



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

"You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance." – Psalm 65:11

Fall has officially begun! I've always loved the way the autumn sun takes on such a warm and wondrous hue as sunset approaches, basking the world in its golden glow. The leaves are beginning to change color, an abundance of grain and produce is being harvested from fields and gardens throughout our region, and delicious seasonal flavors like apple cider and pumpkin spice treats are available nearly everywhere we look.

It feels like a bountiful season in the life of our church lately too. Sunday School classes have resumed in a fun new format during worship and our youth group has doubled in size from last year to this year. In the past month we've enjoyed some of the most successful outreach events I've ever witnessed in my 20+ years of ministry so far with the Touch a Truck event and the Driveway Hoops Clinic providing an opportunity to show God's love to dozens of our neighbors and invite them to more that our church has to offer. Our Monday's Meal program consistently feeds well over 100 people every week and new volunteers continue to step forward to help make this ministry possible. The Menomonie Korean Church has begun worshiping here on Sunday afternoons where now they have space to continue to grow. A whole class of new members has just joined the church and at least one baptism is scheduled for the month ahead. It is a joyous season of abundant blessings indeed!

Best of all, the Holy Spirit is inspiring creative momentum among not only our staff and existing leaders but among many new leaders as well. Thanks to the inspired collaborative vision and effort of both staff members and many volunteers, a new small group for moms has begun, a float for our church in the Homecoming Parade has been built, our Missional Church Consultation Initiative action teams are working to enact the exciting recommendations of the MCCI team, volunteer musicians have prepared beautiful worship music with the choir as we continue to seek a new Music Ministry Coordinator, an intergenerational pumpkin carving party is being planned for October 23, and a Trunk or Treat event for our whole community is scheduled for October 30. These and many more activities make this a full and vibrant time to be a part of the Menomonie United Methodist Church as we continue to grow in faith and service together!

I am so grateful for this exciting season in the life of our church, and I hope to see you soon—at church or online or out in the neighborhood. God is on the move and it is a joy to be a part of all that God is doing in our midst and throughout our community!

In joyful gratitude,
Pastor Wendy

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**Our annual Charge Conference
will be held on
Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 pm
in the Lower Elementary
classroom.**

**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.



**Blood Pressure
Checks
First Sunday
of every month.**

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!

***Welcome
Claudia LaSeure,
our AmeriCorps
volunteer for
Monday's Meal!***



Early in 2022, Pastor Wendy and our Accountable Leadership Board became aware of the Community Corps program, administered through Marshfield Clinic to support various public health programs in Wisconsin including food and nutrition programs like Monday's Meal. We applied and were approved as a host site for a half-time AmeriCorps volunteer to serve twenty hours per week from September 2022 through August 2023. In August, our interview team comprised of Pastor Wendy, Esther Fahm (a member of the Monday's Meal Steering Team), and Linda Bark (a regular volunteer at Monday's Meal) interviewed and approved Claudia LaSeure to fill this role as our AmeriCorps member. Claudia is the daughter of Nichole Manson, our former volunteer Monday's Meal Coordinator, so she is already familiar with our meal program. Nichole will still volunteer with us occasionally too as able, but she is returning to school at CVTC, continuing her other employment, and homeschooling her young son so she has understandably had to step back from her role here in order to care well for these other responsibilities in this season of her life.

Claudia comes from a background in food service at several fast food restaurants and a passion both for helping people and for creating delicious recipes with inexpensive ingredients. Her compassion, determination, and can-do attitude have already been an asset to our Monday's Meal program and we joyfully welcome her to our team! In exchange for her service with us, Claudia will receive a modest living stipend through the AmeriCorps program and upon the successful completion of her year of service with us will be eligible for an education award toward future tuition for higher education. We are grateful for this mutually beneficial Community Corps program that can help us continue to improve and grow our Monday's Meal ministry!



Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org





**American
Red Cross**



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 10, 2022

1:00-6:00 p.m. (New time)

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

Rapid Pass is available.

Help is needed Sunday, Oct. 9th

in the Fellowship Hall after service.

We will be setting up for the Blood Drive on Monday.

Thank you!

Financial Footnotes:

On August 21 a group from church and the community took a bus to Plymouth MN to attend "Hope Fest". There were three Christian bands that performed along with the inspirational messages that they shared.

Touch a truck which was held in September in the church parking lot was a huge success. The community rallied behind us and brought in dump trucks, a milk truck, street sweeper, John Deere tractor and school bus. Several of our own members brought in lawn tractors, a 1950 truck and a Gator with barrels that the kids rode around the yard in.

This past week we held the Basketball Skills Clinic for the community and youth were invited to come and spend the afternoon with the UW-Stout men and women's basketball teams. A good time was held by all.

We continue to support Stepping Stones with our "buckets of change" on the 5th Sunday of the month. We have gifted close to a thousand dollars this year so far! Another of our local missions is "Monday's Meal". We have been fortunate to have volunteers "step up to the plate" to organize, cook, serve and support financially this mission. Our numbers typically range from 120 to a high of 180 meals served.

I mention these activities because without your financial help we would not be able to sponsor these programs and missions. Good things are happening at the Menomonie United Methodist Church!

Our general fund is holding steady and bills are all current. We are looking forward to a full winter season with the new boiler without repairs, which will be a real treat! We are anticipating high heating bills so we will see how the winter pans out.

We thank you for being a vital part of the Menomonie United Methodist Church. As the saying goes, "I am the church, you are the church we are the church together". I have enclosed an article from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation titled God's Voice. Take time this month to listen to what God is saying to you.

Lynn Klatt

Prayer Time

2nd 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.



**WISCONSIN UNITED
METHODIST FOUNDATION**

God's Voice

In my ministry, several people have asked why God doesn't speak to people like God did in the Bible. Their assumption is that any time Scripture talks about God speaking to someone, that person is hearing a literal voice saying words. I think this is a far too limited understanding of how God speaks to us every day. Consider this story told by Scott McKenzie and Kristine Miller. "Every day, on her way to work, Audrey's route took her past a women's penitentiary. Surrounding the building and grounds stood a large chain-link fence topped off with barbed wire intended to keep separate those on the inside from those on the outside. Each time Audrey passed the woman's penitentiary, she saw the women walking the grounds or sitting at picnic tables soaking in a few precious moments of warm sunshine. As she passed, Audrey would quietly say a prayer for the incarcerated women and their families. One day, as Audrey was driving past, she felt a strong urge to pull in. Without fully realizing what she was doing, she turned sharply into the entrance of the prison. In an instant, she found herself face-to-face with a large, intimidating prison guard whose face suggested a humorless disposition. Feeling the awkwardness of the moment, Audrey explained that she had felt God's push to visit the facility and asked if they received volunteers." "The prison guard responded by giving Audrey the business card of the volunteer coordinator and sent Audrey on her way. God's nudge had sent Audrey to an unfamiliar place, and she was courageous enough to go. Soon she started a Bible study class at the prison sharing Jesus' message of love and hope." Audrey believed that the urge to pull into the penitentiary was God speaking to her. I tend to agree. Rather than waiting for a literal voice to speak to us, what if God spoke and called us through our nudges, yearnings, and hopes. That would mean that God is closer than many of us think or realize. It also means that God challenges us more frequently than we realize. But, when we courageously listen to God with a willing heart, we will discover that the result is transformational, not just for us, but for everyone whose life is impacted.



Children and Family Ministry Information

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Pre-K through 5th grade
- **THE TIME HAS CHANGED!** We will now meet during Sunday Service (after the Children's Message until the end of service)

MOM'S GROUP

*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!

***Next meeting is Monday, October 10th!**

SAVE THE DATE



Pumpkin decorating after Sunday Service on October 23rd from 10:30-Noon!



Free!

Community Event

Family Friendly Themed

Come participate or decorate
your own station!

October 30th

Contact Amanda at 715-235-0654
or email

youthministry@menomonieumc.org

Bulk Mail Change

We are currently reviewing our costs with bulk mailing through the US Post Office.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email please let Lori know at the office.

715-235-0654 or email
office@menomonieumc.org

Thank you!

Pumpkin Patch

will be at **Govins**

October 16th 12-4 pm

Cost \$13 per person plus any
extra spending wanted. Pack sack lunch

October 5th, 12th, 19th
regular youth group
meet at 6:00pm until 7:30pm.

October 26th Wednesday Table.
Meet 4:45 pm-6:30pm

October 30th is our
Trunk or Treat event 4:30pm-6:30pm

Bells!

Bells will begin ringing again
on **October 12.**

Rehearsals begin then on
Wednesdays at 6 pm.


Please consider this fun
ministry for your church.

Send questions to
Tim Matthaei at matthaeitim@gmail.com



Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Mondays Meal
(subject to change)
October 3
Pork Savoy, Coleslaw and Bread Pudding

October 10 and 17
Yet to be determined.

October 24
Taco Mac and Cheese, Corn, Brownie

October 31
Spaghetti, Steamed Broccoli with Parmesan, Cupcake

CLASSICAL PIANO

Dr. Namji Kim
Music Faculty, UWEC

SUN Oct 9th 2 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran
910 9th St
Menomonie



DONATIONS welcome to benefit the "4 Tables"
(United Methodist, St Joes, Christ, UCC)

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.

Menomonie Memory Café

2022 Dates

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 13
May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21

Memory Cafés are designed for people living with dementia and their care partners. This is an opportunity to gather and enjoy coffee and camaraderie

3rd Wednesday of the Month
10 am—11:30 am
United Methodist Church
2703 Bongey Drive

