

July - August 2016

Greetings from Egypt!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 1-4, 1-4 p.m.

By Barbiepatra (aka Barb Jasper)

I have traveled many rivers to arrive in Merrimac, WI. I want to invite you to bring the entire family on a trip of a lifetime on August 1 to August 4! We will travel back into Bible times without setting foot outside of our community on an adventure on the Nile River. "Spend a while on the Nile!"

Each day, your family members can become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Pharaoh's empire! You will visit authentic market place shops, and visit Joseph, who is in Pharaoh's prison and then gets promoted to Pharaoh's palace! We will dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about how God was with Joseph in good times and bad! These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for ALL who participate.

What was it like to be a slave in Bible times? How did they make mummies? What happened to Joseph with the colorful coat? Did you know that Egypt was all about the BLING? These questions and others will be answered as we follow Joseph's journey from "Prison to Palace."

In our authentic market place, our shopkeepers are only the finest available to a king. We will include a "Barber and Beauty Shop" and our stylists will be braiding hair and applying make-up, and this includes the male gender! In the "Jewelry Shop" we will be making jeweled neck collars. Our "Brick Maker" will be available every day to teach us how to make the bricks and build a pyramid! We will actually be making mud bricks. There's also a Toy Shop, Artist's Workshop, Basket Weaving, and the most intriguing, "Embalmer's Workshop!!" It's all about the mummy!! And I can't forget the games and food!

This year the theme is "Family." All ages are welcome, but we need "Family Leaders," six to be exact. We also need eight "Shopkeepers," and a whole bunch of other helpers. Please sign up at church, or call Pastor Roxi for more information at 608-415-1626.

Each day, adults and children will leave Egypt with a fresh understanding of what it was like to be a "God Follower" in a "Godless" culture. And more importantly that GOD gives us a family.

Please join us on our Holy Land Adventure. I look forward to our journey. Join us as we "spend a while on the Nile!!"



**"Spend Awhile
on the Nile!"**

**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**

August 1-4

(Monday-Thursday)

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug 4
6:00 p.m.**

*Families enjoy a dinner
put on by the students!*

**Merrimac United
Methodist Church**

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:

Michele Hopp

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

Bruce England

UMW President:

Char Olson

Chair of Worship:

Mike Scott

Chair of Missions and Nurture:

Debbie Breneman

Communications Team Leader:

Jody Scott

Christian Education

Barb Jasper

Young Adult Representative:

Jenna Zurbuchen

Lay Leader:

Greg Zurbuchen

Member at Large:

Char Kratzke

The Merrimac United
Methodist

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



Please lift up our friends with prayers, cards, letters and calls:

George & Betty Senger

Pearl Rojas

Dick Pratt

Beich Family

Shelby Lemke

Joe Raschka family

Bruce England

Audrey Martin

Pat Gallus

Betty Wandry

Rob Hopp

Charlene Kratzke

Don & Teri Higgason

Candy Adams

Strength & protection for all those who are being bullied or persecuted.
Guidance for graduates & security for all students during the summer.



SALTY STRINGS

On Memorial Sunday, John and Connie Nickolaus, also known as the "Salty Strings" music duo, led our worship service. They played several musical instruments, and talked about their faith. John and Connie sold all of their possessions and live in a small trailer. They go where God calls them to go, doing volunteer mission work. They are modern day disciples!

Brats & Prayers

By Char Kratzke



Dave Wells & Chris Blau serve up delicious brats at Piggly Wiggly

Brats and prayers became a reality at the Merrimac UMC brat stand at Piggly Wiggly in Sauk City last year. The Brat Stand set up went very well and we were ready early. At about 8:45 a.m. a truck approached rapidly and a man rushed out saying, "I need food!"

Then he said, "Oh, I bet it is too early."

We told him we had food ready. He then told us his 18 year old daughter had just passed away due to complications during surgery. She sounded like an exceptional person who was to be a freshman at UW Madison.

We asked if he would like prayer and he said yes. We all felt the presence of God. It set the tone for the day and we were able to pray with seven other people.

Another day at the brat stand also brought people that asked for prayer. One of those people was a man who wanted prayer for his family and his young children. He had a difficult cancer and had run out of options and was concerned about what would happen to his children.

We will again be at the Piggly Wiggly in Sauk City on August 12 and 13 and again on September 9 and 10. The brat stand is more than serving food but rather a ministry to let others know of God's love and caring. We set up at 8:30 a.m. and serve hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chips and pop. We normally sell until about 4:00 p.m. or until we run out.

We will be ready to answer any requests for prayer. Let's have a God-inspired event! We will need your help. Please sign up using the sheet at church, or you can call Char Kratzke at 643-8979.



Piggly Wiggly **BRAT STAND**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
**August 12 & 13
September 9 & 10
9:00-4:00 p.m.**

*Volunteers
Needed!*

Char Kratzke
643-8979



Every Monday night, at the Merrimac UMC from 5:30 - 6:30, friends and neighbors gather to enjoy a free meal. Please join us!

God Humor

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun wrote a note and posted it on the apple tray, "Take only ONE, God is watching."



Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



"Change for a Change"

Bring your loose change to church to make a change in the world!

JULY MISSION Kairos Outside

Support a mission that ministers to women who have an incarcerated family member.
www.mykairos.com

AUGUST MISSION Kids of the Church

Support Sunday School & B.A.S.H programs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please join us

for Worship every Sunday at 9 a.m.

1st Sunday – Communion – all are welcome to partake.

1st and 3rd Sunday – Twelve:29 leads worship music

2nd and 4th Sunday – Piano accompaniment

5th Sunday – Hymn Sing

Monday Evenings - It's All Good Cafe - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m

1st Monday: 7 p.m. – S/PRC Meeting (Closed)

2nd Monday: 7 p.m. – Trustee Meeting

3rd Monday: 7 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Last Monday: 7 p.m. – Women Encouraging Action, Vision and Empowerment (WEAVE)

Tuesdays: 7 p.m. – eMERGE (Merrimac Emmaus Reunion Group Eagles) Accountability Group

3rd Wednesday: Noon – United Methodist Women

3rd Saturday Morning: 8 a.m. – Men of Faith Breakfast

SPECIAL EVENTS

July

JULY 3 (SUNDAY) Merrimac Fireworks, at dusk, S7116 Bluff Rd

JULY 17 (SUNDAY) Brat Sale by Ferry, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

JULY 17 (SUNDAY) Family Movie Time "Joseph King of Dreams"
4-6 p.m.

JULY 31 (SUNDAY) Outdoor Worship Service 9 a.m.

August

AUGUST 1-4 (MON.-THURS.) Vacation Bible School 1-4 p.m.
Celebrate "Joseph's Journey" to Egypt

AUGUST 6 (SATURDAY) The Sozo Kids Superhero Fun Run & Community Festival, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Merrimac Memorial Park

AUGUST 12 & 13, SEPT. 9 & 10 (FRI. & SAT.) Brat Sales at Piggly Wiggly, Sauk City, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

AUGUST 27 (SATURDAY) Chicken BBQ 4-7 p.m.

AUGUST 28 (SUNDAY) Outdoor Worship Service 9 a.m.

Do you have articles, stories, event info or photos to share? Contact Michele Hopp at hopp@merr.com or 608-370-4216

REFLECTIONS of the Way Life Used To Be

by Charlotte Olson

In our last issue, I ended with a quote from the late writer August Derleth and this time I'll start with one. "If you don't toot your own horn, no one is going to toot it for you." While remembering Augie's words I couldn't help thinking about how much our cute little church has to toot about.

Perhaps you aren't aware of some of the things that take place here or simply forgot a couple. In any case, the list goes like this: our newsletter, of course, six times a year, Sunday service at 9:00 & Sunday school, Communion on the 1st Sunday, BASH & Bible School, Praise Band plus other shared talent, monthly missions, annual park festival participation, annual chicken barbeques, Monday eves at the All Good Café, area brat sales, car washes, junk-in-your-trunk sales, ecumenical Thanksgiving eve services, the Red Bag project with our community, Christmas stocking project and our women's and men's units to name a few.

A lot to "toot" about with a small but mighty congregation.

Back in the day in 1839, 177 years ago already, a circuit-riding, Methodist preacher, J. Crummell came to the Merrimack area to preach a message from God to the people of this community. According to records, *** Pastor Roxi is the 72nd preacher *** and today we continue to grow. Pastor Anita Genrich once said, "We have a faithful God who has not let the spark die, but has instead fanned the spark to produce a strong, burning flame." She went on to say,

"The Merrimac United Methodist Church is a visible witness for the community, affirming that our lives have purpose and hope as designed by our Creator."

Going on some 130 years ago the Merrimack community was able to erect a building on the corner of School and Church Streets.

In 1961, fast forward to Friday the 13th day of October. A bolt of lightning struck the church around 2:30 a.m. and it was completely destroyed by fire. The fire could not be stopped, the dry match-like timbers were some 100 years old and even though firefighters from Baraboo and Sauk City assisted our crew, the fire could not be stopped.

The old bell was salvaged and is used today. The basement and some dishes, communion ware, baptismal bowl, tables and chairs were saved also. The pews, organ, chancel furniture and stove were lost. The insurance company paid \$12,000.00 and the building and its contents were valued at twice that amount, or \$25,000.00.

Both concern and enthusiasm ran high while many other churches and individuals expressed their concern and gave of their money and labor to rebuild while services were held at the school.

There are no strangers here...just friends we haven't met yet.



A Bear Brings Love

By Char Kratzke

Merrimac United Methodist Church shares God's love through a Bear Ministry. The bears arrive at our church where they hear the word of God and receive love from our parishioners during worship services. We love a bear, hug a bear, and then take a bear to anyone who needs comfort. The bears are all donated, cleaned, repaired and tagged.

The bears have gone far and wide, even outside of the country. After receiving a bear, some people have even started Bear Ministries in their own churches. Sometimes we hear from people who have received a bear and learn what it has meant to them. Mary Belka was one of those people. She was so appreciative of the prayer bear! She said it made her smile, knowing that it was given through a prayer ministry. She was so appreciative that mailed a thank you card that included a check to be used for the Bear Ministry or the Food Pantry. We gave it to the Food Pantry so that the original love that was given could keep on sharing.

You never know what your kind words and actions of love can do. Share a bear!

LOCAL SERVICES

Merrimac Ecumenical Food Pantry & Crisis Program

Exists to help people in the community in urgent need of food, gas, & essential support.

If you need help, please call:
Pastor Roxi: 415-1626
Pastor Lil: 493-2640

Food Pantry is located at
607 Main St, Merrimac
Please call for an appointment.

St. Vincent de Paul Community Resource Center

1906 North St, Prairie du
Sac, 608-643-4749

Good Neighbor Clinic

Free medical care to people who have no insurance & are financially eligible.

Mondays & Wednesdays
1-5 p.m.

No appointment needed!

95 Lincoln Ave
Prairie du Sac, WI
608-643-4749

Dental Services

Offered free to individuals who have no insurance and are financially eligible

Appointments preferred.

Mondays 1-5 p.m.
1906 North St
Prairie du Sac, WI
608-644-0504

"Walks in His Ways"

The Junk Drawer

Luke 6:45-"The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

Do you need some tape, extra keys, pens or paper clips? Just look in the junk drawer. I realized that every time I moved to another home, I simply moved the junk drawer from one house to another; it was easier that way. If there were ever an extra nail, paper clip, safety pin, pen or penny, it was thrown into the junk drawer. When I cleaned up the counters and dining room table, anything that would fit would be stored in that drawer. While some of the stuff was useful, most of it could have been thrown away a long time ago. It was simply a hidden clutter. How many times have you been determined to organize, but the time just wasn't convenient? How many times have you sorted through your junk drawer, and realized how quickly you filled it up again?

This made me think about my relationship with God. Many times my mind became so cluttered, that my priorities were out of order. I may have even realized this, but it was easier to put it aside and forget about it just like things in the junk drawer. Some days it was easy to postpone my devotions or even forget them altogether. Yet I have to admit that I seldom forgot to watch a favorite television show.

What are you storing up in your heart? Good things? Useless things? Thoughts of worry, anger or resentment? Are you carrying around habits that would be better thrown out with the rest of the trash? Has it been a while since you've taken inventory of your life?

I decided to take out my junk drawer and sort through it. I found many treasures and put everything in its proper place and threw some away in the trash where they belonged. This led to the organizing of my cupboards and closets as well. I completed this task for now, but I know that the clutter will build up again. Tomorrow, I made a promise to begin again on myself. Maybe, if needed, you will do the same for as many times as it takes to continue building a strong relationship with God.

A blessing for always being a work in progress,

Pastor Roxi





Merrimac Fireworks

Sunday, July 3rd

Rain Date Monday, July 4

Gate opens at 5 p.m.
Fireworks held at dusk

\$7116 Bluff Rd

\$3.00 Per Car Load

*Sponsored by
Merrimac Fire & Rescue*

LOCAL SERVICES

My Neighbor in Need

A free service to low income people in need of such things as furniture, household items, transportation, plumbing, etc.

608-843-8905

www.saukprairie.myneighborinneed.org

Hope House

Free information & counseling for victims & families of domestic abuse, sexual assault.

24-Hour Confidential Helpline

1-800-584-6790

24-HOUR EMERGENCY CRISIS HOTLINES

Immediate counseling for people having thoughts of suicide

Sauk County

608-355-4200

Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. -4 p.m.

1-800-533-5692

After Hours

Columbia County

1-888-552-6642

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| 9-11 Sozo Kids' Superhero Fun Run
(Registration 9-10am, Event Start 10am) | 11-6 Horseshoe Tournament &
Brat/Hotdog Sales |
| 10-4 Sozo Kids' Creativity Tent | 11-5 Chicken Drop |
| 10-4 Art & Craft Fair/Popcorn Booth | 11-8 Food Vendor Sales |
| 10-8 Microbrewery Tent & Raffle Sales | 2-3 & 5-6 Water Ski Shows |
| 11-1 Chicken BBQ & Lunch Sales | 3-5 & 6-8 Music by Flip City |

Visit Facebook.com/MerrimacCommunityFestival for details.

"Building beautiful parks for our community"



Calling ALL Superheroes!
Sozo Kids' Superhero Fun Run
Saturday, August 6

Merrimac Memorial Park

Registration 9-10 a.m.

Event Start 10 a.m.

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!

A circular logo for the Merrimac UMC Annual Chicken BBQ. The logo has a red outer ring with the text "MERRIMAC UMC" in white. Inside the ring, the word "Annual" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below "Annual", the words "Chicken" and "BBQ" are written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font with a white outline. At the bottom of the circle, there is a stylized illustration of a yellow chicken.

Saturday, August 27
4-7 p.m.