

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." -2 Corinthians 9:8

As I write this message, there are rows of quart jars of freshly canned tomatoes lining one end of my kitchen counter and the sweet smell of apples is in the air as apple chips dry in my dehydrator. My basement holds homegrown potatoes and onions, and my freezers are nearly bursting with produce from my garden and orchard—green beans, sweet corn, cauliflower, peas, cherries, and shredded zucchini. In addition to what I've frozen or canned, we've also enjoyed fresh lettuce, spinach, radishes, kale, beets, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupe, blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries. I have delivered several bags of fresh produce to the Stepping Stones food pantry when I had more than I could use or store and there is still much more to harvest in the weeks ahead, including lots of carrots, squash, and pumpkins. My garden is one simple way I experience abundance. A handful of packets of tiny little seeds now yield hundreds of pounds of produce!

2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds me that this is God's M.O. in every sphere of life. Yet, too often we may focus on what we *don't* have. We are conditioned to believe in the myth of scarcity, as if the world were only cold and cruel and barren. I simply cannot see it that way. Sure, there definitely are places where cruelty is rampant and resources are severely lacking, but there are also heroic efforts being made to alleviate suffering and small kindnesses spreading every single day. Often it is those who experience

financial pressures or food insecurity or housing uncertainty who are most generous with their acts of kindness—a smile, a small act of service, or a word of encouragement to help someone else through the day. I'm determined to create as many encounters of kindness as I can and I know you all are doing your part as well.

May this be a month in which we focus our attention on the abundance God is creating all around us. Walk through a woods and notice the abundance of plant and animal life. Gaze at the night sky and ponder the abundance of the universe. Come to church and experience the abundance of love in this community. And if you're hungry, let me know and I'll gladly share some of the abundance of my garden or some freshly baked treats with you.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

*With an abundance of love,
Pastor Wendy*



We welcome our new church team members!

Hello everyone, my name is Jessica Ross - Jessica, Jessie or Jess are all fine! I am so excited to be joining you as the new Joyful Noise Choir Director! I have been lucky enough to know Linda Bark and call her a friend. She has done an amazing job with Joyful Noise over the years, and I am very thankful to be mentored by her, and to be working with all of you!



Jessica Ross

I live in Menomonie with my husband Peter, my two daughters Ady (11) and Elivia (9) and our 2 dogs- Cash and June. We also have chickens, salamanders, cray fish and a few frogs too! I work full time as a Case Manager for Includa and really love what I do. I have met some wonderful people and have made great friends along the way. When I am not working, I enjoy hanging out with my family, singing and listening to music, spending time outside with my chickens and dogs, going for a bike ride or a walk, and gardening!

Hi, my name is Pa Chie Vang. I am married with 3 children (Ares, Logan, and Aura), and I live in Menomonie. I graduated in 2020 with my Associates in Early Childhood Education from CVTC, and obtained my Bachelors in Human Development and Family Studies at UW-Stout in May of 2023. I have worked in the childcare field for many years and have experience working with children that range from newborn to teens. I also work as an Early Head Start Home Visitor for Menomonie Head Start. I absolutely love working with families and children, and watching families grow as a unified team as they build the foundation of love and trust with their children! Some things that I enjoy doing outside of work are fishing, hiking, spending time with my family, crocheting, painting, and crafting. I am so excited for the opportunity to be part of the United Methodist Church team and I look forward to meeting each and everyone of you!



Pa Chie Vang

Community Meals

Free Meals in Menomonie
Monday, Tues., Wed. and Thurs.

Monday's Meal 5-6 pm
Menomonie United Methodist Church,
2703 Bongey Dr. Drive Thru To Go

Tuesday's Table 5-6 pm
St. Joseph's Church, 10th St. & Wilson Ave.
(lower level) In Person Dining

Wednesday's Table 5-6 pm
Christ Lutheran Church, 1306 Wilcox St.
In Person Dining & To Go

Thursday's Table 5-6 pm
First Congregational United Church of Christ,
420 Wilson Ave. To Go



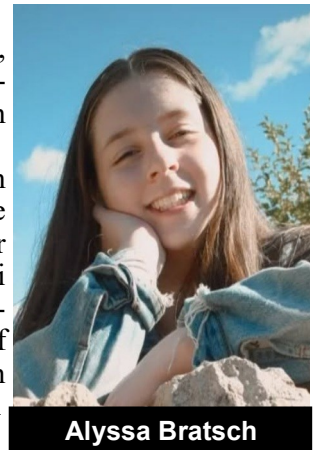
Hello MUMC families!

My name is Alyssa Bratsch, and I am excited to be a childcare provider for your children during Sunday service!

I am from the Twin Cities in Minnesota where I spent the summer working as a Toddler teacher in a Montessori school. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin Stout majoring in early Childhood Education with a Special Education certification and a minor in Human

Development and Family Studies. Additionally, I am taking courses to earn an Autism Spectrum Disorder Specialist Certification.

Outside the classroom, I enjoy playing softball, taking care of my many houseplants, spending time with friends and family, doing arts and crafts and playing with my two pet guinea pigs. I'm delighted to spend each Sunday supporting your children as they learn, grow and bloom. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. I'm always happy to connect!



Alyssa Bratsch

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Lunch, Lectionary & Learn 12 pm Joyful Noise 6-7	3 Youth Group 6:30-8	4 Joyful Journeys Picnic 6-8 pm	5	6
7 Blood Pressure Checks	8 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	9 Lunch, Lectionary & Learn 12 pm Joyful Noise 6-7	10 Touch A Truck 5:30-7:30	11 Foot & Nail Clinic 9 am-2 pm	12	13
14	15 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	16 Joyful Noise 6-7	17 Confirmation 6:30-8	18 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	19	20
21	22 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	23 Book Study Joyful Noise 6-7	24 Youth Group Wed. Table	25	26	27
28	29 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	30 Joyful Noise 6-7		faith		

HOTDOG, CHIPS & WATERMELON COMBO - COMPLIMENTARY
FREE-WILL DONATIONS WELCOME

MENOMONIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOUCH - A - TRUCK



**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10TH
5:30 - 7:30**

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC



2703 Bongey Dr. Menomonie, WI 54751

SAVE THE DATE



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Blood Drive

**Monday, October 6
12:00-6:00 pm**

Menomonie United Methodist Church
2703 Bongey Drive

To donate go to redcrossblood.org,
enter 54751 or call 1-800-733-2767

**Rapid Pass is available.
Many time slots available!**



Find us at:



September 2025 Stewardship Newsletter

It's Not Nothing

"Jesus said, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'"

— Matthew 14:16

In the familiar story of the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples come to Jesus with a reasonable concern: it's getting late, the people are hungry, and they need to go somewhere to buy food. But Jesus turns the problem back on them: "You give them something to eat." Their response? "We have nothing... except five loaves and two fish." It's a statement of limitation. And maybe also embarrassment. This is all we've got? It's not enough. But Jesus sees it differently. He takes the "not enough," gives thanks for it, and it becomes more than enough.

We do this too, don't we?

We say things like:

- "I don't have much time to offer."
- "I'm not sure I have any real skills to share."
- "We're just a small church."
- "We don't have the money for that."

We minimize what we have. We measure our gifts against the size of the need, and we come up short. But Jesus doesn't measure the way we do. He isn't asking us to be miracle workers - just to be willing to offer what we have.

What you bring matters. Whether it's five loaves and two fish, one visit to a homebound member, an extra \$25 in the offering, or one prayer offered in love - it's not nothing.

In fact, in the hands of Jesus, it may be the beginning of something bigger than we can imagine.

Rev. Jason Mahnke
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

**Volunteers willing to help out contact
Mary Anne Conklin**

Save the Date

**4th Annual
Park for a Purpose
Car Show and Concert**



E7115 1058th Ave
Wheeler, WI (Otter Creek)

**SATURDAY,
SEPT 6TH, 2025
12-4PM**

**Play it
Forward**
Fundraising for
good causes @  **WOOD
WIND
PARK**

**THE CUTAWAYS-CRAFT SHOW-SILENT AUCTION
DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT-FOOD-HIKING-GAMES**

Benefitting:



Grass parking
**CAR GATES OPEN 12:00 pm
SHOW 12-4 pm**

**1st 50 Cars: DASH PLAQUES
Prizes drawn throughout the day**

Admission is FREE

Julie Bendel @ 715-232-8549, Event Sponsorship or Donations
WoodWind Park @ 715-658-7275, Car Show, Craft Show,
or Disc Golf Tournament

Hello from your Parish Nurse and welcome to September

I have a few items to share with you this month.

I will begin office hours on Friday, September 5th. They will run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am most Fridays. I will be located in the conference room or the Fireside room during this time. You are free to stop by to visit or meet with me. I would love to hear any health concerns, faith concerns, areas where you are grieving, and life stories. (I will be out of town on Friday, 9/26).

This month, (September 28), I hope to have some speakers come to talk about immigration and the role that our Christian faith can play in this area.

Scripture calls God's people to show hospitality, compassion, and justice toward someone who is displaced from their native land.

We are reminded of our shared humanity and the sacred responsibility to welcome and protect the vulnerable.

These verses include Genesis 23:4; Exodus 23:9; Deuteronomy 10:19, and Psalm 146:9 to name a few verses.

Thanks for your faithfulness and care for others in our faith community, community and beyond.

*Blessings, Sarah Zarbock
Parish Nurse*



 American Heart Association.
Healthy for Good™

**Free Blood Pressure
Screening**

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

Lay Servant Ministries Learning Retreat

Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13
Luther Park Bible Camp, Chetek

The North West District Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) Committee invites **all** lay members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to join in an overnight learning retreat in the beautiful Northwoods.

Registration and optional lunch begins 11:30am on Friday. Orientation and Opening Devotional at 12:30pm (please plan to arrive at Luther Park Bible Camp no later than 12:30pm). Luther Park Bible Camp is located at 944 24 1/2 Street, Chetek 54728.

During this overnight learning retreat current and incoming Lay Servants and Speakers can choose from one of several LSM courses including the **Basic Course, Preaching, Leading Worship**, and a special course on **"Prayer for Revival"** (an interdenominational course that is not included in the 6 LSM Advanced Courses).

Courses will all be taught in-person and will begin Friday, September 12 at 1pm. Each course will meet for the required 10 hours over the course of that Friday and into Saturday afternoon. Please plan on being at the Camp until 3pm on Saturday.

Cost: \$80, includes overnight lodging at the Camp, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. Optional Friday Lunch costs \$9.50. Possible additional cost for course materials will be determined by the individual course instructors (No additional cost for materials for the Basic Course!)

For questions or to register
Please contact Pastor Adam Woods at (608) 513-2937
or email him at pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com.
Deadline to register is Sunday, August 31.



Introducing Suzanne's Foot and Nail Care

**Suzanne Leroux is a Physical Therapist
and Certified Foot Care Specialist**

Foot and Nail Care services will be provided at
United Methodist Church starting

**Thursday, September 11
9:00-2:00**

Held in Education Wing

Contact Suzanne to have your questions
answered and to schedule an appointment



Autumn Blessings

Fall 2025

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR SCHEDULE

****All practices/Concerts will be held at the Methodist Church in Menomonie unless otherwise noted ****

August 26th - 6pm-7pm
September 2nd - 6pm-7pm
September 9th - 6pm-7pm
September 16th - 6pm-7pm
September 23rd - 6pm-7pm
September 30th - 6pm-7pm
October 7th - 6pm-7pm
October 14th - 6pm-7pm
*****CONCERT*****
October 21st - 6pm-7:30pm

If you cannot make any of the dates above that is ok! We still want to see you and hear your voice whenever you can join us
Jessie Ross 715-220-9674

Braver Angels Workshop Series on Political Polarization Seeks to Curb Internal Polarization and Promote Civil Discourse

Menomonie, WI – Braver Angels, a national nonprofit organization made up of Republican, Democrat and Independent members with a mission of “bridging the partisan divide,” [will conduct three workshops at two Menomonie churches on Saturday mornings this September and October. Workshops are free and open to the anyone with a genuine interest in contributing to depolarization by learning and practicing better communication strategies. Registration is required.](#) Participants may register for one, two, or three workshops. Light snack and beverage provided. Childcare available upon request.

The first workshop, “**Christian Response to Political Polarization**,” will be held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 420 Wilson Avenue, on Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This workshop focuses on understanding why political polarization is a serious moral problem for Christians and non-Christians alike. We will identify how our faith or spiritual teachings can help address polarization and specific ways we can act as peacemakers. Register at: <https://signup.zone/4x2TGoPxZfiiA5EwB> . You will receive email confirmation of registration.

The second workshop, “**Depolarizing Ourselves**,” will be held at Menomonie United Methodist Church, 2703 Bongey Drive, on Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This workshop teaches participants how to be more aware of their own “inner polarizer,” and how to interact without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large groups of the population. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/depolarizing-ourselves-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1506054663039?aff=oddttdcreator&discount=BRAVER>.

The final workshop, “**Skills for Disagreeing Better**,” will be held at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Saturday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This workshop helps participants understand the values and concerns of those who differ from them politically and teaches essential skills for communicating across differences and finding common ground. Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-disagreeing-better-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1505962828359?aff=oddttdcreator&discount=BRAVER>.

Registration is also available on First Congregational United Church of Christ’s website (<https://www.menomonieucc.org/>)

or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MenomonieUCC>).

Please feel free to contact us to learn more.

Contact Information

Organization Name: First

Congregational United Church of Christ

Contact Name: Karen Miller,

Director of Faith Formation

Phone Number: 715-235-5838

Email Address:

dirfaithform@menomonieucc.org

Website Links: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/>

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/MenomonieUCC)

[MenomonieUCC](https://www.facebook.com/MenomonieUCC)



Northern Spirit Radio

Celebrating 20 Years

With the Amazing,
Profound, and Prolific:



John McCutcheon

With opening music by:

Location: Fr. Tom Krieg, Yata,
St. James the Greater & Bryce Black
Catholic Church 2502
11th street Eau Claire, WI

Time:
Sunday, October 5th at 6:30pm
doors open at 5:30pm

Tickets:
\$30 in advance
\$35 at the door
\$15 streaming online

A portion of proceeds will benefit JONAH

NorthernSpiritRadio.org



Financial Footnotes

Wow, where has the summer gone? It doesn't seem that long ago that school was getting out for the kiddo's summer vacation. I have heard if "we could only have a couple more weeks of vacation" from a few kids and teachers!

Well reality hits folks and we need to move on to fall. The church is gearing up with activities starting with "Park for a Purpose" at Woodwind Park on September 6th. Come and enjoy the day with a car show, craft vendors and the Cutaways. This is a fund raiser supporting the four churches who serve meals each week. Next, will be "Touch A Truck" on September 10th right here in our parking lot. There will be lots of things to look at and a great night to mingle with friends. The event will be held from 5:30-7:30. Come for a hot dog supper! If you are not into these type of activities we also offer a book study that you may be interested in. "Sit Walk Stand" will be the book the group will be working with. These projects and activities would not be possible without your support as a participant and your financial gifts. We thank you! We also thank you for your financial gifts to the general budget these past eight months. Our apportionments and bills are paid and up to date. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email (finance@menomonieumc.org).

Thank you!
Lynn Klatt
Church Treasurer

It's official! **We have received funding to** **start a Memory Choir right here** **in Menomonie!**

If you are interested in joining the choir as a person with dementia, a care partner or a singing volunteer, you will find the attached paperwork to complete; or you will find the link below to register on line. There is also a Facebook Page! Please like, follow and share information about our choir! It will take all of us to share this information with the Menomonie community to ensure those that want to be involved find this information.

Rehearsals start SEPTEMBER 4th at 1:00 pm!
Rehearsals will be once a week at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Menomonie
on Thursdays from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

There is no registration fee required for this fall session. So come and check it out! Also, there will be refreshments after practice! Our choir is called Vibrant Voices, and that was carefully chosen to change the perception of living with dementia.

Cultivating Our Church Values

As you may know, over the past several years the Menomonie UMC went through a re-visioning process through the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI for short). One of our MCCI coaches encouraged us to display our church values prominently in the church narthex so that anyone who visits the church building can see at a glance what we are about and so that we, too, are reminded regularly of what we are striving to live out as a church. However, we don't yet have our own set of church values. We have a mission statement: *Our mission is to serve others and make disciples of Jesus Christ*, but we have not yet defined the specific values that guide us as we pursue that mission. Our Accountable Leadership Board decided this is a worthy endeavor but they feel it is a bigger question than the leadership board alone should answer. Therefore, we'd like all of you who participate in the Menomonie UMC to help articulate our guiding values. After all, *we* are the church together!

The Accountable Leadership Board reviewed church values from a few other United Methodist churches. For example, The Grove UMC in Woodbury, MN says their values are to: 1. expand the circle of inclusion; 2. nurture healing, wholeness, and beauty; 3. cultivate the common good; and 4. deepen curiosity and sense of awe. Likewise, the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas lists these four values on their website, along with a longer explanation of what each means to them: 1. Thought-provoking, 2. Outward-focused, 3. Bridge-building, and 4. Hope-radiating. The common themes we noticed were that most churches included values on both personal growth and pursuing the good of the community.

Pastor Wendy and the Accountable Leadership Board have drafted the survey below, seeking your feedback on what you feel the guiding values of the Menomonie UMC should be. We'll have printed copies available at church too if that format would be easier for you.

Menomonie UMC Church Values Survey

Please prayerfully consider your answers. Perhaps examples from other churches describe our church too; if so, you can write them in answer to the survey questions. Other examples are: serving our community, growing in our understanding and application of scripture, standing up for the least and last, celebrating the God-given giftedness of all people, or inspiring hope in Jesus. Feel free to add your additional ideas too!

Based on your experience with us what values do you see us living out?

What guiding values might best help us achieve our mission?

United Messenger

September 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

