

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

+Indicates that all are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Congregation is invited to respond as indicated by **Bold Print**

PRELUDE *This Is My Father’s World | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | In Unity We Lift Our Song*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Doug*

BREAKTHROUGH SIGHTINGS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (UNISON)
God, we do not know what to do, but You do. Open our hearts, eyes, and minds to You. Amen.

CENTERING TIME *As the Deer* UMH # 393

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Marilyn S.-K.*

Marilyn: Hear, O people, be glad in the Lord!
All: Shout for joy, all you upright in the heart.
Marilyn: For our Lord is making all things renewed.
All: God is revealing God’s vision for all Creation.
Marilyn: Rejoice and give thanks, for the Lord is restoring.
All: We bear witness to the righteousness of our God.

+OPENING HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* UMH # 139

+OPENING PRAYER (UNISON): *Marilyn S.-K.*

Holy God, you are the Lord of Creation! You reign over all things so wondrously, enfolding them all in your loving care. It is your desire that everything you have made should find its full potential. For that reason, you have offered us nothing short of your best. You breathe into us your Spirit. You give us meaning and purpose. And you invite us to grow continually in relationship with you. But we are not always eager to do so. We are convinced it is by our own strength that we accomplish anything. We except much of others, yet are unwilling to embrace radical change for ourselves. Forgive us, O God! Renew our minds and our spirits, that we might recognize your presence among us. Order our hearts and help us to journey along the paths that you have us follow. Transform our lives so that, by our words and deeds, we might be true ambassadors for Christ, bearing the image of him who brought good news for all. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

+SILENT PRAYER

+SHARING THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *Pastor Doug*

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 *Marilyn S.-K.*
¹⁴The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised. ¹⁶So then, from this point on we won’t recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn’t how we know him now. ¹⁷So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! ¹⁸All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people’s sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation. ²⁰So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ’s representatives, “Be reconciled to God!” ²¹God caused the one who didn’t know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

SERMON **“The Naturalist”** *Pastor Doug*
Reconciling with the whole of Creation through Christ

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Affirmation from Romans 8:35,37-39 UMH # 887

HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* UMH # 383

COMMUNITY PRAYER *Marilyn S.-K.*

OFFERTORY *Let’s Sing Unto the Lord*
DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH # 94

Wesley United Methodist Church

Worship Sundays 9 AM

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May 11, 2025

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marilyn S.-K.

Wonderous God, you fill the whole of Creation with your beauty. You weave together each thing in a tapestry of abundance. And you continually renew those relationships, moment by moment. With praise and thanksgiving, we return to you our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Multiply them to your service, that they may help to realize the world you are bringing into being. Amen.

If you do not feel comfortable speaking your joy or concern aloud, please complete a prayer card and pass it toward the center aisle. Pastor will collect the cards as we sing the following hymn:

PRAYER HYMN *Oh Come and Dwell In Me (V. 1-3)* UMH # 388

JOYS & CONCERNS

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH # 895

+CLOSING HYMN *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* TFWS # 2241

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* UMH # 150

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

REACHING UP TO WORSHIP GOD | REACHING OUT TO SERVE OTHERS | REACHING IN TO GROW TOGETHER

HAPPY
Mother's
Day



Her children arise up, and call her blessed.

PROVERBS 31:28



Wesley's next opportunity to serve at SOS is **June 2nd through the 7th**. New volunteers are welcomed. Please see Jackie if you're able to volunteer!

MARSHFIELD'S Mayor Dairy Breakfast

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH, 2025 @ MARSHFIELD FAIRGROUNDS

WESLEY UMC VOLUNTEER SHIFT:

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.

See Pastor Doug with any questions.



The Naturalist: Francis of Assisi

Francis of Assisi is one of the most recognized figures in Christianity, venerated by followers of Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant traditions. He gave up a life of privilege and of wealth to become a mystic, poet, and friar. And he is credited with founding the Franciscan religious order. So great were his achievements that, less than two years following his death, he was canonized as a saint and later made patron of the poor, stowaways, merchants, and the environment.



Indeed, Francis is most known for his association with animals and with serving the poor. He was the first (that we're aware of) to host a live nativity scene with real animals, and his concern for one's relationship with God and with neighbor drove him to spend his life among the marginalized and oppressed. Francis also conducted a major diplomatic effort, going to leaders of Muslim Egypt in order to attempt rapprochement between their two worlds.

Francis' deep commitment to reconciliation, to right relationship, and to the care of God's Creation inspired not only those who knew him during his life, but generations that have followed. In taking his name, Pope Francis looked to this saint as a model for his own life and ministry – a living witness to the natural order of God's reality.

God, we give you thanks for Francis, who saw you in the people he met and Creation you made. May we learn from his example to be reconciled to you in Christ, and to live in right relationship with one another, each and every moment. Amen.

FOR SALE



1 (one) Wesley UMC T-Shirt

SIZE XL - \$15.00

Please contact the church office if
if you are interested.

This week's **YouTube** link for Sunday Worship Service
<https://www.youtube.com/live/xuflRVBZKgs>

UPCOMING May BIRTHDAYS— **May 12:** SCOTT P. | **May 13:** SHARWIN G.



LET'S PRAY THIS WEEK FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS!

If you have a joy or concern let us know! wumcoffice@wesleyhopeconnection.org

JOYS: those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week (see announcement page). Share with us your joys so we may celebrate together and glorify our Lord for your blessings!

- For **John** (*friend of Mary E.*) who is home safe.
- For **Allean F., Cherly R., and Jered** (*son of Sharwin G.*) who continue their recoveries.

CONCERNS:

- For **Alise** (*wife of Penny M.'s niece*) who had emergency surgery on Saturday (May 3).
- For **Anna** (*sister of Caleb H.*) who has had a setback in her treatment.

For **HOMEBOUND:** Ruth S. Dorothy D. Shirley S. Ardis A.

OTHERS:

- For the **Roman Catholic Church** as they discern a new leader.
- For the people of **Ukraine, Palestine,** and elsewhere suffering violence.

This week, we saw God “breaking through” ...

- ...in the joy of friends gathering to celebrate one's birthday.
- ...in two whole days with sunshine (and no rain).
- ...in the folks who helped pack meals for Feed My Starving Children.
-in the robins outside and the robin eggs found in a nest.
- ...in the friends and loved ones on the road to recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MAY'S NOISY Can Never FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT

The organization is Wausau based and was formed in November of 2009. The goal is to fly veterans (in this region) who served during WW11, The Korean War or the Vietnam eras to Washington D. C. to visit the memorials built in their honor. The organization is an affiliate of Honor Flight Network, which began the operation in 2005.

The Honor flight is a one day trip where the veterans spend their time visiting the various military memorial sites and also take a bus tour of the city.

The organization is not-for-profit so it receives no government funding and is supported by private and commercial donors, etc. and donations from many other sources.

There is no paid staff members. The volunteers organize everything for the veterans: arrange the travel to and from Washington and arrange all transportation activities and meals while the veterans are in Washington, D. C.



I would like to thank everyone that sent me a card to show appreciation for my military service. It was greatly appreciated!!

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight was memorable and truly a “once in a lifetime” experience. It was an overwhelming experience...the people crowding the airport in Mosinee at 5 AM for our departure and then again close to midnight on our return to Mosinee. The airport was packed with family, friends, and veterans from all branches of military service.

Thanks again for making this one day journey so memorable!!

God bless you all,

Doug G.