



wisconsin conference
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EVANGELISM MESSAGES



Think
Greater

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LIVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY

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living

John 10: 9-10

I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest. (CEB)

Who is the “who” in “whoever”? As disciples of the Risen Lord, what are we doing not only to live enthusiastically, but invite others to do the same? Our houses of worship can be the pasture that introduces one to a life with Christ. Our buildings, our sanctuaries, our chapels, our offices, our school, our kitchens, our yards and our lawns...may be the places where someone encounters Christ. We are called to be stewards of all of our resources and we are called to support all that we have been given. To be faithful and willing to support general budgets enables us to be the church available at any time to provide a space for Christ to be encountered. And as our disciples go forth from this sacred place, we become the light that draws others near.

GIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY

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giving

Matthew 6:19-21

“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (CEB)

When our hearts are open, our arms are open as well. When we are practicing our discipleship, we are sharing the love and grace with our neighbors near and far. One of the ways that we live out our love is to open the doors of our sanctuaries to receive those who are in need. Following the floods of 2008, many of our local churches opened their doors to receive relief supplies to help those affected. One small village church opened its doors to serve as the county flood relief center for two months while community leaders worked together to create a long-term recovery committee. Giving wholeheartedly can mean a willingness to give to the church so that whatever ministry unfolds, it is funded. Giving wholeheartedly provides opportunities for our local churches to be ready, willing and available to serve in whatever manner Christ calls us to serve. And in doing so, we provide opportunities for our neighbors to experience the transformative love and grace of Jesus Christ.

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

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loving

Luke 10:25-28

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.” (CEB)

Stewardship and unconditional love go hand in hand---how can that be? When we are willing to give wholeheartedly and unconditionally, we are able to provide ministries that share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. When we are willing to let go of the control and trust that God is at work in our giving, then we have the opportunity to provide a sacred place that can promote healing and wholeness to a community in need. We are blessed throughout our Conference to have clergy, laity, and congregations willing to throw their doors open to receive a grieving community. When we receive our neighbors and share the love, we all begin a journey into a new wholeness.

BEYOND ALL EXPECTATION

John 14:12

I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. (CEB)

Sometimes it is a matter of willingness to step out in faith at the needed time for all to experience something extraordinary. To do beyond all expectation requires disciples to be willing, to be faithful and to be available. It means trusting that whatever ministry unfolds that God will equip and provide.

As disciples, we need to be generous stewards of what we’ve been given. We never know when we are meeting the next disciple, but let us always be prepared to say, “Come.” Together, we will live and serve beyond all expectation.

