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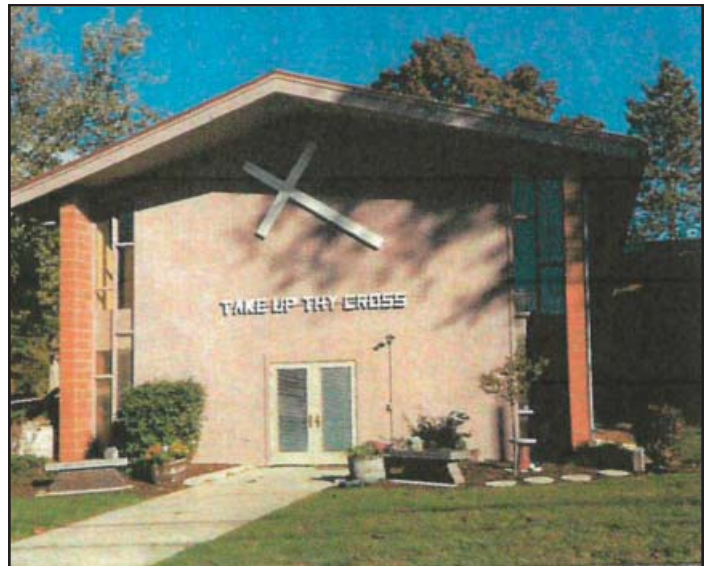
Merrimac United Methodist Church

November-December 2017

IT'S A NEW DAY – IT'S A NEW LOOK

Our church had a facelift in the past few weeks. It's been some time since it was painted and now the job is done during this beautiful time of the year.

A special thanks to everyone involved.



The front of the church – main entrance facing School Street

The south entrance to the church parlor and Sunday school rooms facing Church Street

Merrimac United Methodist Church
Pastor Roxi Gnatzig – 608- 415-1626

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Roxi Gnatzig

200 Lu Foster Lane
Merrimac, WI 53561
608-415-1626

If you would like to meet with Pastor Roxi, please stop by the church on Mondays or Tuesdays or call or email. She will also make home visits. Please let her know of your needs.

Church Council

Chairperson:

Jim Kratzke

Chair of Pastor/Parish:

Pat Gallus

Chair of Trustees:

Tom Gallus

Treasurer:

Debbie Breneman

Secretary:

Chris Blau

Chair of Finance

Bob Garrison

Chair of Stewardship

Vacant

UMW President:

Charlotte Olson

Chair of Worship:

Vacant

Chair of Missions and Nurture:

Debbie Breneman

Christian Education

Barb Jasper

Young Adult Representative:

Jenna Zurbuchen

Lay Leader:

Greg Zurbuchen

Member at Large:

Charlene Kratzke

**The Merrimac United
Methodist**

Church exists to help all people
know and experience the
saving grace found in
Jesus Christ, our LORD.



Bernie Pratt Family

Hank Felski

Rob Hopp

Michele Hopp & Family

Al Zurbuchen

Richard (Dick) Hermanson

Jim & Charlene Kratzke

Shelby Lemke & Family

Audrey Martin

Betty Senger

Lyla Schultz

Malmberg Family

John & Debbie Breneman

Bob Holum

If you have someone you wish to add to this list, please e-mail:

Pastor Roxi: pastorroxi@gmail.com

Charlotte Olson: char@merr.com



**This is the day
that the Lord
has made, let us
give thanks and
rejoice in it.**

***** ****

**A reminder to
Celebrate
December 25th.
GOD'S
GREATEST GIFT
CHRIST THE
SAVIOR IS BORN.**

***** ****

“Walks In His Ways” by Pastor Roxi - Nov/Dec 2017

You know what they say about "the best laid plans..?" Most of the answers to this question are not very positive. Well, I have been a planner. Last year at Thanksgiving, I set the table 2 weeks beforehand in my house. Then the day before Thanksgiving, I was informed that more would be coming that I wouldn't have room for, so everything had to be moved to the church instead. This example seems quite superficial compared to life's expectations, hopes and dreams. What areas of your life are not going as you planned? Where do we turn when our hopes are dashed, when we look at best-laid plans and see only shattered dreams.

When you think about it, we spend a lot of time making plans—for dinner, work, vacation, everything. Things usually work out as expected when we plan ahead, but some days just don't go as planned. We've all had days like that; no matter how well we planned and prepared, nothing worked out the way we intended. God's plans are always what's best for us. Our plans are shortsighted and easily collapse when just one detail fails. But God's plans are based on a firm foundation: his all knowing (omniscience) and promises to us. This gives us hope. Even though we may face adversity, we know that God sees the entire picture, and he will never leave us.

Recently, a Bible study was held at the parsonage on the book "Why?", by Adam Hamilton. Rev. Hamilton suggested that God's plan for us are just what God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Hamilton states that we aren't puppets on a string, but instead we have free will and make our own choices. God's plan for all is not to control every little detail of our lives, but instead to promise to be with us through all the days of our lives giving us hope and love. Adam states that if we make God accountable for all the good that happens, we may also blame or credit God for all the unhappy challenges we face. The thought that God is responsible for any harm is contrary to God's words in Jeremiah where he tells us his plans are for us to prosper and not be harmed.

Life can be cruel and try to discourage us when our plans don't go as we expected. The plans we have may not accomplish the hope and prosperity God wants for us. The reason for this may partly lie because our hearts are not in the right place. Proverbs 19:21 - "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand."

The lesson I have learned from being a diehard planner is to pray first before I even begin to plan. I have found that life has opened up new and spontaneous results with no expectations except for positive, loving experiences.

Peace in your Journey of Planning,
Pastor Roxi



CHURCH

Schedule of Events

Now through 2018
keep in mind there will be more
details prior to special events.

October 18, Wednesday

Women's Unit – lunch & movie
over 20 ladies attended.

BASH STARTS

with Barbara Jasper
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
after school, all welcome

Men's Breakfast Group

3rd Saturday each month
all welcome, Bruce 493-2695

November 12, Veterans Day

November 15, Wednesday

Women's Unit Dines Out - noon
Cookie Pack at 10:00

November 19, Sunday

Annual Women's Day

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Eve, 7:00
service & refreshments

December 13, Women's Unit

week early during the holidays

December 18, Monday

Christmas Nativity at ??????

December 24, Sunday
Christmas Service – 9:30

December 31

New Year's Eve Day
Happy New Year!!!

February 14, Valentine's Day

March 17, St Pat's Day

March 20, Spring is here!

March 25, Palm Sunday

March 30, Good Friday

April 1 - Happy Easter

May 13, Mother's Day

May 28, Memorial Day

June 10 – Sunday

VBS Kick-Off – 6:00 PM
(program-potluck)

Vacation Bible School

(The Teachings of Jesus)

Barbara Jasper Director
June 11-12-13 & 14

9:00 – Noon – all welcome!

June 14, Flag Day

June 17, Father's Day

June 21, Summer begins

July 4, Independence Day

August 4, all day

Merrimac Park Festival

September 3, Labor Day

September 22, Autumn Begins

October 8

**Native American Day &
Columbus Day**

October 31, Halloween

November 4, Daylight Savings

November 11 Veterans Day

November 22, Thanksgiving

November 21, Winter begins

December 25, Christmas

December 31, New Year's Eve

***** WELCOME *****

NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS

*we always have room for more
and everyone is welcome.*

***** ****

Praise for the

PRAISE BAND

1st & 3rd Sundays

Practice Saturday 6:30 p.m.

Greg 643-2039

gzurb@merr.com

***** ****

Acquire A Choir

We've done it before and it's back

BY POPULAR DEMAND

Contact Pastor Roxi.

***** ****

Visit our new

LIBRARY

September 30, 2017 Financial Update *by Bob Garrison, Treasurer*

January through September key numbers for general operations:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contributions/special events income	49,628	43,703
Expenses- general and special events	49,344	47,780
Net income (deficit) for general operations	284	-4,077

Checking account balance was \$7,991 and \$6,386 as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Contributions to other funds (building, benevolent, memorials, Sunday School, missions) totaled \$8,102 through September 2017 and \$7,495 through September 2016.

Your contributions of time, talent, gifts, and service are greatly appreciated. With our small church, volunteers' time and donations of food are often overlooked and taken for granted. Remember to thank each other for the generosity involved in making Merrimac UMC a giving and loving church.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

What to expect.

Your newsletter will be published quarterly with the following deadlines for any submissions including any photographs that will not be returned unless decided upon in advance.

December 10, 2017

February 10, 2018

May 10, 2018

August 10, 2018

Please keep in mind to submit any and all copy on time either by snail mail, or e-mail to me. Any questions, please e-mail, that is the best... to char@merr.com. If and when an event is a big deal, like Bible School that information could run more than 1 time, the sooner the better.

A Huge Thank You to Michele Hopp

for all she has done over the years to make

our newsletter happen. Because I know how to contact her (being an employee at merr.com going on 30 years and all) she knows I will be doing just that... thank God.

Your newsletter

The newsletters are sent via e-mail to most of our members and a few copies will be available in our narthex (entry way). Remember we will print a few extra this time so you can give a copy to potential newcomers.

How did I get this job? I have numerous reasons why I didn't need something else to add to my very busy life... and that's why I always say ...

Ladies – consider joining Our Women's Unit & Merrimac Women's Club

Both so worthwhile. Have questions or need information? e-mail me

*** **

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH the Greatest Gift of All, the Birth of Jesus our Savior and King

*** **

Merrimac UMC & Friends Donate to UMCOR for Victims of Recent Hurricanes in Texas, Florida & Puerto Rico

During September church services, a special offering was collected for victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Merrimac UMC sent \$1700 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to assist those in need. Through UMCOR, 100% of the money goes to help the people whose lives were disrupted. A local restaurant, H's Place, along with the Merrimac Jug Band, had a fund raiser on September 23 that raised \$365 of the total sent to UMCOR. Thanks to the "Jug Band" guys, Bruce Erickson, Dave Wells and Bob Garrison. Thanks to all who contributed!



SOLE HOPE

Seven ladies met and enjoyed a fellowship of tracing and cutting soles for shoes to be sent to Africa for children who are being affected by the invading jiggers from having no shoes as protection. The group has completed forms for making 10 pair of shoes. plan to meet again to make more shoe forms. The ladies who joined in this mission project were Pastor Roxi, Nellie Zurbuchen, Debbie Breneman, Chris Blau, Kathy Jacob, Bernadene Pratt and Bernadene's daughter-in-law, Vicky. We all put much heart into accomplishing this mission for children.

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH
the Greatest Gift of All, the Birth of Jesus our Savior and King**

-2018-

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Some Sunny Sunday School Someday?

...only God knows we have several youngsters among us because we've seen them out and about. The question is, how do we make contact, how do they learn what we have to offer?

When talking to our Sunday School Educational Director Barbara Jasper about "Sunday School" – "Bible School" and "BASH", we all realize her dedication and the months of preparation that goes into each facet of it all.

OK, we miss Michele Hopp's granddaughters lovingly referred to as "The Hopp Kids" as they followed her new path to serve God at the Methodist church in Arlington, and who wouldn't blame them and of course we miss Michele too.

Here's the run down. For now, Sunday school is on hold. BASH (Bible Activity Study Hour) starts October 2 and runs the 1st. and 3rd. Mondays following. This is a special time for all children from K – 5th. grade from 3:00 – 5:00 in the church parlor. This runs during the school year and in the spring Barbara with the help of many provides 4 days of Bible School.

We are happy to mention how many volunteers

of all ages come together to make each year beautiful and memorable. Some help in person, some provide treats and some help financially during this 4-day period with 3 dozen or more youngsters from throughout Merrimac and beyond like grandchildren living in other communities. One year our niece visiting here from Rapid City, South Dakota attended Bible School and after 11 years, still talks about it.

Any questions... contact our Pastor Roxi – 493-2774 or (608) 415 1626, Barbara at 438-3839 or Charlotte Olson char@merr.com.

**Let's be on a mission to invite
people to come and check us out.**

Where do you – or could you come in.

Everybody knows somebody somewhere. You have young neighbors, your friends have children and grandchildren. In the past we have had several teenagers who assisted with games, teaching and their ideas.

Take a moment and tell them about us. Tell them to come and check us out. We continue to obtain new members and we have room for many more.

-Happy Holidays - Merry Christmas & a Christmas Pageant Monday, December 18 - details to follow

Bruce England tells us there will be a Christmas Pageant to tell the greatest story ever told. Stories and songs from the Bible and scenes presented by the young people in the area converting the altar area of the church into a stage to show the scenes described in the Bible.

There will be Christmas Carols sung by the choir

to enhance the spirit of the season. Your prayers for the Lord's guidance in the presentation of this depiction of the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ as encouraged.

During the next weeks, we will be looking for five people who could help as stage hands during the performance. We are also looking for 16 young people to fill the parts of shepherds, wise men, angels and the Holy Family.

If you are willing to help or know of young persons who would like to be a part of this presentation, please contact Bruce England as soon as possible. God Bless You ALL!!

Bruce England
608-434-2695 or 493-2337

Merrimac United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 254, Corner of School/Church St.

Merrimac, WI 53561

608-493-2774

www.MerrimacUMC.org

Address correction requested

Sunday Worship: Experience God!

- Worship Time 9am

Come as You Are & Bring a Friend!

