



Balaton United  
Methodist Church  
June 2022 Newsletter

Wow! I pray that you all weathered the Memorial Day Weekend Storms without too much damage. That was crazy! We didn't have any damage at the Farm, or Lake, or at Dad's other than some branches down. Many, weren't as fortunate ... we pray over the damage and cleanup. STORMS .... Weather and Life can be challenging. We take it all to God. Blessers Up! I sure have been "attending" Funerals the past few weeks. But, I also know how much being present with folks during these storms of life ... matter. You've heard me share that my Grandma Chubby used to say: "You have to take time to bury the dead ... and stay for lunch". I SO remember that conversation with her! SO many years ago now. We were sitting on her front porch (just a cement stoop really, which is a whole lot smaller than I remember), and a Funeral Procession was driving by. A teaching moment for her. We talked about respect, and the importance of showing up especially when people are hurting. I owe a lot of who I am today to my Maternal Grandma Laura "Chub" Newton. – Thank You, Grandma.

So, how are you showing up these days? It seems that people need us to show up now more than ever. I brought along a few "Goodie Bags" and cards to the Annual Conference. "Things" that didn't cost a lot ... but I knew it would matter to some colleagues of mine. Some, I don't know very well ... but "saw" they were celebrating (retirements) or hurting (death-life struggles) and wanted to "show up" for them. Sometimes ... the Little Things are HUGE in the scheme of things. I received a goodie bag from Pastor Velda this week too ... "just cause". As we scroll through FaceBook ... instead of immediately judging (we can do that, can't we?) maybe pause and pray, or think of a way to make this person's sadness a little more joyful. Just some things to think about.

SUMMER – Yeah! Finally here. I'll be taking my Renewal Leave in July. I have a Wedding to officiate .... But my plan is to be OFF for the month. I'll give some instructions as we get closer. I will be between Balaton and the Farm. I have some things to do at both places, as well as spending time down at Dad's (still sorting and cleaning ... and spending time with him too). Please keep in mind, that however I choose to spend my time off during this time ... is just that ... my choice. I may take a couple days away too. I/We aren't BIG travelers ... but some Grandkids time is also on the agenda. But my main goal is to rest and recharge. Sue has graciously agreed to lead worship these Sundays in July, even turning down other Churches (She's in high demand). Thanks, Sue. This month of June will be a time of preparation for being gone from the Church.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – many are probably curious as to how the Annual Conference went. Both Sue and I gave reports during worship last week (SERMON – The Games People Play: MONOPOLY) you can listen on the website.

AC felt "disjointed" on so many levels, almost like we forgot how to gather after two years of not being in-person. Many were absent – maybe due to COVID, maybe due to just not wanting to be present, maybe due to whatever – at any rate attendance was down. Our time was not

well spent. Both Sue and I have filled out our evaluations in this regard. Hard Stuff – three Churches in our Conference have voted to “Disaffiliate” from the Minnesota Annual Conference. This saddens me, and was a sad time on the Conference Floor.

I will always remain within the “umbrella” of the Minnesota Annual Conference. I will serve Churches within that “umbrella”. I love the Minnesota Annual Conference. It has been my “home” since I was in leadership during my teenage years in District Youth. I think the hardest thing is knowing that some of my colleagues will not be “present” within the ministry in which We’ve grown together.

Sue has given and included a wonderful recap. You can also find information on our Conference website. If you would like to visit with me “one to one” on the LBGTQ+ issue, please schedule a time with me.

I pray that you will find rest in the midst of these Summer days – good times of connection and renewal. Days to linger and not just “same-old”. And, time to show up, and for others to show up for you.

**Be God’s Kids –**

**PL**

**Pastor Lori**



### **PL’s CALENDAR JUNE**

**Sunday, June 5 th** – Communion. J.A.M. Float in Russell Parade (Evening)

**Tuesday, June 7 th** – “Discussion Group” meets 6:30-8pm @UMC to view “The CHOSEN” –Episode 1

**Wednesday, June 9 th** – PL to Slayton for Hospice Team Meeting (9am-Noon)

**Friday, June 10-11 th** – PL gone to Chanhassen with Kathy & Karla (FOOTLOOSE and Shenanigans)

**Sunday, June 12 th** – 9am Worship

**Tuesday, June 14 th** – “Discussion Group” meets 6:30-8pm @ UMC to view “The Chosen” Episode 2

**Wednesday, June 15 th** – Dad (Duane Mulder) 88 th Birthday.

**Friday, June 17 th** – PL to travel to Holstein, IA to prepare for Funeral

**Saturday, June 18 th** – Funeral Service for Gene Yearous in Holstein, IA/Burial here in Balaton afternoon.

**Sunday, June 19 th** – Father’s Day. Baptism for Casum John Taverine. (NO Coffee after Church)

**Tuesday, June 21 st** – “Discussion Group” meets 6:30-8pm @ UMC to view “The Chosen” episode 3

**Wednesday, June 22 nd** – PL to Slayton Hospice Team Meeting 9am-Noon.

**Saturday, June 25 th** – Dean Bundy Auction (J.A.M. to serve LUNCH)

**Sunday, June 26 th** – 9am Worship

**Tuesday, June 28 th** – “Discussion Group” meets @ UMC 6:30-8pm to view episode 4

**Thursday, June 30-Sunday July 3 rd** – FUN FEST **Pastor Lori will be OFF the majority of July for Renewal Leave.** Sue Skramstad preaching (July10, 17, 24, 31) \*More info July Newsletter

## **Greetings from U.M.W**

Hi, from all of us at U.M.W. We learned in the past newsletter of “The Fresh Connection” that we have had a name change. We are now known as United Women in Faith (UWFaith). I am including the article from the newsletter to help explain the changes that our organization is going through.

The Article from “The Fresh Connection” written by Catherine Williams, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator. United Methodist Women has a new name: United Women in Faith (UWFaith) and a new logo. To celebrate our new look and name, check out pages 32 and 33 of the March/April 2022 issue of Response magazine. [uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/](http://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/) These are the first few paragraphs

from that article: In 150 years in mission, our organization has had more than union of our many predecessor denominations. We’ve been “Ladies”, “Woman’s” and then “Women’s societies, associations, guilds, and circles. “We’ve even had multiple names at the same time to include women in different life stages and styles, such as Wesleyan Service Guild for working women and Woman’s Society of Christian Service geared to the day’s many homemakers in the 1940s. The name United Methodist Women was adopted in 1972, signaling a change not only in the life of the church, but in the lives of women and how they could organize for mission. “We are again facing a change in the life of the church and in how women live and choose to engage the world in faith. It is again time to take on a new name.”

An issue of “Response” is free to everyone online. It not only features an article on our new brand, but it’s also the special biennial mission maps issue, showing the people and programs your generous mission Giving supports around the world. There is also a new website where you can access previous UMW resources as well as new resources: [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)

### **Minutes of the U.W.Faith May 18, 2022 meeting:**

No matter what name we are to go by we are still the same group of ladies. We would love to have you come and join us. We held our meeting on Wednesday, May 18 th with six ladies present. Verlaine led devotions and Nancy gave the lesson from the lesson book, “Healing and Joy”. As part of the lesson, Nancy asked each person to share something about Joy in the small stuff. She asked us to choose another person and have them tell about the joy that person brings to them. What a good time.

We heard the secretary and treasurer reports and each were approved as read. We got correspondence honoring us with a gold star, making us a 5 Star Unit. To be a 5-Star Unit we have to meet certain requirements to gain the honor of being a 5-Star Unit, and we did that.

Old business had us thanking Mary and Sue for serving coffee and goodies on Sunday, May 15 th . We gave gifts honoring the Confirmands and also the Graduates.

Several of our ladies have been making hospital gowns for the little kids who are hospitalized. We have been doing that for several years. The ladies made 85 gowns and they were blessed in church on May 22 nd. Pastor Lori and Sue took

The gowns to Annual Conference. Thank you, ladies, for making the gowns and thank you Pastor Lori and Sue for taking them

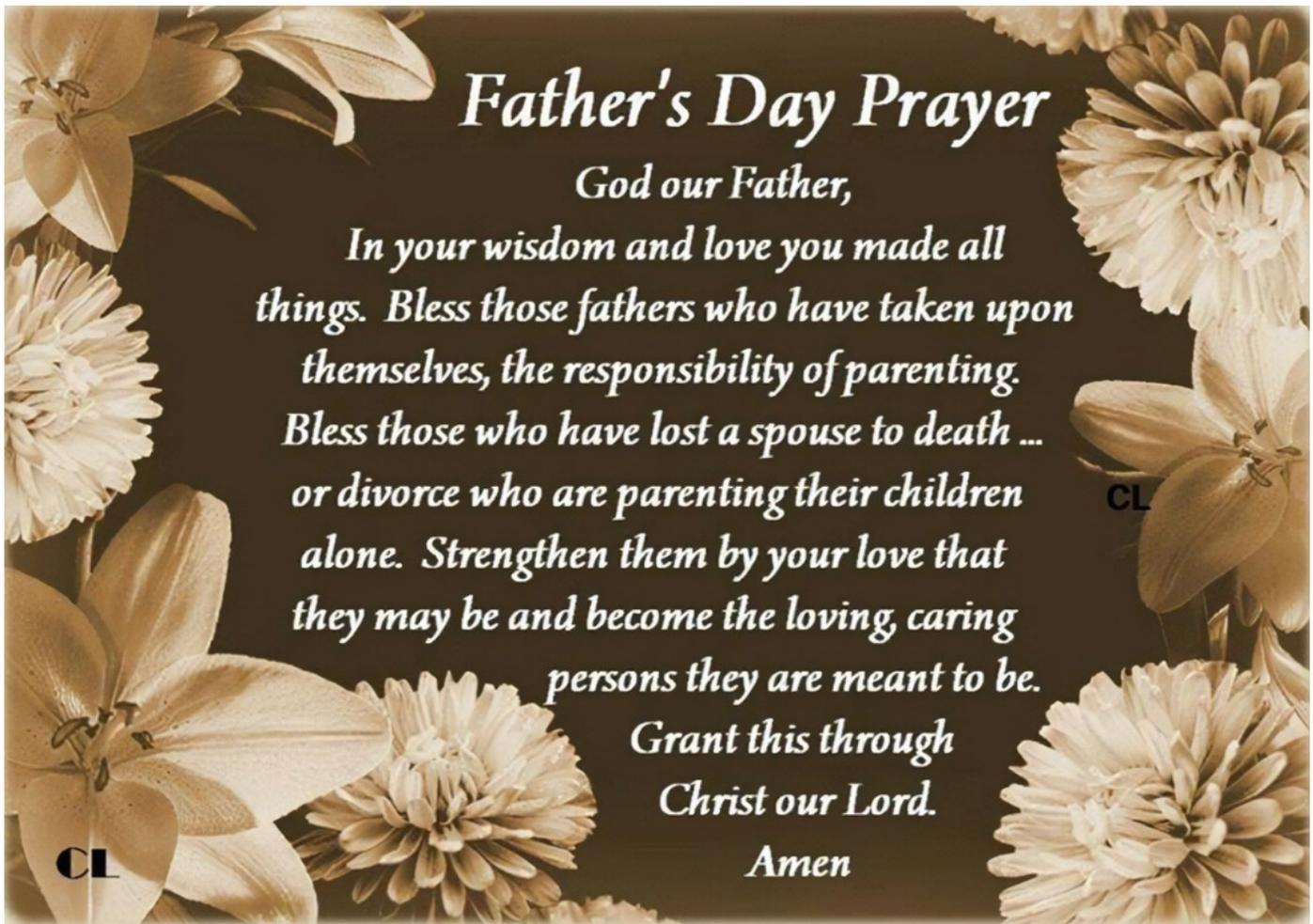
We are in the process of making a new program book, as the one we are using is from 2020. Nancy, Sue, June and Pastor Lori met to review any changes. Nancy will be putting changes in the new book and finishing the new program book for the "United Women in Faith". Thank you for doing that, Nancy.

We have been asked to sort through the "stuff" in the old UMW files. We hope to archive the important and interesting pieces into a scrapbook. We will be setting up some days and times and asking for help with that project.

On Thursday, June 9 th the meeting will take place at 1:30 and will have Sue serving lunch and doing devotions and Betty will give the lesson. We will also have a bakeless bake sale and ask \$5 from the ladies at that meeting. We will not be serving coffee after worship on Father's Day, so we will furnish coffee and goodies on Sunday, June 12 instead. Betty and Verlaine will be serving.

I'm hoping that we can do something special at our July meeting so stay tuned. As usual we closed the meeting by signing cards to people who are ill or just in need of a note of encouragement or a line of sympathy. June served a delicious lunch. All ladies are welcome to join us. Hope to see you next time.

Take care and God bless,  
President, June Terhark,  
United Women in Faith



### *Words from our Lay leader*

Welcome to summer! Finally!! It was my honor and privilege to serve as the lay delegate for the BUMC to the MN Annual Conference this year. It was wonderful to watch Pastor Lori and others reconnect throughout the two days. This is a summary of the conference provided by the MN Annual Conference. Please continue to hold the United Methodist churches in your prayers for discernment during a painful, but needed, time in the church's history. There were many heartfelt and painful testimonies about who is and who is not welcome in the church.

God bless you,

Sue Skramstad

Continued from Sue Skramstad

**Theme:** Drawing on Psalm 23 and John 10:10-11, the theme was "Jesus: Healer." We are a people and a world in need of healing beyond our doing. God invites us to come sit by still waters, and to allow God to restore our soul. At this annual conference, we explored some ways in which we have seen or experienced God's healing, and ways in which we are providing hope and healing to a hurting world.

**Bishop's Episcopal Address:** In his Episcopal Address to the Minnesota Conference, Bishop David Bard reminded us of the biblical story of Jesus healing a boy possessed by a demon (Mark 9:14-29). In this story, the pain and suffering are real, and so is the healing. If we're to let such stories speak to us, we need to grapple with their challenges in the context of lives where healing doesn't happen or doesn't happen the way we may want it to. Perhaps for us as a conference, he said, our way into the future is to follow Jesus on a healing journey where our souls are made large, our hearts capacious, our minds expansive, where we can hold together creatively spaciousness and direction, clarity and complexity, and where cure is care and being steeped in the love of God as we know it in Jesus, the grace of God, God's dream and desire for the world.

**Milestones in ministry:** Attendees participated in the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination at which 19 clergy were recognized for milestones in ministry. They also remembered 22 clergy and spouses who have died within the past year. At the end of the two days, attendees also recognized and gave thanks for 18 retiring clergy who have together contributed 496 years of faithful service.

**Diversity and inclusion legislation:** Annual Conference members overwhelmingly approved four pieces of legislation focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). One charges to the conference to contract with an outside auditor who has experience in DEI work to perform an equity audit of human resources at the conference level to increase equity in hiring practices, employee compensation and procedures, and employee recruiting and retention at the conference level. Another charges the Cabinet to prioritize the recruitment of candidates of color and LGBTQIA+ candidates for open positions to create a more diverse conference leadership team. And a third stipulates that the conference's part-time racial justice organizer position will be made into a full-time, director-level position on the Extended Cabinet by January 2023. Meanwhile, voting members approved by a margin of 339-36 a piece of legislation that calls for the

Minnesota Conference to hold a storytelling space before the 2026 Annual Conference that would allow Minnesota United Methodists to tell stories that resulted from the Book of Discipline policy stating that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

**Discontinuing and disaffiliating churches:** Attendees voted to ratify the terms of disaffiliation agreements made between the conference Board of Trustees and three local churches that have discerned that their path goes a different direction from the Minnesota Annual Conference. In 2019, an amendment was added to the United Methodist Book of Discipline allowing churches to disaffiliate through December 2023 over disagreement about human sexuality. "We have sharp disagreements about the shape of ministry, but we can trust one another to God's grace," Bishop David Bard said after the disaffiliation votes. Meanwhile, attendees gave thanks for the ministries and legacies of faith of five churches that have closed over the past year.

**Sermon by Rev. Bruce Kronen:** Rev. Bruce Kronen, who serves Pilgrim UMC in Plymouth and was randomly selected as this year's conference preacher, talked about some of the times he's been privileged to watch Jesus' healing and recounted a story in which a family's vehicle flipped over on a vacation after the dad fell asleep at the wheel; an 18-month-old child was trapped under the vehicle for 45 minutes, and still lived. That baby, he revealed, was his daughter. "Jesus can heal us in ways we don't even understand we need healing," Kronen told those gathered. The question, as Jesus asked in John 5:6, is: Do we want to be whole? "May all of us come with an answer to that question...with a humble, open heart that says, 'Yes, Lord. Have your way with me,'" he said.

**Love Offering:** Love Offering: Conference members, on behalf of their churches, also gave \$27,206 to the 2022 Love Offering, which will address food insecurity by supporting three Minnesota United Methodist food ministries and assist those in need in our nation and world by supporting Red Bird Missionary Conference in Appalachia and Volunteers in Mission trips. You may continue to donate throughout 2022.

**Notes from Board Chair**

Balaton United Methodist Church  
Lori VonHoltum, Pastor  
220 2nd Street West  
Balaton MN 56115



Remember our Nursing Home/Care Center Residents:  
Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall - Neva Manguson

Remembering & Praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2018



## 2022 Balaton United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:00 Worship—Communion JAM Float at Russell parade Susan McBride B-day	6 Jada Swanson B-day	7 Discussion Group 6:30-8 @ UMC	8 PL @ Slayton Hospice Mtg 9-12 JJ & Amy VonHoltum Anniv	9 PL To Slayton w/friends	10 PL To Chanhassen w/friends Dave & Pam Ray Anniv	11 PL To Chanhassen w/friends
12 9:00 Worship	13 Sydney Seiler B-day	14 Garry & Julie Lokke's Anniv 	15 Duane Mulder 88th B-day	16 PL to travel to Holstein, IA	17 PL to travel to Holstein, IA	18 Funeral service for Gene Yearous in Holstein, IA; Burial in Balaton pm
19 9:00 Worship—Baptism for Casum John Taveirne—NO Coffee after church Happy Father's Day	20 	21 Discussion Group 6:30-8 @ UMC Jamine Henn B-day	22 PL to Hospice mtg-Slayton 9-12 Amanda (Chandler) & Chris Maher Anniv	23 	24 Nancy Iversen B-day	25 Dean Bundy Auction-JAM to serve Lunch
26 9:00 Worship Linda Williams B-day	27	28 Discussion Group @ 6:30-8	29	30 FUN FEST		