

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



Prepared especially for...

*Members and Friends of Dodgeville &
Ridgeway Grace
United Methodist Churches*



The Compass

A PUBLICATION OF
DODGEVILLE & RIDGEWAY GRACE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



May 2023: “*Looking Back*” (Part I)

Since the announcement was made that Christina and I will be moving to the Plymouth area in July, I have been doing a lot of reflection on my time here as pastor. This month I would like to reflect on three things I have learned around pastoring in the community.



Being Appointed to the Church *and* Community

When I received my first appointment as a pastor in 2009, Bishop Linda Lee shared with us that while we were appointed to a church or churches, we were also appointed to the community in which we are located. I have taken this to heart in my time here. During my tenure as pastor to Dodgeville and Ridgeway, I have participated in worship services and nursing homes in five different facilities. I have been part of a rotation of pastors that have offered worship services in the old *and* new jails in Iowa County. I have served on the Dodgeville Library Board of Trustees, have volunteered as a LIFT driver for SWCAP, have served as chaplain for Upland Hills Hospice, served on a committee seeking to provide housing for homeless families in Iowa and Lafayette counties, among other opportunities. Dodgeville and Ridgeway have become my home in a way I have not experienced because I have become invested in the communities, those *in* the communities, and have worked for the wellbeing of the communities.

As a church planter, it will be critical for me to immerse myself in the Plymouth community. I have been given the freedom to be immersed in the Dodgeville and Ridgeway communities and this is something that I want to continue to do!

Begin Ecumenical

I can remember that in my transition report from the previous pastor when it came to ecumenical partnerships and events it was written, “None at this time; this has been very difficult in Dodgeville.” Pastor Joylynn Graham of Plymouth UCC reached out to Carla after I had been here a few months looking to see if I was able to get together for coffee. We later reached out to Pastor Mark Williamson of the Lutheran Church. They were also told similar things about ecumenical partnerships! Since then, we have had a pastor’s group that has met at *least* monthly (*except for COVID*) and we have partnered on many different worship services and events. We have been greatly blessed by these partnerships and I am confident that these relationships will continue.

I have gotten to know several of the pastors in Dodgeville and in the surrounding communities. I consider many of them to be friends *and* colleagues in ministry. Because of these friendships and relationships, I have developed a critical support system in my time here where I can ask questions, seek advice, and wrestle with the difficulties of ministry.

This passion for ecumenical partnerships is something that I will carry with me to my next appointment. In seeking to plant a new church in a community, these partnerships *will* be critical.

Funerals as “Celebrations of Life”

In my previous appointment in Oakfield and Eden, I participated in two to three funerals each year. In the eight years that I have served as pastor in this community I have presided at well over 125 funerals. Having presided at 25 alone in 2022, I found myself coming into this year spiritually exhausted. We said goodbye to some *very* dear members this past year, and I have had to say farewell to many members of the church that I cared for deeply.

When we say goodbye to someone who has died, we grieve, but we also celebrate their life *and* the new life that they have in Jesus Christ. I have officiated in many church *and* community funerals in which I am reminded of the eternal reward that comes with a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a reminder that I will carry with me throughout my pastoral service.

All of this would not be possible *at all* without the support and

encouragement of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee that encouraged me to forge those ecumenical and community partnerships. So, thank you!

Stay tuned for next month's article...my last article as your pastor.

~ Pastor Jim

PLEASE PRAY: Theresa Stewart, Pam Fingerson, Edna Dunham, Jeff & Jackie Dux, Ivy Wilson, Mary Ellen Schultze, Zach Hickman, Pastor Kristen Lowe, John Gevelinger and family, Patti Kersten

CHOIR NOTES

The choir is scheduled to sing on Sunday, May 7th, Sunday, May 21st, and on Pastor Jim's last Sunday with us on June 25th. We will rehearse at 8:00AM on all three Sundays. We welcome new and/or returning members at any time.

PRAYER MINISTRY

After being interrupted by the pandemic, a group will be meeting for prayer again at 10:00 A.M. every Tuesday in the church library. We will pray for special requests along with prayers for our Pastor, our church and our world. While we are currently following the ACTS formula for prayer (Adoration, Worship, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication), we are flexible.

We incorporate the weekly prayer requests from worship to our ongoing list of needs and concerns. We bring to the Lord requests that come to us from the blue connection cards in the bulletin and requests we receive from the prayer boxes near the entrance to the sanctuary. Please consider joining us in prayer. You do not need to be a member of the church and if you prefer to pray in silence we welcome your participation. Questions may be directed to the church office: 608-935-5451.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 – Kay Van Epps
4 – Rick Beerkircher
5 – Jody Vanderloo
11 – Rich James

24 – Mary Berryman
26 – Howard Rideout
27 – Todd Biddick
28 – Eric Bower

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

2 – Kevin & Jan Kirschbaum
28 – Jamie & Brittany Gevelinger



SPECIAL MUSIC -Anyone willing to provide special music this summer during the service may call the office at 935-5451 to schedule.

United Women in Faith News

Everyone is invited to attend our May “Bring a Guest Night” scheduled for Thursday, May 4th starting at 6:30PM. We are planning an evening of fellowship as we enjoy a “virtual” tour of Costa Rica courtesy of Julia Harman. Following her presentation, we will enjoy refreshments in Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us—and please bring a guest!

Mission u 2023 -- United Women in Faith

This is an opportunity to “explore the good news and what it means for our lives”! This year’s Mission u Study Book is *Living the Kin-Dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation* by Riva Tabelism. ZOOM Mission u dates are June 20, 22, 27, and 29 from 6:30-9:00PM. The registration for the ZOOM event is due June 10 and the fee is \$20.00. The in-person event will take place July 13, 14, and 15 at the Baraboo UMC, Baraboo, WI. The deadline for registering for the in-person event is June 10. Early bird registration fee is \$70.00 before June 1st. After June 1st the cost is \$85.00. Lay Speaker credit, CEU credit, and scholarships are available. Everyone must purchase their own copy of the book. If you are interested in this opportunity, please see Martha Boyer or Charlene Mingst for more information.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The United Women in Faith wishes to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our Spring Rummage and Bake Sale a huge success! Thank you for the generous donations of rummage items, and baked goods, and especially to everyone who worked throughout this 5 and 1/2 day event as it would never have happened without your generous donations of time.

There were approximately 25 people who helped in one way or another! We want to give a huge thank you to Barb Phillips, our UWF "Friends", the trustees and others who set up the tables for us, the guys who picked up donated items, and the Saturday "clean-up" crew. We also appreciate the Feeding Friends program for serving a drive-thru sack lunch.

A portion of the money that we earned will be used to meet our pledge to mission to the Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith. Conference projects that we have supported and will continue to support include Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, United Methodist Children's Services, also in Milwaukee and the Redbird Mission in Kentucky.

Donations will also be made to support our church with contributions to the general fund of DUMC, kitchen supplies and upkeep, and gift cards to DUMC college students. Also we are pleased to donate to the Iowa County Food Pantry, We Care, the Free Clinic, Dodger Food Locker, Santa Cop, Feeding Friends and other community and church programs. **Again, we say thank you for your help and support!**

April Attendance/Giving					
Date	In Person	Facebook	Vimeo	Average Attend	Offering
4/2	64	17	20	91	\$5,952
4/9	83	30	22	91	\$5,051
4/16	52	22	10	92	\$7,978
4/23	47	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$755

A CHICKEN OR AN EAGLE?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Once upon a time, a man found the egg of an eagle. It had been abandoned for some reason by its mother, but as it was still warm, the man took it and put it in the nest of one of his backyard chickens along with the other eggs that were there being brooded upon.

After a period of time, the eaglet was hatched, and along with the other chicks from his nest began to go about the backyard doing what the other chicks did. He scratched the earth for worms and insects. He looked for the corn that the man would throw into the yard. He clucked and cackled as best as he could, and as he grew, he would, like other chickens, thrash his wings and fly a few feet in the air.

Years passed in this way, and the eagle grew very old. One day he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the cloudless sky. It glided majestically among the powerful wind currents, soaring and swooping, scarcely beating its long golden wings.

The old eagle looked at it in awe and asked, “What is that?”

“That is the eagle, the king of birds,” said one of his neighbors. “He belongs to the sky and to the high places. We belong to the earth, we are chickens.”

The old eagle knew this was true, and so it was he lived and died as a chicken, for that is what he believed he was.

Very often, in life, our perspective determines our reality. By experiencing the transforming power of God’s love and grace, we can see the world, the ministry of the church and our individual lives in a unique way. Instead of being held down by “what ifs,” fears of failure, or the challenges the task at hand, we can soar as a people sustained and lifted by the same grace that transformed us.

It is my prayer that you will be able to discover how God is calling you to live out the love of Christ in this world. It is my prayer that you will have the courage to live into that call with your entire being, trusting God’s grace to sustain you through even the most difficult times. It is through following God’s call that we can soar like the eagles we were created to be.

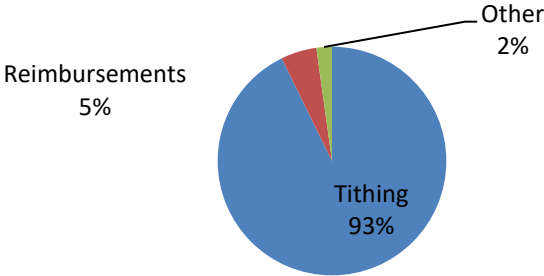
Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns,
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

FINANCIAL

March

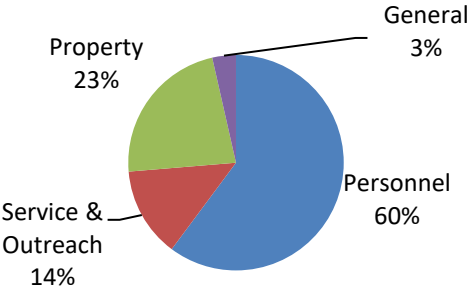
Tithing	\$12,785	93%
Fundraisers	\$697	5%
Other	\$302	2%
Total	\$13,783	

March Income = \$13,783



Personnel	\$9,123	60%
Service & Outreach	\$2,047	14%
Property	\$3,452	23%
General	\$538	3%
Total Expenses	\$15,159	

March Expenses = \$15,159

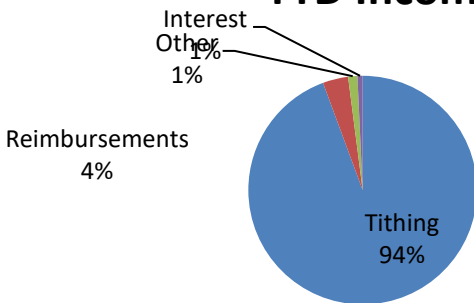


REPORT

YTD

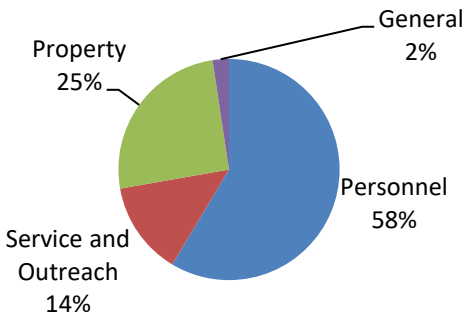
Tithing	\$37,751	94%
Reimbursements	\$1,438	4%
Other	\$524	1%
Interest	\$293	
	<u>\$40,006</u>	

YTD Income = \$40,006



Personnel	\$26,093	58%
Service and Outreach	\$6,078	14%
Property	\$11,308	25%
General	\$1,060	2%
Total Expenses	<u>\$44,539</u>	

Year to Date Expenses = \$44,539



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

2023 SUNDAY SERVANTS

Week	DATE	Communion	Media	Liturgist	Greeters	Child Moment	Cafe	Accompanist
5	4-30-23		Tom	Peggy	John Aschliman, Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Peggy	Dawn Van Epps Deb Short	Denise
1	5-7-23	Pastor Jim	Pastor Jim	Dawn	Chip & Peggy Forrest	Dawn	Peggy Forrest Nancy Mortimer	Jan K
2	5-14-23		Juanita	Martha	Chip & Peggy Forrest	Martha	Dawn Van Epps Deb Short	Praise Band
3	5-21-23		Juanita	Jan	Chip & Peggy Forrest	Pastor Jim	Kerry Beerkircher Julie James	Jan K
4	5-28-23		Juanita	Terry	Chip & Peggy Forrest	Terry	Ethan & Sierra McCracken Starr Family	Praise Band
1	6-4-23	Dee	Juanita	Brittany	Steve & Sandy Alexander	Brittany	Jody Vanderloo Penny Edwards	Ginny
2	6-11-23		Juanita	Peggy	Steve & Sandy Alexander	Peggy	Mary & Rich James	Carla
3	6-18-23		Juanita	Dawn	Steve & Sandy Alexander	Dawn	Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Ginny
4	6-25-23	Dee	Juanita	Martha	Steve & Sandy Alexander	Martha	potluck	Ginny

MAY

