

J u l y 2 0 2 4

Action at Asbury



Asbury United Methodist Church, 1810 Kellogg Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546

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Pastor's Pondering



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has served as resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference since September of 2012. Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area).

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's State of the Church Address.

Beautiful people of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, it has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your Bishop these past twelve years and as one of your pastors and District Superintendents throughout my career. As I prepared for this time of sharing, I have taken time to reflect upon my time spent with you, my beautiful people, and my faith journey and give God thanks.

During this time of reflection, I remember studying for tests in high school. I was often at school all day, dedicated to my studies until midnight and sometimes at 1 in the morning. It was a time of profound dedication to my faith development and worship. I would need to get up and go to prayer service at 4 a.m., which required more discipline than I sometimes had! It was by the grace of God, church bells ringing, and sometimes, hearing in my dreams my name that I would wake up, splash cold water on my face, say, "Wake up Hee-Soo," and take the quick jog down the street to the church.

These are the years that I have often forgotten about – or glossed over, but these were essential times in which I formed habits of prayer, priorities, and listening. I remember saying, "Wake me up, O God so that I might worship You." I still earnestly pray to God, "Lord, refresh me so that I might fully serve and worship you."

These are my feelings today, post-pandemic, post-disaffiliation, Post-General Conference: "Lord, refresh us so that we might fully serve and worship you."

We have heard about the decisions of the General Conference—regionalization, revised social principles, and removal of harmful language regarding our siblings in Christ, the LGBTQ+ community. Our delegation has faithfully served and shared these decisions and the next steps for us to live into a post-general Conference United Methodism. Please join me in offering our appreciation for their service.

Beautiful people, it is time for us to refresh our faith and be resolute in living it out. In Colossians 2:6-7, we are given clear instructions about our faith,

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You

know your way around the faith. Now, do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving".

Over the last twelve years, we have been given much – we are blessed:
It has been my great privilege to visit every church in the Wisconsin Conference.

It was my greatest joy to meet and talk with churches and leaders with precious heritage and sincerity, go up to the podium at every church, offer prayers of thanks in the altar, and talk about dreams, life together, and fruits of ministry together.

We came together under the missional direction of **Imagine Wisconsin Anew**, added **Radical inclusion and racial justice**, and **the Beloved Community**, gathered prayers and strength through the Imagine No Malaria campaign. We praise God for the fruits and grateful hearts.

We have launched 31 ministries—Hispanic, Korean, Dai Myanmar, Congolese, Anglo, and recovery ministry—and chartered three. Our New Ministries Strategy Board has been busy helping to develop the program for launching ministries further and building ways for sustainability within our structure over time. We continue to train church planters through our ICD and ICD courses, constantly striving towards excellence. Conference MCCI Initiative has been fruitful.

We have provided extensive cabinet and extended cabinet training on cultural competency, started intentional training for cross-cultural appointments, and are developing new ways to engage in radical inclusion and racial justice. I am grateful for our clergy and lay leadership, who have helped us identify and strategize how we may live into our vision of radical inclusion and racial justice. We aren't there yet – but we hold onto the vision of Beloved Community.

My joy is the purposeful diversity our clergy community represents. In the last twelve months, we have actively sought more inclusion by recruiting seven Filipino and Indian clergy, thus expanding our inclusion within our clergy community. This appointment season, we have 38% non-Anglo clergy; this equates to 122 clergy. Would you join me in appreciating these recruitment efforts?

We celebrate our international partnerships with the Dongbu Conference – Missional friendship with Korean Methodist Church became a long-standing relationship. Through this special relationship we mutually learn and support God's Kin(g)dom vision together. We have collaborated church to church and Conference to Conference mutual support and vision making. Last visit was highlighted with Dr. Javier, President of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and their faculty accompanied together with our Wisconsin delegations. Exchange and mutual support in mission and theological education will be fruitful in future journey.

We also celebrate our work with the Bolivia Evangelical Methodist Church. Our connection is significant since this has been an ongoing mission for the NIC and WI under my episcopal leadership. This past month, a group worked at the Elderly Home, hooking up lights and shower heads, installing locks, assembling beds, sanding, cleaning, and preparing for the Elderly to have an accessible place to go. It was a privilege and delight to consecrate these rooms and this space for God's glory. May this ministry be a blessing to all those they serve.

And since we are celebrating, let's praise God for the generosity and faithful giving of all those who have given to support the mission and ministry.

We celebrate that 215 local churches, paid 100% of their 2023 apportionments and that the Wisconsin Conference paid 100% of its apportionment to GCFA! Halleluia!

And there is more abundance; in addition to paying apportionments, our churches contributed over \$1.1 million

in special giving to 100 different programs. We heard about the rainbow covenant yesterday, and our intentionality has supported health and wellness initiatives, education, disaster relief, missionaries, bible distribution, and more.

The United Methodist Church's faith is rooted in Wesleyan theology, which emphasizes a responsible mission pursued "together" in all we live and do. Wesley did not take the experience and basis of love and salvation in individual formations; he kept reminding us we are on this journey together. Although it is a theological discourse, Wesley was the one who thoroughly pursued social sanctification achieved "together" in a relationship of interdependence.

We seek our mission as we work together and fulfill it as Kingdom people. Wesley's invitation that the community is responsible for our living mission and ethical practice will lead the future of the Wisconsin Conference. God has called us to love, live, and bounce forward together.

It's about praying for each other. It is about solidarity with one another through deep friendship.

By accepting and caring for each other, we are leading the future of the Wisconsin Conference.

Let us continue to expand a world where we love and respect everyone unconditionally with the love of God.

It is there that future generations will have hope in Christ Jesus. There, you will inherit the traditions and heritage of the past and live a faith that is firmly and deeply rooted. Future generations, like today, will dedicate themselves to build a bigger world with the love of Jesus Christ.

Wisconsin's future is God's future. That future is diversity. Creation is diversity, and that is the beauty of creation, a world of harmony that is different but one.

Let us live in harmony in love, considering it as the highest value that even though we are racially and ethnically diverse, and have diverse interests and theological backgrounds, the colors of that diversity become one in Jesus.

The Bible says: "There is no fear in love." 1 John 4:18

"No power in the world can separate us from the love of the Lord," Romans 8:38

"Faith overcomes the world." 1 John 5:4

Within these biblical teachings and truths, let us discern and dedicate ourselves to one another, considering unity in diversity as Wisconsin's dream. Let us pray for each other and do our best so that the DNA of Wisconsin can be the practice and faith in welcoming everyone in the name of the Lord, respecting everyone with love, considering everyone as brothers and sisters, and welcoming and exalting everyone as children of God.

Now, after 12 years of episcopal leadership in Wisconsin, I will be moving on to a new annual conference. My heart remains a dynamic, grateful spirit in Wisconsin. YES, Wisconsin is the best state that raised me and my family.

You are my beautiful people, dear friends, and sojourners in Christ.

*In Christ,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung*

July Worship Schedule and Themes

- July 7 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
- Scripture: Mark 6: 1-13 & Psalm 47
Sermon: "A Prophet Without Honor"
The people of Jesus' hometown had a difficult time figuring out who he was. He spoke with great wisdom and performed miracles. Yet, they knew him as Mary's son and a humble carpenter. What can we learn about how God uses ordinary people for the advancement of the Kingdom?
- July 14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10 a.m. Worship
- Scripture: John 6: 1-15 & Psalm 9: 1-2, 7-10
Sermon: "Bread From Jesus"
The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand is an inspiring narrative. In what ways does Jesus and our faith continue to feed us and those around us? We will explore how Jesus and his modern-day disciples make a difference in society.
- July 21 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10 a.m. Worship
- Rev. Stan Curtis will lead worship.
- July 28 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10 a.m. Worship
- Scripture: Ephesians 1: 3-14 & Psalm 24
Sermon: "Who Is In Control?"
Paul speaks of a somewhat difficult theology in his opening chapter of his letter to the Ephesians. He speaks about the idea that things are "predestined" by our God. We will explore this most challenging idea in our time together.



Continuing Care List

Ardis Bender, Winfred Bold, Jerriann & Larry Burns, Harriet Christopherson, Dale Clark, Darlene and Richard Coulthard, Claude Eakins, LaVita Fanta, Robert Geisler, Carol and Don Isbell, Diana Jewson, Russ Kuykendall, Janet Luiting, Shirley Nelson, Hjordis Olson, Lucille Osborne, Arlette Walker, and Ione Watson.



From June through August (Memorial Day – Labor Day)

- We will also not have **Sunday School**. We will start up again on Sunday, September 10, 2024.
- We will not have **Bible Study** this summer. We will start up again in September 2024.
- **Stitching group** will not meet during the summer. It will return on Wednesday, September 6, 2024.

Church Picnic & BBQ

Sunday, July 14, 2024

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

****If it rains, we will move it into the church. ****
But let us pray for a beautiful day!



FINANCIAL REPORT



May saw income of \$25,597.00 and expenses of \$14,089.52
Unrestricted Net Assets is at \$50,128.35

Missions

CROP Walk \$1,160.00

Thank you for your generosity
Julie Polzin, Asbury Bookkeeper

Memory Café

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
4th Wednesday of the month

July 24th, 2024





We give thanks to everyone who gave their support in June to the Northcott Neighborhood House.

In July
we will assist our local ministry
ECHO (Tornado Relief Fund),
Everyone Cooperating to Help Others.

This month we will be gathering funds to help those that received damage from the storm on Saturday, June 22, 2024. This created an EF-2 that landed on the southside of Janesville.

As we know our city came together right away and helped clean up the neighborhoods that had fallen trees and debris all over. The electric company was diligent about responding right away since we had many without power. Our landfill even opened up on Sunday and did not charge anyone to throw their yard waste away. Our city came together in a time of need; and as we all know, the need doesn't stop a day after the storm hits. So, we have picked July as our month to help gather funds for the Tornado Relief through ECHO.

As a caring community we are still gathering supplies and funds to help everyone that received damage.

ECHO will be collecting any and all funds for the Tornado Relief.



JULY 2024 NEEDS

Cereal
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Fruit Juice
Canned Meat

Personal Items
Dish Soap
Laundry Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Feminine Products
Diapers, size 5 & 6

School Supplies

And monetary donations are needed and can be dropped off at the ECHO Office
65 S. High St.,
Janesville, WI 53548
Mon.-Fri., 9am-12pm
Mon.-Thurs., 1pm-4pm
Visit the ECHO website at www.echojanesville.org for a list of school supplies.
Volunteers needed for sorting and packaging school supplies.
Call Maryam at 754-5333 to volunteer.

Save the Date!

Empty Bowls to Go
October 26, 2024



SATURDAY JULY 20 7PM-10PM
DANCE LESSONS AT 6PM
By John Curran
Madison Area Ballroom, Inc.
REVV AVIATION HANGAR
8606 S. Atlanta Dr.
Janesville, WI 53548

LUDE M&S I G
\$40
https://givebutler.com/c/hangardance

PISTONS & PROPS
PUNTS CARD ENTERTAINMENT
800-850-7669

Are you a friend of ECHO?
www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville



Summer Fund Raiser

Please make a donation that will help families in need.

Your donation can be given to your church, marked for ECHO or sent directly to ECHO, Inc., 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548

Donations can also be made safely on the ECHO website:
www.echojanesville.org

2024
May

Service Snapshot



207,142 Meals Provided

448 Nights Provided at Motels



40 Homeless Outreach Contacts

34 Months of Rent Provided



- 241 Pets Received Food
- 24 Homeless Personal Supply Boxes Provided
- 215 Weekend Food Bags Provided to Kids in the Schools



Thank you for helping ECHO's mission of meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency.



Each year the Rock County Homeless Intervention Task Force (HITF) conducts two (2) 24 hour counts of the homeless population in Rock County. The purpose of the Point-In-Time Count is to reach out to homeless individuals and families in Rock County with an immediate goal of providing emergency shelter and a long-term goal of eliminating homelessness.

The information gathered is utilized for a number of reports that have a significant impact on the amount of funding that Rock County receives each year to combat homelessness.

What is a Point-In-Time Count?

A Point-In-Time, or PIT, count is a statistically reliable, unduplicated count of homeless persons for a one 24 hour period. This count is intended to include persons that are homeless who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, or are unsheltered living on the streets or any other place not meant for human habitation. A PIT is intended to capture a minimum amount of information on the homeless population in order to create a "snapshot" of what homelessness looks like in a neighborhood, city, or state.

WHAT

TEAMS ARE NEEDED TO CONDUCT STREET OUTREACH TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY

WHY

TO INCREASE FUNDING IN ROCK COUNTY TO OFFER SERVICES TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

WHEN

THURS. JULY 25, 2024 AT
12:00AM UNTIL 4:00AM

STARTING LOCATION

ALL OF ROCK COUNTY
ECHO, INC.
(65 S. HIGH ST., JANESVILLE)

VOLUNTEERS ARE

REQUIRED TO REGISTER

BY JULY 22 AT

<https://forms.gle/aGkc6y9nW4r3Bw8>

DONATE CARE PACKAGE

ITEMS PLEASE CONTACT

JESSICA LOCHER

BY JULY 22 AT

(608) 754-5333 OR

jlocher@echojanesville.org



Rock County HITF

Care Package Wish List

- Can Openers
- Bottled Water (sealed)
- Insect Repellent
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Dental Floss
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Toilet Tissue
- Antiperspirant
- Deodorant
- XL Ziploc Bags
- Combs
- Blankets
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Tampons
- Rain Slicker
- Plastic Utensils
- Hats
- Bus Tokens
- Scarves
- Multivitamins
- Hearty Soup
- Nutrition Bars
- Trail Mix (sealed)
- Bandages (Band aids)
- Stocking Cap
- Gloves/Mittens
- Warm Socks
- Fingernail Trimmer
- Safety Pins
- Phone Card





- 1 Troy Osborne
- 2 Wendy Anderson-Markow
- 2 Harriet Christopherson
- 3 Richard Coulthard
- 3 Jodi McMullen
- 3 Stephen Nelson
- 4 Ruth Polzin
- 5 Barb Doubleday
- 5 Brandon Zeilinger
- 8 Patrick Waite
- 9 Stan Curtis
- 9 Richard Lyth
- 9 Gaye White



- 17 Carolyn Schultz
- 18 Theresa Luepnitz
- 18 Mike Woods
- 21 Madolyn Rosburg
- 22 Dennis Sailing
- 23 Jan Diers
- 24 John Luepnitz
- 28 Robin Bent
- 28 Arlette Walker
- 31 Matthew Sly



- 1 Wendy & Larry Markow
- 2 Marj & Bob Banner
- 5 Artie & Phil Zumstein
- 10 Gaye & Mike White
- 23 Judy & Charles Culb
- 27 Bobi & William Abraham
- 28 Deborah & Lloyd Coulthard
- 30 Jan & Mike Diers



2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Stitching Group 9 – 10:30 a.m. | 4  | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Service @ 10 a.m. with communion | 8 | 9 Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall @ 8 a.m. | 10 Covenant Guild @ Eagle Inn 8:30 a.m. | 11 | 12 | 13 9 a.m. Jazz Band Practice 10 a.m. Praise Band Practice |
| 14 Service @ 10 a.m.  11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | 15 | 16 Pastor Will leaves for vacation. | 17 Stitching Group 9 – 10:30 a.m. | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Service w/ @ 10 a.m. | 22 Pastor Will is back from vacation. | 23 | 24 Memory Café 10-11 a.m. | 25 | 26 | 27 9 a.m. Jazz Band Practice 10 a.m. Praise Band Practice |
| 28 Service @ 10 a.m. | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

* Newsletter articles need to be submitted by the 15th to Amy Powell at
asburyumc@charter.net



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