United Messenger

November 2026

Message from Pastor Inuha Shon

"For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." – 2 Corinthians 2:15

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Menomonie,

Grace and peace be with you. I pray for all of you to be well in this season of changes. We experience a lot of changes politically, economically, religiously, and globally. Lately, as I drive to visit members of our church, I encounter quite different views from those of last month. Nature changes regardless of humans' situation.

As you surely notice, it is autumn season and leaves fall on the ground all over town. We can't miss the beauty of fall colors, which are a mixture of red, orange, yellow, and purple. I have always wondered how these autumn leaves change their colors. I have searched and figured out that this splendor of the fall is the result of chemical processes that take place in the tree as the seasons change from summer to winter.

According to an article of science I have read recently, during the spring and summer the leaves make food from sunlight and water so that the tree can grow. This food-making process takes place in the leaf in numerous cells containing 'chlorophyll,' which gives the leaf its green color.

But in the fall, because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperature, the leaves stop their food-making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, and the yellow to orange colors become visible.

At the same time, other chemical changes may occur, which form additional colors through the development of red anthocyanin pigments. Some mixtures give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of trees such as dogwoods and sumacs, while others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange.

The autumn foliage of some trees shows only yellow colors. Others, like many oaks, display mostly browns. All these colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

These changing colors of leaves remind me of the relationship with God. As we feed on God's Word and pray to God every day, we grow and get closer to God. And we can reflect the splendor of Jesus Christ through our lives to others, as the leaves show green color.

But if we lack God's Word and prayer, we gradually get further from God, lose His splendor, and fall down. Although our outer lives may be gorgeous and prosperous, our inner lives could be dead or lukewarm.

We see the autumn leaves and its beauty, but it is not alive- it is dead. The leaves no longer grow and attach to the tree. It falls down and disappears. Just as the tree needs sunlight and water for its growth, so we need the light and water of our life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us dwell in Him.

peace,

Pastor Rev. Inwha Shon



November 2026 Stewardship Newsletter



The Worst Part about Gratitude? It Works.

I recently came across a humorous Instagram video in which a comedian talks about his therapist encouraging him to practice gratitude. He clearly does not want to do it. With frustration and sarcasm, he talks about being told to name a few things he is grateful for each day. And then he delivers the punchline: the worst part about gratitude is that **it works**.That line stuck with me.

This time of year naturally turns our attention toward gratitude. Thanksgiving invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks. But if we are honest, gratitude can feel harder to practice when finances are tight, uncertainty is high, or the future feels unclear. Churches feel that pressure. Families feel that pressure. Individuals do too.

In those moments, gratitude can sound too simple – almost naïve. But gratitude is not pretending everything is easy. It is not denial. It is not ignoring hardship. Gratitude is choosing to notice that, even in the middle of challenge, God is still present, still faithful, and still at work.

In that sense, gratitude changes what we see.

When I used to ride a motorcycle, I learned a simple but important lesson: where you look matters. If there is something in the road you want to avoid, you do not stare directly at it. If you fixate on it, there is a good chance you will ride right into it. Instead, you look toward where you want to go.

Life is often like that too.

If we focus only on scarcity, fear, and what might go wrong, those things begin to dominate our vision. They shape our mood, our decision-making, and our sense of possibility. But if we intentionally look for signs of God's provision, evidence of changed lives, and the gifts already in our midst, that focus begins to shape us too. It does not eliminate difficulty, but it changes how we travel through it.

That is especially true in stewardship.

Gratitude helps move us from anxiety to trust, from fear to faith, and from clenched hands to open ones. It reminds us that stewardship does not begin with obligation. It begins with recognizing what God has already given. We give because we have first received.

This November, even in difficult financial times, perhaps one of the most faithful things we can do is practice gratitude. Name what is good.

Give thanks for what God has done. Notice the blessings that are already present. As that comedian discovered, much to his irritation, the worst part about gratitude may just be that it works

Help for the Stewardship Team

A Free Resource for Your Church: Giving Beyond the Offering Plate

As we move toward the end of the year, and begin looking ahead to a new one, this is an excellent time for churches to host the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation's new seminar: **Giving Beyond the Offering Plate**.

This seminar is designed to help people think more broadly and faithfully about generosity. It introduces practical ways to give that many people have never been taught, including gifts from appreciated assets, donor-advised funds, IRA charitable giving, and other forms of giving that can support ministry in meaningful ways. It also opens the door to conversations about legacy giving and how our faith can shape the way we share our resources both now and in the future.

The timing is especially good at the end of the year, when many people are already thinking about charitable giving, tax-wise decisions, and year-end planning. It is also a strong fit at the beginning of the year, when people are reflecting on their values, making plans, and considering what faithful generosity might look like in the months ahead.

Best of all, this seminar is offered by Foundation staff as a free service to our churches.

If your church would like to host Giving Beyond the Offering Plate, we would be glad to help. We can work with you to schedule a time that fits your congregation and provide a practical, encouraging experience that helps people grow in generosity and better understand the many ways they can support the ministries they care about.

If you would like to explore hosting this seminar, please reach out. We would be happy to talk with you.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact: **Rev. Jason Mahnke**, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at 608-837-9582 or jason@wumf.org.

Parish Nurse News



Parish Nurse News

I have been attending the Academy for Spiritual Formation since November 2025. We are meeting about 4 times/year at retreat locations in Arizona and Nebraska. It has been a place to find the time and space to listen to God's call, to make and keep holy covenants and to embody faithful commitments. We watch for the Holy Spirit guiding us in spiritual formation.

Spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others, for the sake of the world.
The schedule we have is a daily rhythm of study and prayer, silence and liturgy, solitude and community and rest and activities. We also have times of silence and solitude.

Solitude - the state of being physically alone without digital or social interaction. When I am in solitude, it gives my mind a chance to rest, reset, and process my experiences.
If you take brief periods of solitude, it can help lower your emotions, like anger, anxiety, and stress while boosting calm and relaxation. When you move away from social activities, your brain can start processing thoughts, solve problems, and spark creative ideas.
Each day there are 4 opportunities for community worship - morning, afternoon, a Eucharist service and an evening service. We are offered opportunities to share the liturgy. I also was able to serve in a healing service.
This has been a fulfilling time for my faith journey.
I hope you can find time of silence and solitude in your life, to get away, rest and be with God.

Fall blessings
Sarah Zarbock, Parish Nurse

ALB – Accountable Leadership Board

- Recognize Clergy Appreciation Day/Month
- Consider the draft budget for 2027
- Review church conference paperwork
- Seek Nominations for new members





November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 All Saint Sunday	2 Dartball, 8 pm Tainter	3	4 Youth Prayer Meeing, 5:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Messy Church @ 10:30-12 pm	9 Dartball @ church 8pm	10 Joyful Noise Choir	11 Youth Prayer Meeting, 5:30 pm	12 ALB	13	14
15 25th Sunday of Pentecost	16 Dartball 8pm	17 Joyful Noise Choir	18 Youth Prayer Meeting, 5:30 pm	19	20	21
22 Youth Bake Sale	23 Dartball 8pm, church	24 Joyful Noise Choir	25 Youth Prayer Meeting, 5:30 pm	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Church Conference, 10:30 am	30 Dartball 8pm	1 Joyful Noise Choir	2 Youth Prayer Meeting, 5:30 pm	3	4	5 Grief Share

What happened on This Day in the history of Christianity?

Council of Chalcedon

November 1

The old church of St. Euphemia, sitting atop a hill in Chalcedon across the Bosphorus from Constantinople, hosted the fourth great council of the church in the fall of 451. The emperor called the bishops together to combat a series of heresies about the person of Christ and to formulate a creed that would unite Christianity.

The nature of Christ was the chief theological question of the first 400 years of church history. Christendom as a whole remained unified in an orthodox faith, but periodic assaults by heretics forced the church in its councils to state its definition of Christ. The Council of Nicaea in 325 had affirmed Christ as fully God. But how, then, could he also be truly human?

The Council of Chalcedon tackled that problem, and it wasn't pretty. Bishops and delegates shouted at each other in rough-and-tumble debates, interrupting each other, losing their tempers, shouting down speakers, and wreaking havoc. In the end, however, it managed to affirm that Jesus: (1) is fully God; (2) is fully human; (3) is one person; and (4) possesses two distinct natures. The Chalcedon document, one of the most important in church history, says in part:

Following the holy fathers, we confess with one voice that the one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, is perfect in Godhead and perfect in manhood, truly God and truly man, that he is of one substance with the Father as God, he is also of one substance with us as man. He is like us in all things without sin. This one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten is made known in two natures (which exist) without confusion, without change, without division, without separation. The distinction of the natures is in no way taken away by their union, but rather the distinctive properties of each nature are preserved.

The Council of Chalcedon thus affirmed that Jesus Christ is one person having both a divine and a human nature. He is one Lord. He is both God and man. And with that, the council dissolved **on November 1, 451.** Here is the great mystery of our religion: Christ came as a human. The Spirit proved that he pleased God, and he was seen by angels. Christ was preached to the nations. People in this world put their faith in him, and he was taken up to glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Morgan, Robert J., On This Day





Youth Group

BAKE SALE



Fundraiser

HELP US RAISE MONEY TO GO TO THE 2027 NATIONAL YOUTH GROUP CONFERENCE IN DALLAS, TEXAS

WHEN:

Sunday, 22 November

WHERE:

Nar t hex

TIME:

After Church Service

Homemade baked goods available for you to take home with your family and feel good about your purchase.

MUMCY's

Pancake Brunch

Join us fora

Pancake Day Brunch!

Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, December 12th, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

2703 Bongey Dr, Menomonie, WI 54751

$5 Per person

~ A Silent auction will be available during the brunch, along with a raffle drawing for anyone who purchased presale tickets. ~



MOVIE

POLAR EXPRESSWear your comfiest pajamas and join the

your groupfor amovie night!

DECEMBER 20TH

candy can be purchased

2703 Bongey Dr, Menomonie, WI 54751



Youth Group

NOVEMBER YOUTH CALENDER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Bake Sale Fundraiser	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	29	30				

REGULAR MEETING

6:30pm - Dinner and Fellowship

7:00pm - Activities and Lesson

8:00 - Dismissal

WEDNESDAYS TABLE

4:30pm - Meet @ Christ Lutheran Purple Door Church

6:30 Dismissal



November 2026

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2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI 54751

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

Menomonie
Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2026

2703 Bongey Drive,
Menomonie, WI 54751

Menomonie
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH