

August 2026

Pastor Jim Cotter
Office Hours:
Monday & Thursday
Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Cell phone: 920-350-2625
Email: Jcotter356@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Kathy Raimer
Office hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 9-3 p.m.
Phone: (608) 981-2500
Email: tuparish@gmail.com



Website:
trinityunitedparish.org

Radio broadcast on
Sunday:
87.9 BUMC & MUMC

Briggsville UMC
PO Box 36
W8608 ST RD 23
Briggsville WI 53920

Moundville UMC
W5501 CO RD O
Endeavor WI 53930
Phone: 608-587-2725

Trinity United Parish

Jesus said to love God, love your neighbor and love yourself. We believe in doing all three.

From Pastor Jim:

A Temporary Change in Worship Format

Let me start with the conclusion: From September to December this year, we will worship in both Moundville and Briggsville each Sunday. Moundville worship will begin at 8:30. Briggsville worship will begin at 9:30. In December, we will give everyone an opportunity to vote on what format we want going forward. Written ballots with a space for one name will allow people to vote over two or three Sundays.

Other details about things such as Sunday School, nursery and fellowship time will be announced later. Our common ministries, like Friends in the Pantry, Church Chix, Prayerful Stitchers and Faithful Fellows will remain pretty much unchanged.

Now the background.

This is a decision by me, the pastor, as worship leader to try something for a period of time to see if it works better than our current rotating format. I have consulted the church councils and worship committee, but if you don't like this experiment, I am the person to blame.

This is a test.

It is a test to see if we can improve in our ability to connect with the community and our own people by using a different format.

Worshipping together is a joyous experience, and has been working for most people—but it hasn't been working for everyone.

There are some people for whom that extra 9 miles makes a difference, and some for whom the other building is just not "home." One formerly active member dropped out because going back and forth between buildings was confusing. Many have, by accident, wound up at the wrong building on a Sunday. Some have expressed to me that it is hard to invite new people to church because it is difficult to explain. Parking has become more difficult.

No one of the above challenges would be enough to warrant this test. Together they suggest that there may be a better way. After December, we may return to the way we have been doing worship—every other month at each building. Your collective input will determine the way we go in 2027.

I hope you will enter this test with a spirit of curiosity. Can we connect with more people by worshipping separately than by worshipping together? Can we share God's love more effectively? Can we be better neighbors in one format versus another?

I look forward to testing it out with you.

If you have questions or input, please feel free to contact me or members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Jane Severing and Jan Andres are co-chairs.

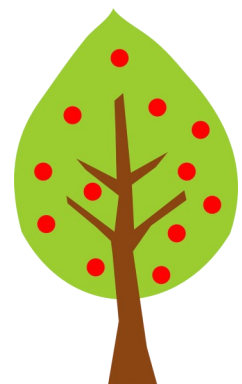


August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 am Communion Worship MUMC	3	4 Office Open	5 YOGA 9:30 am BUMC	6 Office Closed	7	8R Russell Family MUMC Brancel Family BUMC
Kathy on vacation						
Pastor Jim on vacation						
9 9:00 am Worship MUMC Kyburz Family Reunion MUMC noon-5	10 Heritage House Worship 10:00 am Worship Comm 3 pm MUMC	11 Prayerful Stitchers 1:00 pm Parsonage Office Closed	12 YOGA 9:30 am BUMC	13 Faithful Fellows 8:30 am BUMC Office Open	14 Office Open (?)	15
Kathy on vacation						
16 9:00 am Worship MUMC Liturgist & Greeter Training after worship	17 Game Day Snack Workshop 11:30 am MUMC	18	19 YOGA 9:30 am BUMC Community Potluck 4:30 pm MUMC	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship MUMC Food Ministry Meeting 10:30 am MUMC	24	25 Church Chix 8:30 am BUMC	26 YOGA 9:30 am BUMC	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship MUMC Animal Blessing	31					

Date	Liturgists	Greeters
August 2	Jen Shier	Deb Bagley & Donna Davis
August 9	Anne Oelke	Wayne and Jean Edwards
August 16	Norah Coppernoll	George Cairns & Tim Oemig
August 23	Linda Krueger	Darwin Barron & Janice Atkinson
August 30	Animal Blessing	Animal Blessing



Money Collectors: Carol Brancel & Jayme Roller

The Methodist Church As a Cooperative

The United Methodist Church is more like a cooperative than a franchise. I'm using business words because that may help explain our system a little bit. Since the late 1700s, Methodism in America has been run as a cooperative with the central authority resting with the bishop(s).

In the early days, it was the preachers that elected the bishops to guide and govern. Now laity are also elected from the local church to represent their congregations at Annual Conference and ultimately select Bishops and other leadership. In a cooperative, resources are shared for the good of all (at least that's the goal). The main resource in the United Methodist Church is leadership.

Pastors are shared among the congregations and laity are trained for various ministries in the congregations and beyond. The bishop and the bishop's cabinet deploy these resources. Pastors are not hired by the local congregation. They are appointed by the bishop. Other churches have more of a franchise model. For instance, Trinity United Church of Christ in Endeavor shares the United Church of Christ hymnal, educational resources and some other ministry resources with other United Church of Christ churches. However, they have to "call" their own pastor. The authority rests with the local congregation.

Whether a church is a cooperative or a franchise is not a decision a local church can make. It is baked into the DNA of how the church was founded. In our case, that means we are governed by the United Methodist Book of Discipline. State statutes back this up, specifically Wisconsin State Statute 187.15. There are advantages and disadvantages to cooperatives and franchises.

My own experience is that the United Methodist Church has given me accountability and guidance when I have needed it most. I have seen our cooperative system protect congregations from abusive clergy and laypersons. I have seen it find resources for leaders who wanted to serve in better ways. I have grown as part of a community of clergy with a common covenantal relationship. It is not a perfect system, but it has blessed my loyalty and rewarded my faithfulness. Thanks be to God.



Animal Blessing - Sunday, August 30

Our annual blessing of animals will take place in the Moundville parking lot at 9 a.m. on August 30. We will put out chairs from Fellowship Hall, but feel free to bring a different chair if you wish.

It will be a short worship service to accommodate our animal friends. In the past, we have mostly blessed dogs, but a cat, a rabbit and a heifer have all received a blessing, too.

Friends in the Pantry



Thirty attended the Pizza Pocket workshop.



GAME DAY SNACKS

 Friends in the Pantry

Monday August 17 11:30am

Moundville Church

Make and sample game day snacks

Bring your favorite appetizer and recipe to share **FREE** workshop

Friends in the Pantry

Monday July 6 Homesteading Basics

Briggsville 2pm Free workshop

Monday July 20 Bread Bake

Moundville come between 2-6pm

\$5 for three loaves you may bring your own pans

Monday August 17 Game Day Snacks

Moundville 11:30am - FREE make and sample game day snacks!
bring your favorite appetizer and recipe (no dips please)

Wednesday August 19 Community Picnic

Moundville church 4:30PM - We will have Brats and Hot dogs
please bring a non refrigerated dish to share.

Saturday September 12 Barter fair

Briggsville church 10am - Bring goods to trade with your neighbors
Garden produce, Jams, Pickles, breads etc...

no \$ money exchanged just trade goods for goods

Sunday September 20 Bread Bake

Moundville come between 1-4pm

\$5 for three loaves you may bring your own pans



Creating Friends thru Food

at Moundville and Briggsville

United Methodist Churches

to sign up call 608-981-2500 or

email: outreachtuparish@gmail.com

Homesteading is a life-style of self-sufficiency. It is characterized by subsistence agriculture, home preservation of food, and may also involve the small scale production of textiles, clothing, and craft work for household use or sale. Modern homesteaders often use renewable energy options including solar and wind power. Many also choose to plant and grow heirloom vegetables and to raise heritage livestock. Homesteading is not defined by where someone lives, such as the city or the country, but by the lifestyle choices they make. Potential benefits of homesteading include a satisfying standard of living and a healthier, more rewarding lifestyle than more conven-

Community Picnic Potluck

Wednesday

August 19

4:30pm

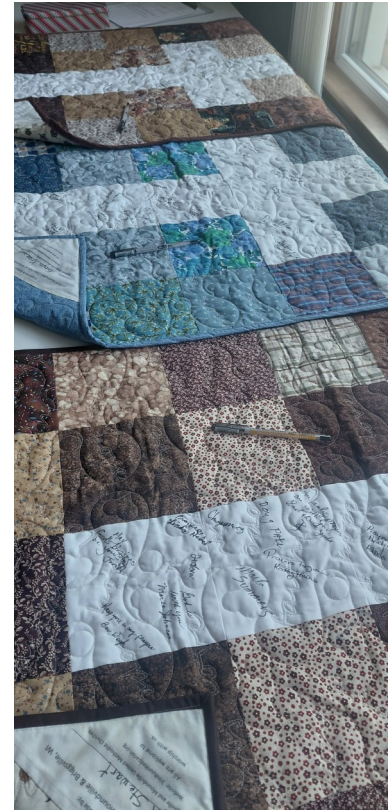
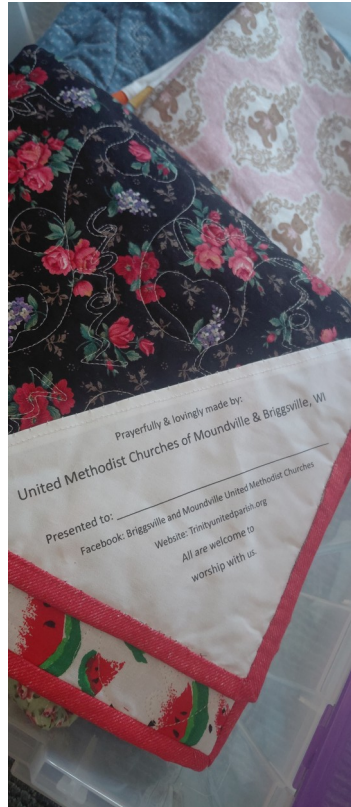
Moundville

United Methodist Church
W5501 CR-O,
Endeavor, WI

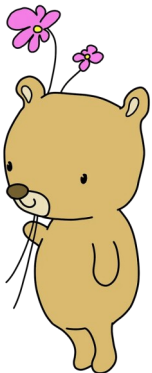


We will have Brats and Hotdogs
Please bring a non refrigerated dish to share.

Prayerful Stitchers

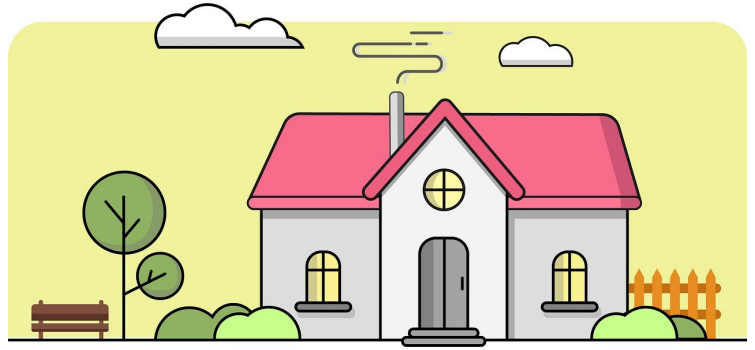


We have stitched 381 quilts *with* our friends and neighbors *for* our friends and neighbors who have needed special care and comfort.



Parsonage Available to Missionaries

The Briggsville Trustees were approached by Marci Walker about a short-term use of the parsonage by missionaries connected to the Bridgepoint Church in Wisconsin Dells. The Bridgepoint Church is also connected to Bella Goose Coffee, and their non-profit ministry is called the Gateway Movement. This mission project works in Thailand with sex workers to help them develop job skills and provide temporary housing, so



They are coming back!

Alleluia Quartet

Sunday, September 13

4:00 p.m.

Moundville UMC

a simple supper provided

No Tickets Required

See you all there!