



# Darlington and Fayette United Methodist Churches May 2026



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## “Living as Easter People Every Day”

It has been nearly a month since we gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter morning. The lilies have faded, the hymns have quieted, and the decorations have been put away. But the question remains: how are we doing at living as Easter people?



Easter was never meant to be a single day or even a short season on the church calendar. It is a way of life. To be Easter people means to live every day in the presence of the risen Christ—to walk with Him, to listen for His voice, and to recognize Him at work in our lives. If we celebrate Easter with great joy but then return to a life that does not notice or respond to the living Christ, it is as if we have gone back to the tomb. But the good news is this: the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive—not just then, but now.

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared in many different ways—to Mary Magdalene in her grief, to the disciples behind locked doors in their fear, to Thomas in his doubt, and to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in their confusion. In each moment, Jesus met them where they were. And if He did that for them, why would He not do the same for us?

The truth is, Christ is already with us. Through the Holy Spirit and through the many means of grace—prayer, Scripture, worship, fellowship—He walks with us every day. He knocks at the door of our hearts again and again. When we fail to recognize Him, it is not because He is absent, but because we are not yet attentive.

Living as Easter people also means becoming a living presence of Christ for others. Jesus may not be physically present in the way He was with His disciples, but He is present through us—His body in the world. When we speak with kindness, act with compassion, and love without condition, we make the risen Christ known. Others come to see and experience Jesus through our lives.

We live in a world filled with uncertainty, confusion, and even despair. It can feel difficult to find signs of life, healing, joy, and peace. But as Easter people, we are first called to receive these gifts ourselves through the Spirit. And then, we are called to let them flow out from us to others—to those we know and those we meet along the way. When we truly live with Christ, others will sense it. They will feel the presence of God through us.

So let us not leave Easter behind. Let us carry it into every moment, every place, and every relationship. May we open our hearts to the living Christ each day—and may others come to know that He is alive through us.

Easter is not over. It is just beginning.

*Rev. Han Lee*



### Extra Giving from Offering Envelopes during the Month of April



- In Memory of Bernie McFarland given by Ric & Donna Douglas.

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 March.

Income	\$ 12,008.39
Expenses	- 13,661.80
Difference	(\$ 1,653.41)
<b>YTD 2026</b>	
YTD Income	\$ 36,097.91
YTD Expenses	- 37,816.73
YTD	(\$ 1,718.81)

**2026 Apportionment Total - \$26,484**  
 Paid YTD - \$1,671  
 Balance Left for 2026- \$ 24,813  
 Percentage paid - 6.31%

#### 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.



Classes are Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. – All Grades May 6-Last Day Have a great summer

**The Choir will be singing on Mother's Day, May 10. They will be on Summer Break after that until September.**



#### Save the Date!

#### Fayette Strawberry Social

Our Annual Fayette Strawberry Social is penciled in the calendar for **Wednesday, June 10**. Serving begins at 4:30 pm. The meal menu includes sandwiches, potato salad and more with Strawberries and Ice Cream for dessert. All items are individually priced and available A La Carte.





**On Sunday, May 17, we will celebrate the Graduation** of one High School student during worship. We give thanks for Mya Wiegel. Let's celebrate! her



**Mya Wiegel**

Daughter of Scott & Monica Wiegel. Mya plans to attend UW Stout in the fall to pursue a degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Development & Family Studies.

Mya's favorite church memories are Helping with the Monthly Community Burger Meals, and the Confirmation Retreat.



Wisconsin Annual Conference  
June 4 - 7, 2026

WWW.WISCONSINUMC.ORG



Baptized in April  
@ Fayette UMC



*Elena Lua Peterson*  
Daughter of  
*Kurt & Danielle Peterson*

*Drew Franklin Dillon- Peterson*  
Daughter of  
*Peter Peterson & Natalie Dillon*



## Annual Conference Ingathering

The Wisconsin Conference Disaster Response Team and Mission Motivation Committee have been working with Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). We will be collecting supplies until June 1. Please have your items to the church or Pastor Han by then.

Items Needed:

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
- 1 Bath Washcloth - No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush – No multipacks
- 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- 1 1-gal Re-sealable Plastic Bag

Home Care Kit

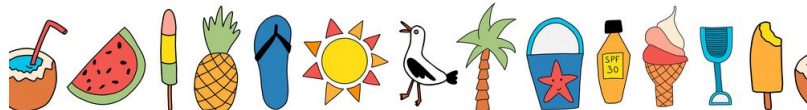
- 1 Liquid Household Cleaners (no spray bottles)
- 1 Dish Soaps—42-64 oz
- 1 Liquid Laundry Detergent 100-150 oz total
- 1 Scrub Brush– with or without handle
- 1 5 gal Round Bucket with a re-sealable lid

To provide a kit without shopping or sewing, bring a monetary donation to Annual Conference or send to: Wisconsin Conference of The UMC 750 Windsor Street, Suite 104 Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Please write check to: Wisconsin Conference add “Ingathering Home Care Kit” to memo line. Or go online <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/ingathering>.

All items must be NEW & placed in the one-gallon resealable plastic bag.

\$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag, per kit. Please give the donation to volunteers at Annual Conference, and do not place cash in the resealable plastic bag.



*Baptized*



*in the Name of Jesus*

*Baptized in April  
@ Darlington UMC*

*Carson Russell Long  
Son of  
Colton & Gina Long*



*We're excited to announce  
a new ministry:*

# DARLINGTON THRIFT STORE



Located at **339 E. Louisa Street**  
(church basement, entrance on Ohio Street),  
this volunteer-run store will give  
gently used items new life, offer  
affordable goods to families, and  
pour all proceeds back into our  
community.



**This is more than a store—  
it's a mission.**

We invite you to partner with us  
by volunteering, donating, or praying.



**VOLUNTEER**



**DONATE**



**PRAY**



*Join us for our*

## OPEN HOUSE

**MAY 14, 2026 | 4:00–6:00 PM**

## A Church Set on Fire

There's a moment in Acts of the Apostles that changes everything.

The disciples are gathered – uncertain, waiting, not quite sure what comes next. Then the Holy Spirit arrives like a rushing wind. Flames appear above their heads. They begin speaking in different languages. And suddenly, a small, fearful group becomes a bold, outward-moving community of faith.

That moment – what we now celebrate as Pentecost – isn't just about spectacle. It's about empowerment.

God's Spirit didn't come simply to comfort the disciples. It came to send them.

And what happened next? The message of God's grace spread. Rapidly. Powerfully. Person to person. Community to community. The church was born not as a building, but as a movement of people sharing what they had received.

That same pattern continues today.

God pours grace into our lives – not so we can hold onto it, but so we can participate in passing it along. Our generosity becomes one of the primary ways that happens. Every act of giving – whether to support worship, outreach, missions, or care for those in need – becomes part of how the Spirit continues to move through the church and into the world.

In many ways, generosity is one of the clearest signs that the Spirit is still at work.

Because generosity is never just about dollars. It's about trust. It's about participation. It's about joining God in what God is already doing.

On that first Pentecost, the disciples didn't keep the good news to themselves. They couldn't.

And when the Spirit is at work in us, we can't help but do the same.

*Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*



Scrip sales cost you nothing and provide support for our church. The UMW sells Scrip cards: gift cards to over 750 retailers. These cards are sold to you at face value, costing you nothing more than you would normally spend. They are purchased through a discount, yielding a small profit for the church.

You can place an order with Sheila Kelly at [kellysheila87@gmail.com](mailto:kellysheila87@gmail.com) or 608-482-1141. You can even purchase scrip on-line for immediate arrival of your printable gift cards at <https://www.raiseright.com/> Thank you Sheila for your hard work directing this important fund raising program!

## Using Endowments Faithfully And Effectively

Endowments are one of the most powerful tools a church has to extend its ministry beyond the present moment. But how they are structured – and how they are used – matters deeply.

Not all endowments are meant to function the same way. In fact, understanding why an endowment exists is the key to using it well.

### 1. Spend-Down Endowments: Maximizing Impact Now

A “spend-down” endowment is designed to be used over time until the funds are gone. This approach is often the best fit when:

- \* The total amount is relatively small (where long-term distributions would be minimal)
- \* The opportunity for impact now outweighs preserving funds for later
- \* The gift was designated for a specific purpose (e.g., building projects, land purchases, major repairs)

For example, a \$15,000 endowment that produces \$50/month in a perpetual model may have far greater ministry impact if used more fully over a shorter period.

Spend-down endowments allow churches to:

- \* Respond to immediate ministry opportunities
- \* Address pressing needs
- \* Honor specific donor intent in a timely way

This approach reflects a simple truth: sometimes the most faithful stewardship is not preservation – it’s action.

### 2. Perpetual Endowments: Sustaining Ministry for Generations

A perpetual endowment is designed to last indefinitely. In this model, churches typically distribute 3-6% annually of the fund’s value (often based on the end of the year or a rolling average). Distributions can be structured as:

- \* A single annual disbursement
- \* Quarterly payments
- \* Monthly support

This approach is ideal when:

- \* The goal is long-term, ongoing ministry support
- \* The fund is large enough to generate meaningful annual income
- \* The purpose requires consistency (e.g., scholarships, mission funding, housing allowances)

For example, housing allowance endowments are almost always perpetual, ensuring ongoing support for pastoral leadership.

Perpetual endowments allow churches to:

- \* Create stability in funding
- \* Support ministry year after year
- \* Build a legacy that continues beyond current leadership

3. Honoring Purpose and Authority How an endowment is used is not simply a matter of preference – it is guided by both legal and ethical responsibility.

There are two primary ways distributions are determined:

A. Donor Designation (often through a will or estate gift) If a donor specifies how funds through are to be used through a will and the church accepts the gift, that designation must be honored. It cannot be changed later.

B. Church Leadership Oversight If no specific designation exists, the responsibility typically falls to the church’s Trustees (unless another structure has been formally established). This allows the church to align endowment use with current ministry priorities. This is especially true when endowment funds come from sources such as the church’s savings, the sale of land, or a capital campaign. In these cases, the Trustees, in consultation with church leadership, determine the purpose, designation, and distribution of the endowment.

4. Choosing the Right Approach

Many churches have multiple endowments—and they don’t all need to function the same way.

A healthy strategy often includes:

- \* Spend-down funds for short-term opportunities or specific projects
- \* Perpetual funds for long-term sustainability and legacy giving

The key question isn’t just “How much do we have?”

It’s “*What is this fund meant to accomplish?*”

Final Thought

Just as the Spirit empowered the early church at Pentecost to move outward in mission, endowments are one of the ways today’s churches can continue that movement – both now and into the future.

When used thoughtfully, they become more than financial tools.

They become instruments of ongoing ministry, generosity, and grace.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact: Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at 608-837-9582 or [jason@wumf.org](mailto:jason@wumf.org).

**With our Sympathy**

We mourn with our community the passing of  
**Brian Lund**  
**His Daughter**  
 Carly Lund  
 323 Galena St  
 Darlington, WI 53530



WHEN SOMEONE  
 you love becomes a  
*memory*  
 THOSE MEMORIES  
 BECOMES A  
*treasure*

*Darlington & Fayette United Methodist Churches*

**DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR MAY 2026**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
5/01/26	Hebrews 10:19-23	Jesus – The Way to the Father
5/02/26	John 14:1-7	Jesus – The Way to the Father
5/03/26	John 14:8-14	Jesus – One With the Father
5/04/26	John 1:1-4	Jesus – From the Beginning
5/05/26	II Corinthians 4:1-6	Jesus Christ – the Image of God
5/06/26	Ecclesiastes 5:1-7	Stand in Awe of God
5/07/26	Psalms 66	God – Prayer – Love
<b>(National Day of Prayer)</b>		
5/08/26	Acts 17:22-31	Apostle Paul Preaches—"An Unknown God"
5/09/26	I Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for Doing Good
5/10/26	John 14:15-21	Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit
<b>(Mother's Day)</b>		
5/11/26	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	The Lord Will Provide ("Jehovah-Jireh")
5/12/26	I Peter 4:12-14	Suffering for Being a Christian
5/13/26	I Peter 5:6-11	Humility – Anxiety - Faith
5/14/26	Mark 16:15-20	Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven
<b>(Ascension Day)</b>		
5/15/26	Acts 1:1-14	Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven
5/16/26	Luke 24:44-53	Ascension of Jesus Into Heaven
5/17/26	John 17:1-11	Jesus Prays for Himself and His Disciples
<b>(Ascension Sunday)</b>		
5/18/26	Numbers 11:24-30	The Lord's Spirit Upon Elders
5/19/26	Psalms 104:24-35	The Lord – the Creator
5/20/26	John 20:19-23	Jesus Appears to His Disciples
5/21/26	Romans 12:1-8	Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5/22/26	I Corinthians 12:1-13	Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5/23/26	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost
5/24/26	John 7:37-39	Living Water – Holy Spirit
<b>(Day of Pentecost)</b>		
5/25/26	Ephesians 1:13-14	Sealed by the Holy Spirit
5/26/26	Psalms 8	The Works and Majesty of God
5/27/26	Job 38:1-12	God's Power As Creator
5/28/26	Proverbs 8:22-36	Wisdom's Role in Creation
5/29/26	Genesis 1:1-2:4	The Story of Creation
5/30/26	II Corinthians 13:11-14	Aim for Unity and Peace
5/31/26	Matthew 28:16-20	The Great Commission

(Trinity Sunday)



*Darlington & Fayette United Methodist Churches*

**WOMEN OF THE BIBLE WEEKDAY READING PLAN FOR MAY 2026**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
__5/1/26	II Chronicles 11:18-23	King Rehoboam married Mahalath (daughter of Jerimoth and Abihail.)
__5/4/26	II Chronicles 29:1-11	Abijah—mother of King Hezekiah of Judah.
__5/5/26	II Chronicles 35:20-27	Women singers are part of the lament over the death of King Josiah.
__5/6/26	Ezra 10:9-19	Israelite men repent for marrying foreign women.
__5/7/26	Nehemiah 6:10-16	The prophetess Noadiah was among those opposing Nehemiah.
__5/8/26	Nehemiah 13:23-31	Men of Judah marrying foreign women.
__5/11/26	Esther Chapter 1	Queen Vashti is dethroned by the King.
__5/12/26	Esther Chapter 2	Esther (Hadassah) chosen as Queen of Persia.
__5/13/26	Esther Chapter 3	Evil Haman plots to kill all the Jewish people - men, women and children.
__5/14/26	Esther Chapter 4	Mordecai (Esther’s cousin) asks for Queen Esther’s help.
__5/15/26	Esther Chapter 5	Queen Esther courageously approaches King Xerxes (Ahasuerus).
__5/18/26	Esther Chapter 6	Haman’s wife (Zeresh) predicts his ruin.
__5/19/26	Esther Chapter 7	Queen Esther exposes Haman who is then hanged.
__5/20/26	Esther Chapter 8	Queen Esther receives permission to write a decree for Jewish to defend themselves.
__5/21/26	Esther Chapter 9	Queen Esther - origin of holiday of Purim.
__5/22/26	Esther Chapter 10	Queen Esther’s cousin Mordecai becomes second in rank to King Xerxes(Ahasuerus.)
__5/25/26	Job 2:1-10	Job’s wife tells him to curse God and die.
__5/26/26	Job chapter 42	The beautiful daughters of Job.
__5/27/26	Psalms 45	The King’s bride.
__5/28/26	Psalms 68:24-26	The King’s procession includes maidens playing tambourines.
__5/29/26	Psalms 78:56-72	No weddings for maidens at a time of God’s wrath.



<b>NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE READING PLAN SCHEDULE – MAY 2026</b>		
(Schedule-Read one chapter <b>each weekday</b> to complete the New Testament in one year.)		
<u>End of Week (Saturday)</u>	<u>Chapters Completed</u>	<u>Check-off</u>
May 2	John 19	_____
May 9	Acts 3	_____
May 16	Acts 8	_____
May 23	Acts 13	_____
May 30	Acts 18	_____

*(Progress Milestone: 107 chapters read – 41% of the New Testament)*

**May Lectionary**

*May 3*  
**5th Sunday of Easter**  
 Proverbs 4:10-18  
 Psalm 119:9-32  
 1 Peter 2:2-10  
 John 14:1-14

*May 10*  
**6th Sunday of Easter**  
 Ezekiel 34:1-7  
 Psalm 115  
 1 Peter 3:13-22  
 John 14:15-21

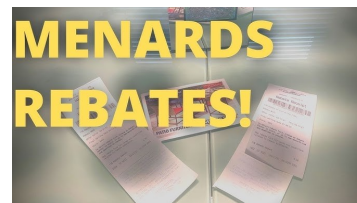
*May 17*  
**Ascension Sunday**  
 Isaiah 45:1-7  
 Psalm 21:1-7  
 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
 John 17:1-11

*May 24*  
**Pentecost / Heritage Sunday**  
 Numbers 11:24-30  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
 John 7:37-39

*May 31*  
**Trinity Sunday**  
 Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20

**Helping the Church**

Feel called to help out the church but can't figure out a way to do it..... Do you shop at Menards??? If you do then consider keeping your rebates for the church. If you don't send them in and want to donate, either send them to the Church, attention Vickie Pratt, Treasurer, or drop them in the collection plate. They can use your donated reward dollars to purchase supplies.  
**THANK YOU.**





*Just a friendly reminder...*

**Church Use Reminder**  
 We invite you to use our nursery room during church service.  
 We also have rooms available in the Education Building and church, should you want to host a meeting or gathering. Please contact the office to reserve.  
**As always, we ask that you kindly pick up after use and leave the rooms as you found them. Thank you**



- May 1 Kathleen Mathias
- May 1 Judy Whalen
- May 1 Cameron Schwoob
- May 1 Monica Wiegel
- May 1 Audrey Gould
- May 3 Lisa Carpenter
- May 3 Margie Stephenson
- May 4 Robert M. Gould
- May 4 Ethan Hendrickson
- May 4 Tyler Smith
- May 5 Anne Gratz

- May 5 Donna Douglas
- May 5 Belle Watters
- May 6 Steph Hanewall
- May 8 Fritz Hanewall
- May 9 Andrew Fitzsimons
- May 9 Jerry Paisley
- May 11 Kurt Cohen
- May 11 Mary Paisley
- May 12 Rick Loken
- May 14 Dave Calvert
- May 15 Kyle Calvert
- May 15 Kori Hemming
- May 16 Heather Fitzsimons
- May 16 Tanner Havens
- May 16 Dixie Davis
- May 17 Lexie Zee
- May 17 Olivia Schulte

- May 17 Kari Boatman
- May 18 Penelope Bailey
- May 19 Hayden Hardyman
- May 19 Becky Upmann
- May 20 Cedric Flesher
- May 20 Lori Allendorf
- May 21 Jeremy Gould
- May 21 Cheryl Chiaverotti
- May 26 Mandi Nyffenegger
- May 26 Laura Smith
- May 27 Dianne Evans
- Mar 27 Carter Andrews
- Mar 27 Lydia Andrews
- May 28 Kent Mieke
- May 28 Sadie Goebel
- May 29 John Steiner
- May 30 Kalee Crist



- May 2 Kevin & Deb Quinn
- May 9 Tom & Laurie Mathias
- May 10 Mark & Ashley Gossens
- May 11 Tommy & Julie Davis
- May 14 George & Mary Gould
- May 14 Michael & Rose Gould
- May 17 Ray & Jean VanMatre
- May 19 Jerry & Judy Lindsay
- May 19 Alex & Trisha Douglas
- May 21 Al & Barb Nemec
- May 23 Dave & Cathy Calvert
- May 24 Jeff & Karri McCarthy
- May 28 Mike & Tammy Reichling
- May 31 Dick & Lori Allendorf

May Liturgists

- May 3 D- Judy Whalen  
F- Lance Lansing
- May 10 D- Joan Thompson  
F- Pam Gould
- May 17 D- Kent McConnell  
F- Ron Ingwell
- May 24 D- Kent Mieke  
F- Dennis Wirth
- May 31 D- Lori Allendorf  
F- Ron Ingwell

May Ushers

- May 3 Cathy Paulson  
Beaver Paulson
- May 10 Dick Allendorf  
Tim Osterday
- May 17 Nick Zuberbuhler  
Zeke Zuberbuhler
- May 24 Brooke Douglas  
Gracie Douglas
- May 31 Tim Pratt  
Vickie Pratt



May Acolytes

- May 3 Wheeler Douglas  
Kynrk Johnson
- May 10 Rya Fitzsimons  
Piper Ritchie
- May 17 Chesne Fink  
Cruz Fink
- May 24 Cheyenne Elzen  
Ryley Burbach
- May 31 Coby Lancaster  
Hendrix Lund

Sneak peak at June 7

- Liturgist: D- Judy Whalen  
F- Lance Lansing
- Ushers: Beaver Paulson  
Cathy Paulson
- Acolytes: Wheeler Douglas  
Kynrk Johnson



# COME Worship WITH US

# May 2026



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1 2

3 **5th Sunday of Easter**  
**Communion**  
 8:30 Worship in Fayette  
 10:00 Worship in Darlington w/ Baptism of Dawson Stecklein

4  
 5 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**  
 10:30 Pastor Worship at Manor

6 **Last Night**  
 6:00 Religious Education  
 7:00 Choir Practice

7 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**

8

9



10 **6th Sunday of Easter**  
 8:30 Worship in Fayette  
 9:00 Choir Practice  
 10:00 Worship in Darlington w/v Choir

11

12 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**

13

14 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**

15

16

Pastor on Vacation  
 May 18-27

17 **Ascension Sunday**  
**Graduation Sunday**  
 8:30 Worship in Fayette  
 10:00 Worship in Darlington

18

19 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**

20

21 **10-3 Darlington Food Pantry**

22

23



24 **Day of Pentecost**  
**Sub Preacher**  
 8:30 Worship in Fayette  
 10:00 Worship in Darlington

25

26

27

28

29

30

31 **Communion**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
 8:30 Worship in Fayette  
 10:00 Worship in Darlington