

United Messenger



April 2024

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

"You make springs pour water into the ravines, so streams gush down from the mountains. ... The birds nest beside the streams and sing among the branches of the trees. ...I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will praise my God to my last breath!" –Psalm 104:10, 12, 33

Psalm 104 reminds me of spring as it describes the goodness of God that is revealed in creation. I've been reflecting on this psalm as we move from our unusually dry winter to a bright and snowy spring. Although we've got snow piled on the ground as I write this article, the skies are blue and the birds are becoming more numerous every day, filling the air with the songs of springtime. Warmer days are in the forecast already and I praise God for this annual illustration of resurrection—new life bursting forth from bare branches and dormant ground. Already

Graduation Celebration for Jensen DeJong

Jensen DeJong has been our child care provider in the church nursery on Sunday mornings since the fall of 2021 and she will be graduating from UW-Stout this spring. She is a lifelong United Methodist, a fabulous gymnast, and a soon-to-be graduate in Early Childhood Education. We are so grateful for the wonderful care she has provided for our children over these past three years and we wish her all the best as she moves into this next phase of life! During our fellowship hour on Sunday, April 28 we'll celebrate a graduation recognition for Jensen. Her last Sunday with us will be Sunday, May 5. Join us to celebrate with Jensen on April 28th! Graduation cards and well wishes are welcome.



my little flock of chickens is providing our family with an abundance of eggs, and soon it will be time to start seeds for my garden in my little greenhouse.

I know the bare ground and the dark nights of winter can take a toll on our souls, but I pray that the liturgical season of Easter and the meteorological season of spring might bring renewed joy and vitality to us all. May we sing to the Lord with renewed vigor and praise the Lord with all that is within us, today and every day as we welcome the new life God brings!

I wish you all a truly joyous Easter season and I look forward to seeing you soon in worship and in service to our community.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wendy



Join your fellow United Methodists for fellowship, worship, and collaborative ministries!

Next Laity Circuit will be:

Sunday, April 21

1:30-3:30 pm

We are going bowling!

We'll meet at the Stout Ale House Bowling alley

1501 N Broadway St.,
Menomonie, WI

Right behind the McDonalds

Please RSVP to your pastor by April 7th if you'd like to come.

We will also spend a little time planning our other upcoming activities: VBS Day Camp, Archery, Mission Restoring Hope, etc. so even those who don't plan to bowl can still come to help plan future circuit events!

Habitat for Humanity "Faith Build" Volunteer Days

The Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity build is well underway here in Menomonie and YOU can help if you'd like! One side of the twin home that is being constructed on Brickyard Road is a "Faith Build", meaning that churches in our area are especially invited to support the project financially and with volunteer labor. You can visit <https://cvh4h.volunteerhub.com/vv2/> to sign up to help at any of the Chippewa Valley locations, whether you'd like to help build (instructions and supervision are provided) or help provide a meal for the builders. On April 5th the Trinity UMC in Elk Mound will be helping with the build, and they have room for more volunteers to help on that day if you'd like to join them. Also, on April 20th Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Menomonie will be helping with the build and they, too, expect to have extra volunteer slots to share if you're available to help on that day. The first step to sign up for either of those days (or any other date or time you'd like to help) is to visit the volunteer hub at the link provided above.

If you're not able to help build or provide meals for the volunteer builders, perhaps you can provide financial support. Donations can be made through the Menomonie UMC by marking "Habitat for Humanity" on your gift, or you can give directly through the Habitat website here: <https://www.cvh4h.org/donate/>

Thank you to all who are helping to provide safe, affordable homes for families in our community!

New Members Class

Pastor Wendy would like to offer another New Members Class on Sunday, April 14 from 10:15 am-11:30 am for those who are new to the Menomonie United Methodist Church and are interested in learning more about what we believe and what it means to be a member. The class is also a great opportunity to meet others who are relatively new here. Those who complete the class will be eligible to formally join the church during the 9:00 worship service on April 21. RSVP to Pastor Wendy at pastor@menomonieumc.org if you are interested in participating in the class so enough materials can be prepared for all who want to come.

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!

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!

Audio-Video Control Person

Doesn't that sound interesting?

If you are techy, and even if you aren't, we will train you to help our Sunday morning audio-video crew during our 9:00 am worship service.

This is not an every weekend gig, we have other volunteers but sometimes they are all busy and we just need some extra help.

So, if you can help us, contact the church office at office@menomonieumc.org or call 715-235-0654.

Thank you and hope to see you soon!



Cairn House

at Stepping Stones

Are you a people person? Do you enjoy cooking?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Cairn House, Stepping Stones' new shelter, is looking for volunteers to visit with guests. Daytime and substitute overnight shifts available. We are also looking for folks to prepare meals on the weekends.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE REACH OUT OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION!



715.235.2920, ext. 203



j.bendel@steppingstonesdc.org



www.steppingstonesdc.org



Find us at:

www.menomonieumc.org



April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Mon. Meal 5-6 pm Mom's Group 6-7 pm	2 Bible Study 10 am	3 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 Youth-Reg. Mtg. 6-7:30	4	5	6
7 Blood Pressure Checks	8 Mondays Meal 5-6 pm	9	10 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 Youth-Reg. Mtg. . 6-7:30	11	12	13
14 New Members Class 10:15-11:30	15 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	16 Joyful Noise 6-7 pm Bible Study 10 am	17 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 Youth-Reg. Mtg. . 6-7:30	18 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	19	20
21 Celebrate New Members Confirmation Class 10:15	22 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	23 Bible Study 10 Joyful Noise 6-7 Grief Group 6-7:30	24 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 Youth, Wed. Table	25	26	27
28 Celebrate with Jensen!	29 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	30				

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Joyful Noise Begins!

Practice 6:00-7:00 pm
Tuesdays starting April 16 until June.
June 11 no practice.
June 25—concert.
Theme is "Happy Days"
Bring Your Friends! See You Soon!
For more information
call Linda at 715-308-6883

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

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

Icons: COMMUNITY WELCOME, FOOD/PRODUCT SAMPLES, FOOD DRIVE, FREE ADMISSION, CHAIR MESSAGES, CAMPUS WELLNESS, WIN A BIKE!

Find us at:
www.menomoneiumc.org



April 3rd - Regular Youth Meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

April 10th - Regular Youth Meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

April 17th - Regular Youth Meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

April 24 - Wednesday Table
4:45 pm - 6:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church

May 1st - Regular Youth Meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

May 8th - Regular Youth Meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30pm

May 15th - Family BBQ potluck - games and fun
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

May 22nd - Wednesday Table -
4:45 - 6:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church (Last
youth meeting of the school year.
Look for more information for the summer events)

Thank You!



American Red Cross

Thanks to all who helped with, donated to and supported us with our February 26th blood drive! Our goal was 28 units, which is pretty much par for us, but we came up with **47 units!**

That gave the potential to help 141 people!

**Our next Blood Drive will be
Monday, October 7th, 2024,
noon through 6:00 pm.**

*Many thanks again!
Jan Friest*

We are looking for new ideas for a **Tuesday morning Study**
What are you looking for in a new study?
We are open to either a Bible or book study.
*Thanks so much!
Sarah Zarbock*

 Wisconsin Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Let's worship fully & engage in learning for
lay-led, clergy-supported ministry
Lunch and a simple breakfast provided.

Joyful fellowship
always at our gathering

Rediscovering Hope

LEADING FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL INNOVATION

North West District Gathering for Worship & Learning
Saturday, April 13, 9am-3pm
at Rice Lake: First UMC



Find more information
and register by scanning the QR code or at
<https://tinyurl.com/NWDistrictGathering>



Main Speaker: Pastor Jon Anderson,
Director of Rural Ministry at Luther Seminary
Opening and Closing Worship with
NW District Clergy Praise Band



Grief Group Gathering

Turning life transitions into life transformations through sharing our stories of loss; through reflection and the renewal with others.

Tuesdays

April 23, July 23, Oct. 22, Jan. 28

6:00-7:30 pm

Fireside Room

Menomonie United Methodist Church
2703 Bongey Drive

The book "Grieving with Your Whole Heart", intro by Thomas Moore and edited by the editors of Skylight Paths, can be purchased through Sarah or on your own.

Contact Sarah Zarbock
at 715-308-1698 or zarbocks@gmail.com

Bell Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

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.



Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org



EMPTY BOWLS 2024



Stepping
Stones
of Dunn County

Support Stepping Stones with a \$10
all-you-can-eat soup lunch with bread and dessert!

APRIL 6TH, 2024

MENOMONIE HIGH SCHOOL | 11AM - 2PM

Handmade bowls by local potters will be available for purchase

50/50

Online
Auction



Live
Music

Quilt
Raffles



Xcel Energy

WESTconsin
CREDIT UNION

KEYES
CHEVYTOWNUSA.COM
SELECT HEARTLAND CHEVY DEALERS

State Farm
Jackie Hunt - Agent



STUDIOMLM

Community Conversations

On Dec. 2023, at "Community Conversations," at the Menomonie Public Library, we had a discussion of Wealth and Income Inequality. When we asked what the audience would suggest for local or individual efforts that could be done to help with the issue, a member of the audience, Bob Maline, suggested that we could do a grass roots organizing efforts.

We have asked Bob Maline to do a presentation for Community Conversations about grass roots movements. On April 20, 2024, at the United Methodist Church from 12:30-3:30 pm. There will be time for breakout discussions for small group discussions and for refreshments.

Grass Roots Organizing Western Wisconsin (GROWW) is an organization of ordinary people of all ages, walks of life, who have come together to tackle issues impacting our families, homes and communities. At the heart of their mission is the belief that we all have the power to make a difference when we get organized and step into the public arena.

Board members Phil Vergas and Bob Maline will share GROWW's story...its vision platform, methods and organizing philosophy. They will share status and updates on several active campaigns including Bridge the Divide for final five voting, People Protecting Pierce for responsible farming, and All in Favor building power through local elections and governing.

Lorene Vedder