

United Messenger



He Is Risen!

April 2025

## Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." —Isaiah 43:19*

I so love the spring! The ground that has been frozen solid for the past few months softens under the melting snow and we can smell the fragrant scent of the damp soil once again. The thick ice on the lake steadily recedes, revealing open water for the flocks of migrating geese and ducks and swans. The chorus of songbirds in our neighborhoods seems to feature new voices day by day. Soon there will be eager little stems of crocuses and daffodils and tulips poking through the surface of the ground, transforming the rather dreary, dormant landscape into one of new life, vibrant with that glorious shade of green that is unique to this season of spring.

I pray that a similar awakening and renewal is happening for us internally too in this season of Lent. We seek God with fresh energy and faithful determination. We shake off the blahs and blues of winter to experience new growth and new life. We are reminded that "anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) Indeed, the life of faith is a continual process of renewal as we become more and more like Jesus.

The God who makes all things new is at work in you. Even if you feel like you've been wandering in the wilderness or living through a dry and difficult season recently, the promise above from Isaiah 43 reminds us that God guides us even through the wilderness and

brings refreshing streams even through dry wastelands. We are never too lost or too far gone for God to reach us and renew us. Relax into God's embrace. Feel God's grace saturate and satisfy you as you turn to God in prayer and in scripture and in Christian community. Follow God into the new possibilities God's Spirit reveals.

I look forward to seeing you soon and I'd love to hear what new things God is doing in you these days!

In God's love,  
Pastor Wendy

## Visitation MINISTRY

Connecting with  
Homebound and Individuals  
in Caregiving Facilities  
**Sunday, May 4**

**10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Fireside Room**

Presenter:  
Jane Mahoney  
*Everyone*

"I was  
**sick** and  
**you visited**  
**me . . .**"  
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV





Pastor Wendy has been traveling through England, Scotland, and Wales on a "Wesley Study Tour", led by Rev. David Werner of Rochester, MN. It has been an incredible learning experience and almost a pilgrimage to reconnect with the earliest roots of the Methodist revival movement that has changed the world over the past 200+ years. John and Charles Wesley began a "holy club" among their friends at Oxford College and it is truly astounding what God can do with the ripple effect of even one or two people who commit themselves so fully to God. May we be just as fervent in our desire to grow in faith and to live wholly for God!

(Pictured is the whole group on the tour in front of the rectory in Epworth, England where John and Charles grew up)

## New Interim Youth Coordinator

Amanda (Kausie) Viana has served faithfully as our Youth Coordinator for several years, but has asked to step back to a support role rather than a leadership role in order to free up a little more margin in her busy life. We are grateful for her faithfulness and the love she has invested into the middle and high school youth members!

Amanda's daughter, Alanis Viana, expressed interest in stepping up to the youth coordinator position as a way to give back to the church that has helped her grow in her faith. Alanis has been very active as a co-leader ever since she graduated high school, and has been a great role model for younger teens. She has outstanding leadership skills, a deep faith, and wisdom beyond her years. Because this is a mid-year transition, the Accountable Leadership Board chose to offer the position to Alanis as an Interim Youth Coordinator, with the option to apply for the full position at the beginning of the next school year. We welcome Alanis to our church staff!

## Welcome to Spring!

During this past month, Kurt and I have been traveling in Arizona and New Mexico. I have been also been taking my last class in the Grief Care series. This class, called "Sharing the Journey, Traveling from Diagnosis to Letting Go", started 3/17, and continues for 6 weeks.

One book we are reading is "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom for this final class. Morrie, who is diagnosed with ALS, teaches us how to die, by talking about the dying process. He emphasizes how to live before dying. He also emphasizes the importance of loving others and letting love in for ourselves. God in Jesus, has taught us how to love others. Love

one another as God has loved us. John 13:34-35. Other ways we can show love is by listening well to others and offering kindness. Letting love in may be harder. Some ways to do this is by forgiving ourselves and showing self-compassion. We may need to trust others in order to do this.

I am praying that you can find ways to love others and let others love you this month of April.

Blessings,  
Sarah Zarbock Parish Nurse

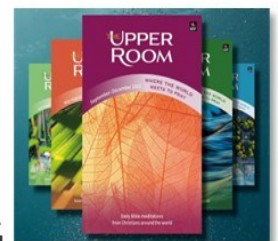
## Lunch, Lectionary & Learn

**Tuesday, April 29th**  
**12:00 pm**  
**Fireside Room**

Every Tuesday except 3rd Tuesday. We will have bag lunch together and then use The Upper Room Disciplines to talk about weekly scriptures, devotions and any prayer concerns.





**Free to everyone! No registration required!**


**Contact Sarah Zarbock for information at:**  
**zarbocks@gmail.com**



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

# April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	Lenten Book Study 10-11		
6 Blood Pressure Checks	7  Monday Mal 5-6 pm	8	9  Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	10  Lenten Book Study 10-11	11	12
 PALM SUNDAY Messy Church 10:30-Noon	14  Monday Meal 5-6 pm Moms Group 6-7	15	16  Easter Walk, Soup & Sandwich Dinner 5-8 pm	17  Lenten Book Study 10-11	18  GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 pm Worship	19
20  EASTER	21  Monday Meal 5-6 pm	22  Grief Group 6-7:30	23  Bells 6 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Wed. Table 4:45-6:30	24	25	26  CHURCH CLEANUP DAY 9 am—noon
27	28  Monday Meal 5-6 pm	29  Lunch, Lectionary & Learn 12 pm	30  Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm			



## Lenten Book Study

**Starting  
Thursday, March 6  
10:00-11:00  
Fireside Room**

Each of us is an expression of God's loving creativity.

This interactive devotional invites you to bring creativity into your daily devotional practice as a means to deepen your faith and engage scripture in imaginative ways. For each of the 40 days of Lent, a biblical text will be provided to ponder followed by an opportunity to respond in whatever creative ways your heart desires. Let God's creative outpouring in you be a means to discover new depths of insight, connection and spiritual renewal through this process. Purchase of a book is recommended.

Contact Sarah Zarbock at 715-308-1698  
or zarbocks@gmail.com or  
Pastor Wendy at pastor@menomonieumc.org if interested.



**2nd  
Sunday  
of the  
month  
10:30-Noon**

**Join us for food, games,  
crafts and fun!  
All are welcome!**

**Make  
Today  
Amazing**





**2025  
EASTER  
WALK**

SIX INTERACTIVE ROOMS TO FAITHFULLY EXPERIENCE THE DAYS LEADING TO EASTER

**Wed., April 16•6-8 PM**

This event will be indoors and at your own pace! A free will donation DINNER will be available from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm \*crafts for kids and childcare if needed

Menomonie Methodist Church 2703 Bongey Dr 54751

If any questions contact through: youthministry@menomonieumc.org (715)-235-0654

### Message from Lynn Klatt

I love the way Pastor Rick Calhoun has talks about Easter and the resurrection. He writes:

“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was never meant to be proved but experienced. As a matter of fact it cannot be proved, as no one of us was there. We have to take the word of others who were. Those early witnesses were very passionate about their testimonies. Many were to be martyred in defense of their convictions. But ultimately the resurrection is to be experienced not proved. The most convincing evidence of the Resurrection of Christ is the transformation of the people who know Jesus and believe in Him. I decided long ago, the only proof of Easter I will ever need is memory. I remember what my life was like before I met the living Christ and I know what my life is now, as I share it with Him. I would not stand here and tell you I am always the man I should be. But thanks to the living Christ, I am not the man I used to be either. The risen Jesus Christ has made all the difference.”

Christ living within us does make all the difference. And so we come this Easter Sunday to celebrate the love and grace we have experienced all because Jesus Christ is alive!

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
Lynn Klatt  
Church Treasurer

*Grief Group Gathering*

Support Group for those on grief journey

**Tuesday, April 22  
6:00 pm  
Fireside Room**

Registration by email. Deadline April 21st.  
Contact Sarah Zarbock at zarbocks@gmail.com  
Free to attend. There will be a book to purchase.

**Open to Everyone**

**WANTED**

Volunteers to assist with  
**Joyful Journeys**

Increasing self help and community skills for adults with challenges.  
Very flexible schedule for volunteers

**Classes begin on June 12th  
and go until September 4th  
6:00-8:00 pm**

Menomonie United Methodist Church  
2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie, WI

For more information  
contact Linda Bark at 715-308-6883

**CHURCH  
CLEANUP  
DAY**

Working in the church yard and anywhere else we can clean up!  
**Saturday, April 26  
9am-noon (?)**

Many items need to be cleaned from the church, even though it is a large church, we just do not have storage space. If you have items at the church that have not been used recently, please take them home. It can be done on April 26th or designate a day this spring.

*Thank you!*



## **Come join the fun!**

**With United Methodists throughout our area as we spend an afternoon in mission and service!**



**Sunday,  
April 6  
1:30-3:30 pm  
Trinity UMC in  
Elk Mound, WI**



We'll be joined by the missionary,  
**The Rev. Patricia Regina  
Moreira Marques,**  
a missionary with the United Methodist  
General Board of Global Ministries who  
serves as a pastor of the Evangelical  
Methodist Church of Portugal in the city  
of Aguada de Cima Portugal.

In addition to hearing about her work internationally, we'll also get to try our hand at a mission project we can do locally: using plastic shopping bags to weave sleeping mats for people who are homeless. The sleeping mats project will continue throughout the summer, but April 6 will be a great opportunity to learn how it is done so we can keep the progress going when the looms travel to each of our churches in the months ahead.

## **Donations of Plastic Shopping Bags Needed**

Most Midwesterners have a "bag of bags" tucked somewhere in their homes, collecting those plastic shopping bags from our groceries or other purchases. If your bag of bags is getting a little bulky, would you consider donating some excess bags to our circuit? Maybe you can even spread the word to friends or family members and ask them to share their extra bags too.

One of the mission projects we hope to take on this summer is weaving sleeping mats out of plastic shopping bags for people experiencing homelessness. During our next circuit-wide meeting on Sunday, April 6 at 1:30 pm we'll have a practice session where we'll learn the process for weaving those mats. Then throughout the next several months, the four looms we have in our circuit will travel from church to church so that each congregation can help complete as many mats as possible. It takes at least 500 bags to complete one sleeping mat, so we'll need LOTS of bags.

We also use bags for Monday's Meal, so if we somehow end up with even more than we need for the sleeping mats, we can put them to good use at Monday's Meal. Thanks in advance for any plastic shopping bags you can share!

## **Menomonie UMC wins 2nd place in Dartball Tournament—Congratulations!**



Colfax Church Dartball League Tournament Champion was Popple Creek Lutheran Church, with Menomonie United Methodist Church in second place after applying several tiebreakers with Big Elk Creek Lutheran and Tainter UMC. The Season Champion was Elk Mound (Trinity UMC) with Popple Creek in second place.