We hear the words of the prophets who go before God and call on us to prepare the way for the Lord. We repent of our sins and seek God's forgiveness, and we proclaim God's salvation to the world. Because of God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven breaks upon us, God brings light to us and to all who dwell in darkness to guide us on the path of peace.

## THANKSGIVING AND SENDING FORTH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Invitation to the Offering** | | |
| **Doxology** | ***Lift up Your Heads , Ye Mighty Gates*** (vv. 2,3) | UMH #213 |
| **Offertory Prayer** | | Rev. Shon |
| **Closing Hymn** | ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*** | UMH #206 |
| **Benediction** | | Rev. Shon |
| **Postlude** | ***Christmas Medley*** | Landis & Whitman |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, 11/29: Care Bucket Sunday
  Church Conference, 10:30 am following worship
  Light soup luncheon & fellowship w/ DS Peace Kim following the Church conference
- Monday,11/30: Monday Meal- 5pm-6 pm (sign up in narthex to help)
  Hashbrown Egg Bake, Fruit & Cinnemon Roll (Menu subject to change)
  It Takes a Village- Friendsgiving, 6:30-8:00pm
  (contact Amanda Viana at family_outreach@menomonieumc.org)
  Dartball League- 8pm (contact Kevin Klatt for location, to cheer on our team)
- Wednesdays, 12/4: Advent Study 5:30pm
- Sundays, 12/8: Advent Study 10:30 am
- Saturday,12/5: Grief Share, 1-3 pm. @ Fireside room
- Sunday, 12/13: Youth Pancake Breakfast
- Sunday, 12/20: Youth Movie Night
- Thursday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 4 pm

Poinsettias at the altar: Forms in the narthex due by December 7

## JOYS AND PRAYERS

**Visitation Ministry Home Bound or in Care Centers:**

June Harvey, Danielle Mensing, Jane Larsen, Rick Jensen, Mary Ellen Lidgerding, Ramona Reidt, Betty Hazen, Barbara Laatsch, Carolyn Hubbard, Rosella Blakley, Robert Barber, Dave Sweeney, Sarah & Kurt Zarbock celebrating Joy of new grandbaby. Rev. Tim Matthaei

Pastor: Rev. Inwha Shon, pastor@menomonieumc.org

Menomonie UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI 54751
715-235-0654
Office hrs Mon, Wed, Thurs. 9 AM-2 PM

**November 29, 2026**
First Sunday of Advent
Liturgist: Sarah Zarbock

# MENOMONIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Open Hearts*
*Open Minds*
*Open Doors*

** If you are able, please stand*

**Praise**

| | |
|---|---|
| *From the Rising of the Sun* | TFWS #2024 |
| *Infant Hoy, Infant Holy* | UHM #229 |

**Announcements**

## INVITATION AND GATHERING

### *Call to Worship

L: Like generations upon generations before us, we enter Advent with longing for hope to reign where despair feels entrenched, for peace to rule where conflict and destruction overwhelm.

**P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: We gather, wondering whether joy will return when we have experienced so much heartbreak, whether love can make a difference when hate and apathy seem so widespread.

**P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: We gather to join our voices with the psalmists and musicians, the travelers, and the faithful from long ago, who also longed for restoration and salvation, who felt God was far away or perhaps felt how far they had wandered away from God.

**P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: Come, you who wait and watch for the coming Messiah, to worship God who invites us to join in the Spirit's restoration song until the day when earth and heaven both reflect the fullness of the kingdom of God.

**P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.**

### *Opening Prayer (Isaiah 2, Romans 13)

**Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show us how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways, as we put on your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on your paths of peace and understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead. Amen.**

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Hope (Luke 1:13-17)

Don't be afraid. Your prayers have been heard. A messenger is coming to prepare the way for the Lord. On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. We place our hope in the one who is coming. Let us make our hearts and lives ready to receive him, turning with faith and trust to the Lord our God. We seek to be a people prepared for the Lord.

***Opening Hymn** ***God Almighty, We are Waiting*** (vv. 1,3) W&S #3047

**Children's Message** Amy Webb

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### Prayer of Confession

L: In the lives of neighbors who suffer brokenness and pain:

**P: We confess you are still speaking!**

L: In the struggle of the poor whose rights are not honored:

**P: We confess you are still speaking!**

L: In a world crying out for wisdom, love, and mercy:

**P: We confess you are still speaking!**

L: In a world calling for the blessing of truth:

**P: We confess you are still speaking! Bless us to receive!**

L: Let us confess together: We confess that in our lives we often hide behind our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion.

**P: Lord God, as we prepare our hearts and lives to receive you and welcome your Son Jesus, we confess that we have sinned. We have strayed from your will. We have failed to do the things you have called us to do. We have acted without love and turned away from our neighbors in need. We repent. We turn back to you, God, and we want you to forgive our sins. Wash us and make us clean. Fill us with your spirit so that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance. We pray. in the name of Jesus, the one who is coming. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

L: Hear the good news. The one who is coming is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He is the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God, and the Light of the World. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.**

### Passing the Peace of Christ

God loves us with a tenderness that can heal the deepest wounds in our souls. Christ offers us shelter in green pastures and leads us beside still waters. The Spirit offers us a peace that passes all understanding. Let our hearts rejoice this day, as we turn to our neighbors and share the peace of our shepherd.

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Shon

**The Lord's Prayer** UMH #895

**Prayer for Illumination**

God, you have sent a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare your way. Make us ready now to hear your voice and receive your word in Scripture. Open our hearts, teach us, guide us, lead us to repentance, and prepare us for your coming. Amen.

**Scripture** **Malachi 4:1-6** (NRSV)

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. [2] But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. [3] And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. [4] Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. [5] See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. [6] He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

**Luke 1:5-17** (NRSV)

[5] In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. [6] Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. [7] But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. [8] Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, [9] he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. [10] Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. [11] Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.
[12] When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. [13] But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. [14] You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, [15] for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. [16] He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. [17] With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

**Hymn of Praise** ***Jesus, Name Above all Names*** TFWS #2071

**Message** **God has heard your prayers** Rev. Shon

**Affirmation of Faith** (Luke 1:68-79)

Bless the Lord our God, who has come to rescue his people. God has raised up a savior for us from the line of David, just as the prophets said. God brings salvation from our enemies and delivers us from all those who hate us.
God shows us mercy and remembers the covenant with Abraham, just as he promised our ancestors. God rescues us so that we can serve the Lord without fear, with holiness and righteousness as long as we live.