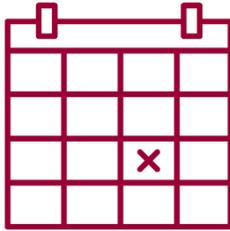


Willerup Whispers

... To Glorify Christ in Word & Deed

October 2021

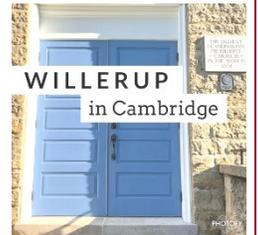
Page 2—
Calendar



Page 3—
Mission Focus



Page 4—
Current
Events



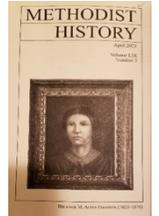
Page 5—
Current
Events



Page 6—
Accountability
Leadership Board
Meeting Summary



Page 7—
History Speaks



Please join us for a worship experience as we celebrate an All Saints Day of Remembrance, Sunday, October 31 at 10:00 AM. You are invited to light a candle to honor and remember a loved one who has passed from this life to the next.

We will celebrate our faith as Christians and how we will one day be part of that great cloud of witnesses. Candles will remind us of those who have gone on before, and Water will remind us of our own baptism. A solemn celebration of life—true life—real life—eternal life.



Remember

My dad had a saying, “I have a good memory. It’s just short.”

It’s not a surprise, then, that when we come to the Bible, God doesn’t leave our memory to chance. In fact, in one version of the Bible, the word “remember” appears over 200 times. Sometimes it’s a plea from a person to God – it’s a prayer for Him to remember His promises, His great love, His covenant. Other times, it’s a command straight from God to His people.

1. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8)
2. And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)
3. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)
4. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)

Why are we commanded as Christians to remember? Many reasons! Here are four:

(continued on page 4)

Echoes of Belize

The Ndjungus Mission Newsletter of September 2021

Reflection on the fallouts of COVID for children in Belize



Moise Ndjungu uses a tablet for online classes

COVID-19 is claiming lives and livelihoods across the globe, and Belize is no exception. As families struggle to stay afloat, the crisis is battering essential services that secure the education and protection of the country's children. With over 40 per cent of the population under the age of 18, tens of thousands of young Belizeans are at risk. Although the pandemic strikes everyone, the consequences are mostly felt by children. COVID-19 affects the children of Belize in 4 major ways:

1. The rise of unemployment: Because many businesses have closed, many people have lost their jobs, thus threatening families with hunger and other hardships. Children being the most vulnerable are the most affected by this situation.
2. School closure: As an alternative to traditional face to face teaching, Belize has adopted online teaching since last year. Classroom teaching has not resumed until now. Children whose parents cannot afford to buy a tablet or an android phone for their children are completely left out, without education. For instance, before COVID, my son attended school with 26 other students in his class. But now they are 7 in their online class. This means that 20 students are out school. Multiply this number by all the classes and schools in the country, there are

thousands of children who are unschooled right now.

3. Violence is on the rise for children. As communities are disrupted, children already at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse find themselves even more vulnerable. In Belize, data shows that violence against children has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.
4. The future of children is in jeopardy. The costs of the pandemic for children are immediate. If unaddressed, they may persist throughout their lives. The Government of Belize and its partners do their best to support the most vulnerable children, so that they have a fair chance in life and can shape their own futures; but the resources are limited.



Moise (right) and Ethan (left) are classmates

[Click here \(for Nkemba\) or here \(for Mbwizu\) to give online today.](#)

To give by check, make it out to Advance GCFA, put the Advance Number **00172A-Ndjungus Ministry** in the memo line, and send it to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087

Nkemba & Mbwizu Ndjungu
The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
PO Box 4 Dangriga, Stann Creek District, Belize
Phones: (501) 606 4982 / (501) 606 4024
Email: ndjungunkemba@yahoo.com ;
mbwizun@gmail.com

(continued from page 1)

1. Remembering is active.

God knows how forgetful we are of who He is and what He has done. He commands us to remember. It's a command as forceful as any other command we find in Scripture. Remembering, then, is an active choice. If we do not actively and purposefully choose to remember, then we will forget. CS Lewis knew this and once remarked, "People need to be reminded more than instructed."

2. Remembering makes us aware.

The forgetful person is the person who is unaware. As we go about our daily lives, it is easy for us to lapse into a haze of ideas, appointments, meetings and obligations. We can forget entirely that a sovereign loving God has plans for us and put together this day for us. We will forget that every day is His day. We forget that He has a purpose and a good plan not only for our sake, but for the world! What we choose to remember—we honor, value and repeat.

3. Remembering gives us hope.

Hindsight is always 20/20. As we look back over our life experiences, we can see God's handiwork. Once we commit to following him, God really does have our best interest at heart. He is working for our good, for the development of our faith and for His glory.

When we go through hard times in the present, remembering what God has already done gives us hope. We are reminded that God never abandoned us and he never will.

4. Remembering brings us perspective.

Whatever is happening in the present occupies all our energy. We are drawn in and dominated by the present drama, the present joy or the present heartache. Remembering brings us perspective. Remembering is evidence of our maturity. It reminds us there is more to life than our present circumstances or desires. We are more than flesh and blood. We are spirit and soul. We have a place where we belong forever with the saints and with God. It is an eternal place, prepared for us before we were born and a destination for us to live even after we die.

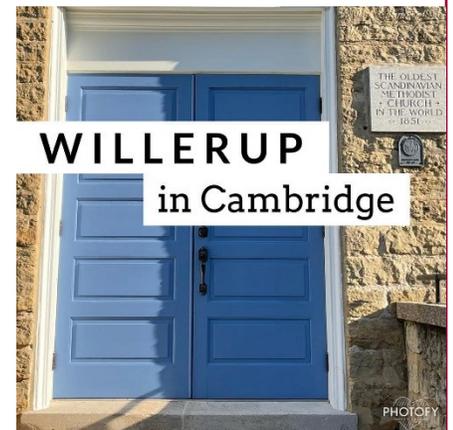
Current Events



Here **Wes "Jug" Jarlsberg**, at 100, WWII Veteran, has a ride in an antique plane. Not many days later, he passed from this life to the next.
Fly High, Jug!



Cambridge Market Café will now be open on Sundays, 7am-4pm. A pleasant after-church lunch awaits, or a quick coffee and a doughnut!



Check out our
NEW website!
WillerupChurch.org



October 6
GLOW IN
THE DARK

**BRING A
FRIEND NIGHT!**



Willerup Youth Group

**Real talk
By the fire
Fun games,
Going strong!**



Groups for Grownups Too! Growth Groups are connecting in-person

Check the calendar, bulletin, or Willer-Up-Date email to find one that works for you.

Together in the Middle group for working-age adults is ready to start Tuesdays at 7 pm when we have a few of you ready to attend!

Church Picnic August 15



Fun at
Willerup
Bible Camp!



Family
Christmas
Worship Event,
Dec 11 or 18
Watch for
Details!



On August 28, we recycled
4 TONS of electronics!



And keep in
mind, batteries
and small
electronic devices
like cell phones
and hearing aids
can be brought to
the Cambridge
library any time.

Ruby's Pantry



used
"Sustainable
Surplus" to
serve
**680 local
families** in
August.
Serving
monthly!

Willerup Church
Accountability Leadership Board (ALB)
Board Meeting of September 27, 2021, 6:30 PM
Summary

1. Call To Order (Time 6:35 PM)
2. Members Present (Recorded by Secretary)
Ron Dayton – 2021 Chair
Judy Vasby – Ministries Team
Pastor Jen Wilson
Megan Retzlaff – Secretary
Shannon Ghorbani – Finance Lead
Dick Legge – SPPRC Chair
Lisa Kalata – Co-Trustee
Carl Nurmi – Lay Leader
Orvin Kendall—2022 Chair
Unable to attend:
Gerry Fosdal – Co-Trustee
3. Opening Prayer [Pastor Jen]
4. ALB Members Time of Meditation and Prayer
5. ALB Card Ministry Requests / Messages
6. Leadership Teaching / Message From Pastor on Welcoming Guests
7. Monthly Regular Action Items:
 - A. August 23 Meeting Minutes
Motion To Approve By: Lisa
Second To Approve By: Dick
Approved: As presented
 - B. August End Financial Report
Motion To Approve By: Dick
Second To Approve By: Judy
Approved: As presented
8. ALB Member / Committee / Ministry Leader Reports
 - A. Trustee Team [Lisa; Gerry]
Groundskeeping – new crew is doing great after Gerry move to Stoughton
Snow Removal contract is prepared
 - B. Staff / Pastor / Parish Team [Dick]
Background checks run for Awana volunteers
 - C. Lay Leadership Team [Carl]
Request for job description
 - D. Ministries Team [Judy]
Awana started, good group, praying for more.
Youth group also started, great energy!
Sunday focus is 10am worship to serve all in the family
Monthly special music planned
Upcoming visit to cemetery from Andrew Nelson, descendant of 19th century Karen and Lars Flensberg.
Bulletin board to update for All Saints Day of Remembrance.
Judy has completed Local Church Historian's School.
 - E. Finance / Budget Team [Shannon]
Computer fund will now be called Technology fund – covers any hardware + online services such as RightNow Media or

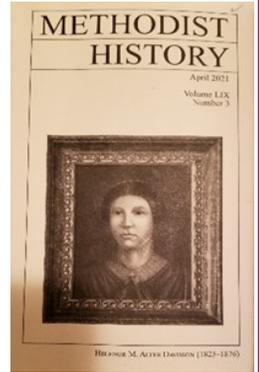
- website expenses.
- F. Board Chair [Ron]
ALB Regional meeting in Sun Prairie - meet at Willerup at 9 am
October 12, Jen, Megan, Ron, Judy, Dick to attend.
9. Pastor Reports and Updates
 10. Items Identified For Tonight's Meeting Coverage
 - > New Janitor Hiring Status – Dick
Kelley Kenseth has been hired, will be employee of church, Evan will also do some cleaning.
 - > Right Now Media Update – Pastor
Some requesting help with signing up and how to use
We will plan to offer a tutorial and assistance.
 - > Thanksgiving Worship Service Special Offering (Pastor)
Would we like to take a special collection toward missions (or something else) on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving? Pastor Jen will discuss with Gerry and Shelly Fosdal, Mission Team Leaders
 - > Christmas In The Barn Update – Pastor
Team assembled, barn reserved, date not finalized yet, either Dec 11 or 18
 - > Cemetery Shed Project Update – Gerry / Shannon
Shed is up. No door yet.
 - > Cemetery Markers Refreshment Plan – Gerry / Shannon
Planning is in progress.
 - > ALB 2022 Goals Setting Update / Next Steps – Ron
 - > Writings and Sharings From Judy on Issues of UMC
Possible Split Review and Discussion
Recently shared articles:
"Tomato-Throwing Methodists"
"Academics shine a critical light on progressive Christians"
 - > Update on Filling of Open Positions – Dick
 - > Decision on Date, Time & Content of Charge Conference
- see above
- CCC with DS is planned Dec 5 6:30 pm, can be just ALB members, congregation usually invited
Separate Annual Congregational Meeting to be held to communicate between ALB/ministry leaders and congregation.
Various meetings upcoming:
Oct 5, 6:30 pm Goals planning meeting for 2022
Oct 10 after church, ALB Budget planning meeting
Nov 14 after church, Annual Congregational Meeting
Dec 5 Church Charge Conference with District Superintendent – likely by Zoom
11. Next Meeting: Date: Oct 25 Time: 6:30
Location: Willerup
 12. Adjournment: Motion By: Judy Second By: Dick Adjourned At: 9:00 PM
 13. Closing Prayer (Offered By: Pastor Jen)
Thank You All For Your Service To The Lord



History Speaks By Judy Vasby Reality Vs. Poetry? – That Is the Question

Words matter when talking about God. But language has changed over the decades. Meanings of words have changed. Theological emphases have changed. So how can we say that “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever”-? (Hebrews 13:8)

Recently I read an article in the *Methodist History Magazine* (April 2021) that was titled, “The Pressure of Reality and the Sound of Holiness; Developments in the Methodist/Holiness Poetic, 1870-1950” by Steven D. Cooley. Sounds like a big ‘yawn,’ doesn’t it? But, being a fan of poetry and the Holiness Movement of the late 1800s, I felt that I had to investigate this presentation.



Wikipedia explains that “Holiness adherents believe that while Christians may fall into sin, they also have the God-given power to avoid committing sin, and in this sense be free from sin.” It went back to John Wesley’s teaching in the 1700s about sanctification and moving on to perfection and the encouragement given from one Christian to another in weekly ‘cell groups’ held in homes. True faith brings a transformation within a person’s heart through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. However, over time some ministers stopped emphasizing that. Then, in the late 1800’s, after the Civil War, there was another ‘awakening’ to these concepts, which were especially emphasized in the Camp Meetings. Many people gave their lives to the Lord under the lively music and powerful, passionate preaching that marked those meetings. Heartfelt sorrow for one’s sins and a personal



relationship with the Savior were marks of a true believer. Gradually a further concept emerged – or re-emerged- the idea that it was not enough for a person to have faith that stayed internal. No, one must share that faith by witnessing in both word and deed– out of gratitude, so that others would be attracted to Jesus, too. And from that arose the great missionary societies and social service agencies of the churches.

So -what do ‘words’ have to do with all this? My simplified take-away is that there was confusion caused by holiness speakers & hymn writers who used metaphors, imagery, and poetic language to explain Jesus, salvation, and the benefits of living a God-pleasing life. “Emotional piety” is not enough. There needs to be more “clear, accurate, and mature”

language to explain spiritual concepts, more reality and less poetry. Yet Wesley said there should be an emotional response to God, a warm heart experience. And Jesus Himself used metaphors and parables to get His points across, and the Psalms writers and prophets used poetry and highly emotional language. That confused me, because “poetic’ language was now being challenged. Then, around the 1950s, theological language moved toward realism and concrete meanings.

So how would you compare these two expressions?

1- “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.” (Zechariah 13:1)

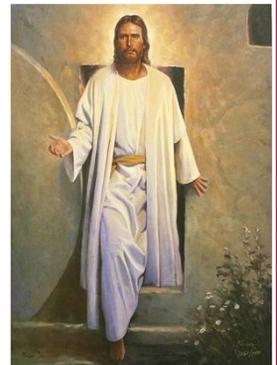
2- “There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Emmanuel’s veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.” (William Cowper, 1771)

The first is reality- clear, accurate, and mature. The second comes from the Holiness Movement.

Here are two more:

1- “And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:15

2. “I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him, He’s always near. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” (A. H. Ackley, 1933)



As for Reality versus Poetry, probably the truth is...that we need both ways of expressing and explaining God. Some people respond better to plain, straight forward words, while others are moved to understanding that comes from more description, which elicits an image in their minds. But a steady diet of either can lead to a lack of what it means to be “rooted and grounded in love, and to comprehend...what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 4:17)

Who are We at Willerup?

Our Mission

To **Seek** the Lost, To **Strengthen** the Lord's Disciples,
and To **Serve** in the Lord's Kingdom

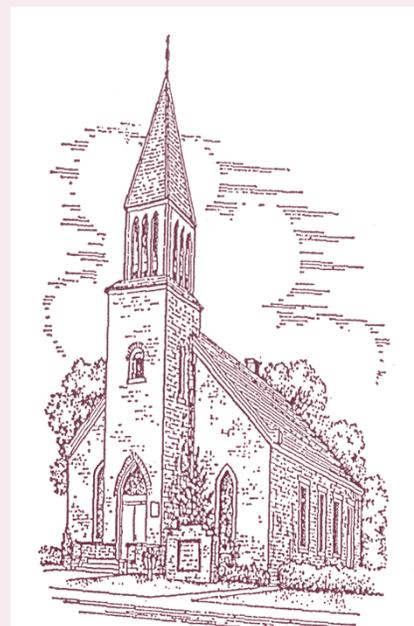
Our Purpose

To **Glorify Christ In Word and Deed by....**

- ♥ Reaching out and receiving new people, introducing them
 - ♥ to the person of Jesus Christ.
- ♥ **Connecting people** to the community of **faith** which is growing in the **grace** and **knowledge** of the **Lord**.
 - ♥ **Developing** people to **Christ-like** maturity.
 - ♥ **Equipping** & sending **disciples** in ministry & mission.
- ♥ . . . All to the end of **exalting & honoring God's name**.

Our Conviction

We Believe a Great **Commitment** to the
Great **Commandment** and the Great **Commission**
Will Grow a Great **Church!**



Willerup United Methodist Church 2021 Contact information
Accountability Leadership Board
Some members have specialties, but any member can be contacted to share a concern or question.

Chairperson: Ron Dayton Cell: 608-520-6180 Email: rodayton@mac.com	Trustee Co-Leader: Lisa Kalata Cell: 920-222-0788 Email: ltkalata@gmail.com
SPPRC Leader: Dick Legge Cell: 608-772-4738 Email: dblegge@charter.net	Trustee Co-Leader: Gerry Fosdal Cell: 608-719-7647 Email: gerry.fosdal@gmail.com
Financial Team Leader: Shannon Ghorbani Cell: 832-978-9832 Email: shannon.ghorbani@willerupumc.org Or giving@willerupumc.org	Pastor Jen Wilson – non-voting member Parsonage Phone: 608-423-2085 Email: pastor@willerupumc.org
Lay Leader: Carl Nurmi Home: 608-807-8524 Email: pkewnurmi@gmail.com	Secretary: Megan Retzlaff – non-voting member Cell: 608-698-5783 Email: secretary@willerupumc.org
Ministries Team: Judy Vasby Cell: 608-576-0173 Email: jvasby.office@gmail.com	Church Phone: 608-423-3777 Church Email – goes to Pastor and Secretary: churchoffice@willerupumc.org



Sundays
10:00 am Worship
On-Site
& Live-streamed

The Willerup Whispers Newsletter

(1 Kings 19:11-12)

Available by Email or in Print

Whisper Editor: Megan
Retzlaff,

WMC Administrative Assistant

Visit our Website at:

WillerupChurch.org

"Like" us on Facebook

October 2021 Issue

Pastor's Letter—Page 1, 4

Calendar—Page 2

Missions Update—Page 3

Current Events—Pages 4-5

History Speaks—Pages 6

ALB Summary—Page 7