



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

“We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders ... so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God.” –Psalm 78:4b, 6-7a

Have you heard about “Messy Church”? This is an outreach movement we’ve just started last November here at the Menomonie UMC, but it has existed in 30 different countries around the world over the past 20 years. It is a well-tested model for reaching new people, and although each church will adapt it slightly for their context the basic format and values remain the same. Every Messy Church is meant to be **Christ-centered**. We tell the stories of Jesus and we strive to build relationships that welcome people in just like Jesus did. **Hospitality** drives everything we do at Messy Church, from the moment folks walk in the door, through the conversations we have during the activities and crafts, the interactive discussions we have during worship time, and to the meals we share around the table. **Creativity** is another core value of Messy Church. We are created in the image of a creative God so we do lots of crafts together that help give us tangible reminders of the biblical theme each month. Every Messy Church is



meant to feel like a **Celebration**. In fact, the worship portion of the Messy Church experience is typically simply called the Celebration time. It’s a time for singing! It’s a time for telling a Jesus story! It’s time for interacting and engaging our whole bodies, minds, and souls as we learn to worship and follow Jesus. And finally, Messy Church is for **All Ages**. It is meant to be a joyous, intergenerational experience where many generations can learn from one another.

The “All Ages” piece is the one I’ve heard the most push back about, so I want to clarify: all ages are welcome and encouraged to actively participate. However, it is not necessarily intended to meet all people where you are no matter how advanced you are in your faith. All of the crafts and the stories and songs will be intentionally kept simple enough so that even young children can fully participate. If you’ve been following Jesus as an active Christian for years already I believe you can still grow as you *serve* in Messy Church, but not necessarily just by coming to *consume* the experience at Messy Church.

So, if you haven’t already experienced Messy Church, I hope you’ll come sometime to help us greet and welcome

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some incredible new people as they explore a whole new way of being the church. Show interest in their lives. Encourage them as they explore the various activities. Help answer questions if they have any, or introduce them to others in the church who might have ideas to help them explore those big questions. Like the psalm above says, we want every generation to know the power of the Lord and to set their hope on God! Would you come and help us welcome and encourage new disciples? Or if you don't consider yourself much of a "people person" could you consider helping in the kitchen to prepare the meal? Or maybe helping to set up or clean up? Let me know if you'd like to help, and we'll do our best to find a great way for you to serve!

Messy Church meets on the second Sunday of every month, starting at about 10:30 and wrapping up by about noon, with lunch included in that time. Spread the word to anyone you know in your neighborhood or among your family and friends who might be interested, and consider joining us yourself to experience a whole new way of being the church!

I hope to see you soon, whether at Messy Church or any of the other wonderful ministries we get to do together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wendy

Circuit Winter Fellowship Event

All United Methodists and friends are invited for an afternoon of fun and fellowship on

Sunday, February 23
12:00-3:00 pm

Woodwind Park
E7115 1058th Ave, Wheeler, WI

Tubing, Trails, Hiking, Snowshoeing!
Board and Card games in the lodge for those who prefer to stay warm.
Tubes provided, dress warm and maybe bring a favorite game to share!

Just show up! If you need help finding a ride or have questions, contact Pastor Wendy at pastor@menomonieumc.org

Free to attend! Everyone Welcome!
Food and beverages available at concession stand for cost.



Thank you
to the
Menomonie Rotary Club
for their
generous grant of
\$800
for Monday's Meals!

Grief Share

13 weekly sessions support group
for helping share about your grief

Sunday, December 29

Informative Meeting then meet weekly
every Saturday for 12 more weeks starting

Saturday, January 4

1:30-3:30 pm • Fireside Room

\$20 for Participation Guide.

Registration deadline is January 2nd.

Register online at griefshare.org/findagroup

or contact Sarah Zarbock

at 715-308-1698 or zarbocks@gmail.com

Financial Update

Valentine's Day is just around the corner — a time to celebrate love. We often think of lines like "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," or picture roses, cupids, and hearts filling store shelves. But amidst the romance, have we lost sight of love's deeper meaning?

Romantic love is everywhere, yet even that is often reduced to fleeting infatuation. More significantly, many have forgotten the love that Jesus calls us to live out: "Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27), "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39), and "The one who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).

This love isn't about warm, fuzzy feelings. Christian love is about action. It's choosing to act kindly, even when our feelings fall short. When someone cuts us off in traffic, we can respond with patience rather than anger. When dealing with a difficult coworker, we can show genuine interest in their life rather than just tolerating their presence.

Often, loving actions lead to loving feelings, not the other way around. Romantic love, for instance, grows deeper through small gestures like holding hands. Similarly, in other relationships, choosing to act with love can foster understanding and compassion over time.

This Valentine's Day, cherish romantic love but also take every opportunity to practice Christian love — through your actions toward neighbors, enemies, and everyone you encounter. It's in these moments that we reflect God's greatest commandment: "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Lynn Klatt
Treasurer

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
2 Bible Study 10:30 Blood Pressure Checks	3 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	4	5 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	6	7	8 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
9 Messy Church 10:30-Noon Youth will help facilitate	10 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	11	12 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Wed. Table 4:45-6:30	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 Grief Share 1:30-3:30 Joyful Noise 1:00 at Neighbors of Dunn Co.
16 Bible Study 10:30	17 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Moms Group 6-7	18	18 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Murder Mystery Dinner 6-8 pm	20 Prayer Shawl 4-6 pm	21	22 Grief Share 1:30-3:30
23 Bible Study 10:30 Winter Fellowship Event 12-3:00	24 Blood Drive 12-6 pm Monday Meal 5-6 pm	25	26 Bells 6 pm Youth Wed. Table 4:45-6:30 Choir 7 pm	27	28	

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

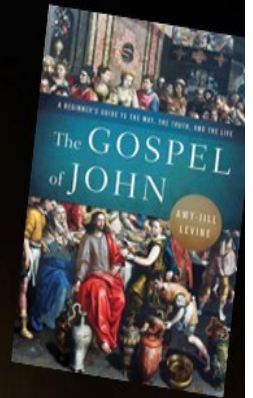
2703 Bongey Drive

To donate go to redcrossblood.org,
enter 54751 or call 1-800-733-2767.

Rapid Pass is available.

Adult Bible Study Starting Sunday, January 19th 10:30 am

6 week book study of the
Gospel of John



Revisit Christ's interactions with
family, people of different faiths and cultures,
people with disabilities and health issues,
his followers, people of deep faith,
and people who question their faith.

A copy of the book is not required.
Contact Sarah Zarbock at 715-308-1698
or zarbocks@gmail.com if interested.



2nd
Sunday
of the
month
10:30-Noon

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



Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org

