

Messenger

Monthly Newsletter from the churches of Medford and Dorchester.

FEBRUARY 2012

Medford Charge

Charge Office
287 E Allman Street
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Office hours: Monday-Thursday
1:00—5:00 PM



Medford UMC

287 E Allman Street
Medford, WI 54451-1122
715-748-2165

Worship: Sundays at 10:00 AM
Sunday School: at 8:45AM
(September to May)



Dorchester Salem UMC

175 S 3rd Street
Dorchester, WI 54425
715-748-2165

Worship: Sundays at 8:30 AM

Dr. Michael O. Adedokun, Pastor

Judy Hartman, Charge Secretary

Prayer Ministry

Submit a prayer request to this
Email: pray4me@tds.net

**Visitors and new members
always welcome.**

MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE RESUMES AS OF WED. FEB. 1, 2012

Effective Wednesday, February 1, 2012, the Mid-week Worship Service will resume and continue on Wednesday evenings at the Medford UMC @ 7pm. All, particularly those unable to attend church on any Sunday, are invited to join us for this weekly worship service.



2012 JOINT ASH WED. SERVICE

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, there will be a joint Ash Wednesday service with the Dorchester congregation. Venue is the Medford UMC @ 7pm. Also, there will be Lenten Services every Wednesday throughout the Lenten season, to be preceded by soup/sandwich fellowship @ 6pm. Everyone is invited to participate. Please watch out for detailed Lenten Season activities in the March 2012 newsletter.

From the Pastor's Desk—



Have you ever experienced a situation in your life when you queried the existence of God or doubted in your mind whether or not God is present in your circumstances? The Israelites, in the middle of their journey to the promised land, questioned Moses regarding where God was in the midst of their travails (Nbs.14:1ff) What were some of their problems? No water to drink, plus the congregation and their pets were starving to death. They thereafter complained bitterly to Moses and asked some tough questions, "Why did you take us out of Egypt?", "Why didn't you leave us and our children to die in Egypt, rather than in this wilderness of journey to nowhere?", etc. After God provided water for the people, they lacked food at some point, and they complained again, almost stoning Moses to death. Even during Christ's ministry, the people doubted God's power to heal and their eyes were blindfolded to patiently experience God's presence with them. Citing the baptism of John, Jesus responded to the people with a question about where John's baptism came from (Mt.21:25). Jesus wanted to indicate that although, the power of God was present in John's baptism, the eyes of the people were blind to such that they failed to discern God's presence in the sacrament of baptism. Today, we also often complain instead of discerning the presence of God in our regular worship, sacraments, special services, and personal devotions.

Several situations in life force us to behave like the Israelites. When in physical pains, emotional distress, psychological and physical trauma, we complain about not discerning what God is doing to save us. When in certain situations (spiritual laxity, financial distress, loss of appetite for spiritual food, bad relationships with family and friends, etc), we often blame our problems on our spouses, children, relatives, friends, or neighbors. Some even blame their problems on God. As human beings, we often complain about the present and forget to see God in what we pass through, thereby failing to discern the victory ahead.

Rather than doubting God's presence in your circumstances, begin today to see him as being present with you (Ps.46:1-2). Rather than the attitude of complaining, put on the attitude of praise and trust in turbulent times (Phil.4:6-7). Rather blaming your problems on God or human beings, look forward with confidence for a brighter future (Exd.14:15). In the midst of the fearful circumstances of life, may the Lord continue to be our refuge, in Jesus' name, Amen!

Pastor Michael

WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS

The Witness Ministry Team meetings that were normally held on the last Monday of the month is now changed to the last Tuesday of every month.



Worship Themes for February

Feb 05 A Ministry of Word and Deed
Feb 12 Always in Training
Feb 19 Treasure in a Clay Pot
Feb 26 A Time for Reflection



Lectionary for February

Feb 05 Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
Feb 12 Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
2Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30,
1Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45
Feb 19 Transfiguration Sunday
2Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
Feb 26 First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15



MEDFORD CHURCH EVENTS



SHARING OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS Servant Ministry Schedule—Medford

Worship Greeters

Feb 05 Tom Lindow
Feb 12 Terry/Glatha Smith
Feb 19 Jill Pickreign/Jerry Hubbard
Feb 26 Dave/Marla Hemke

Scripture Reader

Feb 05 Eunice Mayer
Feb 12 Robin McDonnell
Feb 19 Jerry Hubbard
Feb 26 Dave Hemke

Coffee Fellowship

Feb 05 Stan/Patsy Schmidt
Feb 12 Shawn/Darci McDonnell
Feb 19 Nancy Dorava
Feb 26 Nancy Dorava

Counting Committee

Feb 05 Darlene Anderson
Feb 12 Jerry Hubbard
Feb 19 Eunice Mayer
Feb 26 Dave Hemke

Children's Time

Feb 05 Kelley Isola
Feb 12 Joy Adedokun
Feb 19 Tracy Swedlund
Feb 26 Ron Breth



Meeting Schedule

(M) UMW Afternoon Circle
Wednesday, February 1, 1:30pm
Hostess: Barb Schief
Role Call Word: Affection
Devotions: Jill Pickreign



(M) UMW Twilight Circle - Twilight Circle 6pm

Keenagers (anyone 50+ is welcome)
Tuesday, February 14, the Keenagers will meet at the Stetsonville Senior Citizens Center at 11:30am for a Valentine Meal and fellowship

Local Mission—

The Need is Great to Help Our Neighbors

Each year the community and churches come together and donate much needed food items to the Indianhead Food Pantry, especially in November and December. But then everyone tends to forget about the need after the new year starts. There are still many people in the community who are in need of food and the need will be there all winter, so this is a reminder to our church members to continue to bring food items **every Sunday** and place them in the basket. Items needed are canned fruit, hamburger and tuna helper, soups, macaroni and cheese, canned meals (like ravioli and beef stew), cans or bags of tuna and spaghetti.

Please continue to bring these food items during February, March, and April. Thank you.



HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

Heartfelt sympathy is affectionately extended to the following in the recent loss of their family members:

The family of Deloris Lietzow, who passed away on January 16, 2012.

The family of Jerry Hubbard, in the loss of his mother, Clarice, also on January 16, 2012.

The family of Pat Zittlow, in the loss of Pat's mother-in-law, Nora Zittlow.

May God grant their souls eternal rest in His kingdom, Amen!



PRAYER POWER REQUEST!

Each of you receiving this newsletter is requested to pray on a regular basis throughout these days before the **LAY WITNESS MISSION WEEKEND** and during the event itself. **Pray for the visiting coordinator-Kay Case, visiting team members, local coordinator-Barb Schief, Pastor Michael, and the committee chairpersons.**

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE IN THE WORLD!

FAITH SHARING BIBLE STUDY

Did you know that faith sharing is God's idea? To learn more about how to share your faith, plan to participate in a six week Faith Sharing Bible Study beginning Sunday, February 5, for six weeks, beginning at 8:30am at the Medford UMC office. Everyone is welcome. Please register by contacting Margie Lindow or Judy at the Charge office (715) 748-2165 so that a Faith Sharing book will be available for you.



**ATTENTION KIDS: SAVE THE DATE!
SUPER SATURDAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST
9-11:45 AM**

**MUSIC & ACTIVITIES
EASTER EGG COLORING
STORIES OF PALM SUNDAY & EASTER**

FOOD, GAMES, & MORE.....

**ALL PACKED INTO ONE
SATURDAY MORNING OF FUN!**

**WATCH THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE
NEWSLETTER
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

SPRING IS COMING! SPRING IS COMING!

If winter comes can spring be far away?

As we look forward to green grass, daffodils and mild breezes, we also look forward to a special week-end in April: The **LAY WITNESS MISSION WEEKEND– APRIL 20-22**.

Each of you is invited to participate in this event to further your faith development and help you share that faith with others. Throughout the weekend you will grow in Christ through meetings in small groups, gathering with other Christians around the table at meal times, and joining in singing and prayer.

You are invited to take part in any or all of the weekend events and are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors as well. Visiting team-members will be staying with us throughout the weekend to guide us in discussions and to share their faith journey with us. You will be personally invited to the weekend events and given a detailed schedule of times and events.

Submitted by Barb Schief, Local Coordinator of the LWM Weekend

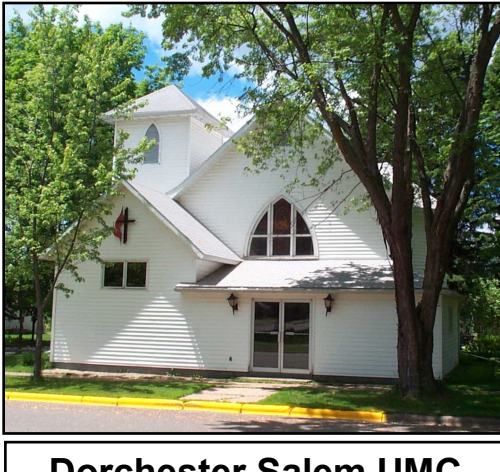
PRAYER

Persons to remember in prayer for this month:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| (M) Ellen Niemuth | (M) Harriet Roal |
| (M) Alyssa Nuernberger | (M) Donna Rohrick |
| (M) Vivian Patterson | (M) Jean Romang |
| (M) Kathy Petermann | (M) Laurie Sacho |
| (M) Jill Pickreign | (M) Barbara Schief |
| (M) Jason/Kelli Ray, Braxton, Carter, & Aliceson | |
| (M) Brian/Billie Schilling, Blake, Broden, & Bailey | |



Thank you for remembering each one of these in your daily prayers for the month.



Dorchester Church Events

Dorchester Salem UMC February Activities

Regular Sunday Worship Services begin at 8:30 a.m. We welcome all to join us in worship and fellowship.

Tuesday, February 14
6:30 p.m. Dorchester Administrative Board Meeting in church basement

Sunday, February 19
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast following worship service in church basement



Dorchester Church Events

Fellowship Breakfasts Resumed in January

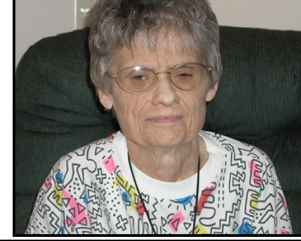
The Dean and Carol Lietzow family (assisted by brother Bert Lietzow) hosted our January 15 Fellowship Breakfast immediately following our morning worship service. Church members were treated to a variety of menu items that included pancakes with numerous fruit toppings, rolls, cheese and meat, juices, and beverages.

Our monthly breakfasts provide our church family with opportunities for conversation and joy in an informal environment. We welcome our Medford friends and anyone choosing to worship and fellowship with us to join us for these breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month.



Cards and Prayers Requested for Shirley Mehner

Shirley Mehner's new residence will be the Colonial Center in Colby as of January 29. Cards and visits would be most welcomed and would definitely brighten her spirits. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she makes this new living transition.



Celebrating the Life of Deloris Lietzow

Our church family celebrated the life of Deloris Lietzow at the Salem UMC on January 21. Deloris was a faithful member of our "little white church," having served as church treasurer and historian for many years. She was a driving force in taking care of our church properties, whether it meant performing the necessary manual labor, monitoring the youth caring for the church grounds, or making sure our bills were accurate and paid in a timely fashion. When those of us privileged to worship and fellowship with her on a regular basis look at her favorite pew, we will always be reminded of the spirit and the legacy she left for all of us. She was our role model by living her faith.

Special thanks to our Medford church family who brought bars and helped serve at her celebration meal, especially Shola Adedokun, Darlene Anderson, Steve and Eunice Mayer, Donna Cochran, and Jill Pickreign.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dean & Carol and Bert & Karen and their families. We will all miss Deloris and are grateful for her life!



Mark Your Calendars! — Lay Witness Mission — Watch for Details

The weekend of April 20-22 has been designated as a time for us to reignite our Christian faith and rethink what it means to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. A team of laypeople from all across the state will be sharing personal faith experiences and inviting us to do the same. Watch upcoming newsletters and bulletins for more details.

Family = (F)ather (A)nd (M)other (I) (L)ove (Y)ou

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
"Oh, excuse me, please," was my reply.

He said, "Please excuse me too;
I wasn't looking for you."

We were very polite, this stranger and I.
We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home, a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
My son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me and said,
"While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use,
But with the family you love, you seem to abuse.
Go and look on the kitchen floor;
You'll find some flowers there by the door.
Those are the flowers he brought for you.
He picked them himself—pink, yellow, and blue.
He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise.
You never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small,
And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed;
"Wake up, little one, wake up." I said.

"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"

He smiled, "I found 'em out by the tree.
I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today;
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."

He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway."

I said, "Son, I love you, too,
And I do like the flowers, especially the blue."



Thoughts to Ponder

We can, indeed, hear the voice of God through our children, families, friends, church community, nature, events. All we need to do is to listen. With Valentine's Day coming soon, it's time to cherish and make time for our loved ones, consider our priorities, and give thanks for all who mean so much to us!

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
287 E ALLMAN STREET
MEDFORD WI 54451-1122

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FEBRUARY 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you have something you would like to share, a story, an article, a poem, a recipe, a photo or news about your area of ministry, please forward to the Charge office by the deadline—the 2nd Friday of each month. We do reserve the right to edit any submitted material for length, style and content.

Address label

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,
It does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude,
Love is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,
It keeps no records of wrongs
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth
Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres
Love never fails**

