
mentoring
prayer
iron

bear burdens
exhortation
strengthen
humility
family
love