



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

"You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile... You soften the earth with showers and bless its abundant crops... The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture, and the hillsides blossom with joy."

—from Psalm 65:9, 10, 12

May is quite possibly the most delightful month of the whole year. The cold of winter, the slush of March, and the showers of April give way to vibrant green fields and blossoming flower gardens and brightly-colored nesting birds. Every nook and cranny seems to be pulsing with new life!

Our calendars seem to fill up with lively celebrations too. This month in our church family we have confirmations to celebrate on May 3rd with Kendra Schmidt, Cobie Styer, and Conner Styer, three of the finest young followers of Jesus you'll ever meet. Then, the Joyful Noise Choir will perform their spring concert on Tuesday, May 12. On May 14th it will be Rosella Blakley's 104th birthday. Be sure to send her a card! On May 17th we'll get to celebrate the baptisms of Grace Giese (that precious little miracle girl we've been praying for ever since she was born) and her equally precious cousin, Mayci Brantner. The high school graduation ceremony for Menomonie students will be on the afternoon of May 24, and we'll have a cake and celebration during fellowship that morning featuring this year's graduates, Balian Viana and Noah Slaback. On May 31st Stan and Mary Hensley are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary with a reception at the church that afternoon. All of this is in addition to our regularly scheduled worship times, youth group meetings, Monday's

Meals, Wednesday evening prayer meetings, etc. It's a month *full* of good activities!

As the world all around us comes back to life, I pray that this season may be a time of renewal and revival for you and for our whole church community too. May this be a vibrant season of fruitfulness and growth as we anticipate the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. InWha Shon this summer!

I look forward to seeing you soon in worship and in service to our community!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wendy



Miracle Sunday Offering on May 17

One of the most marvelous things about the United Methodist Church is that we are a world-wide church, and it is simply astounding to consider the difference we can make when we work *together* in coordinated efforts. One such upcoming effort is the Miracle Sunday Offering on Sunday, May 17 when United Methodists all around the world are invited to give a one-time offering to support the Endowment for Theological Education outside the United States. This offering addresses a critical and growing disparity within the global church:

- More than 71% of U.S. clergy hold a theological degree

• Fewer than 5% of clergy outside the U.S. have access to the same level of education

Gifts received through Miracle Sunday will help fund the gap in theological education for emerging pastors in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, strengthening local leadership and expanding the church's capacity for faithful, contextual ministry. Together, United Methodist congregations worldwide support approximately 500 clergy each year through this endowment.

If you'd like to participate in the Miracle Sunday offering, you can give through the Menomonic UMC and simply mark your check or designate your online giving for "Miracle Sunday".

Get to know Pastor InWha!



My family members were born in South Korea and came here from S. Korea in 2004, except for me (I came here in 2002). I was raised in a Methodist pastor's family. My wife was raised in a family of an elementary school teacher.

Sarah, my daughter, was born in 1994, and likes baking, cooking, handicrafts, and music (playing piano and violin). She graduated from Emory Univ. in Atlanta, GA, in 2018 with a major in Economics and runs a small business now.

David, my son, was born in 1997 and also graduated from Emory with a major in Biology in 2019, and likes sports (golf, basketball, tennis, and pickleball, etc), and playing violin and piano as well. He will be graduating from the Dental College of Georgia this May. He is going to work as a resident doctor at the Children's Hospital beginning in July.

Esther likes cooking, baking, handicrafts, and knitting and crocheting. Esther used to run a hair salon in Korea for 7 years as a professional hair designer.

I like most sports, like pickleball, tennis, golf, soccer, swimming, etc. Photographing is my hobby too. Also, we all like traveling.

I have served the Board of Ordained Ministry as a member since 2016, Mission Motivation North Central District as a district secretary from 2020-2024, Wisconsin Foundation as a member since 2016, Taskforce for the sister-relation with the Dongbu Annual Conference as a member since 2015, and the New Ministries Strategy Board as a member from 2020-2024.

United Methodist Student Sunday Offering on May 3

One of our annual special offerings in the United Methodist Church is the Student Day offering, to be held on any Sunday in May. This year we will be celebrating Student Day on Sunday, May 3rd when members of our confirmation class and youth group will be helping to lead worship. Every dollar given on United Methodist Student Day goes directly to scholarships for United Methodist students. These funds support a diverse group—from those preparing for ordained ministry to others pursuing professions that serve their communities. Your generosity removes financial obstacles and opens doors for future leaders to answer their call.

In addition to the nation-wide Student Sunday offering on May 3 to support scholarships, our youth group students will also accept free will donations at the fellowship table where they will be providing a light brunch for us. All funds from the free will brunch offering will help our students attend the national gathering of United Methodist youth in Dallas in July 2027.

Parish Nurse Corner: Medication Management Matters

By Sarah Zarbock, RN

Managing medications safely is an important part of caring for your health. Whether you take one prescription or several, following a few simple guidelines can help prevent errors and improve outcomes.

Start with the **Five Rights of Medication Safety**: the right patient, right medication, right dose, right route, and right time. These principles help ensure that medications are taken correctly and safely every day.

Keep an up-to-date list of all your medications, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Carry this list with you and share it with your healthcare providers at every visit. Using one pharmacy whenever possible can also help reduce the risk of harmful drug interactions.

It's important to understand your medications. Know when to take them—whether with food, on an empty stomach, or at a specific time of day. Be aware of foods or drinks to avoid, such as grapefruit juice or alcohol with certain medications. Always follow dosing instructions carefully and complete the full course of antibiotics as prescribed.

Safe storage and disposal are also essential. Check expiration dates regularly and dispose of unused medications at approved community sites. Never flush medications down the toilet.

Finally, use tools like pill organizers, alarms, or medication management services to stay on track. Good medication habits support your health and help you live well.

Parish Nurse News - by Sarah Zarbock, RN May 2026

There are many decisions to make when taking medications. The five R's (rights) of medication administration are crucial to safety and preventing errors - the right patient, right drug(medication), right dose, right route and right time.

Here are some other suggestions for Medication Management

1. Keep list on hand from your physicians office, in purse or handy at home
2. Have an emergency plan and medications available
3. If you set up in a planner, list the medications on the back
4. Avoid getting medications, from multiple physicians or pharmacies
5. Know when to take medications - on a full stomach, empty stomach or at bedtime only ; early morning
6. Know foods and juices to avoid, know special instructions for blood thinners (avoid ASA, NSAID, excessive alcohol; soft toothbrushes, grapefruit and cranberry
7. Know how much to take ; tablets vs milligrams (mg)
8. How long to take; always finish the course of antibiotics you are prescribed

What else are you taking? Does your doctor know?

1. Herbals
2. Over the counter drugs (OTC) : avoid mixing medications without checking on contraindications
3. Vitamins

Disposal of unwanted medications

1. Look for expiration date
2. Disposal of unwanted medication - Dunn Co Sheriff's office, Mayo Clinic pharmacy, CVS or Walgreens pharmacy; last resort mix with kitty litter or coffee grounds and dispose
3. Disposal of syringes in FDA cleared sharps container - dispose at Dunn County Health Department
4. Do not flush medications down the toilet

Medication reminder systems

1. Alarm clocks; Mediplanners; or MedReady set up services available -Medication Therapy Management from Mayo; Home Health may provide; Family Care

Let's Celebrate!

If you would like us to post in our newsletter birthdays, anniversaries or a note, please let Lori know at the church office in advance. Our church family would like to Celebrate your day!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	2
3 Blood Pressure Checks Student Day	4 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	5 Joyful Noise 6-7	6 Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth 6:30-8	7	8	9
10  Mother's Day	11 Monday Meal 5-6 pm It Takes A Village 6:30 Fireside	12 Joyful Noise CONCERT 6-7:30	13 Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth 6:30-8	14	15	16
17 Spring Outreach Event NO ALB Brunch	18 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	19	20 Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth 6:30-8	21 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	22 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	23
24 Celebrate our graduates at fellowship!	 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Memorial Day	26	27 Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth Wed. Table	28	29 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	30 NAMI Walk Fundraiser in Eau Claire
31 Care Bucket Sunday						



May

May 11th Meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
@Menomonie United Methodist Church

July

July 19th Picnic, water fun, games and outside yard games
@Menomonie United Methodist Church 1pm- 3pm

Contact Amanda Viana at
family_outreach@menomonieumc.org
Support Group for Neurodivergent
Caregivers and Individuals.

Including devotionals, support, respite, activities and guest speakers, sharing ideas and support for one another.
Snack and childcare provided.

SPRING CAMP SUNDAY

A fun Sunday learning about camp and sharing in fellowship with a meal of hot dog plate provided.

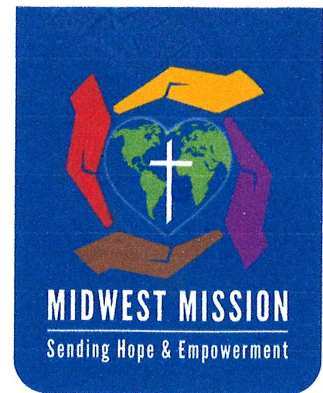
SUNDAY, MAY 17
10:30 TO 12:00 PM
If rain, we will be inside
FREE! EVERYONE WELCOME!

Contact Amanda Viana at
family_outreach@menomonieumc.org

2703 Bongey Drive
Menomonie, WI
715-235-0654

WI ANNUAL CONFERENCE INGATHERING

Your congregation can join us in transforming lives, both globally and locally!
We will collect life-changing items for Midwest Mission during the 2026 Conference.



WHAT TO COLLECT (COMPLETE KITS & INDIVIDUAL ITEMS)

HOME CARE KITS

- Liquid household cleaner - 56-80 oz. total (no spray bottles)
- Dish soap - 42-64 oz.
- Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz. total
- 1 Scrub brush
- 1 Five-gallon round bucket with resealable lid

PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo - 12-19 oz.
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 Lotion - 8-10 oz.
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 Donation for toothpaste and carrying bag

Find Kit lists and instructions at
midwestmission.org/kits

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

Layette gowns and sleepers (0-6 months), reusable day and night pads, and gently used wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, splints, braces, boots.

OTHER ITEMS

Anything listed in the 2026 Kits and Projects Brochure will be accepted (scan QR code).



DROP-OFF DETAILS

Drop off donations at Annual Conference in Middleton on **Friday, June 5 from 10 am - 4 pm**, at designated temporary sites, or at Permanent Collection Sites throughout the year. **Learn more at wisconsinumc.org/ingathering**



IDEA FOR YOUR CHURCH

1. Choose the Kit(s) you want to focus on
2. Have people collect items for several weeks, and drop them off at the church — bonus if you get the community involved!
3. Have a packing event where your church comes together for a time of fellowship and Kit packing

Find shopping lists, instructions, and videos at midwestmission.org/kits

Wanted Choir Director

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The choir shall be a blend of traditional and contemporary music. The Choir Director is responsible for coordinating the music program for the Chancel choir. The Choir Director is supervised by the Pastor who reports to the Staff-Parish representatives on the Accountable Leadership Board. The Choir Director works with the Pastor in planning music for worship services. The selected candidate must pass a confidential background check. The Menomonie UMC is a relaxed and welcoming community with three gifted pianists and a dedicated, experienced choir. We have vibrant faith formation programs for preschoolers through adults, including opportunities for intergenerational ministry.

DUTIES:

- Must have good musical skills, knowledge of different styles of singing and be able to work with a variety of voices.
- Selecting appropriate music for the choir to perform, considering the abilities of the choir members and the occasion
- Leads weekly choir rehearsals (September through May), helping members improve their vocal technique and musical skills
- Directs the Chancel Choir for Sunday (September thru May) one to two Sundays per month, and other services, as requested
- Plans and directs one Cantata each year if possible (Christmas and/or Easter)
- Conducts the choir during performances to guide tempo, dynamics, and overall interpretation of the music
- Order music and other materials, keeping within the budget assigned
- Maintenance of the musical library (filing)
- Assists in preparing the music ministry budget when requested.
- Communicating effectively with choir members, accompanists, Pastor and other relevant parties
- Ensuring the choir adheres to any relevant rules or codes of conduct
- Collaborating with other musical directors or musicians for special performances and Summer Services when available
- Communicate with the Administrative Assistant on music to be used before the bulletin is printed.
- Notifies choir members and the Pastor two weeks in advance for any planned absences.
- Communicates with the custodian on music schedule and needs for practice and services.
- Ensures the building is secured after rehearsals.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Salary: \$3150 to be reviewed and set annually on a calendar year basis. (Anticipated hours: approximately 190/year, or 4-5 hours per week, September through May).

Social Security: As per FICA regulations.

Mileage reimbursement at the IRS standard business mileage rate

TERMINATION: Termination of services by the Coordinator or church shall require 30 days notice.

Come Join Us For a

Celebration of Ministry!

Sunday, June 14th

After the service to honor Pastor Wendy.

Please mark your calendar to attend.

ALB Brunch Cancelled This Month

Due to our Camp Sunday, two baptisms, and our Spring Outreach event on May 17th, the Accountable Leadership Board will not be organizing a brunch on that day. However, if you have any questions or suggestions for our board, please do reach out at any time!

Sarah Zarbock,
our Parish Nurse
to be in office most
Fridays from
9:30 -11:30 am
In the conference room

Feel free to
stop by to
meet or visit
with any
health or
faith
concerns

**Sarah will
not be
May 8th
or 15th**

Graduation Celebration on May 24

Join us during the fellowship hour on Sunday, May 24 to celebrate with Noah Slaback and Balian Viana as they complete their high school education! Noah is one of five valedictorians in the 2026 graduating class. He plans to attend UW-Stout this fall, and although he isn't yet certain of his career goals he is leaning toward a career in teaching math or science. Balian looks forward to another summer working on staff at Camp Phillips at the trading post. During his high school years, he has developed a love for theater, and he plans to continue his theater and stage presence. We hope to see him in future community theater productions! Balian is pursuing a career in game design.



Happy Birthday!

**Rosella Blakley
May 14**

Please send cards to:
E6224 610th Ave.
Menomonie, WI 54751

NAMI Walk at Carson Park in Eau Claire on May 30

In March our “It Takes a Village” parent group for families raising neurodivergent children had the pleasure of meeting Tanya Potter, the Executive Director of NAMI of Chippewa Valley. She shared helpful resources on understanding autism, ADHD, anxiety, and depression.

Last year, Pastor Wendy and her son Lucas enjoyed participating in the NAMI Walk fundraiser and we’re planning to do it again this spring. The event takes place on Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 am and includes inspiring speakers, informational booths, kids activities, a DJ, and raffle baskets in addition to an enjoyable 1-mile walk around Carson Park in Eau Claire. If you’d like to join our team or make a contribution, simply visit <https://www.namiwalks.org/teams/82537> and click on “Join Our Team” or “Support Us”.



Pause for Prayer

Weekly prayer during pastor transitions

Unity for our congregation,
other concerns may be brought up as well

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Join us!

Fireside Room
Menomonie United Methodist Church

Everyone Welcome

Any questions contact
Sarah Zarbock at
zarbocks@gmail.com

May 2026 Stewardship Newsletter

A Church Set on Fire

There's a moment in Acts of the Apostles that changes everything.

The disciples are gathered – uncertain, waiting, not quite sure what comes next. Then the Holy Spirit arrives like a rushing wind. Flames appear above their heads. They begin speaking in different languages. And suddenly, a small, fearful group becomes a bold, outward-moving community of faith.

That moment – what we now celebrate as Pentecost – isn't just about spectacle. It's about empowerment.

God's Spirit didn't come simply to comfort the disciples. It came to send them.

And what happened next? The message of God's grace spread. Rapidly. Powerfully. Person to person. Community to community. The church was born not as a building, but as a movement of people sharing what they had received.

That same pattern continues today.

God pours grace into our lives – not so we can hold onto it, but so we can participate in passing it along. Our generosity becomes one of the primary ways that happens. Every act of giving – whether to support worship, outreach, missions, or care for those in need – becomes part of how the Spirit continues to move through the church and into the world.

In many ways, generosity is one of the clearest signs that the Spirit is still at work.

Because generosity is never just about dollars. It's about trust. It's about participation. It's about joining God in what God is already doing.

On that first Pentecost, the disciples didn't keep the good news to themselves. They couldn't.

And when the Spirit is at work in us, we can't help but do the same.

United Messenger

May 2026

Pastor: Wendy Slaback
Phone: 715-235-0654
Email: pastor@menomonieumc.org
www.menomonieumc.org



Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Service Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service followed by a fellowship hour

10:30 a.m. Sunday Study



Menomonie

*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2703 Bongey Drive
Menomonie, WI 54751

