

Pastor John Carpenter



We are all aware our local church and the denomination are in the struggles of great change. In fact, at this time, we are really challenged as a church body to open our eyes wide to see where we are, how we got here at this point, and exactly where we want to go from here. Theologically speaking, even though we all may previously have come from a somewhat diverse expression of faith, we have come to the conclusion that there are basic tenants to which we must adhere. The denomination is in a real identity crisis and is turning away from some

of the traditions and standards that have been established for thousands of years.

As we continue through the necessary process of disaffiliation from the United Methodist denomination, I would hope we might take the following words to heart:

This is the (adapted) prayer of Saint Brendan, the explorer:

Lord Jesus, help us to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give us the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You. Christ of the mysteries, we trust You to be stronger than each storm within us. We will trust You in the darkness and know that our times, even now, are in Your hand. Tune our spirits to the music of heaven, and somehow, make our obedience count for You. Amen.

There is absolutely more to God than just doctrine and tradition. There is also the presence of his Spirit that will provide relief.

One of the challenges of life in the body of Christ's church, particularly in an environment as distraction-rich as our current culture, is the constant battle to keep ourselves tuned to the presence of the living God. Christ is alive, right now while you are reading these words—the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. Stop and consider this for a moment. The one who made you, who made all of us—is with you right now.

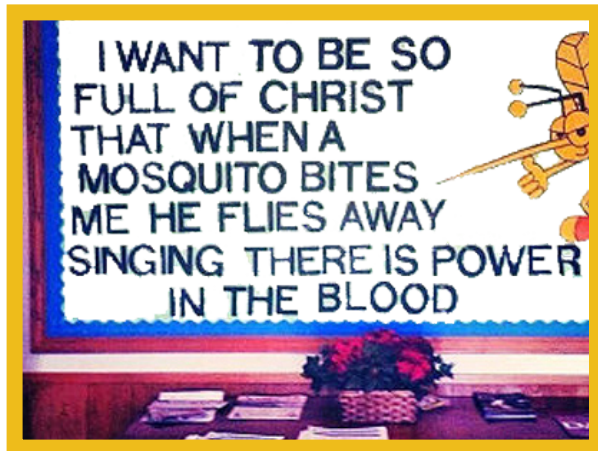
Many of us show up to church on Sunday morning, our minds filled with lists, responsibilities and worries. The school year is starting. There is shopping to do and bills to pay. We're thinking about news headlines, and so many other things out of our control. Sometimes our worship and service to the church is more of a ritual re-enactment of religious culture than it is an offering and an encounter with the Creator of all that is seen and unseen. The dilution of Christianity with worldly culture, and the modern embrace of the un-enchanted worldview often means the presence, power, and active voice of God is slowly strangled into silence within a church community. Without the Holy Spirit to lead us and teach us the wisdom and desires of God's heart we inevitably fall into the trap of well-intentioned pragmatism. Isaiah 55: 8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord."

The Lord has funny ideas about the way he thinks things should be in the church. Leading means serving; meekness is powerful. In Matthew 10:7-8 supernatural healings, casting out demons, raising the dead are on the same to-do list as preaching! We can add making disciples to this list thanks to the mandate in Matthew 28:19-20 when Christ says to make disciples by "teaching them everything [he] has commanded." The fact that these tasks are all grouped together indicates that we're not meant to make distinctions between work we accomplish naturally, or out of our own strength, and work we can only do by God's hand. All work in the Kingdom is accomplished by God's power and from the overflow of his presence within us, including what we bring and expect in worship and what we expect of the church.

We must not define God according to the limitations of our lived experience, whether that's our experience of worship, our understanding of the miraculous and the mystical, or how we preach and make disciples. We are meant to be explorers within the faith, detectives who seek the mysterious treasures of God's heart. We are meant to be vessels of God's power, and led by his Holy Spirit.

When we bring the light of his Spirit and truth everywhere we go we will see miracles and discover more what he cares about and loves. The grace of all of this is we need not try to earn, or strive to manufacture anything. All he asks of the church is that we sit with him and abide in his presence. He is a good Father who desires to give good gifts to his children. We can take all of our questions and simply ask: Father, will you show me more?

(Adapted from an article in "Spirit and Truth" by Maggie Ulmer entitled "Exploration and Expectation in the Presence of God")



A Vote Whether Or Not To Disaffiliate From The United Methodist Denomination

✓OTE Will Be Taken ✓OTE

Sunday, October 2, 2022

District Superintendent Laurie Kantonen will convene and preside over the special Local Church Conference meeting. The vote will be taken by written ballot. In order to vote one must be a full member or an associate member. Members **MUST** be present at the meeting in order to cast a vote. A two-thirds majority of those members present must vote in the affirmative for the matter to pass.

Kathie Cole, Council Chair



What a busy summer it has been and yet it seems impossible that it is already over. Summer activities at AUMC began in mid-May with the first of four social events, enjoyed by all who attended.

Early June began with the Wednesday night Fishing League with fish swimming scared all over Hubbard and Cass Counties! Late that month we participated in the Annual Paul Bunyan Days. Sunday started with a well-attended and inspiring ecumenical worship service led by Pastor John and the pastor from First Lutheran Church. Music was provided by Frank Lamb and Fran Gack as well as an all volunteer choir. In the afternoon, an enthusiastic crowd enjoyed food, a parade, vendors and, of course, the AUMC Pie and Ice Cream Social. About 35 pies provided by our church were consumed accompanied by a delightful concert featuring Frank, Fran and others. A number of folks even danced under the pavilion. It was a wonderful day of community participation and outreach, even though a bit cold!

July brought another flurry of activity, including Picture Day, several potluck meals, more fishing and the Annual Fish Fry. Beginning preparations for the Corn and Meatball Feed were started. The month was topped-off with the Hartley Family leading the month's last worship service. What a treat!

Would August be less eventful? Not a chance...the Corn and Meatball Feed was a huge success, serving approximately 180 hungry people. All hands were on deck shucking and cooking corn, preparing meatballs, serving a delicious meal, waiting tables, washing dishes and cleaning up. A big THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in and helped or participated in some way with all of these events. One person expressed to me their amazement at the activities we sponsor given the modest size of our congregation.

Amidst all of the festive activities, the committee to study disaffiliation has been hard at work under Pastor John's leadership. The committee has reviewed and evaluated the underlying reasons for consideration of this process and its financial ramifications. Members have had several in-person meetings and discussions, attended zoom conferences and studied numerous written informational resources. Congregational Q&A sessions have been sponsored, written and video information distributed. The Rev. Dr. Wes Gabel, from the Wesleyan Covenant Association was invited to come speak to the congregation. Ultimately, the committee unanimously recommended to the Administrative Council that we proceed with disaffiliation. At its August meeting the Administrative Council unanimously adopted the recommendations and the District Superintendant has set October 2 for the day we vote as a congregation on this plan.

The ballot will be in writing and D.S. Rev. Laurie Kantonen will conduct the meeting immediately after morning worship. A 2/3 majority of those members present is required for it to pass. All voting must be done in person.

Please pray about this very important decision and come on October 2 as we look to the future of our church.

Another important event is later this month, New Member Sunday will be on September 18. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor John for more information.

Enjoy the beautiful Fall weather and magnificent spectrum of God's beauty as the leaves turn to glorious red and golds!

Welcome
Fall!





Nancy Abraham, UMW President

**Akeley United Methodist Women
Giving is a joy if we do it in the right spirit.**

It all depends on whether we think of it as "what can I spare?" or "What can I share?". We can share so many things. Not just money but our time, talents, knowledge and the list goes on and on! Our UMW members are great examples of someone who shares. We may be small,

but boy can we get things done!

UMW has been busy this summer. We had a cleanup day, baked pies and cookies for the Pie Social at Paul Bunyan Days, collected change/money to purchase Bibles for the Hubbard County Jail Ministry, and spearheaded the annual Corn Feed. We are now organizing the annual Rummage Sale that will be held Saturday, September 10.

Kathie Cole is working on 2 quilt tops that UMW will tie and finish for donation to the Akeley Emergency Shelter. We will also be collecting towels and sheets for the Shelter.

All women are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1:00. We have a great time of fellowship and sharing.

Friends in Christ
Nancy Abraham



UMW Annual Rummage Sale



Saturday, September 10

8:00 am to Noon

Bag Sale at 11:00 am

You can donate those unwanted treasures through Thursday, September 8 when the sale will be set-up.

Help is Needed for set-up and clean-up

If you can help please contact

Nancy Abraham at 616-999-7201

Any help you can give would be appreciated



Katy Grisamore, Lay Leader

At this time of year, our congregation continues to move full-speed ahead into a busy fourth quarter – with great memories of fabulous summer fellowship. From the Paul Bunyan Days ecumenical church service in June to the Corn/Meatball Supper in August, we've been worshipping, singing, and praying our way through the season. We've also sprinkled in the mix the Hartley Family music fellowship, as well as a couple of wonderful fundraisers. Whew! And the best part of the summer is always the reunion we have with our summer friends. It's hard to believe many of our snowbirds have flown south already. We wish them all safe journeys and blessed days until we meet again next Spring.

As Lay Leader, I've been involved with the Disaffiliation Committee, which has set October 2 as the date when the congregation will vote on the question of whether or not to disaffiliate our church from the United Methodist denomination. For the past four years, this issue has been foremost in our minds as we consider the foundational differences concerning scriptural truths and theology which have risen within the denomination, and which have ultimately caused the denomination to split.

Because only full or associate members are allowed to vote on this issue, everyone is encouraged to examine his/her membership status. If you are not a full or associate member, please consider joining so you can vote. September 18 has been designated as MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY. Contact Pastor John at 218-205-1381 for more information.

Through all this process, we remain first and foremost prayerful in our intent. We know those who stand on Holy Scripture will always be blessed, and we continue to follow the Good Shepherd, and live by His Holy Word.

And we're looking forward to a fun Fall season! It promises to be a busy, productive time, and this congregation will continue to spread the Good News. God is good all the time – we know it!!

New Member Sunday

JOIN
NOW!

September 18, 2022



Please consider becoming a full member or an associate member of Akeley United Methodist Church. As an associate member one can retain full membership in another congregation.

As a member you will have all the privileges of identification with this congregation, along with voting rights and privileges.

There will be a short service of bringing new members into the congregation and a reception following worship.

Please contact Pastor John at 218-205-1381 if interested.

Recommendations Adopted Unanimously by the AUMC Administrative Council on August 23, 2022

1. That AUMC proceed with disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church pursuant to ¶2553 of the Book of Discipline adopted at the 2019 Special General Conference.
2. That AUMC request an official signed letter from the District Superintendent to convene a Church Conference to vote on this issue.
3. That AUMC join the public interest law group, National Center for Life and Liberty (NCLL) that is representing many Methodist churches across the country desiring to disaffiliate. Cost is \$100 pr month or \$1,000 per year.
4. That AUMC conduct a search for old documents (achival, minutes, etc.) that are required to be turned over to the Minnesota Conference.
5. That Pastor John make inquiry of the District Superintendent as to financial ramifications and procedure for obtaining this specific information when available in September, 2022.

Members of the Committee to Study Disaffiliation:

Pastor John Carpenter
Katy Grisamore
Loren Ferch
Bonnie Lanning

Kathie Cole
Wayne Eimers
Karen Carpenter
Alan Teeple
Chuck Blair

Verses to Live By Fear Not!

I was out on my morning run when I glimpsed a sign on a lamppost: *FBI*.

My mind raced. An *FBI investigation!* Was there a shooting? A terrorist incident? Fear took over.

The next day, jogging by the same spot, I came upon people setting up camera equipment. FBI? No they were filming an episode of the TV show *FBI: Most Wanted*.

By some counts, the phrase “Fear not” shows up in the Bible 365 times, once for every day of the year. Not a day goes by that I don’t need to hear those words.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4

An active imagination is one of the Creator’s gifts, bringing us empathy. But fear can take it off the rails as it did for me during the Covid pandemic. When you become afraid of what *might* happen, seek a higher power.

There is no fear in love, but perfect loves casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever hears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:18

What is the opposite of fear? I want to say “courage.” But no. Love is the opposite of fear. And love is what helps us cast it out. Connecting to God’s love in prayer, I can echo the adage “Courage is fear that has said its prayers.”

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

Mark 5:36

Jesus had been waylaid on his way to heal the daughter of the synagogue leader, and news comes that the girl has died. Jesus turns to the man and offers this extraordinary hope. Often, I find myself uttering these words in prayer: “Rick, do not fear, just believe.” As always, Jesus gets the last word.

Rick Hamlin, Guidepost Contributing Editor



Missions Report **Katy Grisamore**



This has been an exciting summer in the Akeley UMC mission field – here at home, where we have a Bible study program in the Hubbard County Detention Center, and also in Puerto Rico, where we are starting a Vision Clinic in January.

In June, the UMW initiated a “Change Jar” fundraiser, with the goal to use the proceeds to buy Celebrate Recovery Bibles for inmates in the Hubbard County jail. People were encouraged to take an empty jar home with them, fill it with loose change, and return the filled jar in August. Last week, the jars were collected and the change was counted – a grand total of \$742.85 was raised! What a generous spirit this congregation has. This money will purchase 43 new Bibles, which will be given to men and women who attend the weekly Bible study in the jail.

Many of these inmates have never had a Bible. And when they receive a new one, they are often overcome with emotion. DOC regulations say they may take these Bibles with them if they go home or to another jail or prison. As we know, the Word of God is life-changing and life-saving, and the recipients are always touched by the love of Jesus Christ shown through those who make sure Bibles are available – that’s us! And because they can now access the Word, the Salvation Message of Jesus is spread far and wide.

So on behalf of the Hubbard County Detention Center inmates, I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this great fundraiser. God bless you!

As for the Jericho Ministry Vision Clinic...unfortunately, due to internal strife and continued high numbers of COVID infections, the Jamaican government has discouraged travel to Jamaica in 2023. So we looked a different direction, and were welcomed by a Methodist Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In January, we will take an introductory Clinic there, with hopes to establish a long-term relationship. We also plan to return to Jamaica as soon as possible. The Lord continues to guide and direct this mission, and we know He has great plans ahead!

A Good Crowd Attended The Annual Fish Fry!

A Celebrity Was Born...



Terry Carlson generously shares his cooking talent to prepare the fish every year for the annual fish fry. This year he was surprised with a gift of perfect slippers that he can use when he is lounging around the house or even in the boat!

Terry was the man of the hour as those attending enjoyed the great food and fellowship.





Due to lack of people to serve and cook and the price and availability of turkey this year.

NO Hunters Dinner Will Be Held In November!



September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 10:00 am Communion Coffee Fellowship	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Set up for Rummage Sale	9	10 UMW Rummage Sale 8 am to Noon Bag Sale at 11
11 Patriot Day Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	12 UMW Meeting 1:00 pm	13 Final Up North Quilters Meeting 10:00 am-2:00 pm Bring Lunch to Share	14	15	16	17
18 New Member Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	19	20 Jolly Jammers 7:00 pm	21	22 Fall Equinox	23	24
25 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Disaffiliation Vote Worship Service 10:00 am Communion Coffee Fellowship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	10 Columbus Day UMW Meeting 1:00 pm	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	17	18 Jolly Jammers 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22
23 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	31 Halloween					

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Ends Worship Service 10:00 am Communion Coffee Fellowship		8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	14 UMW Meeting 1:00 pm	15 Jolly Jammers 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 1st Sun. of Advent Hanging of the Greens Worship Service 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship	28	29	30			



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Next Newsletter
Deadline
November 15



HERALD

Quarterly Newsletter

September 2022

