



**United Methodist Church  
Balaton MN**

### **HELLO AUGUST! HELLO SHEEPIES!**

I have missed you! But, I had a wonderful, refreshing time of Renewal Leave. It went by SO quickly .... Renewal or not ... it seemed like the month of July just zipped by didn't it? I have been looking at my August calendar as I am working on this newsletter and ... whew! Back at it! SO, the BIG question, right? Did my Renewal Leave help me "Renew"? The answer is YES! It did! People have told me that I am looking more rested and smiling more. I didn't get all of my "stuff" done that I had intended to .. but that is OK. I spent time with people whom I love and spent time at my own pace doing whatever I wanted that brought me JOY and REST. I think that I was fairly transparent about those things – time with family including Grandkids, time with friends, time fishing, some movies, and some days I didn't leave the house! And, for this Introvert ... that was delightfully refreshing!

I met with our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Fred Vanderwerf that first Monday of Renewal Leave for our annual one-to-one meeting. Fred loves "walking meetings" so that's what we did. We discussed the state of the Church (in terms of Balaton UMC, the UMC, and Church universal) as you are aware the landscape of our denomination is changing.

I attended Luverne UMC the Sunday that DS Fred held an informative meeting about the United Methodist Church and the newly formed Global Methodist Church. I plan to share some of that information with you soon and/or have Fred come preach and speak to us about this, too. But, for now, I want to briefly see a couple videos that have been circulating in regard to the denominational schism (split) because I have "heard through the grapevine" the unsettledness it has caused (especially in my absence).

The Global Methodist Church has put out a series of videos on Youtube by Rob Renfroe from the "Good News Movement" which some of the UM Churches in our area have been circulating. Let me be frank .... I don't put much stock in these videos. I think the Rob Renfroe videos are being used as a scare tactic. I would recommend viewing the video by Rev. Adam Hamilton (UM Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS ... this is where I attended my Course of Study. Adam Hamilton has a video titled "Why We Are Staying In the UMC" that I support. In fact, we may view it together sometime soon. I'm open to conversation in regard to both videos.

**WORSHIP** – I want to again thank our Lay Leader, Sue Skramstad for the excellent work that she did in preparing, recording, preaching, and arranging worship for the four Sundays that I was away. She put A LOT of time and effort into all of that!

So now that I'm back ... I had to think about what I would like to preach for the month of August. I think ... we will be doing a sermon series with some "Camping" sort of themes – Campfire, Tents, S'mores, Popcorn .... Still working ... and I guess you'll see this Sunday, huh? Ha!! We'll start back with some Biblical Narrative in September.

I'm still trying to savor the rest of Summer. I hope that you are too. I have a standing fishing date on Wednesday with my Dad and his friend at the lake. My Sister's family is usually at the lake on weekends, so

this works out ... I'm trying to abide by doing that each week. Amy has a couple days of Teacher workshops this month, so has asked for me to watch the kids .... I'm abiding by that too.  
Taking a look at my upcoming schedule of baptisms, weddings, meetings, soon JAM and all of the other things that kickoff Fall .... I'm doing what I "must" ... but playing when I can. I'm around ... contact me if something comes up.  
Good to be back. See you soon. Thanks for the Time.  
Pastor Lori (PL)

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

AUGUST 2022 – PL

Tuesday, August 2 nd – JAM to serve Sno-Cones at Tracy National Night Out  
Wednesday, August 3 rd – PL to Slayton Hospice Meeting 9-Noon  
Discussion Group at UMC (note day change)  
Sunday, August 7 th – Communion (PL back in the pulpit)  
Tuesday, August 9 th – Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8pm  
Thursday, August 11 th – Noon UWF Indoor Picnic @ Community Center  
Friday-Saturday, August 12 th -13 th PL to Officiate Wedding of Hallie Lingen & Mason Williams (on Lake Yankton)  
Sunday, August 14 th – Baptism of Wyatt Hoffman (PL's neighbors from Wilmont) during worship  
Tuesday August 16 th – Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8pm  
Wednesday, August 17 th – PL to Slayton Hospice Meeting 9-Noon  
Saturday, August 20 th – PL is 57 TODAY!  
Sunday, August 21 st – Summer Social Meal after Worship @ Community Center  
Monday, August 22 nd – J.A.M. Planning Meeting for all. 7pm @ TRINITY  
Tuesday, August 23 rd – Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30pm-8pm  
Wed-Thursday, August 24 th -25 th – PL to watch Grandkids in Luverne (Amy has workshops for School)  
Friday-Saturday, August 26 th -27 th PL in Waseca for Caleb Erickson Memorial Event  
Sunday, August 27 th – PL is OFF (I'll record a sermon or use one of Fred's – Sue will be out of town this day) PL to attend Centenary UMC on the way home. I'm Mentoring a ministry candidate who is preaching here today.  
Tuesday, August 30 th – Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30pm-8pm  
Wednesday, August 31 st – PL to Slayton Hospice Meeting 9-Noon

## **LOOKING AHEAD SO FAR IN SEPTEMBER:**

Sunday, September 4 th – Communion (Labor Day Weekend)  
Monday, September 5 th – LABOR DAY!  
Tuesday, September 6 th – SCHOOL Start date for TMB and RTR  
Sunday, September 11 th – PL to Clerk St. Anthony's Auction after worship here.  
Wednesday, September 14 th – Tentative Start Date for J.A.M.  
Thursday, September 15 th – Licensed Local Pastor Mentor Group starts again in Springfield 11am-12:30pm  
Friday-Saturday September 16 th -17 th – PL to Officiate Wedding of Emily Becker & Doug Mead in Taunton.  
Sunday, September 18 th – Baptism of Klayton Goblirsch during Worship  
Thursday-Friday, September 29 th -30 th – PL in the Cities for Clergy Leadership Academy (Cross Winds UMC Maple Grove)

## **Greetings from the United Women in Faith ladies!**

Time goes so fast, it's hard to believe that it's time for the newsletter, again! At our July meeting we had "Christmas in July" where we met at noon and served salads and fun foods. We had not been able to meet for our Christmas meeting in December, because of weather, so we celebrated Christmas in July. We had a fun Time! We had a meeting with eight members present. Verlaine opened with devotions from "Walk with Jesus". Then the secretaries report was read by Sue and Verlaine read the treasurer's report. Thanks to Nancy, we got our new meeting books. "Thank you, Nancy"!

Our business consisted of planning the "Indoor Picnic" that we will host on August 11th at the Community Center. We discussed how many salads to make and what kind. It sounds like we'll have a nice variety. We're hoping to see a bunch of you ladies at the picnic! Several of you have volunteered to make a salad for us too, thank you for being so generous!

On July 31, the United Women in Faith had the church service and furnished coffee for fellowship in the basement. The ladies took part in the service. We had the honor of presenting the UWF pin to Mary Eisfeld. It is so great to have her as part of our organization! Thank you for all you do to help, Mary. The church service was led by our Lay Leader Sue and Thank you, too, for doing such a nice job.

We hope to see many of you ladies at the picnic on August 11 th at noon at the Community Center.

Take care and God bless

June Terhark. President

## **A Note From Your Lay Leader**

How can it be August already? My, how summer is flying by again! Hope you have taken time to enjoy the sunshine, flowers, and those first fresh tastes of yumminess from your gardens! I totally enjoyed leading the services during the month of July as Pastor Lori took her renewal leave. I was renewed too in a sense as I dug deep into God's Word as I wrote my messages. It serves as a good reminder to us all to spend more time with God in his Word. It makes a difference in how you see His precious world and the faithful. My message 'The Great Reunion' talked about the oneness found in the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God wants us to see Him and feel Him in that oneness description. 'The Seasons of Life' message talked about our walk of faith. How God wants us to be obedient to Him throughout all the seasons of life by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

**UMF Sunday** – 'There's No Place Like Home' talked about our beautiful ladies and how we are so much like the characters from the Wizard of Oz wanting courage, needing to see the Lord and others with a renewed heart, how sometimes we feel like we don't have a brain and how really in life, we just want the Lord to walk with us along the path of the yellow brick road that will lead us to life eternal. And my last message, 'Hard Ticket to Sell' reminded us to support and love our brothers and sisters and to remember that our ticket to Life Eternal has already been bought and paid for in full by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Stay in the Word, pray for one another, do all the good that you can each day by letting the mighty three in one seep into your routine and into your heart. God bless you, be safe and show off the love of Christ!

Blessings on your month,

Sue Skramstad

Vacation Prayer - To Reassess My Spiritual Walk **Forgive me Lord**, for the many times that I seem to forget or ignore You in the midst of my busy working life, when I am rushing from one important issue to another or find myself consumed with getting the job done, rather than resting my anxious thoughts on You



## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Thank goodness it is much cooler this morning than it was yesterday morning, we got a little shot of rain again last night. I checked our rain gauge and we only got a 1/10 but I guess some is better than none. The wind must have blown a little, as we have a few little branches down, I didn't hear anything. I guess it was a long day yesterday. They are coming to install our new flooring today, so, had to get everything ready.

Tuesday night it was Tracy's National Night Out, and we sold 175 snow cones in the Tracy City Park. Pastor Lori, Vicar Rick and I. It was a good night, but very warm. It started out slow, but we still did very well.

We are so happy that Pastor Lori was able to have her month off. Sue did such a wonderful job during the time she was gone. We are fortunate enough to have them both. We are grateful also for Denise and all she does to help out with worship, she is very good at what she does. A big thank you to Nancy also, she is doing a super job in all that she does, plus everything she has to do for the paper. So far, no one has applied for the job opening, so if you know of anyone that would be good at reporting different events going on around the area send them to talk to Nancy. Thanks to Paul and Greg for removing the bird nest above the church front door.

My garden is starting to produce beans, peas, and cucumbers. I have been watering a little, and the little showers of rain helps. My tomatoes are kind of slow this year. The good part of getting a little rain, is that the weeds aren't growing either.

We still need coffee servers for after church, if we want to continue to have coffee after church. We have one slot to fill for the month of August plus the rest of the year. Just let me know if you would take a Sunday. We only have about 10 that come so don't need much.

The indoor picnic is coming up soon as well as the summer social hope you will be able to attend both.

Hopefully we will be able to get our bathroom fixed from the water damage we had a couple years ago, I believe we are safe to remodel as we have our water problem taken care of. Lyle's tree service came last week and took down the big cottonwood tree at the Parsonage. He did an awesome job, it was pretty rotten and could have fallen on the garage.

Guess that is all for now, until next month, keep the prayers coming for all who are hurting, and dealing with cancer, or a loss of a loved one.

Lois Swanson

# Annual Picnic Fellowship



**THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

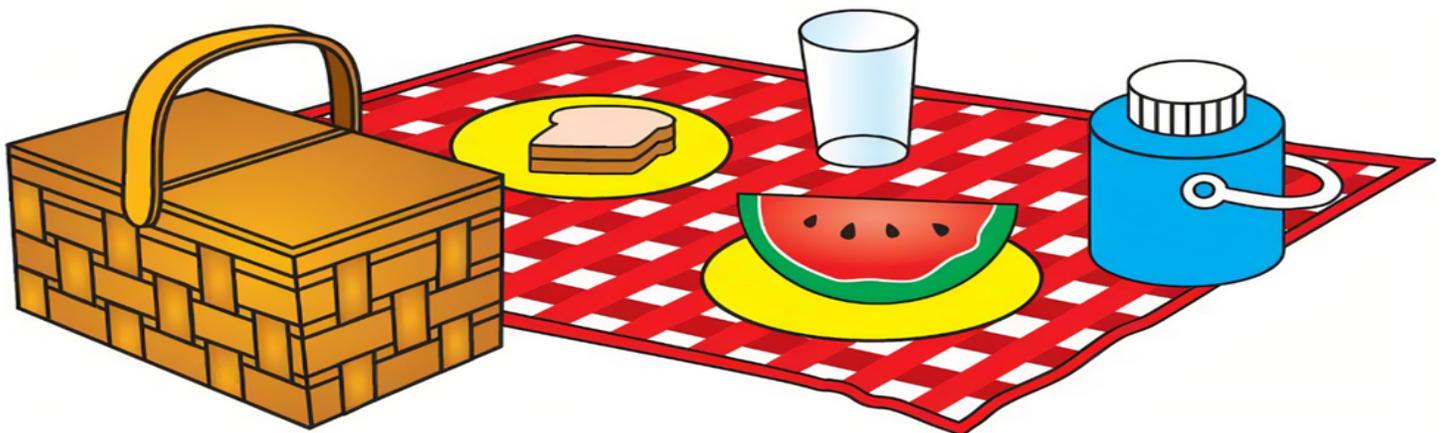
**INDOOR PICNIC**

**Will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022**

**At the**

**Balaton Community Center**

**At 12:00 P.M**





**EVERYONE WELCOME  
TO OUR  
SUMMER SOCIAL**

Sunday, August 21, 2022  
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Balaton Community Center

**MENU: Barbecues, Assorted Salads,  
Homemade Pies and Ice Cream**

**COST: ADULTS: \$10.00 CHILDREN \$5.00 DRINKS: 10 AND UNDER**



# August



## 2022 Balaton United Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Tracy National Night out-JAM serving sno-cones Rick McMath & Allison Chandler B-days Dave & Peggy Bundy Anniv	3 PL @ Hospice Slayton 9-12  Discussion Group @ UMC  Brandon & Karly Kirk Anniv	4	5	6   John Ross, Elaine Knochenmus B-days
7 9:00 Worship— Communion-PL back in pulpit	8  Don Ewing B-day Kathy & Dennis Mitchell Anniv	9 Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8  Lois Swanson B-day	10  Gayle Kaup B-day	11 UWF Indoor Picnic 12:00 @ Community Center	12 Hallie Lingen & Mason Williams Wedding rehearsal	13 Hallie Lingen & Mason Williams Wedding on Lake Yankton Kyle Stibbe B-day
14 9:00 Worship Baptism of Wyatt Hoffman  Leah & Derek Ohme Anniv	15  Jase Wieme, Holden Cusher & Tabor Hoek B-days	16 Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8	17 PL to Hospice, Slayton 9-12	18	19	20   PL 57th B-day
21 9:00 Worship  Summer Social 11-12:30- Community Center	22 JAM Planning mtg @ Trinity 7:00 pm  Leah Ohme, Megan Ray & Bruce Schelhaas B-days	23 Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8  Eli Henn B-day	24 PL watching Grandkids in Luverne	25 PL watching Grandkids in Luverne	26 PL in Waseca for Caleb Erickson Memorial Event	27 PL in Waseca for Caleb Erickson Memorial Event  Randy & Becky Schreier Anniv
28 9:00 Worship-PL Off-mentoring ministry candidate Recorded sermon Dan Taveirne B-day	29  Oakley Lustfield B-day	30 Discussion Group @ UMC 6:30-8	31 PL to Hospice, Slayton, 9-12  Mariah & Wes Jennings Anniv			

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**Remembering and Praying for Brandon Swanson-missing from his family since May 2008**



