

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

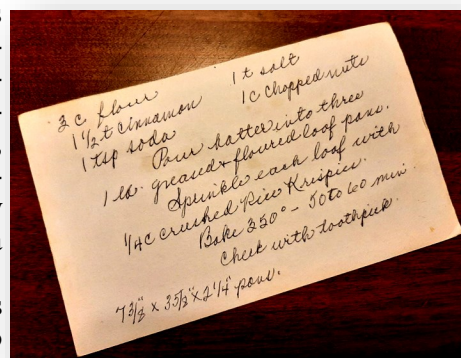
As I write this, we are still in the week of Thanksgiving and I find myself feeling a little nostalgic and deeply grateful for the abundance of simple gifts I have experienced in my life. For example: carrots are one of those simple gifts. I harvested a bumper crop of carrots this year. I couldn't resist the multi-colored photo on the seed packets I purchased in the spring—carrots in white, yellow, orange, and a deep reddish purple. Those packets felt so light and small I decided one might not be enough, so I bought three seed packets just to be safe. I wanted to have extra produce to share with the Stepping Stones food pantry anyway, and boy howdy did I ever get to share—green beans, tomatoes, carrots, and potatoes! I'm no master gardener though, so probably at least two-thirds of my carrot harvest were scrawny little misshapen ones that are a bit of a pain to peel. The nicest ones all went to Stepping Stones, the scrawniest ones went to my chickens, and I'm slowly working my way through the other fifty pounds or so of small ones in my refrigerator.

That brings me to another sweet gift: Rosella Blakley's "Fruity Carrot Bread". If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting her yet, Rosella is a long-time member of this church and one of the kindest, most delightful women any of us could ever hope to meet. She is 103 years young and lived in her own home with one of her sons until earlier this year. Each time I would visit her at her country home over the past several years, she insisted on preparing a "little lunch" for us. There was always good, strong coffee and a variety of both sweet and savory snacks to enjoy—cheese, crackers, sweet breads, or homemade cookies. At one visit, I enjoyed her carrot

bread—sweet like carrot cake but without the frosting—and she was kind enough to send me her recipe just a few days later, handwritten in her perfect penmanship. To me, there's something especially sweet about a hand-written recipe. This year, thanks to

Rosella's Fruity Carrot Bread recipe, I am finding joy even in peeling my bumper crop of miniature misfit carrots because I get to bask in Rosella's kindness each time I bake this sweet, nourishing treat for my boys.

And so I am passing this gift along to you in case it might bless you as well. I give you this "Fruity



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Carrot Bread” recipe and if you’re willing to fuss with some cute little carrots just let me know and I can provide plenty of those too! (I’m also open to hearing your favorite ways to use carrots. Feel free to send along any recipes you recommend.)

May you find the season ahead to be filled with simple gifts, sweet nostalgia, and sublime new memories in the making! I look forward to seeing you soon as we celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Love,
Pastor Wendy

Fruity Carrot Bread

Combine in mixer bowl—beat slowly until just mixed:

3 eggs
2 c. sugar
1 c. oil
1 c. grated carrots
1 c. crushed pineapple (8 oz can + juice)
2 tsp vanilla

Sift dry ingredients together and add to above mixture:

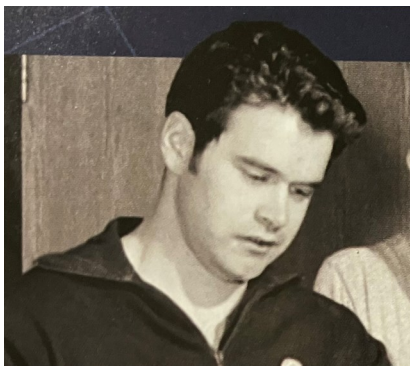
3 c. flour
1 ½ t. cinnamon
1 t. soda
1 t. salt
1 c. chopped walnuts

Pour batter into three 1-lb greased and floured loaf pans. Sprinkle each loaf with ¼ c. crushed Rice Krispies. Bake 350° for 50-60 minutes. Check with toothpick.

Congratulations to John Zuerlein who was inducted to the WIAC Hall of Fame!

*Men’s and Women’s Gymnastics Coach
from 1962-1994*

John started the men’s program while still a student in 1962 and turned the program into a national contender. He was named the national coach of the year and the conference coach of the year in 1984 and 1992. Among his many NAIA, NCAA and NCGA All-Americans were seven individual national champions and



numerous All-Conference gymnastics. The men’s team placed in the top four of the NAIA Championship every year from 1970-1983. He was inducted into the UW-Stout Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

The WIAC inducted members every three years. This year’s Hall of Fame Banquet was hosted at UW-Stout on July 26.

Congratulations John!

Special thanks to Stout Outlook for contributing the article.

Advent in Narnia

The season of Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Jesus for the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This year we’ll be using Heidi Haverkamp’s book *Advent in Narnia* as inspiration for our worship theme, focusing on the first part of C.S. Lewis’s classic story *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. As the synopsis in the book says, “With its enchanting themes of light and darkness, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope—and even an appearance by Father Christmas—C.S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* naturally enhances the Advent season of reflection. As the reader anticipates the glorious coming of Christmas, *Advent in Narnia* inspires us to consider the holiday season from a new perspective.” The author adds, “my purpose in writing this book is not to help you to know Narnia better but to know God better. ...I hope that by spending a little time in Narnia this Advent, you will get to know Aslan—and Jesus Christ—better, and to prepare for Jesus’ birth at Christmas all the more richly for it.” So friends, please come as we explore the themes of Advent each Sunday from this fun new perspective! If you join us for Messy Church this month on December 14 you just might get to have tea with Mr. Tumnus or sample some Turkish Delight (the non-enchanted kind—we promise!) Spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in experiencing a little Narnian fun with us this Advent!

Grace Bridge Korean UMC to Hold Kimchi Festival

Our friends from the Grace Bridge Korean United Methodist Church will be hosting a Kimchi Festival right here at Menomonie UMC on Saturday, December 6 from 10 am- 2 pm and you’re invited! From 10:00-10:30 there will be time to register for the festival and get to know one another. From 10:30-11:00 there will be a presentation about the history of kimchi and some of the most popular kimchi recipes. From 11:00-12:00 we’ll actually try our hand at preparing some kimchi ourselves. From 12:00-1:30 pm we’ll enjoy a lunch of boiled pork, vegetable soup, and the kimchi we made. From 1:30-2:00 we’ll take a commemorative group photo, clean up, and take home the leftover kimchi to enjoy another day. If you can’t stay the entire time, you’re welcome to come for whatever portion of the festival works in your schedule. If you plan to come, please email Pastor Jinsan Kim at goodmts@gmail.com with your name and contact information so the leaders can be sure to purchase enough ingredients for all who are interested. There is a \$5 fee to attend the festival to help

**Betty Hazen is looking for colored paper
(anything but white or black) as well as
she is still on a quest for lace and ric-rac.
Can be left in the office for Anita to
take to her. Thank you!**

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Joyful Noise 6-7	Youth Group & Confirmation 6:30-8	CPR Class 5-8	Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	
7 Blood Pressure Checks	8 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Mom's Group 6-7 pm Joyful Noise 6-7	9	10 Foot & Nail Clinic 9-3 Youth Group 6:30-8	11	12 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	13
14 Messy Church 10:30-Noon	15 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	16 Joyful Noise Christmas Concert 6-7:15	17 Youth Group & Confirmation 6:30-8	18 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	19 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	20
21	22 Monday Meal 5-6 pm It Takes a Village Celebration Night 6-8 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4 pm	25 		26 27
28	29 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	30	31 New Year's Eve Youth serving Wed. Table			



Join us Monday, December 22
6:00-8:00 pm
Celebration Night

Ornament making, cookie exchange, dinner and much more!

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.



Free Blood Pressure Screening

First Sunday of the month after Worship Service

American Heart Association
Healthy for Good™

HELP US RESTOCK TOWELS, TOILETRIES & CLEANING SUPPLIES NEEDED



RESTORING HOPE, ONE HOME AT A TIME

NEW ITEMS NEEDED

- Trash bags 30 gallon
- Trash bags 13 gallon
- Laundry soap liquid/pods
- Hygiene items including sample sizes
- Shower liners
- All purpose cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Sponges/scrubbers

MISSION RESTORING HOPE NEEDS YOUR HELP

We're collecting essential items to restock our emergency care kits—providing cleaning, hygiene, and home starter supplies to local families in need. Your donations help restore comfort, dignity, and hope during times of crisis

NEW OR LIKE NEW ITEMS

- Bath Towels & Washcloths
- Kitchen Towels & Washcloths
- Silverware & Utensils
- Toaster & small appliances
- Mixing bowls
- Bowls with lids
- Strainers
- Pizza pans/ cookie sheets
- Pizza cutters
- Dish Drainers
- Bath Rugs
- Curtains

November 13th

December 17th

Mission Restoring Hope is a registered nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

DROP OFF LOCATION:
105 Tower Road West,
Wheeler, WI 54772

Wed. & Fri 11-4
Sat. 8:30 -12:30

Or by appointment: Call Doreen @715-505-1621



CPR/AED Training

3 hour program to certify use of AED/CPR

Thursday, December 4 • 5:00-8:00 pm

\$10 free will donation

To register contact Sarah Zarbock
at zarbocks@gmail.com or 715-308-1698



2703 Bongey Dr.,
Menomonie, WI
715-235-0654



Advent Greetings!

We are entering the season of Advent - a waiting time for Jesus to come in person to earth. This is also a time of hope, as Matthew 1:23 tells us, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, *God is with us.*"

During our recent "Talk Turkey" presentation- Gene Larson shared some important tips to remember about talking with family regarding POA for health care. This information can be found on our new bulletin board in the narthex, and I also have more packets from the Dept of Aging available - with forms for POA- Health care and POA- Finance.

Talking about end of life discussions may be hard now, but necessary if you want to have things in place for yourself or loved ones when they become ill or are diagnosed with a terminal illness.

I am thankful for this Advent time of reflection, to set aside time with God. One way of reflection during this time could be writing in a holiday journal. These journal entries could be about how you may feel or sense God during this season, or about a favorite Christmas or Thanksgiving memory.

Remember to give yourself permission to set aside quiet time and allow balance in your day for mental health during the Holiday season.

Many blessings to you!
Sarah Zarbock, Parish Nurse



Grief Share

"A Journey from Mourning to Joy"
Time to process your grief
in a group with faith setting.

**Saturdays,
January 3 thru March 28**
1:00-3:00 pm • Fireside Room

Freewill donation.
Please register through the Grief Share website at
griefshare.org by January 2, 2026
or contact Sarah Zarbock
at 715-308-1698 or zarbocks@gmail.com

Open to Everyone

Financial Footnotes

It is hard to believe that we are preparing for the end of the year already. I want to thank you for sharing the gifts you have received with the Menomonie United Methodist Church. We have been truly blessed. When we compare the general giving of 2025 to the giving of 2024, we are down about eight percent. It has been a tough year for many of us. If you plan on giving any additional gifts that you want credited to your 2025 financial statement, I would appreciate, they be at the church office by December 30th. "When we connect giving to the hope of Christ, generosity becomes more than a transaction-it becomes worship".

Have a blessed advent season.
Lynn Klatt

Foot & Nail Clinic

Toenail trimming and
thinning (if needed), callous care.
Provided by RN, Foot Care Specialist
Jacki Bruchert

**2nd Wednesday of the month
starting December 10**
9:00 am-3:00 pm

\$40 for 45 min. appt.

\$50 for 60 min. (if needed)

Please contact Jackie 2 days before to
schedule appointment call or text
715-529-5637

Everyone Welcome!

**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**



December 2025 Stewardship Newsletter

Shining the Light of Christ Through Generosity

As Advent candles flicker to life, we're reminded that even the smallest light can push back the darkness. The weeks leading up to Christmas invite us to wait with hope, to prepare our hearts, and to remember that God's love comes to us not through power or wealth, but through the humble gift of Jesus.

This season can feel busy and heavy, with travel plans, shopping lists, and end-of-year pressures, but Advent calls us to pause and notice the light already breaking into our lives. It shines in a child's laughter, a shared meal, a simple act of kindness. It shines through generosity that makes someone else's day a little brighter.

As you light your candles and prepare your homes and hearts, may you be reminded that Christ still comes into our world - quietly, gently, persistently - with hope for all people. And as God's light takes root in us, we are called to reflect it outward, helping others see that the darkness does not win.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." - John 1:5

United Messenger

December 2025

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

