



Pastor Wendy Granted Renewal Leave by Accountable Leadership Board and Bishop's Cabinet

Because Pastor Wendy's health has not been restored as quickly as she hoped, our District Superintendent has recommended and our Accountable Leadership Board has approved a renewal leave for Pastor Wendy from March through May of this year. The Bishop and his Cabinet have all approved this renewal leave as well. This is like a mini-sabbatical, except that in the United Methodist Church a pastor is moved to a new appointment after a sabbatical whereas with a renewal leave the pastor gets to return to the same church they have been serving.

Our church is blessed with outstanding staff members, very capable lay speakers, and several retired pastors who can help keep things running smoothly while Pastor Wendy recuperates. In addition, the other United Methodist clergy in the area will be on call for pastoral emergencies, and the MCCI coaches will continue to work with each of our MCCI teams. See the Q & A article below for more information on what to expect during Pastor Wendy's renewal leave.

Renewal Leave Q & A

What is Renewal Leave?

A Pastoral Renewal Leave is a provision written in the United Methodist Book of Discipline (§350) that allows a pastor to step away from pastoral duties for up to 6 months once every seven years in order to focus on resting and rejuvenating his/her body and soul to return to a more vital ministry in the local church. Most renewal leaves are just three months long because that is the duration of time for which the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation offers some grant funding to help cover the cost of honorariums paid to other worship leaders who fill in or any pastoral support that may be needed. Usually a renewal leave is focused on spiritual refreshment and some professional development goals, but in

this case Pastor Wendy primarily needs some time to recuperate physically. She will also seek some training in preaching and in conflict resolution.

How long will the renewal leave last?

The renewal leave will last from March 1 through May 31.

Will Pastor Wendy be paid during the renewal leave?

Yes, a church continues to pay the salary and benefits of their pastor during the renewal leave. We have applied for financial assistance from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation to partially cover the cost of the leave.

Is the Renewal Leave considered part of Pastor Wendy's vacation?

No, the Renewal Leave is separate from vacation leave.

What happens to the continuity in the life of the church?

As much as possible, we will try to keep the church running as it is now. Worship times, on-line worship and in-person worship, Sunday School for children, committee meetings, church communications, etc. will all continue.

Who will take on Pastor Wendy's duties while she is gone?

For worship leadership, our lay speakers and retired pastors will take turns leading worship. For hospital visits or other urgent pastoral care responsibilities, all of the United Methodist pastors in our local area are on call for Pastor Wendy. Pastor Mary Anne and Pastor Craig Conklin have offered to conduct funerals if needed. Additional volunteers will be recruited to help staff the office dur-

Continued on next page



ing the hours Pastor Wendy would ordinarily have been there.

During the Renewal Leave, if you or a friend needs something, please contact Lori Owen (715-235-0654 or office@menomonieumc.org) and she will contact the appropriate person.

Will the Committees of the church still be able to meet and function?

Yes, all active committees will continue to meet and function in Pastor Wendy's absence. The MCCI coaches will continue to work with each of the prescription teams to implement our goals. If a critical issue would develop, the District Superintendent will assist us.

What happens if Pastor Wendy's health is restored even before her renewal leave is finished? Will she return early?

Probably not. A renewal leave is not usually used just for a health crisis. It is our hope that Pastor Wendy will use her renewal leave to the fullest to gain new skills and be a stronger, more energized leader for our church when she returns.

*I've
So much to be
THANKFUL
For*

Thank You From Pastor Wendy

I cannot fully express how thankful I am for all your prayers, kind words, cards, and expressions of care as I continue to work with my cardiologist to understand what is causing my ongoing chest pain and high blood pressure. This has been an unsettling month, but your prayer support and the power of God working through us helps me to feel a sense of peace even as I wait for answers.

Thank you!

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

Lately, Lucas has been asking almost every night, "Mom, can you please stay with me until I fall asleep? I sleep better when you're here." Most of the time in the past, the mental to-do list churning in my mind kept me from sitting still long enough to grant such a request. I can usually get at least another four or five tasks finished in the quiet evening hours after we finish bedtime prayers, especially if I hustle to finish my tasks right away before I start getting too tired myself. This month, though, I hear the anxiety behind his request. He sees how often I need to sit down and ask for help to complete household tasks I could do easily before (unload the dishwasher or fold a load of laundry or make a meal). He reads the family calendar and sees all the doctor appointments and medical tests I've been going to. Once he told me, "I worry sometimes that 2023 will be the worst year—the year my mom died." I try to assure him that the doctors and I are doing our very best to help me get well. He still wants me to stay close though and so, I stay there with him every time he asks now. The to-do list will wait, and if some things do not get done, so be it. I sit on the edge of his bed with a profound new appreciation for what a gift it is to have one more night to watch my sweet child drift off to sleep.

I'm grateful that God is even more patient and gracious with my requests than I have been with Lucas's. Much like Lucas, sometimes I just need to know I'm not alone. When I feel anxious, I pray for God to help me feel God's presence and fill me with God's all-surpassing peace. What a comfort it is to know that God is an ever-present help in times of trouble, our refuge and our savior! I love the words of Isaiah 43: "I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown."

Friends, I know some of you have been struggling through "rivers of difficulty" of your own recently too. May we all experience and cherish the nearness of God, holding us close and buoying us up through our struggles.

It is a privilege to be in ministry with you, and I look forward to seeing you soon in worship!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wendy



The season of Lent (40 days—not counting Sundays—of preparation leading up to Easter) begins on Wednesday, February 22. We will gather that evening for a simple soup supper at 6:00 pm, followed by a wor-

ship service including the imposition of ashes starting at about 6:45. Please join us for this service of repentance, reflection, and renewal!

Sasha's Generosity February 2023

Scott tells a story about when a story about when his church group visited Russia and he met a ten-year-old Russian orphan named Sasha who, for some reason, latched on to him. Sasha took Scott by the arm and led him through the orphanage, showing off his room and the place he ate meals. All the while Sasha's eyes were filled with joy and laughter. In spite of the fact that Scott spoke little Russian, and Sasha spoke no English, they connected. As the church group prepared to depart, Sasha sat beside Scott, pulled a silver ring from his finger, and held it out for Scott to take. His eyes filled with tears and Scott spoke the only Russian word I knew — "Nyet, nyet." (No, no.) This child, who had nothing in the world to call his own except this ring, desperately wanted to give this ring to him. When asked why Sasha wanted to give his only possession away, Sasha responded through an interpreter,

"Because I am so thankful Scott came."

For Sasha, abundant joy, extreme poverty, and a heart filled with gratitude overflowed in a wealth of generosity.

For many of us who have so much, we want more. We are not thankful for what we have and always look for the "something more." And truth be told, it's never enough. What would happen if, by God's grace, our desire to gain more and have more could be transformed by gratitude into a heartfelt desire to give more? What would happen if in a spirit of gratitude, we spent as much time figuring out ways to give as we spend figuring out how to earn, have, and keep?

Can you recall a time when you were truly thankful despite negative circumstances? Can you recall a time when someone who could least afford it gave you a generous gift? What was it like? How did you respond?

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

*Have a blessed day,
Lynn Klatt*

Basic Lay Servant Class February 24-25

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a "lay servant" who preaches when a pastor is away or who leads in other ministries of the church? The United Methodist Church offers a series of classes to help people explore the ways they may be called to serve or lead in their local church. The classes are not necessarily all focused on preaching, so if public speaking is NOT something you ever want to do there are several other ways to serve too. All possibilities begin with a "Basic Lay Servant Class" though, and because lay servant classes have rarely been offered in the North West District, our District Lay Leaders are making a concerted effort to recruit new leaders for these classes...including our own Pastor Wendy!

A hybrid Basic Lay Speaking Class will be offered at the Menomonie United Methodist Church and via Zoom by Pastor Wendy on Friday, February 24 from 6:00-9:00 pm and on Saturday, February 25 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Cost is \$20 for registration, meals, and materials. Contact Lori at to register at 715-235-0654.

If you aren't interested in taking the class but are willing to help Pastor Wendy prepare coffee/refreshments or help provide meals for the class participants, let Pastor Wendy know.



**American
Red Cross**



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, February 27,
2023
12:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Menomonie United Methodist Church,
2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI
Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Menomonie
UMC to schedule an appointment.





MCCI Team News

Internal/External Team

Revamped Happenings calendar
Changing and simplifying bulletin boards
Requesting emails of members, please call Lori at the office

Guest Ready Team

Cleaning and decluttering
Taking down bulletin boards
Removing plants from entrance
Removing stained glass pieced to relocate
Removing obstruction from office window
Cleaning office and removing unused shelving
Working at changing signage and making it more permanent
Discussing changing color of some painted walls

Signature Ministry Team

Planning activities for persons who are challenged



Choir Practice
Wednesday at 7 pm.
Doors open at 6:45 pm.

Bells!

Wednesdays at 6 pm.
Please consider this fun ministry for your church.
Send questions to Tim Matthaeei at matthaeitim@gmail.com



Monday D.I.S.H.

Dementia Informed Super Heroes

Are you working and caring for a parent or family member with dementia? Join us virtually for support and resources



First Monday of the month

7 pm to 8 pm



To register, contact Scott Seeger at 715-261-6066
Email: scott.seeger@adrc-cw.org

Exploring Dementia Caregiving

Do you care for someone with dementia? Join us for care strategies, resources and support.

4th Wednesday of the Month

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Shirley Doane Senior Center

1412 Sixth Street E, Menomonie

Refreshments will not be served at this time, you may bring your own refreshments.
Compliance with Senior Center's mask policy is required.

Grief Support Group

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.



Meeting Sundays at 1:30 pm
Until April 2nd

Trinity United Methodist Church
105 S. Holly Avenue, Elk Mound, WI 54739

February 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Youth 6-7:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	2	3	4
5 Blood Pressure Checks after Worship	6 Mondays Meal 5-6 pm	7	8 Youth 6-7:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	9	10	11
12	13 Mom's Group 6-7 pm Mondays Meal 5-6 pm	14 Valentine's Day  Morning Prayer Group/ Book 10 am	15 Youth 6-7:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	16 Prayer Shawl Gathering 4-6 pm	17	18
19	20 Mondays Meal 5-6 pm	21 Morning Prayer Group/ Book 10 am	22 Wed. Table 4:45-6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm	23	24 Basic Lay Servant Class 6-9 pm	25 Basic Lay Servant Class 9-3 pm
26	27 Blood Drive 12-6 pm Mondays Meal 5-6 pm	28 Morning Prayer Group/ Book 10 am				



PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING

Thursday, Feb. 16
at the church

4:00-6:00 PM

We continue to make prayer shawls for the church for those who are in need of blessings and extra healing .

Also feel free to bring any craft item you are working on to enjoy fellowship with others at the church.

Morning Prayer Group/Book Discussion

1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of the month
Prayer activity will start around 10 am,
Sarah will be available at 9 am
for anyone who has wellness concerns.

Email Address Update

We would like to update our email list, if your email has changed recently or if you have acquired email, please contact the church office

at 715-235-0654 or

Email: office@menomonieumc.org



Blood Pressure Checks First Sunday of every month.

Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org





Mondays Meal menus are posted week to week at the church and on the church website: www.menomonieumc.org and our facebook page.

**Wanted
Cooks for Monday Meals**
Contact Jane at jbutsic@gmail.com
or call-715-308-6335

Monday's meals are going strong. Every week we feed 80-150 people. People drive up to the greeter and leave with a hot meal. All kinds of people need a meal. Some cars have one person, some have families and one car picks up for all his neighbors.

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered. You know it is a fun way to spend an hour and enjoy the fellowship of others supporting the mission.

Thank you to all in the church for saying yes to the idea of supporting Monday Meals and donating to them.

Remember - if you have time to help out, show up Sunday after church to join in the prep or Monday for serving the meals.

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. Your church family would like to celebrate your day!



Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org



Wanted: New Leaders on the Accountable Leadership Board

For the past couple of years we've been using a more streamlined form of church governance that combined several of our former administrative committees (Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Finance Committee, and Administrative Council) into one Accountable Leadership Board. This model helps to bring greater focus on our mission—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—even as we help care for the daily details of hiring and supporting church staff members, caring for the maintenance of the building, stewarding the financial resources of the church, and attending to the overall health of the church.

There are a few vacancies on our Board and those who applied and were elected to the first Accountable Leadership Board have begun rotating off of the committee so additional vacancies will be created as each of them complete their term. If you are interested in serving a three-year term on the Accountable Leadership Board, please see Pastor Wendy for more information. Applications are available in the church office, along with a copy of the Leadership Board Covenant for you to review as you consider whether this is an area in which God may be calling you to serve.

Dunn County Flu Clinics!



No Insurance

< 65 = \$45

>65+ (high dose) = \$85

Free to those with

Medica, Prairie States, or Medicare Insurances*

*Insurance card required



**DUNN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

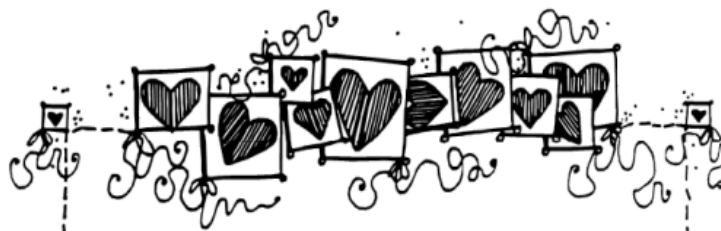
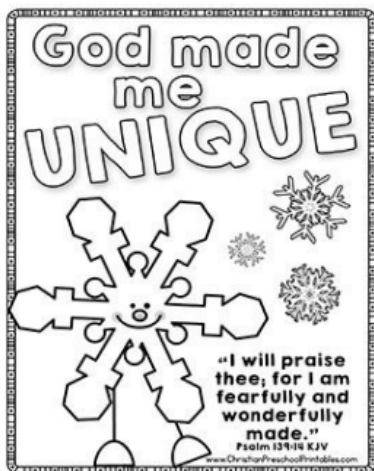
Call to schedule your appointment today! 715.232.2388



Children and Family Ministry Information

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Pre-K through 5th grade

*We will meet during Sunday Service (after the Children's Message until the end of service)



MOM's GROUP

Next meeting is Monday, February 13th

*Join us as we support one another on this journey of motherhood!

- We will meet the 2nd Monday of every month
- Monday Meal (optional) from 5-6 and Mom's meeting from 6:00-7:00
- Childcare will be available!
- Moms of all ages are welcome!



Youth Secret Valentine Event & Dinner

Sunday,
February 15
6-8 pm

Secret Valentine sign up
by January 29

RSPV for Dinner by February 8th

Sign up sheet by office or email
youthministry@menomonieumc.org
or call 715-235-0654

To host a Murder Mystery Dinner contact
youthministry@menomonieumc.org

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Methodist Youth Group

Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 pm

Join us for Dinner and Fellowship

Any questions contact Amanda at
youthministry@menomonieumc.org

Mom's Group

2nd Monday of every month.

Monday Meal from 5-6 and

Mom's Meeting from 6-7.

Childcare will be available!



**YOUTH
GROUP**

February 8th regular youth group
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

February 15th Secret Valentine Dinner
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

February 22nd Wednesday Table
4:45 pm - 6:30 pm

Menomonie United Methodist Church is
available for community groups to meet.
To schedule a meeting please call the church
office at 715-235-0654