

Parish of the Hills



Called to Make Disciples Of All!

MAY/JUNE 2018

PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills



Parish of the Hills United Methodist Churches

Office Address: 400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
Phone: (608) 987-2700

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Parish Web Site: parishofthehills.org

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Bethel UM Church: Located on the Corner of
State Hwy. 39 & W
8:00 a.m.—Worship;
Sept-Dec 8:00 a.m. - Sunday School

Linden UM Church: In the Village on Hwy. 39
Sept-May 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Worship

First UM Church: 400 Doty Street, MP
Sept-May 8:15 a.m. - Sunday School
9:15 a.m. — Worship
Handicapped Accessible

Rev. Gerhardt Miller, D. Min.
Cell: (920) 604-3304

Parsonage Phone: (608) 987-0494
gerhardtmiller02@yahoo.com

Marcia Ajer, Administrative Assistant

Dear Members and Friends of Parish of the Hills:

There are times we seem quite busy. Those first few weeks here in Iowa County for me and my family were at times seemingly full of activities and introductions. I also know that in all of our coming and going, working and playing, planning and praying, rising and resting, good was and is still happening!

Our busy-ness reflects our values and our blessings. We feel busy because we hope to accomplish something at home, or work, or school, or church, or somewhere. We undertake the tasks we believe are important and the goals we believe are somehow attainable.

Church buildings become projects for congregations. Roofs, windows, signs, furnaces, and clocks, all wear out sooner or later. All three of our congregations know what it is to endeavor challenging projects and all three of our congregations know what it is to meet objectives. Hallelujah! Even when we are tired, we find strength and joy when we work for a good cause.

In the midst of our busy-ness, may God bless us with the insight that no project, objective, or assignment, is more important than living the love of Jesus wherever we work, or play, or study, or worship. It is wonderful when our energies are applied to that end—the love of Jesus.

Jesus was never too busy to show love to those whose need was greatest. As we plan and play, work and study, build and clean, shop and cook, let us do so guided, informed, and renewed in God's eternal love.

Gerhardt P. Miller, D. Min. (reprinted)

Enjoy
The
News



NEWS & *Notes*

Mineral Point News *By: Ross Pollock*

How great is our God - our Creator and Redeemer. How often do we think about that? Our lives are all ordered by our Lord in a beautiful way for His glory. Give thanks to the Lord and praise His name!

We need to raise \$10,000 to repair our heating system. We had days last winter when the heating plant failed and we were forced to move services downstairs to Fellowship Hall (or even cancel the service entirely!). We had even more days when we were able to hold the service in the sanctuary, but the congregation had to keep their winter coats on. The Trustees did a very good job of determining what is necessary to correct the problems and soliciting bids for the repairs. Thank you in particular to Dave Vandewater who did most of the work. The Trustees accepted the recommendations and the Administrative Council OKed the project. You can donate to the project now by dropping a check in the collection plate stating that it is for "Heating Fund" on the lower left corner "Notes" line.

Pastor Gerhardt conducted a four week Advanced Lay Servant Class titled "Soulful Preaching" in April at Bethel. It was very well attended by lay servants from around southwest Wisconsin including FUMC's Lisa Springer and Ross Pollock.

We held a successful pasty sale March 10th. We cleared a bit over \$2,000. Many thanks to all who helped make and distribute the pasty's.

Our pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday was very poorly attended so cleared only about \$200. We need YOUR support with these functions. You can have a good, fun, inexpensive, family

oriented time at these affairs. And the church badly needs the money.

Saturday, May 5th was the annual Mineral Point Stained Glass Tour as part of the Historic Preservation Celebration May 3-6.

Thursday, May 10 the Trustees will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Administrative Council will follow with a meeting at 7:00.

Saturday May 12 is the Post Office's National annual food drive. We will need help in the Interchurch Food Pantry on Monday the 14th to weigh, mark, sort, and shelve the food that comes in. We usually work from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If we don't get it all done on Monday, we will continue on Tuesday.

Sunday, May 13 is not only Mother's Day, it is Golden Cross Sunday. Offerings are collected to be used for the health and welfare ministries of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. This will also be the last day of Sunday School for the season & the Sunday School children will sing.

May 19th is Armed Forces Day. Remember to support our troops! We will hold a steak feed on Saturday, May 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please also support this fund raiser.

Monday May 28 is Memorial Day where we remember and honor the men and women who lost their lives in defense of our country. Tell a veteran that you appreciate his or her service.

Thursday June 7, Sarah Circle will meet at the Pointer Café at noon.

The Administrative Council will meet Thursday June 14 at 6:30 p.m. June 14 is also Flag Day. Don't forget to fly our flag!

Wisconsin Annual Conference will be held at Madison from Friday, June 15 through Monday, June 18. Sunday June 17 is Father's Day.

June 21 is the first day of summer - at last! I have posted a list of the members of the various committees that keep our church operating on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

Wednesday, June 27th is our turn to collate the Parish Visitor. We need volunteers to help fold, seal and apply address labels to the July-August edition. The more that come, the faster we are all done!

Let me know if you have anything you would like to include in future issues of the Parish Visitor. Send me an email at bigj4916@gmail.com, see me at Church, or call me at 574-8353.

May God continue to bless you in ways you never even dreamed possible. And remember, life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point!

Linden News
By: Dixie Edge

How inspiring it was to see so many from our Parish at the weekly Lenten Services. Sharing worship with members from all 3 churches was special. Thank you Pastor Gerhardt for the extra time and effort involved in putting together 2 meaningful worship services every week.

The Sunday School children sang on Palm Sunday. Thank you to the children and teachers, they always bring smiles and joy to the congregation.

Our congregation was most appreciative of the youth who read for the Easter Sunrise Service. GREAT JOB!!! Emma and Meagan Cullen and Liz Hoffman. And, thank you to Cheryl Keeney for helping with the service. Most gathered after worship to enjoy coffee, juice, and rolls. It was fun to reconnect with young people who came home to visit family and their childhood church. Thumbs up to the crew who planned the service and served the refreshments.

The Linden United Methodist Women group is off to a brisk start. They've set the dates for many 2018 activities:

Sunday, May 13 Mother's Day --- Celebrate Women.

Sunday, May 20 Senior Day ---
Congratulations to Some Awesome Students!

Sunday, June 17 Father's Day ---kudos to Dad!

Wed. July 28 Church Social --- Sloppy Joe's, Ice Cream, Pies & More.

Saturday, Dec. 15 All Church Christmas Bake Sale. (This schedule is tentative. Please mark your calendar, but stay tuned.)

The ladies are also looking forward to an annual summer mini-retreat at the Kim Spurley home.

Pastor Gerhardt recently accepted an opportunity to teach an Advanced Lay Servant Class for the South West District of the Wisconsin Conference. He designed and led a preaching class entitled "Soulful Preaching" attended by twelve persons- one gentleman from as far away as DeForest. Three attendees, Ross Pollock, Lisa Springer and Cheryl Keeney hail from our Parish. All classes were held at the Bethel Church during the month of April. Thank you Bethel for your kind hospitality and the use of the coffee pot. Early reports indicate the class was an excellent learning experience and a total blast!

The congregation is looking forward to welcoming back Derold Rice who returns to Wisconsin in early May.

The Wisconsin Annual Conference will hold its yearly meeting in June at the Marriott in Madison. Representing our Parish: Pastor Gerhardt, Cheryl Keeney (L), and Ross Pollock (MP).

Rally Day for Linden Sunday School is set for May 20th during the 10:45 Church service. This will be the last day of Sunday School for the summer until we start up in the fall.

The Sunday School children will be meeting at the legion hall on Monday, May 28th to march in the American Legion Parade at 10:00. All children are welcome to march and sing with the Sunday School!

Bethel News
By: Cindy Reynolds-Doyle

The calendar tells me spring has arrived but the wintery scene outside looks more like January. It's April 16th and snow is in the forecast for tomorrow. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter we are enjoying warm sunny days, green grass and flowers brightly blooming. After a long, long winter we are truly in need of a change in seasons. A taste of spring and bring on summer, sounds good to me.

I'm sure you have heard the saying "don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today". Now would be a great time to share a little kindness with someone in need. What can you do today to add kindness to someone's life? There are thousands of ways to spread kindness. A little bit of kindness can make a really big difference in the life of another person. Give it a try and make someone smile today.

PALM SUNDAY

The worship service on Sunday, March 25th was well attended. Following the service we gathered in the church dining room for our traditional Palm Sunday Potluck Breakfast. The colors of spring and baskets of goodies decked the dining tables. A wonderful variety of breakfast casseroles, sausages, cheese, deviled eggs, sweet breads, fruits and so much more filled the buffet counter. It was all delicious. We filled our plates and sat down by friends and family for good old fashion fellowship. What a blessing to share this time with our church family.

EASTER SUNDAY

It was a joyful Easter morning at Bethel on Sunday, April 1st. The pews were filled with forty-five people and that is not an April fool's joke. Our little church feels so alive and full of love and hope when so many gather to worship and give thanks for our many blessings. Pastor Miller gave a passionate sermon reminding us of the Easter message that God lives and loves each one of us. Bethel's traditional Easter Song "Every Morning is Easter Morning" filled the sanctuary like no other hymn. There is

something special about that song that sticks with a person. Go ahead and hum the tune anytime, anywhere and be reminded of the Easter message all year long.

A very special service took place during morning worship at Bethel on Sunday, April 22nd. Four young people chose to be confirmed into the United Methodist Church. This is an important step in ones Christian journey. Our Bethel Church Family proudly welcomes and congratulates our four new members. The class included:

Graham Fitzsimmons, son of Scott and Emily Fitzsimmons; Cooper Palzkill, son of Cory and Darlene Palzkill; Jayda Sudmeier, daughter of Shane and Lisa Sudmeier; and Caleb Wersal, son of Matt and Bridget Wersal.

The church was filled with many family and friends showing their love and support for these young people. Pastor Miller conducted the worship and confirmation ritual. Gifts were presented by the Bethel Church Family. Parents of the confirmation youth hosted a celebration breakfast in the church dining room following the service. We welcome Graham, Cooper, Jayda and Caleb as members of our Bethel United Methodist Church Family. Wishing you God's blessings always.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Graduates honored on Sunday, May 6th include: Kathryn (Katie) Fitzsimmons, daughter of Scott and Emily Fitzsimmons who will graduate from Mineral Point High School in May. Katie will attend Iowa State University located in Ames, Iowa. She is pursuing degrees in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Communications.

Abbie Baker, daughter of Perry and Jennifer Baker will graduate with a Pharmacy Doctorate Degree from the University of Iowa, located in Iowa City. Her career training will continue with a one year residency program in Lafayette, Indiana.

BAPTISM AT BETHEL

It's always a special day at Bethel Church when a baptism is part of the morning worship service. Louis Erickson and baby brother Bentley

Erickson were baptized on Sunday, May 6, 2018 by Pastor Gerhardt Miller. They are the children of Nickolas Erickson and Nicole (Whitford) Erickson. Grandparents are Sandy Whitford and the late Jim Whitford and Rob and Sandy Erickson.

LAY LEADER CLASS

Bethel Church has been pleased to host the Advanced Lay Servant Classes held four Saturday mornings in April. Pastor Miller presented this session titled “Soulful Preaching”. A dozen people took part from surrounding towns. A make-up class will be held at Bethel UMC from 9:00-12:00 on Saturday, May 12th. Our church proved to be a pleasant setting for this study group. Thank you to Jeanne Massey and Cindy Reynolds-Doyle for providing coffee and refreshments.

MAY BIRTHDAYS: (3rd) Livia Doyle, (10th) Jennifer Baker, (17th) Greg James

MAY ANNIVERSARY: (21st) Perry and Jennifer Baker

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES: (1st) Rich and Mary (Oellerich) Milz & (26th) Dennis Hanson and Jeanne Massey

(MAY THE LIGHT OF YOUR FAITH SHINE SO THAT IT WILL ILLUMINATE THE HEART OF ANOTHER)




*Your Mind is a garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds,
You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds.*

Some common flowering plants that are deer-resistant include: American holly; bleeding heart; buttercup; cactus; daffodil; flowering tobacco; gladiolus; lavender; lily of the valley; peony; sweet alyssum; and thyme. - Heloise



“Ode to Spring”

Spring, spring, beautiful spring, the sight makes my heart sing: All the beauty God has prepared for our eyes to behold, the daffodil, pussy willow, forsythia so gold. First the crocus, hyacinth, the tulips in lovely array, I want to say “Thank you Lord, for this beautiful day”. The peach blossoms, cherry, the apple and the pear, but the redbud’s beauty none other can compare. The little frogs sing their continual song, while the bluebirds build on their nest all day long. They raise their young; watch, but let them be. Oh, yes, Lord, thank you for the trees, they put forth their buds, then the tender green leaves; you forgot nothing, Lord, such a sight to see. The grass on the hillside, the valley in the dell. This scene is too beautiful for any tongue to tell. As I thank you God, for everything, especially do I want to thank you for **SPRING!**



When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—especially the joy of making a difference in someone’s life.

May 6	Apportionments
May 13	Golden Cross Sunday
May 20	Stained Glass Window Fund
May 27	Improvement Fund
June 3	Mineral Point Rescue Squad
June 10	Apportionments
June 17	UMC Camp Scholarships
June 24	Improvement Fund



“A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right, and evil doesn’t become good just because it’s accepted by a majority.”

“Attitude is the little thing that makes a big difference.” - Winston Churchill

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat,” – Laura Ingalls Wilder

“Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice.” – Steve Jobs

Highlights from 2017 from the Conference: 297 churches gave 100% of their apportionment covenant! Receipts increased by \$103,367 over the prior year. The 2017 Final Budget Report is now available on the Finance Office website.

Below please find the Parish Visitor Rotating Church Collation Schedule for 2018. Our goal is to mail our newsletter out by the last week of every other month:

<u>Parish Visitor:</u>	<u>Article Deadline:</u>	<u>Church Collates:</u>
Jul/Aug-First	June 18	June 27*
Sept/Oct-Linden	Aug. 20	Aug. 30
Nov/Dec-Bethel	Oct. 15	Oct. 25
Jan/Feb-First	Dec 10	Dec 20

*we need 4 volunteers on Wednesday, June 27th at 1st 9:30 – 11:00. Please call Marcia at 987-2700 & leave a message.

Need Help? Give help.

**Interchurch Emergency Food Pantry,
400 Doty Street, Mineral Point,
Wisconsin 987-2700**

**We need volunteers in Fellowship Hall on
Monday, May 14th anytime during 9:00-12:00
to write the expiration date on cans and sort
our community’s donations in follow-up to the
Saturday US Post Office National Drive**






First United Methodist Church: On behalf of the Community Connections Free Clinic, I would like to thank you for the gift of \$10 given on February 20, 2018. Your donation helps to support our mission to provide basic health care for those who cannot afford or have access to medical services in Iowa County and the surrounding areas. Jacki Thomas, Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator







Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of The United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968 with the Unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African American Congregations. As we celebrate this anniversary throughout 2018, especially around Heritage Sunday on May 20, visit UMC.org/umc50 for the latest news, features, and historical retrospectives on this most important anniversary for our church. Also be sure to follow and tag the United Methodist Church on social media with #UMC50.

May 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 (May Day) 9:15 Upland Hills Svc. 10:30 Atrium Svc. 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts at 1 st	2	3 National <u>Day of Prayer</u> 12:00 Sarah Circle at <u>Pointer Café</u>	4 Historic Preservation Week-end in MP 5-3-5/6	5 Cinco de Mayo 10-4 MP Stained Glass Tours \$10 for map at Trinity
6 (nurses day) Communion: 8:00 Bethel Svc. & Baptism of Louis & Bentley Erickson 9:15 1 st Svc. & Baptism of Grady Ivey 10:45 Linden Svc	7 7:00-8:00 Cub Scout Organizational Mtg. at 1 st	8 7:00 UMW meets at Linden	9	10 (Ascension Day)	11 4:00-8:00 Visitation at 1 st	12 11:00 Jerry Dolphin funeral at 1 st 9:00 am MP Post Office Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive 2-5 Bethel Make-up class
13 <u>Mother's Day</u> <u>Ascension Sunday</u> Golden Cross Sun. 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc, choir, & s/s children sing 10:45 Linden Svc. with celebration of women.	14 10:00-1:00 Volunteers are Needed to date, sort or stock Food Pantry at 1 st . 1:00-6:00 WICK at 1 st	15 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts at 1 st (will help with food drive)	16 5:30-7:30 cubs at 1 st 6:30 Parish Ad Council Meeting at 1 st	17 12:00 Atrium volunteer luncheon 6:30 Trustees, 7:00 Ad Council meet at 1 st	18	19 Armed Forces Day 5:00-8:00 Steak Supper At 1 st UMC
20 Pentecost & Heritage Sunday Graduates honored at 1 st & Linden 8:00 Bethel Svc. 9:15 1 st UMC Svc. & Baptism of Turner Rolli 10:45 Linden Svc., S/S sings	21	22	23 Last day for Seniors at MP	24 Aldersgate Day/Heritage Day	25	26 Pendarvis Opening] Day
27 Trinity Sunday <u>Memorial Sunday</u> 8:00 Bethel Svc 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc & choir 10:45 Linden Svc.	 28 <u>Memorial Day</u> <i>Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives</i> (Office closed)	29 1:00 Atrium Community card club (euchre) (Office closed)	30	31 5 th & 8 th grade Graduation MP		(MP Farmer's Market 8:30-11:00 May thru October)

June 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 MP Last day of classes	2 Art on Point Gallery Night & Art In Motion Parade
3 Communion: 8:00 Bethel 9:15 1st 10:45 Linden	4	5 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts at 1 st	6	7 12:00 Sarah Circle at Pointer Café (office closed)	8 Jammin' on the Porch, Orchard Lawn (office closed)	9 Chamber Music Festival – Opera House June 8-10
10 8:00 Bethel 9:15 1 st 10:45 Linden	11 7:00-8:00 Cub Scout Organizational Mtg. at 1st	12 7:00 UMW meets at Linden	13	14 6:30 Ad Council meets at 1 st Flag Day	15 Annual Conference 6/15-6/18	16 MP Garden Tour Annual Conference 6/15-6/18
17 <u>Father's Day</u> 8:00 Bethel 9:15 1st 10:45 Linden Annual Conference 6/16-6/19	18 NEWSLETTER  DEADLINE Annual Conference 6/15-6/18	19 10:30 Atrium Service with Pastor Gerhardt 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts at 1 st	20	21 First Day of Summer Summer Solstice	22	23 9:00-5:00 48 th Spring Green Art's & Crafts Festival, Sunday 9-4
24 8:00 Bethel 9:15 1 st 10:45 Linden	25	26 9:15 Upland Hills Service with Pastor Gerhardt 1:00 Atrium Community card club (euchre)	27 9:30 Collate P/V (1 st UMC: need volunteers) (office open)	28 John Wesley's Birthday (1703) (office closed)	29	30