

MIDLAND NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

MIDLAND UNITED METHODIST SEPTEMBER 1, 2011



How I Read a Book

A significant way that I learn is through reading. When I read a book, it's an exercise. Seldom do I read a book ... and just read. My "normal" way of reading is to have a pen nearby. Look in the books I've read and you will discover they are marked up. I underline lines I agree with; put question marks next to thoughts I'm not sure I understand or agree; write my own commentary in the margin. While I willingly loan out my books to others, after I do, I wonder to myself, "Is there something I wrote in that book I wouldn't want someone to see?"

When I read, I also have a package of small sticky notes or post-it notes at hand so I can flag pages that have something interesting on them. These are the pages that I want to be able to go back to quickly and find something I may use in a sermon, meeting or writing. If I don't have the post-it notes, I dog-ear the pages of the book. Sometimes a book will have dog-ears and post-it notes, with the post-it notes being of higher significance than the dog-ears. If a page is really significant for me, I'll copy it and put it into a file. These are stories or thoughts I want to use in developing messages for worship or in a meeting.

All of this is to say that for me, books aren't just books. They are a reminder that the story of my life is being written every day; one I write together with God. Some of my margin notes are embarrassing, some naïve, some illustrative of my state of mind. Some notes reflect upon a personal struggle I've endured or one that I've witnessed in someone else. When I see this, I write that person's name in the margin.

For me, writing in a book isn't hurting the book or a lack of respect for the book. For me, it's a conversation that I'm having with the book. It's a way for me to interact and say something meaningful or important to me.

I recently have been reading a book that purposely has large margins to encourage people to write in the book as they read it. This is a note I wrote in the Introduction of this book:

"LOVE the format of this book. How could it be used to tell stories about God and how we relate to them?"

I also write in my Bibles. This helps me go back and find things that I want to reference. These marks also help me see how various stories or parts of the Bible are significant for me at various times of my spiritual journey. They are a conversation between me and God; one that helps me recall and remember my spiritual journey.

We all need margins in our lives: space for us to express ourselves, have conversations with God, grow. Unfortunately, too many Americans

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live with very little margin in their lives. This is the topic I'm going to tackle during worship later in September and into October. Our life story is being written every day. The question is whether we actually create space to recognize and honor this ... or if we simply fly through life preoccupied with the pace of life. I know I need more margin. I know I need more time to read and be able to write in the margins of books. Let's see how we can use Jesus' stories to help us find the margin in our lives.

See you in worship –

Thanks to those serving as Ushers & Hosts

Having a welcoming person as guests and visitors come to Midland UMC on Sunday morning is very important! Thank you to the many families who welcome visitors as well as regular attendees.

If you are not able to serve the weekend which you are designated, please switch with someone or contact Myhia Chapman at (608) 712-3402.

4	Cheryl Schmidt & Kathy Stoltz
11	Sara Ludtke Family
18	Matt & Mindy Roth Family
25	Robin & Rhonda Loger

Midland's Nursery is getting a Makeover!

With safety regulations always changing, some of the items in Midland's Nursery need to be updated! Many of the toys in our Nursery have been played with and loved by Midland's little ones. It's time to clean out the recalled and broken toys and improve our Nursery for all! If you have any gently used toys or children's items, please consider donating to Midland's Nursery!

Some of the items needed are: Pack and Play (portable crib), baby swing, toy kitchen set and play food, infant toys and books!

If you have things you'd like to donate, please contact Lindsay Olson at 608-712-6887 or lll_888@hotmail.com.

Did You Know?

Sometimes we forget and/or aren't aware of various ongoing projects at Midland UMC.

Check out this reminder!

Two ongoing mission projects that Midland participates in are collecting aluminum cans and pull tabs from aluminum cans. Cans maybe left outside the church. John & Helen Gehn pick them up and take them in for cash. The money raised goes into the Sunday School budget.



Pull tabs may be left on the table in the foyer. The Prochaska family will take them to the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. The Ronald McDonald House website says, "The program is an easy way for people of all ages to support RMHC and know they are making a difference for families and children."

Pastor Dianne's day off has changed!!

Effective August 15, Pastor Dianne's day off will be on Friday. This change, approved by the SPRC, allows Pastor Dianne to have a compatible day off with her husband, who recently had a change in his permanent work schedule.

The SPRC requests that you be mindful that Friday is a "day off". Unless it is an emergency (something that absolutely cannot wait until the next day) please refrain from contacting her. We appreciate all the Pastor Dianne does and want to allow her time to unwind and refresh! We all can appreciate how a day off helps us to be a better employee!

Thank you for making this a priority!

The SPRC Committee

Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

The Worship Team encourages people to sign-up for Fellowship on Sunday mornings. We've been short of volunteers! Please know the treats can be VERY simple. A couple people/families can work together and ease the load. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter.

Midland UMC Welcomes Our New Church Secretary

Please welcome Terre Carlson as our new church secretary. Terre is highly qualified with excellent communication and computer skills that will be an asset to Midland and Pastor Dianne. Terre began her new role on August 17th. We look forward to working with her.



Hi, my name is Terre Carlson, I have been attending Midland for about 7 years and became a member in 2010.

I am looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Terre".

Office Hours Changing

With the change in Pastor Dianne's day off and a new Church Secretary, regular office hours are being adjusted. These will be the weekly office hours:

Pastor Dianne: Wednesday from 1-3 PM and Thursday from 10 AM - 12 PM

Church Secretary Terre: Wednesday from 1-4 PM

We welcome people to stop at the church office during these times to conduct any church business, get into the church, etc.

Black Earth Mobile Food Pantry & Christian in Action Food Pantries

For two months, the Black Earth Mobile Food Pantry has been distributing food on the second Tuesday of the month. This Food Pantry is set up as an additional food distribution for people along with the Christian in Action Food Pantry that distributes food the fourth Saturday of the month in Mazomanie.

Food distributed at the Black Earth Mobile Food Pantry is brought out from Second Harvest in Madison. They provide the food and volunteers help with the monthly distribution at the New Heights Lutheran Church parking lot in Black Earth.

Helpers are to arrive by 3:30 PM and food distribution is done from 4:30—5:30 PM. In August, 89 participants received food, which will reach 245 family members. Of these family members, 75 were children and 23 were seniors. The best way to support this food pantry is com and assist with distribution.

The Christian in Action Food Pantry is supported via monetary and food donations from within the community. There is a tote in the church narthex where food can be left. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please forward this to John & Helen Gehn at 7470 Old Sauk Road, Madison, WI, 53717. They also love to have Midland volunteers assist with distribution. Please contact them if you would like to assist.

As our economy continues to struggle, the food pantries are important ways for us to reach out to those people who do not have enough food nor the means to adequately feed their families. We thank the VBS kids and families who did such a great job of collecting food for the Christian in Action food pantry. Cheryl Schmidt and Kathy Stoltz have challenged the entire congregation to donate food during the church-wide Food Fight in August. Donations are always accepted!

Local Mission Group Going back to Mississippi for Hurricane Relief Work

For a few years, a group of folks from the Mazomanie/Black Earth area have traveled to Camp Victor each fall to help with recovery efforts from hurricanes. This group is planning a trip again from Saturday Oct. 9-Sunday Oct. 16. The projects would involve working in Ocean Springs and Biloxi, MS.

The cost is \$125 per person which includes three meals a day. This may be the last mission trip to the Biloxi area, helping someone have/enjoy a better place to live. If you are interested in going and would like more details, please contact Don & Verna Wallace at 795-4954.

A Huge Thank You for a great Hometown Nazareth!

What another great week of Vacation Bible School! While it takes tons of work and lots and lots of dedicated volunteers, VBS is one of the best weeks of the year! It's so exciting to see how little and big people are transformed by spending five days learning about Jesus.

We averaged 41 kids per night and reached out to 55 kids throughout the week. Pastor Dianne has heard of much larger churches having a significantly smaller participation in their so we have much to be excited about!

VBS is a major undertaking. So many, many people helped make Hometown Nazareth a great success! Whether you helped with decorations, volunteered one or two nights or all week, provided food for the food market, snacks for the adults or donated some sheep shekels, every contribution and hour of donated time is what makes kids look forward to Midland UMC's VBS every summer.

Thank you so very much!

Here are some comments overheard from the little folks who attended Hometown Nazareth!

(Said by a little girl on Friday night of VBS) *"What am I going to do tomorrow when there is no VBS? Just what am I going to do?"*

"Midland's VBS is the best week of the summer! It's better than going to the water park, on vacation... I love it!"

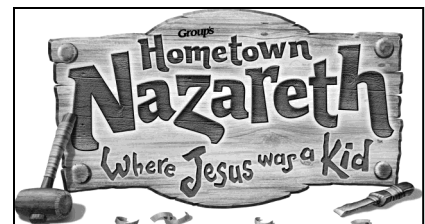
"I can't wait to choose which shops to go to tonight!"

"I wasn't sure I'd like the Synagogue School, but it was REALLY COOL!"

(An adult sharing) *"My child has been carrying around the cross she made in the Carpentry Shop all week. It is her new favorite toy."*

"I didn't know that sheep pooped!"

"Where is that Eunice? What is she up to tonight? Can I go to her house?"



Youth Group Corner

We are excited about this up coming year and have some exciting news. We'll have two classes for the Youth Group, MidTweeners for 6th & 7th graders and Cross Roads confirmation for 8th through Senior High. Because Pastor Dianne will be offering Confirmation this fall, the schedule for 2011 school year is as follows:

MidTweeners & Cross Roads Youth Group will gather together the first half-hour then the two groups will split up and have separate activities and discussion time.

Wed. Sept 21 6:30—8 PM MidTweeners (6th & 7th grade) & Cross Roads Youth Group

Wed Oct 5 6:30—8 PM MidTweeners (6th & 7th grade) & Cross Roads Youth Group

Wed Oct 19 6:30—8 PM MidTweeners (6th & 7th grade) & Cross Roads Youth Group

Fri Oct 28 Possible Halloween party with the Holy Rollers Praise Band, details to follow

Wed Nov. 9 6:30—8 PM MidTweeners (6th & 7th grade) & Cross Roads Youth Group

Myhia Chapman and Eleanor Engelby will be on maternity leave from Youth Group until January 2011. Fred Allen is also stepping away from Youth Group at this time. We are excited to have Sara Danz, Liz Nelson, and Glen Henderson volunteer their time with the youth. A special THANK YOU for all your commitment and time! Sara & Liz will volunteer their time with the MidTweeners. Glen will volunteer with time with the Cross Roads group.

We need one additional volunteer to work with the older kids. If you are interested, please let Pastor Dianne know.

We are looking forward to this year. Any questions, please contact Myhia Chapman at 608-712-3402 or myhiafhupy@yahoo.com.

September Worship

We'll finish the "Going Fishing: The Fishing Stories in the Gospels" on Labor Day weekend. Come hear the final sermon in this fun sermon series!

Sun., Sept. 4 The Gospel's Final Fishing Story

Scripture: John 21:1-15

Communion Sunday

Sun., Sept. 11 Eunice & Timothy share how Jesus Changed Their Lives

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Sun., Sept. 18 Marginless Living: The Problem and Pain

Scripture: John 20:30-31

Sun., Sept. 25 Marginless Living: The Prescription is Margin: Emotional and Physical

Scripture: Mark 1:35-39

Theme: Margin: Restoring Our Overloaded Lives

One of the projects I work on during my summer Study Break is to map out sermon topics for the next 12 months. In preparation for this, I asked people to respond to a few questions to help guide this process. Interestingly, the topic that arose most frequently on people's responses was the need for understanding how to manage/balance/maintain our daily lives.

There's no question that the pace of life has gotten increasing faster. There are a variety of reasons why, including more choices, technology and how our culture expects immediate response. One of the reasons I enjoy my Study Break is because I intentionally "get away" and "slow down" and try to find a more reasonable pace of grace.

The reality is that I worked hard on this for two weeks during my Study Break and vacation ... and then came back and felt overwhelmed by the various things that are a part of regular life. All the hard work I'd put into creating some manageability and balance for my life flew out the window right after my break.

What people lack is margin. Marginless means not having time to finish the book you're reading on stress. Margin is having the time to read it twice. For five weeks in September and October, we'll look at how we've become a culture which lacks margin and people who need margin. We'll also see that God intends for us to live with margin. There isn't an easy cure ... and some of us may not want the cure ... but we'll explore how we can allow for more breathing space in our lives.

One note: I certainly don't have all the concepts of margin figured out. I'm challenged in keeping margin in my own life. Together, we'll study and learn about the biblical concept of margin.

Kicking-Off the Fall Sunday School Season!

On Sun., Sept. 11, we'll be kicking off the fall Sunday School season with an All-Church Carnival. This day, we'll have a fun, multi-generational way to get excited about the next year at Midland UMC.

We'll have fun games, a bouncy house, picnic food and old-fashioned relays for folks of all ages! There will be opportunities to win little prizes, little items to purchase with tickets and a cake walk! Whether you are 2 or 92, this will be a FUN day for everyone! Provided the weather is good, we'll have activities outside. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll modify and move things indoors.

Here's how the Carnival will Run:

- 9 AM Gathering & Sign-In
As people gather, we'll enjoy fun songs in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 AM Celebration in the Sanctuary
We'll have a visit from Eunice, Mary's noisy neighbor from Hometown Nazareth and Timothy the Tax Collector!
- 9:30 AM Relay Games: 3-Legged Races, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War
We'll form small groups to participate in these old fashioned relays!
- 10 AM Game Stations and Food
A variety of game stations will be set-up for people to wander around and enjoy: Pop Bottle Ring Toss, Cake Walk, Duck Pond, Bingo, etc. Picnic food will be available. And take a bounce in the Bouncy House!
- 10:45 AM Drawing for a Closing Door Prize! Must be present to win!
- 11 AM Carnival Closes

We need a variety of helpers for setting up on Saturday, during the Carnival and for clean-up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gunta Luettinger at 608-234-0703. Interested in donating a cake for the cake walk? Please let Lindsay know!

Please plan on coming to the Fall Kick-Off Carnival. This will be a great day to invite folks who would love to have a fun time, might be interested in Midland UMC or those who we haven't seen for awhile. Please share with anyone the enclosed poster as an invitation!

Kid's Sunday School Officially Begins Sept. 18

The Fall Kid's Sunday School begins the Sunday after the Fall Carnival. Kids will attend worship for the first 10 minutes and after the Kid's Corner, go back for Sunday School. There will be three rooms:

Pre-K's (3- and 4-year-olds)

Kindergarden – 2nd Graders

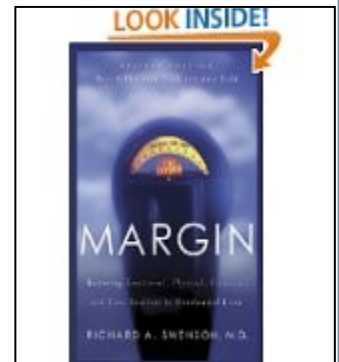
3rd Graders – 5th Graders

Youth 6th grade and above are encouraged to participate in Youth Group on Wednesday evenings.

We are in need of Sunday School teachers and helpers. Youth 6th grade and above can be helpers. If you have questions about Sunday School or would like to be a teacher or a helper, please contact Stacie Prochaska at (list phone and e-mail) or Elizabeth Guyer at (list phone and e-mail.) We're excited about offering great opportunities for kid's to grow in their faith through Sunday School!

September Book Study: "Margin" by Dr. Richard A. Swenson, M.D.

Overload is fatigue. Margin is energy. Overload is red ink. Margin is black ink. Overload is hurry. Margin is calm. Overload is anxiety. Margin is security. Overload is the disease of our time. Margin is the cure.



In *Margin*, Dr. Richard Swenson provides a prescription against the danger of overloaded lives. A committed Christian, he offers an overall picture of health that employs contentment, simplicity, balance and rest. An M.D., Swenson argues for balance and sanity to replace the rat race many Christians join. He gives the reader permission to be counter-cultural. He asks us if we could imagine Jesus leaving the Last Supper because His pager went off!

This book is for anyone who yearns for relief from the pressure of overload. The benefits can be good health, financial stability, fulfilling relationships, and availability for God's purpose. In a day of pushing the envelope, Swenson urges us to leave room ("margin") for the unexpected (and to reduce stress). This book is the basis of the sermon series on "Marginless Living."

Pastor Dianne will be offering this as a book study on Tues., Sept. 27 at 3 PM and 6:30 PM. She will have copies of the book available for \$11. If you would like to participate in this book study, please let Dianne know by Sun., Sept. 18.

Thank You ~

- ◆ To Midland:
Thank you so much for thinking of me on my special day. I'm very thankful for my church family.
Love, MacKensey
- ◆ Dianne and Midland:
Thank you to everyone for the thoughts about graduation and all the cards I received. It means so much to me. I will be sure to return during the year.
Kendra
- ◆ Thank you to every member of my church family who supported me through my surgery with prayers, cards, telephone calls, food and visits. A special thank you to Pastor Dianne for her comforting visits.
Gloria Sears
- ◆ Thanks to those who have provided the Wednesday Night Meals this summer! They've been great!
- ◆ Thanks to the many folks who provided food & helped at the Knight & Harter funerals in July.

Correspondence

Arthur "Bud" Jorgenson, Stordock Hall, Room 346B, 700 Mulder Ave, King WI 54946
Dean Lucey, 1050 Prairie Street, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ten Rules for Happier Living

I wish I knew who penned these rules for happier living. They've been repeated often, but they are wise words for us as we seek to live in the spirit of generosity.

Give something away – no strings attached.

Do a kindness – and forget it.

Spend a few minutes with the aged – their experience is priceless guidance.

Look intently into the face of a baby – and marvel.

Laugh often – it's life's lubricant.

Give thanks – a thousand times a day is not enough.

Pray – or you will lose the way.

Work – with vim and vigor.

Plan as though you'll live forever – because you will.

Live as though you'll die tomorrow – because you will, on some tomorrow.

**Card Making Get Together
Saturday, September 17
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Midland's Fellowship Hall**



Please join us for a fun day of card making and fellowship. You'll create your own very special Holiday greeting cards including designs for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Not interested in Holiday cards? Then create cards for other occasions such as birthdays or thank you cards. You can make as many cards as you wish. Materials will be provided free of charge with a freewill offering collected for the Food Pantry. Childcare will be available we just request that \$5.00/child be paid to help cover the cost of the nursery. There will also be a light lunch provided.

Registration is requested so we can plan accordingly. Please contact Rhonda Loger if you plan to attend at rrloger@centurytel.net or 608-795-4390. We are looking forward to a great day, hope to see you there! If you have any questions please contact Rhonda.

Come One ❖ Come All

A FUN, FALL CARNIVAL!

Sun., Sept. 11, 2011

9 – 11 AM

Midland UMC

Activities for All Ages!



- 9 AM Gathering & Sign-In – *Join us for fun songs in the Sanctuary!*
- 9:15 AM Celebration in the Sanctuary – *We'll have a visit from Eunice, Mary's noisy neighbor from Hometown Nazareth and Timothy the Tax Collector!*
- 9:30 AM Relay Games – *3-Legged Races, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War*
- 10 AM Game Stations and Food – *A variety of game stations for people to enjoy: Pop Bottle Ring Toss, Cake Walk, Duck Pond, Bingo, etc. Picnic food will be available. Take a bounce in the Bouncy House!*
- 10:45 AM Drawing for a Closing Door Prize! Must be present to win!
- 11 AM Carnival Closes

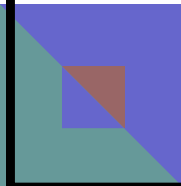


Midland UMC

10235 Hwy KP, Mazomanie, WI 53560

Located between Black Earth & Mazomanie on Hwy KP

608-767-3358 • www.MidlandMethodist.org



SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship with communion	5 Labor Day	6 3 pm Pastor Dianne meeting in Verona	7 1 pm Candlelight Circle at Cheryl Bumgarner's house	8 10 am. Pastor Dianne leads worship at Maplewood 6:30 pm. Trustees Meeting	9	10
11 9—11 am. Carnival at Midland UMC Confirmation 6 - 7:30pm	12 6 pm Mens Group	13 4:30—5:30 pm Black Earth Food Pantry 3:30 pm Helpers Arrive 6:30 pm Finance Meeting	14	15 10 am Pastor Dianne leads worship at Heartland 7 pm United Methodist Women Newsletter info due	16	17 8:30 am Mens Group Breakfast at Gordons 9 am -2 pm Card Making Party
18 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship	19 Pastor Dianne meeting in Sun Prairie	20	21 6:30 pm Ad Council Youth Group 6:30-8 pm	22 9:30 am Assemble newsletter 1 pm Circuit Clergy Meeting in Mt Horeb	23	24 9:30 am Christian in Action Food Pantry
25 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship Confirmation 6 - 7:30pm	26	27 3 pm & 6:30 Book Study on "Margin"	28 9 am Clergy Day in Stevens Point	29	30	