

June 2018



Sundays - 9:15am Adult Class 10:30am Worship



Message from Pastor Laura



----- Great Balls of Fire!

My Grandma Taubmann lived on a farm in Shell Lake WI. Growing up we would make the 6-hour drive to visit her. The best time of year to go there was during the summer months because we would go swimming in Shell Lake with all of our cousins, walk in her huge gardens, berry patches and apple orchards. During one summer visit we had a terrible storm. The lightning was so severe we were told to stay away from the windows. All the kids were scared so my dad decided to tell us stories of growing up with his siblings, to calm us down. My favorite story was when they were young, lightning would occasionally strike the telephone wires. When that happened the electricity from the lightning would travel through the wires and through the phones creating balls of fire that would bounce throughout the house. All of us kids were staring at my dad with our eyes wide open in disbelief. We asked grandma if he was telling us the truth because he was a jokester. She laughed at our doubts and said yes it happened several times.

My dad's story made me think of Pentecost and the tongues of fire that was moving around the room. The day the Holy Spirit came to us. Everyone was startled, afraid and confused as the tongues of fire appeared and more so when people started to speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues was really speaking in different languages and scholars say there were probably at least 16 different languages being represented in that room. Jesus knew that his followers needed to speak many languages so His word could be taken and shared with all nations in a language they

understood. God loves all people no matter the color of their skin, the language they speak, what they do for a living, the house they live in, the number of children they have, the amount of money they have, how educated they are, tall or short, blonde, brunette, red head or no hair at all. You get the picture--He loves us all and we all deserve to know the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Who are we to deny that to the world and who are we to decide that because someone is different than us they don't deserve to know the love of Jesus Christ?

I recently asked my dad for the details of the great balls of fire that bounced through grandma's house. He gladly shared the story with me again but this time he added something that to me was very profound. He said "As I look back, I think it was just that the air was so charged up that it would travel from one spot to another until it grounded itself". The air was so charged up, like the room when the tongues of fire appeared. Let us be charged up with the Holy Spirit and like the great balls of fire bounce from one person to the next until the love of Jesus Christ is known by all

and grounded in this world. Amen
Pastor Laura
God is great all the time! All the time God is great!

Explore God's Call: Enroll in Faith Alive!

Faith Alive!, the six session opportunity to explore and grow in our understanding of God's call to us, and how we can answer that call, will be offered again starting in September, 2018 and concluding in April, 2020. Registration is now open for up to 20 persons who are interested in learning more about how our personal stories interweave with God's story and how we can integrate faith into our daily living.



Faculty persons over the six weekends of Faith Alive! include Bishop Hee-Soo Jung (Who Is God?), Rev. Dan Schwerin (What is My Story?), Rev. Paola Benecchi (Civility: Conflict Prevention and Resolution), Rev. M. Barclay (The Gospel's Call to Justice and Inclusivity), Rev. Rich Rubietta (Making Personal Passion Matter) and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan (Celebrate Calling).

Participants are asked to be a part of all six weekends (September 2018, January, April and September 2019, and January and April 2020) and they will receive a book to read before each session. All participants stay at Mt. Morris Conference and Retreat Center in central Wisconsin where they can unplug from the outside world, and connect with God in a pristine 200 acres of trees and natural prairie. The cost is \$225 per weekend.

For more information, [click here](#). You can also read testimonials from people who have previously attended Faith Alive [in this YouTube video](#).

Sisters, We Still Have a Long Way to Go

Being a United Methodist bishop brings me many joys and great satisfaction. I am constantly engaged in conversations about vision for the future, unlimited possibilities, and discernment in God's will for our Church. I serve with so many gifted men and women, in so many levels and capacities of the Church. Most days, I am proud, humbled and honored to be an Episcopal leader.



Then there are days when I feel burdened and sad. When we received the news that the two constitutional amendments concerning gender equality were defeated, I was deeply troubled. What did this mean? Were we saying women are not equal to men? Were we saying there should not be equal treatment and inclusion? Come on! This is not true of the Church I serve! We are rich in our diversity, beginning with gender diversity. Women are created in God's image. Women are led by God's Holy Spirit. Women are gifted to lead. I am proud that The United Methodist Church has long championed the rightness of women in ordained ministry, and in every leadership function at every level of the Church. And I feel very confident that the failure of these constitutional amendments to pass has more to do with other factors than respect and acceptance of women as equal in every way to men.

But, my sisters, we still have a long way to go. There is still sexism in our Church; as there is racism, and other forms of division and exclusion. We have come far – and need to celebrate that – but we still must do better. My heart goes out to every female colleague – and indeed to all our women in The United Methodist Church – for ways they feel dishonored, disrespected, and dismissed. The hurt this has caused is tragic.

My commitment is to lead a Church for all God's people. I am not a bishop who takes sides; I am a bishop who makes space for as many as possible. I am a better pastor, bishop, and man because of the wonderful, gifted women who have nurtured and mentored me along the way. I will continue to do everything in my power to challenge sexism in all its forms, and to bring healing and wholeness to our body of Christ. There can be no unity when one part of the body denies the worth and value of any other part of the body (I Corinthians 12:12-26) and I believe in a body of all, for all. I invite you to be in prayer with me that we may one day become the Church that honors and celebrates every child of God equally and equitably. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

JUNE *Events Calendar*

- 7th** - 1-4pm Love Life
- 12th** - 11:30 am Ladies Lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse
- 14th** - 1-4pm Love Life
- 15th - 18th** - Pastor Laura Gone to Annual Conference
- 16th** - NEW Shelter Lunch
- 17th** - Guest Speaker Mary Ann Barbee
- 17th** - News Articles Due & Love Life Collection
- 19th** - 4-7pm Culvers Fundraiser
- 21st** - 1-4pm Love Life
- 21st** - 6:00pm Ad Board Meeting
- 28th** - 1-4pm Love Life

Liturgist Schedule

- 3rd** - Rita Tuell
- 10th** - Mary Ann Barbee
- 17th** - Dennis Bettner
- 24th** - Eddy Moore

Culvers Fundraiser



We will be helping to serve dinner on Tuesday June 19th from 4-7 at the Culvers on the East Side. Please sign up on the clip board in the Narthex. If you have any

questions, please contact Sandra Nighbor.



Coffee Hour

Thank you to all of you who have helped with the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. If you are interested in helping with future Coffee Hours, please sign up on the clip board in the Narthex.



Festival Brat Fry



Pastor Laura, daughter Maggie, Karen and Rick Ronk, along with granddaughter Keana, Deb Carroll, Eddie Moore, Joel Breitrack, Leslie Reilly, Sandra Nighbor, and Barb Aguilar. Thank all of you for volunteering your time. We were able to make a profit of \$818.93 this Saturday. We could not have done this without all of your help. We very much appreciate all of your hard work!

PEACE NURSERY CENTER



Peace Nursery School continues to be an active, positive place for 3k and 4k students. We had many visitors which included two community police officers, a yoga instructor, a dentist, and the Bookmobile! In the month of May our themes turn to those of spring. Students in both grades are learning about plants, flowers, seeds and gardens. Peace will also have visits from Thibby's Ice Cream Truck. Students bring in their pennies all year for a cool, sweet treat on these last days of school.

We had a family field trip to the zoo and are looking forward to the Bullfrogs game on May 31st! Thank you if you visited Culver's for our fundraising night. We earned \$368 for our school and are thankful to Culver's for providing this opportunity for our school!

The last day for 3k is May 23rd/24th and the last day for the 4K is June 7th. There will be wonderful celebrations for both grades in the coming weeks!

We still have openings in our 3K program for the fall and would love for you to spread the word about our school.

Last, our school would like to extend some thanks to the church and your support of our school. Rick does such a good job at helping us with the maintenance of the school. We are grateful for his talents and willingness to always help. We want to thank Pastor Laura and Malinda who are so good about keeping the communication between church and school. They are always accessible to us! A heartfelt “thank you” to Kristi in the office. She is often the first to greet our families and students when they enter the building, aids in church/school communication and building usage and has helped with computer questions.



Join us this summer for some Gardening fun. This is available for anyone and everyone ages 3-6.

This class will help children “grow” to love the outdoors and gardening with hands-on experience tending the school’s vegetable and flower gardens.

We will also incorporate children’s love of literature with stories and projects that connect with gardening. Each day will begin in the classroom with nature-based stories, activities and projects. Then we’ll head outside where we’ll plant, weed, water, observe and appreciate what’s growing in the gardens outside school.

Click the link below to find out more information and to sign up for the class.

Gardening Story time Brochure



4th - Michael Johnson
8th - Alexandria Tuell
17th - Martha Moore
20th - Dale Stensberg
20th - Chelsea Veldhuizen
22nd - June Tachier
25th - Mike Englebert



Terry and Colleen Jordan - 30 years
George and Rita Tuell - 57 years
Darrin and Amy Oysti - 24 years
Pedro and Barbara Aguilar - 11 years
Scott and Kelly Weigand - 30 years

If you would like to have information or an article posted in our newsletter, please e mail to thechurch@gbpeace.org by June 17th.

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