



FROM THE PASTOR:

A Voting Guide from John Wesley and St. Paul

As we approach the coming election on November 6th, I want to encourage you to engage in your civic duty to vote. It is through our votes that we have a voice in the direction and state of our nation and our communities.

John Wesley wrote in his journal about an upcoming Parliament election to be held in 1774 in England. He gave some good guidance to members of the local Methodist Society:

October 6, 1774. I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; (2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against; and (3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

I can't improve on John Wesley's election advise, other than to add one more bit of wisdom from St. Paul:

Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.
(Philippians 2:3-4)

By this, Paul meant that we always should act for the sake of the common good, not for the sake of selfishness – even when we vote.

A Note on the Church Renaming Proposal:

In August, we entered into a Season of Prayerful Consideration about a proposal to rename our church. In the month of September, we held a couple of town hall discussions to talk through the proposal and hear what people were thinking. The Leadership Team will go through the discussion notes and make a decision about proceeding at their next meeting on October 16th.

Thank you to everyone who prayed and conversed with an openness to God's grace and guidance. It is good and praiseworthy when the church does these things with a spirit of gentleness and mutual respect.

If your heart has been hardened or burdened by what we have done in this season, please speak with Pastor Andy or another trusted leader in the church, so that we can pray for one another and for our unity in Jesus. There is healing and reconciliation in him!

A Note on Ready, Set, Worship!:

Ready, Set, Worship! started up again last month, and it was so great. The theme was "Learn" – which is a big part of what we try to do in Ready, Set, Worship! every month. Under the guidance of the adult coordinators, the children and youth have been learning about worship and learning about being leaders.

Let me lift up and celebrate their courage to get up in front of a sanctuary full of people and lead! I remember my first Sunday as a pastoral intern at Morgan Park UMC in Chicago. I was so nervous that I thought I would vomit. I'm sure that some of the children get nervous for Ready, Set, Worship!, as well, but they still get up there and do it. Let's honor their bravery and praise them for it. Please, let's never make the children feel diminished by the experience of leading us in worship, but let them grow bolder through this opportunity and our responses to them.

Have you also noticed their sense of the sacredness of worship? Let those who are grown also approach each Sunday with reverence, not coming to be entertained by the children, but in an appropriate attitude of worship.

Pastor Andy

RETRO THEMED POTLUCK: Please join us for a fall fun **Retro Theme Potluck** on **Sunday, Oct. 27**. We **WELCOME** you to a time to get to know each other better and have a great meal! Our monthly children led Ready, Set, Worship! service will be at 9:30 a.m., followed by fellowship time and then the potluck at **11:30 a.m.** after Sunday school. Dust off those old cookbooks and bring a dish to share 'from the past'...even bring it in a favorite 'retro' dish. You are invited to bring the recipe and any story associated with the dish. If you are able to let us know what you will bring, so we don't have 5 pots of calico beans; there will be a sign-up sheet in the dining room. The church ovens can be used to keep any dish hot or baked during church. Beverages provided, please bring your own plates and silverware if possible. Please **WELCOME** friends, neighbors and family to join us!

ATTENTION YOUTH!: We have been invited to a bowling night with the youth group from Evangel UMC in Rochester. Invite your friends - all are welcome! Please let Pastor Andy know if you are planning to attend so that he can include you in the registration count.



What: Evangel UMC Youth Bowling Night

When: Friday, Nov 15 7-9 PM

Where: Bowlocity, 2810 N Broadway Ave, Rochester, MN 55906. We will have the 8 Lane Suite to ourselves.

Cost: \$10/person, cash at the door. Snacks included.

GRIEF GROUP: Our next grief group meeting at Byron UMC is **Wed., Oct. 9th 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have classes for pre-K to 1st grade, 2nd to 3rd grade, 4th to 6th grade, and youth. All are welcome! If you have any questions or would be interested in helping with Sunday school, please speak with Kelly VanDeWalker. *Please scan the QR code to open the registration form to **register your child/children for the 2024-2025 Sunday school year.*** Thank you!



READY, SET, WORSHIP!: On the third Sunday of each month, our regular worship service is replaced by an engaging, kid-centered worship service for God's children of all ages called Ready, Set, Worship! **Our next Ready, Set, Worship! is October 27, 2024 (4th Sunday for the month of October).** We are looking for adult greeters for our Ready, Set, Worship! services. Please contact Pastor Andy to be added to the list.



BEARPACK PROGRAM: Byron UMC continues its commitment to giving \$200 monthly toward the BearPack Program with Byron Schools. This program helps those families with children in need in our schools. All donations at coffee fellowship will help fund this pledge. Please consider supporting this great need in our community by giving generously to the cookie jar each week!

FINANCE SUMMARY: The following provides a summary of the General Fund ending Sept. 30, 2024.

beginning balance Sept. 1, 2024:	\$ 7,581.03
plus September income:	\$ 13,636.00
less September expenses:	\$ 12,982.55
ending balance Sept. 30, 2024:	\$ 8,234.48

THANK YOU: Thank you to Marty Nelson for all his work mowing the church lawn and to Adam Falk for filling in for Marty when needed. And thanks to Paul Riggs for his work painting the education building window trim.

CONGRATULATIONS: Richard and Clare Field celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 3rd! They want to say "Thank you!" to everyone who sent cards or messages on Facebook. Congratulations to the Fields, and may God continue to bless their home and marriage.

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: Donna Walters, Jim Miller (brother of Suzy Anderson), Marlene Abel, Claire Field, Nancy Kelly, Doris Frey, Heather Ellefson, 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 (family of Barb Smith), Wayne Petersen (friend of Julene Bleichner), Barb Smith, Debbie Webb, Scott Miller (family of Cathy Huntoon), 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: Greg Rud, Dawn Bidwell, Jean Franklin (mother of Rev. Sharon Nelson), Loyola Shappell, William 'Dirk' Dehn, George Beech; 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 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 George Beech, 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: Calvin Bell, Loren Walters, Donna Walters, Alan Bourquin, Debbie Byers, John Lloyd, Anita Nelsen, 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: Serving All People Impacted by Domestic Violence (Pets are welcome at the shelter, too!). Byron UMC's ongoing mission is support for the Womens' Shelter and Support Center. They are now sheltering men and their families that need to get out of an abusive situation as well. Once they are all set and have a safe place to live they need to set up house and here's where we can help. Donate things to the shelter for them. 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, Pencils (sharpened preferred), Erasers, Glue (bottles and sticks), Highlighters, Markers
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.
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)
Eco-friendly plates, bowls (microwaveable) and **cutlery**.
Cleaning Supplies (dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant spray)
Adult color/activity books & colored pencils
Kitchen Utensils (spatulas, whisks, wooden spoons, measuring cups/spoons, peeler, graters, cutting boards, knife sets, ladles, can openers, kitchen scissors, baking sheets, pot holders)
New Pillows, New Bath Towels, New Twin Sheets sets, Women's PJ's - all sizes,
New Pots & Pans, Small Appliances (Coffee pots, mixers, can openers, etc.)
New Laptops & Tablets, New Tracfoes
Shampoo and conditioner (can be hotel size)

There is a receptacle in the narthex for your donations. If you have any questions concerning donations, you can contact Janet Sinning at jsinning@charter.net

CREATION CARE TIPS: *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...Psalm 24:1.*

Protecting public lands for the benefit of all. Our national parks, state forests, and other lands inspire us with beautiful scenery, sustain us with fresh air and water, connect us, tell our stories, and provide economic opportunity. They enshrine our history and culture and, if we care for them, will safeguard our future from climate change.

By investing in things like trails, we can lessen carbon emissions by reducing car trips, improving both physical and mental health through exercise and time spent outdoors, and advancing safety for pedestrians and cyclists in cities and suburbs.*

As elections draw near, I encourage you to investigate and support "climate champions" who will help protect our earth and all people and creatures who share it.

*Excerpts from Trust for Public Land Impact Report.

Article Submitted by Cathy Huntoon

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.



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.

LEADERSHIP MEETING MINUTES: Meeting of Sept. 10, 2024; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Terri Nelson (chair), Chris Miller (lay leader), Al Miller (finance chair), Cathy Huntoon (mission representative), Roger Vick (trustee chair), Holly Rolandson (SPRC chair), Kelly VanDeWalker (education chair), Pastor Andy Petter, District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave.

Pastor Andy opened the meeting with a prayer

Treasurer Report & Finance Update – Al Miller presented the Treasurer report ending Aug. 31st.

1. Current General checking balance (9-3): \$ 14,930.20 (\$ 7,842.11 undesignated)

2. Current Designated funds balance (9-3): \$ 7,088.09 (includes 'Designated Other') Consists of:

Missions	1,582.47	Dorothy Day – 348.38; Byron schools - 58.45; BearPacks – 428.14; Misc. mission – 680.50; Flood Buckets - \$67.
Education	1,554.22	
BAYM	1,047.68	
Quilt Group	227.10	
Family First	171.62	
Designated 'Other' (held within Gen. fund)	2,505.00	Grant – 2,500; Byron Food Shelf – 5

3. Apportionments / Insurance: January through June has been paid. Suggest paying July apportionments seeing the balance of undesignated general fund is higher at this time. Monthly amount is \$1,342.75. **(yes, pay July)** Insurance payment is due September 23rd for \$2,083.75.

4. Credit Card: Although there was no payment due on the credit card for August, I paid the balance of 117.56 which consisted of: office supplies – 41.56; Education exp. – 25.00 (Facebook ads for VBS); subscriptions – 51.00 (annual website fee).

5. Worker's Comp 2024: Received from the Conference a bill for \$440 due Oct. 31 for 2024 premium. This amount included a credit of \$160 from overpayment of 2023 premium.

6. Bearpack Program: Should cookie money begin going back toward Bearpack payment beginning with Sept. 1 cookie donations? **(yes)** Current balance in this fund is \$428.

7. There were no transfers in or out of memorial savings in August.

Current Memorial Account balances:	Undesignated - \$15,029.87
	Designated - <u>\$ 1,278.04</u>
	TOTAL: \$16,307.91

8. In August I transferred \$5,233.10 from Trustee savings into gen. checking for sealcoating parking lots.

Current Reg. Savings Account balances:	Trustee savings - 1,279.30
	BUMC Programs - 3,972.08
	Undesignated svgs. – <u>6,418.83</u>
	TOTAL: \$11,670.21

Karen Peterson, treasurer

OLD BUSINESS:

Church Name Change Proposal next steps – Plans for the town hall discussions on September 15th and 29th were discussed. Members of the leadership team agreed to serve as facilitators and presenters.

Church Committee/Leadership Changes Proposal – District Superintendent Michelle Hargrave shared with us some advice about how to proceed with exploring a shift to a Simplified Governance Board. She recommended that we reach out to other district churches who have recently made this transition, including Farmington, Northfield, and Stewartville. Concerns about the workload of a Simplified Governance Board and potential difficulties in recruiting people to serve on the board were raised and discussed. The Leadership Team will discuss the SWOT analysis of our current structure in October.

Solar Updates – Cathy Huntoon and Al Miller reviewed details of the five bids that have been solicited to install solar panels on the church building. No decision was made.

Capital Campaign Development – A proposal from Horizons for a capital campaign to fund solar panel installation and education wing renovation was shared with the Leadership Team. The consultant (John Laster) has offered to meet with members of the Leadership Team to discuss and answer questions. DS Michelle Hargrave informed us of steps that we would need to take with the district to proceed: if the cost of the work is to exceed 25% of our property valuation, we would need to seek approval from the River Bluffs District Building Committee and the District Superintendent. We will also need approval from the church council and the church conference.

New Business – DS Michelle Hargrave shared some information about The Laity Collaborative, a conference initiative to inspire, support, and equip lay people for ministry. The first meeting will be on October 26th in the Twin Cities. Interested lay people are invited to apply – see conference website for more information.

Committee Reports:

Education - Kelly VanDeWalker:

Sunday school has begun and Ready, Set, Worship! will begin on September 15th. A RSW! change from last year is that children won't have a role as worship leader each month, so that they can have the opportunity to worship without worrying about their roles.

Trustees - Roger Vick:

The parking lots have been successfully resurfaced.

Pastor Report – Pastor Andy:

The leaders were reminded to continue thinking about values-based ministries for the church, and the congregational feedback about potential values-based ministries was shared with them.

Pastor Andy will introduce a service project for the youth Sunday school class to send solar light kits to Ukraine.

Next Meeting – Oct 9th 7:30 – 8:30 (Resume 2nd Wednesday of every month) [note: the October meeting has been moved to October 16th, same time.]

Closing Prayer – Pastor Andy

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