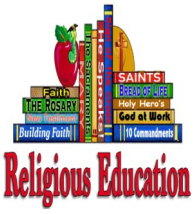
Darlington and Fayette United Methodist Churches August 2026

see pages 2

Retreats offered by Conference

see page 4-5

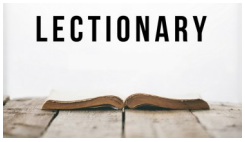


Upcoming Events

see page 6

see page 10

see page 8-10

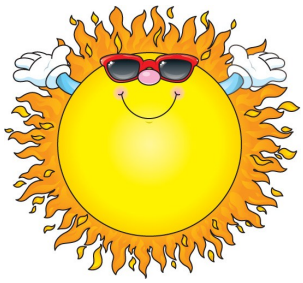


see page 10

see page 11

Inside this issue...

Pastor's Corner	2
Grief Support	2
Extra Giving	3
Monthly Financials	3
Online Giving	3
2nd Quarter Giving Statements	3
Stewardship Retreat	4
Relaxation Retreat	5
Bible Study	5
Backpack Blessings	6
Religious Education	6
3rd Grade Bible	6
Confirmation Class	6
Foundation News	7
August Bible Reading Plans	8-10
August Lectionary	10
Script News	10
UWF News	10
Helpers Needed	10
August Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
August Worship Leader Information	11
August Calendar	12



Darlington and Fayette United Methodist Churches **550 Main St, Darlington WI 53530**
608-776-4114 email: darlingtonumc@gmail.com website: darlingtonumc.com

"What Does It Mean to Be the Church?"

When people hear the word *church*, they often picture a building with stained-glass windows or a place where people gather on Sunday mornings. While those are meaningful parts of our faith, the Bible tells us that the church is much more than a building. The church is a people—a community brought together by our relationship with Jesus Christ and connected to one another through His love.

Last Sunday we reflected on Paul's powerful words in Romans 8:38–39: *"Nothing... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* That promise is not only a source of comfort; it is the foundation of the church. We belong to Christ because of His unbreakable love for us, and because we belong to Christ, we also belong to one another.

From the very beginning, God created us for relationship. We are made to know God, to love one another, and to walk together in faith. The church is where those relationships are nurtured and strengthened. We worship together, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, celebrate one another's joys, and remind one another that no one walks alone. In a world where loneliness and division are becoming more common, the church is called to be a place of genuine connection, where every person is welcomed, valued, and loved.

But our calling does not end when we leave the sanctuary. We are invited to **be the church** wherever we go. Every conversation filled with grace, every act of kindness, every visit to someone who is lonely, every word of encouragement, and every moment spent listening with compassion helps strengthen the connections God desires for His people. As followers of Christ, we become living reminders that nothing can separate us from His love.

As you enjoy the remaining weeks of summer, I pray that you will find time to rest, refresh, and reconnect—with God, with your family and friends, and with the people around you. May this season renew your heart and deepen the relationships that matter most. And wherever you are, may you continue to be the church by sharing the love of Christ and building meaningful connections with others.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Han Lee

The grieving process can be a healing journey.

Grief is natural but can be difficult. Sharing your journey with others experiencing a similar challenge may help you find peace. This six-week series is for adults (ages 18 and older) who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The group explores the grieving process and ideas for coping and healing, while providing a safe place to share your experiences and questions with others.

Additional information can be found at ssmhealth.com/events.

Wednesdays, September 2 – October 21, 2026 from 10:00am – 11:30am

Location: Monroe Custom Engraving
1005 30th Street
Monroe, WI 53566

Registration Information:
The group is offered free of charge, but space is limited. Please register online at ssmhealth.com/events, or call 608-324-1229 for more information.

SSMHealth. at Home

Extra Giving from Offering Envelopes during the Month of June & July

- In Memory of Margie Stephenson given by Arnie & Ann Miehe.
- In Memory of Margie Stephenson given by Owen & Ruth Thompson.
- In Memory of Kirk Staver given by Linda Bawden.

Add your loved ones or friends to this list by filling out your offering envelope and designating an **extra** amount to be given in Memory or in Honor of someone to celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary. It's a great way to acknowledge those special people in your life. The amounts will never be listed!

A look at the Darlington numbers for June.

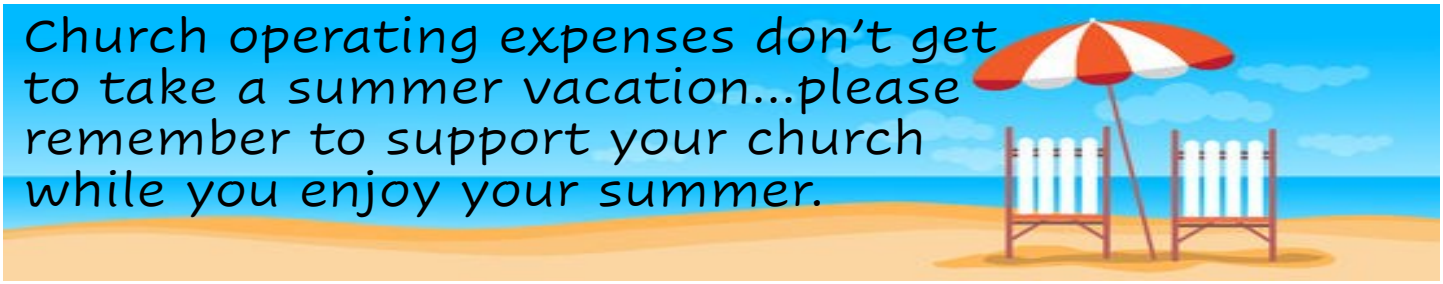
Income	$ 12,107.03
Expenses	- 12,725.93
Difference	($ 618.90)
YTD 2026	
YTD Income	$85,312.19
YTD Expenses	- 79,555.37
YTD	$ 5,756.82

2026 Apportionment Total - $26,484
Paid YTD - $4,178
Balance Left for 2026- $ 22,306
Percentage paid - 15.78%

Online Giving & Mobile Giving

Go to **https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJ3M/home for our online giving version or download the app in your Apple or Google Play app. Enter with church code FS4XM7.** Thank you for your continued support to the church.

VANCO MOBILE
new online giving app
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store



2nd Quarter Giving Statements have been mailed out.

The second quarter giving statements were mailed out in July. Our system sometimes doesn't connect families. So, if you received one and it doesn't look right, please contact Becky in the office and she will correct it.

Rooted in Leadership, Growing in Generosity

Stewardship Conference

August 14-15, 2026

Registration is now open for this summer's Stewardship Conference at Pine Lake, and I'd love to invite you and others from your church to be part of it.

Too often, stewardship is approached as a set of techniques or seasonal strategies. While those are important, they are only part of the picture. Thriving congregations understand that strong, faithful leadership and a clear sense of mission are what inspire generosity in the first place.

This year's conference is designed to bring those two areas together – helping church leaders grow both as stewards and as leaders.

Location: Pine Lake Camp (with Zoom participation available)
Attend: One day or both days
Register at: https://www.wumf.org/upcoming-events

You can expect:

- Practical stewardship tools (narrative budgeting, year-round planning, endowment best practices)
- Leadership development workshops (leading change, engaging across generations, building healthy culture)
- Time for reflection, conversation, and connection with other church leaders
- Access to workshop recordings after the conference to share with your leadership teams

Whether you're a pastor, lay leader, finance team member, or stewardship volunteer, this conference is designed to equip you with both the "how" and the "why" of cultivating generosity in your congregation.

I encourage you to take a moment to register and begin thinking about who else from your church might benefit from attending alongside you.

If you have any questions or want to talk about how this could support your congregation, I'd love to connect (608-837-9582 or jason@wumf.org).
Grace and peace,
Jason

WISCONSIN UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

Fall Relaxation Retreat
September 10-13, 2026

Living Water: Are you thirsty?

Drink deep and be refreshed at our Fall Relaxation Retreat, the perfect long weekend at beautiful Pine Lake UMC Camp with over 400 acres to explore. This retreat is designed as a peaceful oasis, a sacred space to pause, breathe, and receive the living water Jesus offers through His word and the Holy Spirit. We will learn the importance of water for our bodies, taste a varieties of waters, learn about Pine Lake, and discover the lessons God provides for us about living water so we can quench our thirst and be renewed.

Thursday night beach party! Wear your favorite cabana clothes as we celebrate the new boardwalk and waterfront deck! Along with yoga, meditation, hikes, tea time, Christian music, and the prayer labyrinth we will have a naturalist to lead some hikes and sessions and an art teacher to help us capture the beauty we see in watercolor! Enjoy evening vespers at the campfire, plenty of free time, a gorgeous retreat center to stay in, meals cooked for you, and a connection to God's gift of relaxation given to us all, because he loves us.

What to bring: Journal or Notebook and Pen, Yoga Mat, and or blanket. Favorite Christian song to share. A favorite tea if you'd like to share (a variety will be provided). Rain activity or craft. Christian Video if you have one you'd love to share on a rainy day. IF you want to fish, you'll need to purchase a license prior to camp. We will have experienced anglers on hand to help you, and provide gear and bait, and even help you clean the fish so you can bring a meal home!

To register, click here: **https://wiumcamps.campbrainregistration.com/**

Building Beloved Community Zoom Book Study

You are invited to participate in a **10-week Zoom book study** exploring *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*. Written by the **United Methodist Council of Bishops**, this timely resource encourages United Methodists to "test the spirits" and faithfully live out our baptismal and membership vows in today's world.

To make participation as accessible as possible, the study will be offered on **Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, as well as Tuesday mornings** each week. Sessions will begin **the week after Labor Day** and conclude **the week before Thanksgiving**.

Participants are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book before the study begins.

For More information or to register: Contact Josie at josiegobel@charter.net or call 920-988-0705.

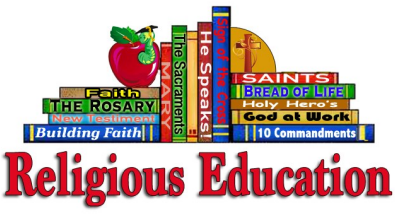
To order the book https://www.cokesbury.com/Building-Beloved-Community-2

Backpack Blessing

Sunday, August 30 10:00 a.m. service

Another new school year just on the horizon, and that means it's time for another Backpack Blessing! Bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, August 30 to receive a special blessing for the school year as well as a tag to tie on to your bag.

Religious Education Starts



The 2026 Religious Education year will kick off on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.** with classes for 1st-8th grade. Jamie Smith will be leading again this year. She has an exciting year planned for all and can't wait to see your children! Teachers and helpers needed. Please say "yes" to teaching our children.

Pastor Han will be leading the youth again this year. Grades 6th - 8th.

If you have a child in grades 1st-8th, please let Jamie Smith or the church office know so we can update our list. If you are willing to serve or lead, contact the office. **The children meet every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m.**

Third Grade Bibles

September 13 during worship, third graders will receive a special gift of a Bible from the church.

Bring Your Bible to Church

September 13 please bring your Bible to worship. In celebration of the 3rd graders getting theirs, we want to look at yours! In preparation, please find a verse that you love and be ready to share it.

Confirmation

There will be a **parents and mentors meeting (with students) on Sept. 9, Wednesday, at 6:00 pm. at Jeffrey Hall** of education building. You will get all the information for the upcoming confirmation class. And then all of **the confirmands will meet on Sept. 16** for a first class at 6:00, The confirmands will be looking for Mentors, so if you feel called to mentor and know a child that will be in confirmation class this year, please reach out to them. Pease contact Pastor with any questions or concerns. He is looking forward to this year.

The Dog Days of Stewardship

August is often called the "dog days of summer." Depending on who you ask, the phrase has everything to do with hot, humid afternoons when the days seem to blend. Gardens need watering again. Lawns need mowing again. Vacation photos have been shared, and school supplies are beginning to fill store shelves. It's a season that rarely feels exciting – it simply asks us to keep showing up.

Stewardship has its own dog days.

Most churches don't receive their largest gifts in August. Attendance is often lighter. Staff and volunteers are taking vacations. Fall programming hasn't quite begun. It can be tempting to think, "Nothing much is happening."

But perhaps these ordinary seasons are exactly where faithfulness is formed.

One of my favorite stories comes from a monk who was asked how he stayed joyful after decades of living the same routine day after day. His answer was simple: "Every morning I thank God for the privilege of doing ordinary things." Preparing meals. Sweeping floors. Greeting neighbors. Praying. None of those activities made headlines, but together they became a life marked by gratitude.

The same is true in the life of the church. Most ministry doesn't happen in dramatic moments. It happens because someone unlocks the building before worship. Someone prepares communion. Someone visits a homebound member. Someone faithfully gives each month without fanfare. Someone quietly prays for a child or grandchild every day.

Stewardship isn't primarily about extraordinary generosity. It's about ordinary faithfulness repeated over a lifetime.

When we learn to be grateful during the ordinary seasons, we begin to recognize that God has been at work all along. The dog days of stewardship aren't something to endure until the "real work" begins this fall. They are part of the work. They remind us that God's kingdom is built not only through mountaintop moments but through countless faithful acts that often go unnoticed.

When August winds down, take a moment to thank God for the ordinary rhythms of your congregation. Those simple, faithful habits are the foundation upon which extraordinary ministry is built.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Darlington & Fayette United Methodist Churches

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR AUGUST 2026

DATE	SCRIPTURE	TOPIC
__8/02/26	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
__8/03/26	Ezekiel 20:11-20	Keep the Decrees and Laws of God
__8/04/26	Acts 7:9-15	Joseph – Ruler Over Egypt
__8/05/26	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Joseph – From Slave to Master
__8/06/26	Genesis 37:1-11	Joseph's Dreams
__8/07/26	Genesis 37:12-28	Joseph Sold by His Brothers
__8/08/26	Romans 10:5-15	Righteousness Comes by Faith
__8/09/26	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus Walks on the Water
__8/10/26	Psalm 28:6-9	The Lord – Our Strength and Salvation
__8/11/26	Genesis 45:1-15	Joseph Makes Himself Known
__8/12/26	Psalm 133	Unity of Believers
__8/13/26	Titus 3:1-8	Doing What Is Good
__8/14/26	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	The Mercy of God
__8/15/26	Matthew 15:10-20	Uncleanness – Heart and Mouth
__8/16/26	Matthew 15:21-28	Faith of the Canaanite Woman
__8/17/26	Psalm 124	The Lord Rescued Israel
__8/18/26	Hebrews 13:15-17	Sacrifices Pleasing to God
__8/19/26	Romans 12:1-8	Living Sacrifices to God
__8/20/26	Exodus 1:8-22	The Israelites are Oppressed
__8/21/26	Exodus 2:1-10	The Birth of Moses
__8/22/26	Mark 14:60-62	Jesus Confirms – He Is the Christ (Messiah)
__8/23/26	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's Confession of Christ
__8/24/26	Jeremiah 10:6-10	The Living God
__8/25/26	Exodus 3:1-15	Moses and the Burning Bush
__8/26/26	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Israelites in Egypt
__8/27/26	Amos 5:4-15	Seek the Lord and Live
__8/28/26	Romans 12:9-21	Love – Humility - Goodness
__8/29/26	Isaiah 53:5-12	Prophecy of Jesus' Death
__8/30/26	Matthew 16:21-28	Jesus Predicts His Death
__8/31/26	Jeremiah 10:12-16	God – the True Creator

Darlington & Fayette United Methodist Churches

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE WEEKDAY READING PLAN FOR AUGUST 2026

DATE	SCRIPTURE	TOPIC
__8/3/26	Matthew 27:57-61	Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary were at the tomb of Jesus' body.
__8/4/26	Matthew 28:1-10	Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary worship the risen Jesus.
__8/5/26	Mark 3:31-35	Jesus' mother Mary and His brothers were seeking Him.
__8/6/26	Mark 6:1-6	Jesus' sisters are mentioned.
__8/7/26	Mark 7:1-13	Jesus teaches to honor your father and mother.
__8/10/26	Mark 7:24-30	A gentile woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter.
__8/11/26	Mark 12:41-44	A poor widow shows great generosity.
__8/12/26	Mark 13:14-27	Jesus expresses concern for pregnant women and mothers nursing babies at the time of the Great Tribulation.
__8/13/26	Luke 1:5-7	Elizabeth (wife of Priest Zacharias) was barren-could not have children.
__8/14/26	Luke 1:8-17	An angel tells Priest Zacharias that Elizabeth will have a son that they should name John.
__8/17/26	Luke 1:18-25	Elizabeth becomes pregnant.
__8/18/26	Luke 1:26-38	The Angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her that she will be the virgin mother of Jesus.
__8/19/26	Luke 1:39-45	The virgin Mary visits Elizabeth.
__8/20/26	Luke 1:46-56	The Song (prayer) of Mary (the "Magnificat".)
__8/21/26	Luke 1:57-66	Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist.
__8/24/26	Luke 2:1-7	Mary gives birth to Jesus.
__8/25/26	Luke 2:8-20	Shepherds go to Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus plus Mary and Joseph.
__8/26/26	Luke 2:25-35	Simeon prophecies to and blesses Mary and Joseph.
__8/27/26	Luke 2:36-40	Anna (a prophetess) prophecies about Jesus.
__8/28/26	Luke 2:41-52	Mary and Joseph search for the boy Jesus.
__8/31/26	Luke 4:16-30	Jesus refers to the widow at Zarephath (mentioned in **I Kings chapter 17**.)

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE READING PLAN SCHEDULE – AUGUST 2026

(Schedule-Read one chapter **each weekday** to complete the New Testament in one year.)

End of Week (Saturday)	Chapters Completed	Check-off
August 1	II Corinthians 3	_____
August 8	II Corinthians 8	_____
August 15	II Corinthians 13	_____
August 22	Galatians 5	_____
August 29	Ephesians 4	_____

(Progress Milestone: 172 chapters read – 66% of the New Testament)

August Lectionary

August 2
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

REMINDERS – The *SCRIPT Program* is a great fund raiser for our Church that you can partake in all year round. You can place an order with Sheila Kelly at kellysheila87@gmail.com or 608-482-1141. Thank you Sheila for your hard work directing this important fund raising program!

ShopWithScrip®

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Meeting
August 19, 2026—6:00 pm

Tentative date for Roast Beef Supper will be Wednesday, September 23. Watch the September Newsletter for more information.

Searching for Ushers/Liturgists

We are in need of ushers and liturgists. (We especially need liturgists!) If you would be willing to serve in this capacity a few Sunday's a year, please let Becky in the office know.

Aug 1 Ellen Boatman
Aug 2 Brock Sauer
Aug 2 Zeke Zuberbuhler
Aug 3 Lori Douglas
Aug 3 Sydney Schulte
Aug 4 Holli Johnson
Aug 4 Evan Komprood
Aug 8 Piper Stecklein
Aug 12 Connie Riley
Aug 13 Carly Lund
Aug 14 Kathy Zuberbuhler
Aug 16 Jean VanMatre
Aug 16 Ellie Hemming
Aug 17 Pam Gould
Aug 19 Joan Thompson
Aug 19 Jennifer Crist
Aug 19 Marilyn Carpenter
Aug 20 Landon Blaser
Aug 20 David Eaton
Aug 21 Summer Cohen
Aug 21 John McDaniel
Aug 21 Abby Lindsay
Aug 21 Carson Crist
Aug 21 Tim Kainz
Aug 21 Romeo Walter
Aug 23 Jeff McCarthy
Aug 23 Laura Fink
Aug 23 Val Smith
Aug 23 Hilary Lansing
Aug 25 Molly Whitford
Aug 25 Elizabeth Stecklein
Aug 26 Kynrk Johnson
Aug 26 Missy Watters
Aug 28 Ethan Schuchart
Aug 28 Nancy Fisker
Aug 29 Amber Richardson
Aug 30 Krista Blosch
Aug 31 Desi Cotter

Aug 2 Todd & Tammy Pettijohn
Aug 4 Steve & Val Smith
Aug 7 Kurt & Becky Cohen
Aug 8 John & Robin Steiner
Aug 11 Shane & Cathy Havens
Aug 14 Eric & Nancy Fisker
Aug 15 Edwin & Marion Stanton
Aug 17 Ted & Amy Thomas
Aug 17 Jim & Debbie Strutt
Aug 19 Rick & Cheryl Loken
Aug 22 Tim & Vickie Pratt
Aug 30 Scott & Lynnette Boatman
Aug 31 Ric & Donna Douglas

August Acolytes

Aug 2 Jake Fox
Frankie Smith

Aug 9 Rya Fitzsimons
Piper Ritchie

Aug 16 Chesne Fink
Cruz Fink

Aug 23 Cheyenne Elzen
Ryley Burbach

Aug 30 Coby Lancaster
Hendrix Lund

August Liturgists

Aug 2 D- Judy Whalen
F- Ron Ingwell

Aug 9 D- Joan Thompson
F- Pam Gould

Aug 16 D- Cindy Miller
F- Nicki Thorne

Aug 23 D- Kent Miehe
F- Dennis Wirth

Aug 30 D- Lori Allendorf
F- Ron Ingwell

August Ushers

Aug 2 Cathy Paulson
Beaver Paulson

Aug 9 Dick Allendorf
Tim Osterday

Aug 16 Tim Stover
Stephanie Stover

Aug 23 Tim Pratt
Vickie Pratt

Aug 30 Nick Zuberbuhler
Zeke Zuberbuhler

Sneak peak at Sept 6

Liturgist: D- Judy Whalen
F- Nicki Thorne

Ushers: Beaver Paulson
Cathy Paulson

Acolytes: Wheeler Douglas
Kynrk Johnson

COME Worship WITH US

August 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 **10th Sunday after Pentecost** 8:30 Worship in Fayette 10:00 Worship in Darlington	*3*	4 *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	5	*6* *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	*7*	*8*
9 **11th Sunday after Pentecost** 8:30 Worship in Fayette 10:00 Worship in Darlington	*10*	*11* *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	12	*13* *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	*14*	*15*
16 12th Sunday of Pentecost 8:30 Worship in Fayette 10:00 Worship in Darlington	17	18 *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	19	20 *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry* 6:00 Finance mtg. 6:30 Admin mtg.	21	**22**
23 **13th Sunday of Pentecost** 8:30 Worship in Fayette 10:00 Worship in Darlington	24	25 *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	26	27 *10-3 Darlington Food Pantry*	28	**29**
30 **14th Sunday of Pentecost** 8:30 Worship in Fayette 10:00 Worship in Darlington w/Backpack Blessing						