



FROM THE PASTOR:

It's August, but my mind has already jumped ahead to September – that month when summer relaxation gives way to a season of greater busyness in the church. Sunday school will start a new year, and we will resume the monthly *Ready, Set, Worship!* services. Over the past two years, *Ready, Set, Worship!* has been held on the third Sunday of the month. That's changing this year – **starting on September 14th, *Ready, Set, Worship!* will be on the second Sunday of the month.**

Another change will be that those second Sundays will be fully devoted to intergenerational ministry. Both Sunday school and the coffee hour will be replaced by LIFT – Living in Faith Together, an intergenerational gathering for faith formation in which everyone of all ages is invited to share food, learn, worship, and have fun in small groups around the fellowship tables. If you joined us for one of the *Very Blessed Summer* events, the format will be like those but shorter, ending in a shared lunch.

There are several reasons why we are trying out LIFT on second Sundays. First of all, the Sunday school teachers, who also take a leading role in *Ready, Set, Worship!*, deserve a break from teaching on those days. A separate team is being recruited to run LIFT. Second, it intentionally expands the way that we bring different generations together through *Ready, Set, Worship!*, giving older and younger people in our church a chance to get to know one another better through fellowship. Finally, it aims to build up some of the adults who may have become complacent in their faith formation over the years. Just because you aren't a kid anymore doesn't mean that you can't benefit from Bible lessons and talking about God, right?

Finally, I would like to invite you all to join the **Grace Notes Choir** (formerly known as just the plain ol' church choir). **We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting September 10th**, and we welcome anyone who enjoys singing and wants to praise God through song in worship. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Andy Petter

B.U.M.C. VBS '25 CAMP FIRELIGHT: A summer camp adventure with God will be **August 10-14, 6-8 pm.**

NOTE: On Sun., Aug. 10, come at 5:45 to meet other kids in your age group with fun activities. All children - preschool through completed 6th grade - are invited to attend this fun-filled week. Invite a friend and get a DQ treat coupon! There is no cost to participate! To register, go to <https://www.myvbs.org/byronumc/>; scan the QR code, or contact Jessica Falk at 507-261-7966. All are invited to attend the closing program for Vacation Bible School on Thursday, August 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please join us to encourage and support the children as they grow in faith and love of God!



VBS is looking for small camping items to use for decorating the sanctuary and other areas to enhance the experience for our participants. We would like to borrow a few fake Christmas trees, campfire rocks, lanterns, camp tables, and any other similar small items to create an authentic camping feel. Let Sara Weis know if you have any of these items that you would be willing to let us use. Thanks!

Everyone is invited to help the Firelight Campers with their VBS Mission by donating school supplies from the supply list (below) to complete 'Student Kits' for Midwest Mission. The supply list and collection baskets are in the narthex through VBS week. Take advantage of back-to-school sales as the summer progresses! Thank You!

VBS CAMP FIRELIGHT MISSION PROJECT: As the Offering / Mission Project for the VBS week, the team has chosen to collect supplies / monetary donations to construct Student Kits for Midwest Mission. Midwest Mission is a cooperating depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) supply network.

The entire congregation is invited to participate by collecting the requested school supplies (see list below) or by donating money for the purchase of the supplies (mark \$\$ as VBS mission). As summer progresses and Back-To-School supplies go on

sale, our purchasing power is greater! The kits will be assembled at the church family event on the last night of VBS after the closing program. (Great fun and energy was present at last year's event assembling personal care kits.)

Collection containers are in the Narthex for the purchased supplies. **We will collect through August 13.**

This is a great opportunity to get kids involved in serving others. We are reminded that there are students around the world who have never had a box of crayons or a book bag to call their own. Kids in areas of disasters may not have supplies either. This is a great teaching moment and a way to make a global impact right from where we are. Thank you in advance of your 'always generous' support of our youth projects!

STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

3 Notebooks -1 subject spiral 8x10 ½"
1 Ruler- 12" long with metric
6 Pencils- unsharpened
1 Pencil Sharpener
1 Pencil Eraser- 2 " or larger
1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
1 Box of 24 Crayons
1 Pair of Student Scissors

- New items only, off-brands are fine;
- only purchase items listed;
- NO camouflage prints

GRIEF GROUP: Our next grief group meeting at Byron UMC is **Wed., Aug. 13th, from 10-11 a.m.** The group offers opportunities to talk about things that cannot be discussed in other settings and to find others who can relate to their situation. The scope of the group is helping others find comfort, healing and relationships through conversations and fellowship with others. For more information, please contact Pastor Andy or Marlene Abel.

TRUSTEE'S SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: The Trustees are always seeking volunteers for any variety of jobs, anywhere from mowing the lawn, maintaining the flower bed, or any inside special cleaning or upkeep that either you see needing to be done and are willing to do. Use your time and talent to help keep your church in good shape. Contact Roger Vick with any questions or ideas.

THANK YOU: Thank you all for your generous responses to our recent financial needs. Your support is deeply appreciated and helps sustain the ministries of our church. We are now keeping up with our ongoing bills and hope to return to paying on our yearly apportionments. – Finance Team

FINANCE SUMMARY: The following provides a summary of the General Fund ending July 31, 2025.

beginning balance July 1, 2025:	\$ 6,239.64
plus July income:	\$ 14,898.00
plus transfer from savings	\$ 1,850.00
less July expenses:	\$ 11,859.43
ending balance July 31, 2025:	\$ 11,128.21

CREATION CARE TIPS: You want the good news first or the bad? Let's start with the good news or sorta good news. Cutting emissions of methane, a powerful climate pollutant is the fastest way to slow global warming. Drones are being used to find leaky, abandoned oil and gas wells that can pollute the air and groundwater. Over a course of 16 years, volunteers have helped find nearly 1000 of them in just one state park in western Pennsylvania. They've been found under homes, schools, retirement communities, and convention centers in at least 27 states. It's estimated there are a million leaking, abandoned oil and gas wells in the U.S. with hundreds of thousands of miles of pipelines, storage tanks and other potentially leaky infrastructure. Because of this, EDF (Environmental Defense Fund), a nonprofit, launched a one-of-a-kind satellite to track methane pollution areas from around the world and is now releasing data to the public. The pollution greatly exceeds official estimates and most comes from numerous, widespread, small sources and are not complex or costly to fix.

Now the bad news. The Environmental Protection Agency, including the agency's Endangerment Finding, which regulates the greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act, is being actively undermined by its administrator.

Another dangerous EPA effort is the invitation to polluters to request a “presidential exemption” from existing clean air standards. Hundreds of polluters are seeking the exemption including 200 petrochemical facilities. You can see if one of these companies is in your neighborhood at edf.org/maps/epa-pollution-pass. They hope to be exempted from 2024 EPA safeguard that limits ethylene oxide and chloroprene, both linked to 50x cancer rates than the national average, along with other dangerous pollutants. Let the corporations, EPA, Congress, and President know you do not want these changes and to leave the protections for the earth and health intact with no exceptions.

From *Solutions EDF* Vol. 56 No. 3 / Summer 2025. Article submitted by Cathy Huntoon

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER:

For those who need healing: God of compassion, source of life and health, strengthen, restore, and relieve those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially now: Ruth Wescott (cousin of Janet Sinning), Julie McCoy, Sandy Fitzpatrick (niece of Karin Byers), Suzy Anderson, Karin Byers, Loren Walters, Donna Walters, Claire Field, Nancy Kelly, Doris Frey, Treaver Bleichner (grandson of Julene Bleichner), Dick Hart (brother of Judy Luttmers), David Larsen, Calvin Bell, Vicki McIntosh, Paige Reder, Sara (granddaughter of Anita Carlson), Max Smith (son of Barb Smith), Wayne Petersen (friend of Julene Bleichner), Debbie Webb, so that they may receive healing and help in You.

For those who have died: Eternal God, by Your steadfast love, open Your arms of mercy to those who have died, especially now: Jim Miller (brother of Suzy Anderson); Kirsten Hart (mother of Aubree, Gauge and Hunter); Patricia Klingsporn, Debbie Schwartz (sister of Kathy Nerlien); Dan McCollough, Russ Wright, Anita Nelsen, Rev. Deanna Woodward (daughter of the late Ken and Lennis Sigrist), Greg Rud, Dawn Bidwell, Jean Franklin (mother of Rev. Sharon Nelson), Loyola Shappell, William ‘Dirk’ Dehn, Ron Fogelson; that they may find their place with You.

For those who mourn: Gracious God, whose Son knew our sorrows, our tears, and our death, look with compassion on those who grieve, especially now: the family of Jim Miller; the family of Kirsten Hart; the family of Patricia Klingsporn; the family of Debbie Schwartz; the family of Dan McCollough; the family of Russ Wright; the family of Anita Nelsen; the family of Rev. Deanna Woodward; the family of Greg Rud; the family of Dawn Bidwell; the family of Jean Franklin; the family of Loyola Shappell; the family of William ‘Dirk’ Dehn; the family of Ron Fogelson; and all their friends who mourn with them, so that they may be comforted by Your sure presence and filled with hope in Your goodness.

For the homebound, those in care facilities, and their caregivers: God of all seasons of life, bring comfort to those who are vulnerable, tired, or weak, especially now: Suzy Anderson, David Larsen, Nancy Kelly, Bette Josephson, Calvin Bell, Loren Walters, Donna Walters, Alan Bourquin, Debbie Byers, John Lloyd, Carol Ramthun, Barb Smith; so that they may be blessed and at peace each day. Inspire and encourage those who care for them, so that their work may be filled with grace and their love may be multiplied.

For those who celebrate: God of blessing, we praise You for the joy we have received and the gift we have in one another. We lift up special thanks for those who celebrate milestones in life – birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, the birth of a child, graduations, promotions, and new jobs – and we ask Your continued blessing upon them, now and always.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in these prayers, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 210-288-9477 or Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com.

WOMEN’S SHELTER AND SUPPORT CENTER: Byron UMC’s ongoing mission is support for the Womens’ Shelter and Support Center. They also shelter men and their families (pets are welcome too) that need to get out of an abusive situation as well. Once they have a safe place to live they need to set up house and we can help by donating items to the shelter for them. There is a receptacle in the narthex for your donations. You aren’t obligated to donate expensive items or donate at all. Help if you can. Here is a list of needed items:

School supplies: Scissors, Folders plastic (Red, Blue, Yellow and Green), Crayons, Colored pencils, Highlighters, Markers, Pencils (sharpened preferred), Erasers, Glue (bottles and sticks),

Gift Cards - Visa, Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip (Gas, Food, Supplies, Car Repairs, etc.)

Kids Activities gift cards i.e. Movie passes, Bowling, Bounce House, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Pizza places, Arcade, etc.;

Adult color/activity books & colored pencils

Non-Perishable Food / Snacks (individual packets, i.e. Potato chips, granola bars, fruit bars, pretzel bits, raisins, fruit packets, animal crackers, and microwave popcorn

Baby wipes, Pull-ups (size 3-4T, 5-6T).

Paper products (toilet paper, napkins, tissues); **Cleaning Supplies** (dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant spray)

Eco-friendly plates, bowls (microwaveable) **cutlery**.

Kitchen Utensils (spatulas, whisks, wooden spoons, measuring cups/spoons, peelers, graters, cutting boards, knife sets, ladles, can openers, kitchen scissors, baking sheets, pot holders)

New Pots & Pans, Small Appliances (Coffee pots, mixers, can openers, etc.)

New Pillows, New Bath Towels, New Twin Sheet sets, Women's PJ's - all sizes

New Laptops & Tablets, New Tracphones

Shampoo and conditioner (full-sized)

If you have something you think they could use not on the list, please contact Janet Sinning at jsinning@charter.net or 507-251-1657.

ONLINE GIVING: Offerings can be made using electronic fund transfers from your bank account or by credit/debit card and have the option to be set as a recurring gift.

Please go to <https://byronmn.umcchurches.org/giving> which takes you to the giving page or scan this QR code with your smartphone. Once there, follow the instructions for registration.



USE FULL CHURCH ADDRESS FOR MAILING: When sending mail to the church, please be sure to include the P.O. Box 146 in the address. The post office has been returning mail to senders when the PO Box # is not included. Please use 503 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 146, Byron, MN 55920.

CHURCH CONTACTS:

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