

The Feast of Creation

Like many of you, I grew up learning to love the natural world around me. Growing up in a rural, isolated area of north-central Minnesota with miles separating me from school friends, I spent many solitary hours wandering through the wooded areas, streams and lakes, near my boyhood home, often with a companionable dog. I had the benefit of experiencing firsthand the beauties and brutalities of nature.

Somewhere along the way, though, I learned that I had to make a choice between the natural world (uncovered by science) and the spiritual world (mediated by religion). In my mind — maybe I was taught this at some point? — I had to choose God or science. This stark choice was reinforced both by my educational and religious teachers. Because I loved Jesus, I chose faith, always a little disconcerted that I had to “leave behind” my scientific interests.

Fortunately, over the past five decades some things have changed. Those in the scientific world are not necessarily disparaging of religious people, and religious people are not as suspicious of science. In fact, there is the realization that together — science and religion — can be a powerful source for enhancing both worlds for the better.

Something significant happened earlier this year, that I only recently learned. It's kind of a complicated weave of a story, but here's the summary. Years ago, Christians in the Orthodox tradition began to observe the first Sunday in September as a Feast Day for Creation. In time, other Christian denominational families took note. This Spring an ecumenical group that reviews the Revised Common Lectionary (the three-year pattern of Scripture readings we often use), decided it was time for liturgical (like Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal) and liturgical-adjacent (like United Methodist, American Baptists, Disciples of Christ) denominations to recognize the importance of the world God created. For the first time since the 1930s, a new “feast day” was added to the church calendar: “The Feast of Creation,” the first Sunday of September. A “season of creation” follows through October 4th, when St. Francis of Assisi, lover of all creatures, is celebrated.

This September, I'd like us to explore together in worship the glories of a God who creates and trusts us to tend the world we inhabit. If you love the natural world, these weeks will be a time for us to pay closer attention, with gratitude, to all that is around us. We may even learn that one of the ways we love the divine is by loving what the divine has created.

Peace,

Pastor Bart

The Compass



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Administrative Board Notes

I feel like the proverbial record in my updates -- once again, the days seem to flash before our eyes! As I write this, it's the first day of the Minnesota State Fair, a true indication that summer is nearly over.

While the weather stays nice, I encourage you to make a visit to the Lake Andrew Cemetery (which came into our possession many years ago) especially if you've never been there. It's on Hwy 71, just about .3 miles north of County Road 40. With the miracle of modern technology, you can even put "Lake Andrew Cemetery" into your Maps app and get directions. Don and Jean Ericson have been faithful servants to managing the cemetery. They served on the Cemetery Board when we had one and currently mark off plots for burials and also provide guidance on the deeds that must be issued. Don and Jean could use some help. Two admin board members, Bryan Maurice and Dave Evermann, have agreed to learn to serve as back-up "markers," but if this mission calls to you, please talk to Pastor Bart, me or Don or Jean.

At our August meeting, we did adopt a few updates to our recently approved Wedding Policy.

We also discussed ways to better communicate church business to our congregation, so the Admin Board meeting minutes will be posted on the kiosk near the entry doors.

You've seen the information in the weekly newsletter about the addition of chairs with arms that have been added to the sanctuary. We've are used to "making do" with what we have, but if you identify a need for our congregation, please feel comfortable in bringing it up for discussion.

Lastly, thanks to Pat Evermann and Melody Hanson for their Mission initiatives. The school supply table was overflowing!! Let that set the example for future initiatives!

In the fellowship of Christ,

Pat Solheid

***The next Admin Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a property "walk around" starting at 6 p.m.*

Worship Plan for September

"The Season of Creation"

Sunday, September 6, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost

The Feast of Creation

Scripture text: John 1:1-5

Sermon: The Word Who Grounds Us

Sunday, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture text: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Sermon: The Breath Who Births Us

Sunday, September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture text: Psalm 148

Sermon: The Dance Who Connects Us

Sunday, September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture text: Acts 17:22-28

Sermon: The One Who Enlivens Us

Vision Team to Meet

Prior to Pastor Bart's arrival a year ago, a Vision Team refined our church's Mission Statement and our Practices. Now it's time for the next step: dreaming together what our future holds and how we get there. Summer commitments have delayed the first meeting of this next version of our Vision Team, so we will meet for the first time on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM. If you have previously indicated an interest in serving, please plan to join us. If you are interested and cannot attend this first meeting, please let Pastor Bart know.

Lay Readers Needed!

If you would like to help lead the congregation during worship with scripture readings, please sign up on the link in the weekly email, or call the church office. Thank you in advance for your service to our worship ministry!





The Fall Boutique is just around the corner! October 3rd from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Set up for our Boutique will start on Sunday Sept 27 after worship. We will then set up Thursday and Friday, October 1 and 2 from 9 am to 12 pm,. Please bring all your items during that time. The last day to donate cookies and baked goods is Friday. If you are interested in helping the day of the boutique, or have any questions, please contact Diane Maurice, Bonnie Triplett or Joyce Ronning. All are welcome!

New Chairs

If you've been at the church recently, you may have noticed that there are six chairs with arms in the sanctuary. These were added after getting feedback that it might be easier for some people to get up and down if there were chairs available that had arms. Please feel free to move these around to other rows or put two or more together. If you can't move the chairs on your own, ask for assistance!



Remember to Save Your Teals Receipts!

Cross Roads UMC is continuing to be part of the Teals' Market 1% Receipt Rebate Program. When you shop at Teals, save your receipts, bring them to church, and put them in the special Teals Receipts box located just outside the sanctuary in the narthex area. Teals will donate 1% of our receipt totals back to Cross Roads. All receipts will be accepted, even those from previous years. Gas receipts ARE a part of the program!

All reimbursements from the receipts go towards the Tuesday's Table meal expenses!

This is a great opportunity to take part in a local business giving back to our community.

Thank you for your support!



Coffee Corner

Coffee Corner will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at 9:00 am in the church fellowship hall. Please come out and join us for a cup of coffee and some great conversation!



Connecting With Our Atwater Friends

When we met together in August at the Spicer American Legion with our friends from Atwater, we weren't sure what to expect. It turns out that we had a great night together! There were 35 of us all together, with a nice group from both congregations represented. Conversation was shared, connections were made and food was enjoyed. The general feel of the evening was joyous celebration! We will gather again in October (same location) ... watch for more details soon!

Sept Birthdays

Kaleb Smith 3rd
Kim Rohloff 4th
Barb Springman 6th
Ralph Dickerson 8th
Jaden Smith 15th
Pat Evermann 18th
Trenton Rohloff 21st
Duane Daby 22nd
Don Ericson 22nd
Diane Maurice 27th

Sept Anniversaries

Richard & Linda Kelvington 4th
Jeff & Diane Duke 24th
Jeff & Amy Denz 26th



If we have missed your special day, please let the office know.



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United Methodist Church**

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September 2026

The Mission

Cross Roads Community: A United Methodist Congregation is
on a journey to reveal the Kingdom of God through
our love, faith, and action.

Our Practices:

Our Practices

- We live like Jesus
- We give generously
- We serve selflessly
- We love passionately
- We include radically
- We care intentionally