

Dodgeville United Methodist Church
327 North Iowa Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Prepared especially for...

Newsletter
March 2023

Members & Friends of Dodgeville and
Ridgeway Grace United Methodist Church

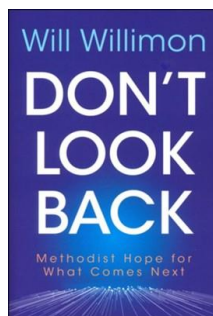


The Compass

A PUBLICATION OF
DODGEVILLE & RIDGEWAY GRACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

March 2023: “Don’t Look Back” (Part I)

On March 16th Christina and I will be attending the *Bishop’s Day Apart* at First United Methodist Church in Barbao with both Bishop Hee-Soo-Jung and South West District Superintendent Amanda Stein. It is a time for clergy to gather in fellowship and discussion with these leaders. As a part of the discussion time, Bishop Jung will be using the book *Don’t Look Back* by Bishop Will Willimon. In preparation, I purchased the book, reading it and taking notes.



Willimon wrote this book in response to the movement of churches that are currently seeking to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. He also writes about the current decline in the denomination and offers some thought-provoking suggestions for how we might combat that decline.

As I write this month’s article, I am about halfway through the book and wanted to share some of the more interesting and challenging quotes that we might reflect on them together as we think about the direction and future of both Dodgeville UMC and Grace (Ridgeway) UMC. Next month I will reflect on the second part of this book.

“We stopped being a church for this neighborhood, and made the fatal mistake of becoming a church for the sake of the church.” (p. 5)

In this I think Willimon is correct! For many churches, we place our emphasis on taking care of those who are already a part of the church family and do not emphasize building relationships with those who are around us. Pastors function more like chaplains! As William Temple said, “The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.”

“Many congregations are using their people and financial resources to keep a large, mostly empty building open...” (p. 26)

This one hit me hard, but again, he’s correct. This is a reality that Grace (Ridgeway) UMC faced last year. While we had a beautiful and historic church building, it was too big for us and it was costing us too much money to maintain. As a result, we sold our church building so that we might be able to allocate those resources to other opportunities. We have re-thought doing church in an old elementary school classroom...and it’s working! 😊

Dodgeville UMC faces this struggle as well. Just last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our current church building. It was a wonderful celebration and reunion! But our building was built for a different time in our church’s history. Twenty years ago (2003) our membership was **429** and we averaged **147** people in worship each week (*I could not find statistics for 1973 in time, but I imagine both numbers would be much higher*). As of the beginning of 2023 we now have **140** members and we average **44** people for in-person worship each week. We are trying to maintain a building that is too big for our congregation as it stands right now.

“Rather than, ‘How can we get more people in church?’ say, ‘If we succeed in getting our church out into the neighborhood, we’ll get more people in church.’” (p. 54)

We usually do “church” with the mindset of getting people to come into *our* building when culturally people are less and less likely to feel comfortable walking into a church. Instead, our focus should be how we can “be” the church to people *outside* of the church building. We need to think about ways in which *we* get out of the comfort of our church building and go out to where the people are, those who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“Online worship viewing tripled during the pandemic, but few believe that will last or lead to active participation in congregations.” (p. 81)

We have certainly seen a significant increase in our online worship attendance since the pandemic, and we have been more intentional

about tracking that attendance. When you combine in-person and virtual attendance it is similar to where we were before the pandemic. The question is how connected to the church family are those who are watching us virtually. Our conference leadership emphasizes the need to bolster our online worship presence, but Willimon questions how active those who watch online will be in the church's mission. I think more research and time will help to decide this.

I encourage you to prayerfully reflect on his statements. I would certainly appreciate your thoughts and pushback on them as well. More to come next month!

May you continue to have a blessed Lenten season in which you seek to grow in your relationship with God!

~ Pastor Jim



Holy Week Services for Dodgeville UMC

- **Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2nd)**—A reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of Matthew will be shared instead of a sermon.
- **Maundy Thursday—April 6th at 6:30PM at Plymouth UCC:** At 5:30pm, we will have a meal in the basement of the church. Plymouth will be providing soups and Dodgeville UMC are asked to bring sandwiches. Beverages and rolls will be provided.
- **Good Friday—April 7th at 6:30PM at Dodgeville UMC**

Church Family News

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendar! Vacation Bible School will be happening Monday through Wednesday this year, August 7th through the 9th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. We look forward to providing this valuable experience to children in our community.

March Birthdays

7 – Rachel Dees
7 – Julia Harman
15 – Jonathon Butteris
15 – Dallas Starr



February Attendance/Giving

Date	In Person	Facebook	Vimeo	Offering
2/5/23	48	18	18	\$6,679
2/12/23	55	16	8	\$4,004
2/19/23	42	n/a	n/a	\$2,036
2/26/23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Please Pray:

Theresa Stewart, Pam Fingerson, Edna Dunham, Jeff & Jackie Dux, Ivy Wilson, Mary Ellen Schultze, Zach Hickman, Pastor Kristen Lowe, Walsh family

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend the following events.

The March meeting of United Women in Faith is scheduled for Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30PM. Juanita Starr will present the annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. A freewill offering will be received that will directly support UWinF's racial justice initiative, "helping to create a more equitable society". Robin Digman and Martha Boyer will serve refreshments. Please know that all women are welcome to attend our meetings. For more information about our organization please visit the website at uwfaith.org.

Other important dates for March:

March 23rd, 2023 – Annual “Day of Giving” for The Legacy Endowment Fund. This fund is a permanent investment that supports the work and the future of United Women in Faith. Generous donors have already committed to matching a portion of the gifts received on this date. For more information about the Legacy Fund, please contact Charlene Mingst, Martha Boyer, or Robin Digman – or visit the website.

March 25th, 2023 – Registration is due for the annual SW District Spiritual Growth Retreat scheduled for Saturday, April 1st at the Lodi UMC. The theme for the event is - *I Pray and Ask* --- ***Who Is in Control?*** The leader for the day is Barbara Dick. The day begins with a 9:00AM check-in (coffee, juice, and continental breakfast available) and concludes with Communion and “Sending Forth” at 2:30PM. The registration fee is \$15.00 which includes lunch. Please see Charlene Mingst or Martha Boyer for a registration blank—you do not have to be a member of UWinFaith to attend this event. Car-pooling will be available.

March 30th, 2023 at 6:30PM -- we will hold what should be our April meeting on this last Thursday of March because the first Thursday in April is Maundy Thursday.

WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money . . .”
Ecclesiastes 5:10

Many people will say that they want more money. But, the truth is that's not what people really want. As far as I know, we still cannot eat money, make clothes from it, or build a house with it. If we were stranded on a deserted island, it would be practically useless to us.

No one really wants money. Instead, they want what they think it will provide for them. For some people, more, nicer, newer stuff; others want the sense of security or power they think it provides.

I would argue that, until we understand what motivates our desire for money, we won't be at peace in our relationship with it.

This Lenten season, I would encourage you to take time to figure out your money motivation by taking this [Money Motivation Quiz](#). As it notes, none of the motivations are inherently good or bad, but each does have a “dark side”. More than just allowing us to lean into the positive parts of our motivation and avoid the dark side, knowing that people may have different motivations regarding money than we do, will help us when we deal with money in our relationships.

Ultimately, we believe that loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves is our greatest priority. It is always easier to do so when we know ourselves well.

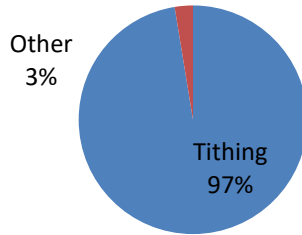
*Rev. Jason Mahnke,
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

FINANCIAL REPORT

January

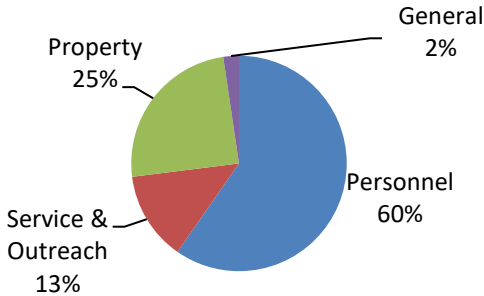
Tithing	\$11,967	97%
Other	\$316	3%
Total	<u>\$12,293</u>	

January Income = \$12,293



Personnel	\$8,476	60%
Service & Outreach	\$1,894	13%
Property	\$3,500	25%
General	<u>\$333</u>	2%
Total Expenses	<u>\$14,204</u>	

January Expenses = \$14,204



CHOIR NOTES



The choir is scheduled to sing on Sunday, March 5th and Sunday, March 19th. We will rehearse at 8:00AM on those Sundays. We welcome new and/or returning members at any time!!

UW in FAITH
Rummage/Bake Sale
Coming
April 21 & 22

Daylight
Savings
Time
Begins
Sunday,
March 12th



Hidden Valley Community Church is hosting a live streaming **women's IF: Gathering 2023** Friday March 3 from 6-9 and Saturday March 4 from 9-4. To register or find out more information visit: <https://www.hiddenv.com/if-gathering>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 LOOSE CHANGE 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	27	28 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	1 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal 6:30pm Lenten Study	2 6:30pm UW in Faith Meeting	3	4 6:30pm DTC Support Group
5 Communion 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	6 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	7 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group 6:00pm Love Dodgeville Meeting	8 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal 6:30pm Lenten Study	9 6:00pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Church Council	10	11 6:30pm DTC Support Group
12 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	13	14 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	15 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal 6:30pm Lenten Study	16 8:00am UHH Training 1:30pm Wills & Memorials Meeting 6:30pm Feeding Friends Steering Committee	17	18 8:30am P.E.O. 6:30pm DTC Support Group
19 8:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	20 7:30pm Farm Bureau	21 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	22 Newsletter Deadline 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal 6:30pm Lenten Study	23	24	25 6:30pm DTC Support Group
26 LOOSE CHANGE FOR CHANGE - Free Clinic 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	27	28 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	29 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal 6:30pm Lenten Study	30 6:30pm Mission Meeting 6:30pm UW in Faith Meeting	31	1 6:30pm DTC Support Group

2023 SUNDAY SERVANTS

Week	DATE	Communion	Media	Liturgist	Greeters	Child Moment	Cafe	Accompanist
4	2-26-23		Tom	Peggy	Chip & Peggy Forrest	Peggy	Jan Aschliman Charlene Mingst Ginny Gorsline	Carla
1	3-5-23	Dee	Juanita	Brittany	Sandy & Steve Alexander	Brittany	Peggy Forrest Nancy Mortimer	Ginny
2	3-12-23		Tom	Julia	Sandy & Steve Alexander	Pastor Jim	Dawn Van Epps Deb Short	Carla
3	3-19-23		Julie	Dawn	Sandy & Steve Alexander	Dawn	Kerry Beerkircher Julie James	Ginny
4	3-26-23		Juanita	Martha	Sandy & Steve Alexander	Martha	Ethan & Seirra McCracken Juanita Starr	Denise
1	4-2-23	Dee	Tom	Jan	Steve & Julie Colden	Pastor Jim	Jody Vanderloo Penny Edwards	Ginny
2	4-9-23	Dee	Juanita	Terry	Steve & Julie Colden	Terry	Mary & Rich James	Praise band
3	4-16-23		Tom	Peggy	Steve & Julie Colden	Peggy	Sarah Buroker Joanna Schindler	Ginny
4	4-23-23		Juanita	Brittany	Steve & Julie Colden	Brittany	Jan Aschlioman Charlene Mingst Ginny Gorsline	Praise band
5	4-30-23		Tom	Julia	Steve & Julie Colden	Pastor Jim	Julie & Steve Colden	Ginny



MARCH

