

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



*Prepared Especially For*  
*Members & Friends of Dodgeville UMC*



# The Compass

A PUBLICATION OF  
DODGEVILLE & RIDGEWAY GRACE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



## June 2023: “*Looking Back*” (Part II)

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”*  
– *Philippians 4:4*

It is impossible to summarize eight years of mission, ministry, and service in one article, but in this final installment I wanted to reflect on some of the fondest memories I will carry with me as I move on to my next pastoral appointment.

### **Feeding Friends**

My first day of work as pastor here was July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I spent much of the day unpacking my office at the Dodgeville church and I met for a one on one with Scott Carlson, the new South West District Superintendent. That evening, I attended the Feeding Friends meal. Many of the regulars at that time were looking my way, wondering who I was and wondering why I was there. I volunteered to help in the food line but did not feel comfortable. I think to some of those final meals before COVID-19 when we were serving 130-150 meals. I think of the relationships that I formed through that meal. Funerals I performed for regular attenders. Lifelong friends I have gained. Programs and ministries I have been made aware of. Ecumenical partnerships that have been built. COVID did not shut the ministry down; it adapted. I am proud to have been a part of it, and to have been a supporter of it. There was some resistance by members of this congregation for this ministry when it was just starting, but now I am proud to see how many of our members regularly volunteer to be a part of this ministry.

### **Wesley Fellowship Group**

I have left this group that formed over one year ago in the hands of the six members of Dodgeville UMC that continue to be a part of this ministry. We began with a simple purpose: meet weekly for the purpose of sharing with one another in how we are doing with our relationship with God: where have we felt God’s presence; where are we seeking his guidance; how has our life changed because of God’s grace. I am *firmly*

convinced that the growth of this ministry and the participation of more congregation members in this ministry will have a *direct* effect on the growth and vitality of this congregation going forward. Please check with Todd Biddick, Martha Boyer, Brittany Gevelinger, Seirra McCracken, Juanita Starr, and/or Denise Tolzman if you want to learn more. They are ready to talk to you about it!

### **Rediscovering the Chapel**

During my introductory meeting I was not allowed to see the chapel area because it was in rough shape. In my first year on one Thursday afternoon, I got rid of all the junk that had been stored in the room. The Wills & Memorials Committee has recarpeted and repainted the room. It has a new organ. The Hunter family recently added a new bench. It is a beautiful worship space and am thankful that we have reclaimed it! We have used it for Lenten and Holy Week services, book studies, and church meetings.

### **Selling a Church Building**

In May of 2022, the members of Grace United Methodist Church made a *very* difficult decision. They voted to sell their church building property. Built in 1923 for the benefit of the entire Ridgeway community, the “rock” church housed worship, many community dinners, funeral services, and years of pasty sales. When maintenance on the building became too much, sale of the building moved forward. While we no longer have a physical church building to call our home, the congregation of Grace now meets in room 103 of the Ridgeway Community Center (*the old Elementary School*). It is a new location and a new style of worship but does not take away from us being the church. If you haven’t yet, you should come check out the service at 6:30PM on Sunday evenings. I am excited for where this fresh new expression of church and worship might go in the future.

### **Apportionment Payment**

When I came in 2015, the finance committee and the leadership of the Dodgeville church made a commitment to begin paying 50% of their appointments with a goal of getting back to 100% payment moving up 10% each year. For three straight years, starting in 2020, the Dodgeville church has paid 100% of its apportionments. Much of this was in the midst and aftermath of COVID-19. The apportionments that we send to the Annual Conference help to support ministries from a local to an international level. The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, so paying our apportionment *in full* shows our

commitment to being a part of the denomination. I sincerely hope this is a practice that this church continues.

**Other cherished memories:**

- Having the support of these two congregations as I went through a separation and divorce; **and** the way that you welcomed Christina into the church family and supported her on her journey to being a United Methodist pastor!
- The 9:00PM Christmas Eve service, my favorite service of the year (bells, choir, Communion, congregation singing Silent Night)
- The confirmation class of Emerson, Zoie, Mylee, and Macie...I appreciated their energy and interest
- Having the Pentecost story read in English and Latin, in addition to English during worship
- So many ways to share in music ministry: bell choir, vocal choir, praise band (*with several different leaders, even learning to play the drums for awhile*), special music, and playing hymns for the Ridgeway services...I will always be amazed at all the musical talent in these congregations.
- The Wednesday morning crew having gone through every nook and cranny of the church and getting it tidied up. Wow!
- Seirra and Ethen letting me know they would *miss* their pre-marriage meetings with me (*a first!*)
- Baking lots of chocolate chip cookies for various church events
- Help out with the church rummage sale on Friday mornings
- Moving to an appointment that has no office support, I have been incredibly blessed to work with Carla. Not only does she do *great* work as our office manager, but she is also a phenomenal musician and preacher! 😊

I am certain there are others that I will think of that will come after the publication of this newsletter. I will share them on June 25<sup>th</sup> when we gather for a time of food and fellowship after church. 😊 ~ Pastor Jim

April Attendance/Giving					
Date	In Person	Facebook	Vimeo	Average Attend	Offering
5/7	53	26	8	91	\$2,651
5/14	40	20	12	92	\$1,818
5/21	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,786
5/28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## AI GENEROSITY

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has been all over the news lately as technology companies begin to break new ground with things like ChatGPT. The conversation usually centers around whether AI technology will be helpful (increasing productivity), harmful (taking people's jobs), or cataclysmic (leading to machines taking over the world).

Out of curiosity, I asked one of my social media apps that has AI to tell me a story about the impact of generosity. This was its response.

"Once there was a wealthy businessman who decided to donate a significant portion of his fortune to charity. He gave to several causes, including education, healthcare, and the arts. His donations enabled many people to access opportunities they would not have had otherwise. One of the students who benefited from the businessman's donation was a young woman who had grown up in poverty. She was able to attend college and pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. After graduating, she went on to work in a rural clinic, where she helped many people who had limited access to healthcare. The young woman's work inspired others to follow in her footsteps, and soon the clinic became a hub for community development. The businessman's generosity had a ripple effect that touched countless lives and transformed a whole community."

I (Jason not the AI) thought that was a pretty good story. I will say, however, it is nowhere near as meaningful as stories I've heard people tell about how they were personally touched by someone's generosity or how being generous changed them. It's not just the story that's inspiring, but the personal, human element that is inspiring.

With that in mind, I'd encourage you to share stories of how your church's ministry either made a difference in your life or you have been impacted by the practice of generosity. It is through the telling and hearing real life stories that generosity spreads and lives are changed.

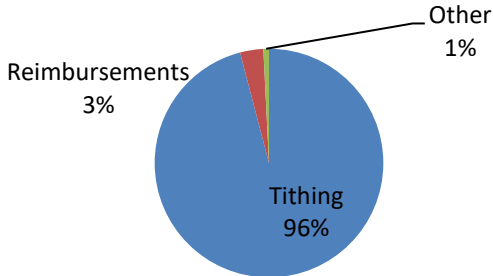
*Rev. Jason Mahnke,  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

## FINANCIAL

### April

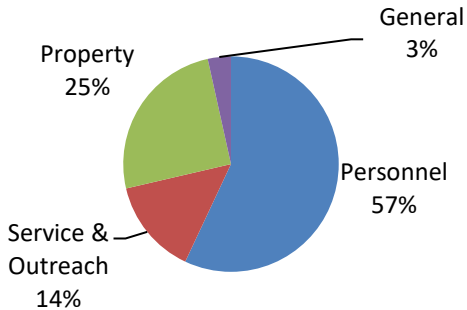
Tithing	\$19,772	96%
Reimbursements	\$678	3%
Other	<u>\$163</u>	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,613</b>	

### April Income = \$20,613



Personnel	\$8,435	57%
Service & Outreach	\$2,129	14%
Property	\$3,726	25%
General	<u>\$514</u>	3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,954</b>	

### April Expenses = \$14,954

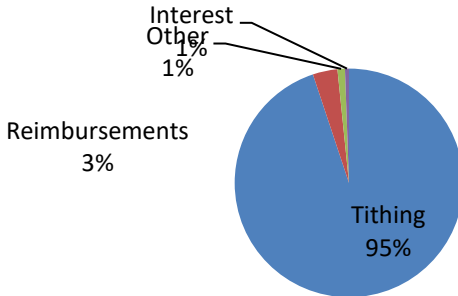


# REPORT

## YTD

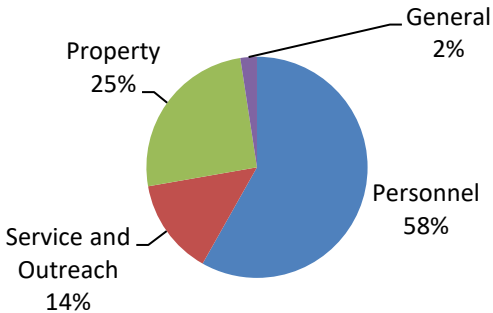
Tithing	\$57,522	95%
Reimbursements	\$2,116	3%
Other	\$638	1%
Interest	\$343	
	<u>\$60,619</u>	

### YTD Income = \$60,619



Personnel	\$34,528	58%
Service and Outreach	\$8,348	14%
Property	\$15,034	25%
General	\$1,434	2%
Total Expenses	<u>\$59,493</u>	

### Year to Date Expenses = \$59,493



## CHOIR NEWS

The Choir will be singing on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Charlene Mingst for more information: 608-935-5758

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED:

# *Jim and Christina's Farewell Brunch*

10:15 SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH

Immediately following the church service on Sunday, June 25th, you are invited to Jim and Christina Droste's farewell potluck brunch. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks and tableware will be provided.

After brunch, there will be time to express gratitude, say goodbye, and offer encouragement to Jim and Christina through an open microphone.

We hope that you will mark your calendar and will be in attendance for this special day! More details to come.





## FELLOWSHIP HALL RE-LAMPING PROJECT

The Trustee Committee will be starting a fund drive to re-lamp the Church, starting with Fellowship Hall. The fluorescent light bulbs will be replaced by LED bulbs (Light Emitting Diodes). These generate the more lumens at lower power and a lower cost. This is greener energy and will lower the electrical bill.

If you go through the double doors into Fellowship Hall you will see the first fixture has been retrofit with new LED lighting. Each fixture takes four LED bulbs. We are looking for people to sponsor a "LIGHT" at the cost of \$40.00 per fixture to fund the bulbs, but partial sponsors are welcome. The Trustees will do the retrofit.

Please note on checks they are for, "Trustee Lighting Project".

Sincere thanks from the Trustee Committee

### June Birthdays

2 - Diane Barney  
2 - Lois Leffler  
5 - Emma Butteris  
6 - Zoie Weber  
12 - Matthew Butteris  
13 - Kerry Beerkircher  
13 - Art Humbert  
18 - Nikki Biddick  
18 - Jeff Dux  
25 - Jet Mulder  
27 - Jamie Gevelinger  
30 - Bill Baebler

*Happy Birthday!!!*

### June Anniversaries

6 - Scott & Denise Tolzman  
8 - Thomas & Julia Harman  
9 - Todd & Nikki Biddick  
29 - Pastor Jim & Christina

### PLEASE PRAY:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
4 Communion 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	5 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	6 10:00am Prayer Ministry 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	7 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal	8	9 12:00pm Organ Tuning	10 6:30pm DTC Support Group
11 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	12 7:00am SWCAP Meeting	13 10:00am Prayer Ministry 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group 6:00pm P.E.O	14 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal	15 1:30pm Wills & Memorials Committee Meeting 6:30pm Feeding Friends Steering Committee	16	17 6:30pm DTC Support Group
18 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	19 7:30pm Farm Bureau	20 10:00am Prayer Ministry 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	21 Newsletter Deadline 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal	22	23	24 6:30pm DTC Support Group
25 LOOSE CHANGE 9:00am Dodgeville UMC Worship Service 10:15am Farewell to Pastor Jim & Christina 6:30pm Ridgeway Grace Worship Service	26	27 10:00am Prayer Ministry 5:30pm Wesley Fellowship Group	28 5:00pm Feeding Friends Community Meal	29	30	1 6:30pm DTC Support Group

# 2023 SUNDAY SERVANTS

Week	DATE	Communion	Media	Liturgist	Greeters	Child Moment	Cafe	Accompanist
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
1	7-2-23	Dee	Juanita	Terry	John Aschliman Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Terry	Peggy Forrest Nancy Mortimer	Ginny
2	7-9-23		Juanita	Jan	John Aschliman Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Carla	Dawn Van Epps Deb Short	Carla
3	7-16-23		?	Peggy	John Aschliman Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Peggy	Kerry Beerkircher Julie James	Ginny
4	7-30-23		Juanita	Dawn	John Aschliman Sarah & Caleb Buroker	Dawn	McCracken & Starr Families	Praise Band

JUNE

