

Looking Through a Different Lens
Connection

October 31 & November 1, 2026

Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Message Notes:

Connection Means We:

- Care Now
- Remember and Honor
- Pass It On

Food for Thought

In Hebrews 12:1 we hear about "the great cloud of witnesses." These witnesses include people who have gone before us upon whose shoulders we stand: the Biblical heroes of faith, the people in Still Waters Church that have gone before us in faith, as well as people in our personal lives who have formed us by showing us what love is in their own way.

Who is in your "cloud of witnesses"? People that have formed you, cared for you, or been a witness of love for you, who have gone on to heaven?

Say their names this week, and thank God for them.

How can you care for the people today, who are still alive?

How can we pass on that love and that faith and that legacy to future generations?

Happy Birthday!

November 3	Morgan Hansen, Mary Helsell
November 5	Annika Wolfgram, Alexis Young
November 6	Karen Edmondson

Happy Anniversary!

November 2	Gary & Kari Schmalzriedt
November 3	Fred & Sherry Ullius
November 6	Ronald & Gerri Seiser

	Ushers	Greeters	Communion
Saturday 5pm	Jan Giza		Jan Giza & Vicki Passineau
Sunday 9am	Marc & Kim Bartusek	Sandra Grasse Susie Klostermann	Al & Mary Helsell Marc & Kim Bartusek
10:30am	Tom & Tammy Trueman	Linda Kleinhans Debbie Koloski	Tom & Tammy Truemen Linda Kleinhans Debbie Koloski

Church Website

Online Giving

Greetings, Still Waters family and friends! Well, I write this on Wednesday evening, right after our Brewers became world champions! And as I write, I'm glancing over at this morning's paper, on the front page is a picture of a 104-year-old fan who says "baseball draws us together." Something about how this world series has energized, motivated, excited, and unified us, is actually amazing. It's a great demonstration of who we can be, and also what we'll actually talk about this weekend… the strength of "connection"… Not only in baseball, and not only with each other, but connection across the ages, as we remember those who have gone before us on this "All Saints" weekend. This will be such a special weekend, as we experience and are reminded of the power of connection. I look forward to seeing you!

A few updates and notes about the upcoming opportunities, this week and beyond:

Grow with Abide

Informational Meeting: Sunday, November 1, at Noon

What could grow when we bring our gifts together? Abide, our gardening ministry rooted in John 15:5, invites you to help imagine an inclusive garden space on the Still Waters property—a place to grow, share knowledge, enjoy nature, and build friendships across generations.

Join us to learn more about how we'll design and develop this space together. Whether you enjoy gardening, building, cooking, art, or simply spending time outdoors, there's room for your ideas. No gardening experience needed! Sign up on your connection card or website if you'd like to attend the informational meeting, or even if you're interested in the ministry but not able to come to this initial meeting. Contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com with questions.

Jesus said, "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." —*John 15:5, NRSV*

Small Group Study "On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion"

Wouldn't it be great if we could hear God's voice? People often come to me and say, "I wish God would just give some clear, concise directions. We want to know what God wants us to do, who we're to be, and what we're to say. In November, we will embark on a short, 4-week study, which will take us to Advent! The truth is, the spiritual life is not as simple as dialing a direct line to God. Instead, following Jesus is built on faith, and the practices that help us stretch, grow, and mature. In a way, learning how to listen for God's voice is just as important as what we hear God say. It is that regular flexing and developing of those spiritual muscles that help us grow in faith and live life as God intends. Each of the 4 chapters is written by a different author, giving us broad perspective on hearing God's voice. Authors are Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb. Join us on Monday nights or Tuesday mornings as we dive into "On Purpose"!

- **Monday, November 2** - November 23, **7:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday November 3** - November 24 **10:00 a.m.**

We'll begin both groups the same week, Monday November 2 and Tuesday November 3.
Join us as we learn ways to listen to God's voice that gives us purpose and meaning! Book is $10 and available in the lobby. Sign up for the group on the Connection Card or Online.

The Flock, Sunday November 8, 5:00 p.m.

Fellowship and Informational Meeting for Youth, Parents, and Siblings

"The Flock" is the name given to a monthly gathering for an informational meeting for youth, parents, and siblings. Snacks available. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

Serve Night: Deck the Halls
As we prepare for this season's **Deck the Halls for All Abilities** celebration, we'll begin with a Serve Night on **Sunday, November 8, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** at Still Waters.

This all-ages evening will focus on preparing games and decorations for our December event will include a brief training on working with individuals of all abilities.
Volunteers are encouraged to register through the Still Waters website or Connection Card.

Feeding America
Join us on **Wednesday, November 11** (always the 2nd Wednesday of the month) at **1:00 p.m.** for this very important ministry to distribute food to those who are food insecure. On-the-job training is always available; we often have new volunteers each month, so no worries if it's your first time. We'd love to welcome you!

Souper Sunday! November 15th, 11:45 a.m.
Last months "Souper Sunday" was amazing! Thanks to so many who showed as we gathered, connected, laughed, and cared for each other. "Souper Sunday" is an awesome meal for our congregation, sponsored by our youth one Sunday each month. Come for a great meal/ intergenerational fellowship. Free will offering accepted, and proceeds will benefit our amazing youth ministry. Sign up on your Connection Card or website. Contact Lisa with questions.

Still Waters Women
Calling all women… come on **Sunday, November 15th,** and enjoy meeting with other women of all ages for planning and fellowship after the 2nd Sunday worship service, approximately 11:45 a.m. Enjoy some wonderful soup and lunch from Souper Sunday, and then come on and join us for a time of fellowship, planning, and connection. Sign up on the Connection Card or website.

Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, November 18, 8:30 a.m.
Men are invited to this monthly men's breakfast, 3rd Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., meeting at a local restaurant (which switches from month to month). Contact John Haas at jxhaas@yahoo.com or 262-617-7004 to sign up for this month's breakfast! (John calls the restaurant to make a reservation, so please contact him by Tuesday, November 17.)

Family Support Group, November 19
This group is a support group for people who have loved ones affected with addiction(s). Meeting the 3rd Thursdays of the month from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. here at Still Waters Church, it is a casual gathering to share experiences, thoughts, and feelings with others in your situation. **Next meeting is November 19, 5:00 p.m**. Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

Family ADVENTure: A Hands-on Christmas journey for all ages - Saturday, Nov. 21st
Calling all children and families! On SATURDAY November 21st we will have our Family ADVENTure! We'll begin with a meal at 11:30 a.m. Then from 12:00 -1:30, together we will prepare for the Advent Season (which starts the 4th weekend prior to Christmas, i.e. November 30). During this amazing ADVENTure, we'll Journey Towards the Light through hands-on stations. Everything from Boomwhackers, experiencing the stable where the manger was, a scavenger hunt, and a craft to take home! Come join us for a family fun filled time! Be sure to sign up on our Connection Card or website so that we have enough materials for all. Invite a friend! This is a great event for all!

Commitment Weekend, Nov. 21/22
The weekend of Nov. 21/22 is important on many levels in the life of our church. It is important as we each prayerfully once again, commit our lives to Jesus Christ and His Church. We'll bring to church our estimate of giving cards that we'll receive in the mail in early November. And we'll gather together and with grateful hearts, pray for one another and for God's mission in the world through Still Waters Church. Thanks and blessings!

Friendsgiving Sunday, November 22!
We're so excited for Friendsgiving! The youth will be hosting this special intergenerational gathering on **Sunday, November 22. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., and dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.** True to Friendsgiving tradition, friends have the opportunity to sign up through the Still Waters website to bring a favorite family side dish to share. If you're willing to share your recipe, we would love to add it to our growing **Still Waters Friendsgiving Family Recipe Book!** Send recipes ahead of time to **office@stillwaterschurch.com**. Our current recipe book, featuring recipes shared in previous years, is available online, or you can pick up a hard copy in the Still Waters lobby. **Sign up on the website to reserve your spot/table for this event.** Each table will be hosted by one of our very own Still Waters youth.

Friendsgiving is an evening of friendship, food, and fun, with a chance to renew old friendships and build new ones. We encourage you to **extend this invitation to your friends and family, both within and outside of Still Waters!** We can't wait to see you Sunday evening, November 22!

Enchantment in the Park- Still Waters Youth Praise Team (and alumni!)
On **Saturday evening, November 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** we are excited that our Still Waters Youth Praise Team and alumni will share music at Enchantment in the Park**.** Come enjoy Christmas music and support our amazing youth! Enter Regner Park in West Bend from Main Street. **No Saturday evening worship service that evening so we can encourage folks to worship at Enchantment in the Park** and support our Youth Praise Team and experience the Christmas spirit!

Advent Candle Lighters- Great Opportunity!
Would you and/or your family like to be a part of our weekly worship service lighting of the Advent candles? Each Saturday night and Sunday morning worship service from the first weekend of Advent (November 29) through Christmas Eve (choose between worship services at 10:00 a.m., 2:00, 4:00, 6:00) we will have an individual/couple/family share in the lighting of the advent candle that week. (The first week of Advent they'll light the first candle, the 2nd week, the first two candles and so on.) We will have a short script for one or more person to read, as well as have one or more persons light the candle as part of worship. Pastor Lori will email you instructions and a script to read. Choose the day and worship service in which you'd like to participate, by signing up online or on your Connection Card! What an amazing way to be the community of faith together as we make the Advent journey to Christmas!

YOUTH 2027 Dallas, Texas | July 11-14, 2027
We're excited to begin preparing for YOUTH 2027! This United Methodist youth gathering in Dallas will bring young people together for several days of worship, fellowship, and growth.

For families considering YOUTH 2027 (Current 8th graders through High School seniors) who are active members of Still Waters Youth Ministries. Help us secure space at the conference hotel and begin travel arrangements, the $359 **registration fee is due by December 1.** Families should also plan for approximately $600 per participant for round-trip travel. This is a planning estimate and is subject to change as airfare and transportation costs are finalized. Participants will also be responsible for their own meals while traveling and personal expenses. If cost may be a concern for

your family, please contact Lisa privately. YOUTH 2027 is an exciting opportunity and also a significant financial undertaking. Youth Ministries will be working to cover hotel accommodations and other group expenses. Based on our current maximum planning estimate, lodging alone could be approximately $6,200. Impact Night in February will be an important part of that effort. For those who feel able, gifts above and beyond your regular giving to Still Waters may be designated to help support YOUTH 2027. Regular giving remains vital to sustaining the ongoing ministries and mission of Still Waters. We are grateful for your prayers and support as we prepare for this experience with our youth! Sign up on the Connection Card or Website if you're considering this trip possibility. Contact Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com with questions.

Mission Trip to Honduras, July 31 - August 7, 2027

We are planning a mission trip to Honduras July 31-August 7, 2027! As many of you know, in 2025, we established a new Still Waters partnership in Honduras, through the leadership of the in-country Volunteer In Mission (VIM) Coordinator, Milton Ilovares, in the Danli area, with Pastor Pena and his congregation, Central UMC. We had an amazing trip this year, making connections with the people of Central UMC, connecting in worship together, participating in a medical mission as well as education mission! This next year, we expect to work with kids possibly through Vacation Bible School, as well as adults, as well as some light construction as well as continue the medical mission. That means we are looking at a two-pronged trip: some may participate in the medical mission, others in the 'general' trip, all the same dates! We all fly over together, but during our mission time, we would go either to the medical or the education mission initiative. We'll spend fun time, reflection/devotion time, meal time together. Most of our time will be in Danli, but we will also plan a day to visit the students at the Juan Wesley School in Ciudad Espana, where we will be able to visit the children our church has sponsored at this school. We are excited to participate under the philosophy that has been so important to us- giving a hand up, not just a hand out. **The cost of the trip will be in the range $2,500-$3,000,** which includes airfare, lodging, and meals. Youth ages 14 - 18 may attend with a parent. A total of four 2-3 hour pre-trip trainings will be required, and arranged according to the schedules of our trip participants. Background checks will be part of the application process. There are limited spaces, so the first to apply, be accepted, and put down their $100 deposit will hold their spot. Payment schedule after the $100 deposit will be $500 installments due monthly beginning in January, until the balance is paid. If interested or if you have questions, feel free to email me, Pastor Lori, at llossie@yahoo.com or Lisa at swym2019@gmail.com. Sign up to express interest on our Connection Card or our website, and we will reach out to you to share more info. Go to our website, stillwaterschurch.com to formally apply to go on the trip. Remember, **space will be limited so apply soon**!

Note: It's possible the trip will be shortened by one day, and go July 31 - August 6, but we won't know that until we book flights in January. Thank you, Still Waters, for your continued commitment to Find the Lost, Release the Captive, and Develop Disciples!

Prayers surrounding each of you, your families, and our community and world.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori