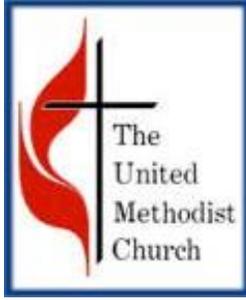


Parish of the Hills



Called to Make Disciples Of All!

**Parish of the Hills
United Methodist Churches**

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

E-mail: pohumc@gmail.com
Parish Web Site: parishofthehills.org
Conference email: www.wisconsinumc.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;

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) 492-0097

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

Marcia Ajer, Administrative Assistant

Enjoy
The
News



MAY/JUNE 2019

PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills



To the Members and Friends of Parish of the Hills:

My family and I will soon move to Minnesota. I am appointed to serve as pastor in the New Ulm area. This move will happen before the end of June, just weeks away from now.

As the time approaches for our departure from Parish of the Hills, I am increasingly aware of just how wonderful life is here for the pastor and his/her family.

We will miss you, our congregations, our schools, our neighbors, and the beauty of our surroundings more than we can say. There is so much I love about our congregations, and these are the most beautiful church buildings in which I have ever served.

This locale and its scenery are the most beautiful in which I have ever lived. The parsonage is the most elegant home on the most charming street in the loveliest community any of us Millers have ever lived. And I have never served any congregation or lived in any community that is more gracious, more patient, and more giving than you have been to me and my family.

You have accepted me and embraced my family: Heidi, Sophie, Hans, and Ling. We humbly thank you for the love we have experienced through your words and kindness. With gratitude for the immeasurable blessings you have so freely given us,

Gerhardt P. Miller, Pastor

NEWS & *Notes*

Mineral Point News *By: Ross Pollock*

I hope that you all had a Blessed and happy Easter and that our Lord will bring you a year of health and happiness!

The one sad note that intruded on our Easter celebration is that we are losing our pastor, Gerhard Miller, in mid-June. Pastor Gerhard will be leaving us to take up a charge in New Ulm, Minnesota. We are all unhappy to see him go, but in the long run it is what will be best for him, his family and his career. We all wish the very best for them all – Pastor Gerhard, Mama Ling, Hans, Sophie and Heidi – in his new posting. We will miss them all very much.

Two of the four outside door locks on our building self-destructed in the last months. In order to have one key work for all four locks, we have installed new locks with new keys. If you have an old key please discard it. It will no longer open our doors.

The problem with the heat in the fellowship hall has been fixed. Loose tiles outside the kitchen have been repaired. The door handle on the door fronting on the parsonage has been replaced. We have received bids for repair of the remaining stained glass windows in Fellowship Hall. The cost of the repairs will come out of the separate “window fund”. The elevator has been repaired.

The Ad Council voted to lower the pay of our organists to \$25 per service, it had been \$50.

The Administrative Council remains concerned about the state of our finances. For many years our income has been less than our expenses – a shortfall that has normally been made up by our fund raisers. But the extremely bad weather this winter forced us to cancel church services three weeks in a row. No offerings were gathered during that time depriving us of 75% of our income for January, leaving us without enough money to pay our bills. We have managed to (mostly) dig ourselves out of that hole for now but we continue to have financial problems. We need to take in an extra \$2,000 to get caught up. So PLEASE continue your generous weekly donations to our church. And PLEASE again, attend and support our fund raisers! The next one will be a pasty sale on May 4.

We have been looking into the cost and practicality of air conditioning our sanctuary. We have received a very reasonable bid, but will have to put that on hold until we have our finances in order. Our bid expires June 1 but the

contractor says that a later rebid will not cost very much more.

The Administrative Council is trying to inject transparency into our operations so that everybody will know our plans and understand our problems. We held a Congregational meeting April 12. We hope to make that an annual affair. We will post a copy of our annual budget, our current income and expenses and the names of the members of all of our Church’s committees. Dave Vandewater, Trustee Chair and I, Chair of the Administrative Council, will post our phone numbers so that anybody having suggestions for improvements, better ways of doing things, together with questions about church operations or to report problems will know who to call and how to reach them. The next Administrative Council meeting will be Thursday May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone can attend. You cannot vote, but you can be there to see what actually goes on.

We held a moderately successful Home-Made Soup and Sandwich Supper March 5. The soups were all delicious. We had “make-your-own” sandwiches, so guess who we are going to blame if YOURS wasn’t delicious? Attendance was down so we didn’t make quite as much as we had hoped, but many thanks to all of you who did attend. Profit on the affair was 583.10 with 100% of the expenses donated. THANK YOU to all our benefactors as well as those who worked to make the affair successful.

Our Cub Scout Pack held a food drive and brought their much needed gatherings in on March 9th. They gathered 696 lbs of non-perishable foods to restock the Inter-church Emergency Food Pantry in our basement! We had six volunteers from our church who made short work of sorting, marking, weighing and shelving the “goodies.”

April 7th we welcomed Rowan Kay Ivey, daughter of Kami and Chase Ivey, into our Christian fellowship. She was wonderfully calm and quiet as she was baptized.

On Father’s Day, June 15th we will welcome Calen Dunham, son of Katelyn & Eric as Calen will be baptized by his Grandfather, Rev. Thomas Dunham who also baptized Calen’s brother Declan on August 2, 2015.

As I write this, it is still in the future, but we plan to hold a pasty-making school on Thursday April 25 at 6:30. Our pasty-making crew is aging (as aren’t we all?!) and we need new people to step forward and learn how to make them if we are to continue the tradition in the years to come.

Wisconsin Conference will meet from Friday June 14 until Monday June 17. Anyone can attend upon paying the fee. Cheryl Keeney of Linden and Janet and I are planning on attending. This year it will be at the K&I Convention Center in Green Bay instead of Madison as the Marriott is undergoing major renovations and won’t be able to accommodate us. This is a fun and interesting event. I went last year and really enjoyed myself.

Pastor Gerhardt will be on vacation in Austria from Monday May 6 thru Thursday, June 6th. His last service with us will be Sunday June 16th.

Our new pastor should be in the pulpit Sunday June 30. Let us all attempt to give him/her a warm Mineral Point welcome!

If anyone knows of any news that should be included in the Parish Visitor, please contact me at (608) 574-8353.

I look forward to seeing you all in church soon. May the Good Lord keep you from all harm until we meet again on these pages.

Linden News

By: *Dixie Edge*

The men's Soup Supper was a success. Awesome meal and great opportunity for good conversation and fellowship. The men definitely enjoy their time in the kitchen. We served oyster soup, chicken noodle soup, potato soup and chili. Also, included were sandwiches cheese, Jell-O's and desserts. Lenten services were held in Linden that evening after the supper.

Many from Linden enjoyed traveling to the other churches in the Parish for Wednesday Lenten services; and thank everyone for their hospitality.

The congregation would like to send out a special thank you to Marilyn Simons; who has played the piano for many years and will not be able to help us out because a member of her own church is ill and she is needed there. Thank you so much Marilyn you have been a great blessing to us.

Thank you to Lisa Springer for all the subbing she has done playing the organ for us; we hope she will be able to fill in when possible.

The United Methodist Women resumed their meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm beginning March 12, 2019. The UMW will continue the food drive collection at each meeting for donating to the Mineral Point inter-churches.

UMW have sent out Valentine and Easter cards, along with our regular Sunshine cards sent to lift up those who are ill or in the loss of a loved one. It always makes one feel good to be thought of with a card.

On April 3, Lenten services were held at our church and the UMW served refreshments following the services. It is always nice to have the fellowship with family and friends.

The UMW presented a reading "Six Women on the Way to the Tomb" on Good Friday, April 19 at our church services.

A funeral luncheon was served for the Jeanne Tredinnick family on Saturday, April 13, 2019 after her funeral services held at our church. Our condolences to her family and friends.

On March 1, 2019 the UMW served the funeral luncheon for the Phyllis Reddell family. Our sincere sympathy to her many friends and family.

On Saturday, April 27, 2019 a funeral luncheon will be served by the UMW for the Alice (Merfy Rule) Gravelle family at the Linden Masonic Lodge. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

The congregation extends their sincere sympathy to Stan and Lynda Cutler and family on the loss of their daughter, Jamie Rae.

On Mother's Day, May 12 we will honor all mothers during worship services.

Senior recognition day will be held on May 19th with a gift honoring our graduates from the area.

Mark your calendars to plan on attending the Linden UMW Ice Cream Social to be held on Wednesday evening, July 17th.

The Sunday School children had a program during church on Palm Sunday, April 14th. They paraded into the church waving their palms for "Palm Sunday". They then performed the play "The Tale of Three Trees". Props were used and the moral of the story was: "God has a plan for each of us. There may be times we lose sight of our dreams, and we may not understand things that take place in our lives. We must remember though, that God loves us, has a plan for us, and is in control; therefore we can trust Him." We had many Mom's & Dad's, brothers & sisters, Grandpa's and Grandma's there! The children also performed 5 songs after their play. Always an exciting time to have the little ones in church.

The last day of Sunday School and also, the last Sunday they will sing in church until fall is on Sunday, May 19th.

The Sunday School Children are welcome to walk in the American Legion Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th. Start time for the parade will be announced in church on May 19th. Kids will need to be in front of the Legion Hall 15 minutes prior to start time.

Plans for the 7am Sunrise Service on Easter is in the works as I write the news. Grace and Lily Vivian, Liz Hoffman and Ella Parish have volunteered to help. Cheryl will be doing the sermon. It's a wonderful way to start the Easter day.

Many of you may have noticed the roof being replaced on the east side of the vestry over the nursery room. The drywall in the nursery was sagging; the trustees met and found that the roof was badly in need of repair. Jeff Lindner rearranged his schedule and finished the roof Tuesday night less than 12 hours before the snow and rain started. THANK YOU Jeff! Again, another example of the wonderful friends that bless our congregation.

The congregation is saddened to learn that we will be losing Pastor Gerhardt at the end of June. We wish him and his family well in their new opportunities in Minnesota.

Bethel News

By: Cindy Reynolds-Doyle

I like the idea of sowing seeds of kindness whenever the opportunity arises. Doing a kind deed for someone in need is the best feeling ever. Any age can participate and it's a wonderful lesson to share with young people. When we think of others and how we might lend a helping hand, our own worries fade into the background. Many times, when we focus on spreading kindness to others, we are rewarded with kindness in return. Keep in mind, we sow the seed – God produces the harvest. Have fun spreading kindness starting today!

Lenten Service:

Bethel hosted the Parish of the Hills Ash Wednesday Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 3rd and March 27th. We had a very good attendance with all three churches represented. Many enjoyed the refreshments following the service and took time for fellowship.

Palm Sunday:

The Palm Sunday Worship service at Bethel on April 14th was a big event with 57 in attendance. Two young ladies were confirmed into our Bethel Church Family. Ellery Massey, daughter of Rob and Caprice Massey and Grace Wersal, daughter of Matt Wersal and Bridget Wersal. Fifty-Seven family and friends were in attendance for this special occasion. The church was adorned with spring flower arrangements in the entryway and sanctuary. Ellery's Grandmother, Jeanne Massey and Grace's Grandmother, Mary Oellerich Milz presented gifts on behalf of the Bethel Congregation. Following the service a delicious potluck breakfast took place in the dining room. Shades of lavender, white and purples made a lovely setting for this wonderful meal. The buffet counter was overflowing with an amazing variety of tasteful foods. All who attended shared in a beautiful celebration at Bethel. We proudly welcome Ellery and Grace as members of the Bethel United Methodist Church. This is an important step in one's Christian journey and we wish them many blessings throughout their lives.

Easter Sunday:

It was a joyful Easter morning on Sunday, April 21st with 41 in attendance! Our Bethel Choir shared special music and Pastor Miller gave the Easter message. Two little Sunday School boys, Quayde and Gentry Doyle, had an Easter Treat to share with everyone on Easter Sunday morning. The weather was perfect!

May Wedding:

A wedding in our little country church is always a special event. On Saturday, May 11th Danielle James and Mathew Reed will be married at Bethel by Rev. Jim Droste. The James family has had ties to Bethel Church for several generations. We all wish this young couple the very best as they share their lives as husband and wife.

June Baptism:

The baptism of Helena Oellerich is planned for June 9th at Bethel, daughter of Katelyn and Theron, granddaughter of Karen & Steve Oellerich, Brad & Amy Johnson, and Trish Johnson.

Peace Garden and Landscaping Projects:

Time to tackle church yard clean up and planting projects. Anyone interested can join the caretaking crew.

In Sympathy:

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the Mike Doyle and Cindy Reynolds-Doyle family in the loss of Mike's mother, Mary Doyle on February 15th. She was a resident of Ingleside Manor in Mount Horeb after living in Madison for many years.

Sad News:

Saying goodbye to Pastor Gerhardt Miller will be hard for so many members of our Parish of the Hills congregations. He will be remembered for his heartfelt passion as he conducted worship services. His outgoing personality had a way of making everyone feel welcome in our churches. We truly wish Pastor Miller and his family the very best in their new churches in New Alm, and Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. May God's Blessings go with them always. Can I hear an AMEN?

Happy Birthday:

May: (3rd) Livia Doyle - - (10th) Jennifer Baker - - (17th) Greg James

Happy Anniversary:

May: (21st) Perry and Jennifer (James) Baker
June: (1st) Rich and Mary (Oellerich) Milz - - (26th) Dennis Hanson and Jeanne Massey

**BETHEL CHURCH 139 YEARS STRONG
CELEBRATING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE. WE
WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP ANYTIME.**

Spreading kindness can be contagious and you can make it happen. Our world will be a better place if we all help spread kindness to one another. Have a HAPPY SUMMER!



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 13th anytime during 9:00-12:30
to write the expiration date on cans and sort
our community's donations in follow-up to the
Saturday US Post Office National Drive**



HERBS FOR BEES, BUTTERFLIES & HUMMINGBIRDS

Herbs are among the most useful plants in nature. They can tantalize the taste buds, help cure what ails you, oil the body, perfume the air & their scent can attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. You can use fresh herbs from the garden for culinary purposes to help pollinators. It is mostly the abundant nectar that brings the bees in. Some of the more attractive herbs to bees are thyme, oregano, bee's friend, lemon balm, rosemary, hyssop, sage, lavender, catnip and chives. Others include cilantro, basil, fennel, & dill. Annual herbs tend to be more important to butterflies. Avoid wearing fragrances while gardening!



Below please find the Parish Visitor Rotating Church Collation Schedule for 2019. Our goal is to mail our newsletter out by the last week of every other month:

| Parish Visitor: | Article Deadline: | Church Collates: |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jul/Aug-First | June 17 | June 27**** |
| Sept/Oct-Linden | Aug. 19 | Aug. 29 |
| Nov/Dec-Bethel | Oct. 21 | Oct. 31 |
| Jan/Feb-First | Dec 09 | Dec 19 |

****First UMC needs four (4) volunteers on Thursday, June 27th at 1st from 9:30 – 11:00. Please call Marcia at 987-2700 & leave a message. Thank you so very much!

“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 5 Apportionments
- May 12 Golden Cross Sunday
- May 19 Stained Glass Window Fund
- May 26 Improvement Fund

- June 2 Mineral Point Rescue Squad
- June 9 Apportionments
- June 16 UMC Camp Scholarships
- June 23 Improvement Fund
- June 30 UMC Midwest Distribution Center



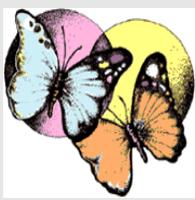
First United Methodist Church: Dear Friends of the United Methodist Church. Thank you all very much for your \$25.00 donation for Hodan Community Services. Your kind gift touches all of our hearts as we strive to provide the best possible service for local adults with disabilities. God bless you ALL! Hodan Community Services Development Director

THANK YOU!

To the congregation of the Linden Church: When Fama Rule retired from playing the last Sunday of the month, it became my honor – and joy to play for you! Ministers have come and gone, the Sunday School kids have sung, grown up, to be replaced by more little ones – what fun! Now it has become time for me to move on. The organist at my church in Edmund is too ill with pancreatic cancer to play anymore. Unless someone finds a piano player, or organist, the job is mine until I can't play anymore. I will miss this congregation a lot, but my responsibility is now in Edmond. What a congregation you are!! Gerhardt – you have a piece of my heart!! God richly bless all of you!!

Marilyn Simons

May 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| |  | | 1 May Day | 2 12:00 Sarah Circle at Pointer Café National Day of Prayer | 3 Historic Preservation celebration 3-5 | 4 Pasty Sale At 1 st MP Market Opens |
| 5 Communion: 8:00 Bethel Svc. 9:15 1 st Svc. 10:45 Linden Svc | 6 5/6-6/6 Pastor's Sabbatical | 7 Teacher Appreciation Day | 8 5:30-7:30 cubs at 1 st | 9 6:30 Trustees, 7:00 Ad Council meet at 1 st | 10 4:00-5:00 wedding rehearsal at Bethel | 11 3:00 Wedding of Danielle James & Matthew Reed at Bethel. USPO Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive |
| 12 <u>Mother's Day</u> Golden Cross Sunday 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc,choir, 10:45 Linden Svc | 13 9:00-1:00 USPO Food Drive needs volunteers at 1 st WICK 2:00-6:00 7:00-8:00 Cub Scout Mtg. at 1 st Nurses Day | 14 7:00 UMW meets at Linden | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Armed Forces Day |
| 19 Heritage Sunday 8:00 Bethel Svc. 9:15 1 st Svc. 10:45 Linden Svc. Rally Day,s/s sings 6:00 Pack Mtg. at 1 st | 20 | 21 | 22 5:30-7:30 cubs at 1 st | 23 | 24 6:00 wedding rehearsal at 1 st Aldersgate Day | 25 2:00 Wedding Of Megan Lee And Jordan Tibbits at 1 st |
| 26 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc,choir, 10:45 Linden Svc Memorial Sunday | 27  Memorial Day <i>Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives</i> | 28 1:00 Atrium Community card club (euchre) | 29 | 30 Ascension Day | 31 |  |

June 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|  <i>June</i> | |  June | | | | 1 Gallery Weekend, Tour Of Fairy Homes (Shake Rag) |
| 2 (Ascension Sunday) Communion: 8:00 Bethel Svc. 9:15 1st Svc. 10:45 Linden Svc | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 12:00 Sarah Circle at Pointer Café 6:30 Ad Council at 1st | 7 Chamber Music Festival 7-9 | 8 |
| 9 (Pentecost) 8:00 Bethel Svc w/baptism of Helena Oellerich 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc,choir, 10:45 Linden Svc | 10 7:00-8:00 Cub Scout Organizational Mtg. at 1st | 11 7:00 UMW meets at Linden | 12 5:30-7:30 cubs at 1 st | 13 | 14 Orchard Lawn Jammin' on the Porch Flag Day | 15 Charge Conf. 6/14-17 Green Bay KI Convention Center |
| 16 <u>Father's Day</u> 8:00 Bethel 9:15 1 st Svc. with baptism of Calen Dunham 10:45 Linden Svc. Annual Conference 6/14- 6/17 | 17 NEWSLETTER  DEADLINE Annual Conference 6/14-6/17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 First Day of Summer Summer Solstice | 22 9:00-5:00 49 th Spring Green Art's & Crafts Festival, Sunday 9-4 |
| 23 8:00 Bethel Svc 8:30 choir at 1 st 9:15 1 st Svc,choir, 10:45 Linden Svc | 24 | 25 1:00 Atrium Community card club (euchre) | 26 5:30-7:30 cubs at 1 st | 27 Collate Parish Visitor (First UMC) | 28 John Wesley's Birthday (1703) | 29 |
| 30 8:00 Bethel Svc. 9:15 1st Svc. 10:45 Linden Svc | | | | | |  JUNE |