



# Dream Big Pushing Through Setbacks

August 24, 2025

## Matthew 14:22-33

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

## Message Notes

1. Know what to take off the plate
2. Take a step
3. Seek God's help

## Food for Thought

This life has a way of piling on tasks, responsibilities, struggles, hurts. Is your 'plate' overflowing? Sometimes in dreaming big, it's good to focus. What is God asking you to take off your plate?

Sometimes we can think of a thousand next steps, or sometimes it's hard to even find one step. What is one next step you can take toward God's dream for your life?

We tend to want to 'figure it out' on our own. What does it mean to be connected to God, to come to Him, not just once, but regularly seeking God's direction? How do you need God's help right now?

**STILL WATERS** exists to **FIND** the lost, **RELEASE** the captive and **DEVELOP** disciples of Jesus

Still Waters Church | 3617 Scenic Road, PO Box 406, Jackson, WI 53037 | 262-677-1311

Worship Hours: Saturday 5:00 pm starting on September 13

Sunday 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

**Happy Birthday!**

Aug 24      Hunter Schmitt

**Happy Anniversary!**

Aug 26      Al & Mary Helsell

	<b><u>Ushers</u></b>
Sunday	
9am	Youth
10:30am	Youth

<b><u>Greeters</u></b>
Youth
Youth

Church Website



Online Giving



Greetings from Dayton, Ohio, Still Waters Family and Friends! This week begins my fourth semester (out of six) of the doctoral program of which I am a part. I truly count it a privilege to be here, to be learning and growing, and experiencing God moments that I will bring back to share with you! I cannot even begin to express how God keeps moving, in the midst of all of the chaos of the world. Now, we do know that there *are* setbacks in life, and sometimes we have a hard time sensing that presence. This weekend in worship, we have a special treat. Our youth have been working very hard to bring worship to us this weekend. I invite you to be there to support them, and to experience what God has to say to you through them! I will be there cheering them on and connecting with each of you. See you this weekend!

Here are more details of other upcoming opportunities:

### **Backpack Blessing, August 24**

Mark your calendar... On Sunday, August 24, we will have a "Backpack Blessing." We'll pray for our students during worship, and *after* the second service we'll go outside to pray and start the school year off with a celebration of some Jesus Confetti! Students, bring your backpacks, and we'll offer **prayers for students and school staff and families!** All are welcome, come and support our students and families and school staff! Meet us behind the church for a prayer and celebration!

### **Family Promise Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social!**

On **Thursday evening, August 28**, we're excited to host families experiencing homelessness with an amazing event! We'll have a dinner with pizza, ice cream with all the toppings, and will have a great time with the kids creating a back-to-school craft. What a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company around the table, and spend time creating craft items for the backpack that they have already been supplied for school.

#### **Lots of ways to participate!**

- **COME** on Thursday, August 28! Volunteers able to help set up come at 4:30 p.m., serve a meal at 5:00. We'll meet at the Family Promise Center, Karl's Place, 450 Water St., West Bend. Take time to extend the love of Christ with our presence.
- **CONTRIBUTE** financially to support the cost of food and supplies
- **MAKE A MEAL** any other night that week that would be for about 15 people.

Please sign up on the Connection Card or online or contact Kelly or Vicki Passineau with questions.

### **Two Week Bible Overview!**

Have you ever wanted to get the 'big picture' of the Bible? It's good to look at individual passages, but how does that fit into the whole Biblical narrative? Upon request, we'll spend one week looking at the Old Testament, and one week looking at the New Testament. Pastor Lori shared this class years ago, and it has been requested that we have this again! On **Monday, August 25, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** we'll be looking at an overview of the New Testament. Pastor Lori facilitating. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

### **Summer Walk 'n Connect**

Join us for our Summer Walk and Connect on **Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.** We in the church lobby and together we'll walk on the path around our church property, enjoying nature, each other, and a healthy way to start our day. That walk takes about 20 minutes. For any interested, after our walk, Pastor Lori will lead us for 15 minutes in devotion time outside, using the "Prayers from Iona" resource. Open your day with friends, community, connection, and God! See Robin Olson or Pastor Lori for details. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

### **Family Fun Day, Sunday, August 31**

On Sunday, August 31st from noon until 2pm, Still Waters Youth Ministries is hosting an outdoor family event complete with a campfire, and family games for all ages. We'll cook hotdogs and enjoy our fire pit and try out a game of gaga ball. We will also have volleyball, badminton, pickleball and several other fun games. This is our Labor Day fun day. Contact Lisa with questions at [swym2019@gmail.com](mailto:swym2019@gmail.com). Sign up on the Connection Card or online. Bringing food is not required, but if you'd like to bring a side dish, that would be great. All are welcome, and feel free to just show up!

### **Brat Fry Youth Ministry Fundraiser**

Stop by Piggly Wiggly, Slinger location, on **Saturday, September 6, 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.** for our youth ministry fundraiser! Proceeds from sales this day will benefit Still Waters Youth Ministry!

### **Sharing from Honduras Team**

#### **Trip Experiences, Future Partnership**

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 7, noon to 1:00 p.m.** All are invited to hear about our Honduras trip and partnership! The team of fourteen that went to Honduras in July of this year has decided to invite the congregation and friends to a time of sharing about our partnership there, sharing of their experiences, God-moments, and reflections. We'll also give a glimpse into the future of our partnership with Central UMC in Danli, Honduras. Feel free to bring a dish to share, although that is not required. Some on the team even plan to bring some Honduran dishes! We'll help ourselves to potluck lunch, and settle in for a wonderful time of learning, growing, and being inspired. Contact Pastor Lori or Lisa regarding the sharing time, or Jena regarding the food. Sign up on the Connection Card or Online to indicate your plan to attend, and whether you'd like to bring food.

### **Dinner for Eight!**

We're going to do it! In a post-pandemic, social media world, where you would think we would be super-connected, people today are actually more isolated than ever. This impacts our mental health, well-being, and general disposition! It's time to connect and re-connect! What if you could get to know some people at Still Waters, just meeting for dinner once per month for the next four months. Simple. Casual. Fun. Meet some new people, get to know others a little better. How it works: Just sign up. We will put you in a group of 8, assign a coordinator who will reach out so that you can find the best day and time to meet. It might be dinner, or who knows, maybe you decide breakfast or lunch would be better. Maybe someone will want to host a meal in their home, or maybe you'll just find a restaurant where you'd like to meet. Your group decides. Together you can talk about logistics. If you have questions, contact Pastor Lori or Kathy in the office. Sign up on the Connection Card or online. You'll be contacted sometime in September to arrange for your first dinner together!

### **Monday Night Bible Study**

Join us Monday nights for 4 weeks, starting September 8 for a Bible study, 7:00 p.m. for an hour. Yep- we're going to read the Bible. Not a book that writes *about* the Bible. So often we read tons of books to tell us what the Bible says. I have found that because the Bible can be challenging to understand, it's easy to rely on others to tell us what it means. What would it be like to gather for 4 weeks, and together, just study the Bible? We'll read about Jesus life and teachings from Jesus himself? In the process we'll uncover concepts of how to interpret and study the Bible. I have found that God has spoken most powerfully to me when I just sit down and read the Bible itself, asking God to show me what I need to see and what God's message is for me. This is a no-homework class beginning to look at Jesus's life and teachings from the gospel of Mark. The primary purpose will be to hear what God has to say to you through Scripture, and to explore that together. Pastor Lori facilitating. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

### **Wednesday Night Study, "The Celtic Way of Prayer"**

Join us for a 5 week study, Wednesdays, starting September 10 at 7:00 p.m. for an hour as we explore the world of Celtic Spirituality. We'll read together the book, *The Celtic Way of Prayer* by Esther De Waal. Celtic Spirituality emphasizes a deep connection with nature and seeing God in all that is around us. In this study we'll discover together practices, rhythms, and the essential role of community. Ultimately, Celtic Spirituality is a journey inward as you discover and rediscover the sacredness of yourself and all of creation. Facilitated by Jena Metzler. The book is \$13. Sign up on the Connection Card or on our website.

### **Saturday Worship Begins Sept 13!**

We will resume our 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship on Saturday, Sept 13th! In addition to our two Sunday morning worship services, there will be another option for worship each weekend. Mark your calendar!

### **Looking ahead...**

### **New Members Class**

Mark your calendars if you've been thinking that Still Waters is the place you'd like to call your church home! We'll have a membership class **Sunday, September 21, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**, and then **join the church the weekend of September 27/28**. This will be Souper Sunday, so grab some soup and lunch from the lobby and bring to our new members gathering! By the way... We'll let you in on a little secret... September 29 is Still Waters "Golden" birthday! We'll be 29 on September 29th! That means this New Members Class will have the distinction of joining on the week of Still Waters Golden Birthday. What a fun celebration! Contact Pastor Lori with questions or to sign up, or just register on our website!

### **Women's Retreat** – September 26-28, 2025

*Mt. Morris Retreat Center, Wautoma, WI.*

"Will The Real Person Please Stand Up"? Do you find yourself living a superficial life to protect yourself from rejection? At this retreat we will dive into this journey toward freedom. Based on the book authored by Gail Porter, we will explore the different ways we struggle with this and offer suggestions as to how to release ourselves to live authentically. Mt. Morris is a beautiful retreat center only a 1-1/2 hour drive from here. We will stay in a fully equipped lodge and enjoy the surrounding nature as well as delicious meals. Cost is \$200/person based on a shared room. Cost includes all meals as well as program costs. Space is limited, so please let us know if you want to attend as soon as possible. Sign up on the Connection Card or website, and contact Robin Olson [Robinlee29@aol.com](mailto:Robinlee29@aol.com) 262-366-5243 if you have any questions.

### **Animal Blessing 2025**

Still Waters Youth Ministries is hosting an Animal Blessing **Saturday, Oct 11th, 2025 2:00-6:00 pm**, which includes a **special worship service inside from 5-6pm**.

- **Memorial Rainbow Bridge:** We'll have a Memorial Rainbow bridge station, where you can remember those special animals that have crossed over the rainbow bridge. You're invited to bring a picture and wings will be provided.
- **Animal Blessing Blankets:** Receive your animal blessing blanket, a gift for your precious furry friends.
- **Order for Saturday events:**
  - **2:00 Hiking trail and vendor booths open**
  - **2:30-4:45 Check In and Participate:** Animals may check in and visit the exhibits and participate in fun games and selfie stations with their Humans, Participate in Rainbow

Bridge Memorial, bring picture of animal and receive their wings.

- **5:00-6:00 - Special Indoor Worship Service** We will celebrate and witness the God given bond between animals and God's people who are the stewards of God's Creatures. All animal companions and their human family members are invited to this special event. Bring pictures of animal friends that don't like to travel. During worship we'll have a blessing over all animals, including those who have crossed over the rainbow bridge.
- **6:00: Individual blessings** after worship.
- **6:00: Individual prayers offered for special prayer requests** for your animals

Sign up on the Connection Card or online to register your animal's attendance or to volunteer.

**Special Sunday worship, 9:00 and 10:30:** Worship will focus celebrate our animals, the beauty of God's creation, and we will have a special time of remembrance of our animal friends who have gone before us, a blessing for all animal friends, and animal blessing blankets will be distributed. You're welcome to bring pictures of your animals on Sunday.

### **Spring Forest Retreat! Possible opportunity in 2026**

Robin Olson, Nancy Oreshack, and Pastor Lori are finalizing dates for our retreat at Spring Forest Retreat Center, North Carolina, in April of 2026! On this retreat, we will get amazing teaching from Dr. Elaine Heath, former dean of Duke Divinity School, as she equips people to connect deeply with God, each other, and the world around us. It is a retreat center on a beautiful farm with walking paths, and there is a rhythm of prayer, learning, work, rest, table. I (Pastor Lori) was able to attend a retreat there this year, and found it to be the most powerful and life-changing retreat that I've ever attended. We'd love to open the experience up to others! We would travel on a Monday, have a retreat Tuesday and Wednesday, and travel back on Thursday. We are working on getting more specifics including exact dates in April, as well as price. Lodging is in a beautiful farmhouse on site that sleeps up to ten, some with shared rooms, some with single rooms. Lodging for the entire group is \$350 per night, so that cost would be shared among participants. We are working on narrowing down the dates, and exact cost with food and teaching included. Please talk to Robin, Nancy, or Pastor Lori if you have questions. Meanwhile, we hope to get details narrowed down soon!

Thank you Still Waters- you're amazing!

Pastor Lori