



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

It is hard to believe this is my last newsletter article I will write for the Menomonie UMC. How quickly these past twelve years have gone by! A “final” article feels weighty—like it ought to contain some significant and lasting words of wisdom. For inspiration, I turned to some of the “final” words that Jesus and Paul imparted to the early believers. Usually, those last few lines are jam-packed with rapid-fire instructions to help the church stay focused on its mission or to help individual believers live their faith more fervently. There is a sense of urgency and intensity in their words when it is their last chance to say what needs to be said.

And yet, I have already said a lot over the past twelve years. And so, in this final letter there are just two last things I'd like to share: a message of appreciation and one final assignment.

1) Appreciation: I will truly thank God every time I think of you for the rest of my life. I have loved being your pastor. I have loved you. I love this community. For twelve years, this has been my family's home and it will always have a special place in my heart. I am so grateful for the graciousness you have shown me, even when I have stumbled or struggled. I am so delighted by all that we have been able to accomplish together—several epic summers of Vacation Bible School; so many baptisms, confirmations, and welcoming of new members; a whole new boiler system; new pavement and lighting in the parking lot; new paint throughout almost the whole interior of the building; new carpet in the sanctuary; new staff positions; a weekly community meal ministry; a couple of successful capital campaigns for the projects listed above; and so much more! Your love for one another in this church family and your generosity to the community are legendary. You truly have a legacy to be proud of and I thank God for the good work that has been done and continues to be done in this community of faith!

2) Assignment: I pray that you keep it going! Don't give up! Your church still needs you. Your community needs the church, possibly more than ever. Keep on caring for one another and for the community around you. Although my work here must come to an end as God calls me to serve the First UMC in Barron, I know with all my heart that God isn't done with the Menomonie UMC yet. If any of you were to leave just because I am, it would truly make me heartsick. This church is so much more than any one pastor or person. This church is family, a little outpost of the kingdom of God. Please stay active in the church. Remain faithful to God. Your church family and your new pastor are counting on you, and God isn't done with you yet. I pray that God will show you the next step you can take or the next way you can serve in this community of faith!

I recently attended a “Clergy Transition Workshop,” required of all the United Methodist pastors in Wisconsin who are moving to new appointments this year. We were reminded that each church we serve is not a “trophy” we get to keep but a “relay” we get to run. I have done my best to run well for my part in this race and on July 1st I will hand the baton on to Pastor InWha and to all of you, trusting you to joyfully and faithfully complete the good work that God has begun in us.

And so, I'll leave you with Paul's rapid-fire words of wisdom in his final words in his second letter to the Corinthians: “Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11) May it be so!

With so much gratitude,
Pastor Wendy

Volunteer Opportunity at Lake Lucerne United Methodist Camp

How would you like to stay at the beautiful Lake Lucerne United Methodist Camp near Neshkoro, Wisconsin for FREE? Volunteers are needed in the camp kitchen anytime from June 18-27 to serve food during a series of retreats, some of which will overlap. Therefore, there will be anywhere from 12-60 people to feed at each meal. All ingredients and supplies will be provided, so you'd just need to help prepare and serve the meals. Free lodging at camp is provided. You could go for just one meal or stay for as many days as you are available during that time frame. If you'd like to help, or if you know someone who might please reach out to Pastor Kellen Roggenbuck at: kroggenbuck@wisconsinumc.org.

Congratulations to Pastor InWha and Esther's son, David, upon his successful graduation from the Dental College of Georgia in Augusta, GA this spring!



Pastor Inwha and his wife, Esther, will be arriving in Menomonie on July 1st.

If you'd like to send them a welcome note and share some of your favorite things about the Menomonie area, you can reach them at this address. If you have a family photo you would like to share, include that too!

Pastor Inwha and Esther Shon
581 Timber Creek Circle
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Come Join Us For a
Celebration of Ministry!
Sunday, June 14th
After the service to honor Pastor Wendy.
Please mark your calendar to attend.

Supporting JONAH

JONAH stands for "Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope" and they are a faith-based grassroots organization right here in the Chippewa Valley that helps to coordinate a number of task forces on topics that matter to local citizens: affordable housing, mental health, immigration, transportation, and more. Some of you may remember that Lynn Buske, the main organizer of JONAH, gave a presentation at our church last year during May in honor of Mental Health Month. The Menomonie Area Mission Coalition (made up of most of the churches in Menomonie, including the Menomonie UMC) is a member collectively in JONAH so you are more than welcome to get involved in their work or participate in the various activities and workshops they offer. To learn more about what they do and how you can help, visit their website at jonahjustice.org.

Grief Group Gathering

Time to share about our journeys of grief and loss and find encouragement in each other.

Tuesday, July 28
6:00 pm
Fireside Room

Contact Sarah Zarbock at zarbocks@gmail.com

Free
Open to Everyone



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

Summer Wellness and Wound Care

Summer is officially here! The longer days and warmer weather invite us outdoors to enjoy God's beautiful creation. Whether you are gardening, walking, biking, swimming, or simply spending time with family and friends, summer offers many opportunities to stay active and healthy.

With outdoor activities, however, come the occasional scrapes and cuts. It is very easy to get scraped while playing outside, working in the yard, or enjoying sports and recreation. Thankfully, simple wound care can help your body heal well and prevent infection.

Current healing recommendations show that one of the best methods for caring for minor wounds is to keep the wound moist and covered. After gently cleaning the area, apply a Band-Aid and, if appropriate, a small amount of antibiotic ointment. Keeping wounds covered and moist often helps them heal faster and with less scarring than leaving them open to dry out.

For deeper wounds, remember that your body may need extra nutritional support to heal properly. Healing requires energy, so increasing healthy calories and especially protein intake can help repair damaged tissue and strengthen recovery. Protein-rich foods such as eggs, lean meats, yogurt, beans, and nuts are excellent choices during the healing process.

Collagen is another important part of wound repair. Your body uses collagen to rebuild skin and tissue. Certain vitamins and minerals help collagen production, especially Vitamin C and zinc. These nutrients can be found in foods such as strawberries, kiwi, bell peppers, nuts, and seeds.

During the summer months, it is also important to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even before you feel thirsty. Proper hydration supports circulation, energy, and overall healing.

Do not forget to protect your skin while outdoors. Use sunscreen, wear a hat, and seek shade during the hottest parts of the day to avoid sunburn and heat-related illness.

Most importantly, take time to enjoy family and friends outdoors. Walking, swimming, biking, and simply spending time in nature can benefit both physical and emotional health. Summer is a wonderful reminder of the joy and peace found in God's creation.

As we enjoy this season, may we remember the words of Scripture:

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees in the field will clap their hands."

— Book of Isaiah 55:12

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and joyful summer season!

Sarah Zarbock
Parish Nurse



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.

MAKE
TODAY
AMAZING



**Free Blood Pressure
Screening**

**First Sunday
of the month after
Worship Service**

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Pastor Wendy gone to Annual Conference →
7 Pastor Wendy gone to Annual Conference	8 Monday Meal 5-6	9	10 Foot Clinic 9-3	11 Joyful Journey 6-8	12	13
14 Celebration for Pastor Wendy after service	15 Monday Meal 5-6	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day ALB Potluck	22 Monday Meal 5-6	23	24	25 Joyful Journey 6-8	26	27
28	29 Monday Meal 5-6	30				

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day 
5	6 Monday Meal 5-6	7	8 Foot Clinic 9-3	9	10	11
12	13 Monday Meal 5-6	14	15	16 Joyful Journey 6-8	17	18
19 It Takes a Village ALB Potluck	20 Monday Meal 5-6	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Monday Meal 5-6	28 Grief Group 6-7:30	29	30	31	

June 2026 Stewardship Newsletter The Gift of Connection and Community

In a world where we are more digitally connected than ever before, many people are also experiencing deep loneliness and isolation. We can text instantly, scroll endlessly, and interact online throughout the day – yet still feel disconnected from meaningful relationships and authentic community.

One of the great gifts the Church still offers the world is something increasingly rare: real connection.

Church communities bring together people who otherwise might never interact. Different generations. Different political viewpoints. Different life experiences. Different backgrounds and perspectives. In many ways, the local church remains one of the few places where people still regularly gather across lines that often divide society elsewhere. That kind of connection matters.

It reminds us that we are more than consumers, social media profiles, or people sorted into ideological camps. We are human beings created in the image of God and called to live in community with one another.

And perhaps nowhere is the gift of Christian community more visible than during difficult seasons of life.

Over the last several months, as I've walked through cancer treatment, I've experienced this gift personally. My church community supported me and my family not only through prayers, but through dozens of cards, meals delivered to our home, help with lawn care, fall and spring yard cleanup, and simple acts of kindness that reminded us we were not alone.

REJOICE
in the Lord



The annual performance of the Joyful Noise Choir during a Ludington Guard Band concert on Tuesday evening in Wilson Park continues on Tuesday, June 9. The choir has participated with the band for several years.

The choir usually joins the band for the National Anthem at 7:30 and then performs during the band's intermission.

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, June 2 from 6 to 7 pm at the church.

Joyful Noise Choir is for people with and without disabilities who love to sing. Anyone can join at any time. Just show up.

Those moments mattered deeply. Not because any one act solved everything, but because together they communicated something powerful: you are loved, you are seen, and you do not have to carry this burden by yourself. That is stewardship too.

Stewardship is not only about money. It is about how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us – our time, compassion, presence, abilities, encouragement, and resources – to care for one another and build up the Body of Christ.

Healthy churches cultivate more than generosity. They cultivate belonging.

And in a disconnected world hungry for meaning, that may be one of the most important gifts the Church has to offer.

Written by Jason Mahnke
Director of Programming and Campaigns
WI United Methodist Foundation

Financial Footnotes

With the warm temperatures this past week it appears that summer is here! Summer is often a season of vacations, family trips, outdoor activities and a change in routine. While these months are enjoyable, they can cause a “summer slump” in our church giving. Attendance may fluctuate which impacts the financial giving. Yet the ministry and the mission of the church continues every week, every month and every season. We still expect the lawn to be maintained, garbage to be picked up and the lights to be on! Faithful giving is not simply about maintaining a budget, it is an act of worship and stewardship. We currently are up to date in our apportionments and the monthly bills have been paid! We give thanks for your gifts of money, time and talents. Please give a shout out if you have any questions or concerns about our finances.

Lynn Klatt

finance@menomonieumc.org



June/July 2026

Pastor: Wendy Slaback
Phone: 715-235-0654
Email: pastor@menomonieumc.org
www.menomonieumc.org
2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI 54751



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



June/July 2026



2703 Bongey Drive
Menomonie, WI 54751

