



Envelope included for your weekly giving envelope.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Phone: 608-524-3913

Reedsburg, WI 53959

833 Third Street

Reedsburg United Methodist Church

CALENDAR FOR July 2021

DATE	TIME	EVENT
July 4	9AM	IN PERSON WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH
	9AM	WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK LIVE
	9AM	WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE
	9:45-10AM	DRIVE UP COMMUNION
	1PM	OACIÓN WORSHIP SERVICE
	3:30PM	WORSHIP ON REEDSBURG TV STATION 11.1
July 11	9AM	IN PERSON WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH
	9AM	WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK LIVE
	9AM	WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE
	1PM	OACIÓN WORSHIP SERVICE
	3:30PM	WORSHIP ON REEDSBURG TV STATION 11.1
July 15	9AM	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
July 18	9AM	IN PERSON WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH
	9AM	WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK LIVE
	9AM	WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE
	1PM	OACIÓN WORSHIP SERVICE
	3:30PM	WORSHIP ON REEDSBURG TV STATION 11.1
July 21	7:15PM	SERVANT LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 25	9AM	IN PERSON WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH
	9AM	WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK LIVE
	9AM	WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE
	1PM	OACIÓN WORSHIP SERVICE
	3:30PM	WORSHIP ON REEDSBURG TV STATION 11.1





*Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.*

The U.M.C. News

REEDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Even before the pandemic there are reasons we may have felt like a caged bird, trapped and hopeless. July 4, we will begin the three-part sermon series, Freedom, helping you...

- let go of other's expectations, whether real or perceived.
- break free from some of the unhealthy ways of coping with life.
- learn the gift of letting go as an act of love.

This worship series will be offered Sundays: live and in person at 8:33 3rd Street, here in Reedsburg, AND online at both Facebook Premier, and YouTube at 9:00 am CT AND Reedsburg TV Station channel 11.1 at 3:30. If you do not have access to any of these worship platforms, you can request a hard copy of the sermon manuscript by calling the church office at 608-524-3913. A downloadable manuscript is also available from our website reedsburgunitedmethodistchurch.org.

As always, invite someone to join you in worship by any of these methods.



Pastor Vicki and Provisional Deacon Mary Beth Shear, are looking ahead to our confirmation class for 2022. In our planning we are wanting to know how many students would be entering 8th grade or older, who want to grow in their faith through confirmation this next year. So, if you or someone you know is entering 8th or any grade in High School, who is interested or just have questions, please contact Pastor Vicki 608 289-9739.

July Newsletter DEADLINE — June 15th

608-524-3913 • rumc@rucls.net



After meeting with the COVID 19 Bounce Back Team, June 3, many of the previous guidelines have been repealed.

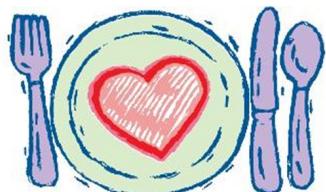
- If you are sick, PLEASE attend worship at home.
- Face coverings are optional. Note that CDC does recommend those not vaccinated continue wearing masks at indoor events such as worship, but RUMC still considers it optional.
- We will continue to provide ample hand sanitizer so you may maintain good hygienic practices for the health of yourself and those worshiping.
- We are taking attendance through the use of connection cards that may be deposited in the offering baskets that are stationed at both doors leading into the sanctuary.
- We have resumed singing and children's time at our live worship and cushions and Bibles have been returned to the pews.
- While we have lifted the need for social distancing, we do ask that you respect other people's boundaries, regarding distance/hugs/handshakes. Please do not be offended by and please do not shame those who choose to continue some of the guidelines they have practiced over the last 12+ months.

Mission Statement:

"To build a Christian community where we become deeply committed followers of our Lord Jesus Christ who know God with our heads, love God with our hearts and serve God with our hands."

Our Vision:

"As disciples of Jesus Christ we will be transformed by Him to change lives within our church, community and world."



To help with FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

please contact:
The church office

@

524-3913

or

Kay Daley

@

608-963-6337

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



•The Reedsburg Food Pantry has expressed their thanks for all the food that has been donated along with any monetary amounts given.

•Thank you for all that participated and helped with the "Love your neighbor Gratitude and Grace Gathering

A Message From Pastor Vicki

The church needs to be a shame-free zone. One thing that has truly concerned me over the last year, is the degree of shaming that has plagued the world. A pastor had counseled a parishioner who feared being shamed of contracting COVID-19. Said pastor didn't understand why someone would be concerned of being shamed by others for contracting a disease, *until* she experienced COVID-19 herself.

She received searing e-mails, blaming her for the school being closed. She received phone calls condemning her for not taking proper precautions, even though she had followed the current protocol.

Fortunately the pastor survived a very harsh case of the disease, but it didn't seem right that on top of it, she received a heavy dose of shame. If there is ever a time for compassion and empathy, it is certainly when one has acquired a life-threatening disease and must be separated even from those within their household. Sadly, the shaming has not been limited to people who have contracted COVID-19. I've heard people shaming people for wearing masks, I've heard people shaming people for not wearing masks. And now the same thing is happening to those to those getting vaccinated, and those *not* getting vaccinated.

What is the point of shaming? On some level it is a form of control, but at what cost? Famed shame expert Brené Brown defined the word shame in a blog, titled *Shame vs. Guilt*, as the "intense painful feeling or experience of believing we are flawed and therefore unworthy of acceptance and belonging—something we've experienced, done or failed to do makes us unworthy of connection." We have already felt physically disconnected for some time now, why would we further make others feel disconnected through the weapon of shame?

Well, on another level, shaming behaviors is a quick way to make ourselves feel superior to the other person, all while communicating that we wish they would be or act differently. The problem is that shaming creates walls that hinder respectful adult conversation negating the ability for either party to take responsibility for their own feelings.

Shaming takes its energy from judgment and self-righteousness; it is not conducive to loving one another. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may

**THIS IS A
SHAME-FREE
ZONE**

benefit those who listen." All too often we think of "unwholesome talk" as being the four-letter words your mother threatened to wash your mouth out for. But there are many other forms of "unwholesome talk."

At the sermon on the mount, Jesus acknowledged that his listeners already heard about the law against murder, and yet, he reminded them how we can murder one another with words, saying, "I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill." (Matthew 5:21-22) For those who may not see judgmental acts of shaming as "unwholesome talk" Jesus goes on in chapter 7 to highlight, "Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging."

How do we overcome our propensity to shaming? By tuning in to our empathy, our ability to understand how it might feel to be in someone else's shoes, then we can better understand how painful it is to hear shaming words. If we've resolved not to cause harm to others, we can use this empathy as a way to turn off the instinct to shame others, instead, choosing kinder words when we need to communicate. It's a matter of checking our words before speaking them, especially when we feel disgust, anger or hurt. Are the words we are about to say necessary, helpful and true? If not, then with practice, we can choose not to say them, and instead consider what it is that we really want to communicate.

Love grows here at Reedsburg United Methodist Church, it is a shame-free zone. But remember as a disciple of Jesus Christ you are an extension of RUMC. Make sure you create a shame-free zone wherever you are, by being slow to speak and quick to tap into empathy. In doing that you truly will be taking steps to help transform the world on behalf of Jesus Christ.

PASTOR VICKI BRANTMEYER PASTOR PROCOPIO ARELLANO

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2021 SERVANT LEADERSHIP BOARD

Chair:
Sandy Gorsuch

Finance Co Chairs:
Curt Larson & Pat Jaquish

Secretary:
Scarlet Huffman

Staff Relations Co-Chairs:
Brad Anderson &
Ellen Peshorn

Trustees Co-Chairs:
Tom Seamonson &
Linda Brunn

**Lay Rep to Annual
Conference:**
Mary Beth Shear

Members at Large:
John Deitrich &
Donna Douglas

What are Apportionments?



Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace...

Apportionments form the framework for our individual and congregational participation in connectional ministry and mission. In the July and August newsletters we will be taking some time to answer questions and explain the Methodist system that ministers to all God's children around the world.

Q: What are apportionments? A: The United Methodist apportionment system of giving financially underwrites United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church stretching our resources around the globe. "Apportionments" describes the portion that each congregation contributes to the annual conference and general church operating budgets. This type of giving allows us to work toward our goal of making

disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and, like all giving to the church, is a way of sharing our blessings. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church, representing the minimum needs for mission and ministry in the annual conference.

Q: What does it mean to tithe? The Bible talks about giving a tithe, or 10 percent. Proverbs 3:9-10a encourages us to "Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty." In Malachi 3:10, we read, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Q: Who determines apportionment amounts? A: The General Conference establishes budgets for the denomination and is divided among annual conferences, based on a specific formula. Each conference, using its own approved formula, divides these fund requests, along with conference administrative and benevolence fund requests, among local churches.

Q: What happens if our church cannot contribute that amount of money? A: When we pay our apportionments, we affirm that we are part of a connectional church. Any church that cannot pay their apportionments in full — and it does happen — will often have a follow-up conversation with their district superintendent or bishop to see what issues may have caused the shortfall, and what steps, if any, may be taken to remedy the situation in the future. Sometimes, congregations who have paid their apportionment volunteer to help other churches who, for one reason or another, cannot pay.

The apportionment system and the giving of connectional responsibilities is very important. It's what defines and empowers us as a global church. We are not just isolated local churches. We are connectional churches so that our collective resources help everyone at every level. When we share our money, we fuel the ministry. A portion of our giving pays our apportionments and thereby feeds several general United Methodist Church funds. In August we will list the funds and define their purpose.

CELEBRATION!



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR!



A day of celebration as we put together celebration bags for our neighbors that use the Reedsburg Food Pantry to be distributed to guests, to help make their next celebration special

We received, boxes of cake mix, container of frosting, candy sprinkles, 16oz. bottle of oil cooking, and birthday candles. We were able to put together 49 bags on May 30th.

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Lay Member to Annual Conference Report - June 2020

Every June the UMC Wisconsin Conference gathers both clergy and laity for a time of "holy conferencing" in the manner of John Wesley and the early Methodists. It is a time of fellowship and celebration as well as discernment of ministries to which God is calling us. This year the conference was again "virtual" but will return to in-person next June 10-13, 2022 in Green Bay. Two celebrations of special note for our congregation are the retirements of Pastor Marvin Singh and Roxanne Gnatzig, and my commissioning as a deacon. The theme of this year's annual conference was "Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice." Jesus was radically inclusive and modeled that for us as he blessed the poor, ate with sinners and touched those that society considered untouchable.

Bishop Jung's message to the 454 churches in our conference as we emerge from the pandemic casts a vision of hope. He acknowledged the trauma of the past 15 months and said we are not going back, but are moving into a new reality. The future we create together has the potential to be better as we focus on justice and care of others. We have learned new skills to create connections within and beyond our congregation. The institution of the church may change, but the mission will stay the same. In every human countenance we behold the face of Christ. He said patience may be the most important of God's gifts at this time. As we discern together what God is calling us to do, he asks us not to give in to fear, not to give up hope, and do not let our problems define us. Pray for our church, our future and in all things do all the good you can for others. Our hope is in the power of the risen Christ to bring about transformation.

On the business side of the conference a vote was taken to accept the closure of the Lavalle/Ironton church, celebrating the many years of ministry of that congregation. From 2019-2020 our denomination lost about 2000 members in Wisconsin, similar to national and previous year trends, leaving about 51,000 members across our state. The 2020-2021 budget of \$6.4 million for the conference was approved and the delegates saw multiple videos highlighting ministries across our conference and world supported by our connectional church. Overall 75% of apportionments were collected, with 245 churches able to pay 100% of their apportionments last year. Our conference was able to pay 80% of its global apportionment. There are 26 Hispanic/Latino ministries in our conference, of which Reedsburg church is one. The UMC General Conference is to be held in Minneapolis, Aug. 2022 followed by Jurisdictional Conference (where bishops are elected and assigned) Nov. 2022 in Fort Wayne, IN. Pastor Vicki and I will share more with the congregation about these upcoming conferences in the near future. May our local, regional and global church continue to put faith, hope and love into action. I will share more from annual conference in the next newsletter.

Mary Beth Shear 2021 Lay Member to Annual Conference





- We have several worship options on Sundays: live worship in the church sanctuary at 9:00 am, Facebook premier (<https://www.facebook.com/reedsburgumc/>) at 9:00 with a host/ess to greet attendees, YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm55c9m0Q6UF_F1QKhMMGDw) anytime after 9:00 am and Reedsburg station 11.1 at 3:30 pm. As always, the sermon manuscript is available electronically on our website (<http://www.reedsburgunitedmethodistchurch.org>) or call the church during office hours (9-12 Monday-Thursday at 608 524-3913) to have a hard copy mailed to you.
- We no longer having coffee hour on the ZOOM platform. You are welcome to connect with friends after worship at the new patio, on the southeast corner of the church building, just outside the dining hall entrance.
- We will no longer be offering drive-thru communion on Sundays. Pastor Vicki is available for those comfortable with a visit, and serve communion to you directly. Just give her a call at 608-289-9739 to set up a date and time.
- We continue to receive non-perishable food donations in the plastic bins located just to the right of the 3rd Street entrance to the church, or in the grocery cart located in the hallway outside the sanctuary.
- Viking Village Foods offers the church a rebate for any receipts turned in to their store. If you shop at Viking Village you are encouraged to drop your receipt at the donation box located at the 3rd Street entrance of the church at any time. They may also be deposited with your monetary gifts deposited in the offering baskets during live worship.
- Another simple way of contributing to the church is through the Smiles program on Amazon. Simply log in to smile.amazon.com and choose Reedsburg United Methodist Church. Then whenever you shop amazon make sure your shopping is done through Amazon Smile, and a portion of the retail will be sent to RUMC.
- Other ways of giving: mailing/dropping it off 833 3rd Street, Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959 (or at the entrance or exit of worship)—going to our website, reedsburgunitedmethodistchurch.org and click on the donate button—text your gift at 855-963-3691.
- Two ways of finding prayer support: text message Pastor Vicki directly to the new prayer text number: 608-710-7567. You may also email your prayer to a prayer angel at rumcprayer@hotmail.com. Prayers given to the Prayer Angel, Pastor Vicki or the church office may be passed on to our electronic prayer chain ONLY if you instruct us to do so.
- If you would like to be part of the email prayer chain, please contact the office (rumc@rucls.net or 608-524-3913) or email the prayer angel at RUMCprayer@hotmail.com, and we will add you to the e-list.
- Leadership Board met live and in person June 16th. A synopsis of the meeting is included as an insert in this newsletter. NOTE: SLB meetings are open to the public, with the exception of staff sensitive matters, which may require confidentiality. If you want to attend but prefer to do so through ZOOM let us know and we will get you a meeting # and passcode. The next meeting will be July 21st at 6:30.



Hey RUMC Families!
Watch email/Facebook for an upcoming youth/family event



- 7/1 Darel Pliner
- 7/1 Kern Small
- 7/2 Chad Ruetten
- 7/3 Jeff Walker
- 7/6 William Green
- 7/7 Bob Ciaglo
- 7/9 Jennifer Constant
- 7/9 Mida Pearson
- 7/10 Mark Vogel
- 7/13 Angeli Austin
- 7/13 Linda Gneiser
- 7/18 Sophia Larson
- 7/20 Howard Brantmeyer
- 7/23 Vicki Brantmeyer
- 7/23 Frank Harmeyer
- 7/23 Dorothy Sivam



Let's meet the RUMC staff:

Shelby Lange has been our RUMC Treasurer since May of 2020. She lives locally in Reedsburg about two blocks from the church, so she can walk over in good weather.

Shelby enjoys cooking – mostly comfort food that she also attempts to put a healthy spin on. We hope to sample some of her culinary creations when potluck lunches resume! Another forever hobby is reading. The running joke with her family is that the library is her ‘mother ship.’ More recently Shelby has taken up some light crafting ---sewing, crochet and needlework.



Originally from Ohio, Shelby moved with her family to WI – outside Lime Ridge at the end of her 5th grade year. Between the two, she says she is very glad as an adult to call Reedsburg, WI her home base. Shelby has two children: Caleb, age 11, and Wyatt, age 10. She lives with her significant other, Chris. Together, they have recently (in the past 6 months or so) started a fresh water aquarium.

Shelby loves to travel. Notably, she was able to visit both major oceans growing up. As an adult, she has taken two especially memorable trips - to CO where she was able to visit Pikes Peak, and to AZ where she took a short guided tour in the Sonoran desert outside of Scottsdale. She would like to make longer visits to both places. Shelby says her special talent when traveling is to find interesting and unique restaurants and lodging. Remember this if you are planning your dream vacation! Her next target is to rent a treehouse. This seems to be growing in popularity in multiple states.

For her “day job,” Shelby works at Mueller Sports Medicine in Prairie du Sac. She has been there 13 years, in her current position as Credit Manager for the past eight. She says she is good at what she does there (mostly managing risk and analyzing payment patterns), and this is consistent with her education in Accounting. While she enjoys her work in the world of business, she appreciates the opportunity to use her talents for the greater good when she is working on the books at RUMC. Shelby says that everyone she has worked with has been so positive and welcoming. She is glad to be here and our congregation is thrilled to have her with us.



Gentle Chair Yoga is Coming Back!

Ready to increase your strength, flexibility and balance with yoga? Join Judy Martin, Certified Yoga Instructor, for a **FREE** 9-week class, suitable for everyone. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 noon to 12:30 pm. starting Tuesday, July 6 and ending on August 31st. All classes will be held in the Reedsburg United Methodist Church parlor. To register, call the church office at 524-3913. For more information, call Judy at 524-3098. Masks are optional, but the CDC recommends that those not vaccinated continue to wear a mask, especially indoors.