



P A S T O R K E L L E N' S P A G E

Stoughton UMC has been through a lot in the past few years, with the global pandemic and all the adaptations that came along with it. Then, just when things were beginning to stabilize and we began to move forward, the Annual Conference initiated a change in the pastoral leadership. This came at a hard time, and because of the pastor shortage in Wisconsin and the many complications surrounding local churches and Covid-19, this change was sudden and jarring. In addition, the change in leadership would require a restructuring of how SUMC used its assets to support the pastor and execute the mission and vision on the church.

With the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we have come through that transition virtually unscathed!

When I was first asked to lead Stoughton UMC, it was brought to my attention the history of the church surrounding past leadership and the financial struggles that it was currently experiencing. Like many local churches, the giving and the cost of ministry were not in line, and there was a large, outstanding loan that the church was burdened with. Since that first conversation, it has been my goal to work to try to lessen that burden as we move through this time of renewed energy and mission refocus.

We have done much in the few weeks I have been here - with many new plans on the horizon. We are focusing on evangelism and families within the community. We will be working to become even more of a community to the families we currently serve as well as a new, vivacious community for the families that are moving into Stoughton. We are examining all of our colorful ministries to see where we can grow and expand to do more. Each day, we move closer to building the Kingdom of God in our

But still the financial struggles loom...

For us to continue the work we are doing and expand to new areas of service and outreach, we have to reach a healthier space financially. This will take faithful collaboration using our resources together, trusting the church's leadership and vision of a brighter future, and trusting that God is here in our midst. I ask that you examine your own collaboration in what we are doing here and ask God what else can be done to develop this life-giving community.

And in the meantime, know that I am working diligently to do my part which has already brought forth some miraculous results. I am pleased to share that the previously mentioned loan that SUMC held amounting to over \$73,000 has officially been forgiven in full! The New Ministries Strategy Board has looked at what we are trying to do here at SUMC and decided to support us in this exciting way so that we may move forward without the crushing weight of this loan. Let us also have the same faith in ourselves as we move into this new season of growth and adventure. I pray you will trust God and the leadership of SUMC enough to share your time, talents, trust, and treasures to move toward what we are being called to become.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

9/10/22

10:00 a.m.

We are planning on sorting through the library & "map room" off Paulson Hall to determine what is needed, what can be stored and what can be donated or tossed out.

Everyone is welcome to come and assist. Thank you for your time and volunteer services.

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD



August 23, 2022

MEETING NOTES

Present: Roni Christian, Pam Dunkel, Ricky Howland, Ruth Lawton, Tom Lawton, Lori Olson, Tom Olson, Pastor Kellen Roggenbuck, Jeanne Schwass-Long, Deb Verdegan

Excused: Judy Atkinson, Brock Barber

Guest: Julie Naber

Pastor Kellen updated the group on the reallocation of space. The current library will be partitioned into a new nursery and music storage. A wall is to be built to separate the two spaces. The “map room” off Paulson Hall will be set up as a children’s education classroom. The pastor asked for volunteers to sort through in the rooms to determine what is needed, what can be stored, and what can be donated or tossed out. The group set a “Work Day” for volunteers on 9/10/22 at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Kellen reported that he will start interviewing candidates for the Sunday School Coordinator position this week. He has not advertised the Nursery Attendant position, but is hoping for referrals. The board suggested reaching out to the Girl2Girl coordinator, Care.com or Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) of Dane County.

Roni Christian reviewed budget to date. Contributions are at \$107,171.63 through 7/31/22, which is ahead of budget due to some larger gifts from retirement accounts. Total expenses of \$100,235.52 is under budget.

The first check arrived from the Resettlement Assistance Program for rental of the parsonage to Ukrainian refugees. The board approved moving \$350 each month to the Capital Campaign Fund from the parsonage rent. If not needed for parsonage repairs and maintenance, the funds will be put towards building projects on the church campus.

The board celebrated the good news of the retirement of the remaining balance of \$73,078.04 on the loan from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Pastor Kellen worked with Rev. Scott Carlson (former DS) and Rev. Amanda Stein (current DS) to negotiate a reduction in SUMC’s outstanding loan through the New Ministries Strategy Board.

Pastor Kellen shared his vision for “interpersonal evangelism” in which each member of the church would reach out to ONE person or family in the year ahead to introduce them to SUMC. He talked about the impact the board could make to the church’s ministries by just adding 12 more members.

The group spent some time brainstorming ideas for structured events or “invitational evangelism” that could serve as entry points into the church’s ministries. Ideas included: free breakfasts for high school students, multigenerational meal prep, date night babysitting to allow parents some time to refresh, parent classes (such as Nurturing Heart), and musical nights.

A financial planning class, such as Financial Peace University, received support from the board and will be explored in the months ahead. Financial Peace University is a nine-week course that helps participants plan for emergencies and pay off debt.

The group agreed that filling the Sunday School and Nursery positions will be top priorities before launching other new initiatives.

Deb Vergegan asked for volunteers to help transport residents of Kettle Park to the church for Sunday morning services on a limited basis, perhaps on Communion Sundays. Thank you to the Olsons and Longs for offering to pick up residents.

Ruth Lawton brought up concerns around safety in the parking lot. The discussion was tabled due to lack of consensus on solutions.

Lisa Urban asked if the church wanted to schedule a fundraiser at the time of the Cross Country Invitational at the high school on 10/1/22. The board decided not to proceed with this fundraiser because of volunteer commitments to Taste of Madison in September and Trunk or Treat in October. The board tentatively set Trunk or Treat for Monday, 10/31/22 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a meal and activities at 5:00 p.m. followed by trick or treating at 6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Pastor Kellen would like to update the technology and network systems so that office operations and AV services are better integrated. The board encouraged him to put together a proposal for review.

Tom Olson noted that TDS has installed fiber in the church building, but he is waiting on phones to be installed.



SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10am; AVAILABLE ON:

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC

Website: www.stoughtonumc10.org/videos

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/StoughtonUMC

Previous Services: <https://wsto.tv/schedule>
Spectrum Channel 981

WOW SERVICE:

on hiatus for now

BOOK STUDY:

on hiatus for now

ALB:

4th Tues. on ZOOM, 6:30pm

BOUNCE BACK TEAM:

2nd Sun., 11:30am on ZOOM

SAFETY TEAM:

Meets as needed.

YOUNG DISCIPLES TEAM:

Meets as needed.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.-Thurs., 9am - 1:00pm

FOOD PANTRY:

Tues., 9am - Noon; 4pm - 6pm

Wed., 9am - 11:00am

Monthly Calendar

Worship Giving:

Please consider giving your tithes and offerings digitally. Visit our website:

www.stoughtonumc10.org/giving to get connected. You can also give through an app: search for "giveplus+" in your play store today. Search by zip code (53589) and sign up if you haven't already. Thank you!

Where to View the Worship Service:

Our YouTube Channel is here:

www.youtube.com/StoughtonUMC

OR a week later on WSTO.tv (Charter/Spectrum channel 981) Worship begins at 10am.

Prayer Requests: It is our practice to take prayer requests during our service on Sunday mornings. Even though we are not together in person every week, we are still a praying church. Please email your prayer requests:

prayer@stoughtonumc10.org to be shared with the Prayer Team Chain. If you want it to remain confidential between our prayer leaders and myself, please mark it as such.

Newsletter: Stop over to our website:

www.stoughtonumc10.org/newsletter for our "**Heart and Soul**" monthly newsletter. The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of every month. Articles/pictures can be submitted to: **newsletter@stoughtonumc10.org**.

Free Rides To and From Church: Stoughton Taxi Service provides free rides to and from church on Sundays. The driver will punch the card available at the church upon arrival and again before leaving to return home. Please contact the church office for more information.