

## Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

A couple of weeks ago, I traveled a route that took me to fifteen of the waterfalls throughout northern Wisconsin. The fall leaves were still quite brilliant then and the cool, crisp air was refreshing, but the waterfalls were truly majestic! Time after time, I'd search out a rocky ledge near the falls where I could sit and just listen to the roar and splashing of the water for several moments.

It reminded me of an insight I had earlier this year when I spent a few days of personal retreat with the Benedictine sisters at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, WI. During evening prayer one night, I was struck by a line from the scripture reading which described the voice of God as being like the sound of "many waters". Later, during supper I mentioned to the sister who had read that verse how intriguing that was to me as someone who has always been drawn to the sight and sound of water. She remarked that, yes, water can be a quiet soothing sound, or it can pound like waves.

I searched my Bible for verses that describe God's voice like water and I found several:

- Ezekiel 43:2 - "Suddenly the glory of the God of Israel appeared from the east. The sound of his coming was like the roar of rushing waters, and the whole landscape shone with his glory."
- Revelation 1:15 - "his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves."
- Revelation 14:2 - "And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the roaring of

loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together."

- Revelation 19:6 - "Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of the mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder."

I love the idea that God's voice sounds like water—mighty, lyrical, unstoppable. Perhaps that's why humans enjoy "white noise" like rainfall or waterfalls or crashing waves; it's soothing just like a soundtrack of an ultrasound heartbeat is soothing to a newborn. It is the familiar sound of the one who gave us life!

As we turn the calendar page to the month of November, the God who gives us life is still leading us forward—ever closer to God. Even as the landscape around us grows dormant and the birdsongs grow quiet for a season, may we listen deeply for God and respond with thankful praise. I wish you a happy thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you soon as we worship and serve God together.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Wendy



# HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

## Women's Retreat

Have you heard? We're planning a women's retreat for January 31-February 2 at the beautiful Woodland Ridge Retreat in Downsville! The renowned author and speaker, Jane Rubietta, will lead us through a time of reconnecting with ourselves, each other, and God. Women of all ages are welcome to come, so spread the word! The cost is \$275 per person for our lodging, meals, and speaker and scholarship funding is available if needed. Register by December 1<sup>st</sup> if you are interested. You can register online at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AIJ2T\\_BYMlpChKPKLL0EiNdsCMjC9RJJsCH63OV7b3mw/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AIJ2T_BYMlpChKPKLL0EiNdsCMjC9RJJsCH63OV7b3mw/edit) or you can pick up a paper copy of the registration form in the church office.

## Pledge Sheet Enclosed for Consecration Sunday

You'll find in this newsletter a copy of the 2025 Pledge Sheet. We invite you to prayerfully consider the ways in which you can support and serve God's work in and through the Menomonie United Methodist Church in the year ahead and **return your pledge sheet on or before Consecration Sunday on November 17**. This is helpful to our Accountable Leadership Board as we plan for 2025 and it can be helpful to *you* because each of us as disciples are called to think and pray about how we can seek and serve God faithfully in the coming year.

Even if you aren't in a position to give financially at this time, please fill out the lower portion of the pledge sheet and commit to one or more ways you can give your time. Stewardship is about using *all* our resources well and the lower portion of the pledge sheet allows you to prayerfully commit to the ways you can serve God with your time, energy, and abilities in the coming year.

For the financial portion of this sheet, you'll notice you have the option of designating your gift. You may designate portions of your gift to any of these categories.

Many people designate their entire pledge to the General Fund as this is where the greatest need is. Money given to this fund covers all the operating expenses of our church—everything from curriculum and Bibles to the light bill, office supplies, and staff salaries.

You can also direct your gift to the Shared Offering. This is the money that goes to support United Methodist ministries throughout our state and around the world. This money helps fund new church starts (like the Grace Bridge Korean UMC right here in our building), congregational revitalization (through programs like MCCI-Missional Church Consultation Initiative), and health and welfare ministries within the Wisconsin Conference as well as missionary work all around the world. Our church's Shared Offering commitment is roughly \$140 per member.

Capital Improvement is another category to which several people pledge money each year. Our Trustees strive to maintain a robust Capital Improvement fund to cover the costs of major repairs or improvements to our building and grounds.

If you are especially passionate about giving to another

area of ministry, you can designate that in the Other category. Typically this might be to the Advance Specials missionaries or mission projects, or it could be for local ministries like Monday's Meal or Stepping Stones.

We especially want to encourage you to complete the pledge sheet if you never have before. Any amount you choose to give is greatly appreciated and will help our Accountable Leadership Board in their planning. We recommend tithing (giving 10% of one's income) because we have personally experienced how God provides in amazing ways when we are faithful in this biblical practice, but if that seems too daunting at this time just start with whatever amount seems feasible and work your way up from there. You can always adjust your pledge at any time as your financial circumstances change.

Extra envelopes and pledge sheets will be available on the table near the sanctuary entrance for your convenience.

We deeply appreciate *all* of the ways you support, serve, and grow here at the Menomonie United Methodist Church. It is exciting to see all that God is doing in and among us!

## Charge Conference to be held December 1

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> our District Superintendent Rev. Peace Kim will be here at the Menomonie UMC to worship with us and to lead us through our annual Charge Conference during our fellowship hour. This is an opportunity to celebrate the ministries we've done in 2024, vote on our budget for 2025, and elect leaders for all our ministry teams for the coming year. As an added bonus, that happens to be the day that we'll be celebrating Dorothy Wreford's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday during fellowship hour too. It will be a meaningful morning of celebration, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend!

**The holidays are  
challenging when you're  
grieving a loss.**



**Surviving  
the Holidays**

provides encouragement, support, and valuable  
tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

**Saturday, Nov. 16 10:00 am  
Menomonie United Methodist Church  
2703 Bongey Drive**

Contact Sarah Zarbock for info 715-308-1698  
Register by email to Sarah.zarbocks@gmail.com  
or call church office at 715-235-0654 by Nov. 10.

# November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Blood Pressure Checks. Set clocks back	4 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	 Election Day. Bake Sale 7 am-8 pm	6 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	7	8	9
10 Youth group leading worship. Youth Sunday & Brunch Book study 10:30 Messy Church 4:30-6 pm	 Veteran's Day Monday Meal 5-6 pm.	12 Book Study 12:30-1:30	13 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	14	15	16 Surviving the Holidays 10:00 am
17 Consecration Sunday Book Study 12:30-1:30	18 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Mom's Group 6-7 pm	19 Book Study 12:30-1:30	20 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	21 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	22	23
24 Book Study 12:30-1:30	25 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	26 Book Study 12:30-1:30	27	28  Happy Thanksgiving	29	30

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## Youth Ministry Schedule

**November 6th** - Regular youth meeting  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**November 10th** - Youth Sunday  
8:00 am - 11:00 am

Brunch, Church Service, Greeters

**November 10th** - Messy Church  
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

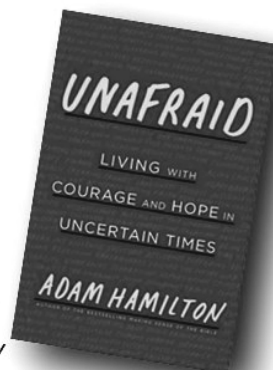
Helping at our first new church service  
(once a month)

**November 13th** - Regular Youth Meeting  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**November 20th** - Family Feast / Games  
and celebration

**November 27th** - Wednesday Table  
4:30pm - 6:30 pm

**Book Study with accompanying DVD  
"Unafraid"**  
by Adam Hamilton  
Fireside Room  
Starting Sunday, Nov. 10th  
10:30 am  
or  
Tuesday, Nov. 12th • 12:30 pm  
Every Sunday and Tuesday  
One hour with lunch at noon on Tuesday



This timely class is for anyone struggling with fear, worry, anxiety or who wonders how people can live as peacemakers in troubled times. "Unafraid" offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.

**Free-Open to All**

For more information contact Sarah Zarbock  
at [zarbocks@gmail.com](mailto:zarbocks@gmail.com) or 715-308-1698



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



**Set clocks  
back 1 hour  
Sunday,  
November 3rd**

## 2025 Pledge Sheet

*Because God has richly blessed me and because I want to share in accomplishing the mission God has given me and the Menomonie United Methodist Church, I therefore commit to:*

- ✓ *Being a responsible manager of what God has entrusted to me*
- ✓ *Using my God-given gifts in God's service*
- ✓ *Supporting the church regularly with my prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness*
- ✓ *And continuing to grow in my giving as my time and resources allow.*

To these ends, I pledge an annual total of the amounts below to the following areas in 2025:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to General Fund                      \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Capital Improvement  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ to Shared Offering                      \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Other \_\_\_\_\_

I will divide these annual totals into \_\_ weekly    \_\_monthly    \_\_quarterly payments. (Check one.)

I understand that although this pledge is my best estimate of my 2025 giving,  
the amount above can be changed to a higher or lower amount at any time because of changing circumstances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Offering Envelope Number (if you have one)

**I am willing to serve in the following ways in 2025:**

- \_\_\_ Greeter/Usher during Sunday worship service
- \_\_\_ Children's ministry volunteer (Messy Church, Sunday School, children's sermon)
- \_\_\_ Help cook, serve, or clean up at Monday's Meal free community supper
- \_\_\_ Serve as a video or sound technician during worship, Sunday Study, funerals, etc. (training available)
- \_\_\_ Help set out refreshments for fellowship time and clean up afterwards
- \_\_\_ Help with extra cleaning at church
- \_\_\_ Help with shoveling snow from sidewalks
- \_\_\_ Visit, call, and/or write to homebound church members
- \_\_\_ Sing in the choir, play bells in the bell choir, and/or provide special music (vocal or instrumental)
- \_\_\_ Help with the youth group
- \_\_\_ Help with dinners (funeral luncheons, youth group meals, Lenten suppers)
- \_\_\_ Help organize mission projects
- \_\_\_ Help with staff recruitment
- \_\_\_ Help with the Grace Bridge Korean UMC (shepherding team, plan mutual potlucks, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Help with maintenance projects (please circle any specific areas of interest/expertise: carpentry, masonry, painting, electrical, lighting, sound, roofing, landscaping, lawn/shrub/tree maintenance, plumbing, heating/cooling, interior design, asphalt/concrete, carpet/upholstery, appliance repair, cabinetry, tiling, computers/electronics, boiler operation/repair, signage, ventilation, other: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ Help advise our trustee representatives in one or more of the following areas (circle any that apply):  
assessing the value of items, inventorying items, improving handicapped accessibility, safety audits-  
identifying and removing any safety hazards in the church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred way to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## Just Hanging On

Once upon a time, there was a man who saw that it was a beautiful day outside, so he decided to go for a walk. As he walked along through a local park, he looked at the leaves on the trees that were changing colors; he watched the children playing with glee; he looked at the beautiful blue sky that had a few clouds in it. As he was enjoying all of the lovely scenery, he forgot to look where he was walking and he fell off the edge of a cliff. While falling, he began to reach for anything that would stop his plummet towards demise, when his hands happened upon a tree root that was sticking out of the side of the cliff. He held on to that tree root with all of his might and yelled out to the top of the cliff, "Help me! Is anyone out there?" An anonymous voice from above replied, "Yes, I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?" The man in desperation, called out, "Yes Lord, I believe you. Please help me!" The mysterious voice then instructed the man saying, "Okay, if you truly believe that I am the Lord, then let go of the root you're hanging from and I will save you." After a brief pause to think about his options, the man looked upward and yelled, "Is anyone else up there?"

Many times in life, we can feel like the man hanging on for dear life with nothing below us but destruction. Our lives are overflowing with commitments, our families demand our time, and any number of challenges can push us to the edge of our own personal cliffs. During times of heavy demands and personal crisis we may wonder where God comes in as we struggle. These are times that often challenge our faith.

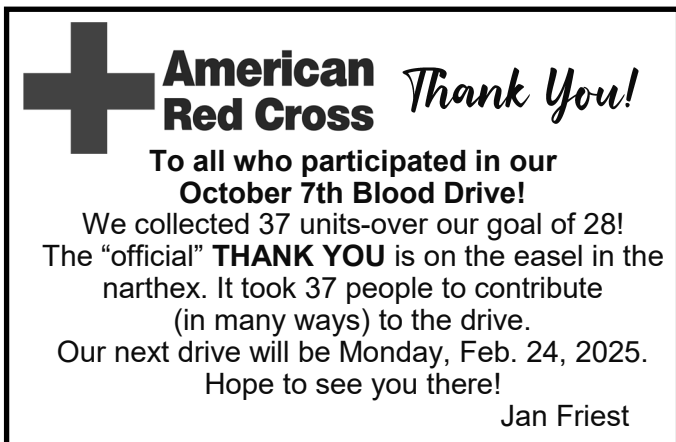
In these times, it may be helpful to remember Jesus' parting words to his disciples, as he addresses our doubts as well. He says, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). We are promised that throughout our lives, in the hard and happy times, Christ will be with us. This doesn't mean that he will solve all of our problems with the wave of a magic wand. What it does mean is that God will always be with us, weathering life's storms with us, giving us strength to move forward in difficult times, and opening up opportunities for us when we need them. What is important for us to remember throughout our entire lives is that the Lord wants to be in relationship with us, and is always there waiting for us to turn to God in prayer.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Lynn Klatt, Treasurer



**Mom's Group**  
**MONDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 18TH**  
 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
 IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM  
 \*Childcare will be available



**American Red Cross** *Thank You!*  
**To all who participated in our October 7th Blood Drive!**  
 We collected 37 units-over our goal of 28!  
 The "official" **THANK YOU** is on the easel in the narthex. It took 37 people to contribute (in many ways) to the drive.  
 Our next drive will be Monday, Feb. 24, 2025.  
 Hope to see you there!  
 Jan Friest



**Election Day Bake Sale**  
 Raising money for the Women's Retreat  
**Tuesday, November 5**  
**7:00 am-8:00 pm**  
 at  
**Menomonie United Methodist Church**  
**2703 Bongey Drive**

**Volunteer signup in the narthex to work the table and donate baked goods. For more information contact Sarah Shoup Thank you!**



**Messy Church**  
**Menomonie**  
 United Methodist Church

**NOVEMBER 10TH**  
 4:30-6:00 PM  
**THANKSGIVING**  
 THEME

Games  
 Bible Story  
 Food  
 Crafts  
**ALL ages welcome!**

**\*MESSY CHURCH IS A FREE EVENT AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC! MEAL IS INCLUDED!**

**Messy Church is church...but not as you know it!**  
 On the **SECOND SUNDAY** of each month we will come together for games, crafts, songs, and a story from the bible. We will end with a yummy meal!  
 Every month is a new theme so join the months that work for you!

Menomonie United Methodist Church  
 2703 Bongey Dr.  
 Menomonie, WI