

Reflecting Together with Kim Henning

A View from Mount Nebo

“Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land.....The Lord said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab..... Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.”
Deuteronomy 34

A couple weeks ago I received one of those unbelievable phone calls. A friend was in the Middle East on a business trip. One afternoon, he took a side trip to Mount Nebo. As he stood at that sacred site, he thought of us back home. He pulled out his cell phone and with the marvel of technology, he called.

“You wouldn’t believe where I am right now! I’m standing on Mount Nebo!” I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. Mount Nebo!

Years ago Moses arrived at that site after wandering through the wilderness for forty years. Imagine the emotions that must have rushed through his mind as he gazed upon the land which he and the Hebrews had struggled and hoped for.

Standing on that mountain Moses must have thought about the warriors of Amalek who fought against him and the Israelites in the wilderness. He must have remembered the murmurs and complaints of his people---some of whom even wanted to return to Egypt. How could he ever forget those heated conversations with Pharaoh, and his intense demand, “Let God’s people go!”?

On Mount Nebo, he must also have experienced other emotions as he thought about Mount Sinai and the Ten Commandments he received from God. He would always remember that incredible moment when water gushed from a rock to quench the Israelites’ thirst. And he couldn’t forget how manna appeared outside their camp every morning.

As the story is told in Deuteronomy 34, God stands with Moses on Mount Nebo. He points out from afar...the Promised Land. Then God says rather shockingly: "You are not going to cross the Jordan. It is Joshua who will pass before you". And then.... Moses dies.

The story of God’s revelation on Mount Nebo is powerful. I was glad to be on the receiving end of that phone call as my friend stood on the very site where God encountered Moses.

On Mount Nebo Moses gathers the memories of his life, his struggles and hopes. From Nebo, Moses observes the land God long desired for the Hebrews. On Nebo, Moses faces that reality that he is mortal. On Nebo, Moses learns that the parameters of his life are set ultimately by God. And finally with God at his side, Moses dies.

Moses is one of the strongest personalities I know from the Bible. His encounters with Pharaoh are courageous. His conversations/prayers with God are bold. On Mount Nebo he also learns that now the torch of leadership will be passed to another, Joshua.

What a humbling moment that must have been for Moses! What a humbling moment it is for each of us to one day know that our lives are not our own, but belong totally to God.



**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2801 GARFIELD ST. TWO RIVERS**
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00AM & 10:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15AM
PHONE: 553-1222
WEBSITE: GRACEUCC.ORG

JULY 2016

WHAT'S IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

**NINE PAGES
&
CALENDER INSERTS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
REGISTRATION FORM**

CHURCH CABINET

**Moderator, Don DeBruyn
Treasurer, Linda Justerna
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel
Trustee Chair, Steve Smith
Diaconate Chair,
Diane Eggers/Pam Wargin
Board of Christian Ed Chair,
Kelly Ruhbusch
Mission & Outreach Chair,
Betty Becker
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair,
Bill Heinsohn
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair,
Paul Schmid**

Pastor Colie's Expressions

THE CHURCH OUTSIDE OF TWO RIVERS: CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

For many, many years (maybe 20, or even more? Pastor Kim will have to tell you ;)), Grace Congregational Church has brought our youth to St. Louis as part of our Confirmation class. Here at Grace, confirmation is a two-year program, typically started in 7th grade, so most of the youth who come on the trip have just finished 7th or 8th grade at school.

On a Sunday after church in June, we load up into vans and drive the 7+ hours down to St. Louis. For many of our youth, this is one of their first experiences in a big city, and often the first doing a trip like this without their parents---and so, even approaching the city that night and pulling into the hotel is an exciting experience!

We stay in St. Louis for 3 days, and each is packed with visits to different locations. Our hope is to show the kids (and the adults who join us for the trip as well) about some of the concerns and needs that exist in the world. But it's not just about the needs that people have---we also seek to show our youth how the church has responded to these needs--and so, as people of faith, how we ought to respond personally as well.

Every year, we visit several sites that are, or were historically, "mission sites" for the church. We go to Emmaus Home and TEMCO, a residence/care facility and workshop for adults with disabilities. Emmaus Home was founded by the church in the late 1800's, on the original site of Eden Seminary, and at the time it was very progressive in the way that it sought to care for people who had special needs. We go to Every Child's Hope, originally called the Evangelical Children's Home, started by Rev. Louis Nollou (an ancestor for us in the UCC!) in response to the great need to care for orphan children. Now it is a residence and a school for children and youth who have suffered abuse, have behavioral struggles, or have gotten into legal trouble, to help them learn life skills and take control of their future. We visit the St. Louis Cathedral Basilic, and marvel at the beauty (the largest collection of mosaics of anywhere in the world!) as we compare that grandeur to the poverty around us. We go to Caroline Mission, an innercity daycare also started by the church to help struggling families care for their children. We help out at a soup kitchen based in Pilgrim UCC, a historic church in the city. And, of course, we visit Eden Seminary, which has so many ties to us at Grace (the almamater of Pastor Kim, Tara Tezlaff, and the Revs. Karl and Kathryn Kuhn!).

But we also take some excursions that are a little more "fun". We go to the zoo. We go up inside the arch! We enjoy time together over dinner or an ice cream cone.

I have witnessed our youth do some amazing things---having very kind, compassionate conversation with those at Emmaus Home; speaking knowledgeably about church history; respectfully enjoying one another's company; lovingly playing with the children at Caroline Mission; reflecting thoughtfully about all the different realities that we encounter on our trip.

The next time you hear someone lament about the youth or about the future of our world--don't believe it. Join us as we travel to St. Louis this year (or any other Confirmation activity). Speak to our youth, ask them about these experiences or their lives. These relationships that our youth have with adults at our church truly make a difference in their lives--and help their lives make a difference in the world.

This years group at Eden Seminary



MOON BEACH REFLECTIONS!

MOON BEACH WORK CAMP----

Each summer, youth are invited to a Grace Congregational Church work camp at Moon Beach. 16 youth and adults participated in this year's work camp. They left on Sunday, June 12, and returned on Thursday, June 16.

What did our youth do at this year's work camp? Well.....part of the work camp was truly a work camp. We raked, hauled, and disposed of approximately 15 trailers full of leaves. We shoveled dirt, moved picnic tables, cleaned walking trails, piled wood, did some plumbing, built a retaining wall and three sitting benches.

What else did our youth do at this year's work camp? We met up with about 60 other youth from across the state who were here for a Music, Art, Dance and Drama Camp. We had evening devotions at Vesper Point. We swam in Moon Lake. We played Apples to Apples and listened to the wonderful laughter of our youth.

What else did our youth accomplish? They survived without Smart Phones and other electronic devices. Our youth ranged from age 12 to 17, and they created friendships and members that we will they will take with them into the future.

What else did our youth do with these five days of their lives? They served the church. They created some special feelings for a place (Moon Beach) which has served our church for 59 years. They added to the hospitality and welcome of our church's camp. They learned that Moon Beach is 'the place to be if you want to enjoy the rest and joy of our Lord's presence. We learned that every week of camp this summer is filled with the exception of one.

Our 2016 Work Campers include: Taliah Van Sluys, Lily Buchholz, Auden Peterson, Rachel Tompson, Nora Buchholz, Chuck Griffin, Gavin Stradal, Coleton Rabida-Smet, Hannah Reno, Dominick Krizek, Lynn Ashenbrenner, Doug Charles, Fay Henning, Chris Blimel (who has done nearly 60 years of camping herself) and Betty Becker. Thank you. Thank you!



Quotable Quotes:

What is it about Moon Beach that draws you closer to God? I left my cell phone at home, and realized that my Facebook and E-mail relationships are not very deep. I experience the presence of God when I pay closer attention to life. (Rachel Tompson)

Being at Moon Beach is like Christmas. Everyone is happy. Life is good. I don't want to leave. (Lynn Ashenbrenner)

Peaceful walks along the lake. Peaceful quiet, even when raking the trails. Quiet enough to hear the Loons. (The Lord is my strength and my shield, in him will I trust.) Fay Henning

This place represents multigenerational love and teamwork. Surely the Lord is present..... Betty Becker

My God-moment was when the pastor picked up the loaf of bread for Holy Community and blessed it, and we felt a strong, sudden surge of wind. Auden Peterson

Moon Beach is an 'off the grid' camp that's a lot of fun and a good place to go to get away from city living. Dominick Krizek

Moon Beach is that place where we push the positive button..... Doug Charles



Moon Beach is an incredible experience where youth and adults work and live together..... Chris Blimel

Moon Beach is that place where I'm willing to get up at 5 a.m. and go fishing with a friend..... Gavin Stradal

Moon Beach is where we enjoy the natural setting of camp. Coleton Rabida

At Moon Beach everyone acts like themselves, not fakes, and it's nice to get to know the real person. Everyone is friendly and the work makes you realize that a lot of work goes into camps to keep them clean. You get to clear your mind and get rid of your worries at Moon Beach. Nora Buchholz

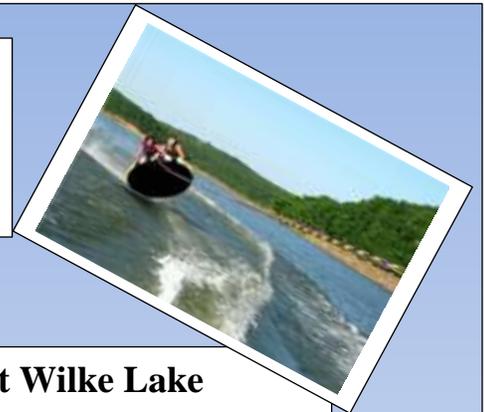
The Moon Beach experience was where I experienced God when I was raking leaves, and God showed me that there was still a lot of good somewhere and that...turned my mood around. Chuck Griffin



You learn a lot about yourself and you feel even closer to God here. And you become friends with new people. Lily Buchholz

My Moon Beach experience has been really fun. I love nature and working has been fun too with everybody help. Also, finding new friends..... Taliah Van Sluys

Moon Beach was a lot of fun. There were some easy jobs, and some that were harder. It is a great place to be. Hannah Reno



Don't forget our Summer Fun Tubing at Wilke Lake

July 13th High School Youth (completed 8th grade through graduation)

July 20th Middle School Youth (completed 6th grade through 8th grade)

Forms still available at the Information Counter

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LEADERSHIP RESPONDS TO ORLANDO SHOOTING

After the deadliest mass shooting in American history, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ issued a statement mourning the loss of those murdered, calling for prayers for their families, and expressing horror and frustration over how commonplace this kind of tragedy has become.

The incident happened early Sunday morning June 12, when a gunman armed with an assault rifle and a handgun killed 50 people and injured at least 50 more in a crowded gay nightclub in downtown Orlando, in what law enforcement is calling an act of terrorism.

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, saying this is not the first time that tragic violence has been directed at the LGBT community, calls on other faith and political leaders to end hate speech masquerading as religion.

The Rev. John Vertigan, Conference Minister of the Florida Conference UCC, acknowledging "the dreadful impact on the LGBT community in Orlando and around the nation" called for prayer, and offered assistance.

"Our congregations and pastors in Orlando and Winter Park are your allies in the struggle for justice in the LGBT community and today we mourn with you in a time of great loss," Vertigan wrote in a letter to the LGBT Center of Central Florida. "We are prepared to stand with you in vigil and sit with you in sorrow in this time of distress. We offer listening ears, open hearts, and gentle presence wherever it might be needed. We offer space for groups who want to gather and any other resources you name that we can bring to bear on drawing together the community in search of understanding, peace, and healing."

Philippians 4:8-9

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

A QUOTABLE QUOTE FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."

Psalm 28:6-9

"Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

"The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever."

STEWARDSHIP CORNER FOR GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

Total 2016 Expected Expenses for Grace Congregational Church:	\$399,813
Amount of pledged income needed each month to balance our budget:	\$33,317
Pledged Income Received in May, 2016:	\$34,726

[Our monthly stewardship in May was helped by the fact that we had five Sunday morning worship services. Here is another way to assess our giving. Through the end of May, we are between 41 and 42% of the way through 2016. The offerings given through May represent almost to the dollar, 41% of our Pledged Income! Keep up the good work.]

Notable Expenses in May:

Building/Maintenance Insurance	\$2,906 (last payment for 2016; represents 1/3 of total)
Boiler Repair	\$296
Sprinkler Inspection (annual)	\$575
Repair of Entryway Heater	\$280
Support of Conference and National Ministry	\$3375
(Missionaries, Staff, Seminaries, etc.)	

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. Active members and friends are expected to support this ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

from the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

This year's meeting was held June 10-12 in Green Lake. Joe DeGroot and I attended as delegates on Saturday, and Pastor Colie and Pastor Kim were there on Friday and Saturday. Pastor Kim helped to staff an exhibit for Emmaus Home, where he served during his sabbatical earlier this year. I want to share some of what we did and learned there.

We heard keynote speaker, Rev. Cameron Trimble, emphasize the importance of worship in reaching people in our contemporary society who are seeking a spiritual connection and community. She showed examples of worship done well with enthusiasm and authenticity, as well as the opposite. Our worship should engage visitors as well as current members.

We participated in SHIFT breakout sessions to share what we and other congregations are doing or considering in ministry to move from maintenance to mission. Joe and I attended different group sessions for churches in smaller communities or suburbs seeking to engage in the needs of their communities. Many ideas were shared, from summertime ice cream socials, year-round community meals, clothes closets, shelters for the homeless, counseling services, transportation services, etc. along with successes and failures. Other groups focused on faith formation, social justice, leadership development and alternative models for ministry.

Each of us also attended afternoon workshops organized along these topics. I chose one led by a doctor about brain health strategies to help prevent or slow development of Alzheimer's dementia. Ideas on how to make your church more dementia-friendly also were given.

As a result of our SHIFT discussions at Grace, we have chosen to become more intentional in our ministry to the elderly in our community. An organizational meeting for anyone interested in participating is planned on Tuesday, July 12 at 3:30 pm in the adult study room at church. If you can't make that meeting, but want to be involved, please speak to me or either pastor.

At the business portion of Saturday's meeting, a motion was passed to consider a resolution making us an "Immigrant-welcoming Conference". Churches are encouraged to study this topic and a formal vote to adopt the resolution will occur at the annual meeting in June 2017. An online resource is available to help congregations guide discussion.

Grace Church was recognized with other churches for our support for Our Church's Wider Mission and for supporting all five all-church offerings in 2015. The certificates we received are posted on the bulletin board in our fellowship hall. You are all to be commended for this accomplishment.

We learned that the CAMPITAL Campaign for our church camps has reached the minimum goal of \$3 million and will continue through 2016. It is crucial that we fulfill our pledge of support to the campaign over the next several years.

We bring greetings to Grace Church from Rev. Tara Tetzlaff and daughter Vanessa, and from Rev. Jim Schleif, who were also at the meeting representing their churches. It was great to see them again.

Thanks for the opportunity to represent you at the 2016 Wisconsin Conference annual meeting. You also can ask Joe DeGroot and Pastors Kim and Colie for their impressions from the gathering.

GENERATION G

It's SUMMER! For our high school youth it's busy with summer school, camps, jobs, babysitting, work camp, ASP, relay for life.... and we don't have our regularly scheduled Wednesday nights. We DO have some FUN for our high school youth:

July 13 is boating with PK and Pastor Colie (leaving church at 10am and returning at 5pm)

July 29 at 6pm-July 30- at 6am is Relay for Life for high school youth

August 24th will be a Generation G night— with more information coming

If you have any questions (or your parents have questions) please contact Nicole Herda at 553-6789 or nlherda@yahoo.com or via Facebook. Enjoy your summer!

DREAM GOD'S DREAM

Dream God's dream---Holy Spirit, help us dream
Of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free;
To building and grow and love, and to simply have enough
The world will change when we dream God's dream.

I'm dreaming of a world, where the color of one's skin
Will mean less than what within the person's heart;
A world where water's clean, and where air is safe to breathe
And every child born has enough to eat.

I dreaming of the call God is offering to me,
How to use my energy and my best gifts;
To do the work of Christ---to say God, please use my life
To spread your healing Love and live your Truth.

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to god,
I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet;
I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars
Of Christ who died to show that the Dream's for all.

By Bryan Sirchio

TWO RIVERS/MISHICOT ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Summer is coming....

During the school year children from low-income families receive free or reduced cost lunch at school. During the summer, these families experience an additional stress on their tight budgets because they must now provide all the meals for their children.

Special Requests for this month: Tomato sauce, tomato paste, chili beans, baked beans, soups of all kinds....(creamed, broth, chunky, chicken noodle....) soda crackers, tuna, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, toilet paper, tooth paste, deodorant, and bar soap, shampoos, ramen noodles, jelly, peanut butter, boxed potatoes, flavored rice, and hamburger helper.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right." Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"In a word, live together in the forgiveness of your sins, for without it no human fellowship, least of all a marriage, can survive. Don't insist on your rights, don't blame each other, don't judge or condemn each other, don't find fault with each other, but accept each other as you are, and forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts..."

--- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison

Grace Congregational Church Family

WELCOME PATTY ARNOLD

Lynn Ashenbrenner is pleased to introduce Patty Arnold.

Patty has 2 children, Ryan 32 and Chelsea 23.

She has 3 cats, likes doing crafts and likes to cook. Patty moved here in October from Neenah. She met a gentleman in Two Rivers and is getting married in November.

Patty was looking for a church and found one here at Grace UCC. She says she enjoys the people, and feels very welcome here.

Please join me in welcoming Patty to our church family.

WEDDING

David and Chelsea Webster Shlensky exchanged their marriage vows on Saturday, May 21st, just outside of Bailey's Harbor. We offer our best wishes as they begin their married life together.

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

To celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary, Troy and Krystal Zich renewed their wedding vows in our sanctuary June 4th. We offer our blessing of love.....

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

June 19th, we celebrate the baptism of Juniper Dorie, daughter of Amanda Leigh and Phillip Ewell Dier. Juniper has three older siblings, Malachi, Judah, and Meara. Her grandparents are Thomas and Jayne Mueller and Thomas and Barbara Dier. Chosen as godparents are Jon Mueller and Chelsea Vestal and Kelly and Nicolas Altgilbers.

THANK YOU

Students & faculty of Eden Theological Seminary want to extend acknowledgement of your gift of \$150. Your support of Eden helps to prepare the next generation of ministers and leaders. Sincerely, Lorin Cope Director of Advancement for UCC Church Giving.

THANK YOU

2016 KAN Cool for School Campaign group greatly appreciates the gift of \$500. This group supports the children in need of Manitowoc County.

LADIES OF GRACE

Afternoon Circle will meet for lunch on Tuesday, **July 12th at 11:30am at Perkins in Two Rivers**

Ladies of Grace are welcome to attend this monthly luncheon. Bring a friend along too. Call Chris Blimel or Sandy Monka with your **reservation by July 11th.**