

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

As many of you have heard by now, my mother-in-law died on February 6, just over a week after suffering a massive heart attack. We loved her dearly, and I thank all of you who have prayed for us, sent cards, or offered words of encouragement.

Norma had been a high school Business teacher for most of her life, and among her belongings we found notes written by students who credited her with changing their lives because of the way she believed in them. At least one of them wrote to let Norma know she went on to become a teacher herself because of Norma's influence on her life. Several of those students came to the visitation or funeral to tell all of us in her family how much Norma has meant to them—some even from fifty years ago from the very first class of students she ever taught.

Even after she retired, she was an avid volunteer. She tutored English as a Second Language students through the Literacy Council. She was a mentor in Big Brothers Big Sisters. She dedicated several hours every week to homeless families staying with Family Promise of Green County. As a cancer survivor herself, she participated every year in the Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer research. She also volunteered for Aphasia Camp and a camp for disabled hunters that her husband attended after his stroke and subsequent onset of dementia. Right up until the last year of her life, she continued to volunteer as a tutor and classroom aid for the schools in her community.

She lived with such compassion and love, perhaps in part because of tragedies she had experienced in her own life. She was orphaned at the age of 9, along with her younger sister and younger brother, when their parents died in a plane crash. She was raised after that by her maternal grandmother in a charming but rustic farmhouse with no running water. When she grew up and started a family of her own, her oldest child, Traci, was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 4. Norma was a fierce advocate and constant support for Traci through her many years of treatment and surgeries until Traci died at the age of 21. The deep losses she experi-

enced in life made her all the more sensitive to and supportive of others who were struggling.

It was no surprise to me to find among Norma's belongings a well-worn Bible, given to her when she was 15 with a handwritten inscription inside the front cover saying, "On this day of your confirmation through Holy Baptism and through joining the Christian church, we pray that you will make this book The Book of your life. –Viola Evangelical United Brethren Church"

Indeed, Norma has lived her life by that book. She has received and shared the unfailing love of the God she came to know through those pages. As we continue through these remaining weeks of Lent and anticipate the joy of resurrection day, I hope to do the same. Will you join me?

I look forward to seeing you soon as we worship and serve together!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wendy



Our new church logo!

Special thanks to
Christina Opprecht of Big Impressions Freelance

Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who has given to our capital campaign for the Improvement Fund so far. Our lead donors contributed or pledged the first \$28,000 to inspire the rest of us to raise the remaining \$28,000. So far \$11,150 toward that total has already come in within the first seven weeks of this capital campaign, and there is still time for you to get involved to help meet our goal to cover the cost of the current updates (new paint, new carpet, automatic door openers). Thank you for your generosity to help make these projects possible!

If you'd still like to contribute, simply mark "Capital Campaign" on your offering check. You can also give a secure electronic gift at menomonieumc.org, by clicking on the "Give" tab at the top of the page and then selecting "Improvement Fund".

Lenten Service Schedule

Pastor Wendy is participating in a pulpit exchange with Pastor Joel Certa-Werner this Lent in a series called "Toward the Cross: Heart-Shaping Lessons for Lent and Easter". Supper will be served at 6:00 pm, with worship to follow at about 6:40 pm.

March 6 - There will be a joint worship service at Trinity UMC in Elk Mound, where Pastor Wendy will be preaching on "A Heart of Extravagant Love". (No worship service at Menomonie UMC that week while the carpet installation is in progress.)

March 13 - Pastor Joel will be preaching at Menomonie UMC on "A Gracious Heart"

March 20 - Pastor Joel will preach on "A Purposeful Heart" at a joint worship service at Menomonie UMC, along with members of the Iron Creek and Elk Mound United Methodist Churches.

March 28 - The youth group invites us ALL to their interactive Lenten experience called "A Walk Through Easter"—a self-paced prayerful walk through stations throughout the sanctuary and Education wing that lead you to reflect on the events of Holy Week (the Last Supper, washing the feet of the disciples, the crucifixion, etc.) Drop in anytime between 5-8 pm. The experience typically only takes 10-20 minutes, depending on how much time you choose to spend at each station. Children's activities will also be offered that evening.

REMINDER

PLEASE USE THE EVENT FORM in the church office for your events.

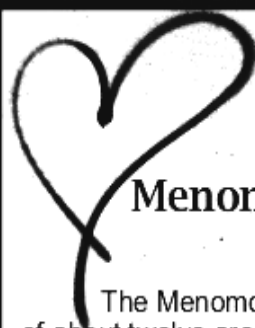
This will help with errors.

Also please put your name and number on the church calendar when scheduling events.

Thank you!

The New Carpet is Coming!

We're getting new carpet in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Installation is scheduled for March 4-8. Volunteers are welcome to help move all the furnishings out of those spaces after worship on March 3rd, when we'll be worshipping together with the Grace Bridge Korean UMC during our 9:00 worship time.



Chippewa Valley
Habitat
for Humanity®

Menomonie Area Mission Coalition: March Mission Month!

The Menomonie Area Mission Coalition (MAMC) is comprised of about twelve area churches collaborating to make positive change in our communities. During the month of March we'll be collectively supporting the Menomonie Faith Build home being built by the Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity.

If you'd like to support this mission with a financial donation, you can give through your local church with a note or memo line indicating it is for the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build home or you can give directly through the Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity website: <https://www.cvh4h.org/> by clicking on the "Donate" button.

If you'd like to help build the home or provide meals for the volunteer builders, you can sign up at

<https://www.cvh4h.org/>

by clicking the "Volunteer" button.

Join us in making a difference as we join Habitat for Humanity in their work "to bring people together to build homes, neighborhoods and self-reliance"!



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Grief Share 1:30-3:30 SnowTubing Trollhaugen Youth
3 Blood Pressure Checks	4 Monday Meal 5-6 Mom's Group 6-7 Carpet Installation	5 Bible Study 10 am	6 No Lenten Service	7	8	9 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
10	11 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	12	13 Supper 6:00 Worship 6:45 service	14	15 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	16
17 Bell Choir plays during worship. Confirmation class 10:15	18 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	19 Bible Study 10 am	20 Supper 6:00 Service 6:45 Bells 5-6:15 • Choir 7 Youth-Reg. Mtg.	21	22	23 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	26 Bible Study 10 am	27 Supper 6:00 Service 6:45 Bells 5-6:15 • Choir 7 Easter Walk	28	29	30 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
4 EASTER						

GRIEF SHARE®

This is a 13 week session
Saturday, March 2, 9, 23, 30
1:30-3:30
 Fireside Room
 at Menomonie United Methodist Church
 2703 Bongey Drive
 Register online at
griefshare.org/findagroup
 \$20 for Participant Guide
 Contact Sarah Zarbock
 at 715-308-1698 or zarbocks@gmail.com

Office Hours
 Lori will be in the office Monday,
 Wednesday and Thursday
 9 am to 2 pm.
 With winter this may vary.

SAVE THE DATE WELLNESS FAIR

APRIL 3, 2024
 10 AM - 2 PM

Community Welcome
 Food/Product Samples
 Food Drive
 Free Admission
 Chair Massages
 Campus Wellness
 Win a Bike!

Sports & Fitness Center, 220 13th Avenue E Menomonie, WI 54751



Youth News

Wednesday, March 6th Random acts of Kindness -
Meet at 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. We will pass out gifts
and then go to dinner at Culver's after.
(please bring money for dinner)

Wednesday, March 13th -
No Youth Group enjoy your spring break

Wednesday, March 20th -
Regular Youth Meeting 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 23rd -
Go to "Feed my Starving Children"
In Eagan, MN, Meet at church 9:00 am
Meet at Feed my Starving Children 11:45 am
(please bring money for lunch)
Head to lunch and Nerf war after 1:30pm
(\$10 per person playing)

Sunday, March 24th set up for Easter Walk
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, March 27th -
Easter Walk and Soup Dinner
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (Youth will host our annual
Easter Walk) More information to come.



He
is
Risen

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!

LAKE NW DISTRICT YOUTH EVENT 2024 LUCERNE CAMP



YOUTH, AGES 12 YEARS - 18 YEARS; PLUS 4 CHAPERONES
LIMIT: 14 GIRLS, 14 BOYS (1/ 2 DEPOSIT UPON
REGISTRATION NEEDED TO HOLD SPOT)

Deposit \$73.00: 12 years Full = \$146.00
Deposit \$90.00: 13 years and up Full = \$180.00
Includes 3 nights and 7 meals.

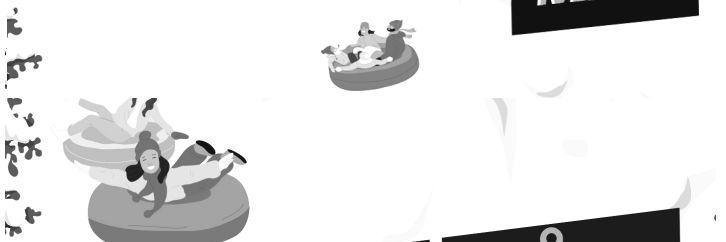
**FRIDAY, 24 - 27 MAY, 2024
COME ON! JOIN THE FUN**

W6460 COUNTY ROAD YY NESHKORO, WI 54960

Register at the link:
<https://forms.gle/Qt9ySxWwAsZa6Eaw9>

Snow Tubing TROLLHAUGEN

**02
MAR**



FREE
1 pm - 3 pm (meet at 12:30, snacks at 3 pm)
Youth 6th grade - 12th grade plus one adult
parent/chaperone
Sign up at the link below.
<https://forms.gle/mZEKaM7ReoQGrSYN7>

**2232 100TH AVENUE,
DRESSER WI 54009**

**NW DISTRICT
YOUTH EVENT**



You can email your information and photo to office@menomonieumc.org or mail to: Menomonie United Methodist Church 2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI 54751 or stop in the office Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 9:00-2:00. Any questions call the office at 715-235-0654. Please keep in mind your information will be in a church member directory, so if there is information you do not want people to know please do not submit it. Thank you!

Bell Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 5:00-6:15 pm during Lent

Book and Bible Study
1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am

Blood Pressure Checks
First Sunday of every month

Prayer Shawl Gathering
Third Thursday of the month 4:00-6:00 PM

Choir Practice
Wednesday at 7 pm.

Message from Lynn Klatt in Finance

There Never Seems to Be Enough
March 2024

Sometimes it flies, sometimes it crawls, but it always passes inexorably. We mark it, save it, waste it, bide it, race against it. We measure it incessantly with a passion for precision that borders on the obsessive. We are obsessed with it; we never seem to have enough of it; and yet scientists don't even know how to explain it. What is it? The answer is time.

We never seem to have enough time. A group of experts once got together to figure out how much time we should need to get everything done in one day. These experts got together and noted how much time was needed for exercise, hygiene, work, commuting, household chores, eating, entertainment, spiritual development, sleep, and family time. When these figures were all added together, the experts said that a human being needs 42 hours a day. That's not very encouraging.

Of course, those are the things we're supposed to be doing every day according to experts. In truth, we add to that list as well. Consider that every day in the United States:

- 74,000 of us move to a different home and 22,465 move to another state.
- 36 businesses go bankrupt while 13,700 new ones start up.
- Americans purchase 38,082 new automobiles and trucks and smash 16,438.
- 2,266 couples get divorced while 6,578 get married.
- Dogs bite 12,329 people including 15 mail carriers.
- We eat 75 acres of pizza, 53 million hotdogs, 167 million eggs, 3 million gallons of ice cream, and 3,000 tons of candy.

The Psalmist tells us that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In other words, every moment of every second, and every second of every minute, and every minute of every hour, and every hour of every day is literally a gift from God. Unfortunately, in all of the hustle and bustle of our lives, we forget this. Instead, we are more often stressed out by this gift than

thankful for it. Think about this: God gives to every one of us all the same amount of time in a day.

Sometimes it's just our perspective. What if we were to get up every morning and thank God and remember that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." It wouldn't give us any more time, but maybe our perspective each day would change and we'd appreciate the gift of time a little more.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Did you know?

Jesus talked about money and possessions twice as much as he did about heaven and hell, five times as much as he talked about prayer, and nearly half of Jesus' parables deal with how we manage money and possessions.

John Wesley's goal was not to raise money for the church, but to lead people into a healthier, more productive, more positive life by providing practical wisdom on the relationship between their faith and their finances. Wesley's rules are not about fundraising for the church. They are about becoming more like Christ. They are about practicing the spiritual discipline of generosity so that we become generous people whose lives are shaped in the likeness of an extravagantly generous God.

A thick bankroll is no help when life falls apart, but a principled life can stand up to the worst. *-Proverbs 11:4 The Message*

Whoever loves money never has money enough; Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. *-Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV*