**CLEARWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER – September 2022**

Carol Halvorson, Editor,

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**WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Come and join us in worship – our attendance is down – we would love to have your presence.

Plan to stay for coffee after in the fellowship hall.

**AD COUNCIL MEETING** Monday September 12 at 11:30 at the church. Anyone welcome to attend. Come and give us your ideas and input

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:** Mondays at 10:30 AM

**MONTHLY: United Women in Faith –UWF**

September 6th - 1st Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm

**PRAISE GOD!** A wonderful fall season is approaching – let’s enjoy this beautiful country that God has given us in this fall season.

**OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.clearwaterumcmn.org](http://www.clearwaterumcmn.org) – Please remember to log in and check it out.

**BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Our projected budget for 2022 shows $375 more per month of expenses than our projected income. Please pray about this problem. We do have plenty of $ in the bank because in 2021 we did receive the 2 PPP Grants of about $7,800 each plus a small grant from the county. We do need more giving dollars to cover our expenses though.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** Dick Wells-Sept. 18

Tom Boone-Sept. 20

Ralph Johansen-Sept. 21

Diane Miller-Sept 21

Makayla Rinkenberger-Sept 22

Arnie Searcy-Sept 29

If we are missing your birthday, please call, text or e-mail Carol and we will add.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Remember Bill Robinson and the Imagine No More Malaria drive? Let’s get involved again! Most of us can afford to help the world in some way. From the website you can donate and give credit to our church.

**Imagine No Malaria**

Country: Global

Advance **#3021190** **WDONATE NOw**

**Project Information**

Supporting UMC- affiliated programs in malaria education, prevention and treatment

**Describe the need affecting community**

Malaria continues to remain a primary cause for hospitalization and one of the top killers of children under the age of 5 years and pregnant women in Africa. The World Health Organization estimates 2015 saw over 200 million new cases of malaria with nearly 90% of those cases in Africa; along with an estimated nearly 400,000 malaria deaths in Africa (WHO World Malaria Report 2015). Malaria control programs in each supported UMC Episcopal Area or Annual Conference are implemented by the health board, a management structure tasked with the responsibility of identifying and responding to health needs within the Episcopal Area or Annual Conference. Currently there are 13 UMC conference boards trained whose activities cover 16 countries primarily in Africa: Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The UMC health facilities within these regions are struggling with the challenges of gaps in medicines and equipment, aging infrastructure, and outdated systems. Malaria programs are implemented through the extensive health network and infrastructure of the UMC and through partnerships with government and other non-profit organizations. INM programs focus on the most remote and impoverished places not served by governments or other NGOs. The aim is to reach the most at risk populations with women and children under 5 being priorities and linking those communities to health care.

**How will this Advance project help to address the need?**

In 2008, the United Methodist Church joined part of a global effort against malaria, embarking upon a $75,000,000 “Imagine No Malaria” fundraising campaign leveraging on the success of the Nothing But Nets partnership with United Nations Foundation (UNF). The United Methodist Church’s (UMC) Imagine No Malaria (INM) program is working together with UMC health boards in Sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to and utilization of malaria preventative measures, diagnosis, and treatment services. Our comprehensive approach to address malaria supports control measures to educate, prevent, and treat those communities in areas affected by malaria, as well as revitalize health facilities and support human resource development. Thirteen supported episcopal areas, annual conferences, and health boards receive funds and technical support to implement integrated malaria programs. INM along with other partners in the field have achieved some great successes over the past few years, although much still needs to be done.

**Describe the primary goal of the project**

Program goal: INM aims to achieve 20% reduction in malaria morbidity and mortality in the targeted communities over a five-year period. Program Objectives: By 2020 INM aims to increase access to and utilization of malaria preventive measures in targeted communities; and increase access to and utilization of malaria diagnosis and treatment services in targeted communities.

**Contact Information**

Global Ministries Contact

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**From Pastor Alison Hendley**

Summer is supposed to be a time to slow down, but that has not happened for me since I have moved to Minnesota.  I have decided that I don’t know how to do summer well.  How to have enough time for work and gardening and big projects that involve digging and painting and still have time for fun.  I don’t know how to do summer…. For there is always too much to take care of.  This year I have been on a boat just once, swum just once, and didn’t even get kayaking, falling down as I was carrying the kayak to the lake, forcing me to go home.  I don’t know how to do summer.

My recent knee injury has made me to slow down though…. And it’s pretty amazing what happens when I do that!  I have paid attention to the smallest flowers beneath my feet as I look to make sure the ground is stable beneath them.  I have looked up at through the leaves to the sky as I have sat and admired my yard rather than working in it.  I have breathed deeper as I move through the world at a slower pace.  I have asked for and received help with projects and dog walking.  And I have enjoyed the necessity of having to choose what I can do, rather than doing it all.

So often we rush through the world… whether physically or mentally and emotionally.  We fail to pay attention to the small things that bring us to a place of awe.  We fill our lives with important  things that can distract us from what is truly important.

As I’m writing this I am watching a baby… and he knows how to slow down and has already figured out what is important.  Simple paying attention to what is going on outside and what is going on within.  He has that look that babies have that looks right into your soul, and searches out eyes to stare intently into, as if reading your level of goodness and safety and love.  And when his belly has gas or he needs to eat, he makes sure you know.  When he is content his little dimple filled smile and laughter spill out easily, no holding back.

We could learn a lot from slowing down and paying attention to what is right there.  Within and without.  The small things that remind us of God’s presence.  The first instinct to trust, after checking out another.  The ways tiny things bring joy.  And I think it’s really these things rather than how many times I have been in and on the water that are maybe more important.  And when I think of all the miracles that the hard work in my garden have created, and the new projects that are appearing as I walk through my home, I may have to change my narrative.  Maybe I do do summer well.  Flowers and ripe tomatoes and cucumbers and monarchs who have discovered my new prairie patch.  Babies and hiking and playing with a dog and eating ice cream with friends.  God showing up in friends and birds and neighbors and you!  Maybe I do do summer well.

Psalm 81 says*,*

*If only My people would hear My voice….  
 I will feed you the best wheat  
    and satisfy you with honey out of the rock.*

Maybe there has been a lot of honey from the rock when I look for it!

How about you?  And if not, what needs to slow down and pay attention?  Where has there been honey from the rock for you?