

March



March 2025

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism used to say, “The world is my parish” and indeed he found ministry opportunities in every place he traveled. He covered some 250,000 miles by horseback and carriage, preaching an estimated 40,000 times in his lifetime back in the 1700s. I love that expansive sense of calling—knowing that everywhere we go, God is already there. Ministry can happen in every place we find ourselves as we seek and share God’s love and truth.

Growing up on a dairy farm, I didn’t have many opportunities for travel in my formative years although my family did visit my grandparents at their winter home in Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas a couple of times during my childhood. Yet, I’ve always had a fascination for travel, and on the rare occasions when it is logistically feasible I’ve eagerly participated in those opportunities. I’ve enjoyed a few road trips—to Toronto, Canada, to Washington D.C., to Arizona, to Florida (via a fun road trip through the Great Smoky Mountains), and to the Ozarks to view the solar eclipse last spring. I participated in the German exchange program in high school, took college classes that involved travel to Belize and El Salvador, and went to my brother’s wedding in Jamaica years ago. This month, I get to travel again—this time to England, Scotland, and Wales for the Wesley Study Tour, visiting the historical sites where the Methodist movement was born. I can’t wait to experience this and to tell you all about it! This tour will be led by Rev. Joel Certa-Werner from Elk Mound, along with two other pastors in his family—his brother, Rev. David Werner who serves in Minnesota and his son, Rev. Thanael Certa-Werner who serves in South Dakota.

Because I will be gone for a couple of the weeks in Lent, instead of doing our usual Wednesday night soup

suppers and Lenten worship services our main activity this Lent will be a study group on Thursday mornings at 10:15 on the book *Draw Close: A Creative Companion for Lent* by Stephanie Dunn. We already have other great leaders lined up for the weeks when I will be gone—both for the Thursday morning study group and of course for Sunday morning worship, so you won’t want to miss out!

We will still have a couple of special worship services during Lent as well. March 5 is Ash Wednesday, so we’ll have a soup supper at the church at 6:00 pm, followed by the Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:45 pm. Also, on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 pm (tentatively—watch future newsletter and bulletins for updated details) we’ll gather for worship on Good Friday. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for these special days in the season of Lent.

I hope to see you soon!

With love,
Pastor Wendy

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday,
March 5

Supper 6:00 pm • Worship 6:45 pm

Parish Nurse News

As you know, one of my roles with our church is Parish Nurse. I was trained as a Parish nurse in 2001 at Luther Seminary in the Twin Cities. During January and February, I have been focused on loss and the grief process. I co-lead the *GriefShare* Program with Pastor Wendy again this year.

Grief is the natural process in response to a significant loss. Grief can be difficult because it affects all aspects of your life. During our grief class we covered many topics including loneliness, self care, anger, regrets, fear, grief and friendship, to name a few.

I have also been taking a 6 week class on crisis and trauma, as part of a Grief Care Certificate program. The final class, "Sharing the journey, Traveling from diagnosis and letting go, will complete the Certificate program.

We will be starting another grief group gathering, Tuesday, 4/22/25 to support all that are experiencing some kind of loss in their life. This class will be held quarterly during the year.

Some encouraging scriptures for reading include: Jeremiah 31:13 - "I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow".

Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit".

I am so glad to be supporting our church community and local community in this way!

Blessings, Sarah Zarbock PN

Our first ever Circuit Tubing Event was a fun success, with about 40 United Methodists in attendance on a beautiful winter day!



Thank You!

TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY TO MAKE OUR FEBRUARY 24TH BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!

We collected 37 units, which topped our goal of 30 by 7! Every bit helps - and YOUR help is very much appreciated!!

Jan Friest

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

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!

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Blood Pressure Checks	3 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	4 Pastor Wendy Birthday!	5  Soup Supper 6 pm Service 6:45 pm	6 Lenten Book Study 10-11	7	8
9 Messy Church 10:30-Noon	10 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	11	12 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	13 Lenten Book Study 10-11	14	15
16	17 Monday Meal 5-6 pm Moms Group	18 Pastor Wendy out of office until March 31	19 Bells 6 pm Youth 6-7:30 Choir 7 pm	20 Lenten Book Study 10-11	21	22
23	24 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	25	26 Bells 6 pm Choir 7 pm Youth Wed. Table 4:45-6:30	27 Lenten Book Study 10-11	28	29
30 Care Bucket Sunday	31 Monday Meal 5-6 pm	Reminder: Pastor Wendy will be out of office March 18 thru 31st				

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Financial Footnotes

What a welcome relief to the cold this past week, hard to believe a 60-degree swing in temperature in one week! I know we will still have some inclement weather on the horizon, but Spring is in sight. January and February have been extremely cold, and it was difficult for many of our members to attend services.

So, what has been happening in our church these past couple of months? Messy church continues to be held the second Sunday of the month from 10:30-12:00. There are fun activities, worship and a meal each time. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend no matter how young or "seasoned" you are.

There are adult book studies being held right now that everyone again is welcome to attend. Perhaps you are looking to participate in the Grief Share class that is being offered. The youth have the opportunity to meet weekly for activities. Monday Meals are still served each week with many volunteers that come in to prepare the meals and carry out meals to community members waiting in their cars. We are currently serving 190-210 meals each week.

This past month we opened our doors for the American Red Cross blood drive and provided a polling place for the recent election. We are also a meeting place for the Friendship Group that meets the second Monday of each month. It is a group for women to gather and connect with other women in the community, again all women are invited to attend.

The monthly bills and apportionments are up to date! We have certainly been blessed with your gifts of time, talents

and financial contributions.

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or are looking for any opportunities to serve.

Thank you very much,

Lynn Klatt

finance@menomonieumc.org



**2nd
Sunday
of the
month**

10:30-Noon

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

Items for Betty

Betty Hazen is still making cards and is looking for the following supplies: embroidery thread, lace, rick-rack, scrapbook paper. Any color!


Please leave at the church with

Betty's name on it and Anita Wiese will be sure she gets it. Thank you!

Congratulations Fred Ochs! Barbershopper of the Year



The **Dunn County Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society** has announced that Fred Ochs has been selected the 2024 Barbershopper of the Year for his contributions to the chapter. "Fred is in charge of our website and managing our repertoire on the page, adding new learning tracks for all of us. He is active in all aspects of the chorus and rarely misses a practice or sing out."



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.

Love That Moves Us - March 2025

Submitted by Lynn Klatt

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

One of the things I love most about the Good News is its message that God loves us just as we are, right where we are. That is the most fundamental message of grace — that "God loved us while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8). God sent His Son into the midst of a world that would ultimately put Him to death. And God continues to reach out to those who are the least, the last, and the lost. Without that message of Good News, it wouldn't be the Gospel.

But there is another part. Yes, God loves us just as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay where we are. God's desire for us is to grow in all ways to become more like Jesus.

So, how do we become more like Jesus? By growing as disciples — through devotion, prayer, generosity, following Jesus' teachings, and being open to where God might lead us. Grace is free, but holiness and godliness require discipline — the spiritual work to which we are called as disciples. In fact, the word "disciple" shares its root with "discipline." Those who seek to grow in faith and spiritual maturity respond to the Good News of God's love by committing to prayer, study, worship, and service.

This Lenten season, let's renew our commitment to make room in our lives for God through all the means at our disposal.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



*Happy
Birthday!*
Pastor Wendy!
March 4th

UMC Dartball Team Plays On!

Submitted by Phil Diser

Few people realize that Menomonie United Methodist Church has a dartball team that plays three games every Monday evening from October 14 last year to March 10, with a tournament March 17 here.

The MUMC Team includes ten members, Steve Brantner, Craig Conklin, Blade Klatt, Kevin Klatt, Greg Kleindl, Gene Larson, Rod Lorensen, Anna McClung, Dave McNaughton, Bill Wiese, and Kurt Zarbock. Only nine play at a time.

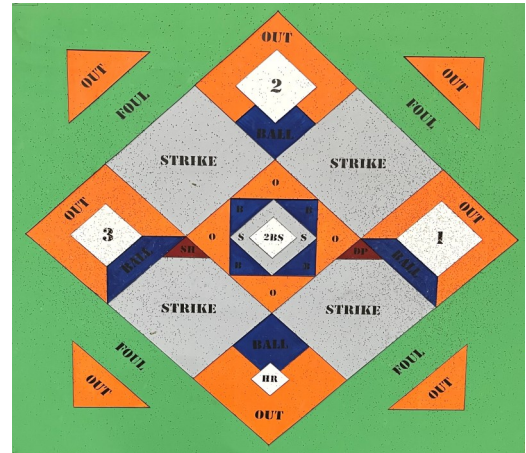
It's a member of the Colfax Dartball League, which includes six churches — Big Elk Creek Lutheran Church, Iron Creek United Methodist Church, Menomonie UMC, Poppo Creek Lutheran Church, Tainter UMC, and Trinity (Elk Mound) UMC. During the season, each team plays the others four times, two as the home team, two as the visitors.

The Colfax League is more than 50 years old. Rev. Craig Conklin, who served the Colfax and Tainter churches, says a player on the Tainter team remembers playing on the Colfax team as a teenager roughly 50 years ago and it was then well established. Colfax Methodist first mentioned a team in 1946 on the Dunn County News and the Colfax league was holding an organizing meeting in 1966, but it clearly was established before then. Craig says that at one time the league had 15 teams, including one at Colfax and two at Tainter. Now players from both churches play on one team.

Last year, Kevin Klatt learned about the Dartball league from Craig and, having played the game in the past, organized our team. Menomonie UMC joined last year.

Although not a member of the Wisconsin State Dartball Committee, established in 1951 to provide uniform rules for the game, the league follows its rules.

As the name indicates, dartball is a game based on baseball. Players standing in the Batter's Box 20 feet away throw darts underhanded at a four-foot square target with a baseball diamond painted on it and areas marked in separate colors with various possibilities—ball, strike, foul, out, etc. Single, double, triple and home run are marked with increasingly small white squares. In other details a game follows baseball, with home and visiting teams, three outs, nine innings, etc.



Dartball was invented in 1923 by dart-maker Apex Manufacturing in the Philadelphia area. Within a dozen years it had arrived here, with both Our Savior's and Beyer Settlement Lutheran churches mentioning it in their listings in the Dunn County News. By the early 40s most Lutheran churches in the area had teams and they seemed to be the only participants in regional and city tournaments. By the mid 40s other churches and groups started mentioning dartball. The 1960s to 1980s was the peak period for dartball here, with 20 teams playing in 1980. The last league list in the News in 2013 included only five teams. The Colfax League is now the only one in this immediate area, although Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls have two, a commercial one and a church one.



Members of the UMC Dartball Team are: (Left to right) Craig Conklin, Bill Wiese, Kurt Zarbock, Steve Brantner, Blade Klatt, Kevin Klatt, Rod Lorensen, Gene Larson. Missing are Anna McClung, Greg Kleindl, Dave McNaughton.