



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

1 Thessalonians 5:18 instructs us, "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." I pray that we might do just that this month as we focus on *giving thanks* through the sermon series over the next several weeks.

On November 2, we'll practice "Giving Thanks for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness". Even though we have no local elections this fall, there are some jurisdictions in our country who have elections on November 4 so we'll spend some time giving thanks for foundational values of our nation as we pray for citizens and leaders alike.

On November 9, we'll be "Giving Thanks for Those Who Serve". We honor both the veterans who have served our nation and the volunteers who serve in our local church.

On November 16, our theme will be "Giving Thanks for All We Have to Give". We all have various talents and spiritual gifts to share, and we're called to give back a portion of the financial and material blessings God has granted us too. It can be a joy to give of ourselves in meaningful, faithful ways that help support God's good work in our world!

On November 23, we'll celebrate "Giving Thanks for the Goodness of God" as we prepare for Thanksgiving Day. Even when the world around us seems so broken, God will never fail us or forsake us. God continues to work for good in us and in our world.

We'll also get to celebrate a theme of gratitude and thanksgiving at our Messy Church on November 9th from 10:30-12:00, so join us for that fun morning of building friendships and faith!

I wonder: do you have any special practices or rituals of thankfulness that help to deepen your gratitude and strengthen your trust in God's ongoing goodness in your life? I'd love to hear about those practices! Whether they are simple, daily rituals or elaborate

family traditions, let's share our ideas to inspire one another.

As one very small example: in our family, I made up a silly little song that I have sung often to my boys ever since they were quite small to remind them of the best qualities I see in them—creativity, kindness, intelligence, etc. and I tell them nearly every day that I'm so grateful I get to be their mom.

I find that I feel nearly the same way about all of you. I am so proud of the good work that each of you do in our community and the way you care for one another! I am honored to be your pastor, and I look forward to seeing the ways God will continue to work in us and through us in the year to come as we celebrate and share the goodness of God. Thanks be to God!

Gratefully,
Pastor Wendy

Consecration Sunday To Be Held November 16

During the offering time in the 9:00 worship service on Sunday, November 16, you will be invited to turn in your pledge sheet (included in this newsletter with additional printed copies available in the church narthex if needed), listing how you'd like to



serve and give to the church in the coming year. This practice is helpful both on a personal level (inviting you to take time to reflect on the ways you choose to grow in your own discipleship through giving your time and resources) and to our leaders as we make budget and planning decisions for our church for 2026. Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to be involved in the months ahead, and return your pledge sheet to the church on or before November 16th.

Save the Date: Church Conference To Be Held December 1st

Our yearly Church Conference has been scheduled for Monday, December 1 at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to vote on the budget for the coming year and elect our committee leaders for 2026. Church Conference is an opportunity to celebrate what we have done in 2025 and make plans for another great year of ministry ahead. Our District Superintendent has asked Rev. Howard Hintzman to conduct our Church Conference this year. We hope to see you there!

Extra Hymnals Available in Choir Room

There are several dozen extra hymnals available in the choir room and you are welcome to pick one up if you can use it. Perhaps you'd like to have a copy at home or in your camper for Sundays when you join us online? Maybe you're part of the Visitation Team and you visit a member with dementia who cannot visit well anymore but you can still sing favorite hymns together? Or maybe you're planning a caroling party this Christmas and want to have songbooks everyone can use? Stop by the choir room and pick up the number of copies you need! If there are still additional hymnals remaining after the first of the new year, we will likely offer them to other United Methodist Churches in the Wisconsin Conference, so get your copy now if you'd like one.

New Members Class to Be Offered Soon

Usually once or twice each year, Pastor Wendy offers a New Members Class for anyone who is interested in participating more fully in the church. All people are always welcome to attend worship or other church activities, but members are those who want to actively support the work we do together. Members support our church community with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. If you think you might be ready to take this step, please speak to Pastor Wendy and we'll work on finding a mutually agreeable time for the class this month for all who are interested.



Surviving the Holidays



2 hour seminar that will provide encouragement support and valuable tools to navigate the holiday season.
\$7 or freewill donation • Everyone welcome

Saturday, Nov. 22 • 1-3 pm
Contact Sarah Zarbock for info 715-308-1698
Register by email to Sarah at: zarbocks@gmail.com
by November 21



"Let's Talk Turkey"

Informational session on end of life planning topics that are sometimes hard.
For individuals or families to initiate how to complete POA for health care documentation and a planned giving presentation by Wisconsin UM Foundation staff.

Sunday, Nov. 16 • 10:15-11:30 am

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



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



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Blood Pressure Checks Set clocks 1 hour back	3 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Mom's Group 6-7 pm	4  Election Day Bake Sale?	5 Youth Group & Confirmation 6:30-8	6	7	8
9 Book Study "On Love" begins Fireside 10 am Messy Church 10:30-Noon	10 Monday Meal 5-6 pm It Takes a Village Mtg. 6:30-7:30	11	12 Youth Group 6:30-8	13	14 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	15
16 "Talk Turkey" End of Life Planning after worship	17 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	18	19 Youth Group & Confirmation 6:30-8	20 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	21 Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church	22 Grief Share Surviving the Holidays 1-3 pm
23 Book Study "On Love" 10 am	24 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	25	26 Youth Group Wed. Table	27 	28	29
30 Care Bucket Book Study "On Love" 10 am It Takes a Village Respite Care 12-3						

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Parish Nurse News for November

November is a time for family gatherings, especially at Thanksgiving. We give thanks for being together with family and cherish the memories of the Holiday.

This could be a time to talk about significant family concerns, such as end of life or financial topics.

On Sunday November 16th, at 10:15 am - 11:30, we will "Talk Turkey", which means we will have a presenter from the Wisconsin UM Foundation staff talk about planned giving. There will also be a presentation about the POA for Healthcare and some end of life topics. This is open to all who want to learn more in both of these areas!

On Saturday November 22, from 1-3 pm, we will offer the Grief Share "Surviving the Holidays" This program offers tools to navigate your grief during the holidays, along with encouragement from others who are

struggling with some of the same grief issues.

Finally on December 4th, from 5-8 pm, we will be offering CPR/AED training for church family and friends, this gives an opportunity to understand basic safety and CPR measures, along with using the AED. All of these skills can be critical to help our family, church and community members. The combination of CPR and AED can significantly increase a person's chance of survival during a cardiac arrest.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Note: I will be gone on Fridays, November 7 and November 28th.

Blessings, Sarah Zarbock, PN

United Methodists from several area churches helped pack 21,168 meals at Feed My Starving



"It Takes a Village" group took a trip to the Apple Orchard. Everyone had an enjoyable day!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Every third Thursday
4:00 pm**

Fireside Room

Calling all who enjoy knitting and crocheting!

This monthly gathering brings people together, sharing their talents making gifts for others in time of need and celebration.

Join our group and help create a gift for others, praying for those receiving shawls and sharing ideas and concerns in socializing.

Questions, contact Margaret Hastings or Sarah Zarbock

Thank You!



To all who helped with the Monday, October 6th blood drive! We had plenty of donations, help, and enthusiasm!

We collected 19 units, which has the possibility of helping 57 people!

Our next drive is Monday, February 23rd, 2026 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Mark you calendars! Many THANKS again!

Jan Friest



Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org



November 2025 Stewardship Newsletter

Thanksgiving as a Spiritual Discipline

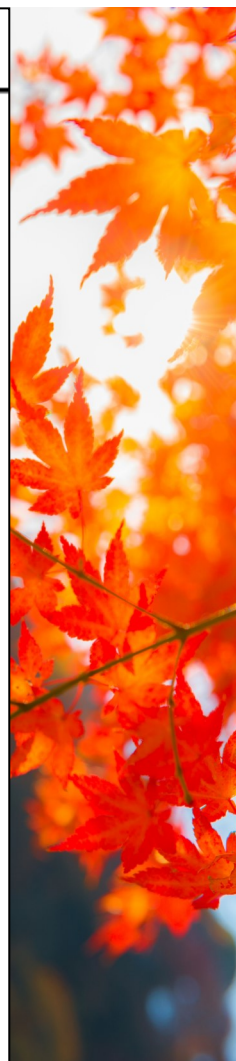
Gratitude is often treated as an emotion - something we feel when life is good and blessings are obvious. But Scripture calls us to something deeper. "Give thanks in all circumstances," Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. That's not a suggestion to ignore pain or pretend that everything is fine. It's an invitation to practice thanksgiving as a spiritual discipline - a way of seeing and living that reorients our hearts toward God, even when circumstances are difficult.

Practicing thanksgiving means intentionally naming God's gifts, even the small ones. It means pausing long enough to recognize that every breath, every meal, every relationship, every new morning is evidence of grace. When we make gratitude a habit rather than a reaction, it transforms our perspective. We begin to notice abundance where we once saw scarcity. We start to trust God's provision more deeply. And that trust becomes the fertile soil where generosity grows.

As you enter this season of thanksgiving, I encourage you to make space for a daily practice of gratitude - perhaps writing down three things each day for which you're thankful or saying a prayer of thanks before bed. Over time, you may find that thanksgiving doesn't just change your mood; it changes your heart.

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

By Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns



FREE! All ages encouraged to join!



**First one Sunday, November 9th
10:30-Noon**

Messy Church is church...but not as you know it!
Every month is a new theme, join us the months
that work for you!

**Light Meal • Mini Church Service
Crafts/Activities • Games**

2nd Sunday of the month • 10:30—Noon



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



It Takes a Village

Monday, November 10 • Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm

Sunday, November 30 • Respite Care
12:00–3:00pm Sign up by Nov. 16

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.



2703 Bongey Dr.,
Menomoneie, WI

Trunk or Treat was a great success!
Thanks to all who participated!



2026 Pledge Sheet

Because God has richly blessed me and because I want to share in accomplishing the mission God has given me and the Menomonie United Methodist Church, I therefore commit to:

- ✓ *Being a responsible manager of what God has entrusted to me*
- ✓ *Using my God-given gifts in God's service*
- ✓ *Supporting the church regularly with my prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness*
- ✓ *And continuing to grow in my giving as my time and resources allow.*

To these ends, I pledge an annual total of the amounts below to the following areas in 2026:

\$_____ to General Fund \$_____ to Capital Improvement
\$_____ to Shared Offering \$_____ to Other _____

I will divide these annual totals into __ weekly __ monthly __ quarterly payments. (Check one.)

I understand that although this pledge is my best estimate of my 2026 giving,
the amount above can be changed to a higher or lower amount at any time because of changing circumstances.

Name(s)

Offering Envelope Number (if you have one)

I am willing to serve in the following ways in 2026:

- ___ Greeter/Usher during Sunday worship service
- ___ Children's ministry volunteer (Messy Church, Sunday School, children's sermon)
- ___ Help cook, serve, or clean up at Monday's Meal free community supper
- ___ Serve as a video or sound technician during worship, Sunday Study, funerals, etc. (training available)
- ___ Help set out refreshments for fellowship time and clean up afterwards
- ___ Help with extra cleaning at church
- ___ Help with shoveling snow from sidewalks
- ___ Visit, call, and/or write to homebound church members
- ___ Sing in the choir, play bells in the bell choir, and/or provide special music (vocal or instrumental)
- ___ Help with the youth group
- ___ Help with dinners (funeral luncheons, youth group meals, Lenten suppers)
- ___ Help organize mission projects
- ___ Help with staff recruitment
- ___ Help with the Grace Bridge Korean UMC (shepherding team, plan mutual potlucks, etc.)
- ___ Help with maintenance projects (please circle any specific areas of interest/expertise: carpentry, masonry, painting, electrical, lighting, sound, roofing, landscaping, lawn/shrub/tree maintenance, plumbing, heating/cooling, interior design, asphalt/concrete, carpet/upholstery, appliance repair, cabinetry, tiling, computers/electronics, boiler operation/repair, signage, ventilation, other: _____)
- ___ Help advise our trustee representatives in one or more of the following areas (circle any that apply):
assessing the value of items, inventorying items, improving handicapped accessibility, safety audits-
identifying and removing any safety hazards in the church

Name: _____ Preferred way to contact: _____

United Messenger

November 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



November

Menomonie
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2703 Bongey Drive
Menomonie, WI 54751