



The TOWER

Newsletter of the Pecatonica United Methodist Church



From the Pastor's Heart by Pastor Mark Gilmore

Lost in the Weeds

On Sunday, July 19, our Morning Message was about “The Parable of the Weeds” from Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. And sometimes, it seems, all we can see is the weeds. Jesus reminds us to let the weeds and good seeds grow together—they both have purpose, and anyway, you just can’t avoid those darn weeds (in our lives).

Recently, I enjoyed reading a message from Pastor Brian at Bower Hill Community Church. I enjoyed his message and I’m sharing it with you this month. He says something about getting lost in the weeds...

Happy summer to you. Churches, like schools, tend to get quieter during the summer months, but they do not go dormant. Whatever your plans for this season, the staff and members of our church wish you a time of joy, and purpose, and spiritual growth.

One of the longstanding summer traditions in our family is to spend a week at the Chautauqua Institution. One year there, an engineer lectured about her work in the Okavango Delta of Botswana (a place where I’ve spent some time, incidentally, and nearly perished with thirty other missionaries in a pontoon boat accident—a story for another time). The Delta is an immensely beautiful place, a vast green oasis in a khaki-colored land. But the engineer was meeting with all the hassles and disappointments that befall first-worlders in Africa. She was working and living in canvas tents without electricity, and the heat was inescapable. Machines didn’t work. People showed up late, or not at all. The bugs were making her crazy. The hippos and lions and hyenas were exotic, but actually kind of scary. Her work—whatever it was, I don’t recall—was going nowhere, it seemed. And she did what many seem to do these days: she shared all her anger and dissatisfaction on Twitter. Unexpectedly, she got a reply from an astronaut who, unbeknownst to her, had been following her work, and who was circling the globe in a satellite. The message said, “Thanks for your amazing work! Here’s a photo of the Okavango Delta today from up here in space.” And there was a picture, just taken, of that astoundingly beautiful place as seen from the heavens. It was a great, delicate swirl in varying shades of blue and many tints of green. The broad sweep of the great Zambezi River looked like the inspired brushstroke of a master painter. The dun-colored Kalahari Desert pushed in from all sides, framing the otherworldly beauty of the scene. But...it wasn’t “otherworldly.” It was exactly this—worldly, but this world as seen from a perspective greater than the tired, frustrated engineer could know.



Inside This Edition

Front Page
From the Pastor's Heart

Page 2
From the Pastor's Heart cont...
Announcements

Page 3
Food Pantry is Moving!
Rally Day
Vacation Coverage

Page 4
Finance Report

Page 5
June Finance Summary
Liturgists Needed

Page 6
Sunday School

Page 7
Birthday & Anniversaries

Page 8
Thank Yous/Prayer Requests

Page 9
Calendar

From the Pastor's Heart *continued...*



So, the engineer and her team went back to work reinvigorated, knowing that they were not just being assaulted by mosquitoes and flies, but taking part in a grand tableau of unspeakable loveliness and life. It restored their hope and joy for another day of labor in that difficult place.

It's so easy to get "lost in the weeds" of life that we miss the greater perspective. I would encourage you, during these bright summer days, to spend some time gazing down at your life—and perhaps the life of our church—from a satellite. Notice the blues and greens and the big, empty tan places.

What are you grateful for? What did you do right? What person, or decision, or influence made all the difference for you? Isn't it funny how even the desert places have their part in the beauty of it all? It's important to remember that life is more than the way we're living it just now; it's more than what we see just at this moment. There's an intention, and a meaning, and a beauty that we don't always see.

Bible Study



Pastor Mark's Wednesday Bible Study is taking a summer break. We will resume on Wednesday, September 9th, at 6:30pm, in Fellowship Hall.

NEW WEBSITE...
Coming soon!

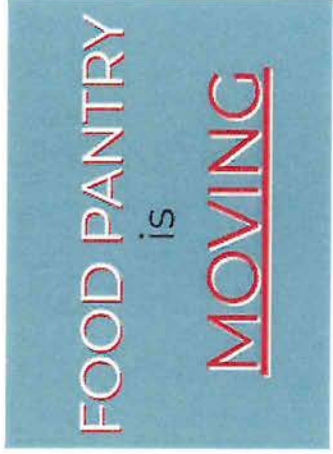
Thank you to Shary Stelter for applying for a grant from United Methodist Communications to create a new website for PecUMC, which we RECEIVED! The new site will hopefully be ready sometime in August to launch! More info to come...



Exciting New Project Announcement!

With the Food Pantry moving to a new location, we have the "old pie room" in Fellowship Hall open for a new use. It has been proposed to create a unisex restroom in this area! This would save the long walk down the stairs and long hall to our only current restrooms.

The family of Martha Satter (Vi Johns' daughter who passed away on April 15) would like to generously donate \$2,000 to start the fund for such a restroom! If this is something the congregation is interested in funding, we would like to look into the possibility of starting a campaign for the project to move forward!



Dream Come True for Pecatonica Community Food Pantry!

Beginning August 1, 2020, the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry will move from our church to operate in a new permanent location at 527 Main Street, at the corner of 5th and Main. Recently, the Food Pantry has been approved as an official stand alone 501c3 not-for-profit organization. The use of the buildings at their new location have been generously donated, along with utilities and maintenance. This is truly a remarkable milestone for a much-needed, growing food ministry that began generations ago with members of PecUMC!

Contact information to volunteer or make a donation: 527 Main Street, PO Box 610, Pecatonica, IL, 61063. 815-335-7143



Rally Day is Soon!

Come help us kick off the new year of Sunday School! Rally Day will be held during 9:00a.m. worship on

Sunday, September 13, 2020
at Blassingham Park!

Please join us, see what Sunday School has in store this fall, and have some outdoor fun!



Pastoral Vacation Coverage in August 2020

On August 23rd and 30th, retired clergy Rev. George Woosnam will be leading worship services while Pastor Mark is on vacation. As many of you know, Pastor George was the pastor at PecUMC from 1993-1999. Rev. Woosnam is excited and honored to lead us in worship, and for many of our members this is a wonderful opportunity to worship together again!

While Pastor Mark is on vacation, August 21-31, Pastor George is available for pastoral care needs: ddwoos@hotmail.com or 815-541-7666.

<u>Euchre Social</u>	<u>United Methodist Men</u>	<u>Trustees Committee</u>	<u>United Methodist Women</u>	<u>Finance Committee</u>	<u>Sewing Group</u>	<u>Monthly Potluck</u>	<u>Nurturing Committee</u>	<u>Administrative Council</u>	<u>Pastor Mark's Bible Study</u>	<u>Kloster Bible Study</u>
No Future Dates, TBA	Email Communication	TBA	Email Communication	Email Communication	No Future Dates, TBA	No Future Dates, TBA	Email Communication	*September 28 6:30p.m.	"The Nourishing Word" Summer Break	Summer Break

Finance Report

By: John Stelter,
Finance Chair

July Finance Report

Please note the June P&L on the next page and the Account Balances as of 7/15/20 listed below in this Tower. You will see that June income actually exceeded expenses due primarily to \$5835 received the week of 6/8, after our letter to you expressing financial concern. What a blessing! Thank you!!! July, however, has some hefty quarterly and semi-annual bills to pay, so the General Fund is now down to only \$6,649.03 as of 7/15/20, and the total of all financial accounts is \$35,001.34. Our minimum expenses still average about \$2500/week, so your continued support is greatly appreciated. Our automatic deposits from you are now \$590/mo. If that option is of interest to you, please contact Krystal in the church office. If you are unable to attend worship, but would like to continue your support, let us know and we will accommodate you.

Income since we re-opened on 7/5 has been \$4026, so I believe we can continue to meet our obligations with your generosity.

Pec UMC Balances as of 7/15/20					
Account	6/15/2020	Disbursements	Deposits	Balances 7/15/20	
General Fund	\$11,677.09	\$11,504.06	\$6,476.00	\$6,649.03	
Outreach Account	\$1,826.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,826.94	
PUMC Men	\$2,006.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,006.85	
Building Fund	\$6,077.24	\$0.00	\$101.26	\$6,178.50	
Memorial Fund	\$8,736.56	\$0.00	\$1.09	\$8,737.65	
Womens Savings Acct	\$1,942.19	\$0.00	\$0.24	\$1,942.43	
Womens Checking	\$7,659.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,659.94	
	\$39,926.81	\$11,504.06	\$6,578.59	\$35,001.34	

June 2020 Finance Summary

Pecatonica United Methodist Church

Profit & Loss

June 2020

	Jun 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Tithes/Offerings	10,575.00
Total Income	10,575.00
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	10.00
Disposal Service	54.73
Ministry Expenses	134.25
Office Supplies	88.69
Payroll Expenses	6,795.13
Printing and Reproduction	85.04
Repairs and Maintenance	120.00
Utilities	860.76
Total Expense	8,148.60
Net Ordinary Income	2,426.40
Net Income	<u>2,426.40</u>



Liturgists Needed!

Please let Krystal know if you would like to sign up as liturgist and the date(s). We have many spots available! Email secretary@pecumc.org to discuss available dates! Thank You!

Getting to Know You...

By: Amy Salamon, SS Superintendent

Hello
my name is

Jonah



Let's get to know some of the people in the Bible better! For the rest of the year, I will do a getting-to-know-you profile of some Bible characters. Some you might already know, some might be new. Since summer is still here, I wanted to start with someone a bit 'fishy.'

Name: Jonah

Found in the Bible: Jonah 1-4

What did I do? God wanted me to preach to the people of Ninevah and ask them to make better choices. I didn't want them to be better, so I ran away. A whale swallowed me and I lived inside that fish for three days! When I finally prayed to God, it spit me on shore! After that, I went back to Ninevah, preached to the people, and they became great followers of God!

What was I like? Stubborn, selfish, obedient

How God used me My preaching led the entire city of Ninevah to repent and follow God.

I would ask him... How bad did it stink inside the fish?

What I learned about godly living: No one can hide from God. We should obey God just like we obey our parents.

(Profile questions and character traits taken from thepelsers.com.)



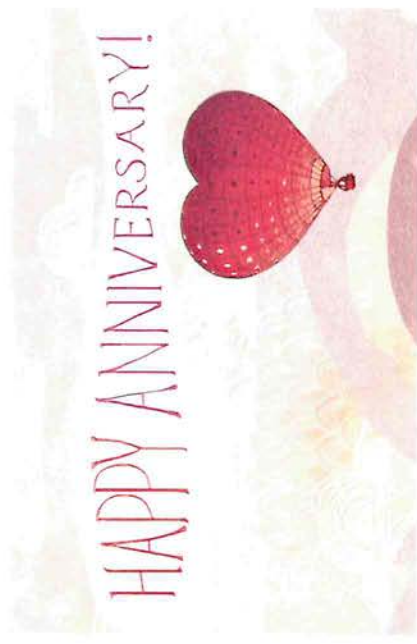
God asked Jonah what he was doing traveling inside of a whale.
"Ninevah your business," Jonah answered.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wishing you all a blessed, special day for your birthday or anniversary!



1st Mark Kleparski
Kelly White
5th Jackson McNamer
7th Neil Ritter
Ron Zimmerman
8th Tammy North
10th Jeff HOLETON
12th Connor Qualls
Linda Schou
14th Ann Redding
18th Pastor Mark Gilmore
19th Greg Deppe
Sonya Sues
20th Casie McNamer
23rd McKinley Kleparski
26th John Stelter
31st Laurie Kleparski



5th Donald & Donna Mills
18th Amy & Roman Salamon
23rd Todd & Pam Hess

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Sandy Elliot for making 18 new dresses for the tropical missions, plus some IV covers.

Thanks to Lois HOLETON for the construction of eight blankets and burp towels for Missions.

Thank you to all who have been involved in the sanitizing of the church building, before and after each service.

Thank you to Cindy Volkert and Sue Sarver for the summer greeting board.

Thank you to the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry for continuing to serve our town and the surrounding areas. We are grateful to have shared our space all these years for Pec Food Pantry to continue their mission!

Submissions for The Tower can be mailed, emailed, or left in the box outside the Church Office.

Deadline for the August Newsletter is
August 16.

We apologize if your Birthday or Anniversary is listed incorrectly or missing. Please notify the Church Administrative Assistant so we can correct our records. Thank You!
If you would like to no longer receive The Tower newsletter via mail, please email:

secretary@pecumc.org or

call 815-239-1110. If you prefer to receive The Tower Newsletter via email, please let us know.

PRAYER Request

Prayers for the school board members and employees as they try to find the best way to safely resume school this fall.

Prayers for Earlynne Desmond as she continues her cancer battle at home.

Prayers for the family of Mr. Geoffrey S. Kruse-Safford, spouse of clergy member Rev. Lisa Anne Kruse-Safford of the Northern Illinois Conference. Geoffrey passed away on Friday, July 3, 2020, at the age of 54.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship 9:00 a.m.	Worship 9:00 a.m.	Trustee Meeting 6:30 p.m.				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 9:00 a.m.						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 9:00 a.m.						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 9:00 a.m.				Pastor Mark on Vacation <u>August 21-31</u>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 9:00 a.m. Guest Worship Leader: Rev. George Woosnam						
30	31	Pastor Mark on Vacation <u>August 21-31</u>				
Worship 9:00 a.m. Guest Worship Leader: Rev. George Woosnam						

Or Current Resident

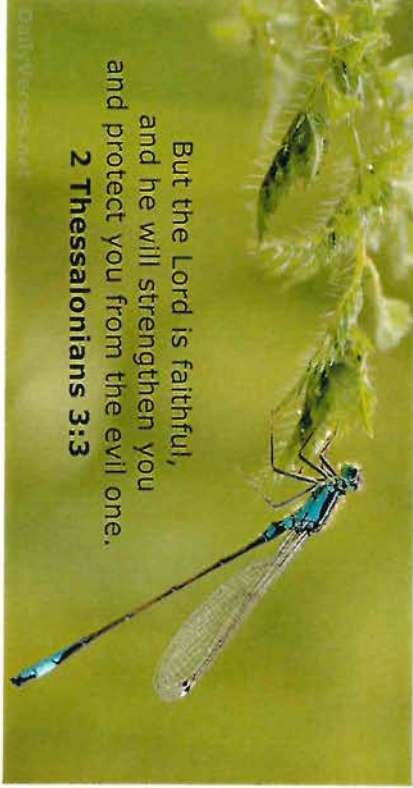


Pecatonica United Methodist Church
528 Washington St.
PO Box 607
Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1110



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

August 2020



Sunday Worship 9:00am
Sunday School will resume in the fall.

Pastor Mark Gilmore
Office Hours

M 1-4pm, T 9am-2pm,
W 9am-12pm, Th 9am-2pm,

Friday - Day off
Cell: 260-615-5660

Church Office Hours

TWF

9am-2pm, by appointment
www.pecumc.org
815-239-1110