



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

"We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose." -1 Corinthians 3:5b-8a

As you have likely heard by now through the announcements in worship and through the congregational letters that have been sent out, on July 1 of this year, I will be reappointed to serve the First UMC in Barron, WI and your new pastor here in Menomonie will be my dear colleague, Rev. InWha Shon whom my family has loved ever since he served several years ago at the little country church where I grew up. My parents still speak fondly of him and his wife, Esther.

In Barron, I will follow another cherished colleague, Rev. Jeong Lee. She recently alluded to the scripture above in an email message she sent to me, and I find a lot of hope in those words. Like the good farm girl I have always been, I have done my best to cultivate and nurture the good things that God has been growing in this church community over these past twelve years while I have had the privilege of working in this place. We have weathered some storms that were out of our control and we've enjoyed some delightful seasons too. Through it all, "it was God who made it grow". I am not the same pastor I was when I was first appointed here in 2014. By the grace of God and through your patient faithfulness with me, I

am stronger, wiser, and even more faithful than I was back then. My love for God and my love for all of you has continued to grow, year after year. Chances are, each of you have changed somewhat over these years too. God is doing good work in us and through us. Thanks be to God!

And that brings to mind another scripture that encourages me in this season of transition: "he who began the good work in you, will bring it to completion." (from Philippians 1:6) In other words, God isn't finished with us yet! As long as there is breath in our lungs, we get to keep on growing in faith, and God has prepared your next pastor to support you in doing just that.

Pastor InWha is gifted in scripturally grounded **preaching and Bible teaching** to nurture spiritual growth and discipleship. He excels at **pastoral care** and values the ministry of listening and relational presence. He is also a visionary of **community engagement** and a dedicated servant leader committed to strengthening our outreach ministries, reaching unchurched neighbors and young families, and deepening the church's intergenerational and welcoming identity. These are the top three missional reasons the Bishop and Cabinet have chosen Pastor InWha for this next season of ministry at Menomonie UMC, and I trust that you will find he is capable of all of this and more. I pray that you will grow to love him as your pastor just as you have graciously accepted me as your pastor.

Pastor InWha and I are on the same team, faithfully serving the God who helps us all grow. May this next season be one of abundance and joy for you all!

With love overflowing,
Pastor Wendy

Day of Celebration: Notes from the ALB Brunch

On March 22, we held our monthly ALB Brunch and this month's theme was *CELEBRATION!* Specifically, we celebrated some of the ways we are "loving boldly," "serving joyfully," and "leading courageously" as our United Methodist Vision Statement describes.

Loving boldly:

- On March 21, we wrapped up three months of our Grief Share class. We had over fifteen people who participated this time, and 2/3 of them were people outside of this church. It was beautiful to see the group members *loving boldly* as we learned to walk through grief together in faith.

Serving joyfully:

- One of our dear members celebrated her 88th birthday in February by working here in our church kitchen to make enough desserts to feed 200 people at our Monday's Meal that week. That's *serving joyfully*—and she is just one of over 3 dozen of our very dedicated volunteers who help make it possible for us to serve a nourishing, wholesome meal for our community every week. In the past year, we served as many as 286 meals per week, with our average hovering around 200. That's roughly 10,000 meals a year!

- We also celebrate that two more members have joined our Accountable Leadership Board: Linda Bark and Kathy Atnip, and we look forward to *serving joyfully* with them throughout their terms on the board!

Leading courageously:

- Our confirmation students and youth group members have begun planning their "Walk through Easter" event for the evening on Wednesday, April 8 so they can share the stories of Jesus' final days with his disciples and the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection through immersive, interactive stations. The event is open to people of all ages and it has become an event that other churches bring their youth groups to experience. It is exciting to see our youth *leading courageously* in this way!

- We also celebrate our tech team as they have begun using the new cameras in the church sanctuary in the past month. They have put in a lot of hours of practice and are working hard to make our service available to those on YouTube and Facebook who cannot be here in person. Tackling that learning curve of new technology is another example of *leading courageously*!

What's Been Happening at Menomonie UMC

Our church is a very active place for faith formation and for community connections. In the past month or so: we have held worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

- We have been serving our community meal every Monday and a soup supper every Wednesday. Our Sunday School children and the teens and pre-teens in youth group have met regularly.

- The Mom's Group and the It Takes a Village Group continue to provide connection and support for our young families.
- Messy Church continues to develop with fun new activities every month.
- Our Parish Nurse does blood pressure checks and one-on-one conversations and spiritual formation.
- The Dartball Team just wrapped up another fun season.
- The Joyful Noise Choir is gearing up for their next concert in May.
- Our Visitation Ministry Team continues to connect with our homebound members each month.
- We held another VERY successful blood drive for the Red Cross, thanks to Jan Friest and her faithful crew of volunteers.

And we are a connection point not just for those within this congregation but for the wider church and community as well!

- We hosted a clergy circuit meeting for United Methodist pastors in our area.
- We have hosted a District meeting of the United Women of Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) and will be hosting their big Spring Gathering on April 18.
- The Community Conversations group led an informative session on PFAS (forever chemicals) in our water supplies.
- The PEO group meets here regularly.

A fellowship group of community women known as the "Girlfriend's Group" meets here every month. Another community group called "Widening the Circle" meets here as well.

- The local Girl Scouts used our parking lot this month when the truck load of cookies arrived and each family came to pick up their portion to sell. All this and so much more is possible because of your participation and support. General Giving is up by about 6.5% over this time last year. Give yourselves a pat on the back for the ministry you help make possible!



Happy Easter!

For the past 13 weeks we have been learning about grief and the grief journey during the Grief Share classes on Saturday afternoons.

We learned that God was present during each situation. Grief is a transition time in our life and as we finish our class we learn about Hope and Resilience. Bishop Scherwin talked about "practicing hope", in his laity address for our Wisconsin on March 7th. As Christians, our hope is found in Jesus Christ and his resurrection. During our grief recovery, we can press on after the loss by drawing near to God. We can also take care to rest, eat healthy, drink fluids and exercise. As your Parish Nurse, I am available to assist you in making personal choices (or offering a listening ear) based on your values and beliefs. I can also offer assistance in modifying lifestyles, adjusting to disease, coping with chronic illness and other health concerns.

I also believe prayer is valuable to your healing - I would love to pray with you. In all these ways, I can help to offer hope in Jesus Christ and my ministry.

Starting April 8th at 5:30 pm we are offering a time of prayer/ gathering for our transition time of Pastor Wendy moving to her new calling and Pastor Inwha coming to be our pastor - we will pray for unity within our congregation. We hope to meet for about ½ hour to 1 hour - depending on our prayers and concerns.

I encourage you all to journal about the good things - "God things " that have been going on in your life! Christ has Risen ! Alleluia !

Good News from Parish Nurse
Sarah Zarbock



Have you ever wondered what one would do in the event of an active shooter or someone experiencing a mental health crisis or some other disruptive or dangerous outburst at church?

On Monday, April 6 • 6:30 pm

a local police officer will lead a de-escalation training at Menomonie UMC to help staff and members learn best practices for defusing tense situations and protect the safety of everyone involved.

There is no cost for this training and all are welcome.

If possible, let Pastor Wendy know if you plan to attend so we can prepare enough space and snacks to accommodate everyone.

pastor@menomonieumc.org or 715-235-0654

A colorful promotional flyer for an Easter event at Menomonie United Methodist Church. The text "MENOMONIE United Methodist Church" is at the top. A yellow banner says "APRIL 12TH 10:30 - NOON". Below that, it says "CRAFTS - BIBLE STORY - LUNCH" in a curved banner. To the right, there's a "Messy Church" logo and a banner that says "EASTER". Below that, it says "Potluck Brunch" in pink. At the bottom, it says "ALL AGES WELCOME!". On the right side, there's a small illustration of a chick and a box that says "MESSY CHURCH IS A FREE EVENT & OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC! MEAL IS INCLUDED!". At the bottom right, the address "2703 Bongey Dr. Menomonie, WI" is listed. The background features a white bunny with a flower crown, a wooden cross, and several colorful Easter eggs.

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4		
			Youth & Confirmation 6:30-8		Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church			
Easter 5	De-escalation Training 6:30 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	6	7	Foot & Nail Clinic 9-3 pm Pause for Prayer 5:30 Easter Walk led by Youth 6-8 pm	8	9	10	11
Blood Pressure Checks						Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Messy Church 10:30-12	Monday Meal 5-6 pm	Joyful Noise 6-7	Confirmation 6:30-8	Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
ALB Potluck Brunch 10:30 It Takes A Village Bowling 1-3	Monday Meal 5-6 pm	Joyful Noise 6-7	Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth 6:30-8		Sarah Z. 9:30-11 at church			
26	27	28	29	30	1	2		
Spring Outreach 11 am-2 pm	Monday Meal 5-6 pm	Grief Group 6-7:30 Joyful Noise 6-7	Pause for Prayer 5:30 Youth Wed. Table					

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April

April 19th Bowling afternoon 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

May

May 11th Meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
@Menomonie United Methodist Church

July

July 19th Picnic, water fun, games and outside yard games
@Menomonie United Methodist Church 1pm- 3pm

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.

American Heart Association.
Healthy for Good™

Free Blood Pressure Screening

First Sunday of the month after Worship Service

April 2026 Stewardship Newsletter

Starting with What We Have

In a Lenten devotional I read recently, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail reflected on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When the disciples saw the crowd gathering, they immediately began doing the math. There were simply too many people and far too little food.

Their focus was on the problem.

But Jesus started somewhere else.

Instead of beginning with what was missing, Jesus began with what was already present: five loaves and two fish. What seemed impossibly small to the disciples became the starting point for a miracle in the hands of God.

Churches can fall into the same pattern of thinking. We sometimes begin by naming everything we lack — too few volunteers, tight budgets, or not enough people in worship. Scarcity can shape the way we see our future.

But the Gospel story reminds us that God does not begin with scarcity. God begins with what we have.

I once heard a pastor describe stewardship this way: imagine placing everything your church has on a table – your people, your ministries, your building, your finances, your passion for serving others. It might not look like much compared to the needs of the world.

But that is exactly how the miracle of the loaves and fishes began.

The miracle did not start with abundance. It started with a small offering placed into Jesus' hands.

And that is often where God's work begins today as well.

This reflection was inspired by a devotional by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail in the Sanctified Art Lenten devotional The Good News Is... Together, the Impossible Is Possible.

Financial Footnotes:

Hallelujah, we have made it to spring! That last snow storm certainly threw us a curve ball, I was hoping that we would not have to have the parking lot plowed again this winter but luck was not in our favor. Fingers crossed, let's hope it doesn't happen again. The first three months of 2026 have been good for us. Our apportionments are paid and up to date. Our general giving is up slightly from a year ago at this time as well. Monday's meal has recently received grants from Thrivent, the Rotary Club and the Community Foundation. These grants will certainly be put to good use in buying groceries and supplies. We are currently averaging 200 plus meals each week. We are thankful for all of the volunteers who make this mission of our church possible. We have a lot of things happening here at church and we need to celebrate the generosity of everyone who is sharing their gifts of time, talent and financial gifts. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to drop me an email or give a phone call.

Thank you

Lynn Klatt, Treasurer

Wanted Choir Director

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The choir shall be a blend of traditional and contemporary music. The Choir Director is responsible for coordinating the music program for the Chancel choir. The Choir Director is supervised by the Pastor who reports to the Staff-Parish representatives on the Accountable Leadership Board. The Choir Director works with the Pastor in planning music for worship services. The selected candidate must pass a confidential background check. The Menomonie UMC is a relaxed and welcoming community with three gifted pianists and a dedicated, experienced choir. We have vibrant faith formation programs for preschoolers through adults, including opportunities for intergenerational ministry.

DUTIES:

- Must have good musical skills, knowledge of different styles of singing and be able to work with a variety of voices.
- Selecting appropriate music for the choir to perform, considering the abilities of the choir members and the occasion
- Leads weekly choir rehearsals (September through May), helping members improve their vocal technique and musical skills
- Directs the Chancel Choir for Sunday (September thru May) one to two Sundays per month, and other services, as requested
- Plans and directs one Cantata each year if possible (Christmas and/or Easter)
- Conducts the choir during performances to guide tempo, dynamics, and overall interpretation of the music
- Order music and other materials, keeping within the budget assigned
- Maintenance of the musical library (filing)
- Assists in preparing the music ministry budget when requested.
- Communicating effectively with choir members, accompanists, Pastor and other relevant parties
- Ensuring the choir adheres to any relevant rules or codes of conduct
- Collaborating with other musical directors or musicians for special performances and Summer Services when available
- Communicate with the Administrative Assistant on music to be used before the bulletin is printed.
- Notifies choir members and the Pastor two weeks in advance for any planned absences.
- Communicates with the custodian on music schedule and needs for practice and services.
- Ensures the building is secured after rehearsals.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

Salary: \$3150 to be reviewed and set annually on a calendar year basis. (Anticipated hours: approximately

190/year, or 4-5 hours per week, September through May).

Social Security: As per FICA regulations.

Mileage reimbursement at the IRS standard business mileage rate

TERMINATION: Termination of services by the Coordinator or church shall require 30 days notice.



ALB Potluck Brunch
3rd Sunday of the Month
Sunday, April 19
10:00 am

*Brought by whoever can!
All are welcome!*
For information contact
Janet Mangette at 715-505-6748
or jmangette@hotmail.com

 Menomonie
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

He
is
Risen



Sarah Zarbock,
our Parish Nurse
to be in office most
Fridays from
9:30 -11:30 am
In the conference room

**Feel free to
stop by to
meet or visit
with any
health or
faith
concerns**





**Worship Opportunities Available
in Our Circuit for Holy Week:**

Maundy Thursday (4/2):
5:30 pm Supper,
6:15 Worship at Prairie Farm UMC
6:30 pm Worship at Tainter UMC
6:30 pm Jewish Seder Supper at Elk
Mound: Trinity UMC

Good Friday (4/3):
7:00 pm at Elmwood UMC

Also, from 10-11 am on Good Friday,
the sanctuary at Menomonie UMC will be
open for self-guided prayer through a
series of interactive prayer stations



*Prayer
Shawl
Ministry*

KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.
**Third Thursday of the month
4:00-6:00 pm**



REJOICE
in the Lord

Pause for Prayer

Weekly prayer during pastor transitions

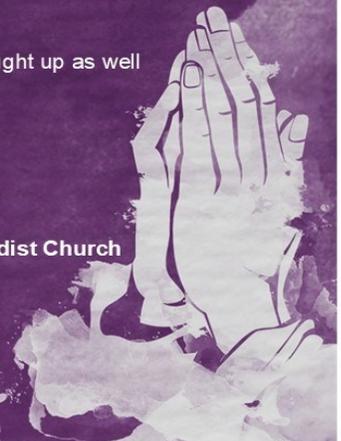
Unity for our congregation,
other concerns may be brought up as well

**Wednesdays,
Starting April 8
5:30 pm**

Fireside Room
Menomonie United Methodist Church

Everyone Welcome

Any questions contact
Sarah Zarbock at
zarbocks@gmail.com




**Foot & Nail
Clinic**

Toenail trimming and
thinning (if needed), callous care.
Provided by RN, Foot Care Specialist
Jacki Bruchert

**2nd Wednesday of the month
April 8
9:00 am-3:00 pm**

**\$40 for 45 min. appt.
\$50 for 60 min. (if needed)**

Please contact Jackie 2 days before to
schedule appointment call or text
715-529-5637

Everyone Welcome!

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



**Choir
Practice**

**Sundays
8:15 am before
worship**

See you at practice!

United Messenger

April 2026

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



2703 Bongey Drive
Menomonie, WI 54751

