

# Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

*United Messenger*

January 2025



## Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

The words of the hymn "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" came to mind as I was praying this morning:

*This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.  
For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.  
Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.  
Christ is alive and goes before us to  
show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.*

As we prepare to turn the page on the calendar to a whole new year, I confidently claim these words of faithful anticipation. 2024 was a challenging year for my family. Maybe you've experienced some setbacks and challenges too. Yet, a new year of possibility stretches before us and God's mercies are new every morning. *This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.*

Perhaps you can begin the new year with a breath prayer: Take several deep, slow, healing breaths. With each exhale, let go of whatever pain or disappointment you may have experienced in the past

year. With each inhale, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with wisdom and direction for the new year. You might even use the words of the hymn above to help you stay focused during this prayer. On the inhale you might say or think "This is a day of new beginnings" and on the exhale you might say or think "our God is making all things new."

Another prayer I love to use at the beginning of each new year is John Wesley's "Covenant Prayer". John Wesley began the Methodist movement and encouraged Methodists to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way to remember and reaffirm the vows made at our baptisms: "I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by

*Continued on page 2*



thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Indeed, let us freely and heartily give ourselves to God in the year ahead! I look forward to following Christ’s lead in showing and sharing what love can do in us and in our community in the coming months. I wish you all a blessed new year and I look forward to seeing you soon as we worship and serve together in our community!

*In God’s great love,  
Pastor Wendy*

# CONFIRMATION

## Confirmation Meeting for Parents and Students

On Sunday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Wendy would like to meet with any students and their parents who are interested in participating in confirmation classes in the coming year. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or above are eligible to participate. We’ll discuss the format and expectations of the class, talk about choosing a mentor, and help answer any questions you may have. Classes will begin in February this year.



*Women's Retreat*  
**Friday, January 31 at 5 pm  
to Sunday, February 2 at 12 pm**

**Woodland Ridge Retreat at Downsville, WI**  
Designed to provide women with a peaceful space to reconnect with themselves, each other and their faith.  
Cost for retreat (including 4 meals)  
is \$100 per person.

*All women welcome!*

**Fundraising to be determined.  
Registration deadline December 1.**  
Contact Sarah Shoup  
sstef476@gmail.com or 701-399-9641.

## Financial Footnotes

Happy New Year! Hard to believe that 2024 is behind us already. I am sure everyone has a different opinion on how the year actually went for them. As far as the church finances went, we were certainly blessed by the gifts we received from all of you. As I am writing this article the numbers are still being tallied but the preliminary figures look good.

First of all, we were able to pay our 2024 apportionments totaling \$43,188 in full. Next year we will see a slight increase for a total of \$44,544 . We will continue to take 15% of our weekly general offering along with any funds designated for apportionment giving to meet this obligation.

Because of your gifts we were able to distribute \$11,000 + to special giving. The organizations that we supported were UM Children’s Services, International Disaster Relief-Ukraine, Ludhiana Christian Medical College & Hospital, McCurdy Ministries Community Center, Heifer Project International, Bolivia church project for purchase of sewing machines, missionary Nkemba Ndjungu, Stepping Stones, Grace Bridge Korean church and Monday’s Meal.

Your gifts also were used to fund the various activities in our own church. We sponsored Corn fest, Touch a Truck and Trunk or Treat. Messy Church has met the past two months with a whole new mind set of what church can look like! Messy church meets the second Sunday of the month, if you have not been here consider checking it out. Various classes are offered for adult study and grief share. Monday’s meal will find volunteers weekly in the church kitchen preparing the 200 + meals each week.

Our 45-year young church building is a continual project keeping up with improvements and repairs. The obvious improvements of course are the new carpeting and painting, but many things just must be done. We are currently looking at different lighting in some of the classrooms in the education wing. New door handles were recently installed to make them more accessible for everyone.

So, you can see without your gifts, 2024 expenditures would not have been possible. Thank you so much! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give a shout out or an email at (finance@menomonieumc.org)

*Lynn Klatt  
Treasurer*



Find us at:

[www.menomonieumc.org](http://www.menomonieumc.org)





# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3	4 Grief Share 2nd Session of 13 1:30-3:30
5 Blood Pressure Checks	6 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	7	8 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	9	10	11 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
12 Messy Church 10:30-Noon	13 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Moms Gr 6-7	14	15 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	16 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	17	18 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
19	20 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	21	22 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	23	24	25 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
26	27 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	28	29 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	30	31	

## Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership 2025

You're invited to join us at this year's  
**Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership!**  
If you belong to The United Methodist Church, you  
are a disciple and leader for Jesus Christ.

This gathering is for you!

Connect with our Conference Leadership during this  
event to:

- Learn of connectional ministries within The United Methodist Church.
- Be encouraged to broaden your God given gifts and talents within the work of the church.
- Engage in devotion and Bible study with scripture at this inspiration-filled event.

**Registration fee: \$10.00 per person, Soup & Salad lunch included. No refunds for this event.**

**Everyone must register by the deadline.**

**Registration deadline is January 21 at Noon.**

To register go to:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/81117/>

**February 1, 2025,**

**Registration opens at 8:30am**

**Program 9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Black River Falls United Methodist Church  
100 N 4th St, Black River Falls, WI 54615-1230  
Phone: (715) 284-4114**

Sponsored by the Conference Board of Laity.

For questions about the event, contact

Ben Brancel at [brancelangus@gmail.com](mailto:brancelangus@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**



### American Red Cross

*Together, we can save a life*

## Blood Drive

**Monday, February 24, 2025**

**12:00-6:00 pm**

**Menomonie**

**United Methodist Church**

2703 Bongey Drive

To donate go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org),

enter 54751 or call 1-800-733-2767.

Rapid Pass is available.



**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday  
of the  
month**

**10:30-Noon**

**Join us for food, games,  
crafts and fun!**

**All are welcome!**