



Faith United Methodist Church
204 Horn Street
Brillion, WI 54110-1508

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May 2026

Rev. Dr. David Leistra

Faith United Methodist Church

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Jennifer Gulley and Joie Cunningham

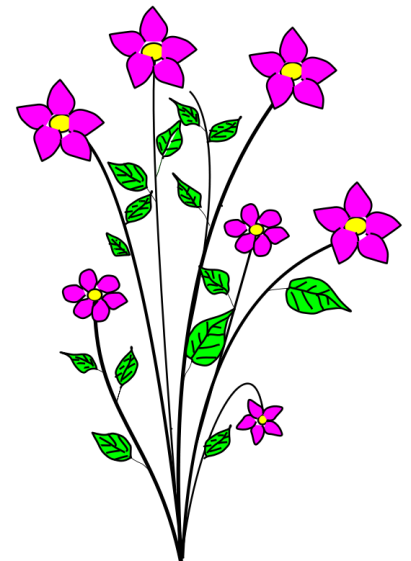
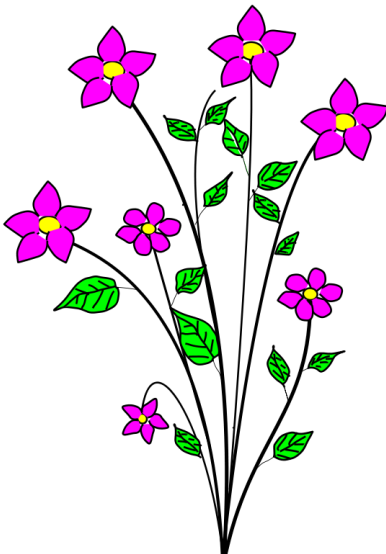
Office Managers

Church Office: 920-756-2717

E-mail: faithumc204@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 am—1:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am—1:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am—1:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am—1:00 pm
Friday	Closed





Hello Friends,

Happy May! It is great to see the birds return and the trees starting to put out leaves, we have a way to go yet but soon everything will be green once again and the flowers will be blooming. The change in seasons is going a little slower in Sturgeon Bay. Until the end of June or the first part of July the temperature in Door County can be as much as ten degrees cooler than in the city of Green Bay, let alone further south or west in Wisconsin. The reason is that that on both sides of the peninsula there are two large bodies of water, Lake Michigan, and Green Bay with about nineteen miles between the two. It is strange that only a little less than an hour's drive north of Green Bay can represent a significant difference in weather.

If we were to change the word weather to temperament the same could be said about the United Methodist Church (UMC). There can be major differences between one local church and another despite having the same denominational affiliation. This use to be more so the case regionally between the north and south in the United States, but now churches can vary in outlook even within the same district. By temperament I mean differences in political/religious attitudes. After the troubles we experienced a few years ago the nature of the leadership of the UMC at the General Conference level changed dramatically and what that will mean for the future of the denomination is yet unknown, however it is predictable. With a narrowing of the political spectrum present in the UMC leadership, a shift toward a much more liberal approach for the UMC is almost certain. However, I see an issue arising as many local church communities remain much more inclined to stay with the Methodist tradition of being middle-of-the-road when it comes to the divisive issues of our day. The clergy for their part varies in this regard, but the vast majority that have stayed in the UMC after the troubles are socially and politically liberal. I for one am and will remain what used to be called *moderate* in the church but in the present political climate I would likely be labeled by liberals as a traditionalist. The difference here, theologically speaking, comes down to how you view the Holy Scriptures. What makes me a *moderate*, or conservative if you prefer, is that my theology concerning the Holy Scriptures comes from a tradition that was formed out of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. The reformers of that time wanted to remove from Christian teaching doctrines not found in the Holy Scriptures but which had become mandatory for personal faith if one was to remain in good standing in the church; their goal was to return to a first century understanding of what it means to be Christian and thereby be more like what they saw as Christ's intention for his church. Being what people now refer to as a conservative, or as some would say "traditionalist," means believing that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God, and as such it is not for any human agency to add to or take away from them. From this point of view, while we do need to understand that when we read the Scriptures we are doing so from the perspective of the 21st century, that does not mean we have the right to change what are the original meanings of the text to reflect what are current cultural trends. The Holy Scripture, from this perspective, is what defines the Christian Faith, and not the individuals who have composed the church hierarchy over the ages, or any rendition of human culture, or as is common today, the combination of the two. In some aspects of the Christian church the position is held that the church wrote the Scriptures and therefore own them to expand on them or reduce them as it wishes based on its own authority. This is precisely what the churches that grew out of the Reformation rejected.





They rejected this approach to the Holy Scriptures because they knew that once we open the Scriptures to human preferences as to what is of value, or what is not, the Christian Faith while still holding all the trappings of Christian religious rituals, would soon become a generic faith having lost its uniqueness.

So there you are, and that is why you can go to one Christian church and see the same sort of practices such as public worship, Holy Communion, baptisms, the singing of familiar hymns, and alike, but come away with a very different understanding of the role of the Scriptures in our day-to-day lives as Christians. It is why you can attend one church and find them very involved in local and national politics and another that rejects the role of politics in Christian discipleship. It is my view that the church is a participant in the Mission of God in the world as brought to us by Jesus which is to make disciples of him through teaching people all he has taught us. This is done in concert with and under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The politics of the world are based on self-interest and are ever changing from one extreme to the other as a result. From my perspective the politics of the world can only corrupt the principal work of the church. This way of understanding the purpose of the church as a community of Faith leaves the individual Christian free to hold whatever political perspective seems good to them with the hope that it is formed through the teachings of Jesus. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This commandment of Christ is what ought to shape how we as his disciples live, while being careful to not let the religious/political ambitions of others use us to gain personal power. Look to Jesus and to him alone for as he has testified, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except it be through me."* (John 14: 6) Regardless of how people will judge you or what labels they attach to you based on your religious/political views what truly matters is how you and I understand and respond to this statement of the Lord, which along with Jesus' other teachings, defines the Christian Faith. It is either Truth or it is not, there is no middle of the road to take here, choose wisely,

Blessings, Pastor Dave



We have an apparel sale running through May 14th.
<https://brillionfaithmethodistapparel.itemorder.com/shop/home/> Paper order forms will also be available.
 Faith Women, there is apparel available for you as well.



Happy Birthday



Anniversaries

1	Jill Blauert	9	Emma Lattomus	23	Harrison Hermans
6	Amy Genske	12	Aubree Woolgar	23	Kevin Kuchenbecker
7	Rylee Budd	14	Joel Larsen	25	Corey Behnke
7	J'ette Kraus	18	Melissa Lattomus	26	Myla Ourada
7	Shirley Schwartz	19	Orvis Genske	29	Janis Stebane
8	Ken Juckem	19	Bev Loofboro	30	Rhet Reichardt
9	Dr. Paul Calonder	19	Reegan Woodard	31	Kristen Dahl
9	David Geiger	21	Charlotte Lattomus		

1	Justin & Brittany Rukamp
4	Jason & Koreen Zelten
6	Jerry & Joyce Behnke
20	Jerome & Sharon Fischer
24	Mark & Lonie Bastian
25	Dr. Paul & Kathy Calonder
25	Joe & Stacey Sinkula
26	Andy & Jill Blauert

Communion Sunday, May 3

Communion Steward - Kathy Brockmann
 Greeters/Ushers - Gay Lynn Ruh
 Acolytes - Logan Woolgar & Parent
 Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp
 Children's Message - Darron Lattomus
 Counters - Team 6

Graduate Recognition & Mother's Day, May 10

Greeters/Ushers - Earl & Joan Herring
 Acolytes - Lynn Gauger
 Song Leader - Pastor Dale
 Children's Message - Pastor Dale
 Counters - Team 1

Adult Choir/Food Pantry Sunday, May 17

Greeters/Ushers - Lynn Gauger
 Acolytes - Cindy VanHandel
 Liturgist - Darron Lattomus

Song Leaders - Kathy Brockmann & Alissa Popp
 Children's Message - Kathy Brockmann
 Counters - Team 2

9:00 am Sunday Worship, May 24

Greeters/Ushers -
 Acolytes - Reegan & Rylee Woodard
 Liturgist - John Gulley
 Song Leader - Amy Riemer-Hermans
 Children's Message - Pastor Dave
 Counters - Team 3

Confirmation Sunday, May 31

Greeters/Ushers -
 Acolytes - Jack & Vivian Hermans
 Song Leader - Terri Belanger
 Children's Message - Pastor Dave
 Counters - Team 4



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Do you have a member of Faith UMC who will graduate from high school or college this year, whether in the Spring or Winter? Please let us know. Contact Jennifer and Joie in the church office at 920-756-2717 or faithumc204@gmail.com and tell us the graduate's name, from where they are graduating and when the graduation will take place. We will be honoring all the graduates we know about at our May 10th service.





SUMMERTIME



Schedule Change!

Please mark your calendars.

Our Sunday worship time changes from
10 a.m. to 9 a.m. starting May 24th
through September 6th

Committee on Religion and Race

Our committee met again on 3/30/26. Those present were Kathy Brockmann, Kathy Calonder, Laura Larsen, Clarence Harms and Tom Denk.

Prisoner letters: Kathy Brockmann had a letter from one of her prisoners in Taycheedah. Just a nice thank you for being remembered. Kathy Calonder brought a letter from her prisoner in Red Granite. He needs shoulder surgery and has not been able to get it for years. He is on a light duty work classification and has a lot of pain. He was pleading for money to buy items from the commissary. Clarence had another letter from his prisoner in Green Bay. His aunt sent him \$100 which he used for TV access. He has very little contact with other family because he is gay. As expected, he pleaded for more money and is still paying restitution. He plans to be released on 12/12/28. Apparently, his aunt and SSI and survivor's benefits will be his only support when gets out and that sounds tough to us.

Articles of interest: Clarence distributed a letter from JOSHUA, an article on Black History Month {February} by EXPO, a flyer on "Day of Empathy" held on February 24 by DREAM.ORG, an article on the High Price of Conviction by EXPO, and a newspaper article titled "Meet the Tag Team" explaining license plate manufacture in Waupun by prisoners and how it helps them.

We Did It!; Wisdom sent an article saying Assembly Bill 604 was passed. It claims to reduce needless suffering in jails and prisons, put more people on a pathway to successful reentry, reduce the number of people being detained, and enhance public safety and save resources that can instead be utilized to build stronger and healthier communities.

Other Articles of Interest: A GCORR article on Spring Studies, An Email from EXPO requesting all to show up for support of SB 889 which prevents people for being prosecuted or for providing help with overdose, or possession and protects people on probation, parole, or extended supervision from revocation in those situations, a flyer on Human rights by Palm Sunday Path for a March 5 meeting, Articles from EXPO on "Stay Committed" and "Locked up on the Outside"

Prayer vigils on the 23rd: Clarence missed the one at GBCI but Tom was there. The drive-by at Tacheedah happened and there are continuous reports of inmates hearing the horn honks. That night conflicted with the reentry simulation in Appleton.

ESTHER: Tom and Clarence volunteered at the reentry simulation. There were about 40 volunteers at stations and about 60 attendees acting as prisoners. It was a much larger and better space at the First Congregational UCC than the theater in Green Bay. A state Assembly person attended and there was a testimony of 3 Ex incarcerated individuals that discussed their experiences. One was Tom. All expressed the need for good support on the outside. One was a wife, one was parents, and the other was family.

Palm Sunday Path: There was a "Palm Sunday Path" gathering at Houdini Plaza held on March 29 in which about 17 churches in Neenah and Appleton protested the war on immigration. Tom and Clarence attended.

Book Exchange: Clarence read and brought "The Deserving" (What the lives of the condemned reveal about American justice) by Elizabeth Vatkession who is a professional mitigator in capital crime cases and "Separation of Church and Hate" by John Fugelsang with a guide by Samuel C. Mitchell. Clarence recommends these books.

HAPPY Easter



On Sunday, April 5 2026, we celebrated Easter with 2 services, our Sunrise Service at 7:30 and our Easter Service at 10:00.

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

Faith Women

Pizza prep will be held on Friday, May 1st at 5:00

Pizza make will be held on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00-Noon.



We are celebrating three years by going to Schroth's Flower Mill on May 13th for a Planting Party. Bring a planter pot from home or buy one there to create a beautiful floral arrangement (you will purchase supplies from Schroth's). Our monthly meeting will follow at church.



For our June 17th meeting, we will be having a scavenger hunt.



In July, we will be attending Art in the Park at City Park in Appleton.

****Beginning in June, we will now be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month****

Mark your calendars for the Faith Women Retreat at Pine Lake on October 23-25, 2026.

All women (over 18 years old) are invited to attend any and all events.



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Faith Women Pizza Make 8:00-Noon Pizza Pick Up Noon
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday 10:00 am						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Casual Sunday 10:00 am Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition 		Free Community Meal 4:30-6:00	Faith Women Meeting 6:00 at Schroth's Flower Mill	Finance Committee and Church Council Meeting 6:00		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Food Pantry Sunday 10:00 am Last Day of Sunday School						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday Worship 9:00 am	Memorial Day Office Closed					
31						
Sunday Worship 9:00 am Confirmation Sunday						