



From the Pastor's Perspective

The Dream: Discipleship!

"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."
-2 Timothy 2:2

The primary purpose of the life of a Jesus-follower is to love God and love others. Check out the "Greatest Commandments" in Mark 12:28-34. We can use Bible-language to say it another way. It is: To be a disciple of Jesus, and, to make disciples for Jesus. The mission statement of the United Methodist Church puts it this way: Our mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

As a church, we've been "dreaming a new dream," trying to capture what God's calling is for our church's next 50 years! We've paused many activities and functions. We've been praying and listening to God and each other. We've been seeking God's dream!

Our church leadership believes that we've discerned that God is calling us to take seriously a singular focus on discipleship: being and making disciples. This focus on discipleship will shape and form all that we do as a church from now on. For example, we've been evaluating how effectively our ministry to children is guiding them into discipleship. We've realized that if we take this seriously, then we cannot simply

Continued on page 2...

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

September 1	9:00am United Methodist Men
September 2	10:00am Worship HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS 11:15am Pot Luck
September 3	LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
September 5	6:30pm Confirmation Information Meeting
September 6	12:00 pm Sarah Circle
September 8	5:45pm Adult Fellowship
September 9	STAR WARS SERIES BEGINS 10:00am Worship VOLUNTEER WEEK AT ST ANDREWS BEGINS 6:00pm YPA
September 12	10:00am Birchwood 5:30pm Fall Programming begins Meal/Confirmation/ECHO/ Youth Group Meal being hosted by Nancy 7:30pm Sanctify Rehearsal

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

provide Christian education opportunities. It means that Christian adults, us in the church, must take seriously the calling to make disciples of whomever children God has placed in our influence. It means that we need to equip families to make disciples of their own children within the context of their homes and families. Discipleship happens in relationships. We need to foster those relationships! Take a look at Pastor Andrew's article for a better description of this.

This new focus will bring radical change to our church. When the disciples first chose to follow Jesus, they left behind their old way of doing things. We will experience some of this—if not a lot!—in our church, too. Everything we do as a church must make disciples in a real and direct way.

Part of our struggle in our church's recent past is that we have accepted church activities to be things that we, who are already disciples, like to do together. This is not discipleship. This is a country club! Serving and helping others isn't discipleship, either. That's just a service organization. Discipleship means intentionally and actively growing in Christ ourselves, and then intentionally and actively helping others grow in Christ. This means meeting new people, building new relationships. This means talking about God in our normal conversations. It means bringing up Jesus when we talk with others. It means serving others in a way that encourages them to take the next step in their faith journeys. Hoping they will is not good enough. We want to see evidence of people growing spiritually, both in us who are part of this church, and in those who are not here yet.

This means we will need to be willing to be pushed to make disciples. We can't just say it or talk about it. We need to do it...and put our time, energy, and resources into doing it. It means change. It means seeing more people getting involved. It doesn't mean that other people do it. It means we each do it. Discipling means building a deepening relationship with others. Our question to ourselves is, "Who am I discipling?" What are their names? How many times have you had Jesus-conversations with them?

Church, we begin the new dream. It starts this fall! We must "teach these truths to other people, who will in turn pass them on to others." This is discipleship.

We grow as disciples as we make disciples. This is God's dream for our church!

Pastor David

September 13	1:00pm UMW 6:30pm AMT Meeting
September 15	6:00am Community Care Set-up 8:00am Community Care
September 16	10:00am Worship HYMN SING 6:00pm YPA 6:30pm Lifeline
September 18	10:00am Rebecca Circle
September 19	5:30pm Meal (Pancakes—hosted By UMM) 6:15pm Confirmation/ECHO/ Youth Group
September 23	10:00am Worship NORA KLEMMENSON BAPTISM 6:00pm YPA RUMMAGE SALE WEEK BEGINS
September 24	6:30pm CMMT Meeting
September 26	5:30 Meal (Pizza Party—hosted by Staff) 6:15pm Confirmation/ECHO/ Youth Group
September 27- September 28	RUMMAGE SALE
September 30	10:00am Worship 6:00 YPA

Fall Message Series

Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars!



Sunday, Sept. 9 we launch our fall message series. It uses the wildly popular Star Wars movies as a way to help Jesus-followers live in our own galaxy. We'll use Star Wars references, characters, and video clips to learn how the Bible teaches us that God's people are part of a rebellion against the spiritual forces of darkness in our world. We will engage the biblical teachings of how we live in a dual reality, how we are part of a bigger mission, how one person can make a difference, how God calls us do together what we cannot do on our own, and many other pivotal truths that shape how we live for Jesus. The Bible verse for this message series is 1 John 5:4 "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

Be sure to come wearing Star Wars themed clothing for the series!

Be sure to come and join the rebellion! And, may the Holy Spirit be with you!

Potlucks

We will have the last of our summer potlucks this Sunday, September 2, after worship. Then our potlucks will move back again to the first Wednesday evening of the month, starting in October. Plan to come, and encourage others to stay as well. Invite a friend! Let's keep building community this fall!

Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening is church family night! You are included!

Starting Wednesday, September 12, we launch our Fall ministry programs for Wednesday evening. It will begin with a shared meal together, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The first Wednesday of every month will be a potluck. The other weeks, a meal will be provided free of charge!

Then, from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. we will have ECHO, a time of all-age and interactive Christian education. This is for kids, and for adults who have kids in their lives (their own kids, or kids in their circle of influence), as well as for adults willing to work with kids (we will have kids who need Christian adults to work with them). See Pastor Andrew's article for more explanation.

Also from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. we will host Youth Group and Confirmation.

Invite a friend, a new person, to come and join. Let's keep our church family growing, in numbers, in faith, and in how welcoming we are!



This fall we start a new Confirmation class. It is open to students entering the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade. The purpose of confirmation is to prepare young people to confirm for themselves the vows to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. To prepare young people to do this, the class of confirmation will provide a basic and fundamental understanding of the Christian faith. If you or anyone you know might be interested in Confirmation this year, please come to an informational meeting on **Wed., Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m.** at the church. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still are interested, please let Pastor David know.

Fall Grow Groups

Grow Groups start again in October!

This cycle we will begin offering a variety of studies in three different categories: 1. *Learn*: Bible: Groups will learn about the Bible. This October we'll have two groups studying the Bible. 2. *Live*: Life application: Groups will concentrate on living out their Christian faith in daily life. This October our application will be learning and doing spiritual practices, ways that we stay connected to God. 3. *reLate*: Specific issues: Groups will explore particular issues or topics that relate to the current needs and issues people are facing, and how their Christian faith guides them. Our focus for October is going to be on loss and grief, and restoration of hope because of our faith. Be looking for more information coming! Sign-ups are available on our church web site. One participant from our summer group series wrote, "These groups are the best part of this change we've done." Don't miss out! Join a group in October...and invite a friend!

Forest Hills Youth Group

Summer came to a close with an AMAZING turn out for our end of summer Waterpark day. We had 19 youth group kids and their friends spend the day at Bunker Beach. What a fun way to end the summer.

I am excited to start our regular youth group schedule back up this Sept. I also have some exciting new changes to announce! First off, youth group will be meeting Wednesday nights immediately following dinner and running till 7:30pm. Secondly, I will also be looking for parent/ adult volunteers to participate every week. If we have enough the rotation would be volunteering once every 6 weeks or so.

This year the youth group is going to focus on sharing our faith; making disciples of those around us. We will be starting out the year talking about why we need to "Do Life Together" and then we will spend 3 weeks talking about "Do Not Fly SOLO." Once we understand the importance of being with others in the Christian faith we will discuss "Looking Back to Your Friends' Future." This message series will discuss the importance of sharing our faith with our friends for their eternity.

At the end of Sept. we will be joining up with Immanuel Baptist Church for "See you at the Pole" and pray with the teens at Forest Lake High School. "See you at the pole" is an annual gathering of thousands of Christian students at a flagpole in front of their local schools for prayer, scripture-reading and worship, during the early morning before school starts.

Cassi
Director of Youth Ministries



KID'S CORNER

Join in the ECHO

The Gospel of Jesus is the greatest story ever told. It is the only story by which we can be saved. It has been the role of the Church since the book of Acts to be the gathered people of God who tell this story, over and over and over again. The story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the ECHO, and we as disciples are to repeat it. After we have told the story, we are to tell it again. And then again. To our friends, to our family members, and most of all, to our children.

God has graciously given us some much-needed advice in Deuteronomy 11: "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

But this is not only a parental call. We are all here to make disciples, and before that can happen, we need to first ensure that we are disciples in the first place. This is where our Wednesday night ECHO comes in. Here is how it will work:

5:30 - We gather together to eat dinner and visit.

6:15 – We move into the sanctuary where we get to hear Biblical truth echoed. Some will learn something brand-new, some will learn something in a new way, some will be enlivened to hear God's truth again.

7:15 – Everyone is dismissed to repeat the ECHO at home, in school, with their neighbors...

There are three crucial parts we need to pull off the ECHO:

1. Biblical truth
2. Disciples seriously seeking to follow Jesus
3. New people!

We certainly have the first one covered! Our church has Bibles everywhere! I think we are in good shape with number two. People here love Jesus! If we have the first two in place, then the third item is a breeze. If we love Jesus and know the truth of his word, then we must invite others to know and love him too!

What not to expect:

Ease

Discipleship is not easy. Jesus told us that it would involve taking up our own cross, dying to ourselves and the like.

To love everything

Our goal is discipleship not entertainment. This goes for both kids and adults. We are going to incorporate many aspects of learning and engagement. We are going to involve all the generations. Not everyone will love everything we do all the time. This is okay. We come for the interests of others.

The Status Quo

We are trying something totally new! As a church family, we want to be able to meet the spiritual needs of those families who come into our doors. We believe that intergenerational ministry is a strength of our church and that God is calling us to live into this strength. This means that all of us, old and young alike, should have the spiritual well-being of the other at heart.

What to expect:

Challenge

God is calling us to step up and do the hard work of teaching others, praying for others, keeping others accountable, and engaging new people.

Growth

If we can focus on applying God's word to our lives in a place where others are doing the same, we will find that God will use such an environment to grow us closer to him. If we abide in him, we will bear much fruit.

Adoption

Make no mistake, ECHO is our kid's ministry. But kids do not discover Jesus by virtue of one teacher in a classroom. They find Jesus in the context of a family. Kids ministry needs parents and other adults! The church will become obsolete if we do not prioritize the next generation. We need older adults and those who are not parents to connect with and pour into the kids involved in our church. For those kids who do not have parents on board, we need adults who will be willing to give of themselves and essentially adopt such a kid; to become a spiritual parent.

The world we live in is hostile to the Christian faith. The way things have been done in the past no longer work. Satan is on the prowl looking to devour the next generation of believers. You and I are being called into this battle. Will we engage in the fight and make disciples, or will we stand by and watch the future fade?

To paraphrase Joshua, "As for me and my church, we will serve the Lord!"

Join in the ECHO!



Walk to Emmaus

Below are the dates for the Fall/Winter Walk to Emmaus:

Camp Koronis

Men October 25-28 2018

Women November 1-4 2018

Good Counsel (Mankato)

Men January 17-20 2019

Women January 24-27 2019



If you are interested in participating in the walk, or would like more information about it, please contact Teresa Gruber.



Happy Birthday to our September born! This month we celebrate:

Isaac Hendrickson 9/10

Doris Richardson 9/18

Colten Johnson 9/22

Steve Ruter 9/30

Mary Weaver 9/14

Ezra Bonsell 9/20

Steve Betker 9/27

Happy Birthday to you all, and we hope you have a wonderful day, filled with much love and joy!



Dear Forest Hills congregation,

Thank you so much for the sweet card and beautiful prayer shawl for our brand new daughter, Violet. What a fun and meaningful surprise! The Prayer Shawl ministry is a huge blessing to so many-thank you for sharing that blessing-and your prayers with a new, little life.

~Julie (Graham), Andrew and Violet Berninghaus

St. Andrew's Family Shelter

We will be **volunteering the week of September 9th**, so get your volunteering hats on and be ready to cook, serve, and share stories with the residents of St. Andrew's Shelter in Hugo! **As part of the volunteering process, volunteers will need to watch a Safe Gatherings video.** The video is located right on the front page of our website, as is the link to the application and the sign-up sheets. We still need to fill the overnight spots, and the Saturday night dinner shift. Please think about volunteering for one of these slots! There are two single beds in the volunteer room, and it's a very comfortable space.

In addition, St. Andrew's is looking for van drivers to transport families from the shelter in Hugo to the Resource Center in Mahtomedi. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those who are interested.



Events and Info

Wednesday Nights!

5:30 Meals

9/12 Nancy's Choice

9/19 UMM—Pancakes

9/26 Staff—Pizza Party

6:15pm

**ECHO/CONFIRMATION
YOUTH GROUP**

Community Care

5pm 9/14—Unload Truck

6am 9/15—Set-up

8am 9/15—Community Care

Lifeline Sunday September 16th at 6:30 pm

Lifeline is a way for us to come together to be with God. There will be songs to sing and prayers to pray, but you can simply come to enjoy the presence of God. All are encouraged to attend. because we need Jesus! Our church needs Jesus! Hang on tight to the lifeline.

Adult Fellowship

**Saturday, September 8, 5:45pm
Golden Crown Restaurant, Stillwater**

RUMMAGE SALE!

**The Fall Rummage sale will be held on
September 27 and 28. Please bring items
to the Church by Sunday, Sept. 23rd.**