



United Messenger

November 2021

Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

In John 21:15-17, Jesus has one last conversation with Simon Peter. Three times Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" All three times Peter insists that he does, and Jesus responds, "Then feed my sheep." Throughout the Bible, sheep are used as a metaphor for the people of God, and God is described as a "good shepherd", so this final instruction from Jesus to Peter is not an invitation to take up farming but an invitation to care for and feed people just as Jesus had done. Feeding people is holy work. Many of Jesus' miracles were feeding miracles, satisfying the physical hunger of the people who gathered to hear his teaching or wait for his healing. Perhaps it should be no surprise then that our newest ministry feels like such holy, miraculous work!

On October 25 we launched Monday's Meal, a free community meal offered every week to anyone who wishes to come. After nearly two years of planning and learning from the other free community meal sites in town this ministry has finally come to fruition. A couple of our advisors suggested preparing enough food for 50 people on our first week because we might have a smaller crowd until word gets out well throughout the community but with each of the other community tables currently serving 100-150 people every week on average we decided to prepare for 100. (We had worked hard to get the word out and we figured we'd rather err on the side of abundance and risk having a little extra than risk running out on our very first week.) We began serving at 5:00 pm and sent a total of 121 meals out the door by the time we were finished at 6:00!

I want to thank all of you who have volunteered your time or donated funds or prayed for this ministry. There are many in our community living with food insecurity and there are many others who feel isolated and alone. Monday's Meal helps meet both of those needs by providing nourishing, wonderful food for those in need and a tangible reminder to all that there are people who really do care. Thank you for your part

in helping to make this ministry possible!

We welcome your continued help and support for this ministry in the months ahead. If you'd like to join our Monday's Meal board of directors, let me know. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to support Monday's Meal, checks can be made to Menomonie UMC with a note or a memo line on your check designating it for Monday's Meal. If you'd like to volunteer your time there are many ways to do so. On the first and third Wednesday of every month a small crew is needed to help unload the grocery delivery from the Feed My People truck at about 1:10 pm. On Sundays right after worship a prep crew works for a couple hours to chop veggies or prepare desserts or any other work that can be done a day ahead of time. On Mondays from 2-5 the cooking crew finishes the rest of the meal preparation, and then from 4:45-6:00 the greeter takes orders as people arrive, the servers package meals into the to-go boxes, the baggers package the correct number of to-go boxes for each vehicle into plastic bags, the runners carry meals out to the waiting vehicles in the parking lot, and the dishwashers clean up as we empty each pan. Most importantly, even if you are not able to volunteer or donate we encourage you to pray for this ministry as we continue to do the holy and miraculous work of feeding God's people right here in the River Heights neighborhood.

I look forward to seeing you soon in worship ... or maybe even in the church kitchen!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wendy

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Important Dates This Month

Please remember two events coming up soon. First, on Sunday, November 7 right after worship Rev. Scott Carlson will facilitate a conversation about our church and all the ways our ministries change lives and can transform our community. (This is the Missional Church Consultation Initiative event that was postponed from its original date of September 12 due to COVID concerns.) We'd love to have as many voices as possible be a part of this conversation so please plan to stay after worship that day if you can.

Then, on Monday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. we will celebrate our annual Church Conference in which we adopt our budget, set our ministry goals, and elect our leaders for the coming year. This is another great opportunity to celebrate all that we have done in the past year and prepare for the good work that we have yet to do in the year ahead. All are welcome to participate in this conference as well.

Installation of outdoor lighting!



Thank you Phil Diser for pictures and details!

The Menomonie United Methodist Church has new lighting in our parking lot. Two men from Bear Valley Electric installed three 25 foot poles last week. One, with four 22,000 LED units on top, is in the center on the parking lot. Two two-unit poles are on the street side of the lot. Each unit uses only 150 watts. The church also replaced four small lights on the side of the building. With these new lights, we should see really well at night!

**We are seeking a
Child Care Provider**
to assist in our nursery on
Sundays.
If interested please send your
resume to Pastor Wendy.



Introducing Our Monday's Meal Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming Nichole Manson who has volunteered to be the coordinator of our Monday's Meal ministry! Nichole has lived in Menomonie since 2014 and serves on the board at Stepping Stones with Pastor Wendy. She has a passion for equipping



Nichole Manson

people to prepare wholesome, healthy food even when they are experiencing food insecurity. About a decade ago, Nichole experienced food insecurity herself around the time when her son was born. She learned to be very resourceful and innovative when preparing whatever food was available from food pantries. Now that she and her family are more stable and secure she is eager to pay forward all that she learned. Prior to the beginning of the pandemic, she often volunteered at Stepping Stones to prepare food samples and share recipes with current food pantry recipients so they could learn, too, to prepare meals even with ingredients that may have been unfamiliar to some families. Nicole has completed a ServSafe food safety training in preparation for her new role with us at Monday's Meal and has been an excellent leader for this new ministry. If you haven't already had the chance to meet her, you'll sometimes see Nichole in worship on Sunday mornings and definitely in the church kitchen helping to guide each week's volunteers to make another delicious meal. Thank you, Nichole, for investing your time and your passion in Monday's Meal!

Confirmation Class Starting Soon

All students in 7th grade or above are eligible for confirmation classes. Any families who have a student who would like to be a part of this year's class should let Pastor Wendy know so you can be personally invited to the informational meeting for parents and students which will be scheduled in early December. Students and mentors will begin meeting together early in 2022.

We are expecting a pretty large class this year based on families that have already spoken with Pastor Wendy, so we will need several mentors to partner with each student in this year's class. If you are willing to serve as a confirmation mentor this year, please let Pastor Wendy know. You will receive a workbook with 13 sessions to complete with your student over the first several months of 2022.



Mission Moment

This month I would like to highlight McCurdy Ministries Community Center in Espanola, NM. Espanola is mainly a Hispanic community and has the highest death by heroin overdose rate and one of the highest high school dropout rates in the United States. McCurdy Mission School has had a very high graduation rate due to the support received from various funding sources. They have implemented a counseling program, preschool, after school care, summer camp, breakfast, lunch and volunteer programs. Their goal is to also expand their community center ministries to include adult, youth, children's, nonprofit and volunteer ministries. By working closely with their two local United Methodist Churches, McCurdy Ministries are providing a spiritual home for their clients as well. We have typically funded their project with a yearly \$1000 donation. If you would like to support them or our other advance special projects make a notation on your giving. We thank you for your support.

Lynn Klatt
Church Finance

Financial Footnotes

As we round the corner toward the end of 2021, we have had some very large projects in the works that have been completed or are near completion. The parking lot project with additional designated handicap parking spaces has been completed! Three pole lights were installed as well as new lights mounted on the church building. If you have not been by the church at night the past couple of weeks you will notice a very nice improvement.

I am not wishing for cold weather just yet but I am happy to say that two new boilers were installed mid-October. The programming is still in the works but we have heat! These projects were funded by the improvement fund reserves and the additional funds that have come in since the "pave the future" campaign. We will continue to replenish the improvement fund as contributions come in. Xcel Energy was offering a rebate on our new boilers so we were able to take advantage of a \$4000 dollar savings! We want to thank you for your support for these projects.

Our apportionment (shared giving) obligation is paid up through October so the remaining balance of \$6700 is due by the 31st of December. The good news is that we are current on paying all of our bills! If you have any questions on the finances of the church, please do not hesitate to give a shout out to myself or Pastor Wendy. Again, thank you for sharing the gifts you have received with the Menomonie United Methodist Church.

Blessings
Lynn Klatt

Volunteer Help For Monday's Meal

There are sign up sheets in the narthex on the table for the following volunteer services. Thank you for your help!

Prep cooks: On Sunday after worship, one or two people will help prepare dessert and/or do any other prep work that can be done ahead of time to make things run more smoothly for the cooks on Monday.

Cooks: From 2-5 pm on Mondays, two to four people will prepare the meal with help from Nichole Manson, the volunteer who has agreed to coordinate Monday's Meal for us.

Greeter: From 4:45-6:00 the greeter will be stationed in the church parking lot near the main entrance to greet the people in each vehicle as they arrive and take their order for the number of meals they wish to take. The greeter will then send a text message to the crew in the kitchen with a short description of the vehicle and the number of meals needed, such as "blue truck-3" or "red car-1". The greeter will then ask the vehicle to proceed to the next door near the nursery where their meals will be delivered to them.

Servers: From 4:45 pm-6:00 pm on Mondays, two to four people will help serve appropriate portions into the to-go containers as recipients arrive to pick them up.

Bagger: From 4:45-5:00 pm the bagger will be stationed in the church kitchen to receive texts from the greeter and place the appropriate number of meals in each bag to be carried out to those waiting in their vehicles. The bagger will instruct the runners how many meals to take and to which vehicles.

Runners: From 4:45-5:00 pm two to three runners will carry meals from the church kitchen to the waiting vehicles in the parking lot as instructed by the bagger.

Dishwashers: From 5:30-6:15 one or two volunteers will work on washing dishes with the commercial dishwasher or by hand for the dishes that are too large to fit in the dishwasher.

***Note:** Although serving doesn't actually begin until 5 pm, volunteers who will be present during the meal are asked to arrive by 4:45 so they have time to wash hands and put on serving gloves before they begin.

Monday's Meal Facebook Page

Monday's Meal offers free, nourishing homemade meals every Monday from 5-6 pm at the Menomonie United Methodist Church, 2703 Bongey Drive, Menomonie WI.

We are supported by volunteers and donations from the community.

Check out our facebook page:
**Monday's Meal at
United Methodist Church**





Sunday Study | 2021-2022

Join us most

Sunday Mornings at 10:00am

Over the last month we have been witnessing how God continued to guide the Israelites even when they wanted to go their own way. God kept showing up and guiding the Israelites, over and over! We can trust God to show up and guide us as well!



We wrapped up the month of October with a Pumpkin Painting, Carving, and Prayer event during Sunday Study on Halloween.

We will continue meeting in-person during the month of November. We will plan to use the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary to spread out and learn/Worship together. We will continue to go outdoors for a portion of our time together as the weather allows, please plan to bring warm clothes.

Below is a glimpse of the month of November:

11.7 God helps us be brave... and works through us in unexpected ways. (Joshua 2)

11.14 God helps us be brave... so we thank him. (Joshua 3-4)

11.21 God helps us be brave... and promises to go with us. (Joshua 1:1-11; 5:13-6:27)

11.28 No Sunday Study (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Please pray over our kiddos this month that they would be encouraged and confident in God's promise to always be with us.

Blessings,

Amanda Tireman

Email: cyfministry@menomonieumc.org

Cell: 402-658-4344



Find us at:

www.menomonieumc.org



Parish Nurse News with Sarah Zarbock

Welcome to morning prayer

O Lord open our lips

And we shall declare your praise.

Sing: *Morning Has Broken*

New every morning is your love, great God of light,
And all day long you are working for good in the world,
Stir up in us desire to serve you,
To live peacefully with our neighbors,
And to devote each day to your Son,
Our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

(p. 877 UMethodist Hymnal)

Sit in a comfortable position.

Recall that prayer is more about listening than speaking.
Close your eyes and take a couple of deep breaths.
Slowly become mindful of God's presence both around you and within you.

Reflection

O, God you are my God

I seek you,

My soul thirsts for you

My flesh faints for you

As in a dry and weary land

Where there is no water

Psalm 63

Hunger motivates us. In both the physical and spiritual realms, our energies are often focused on satisfying our hunger. From St Ignatius of Loyola

In living we do experience moments of deep and profound happiness. But we also realize that the satisfaction they bring is only temporary. Before we know it we've moved onto the next dream, ever hoping that the next horizon will make us happy. We hunger for love, for intimacy, for belonging, for accomplishment, for peace, justice, etc.

No one likes hunger and in our hurry find other ways to satisfy our hunger - relationships, sex, food, alcohol, etc. But today we need to spend time with our hunger.

Content taken from : Walking the Sacred Path by Dan Schutte

Morning Prayer

November 16, December 21 at 10:00 a.m.

See Sarah Zarbock for details!

Prayer Shawl Meeting

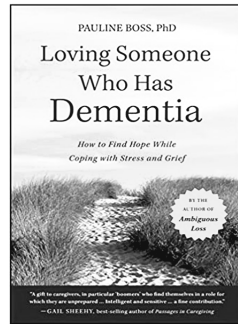
Thursdays, Nov. 18, Dec. 16 at 4:00 p.m.

We plan to have our meeting last for up to 2 hours so if you can't get there right away at 4:00 feel free to come and join us up till 6:00 p.m.! Feel free to bring any other crafts you would like to work on as well!

To register or for more information about ADRC events contact Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist at 715-944-8091



Book Club



Are you caring for someone with dementia? Join us virtually to learn proven strategies to increase your resiliency while caring for someone with dementia.

Every Wednesday
October 20—December 15

3:00—4:00 pm

To register call Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist at 715-944-8091

2 Mondays left for Refugees Winter Clothing Collection for Afghan Refugees at Ft. McCoy

November 1 & 8, 2-6 PM
United Methodist Church
2703 Bongey Dr.

All clothing should be conservative and modest styles.

All items should be new and in original packaging (where applicable).

- Toddler clothing
- Winter clothing & coats (all age children)
- Winter clothing & coats adult sizes (small and medium)
- Athletic style shoes (toddler)
- Athletic style shoes (children)
- Winter boots child size
- Winter boots adult size
- Gloves
- Hats
- Baby Formula (powder)
- Diapers

Dementia and Safety

Do you care for someone that has dementia? Are you prepared for the safety risks that could come with memory changes? Join me as I discuss common household risks and ideas to keep your loved one safe.

Wandering
Internet
Safety
Kitchen
Safety
Medications

**November 15
3:00—4:00 PM
Virtual Event**

Monday D.I.S.H Dementia Informed Super Heroes

Are you working and caring for a parent or family member with dementia? Join us virtually for support and resources



First Monday of the month

7 pm to 8 pm



To register, contact Scott Seeger at 715-261-6066
Email: scott.seeger@adrc-cw.org



Menomonie Memory Café

Memory Cafés are designed for people living with dementia and their care partners. This is an opportunity to gather and enjoy coffee and camaraderie

2021 Dates

September 14
October 20
November 17
December 15

3rd Wednesday of the Month

10 am—11:30 am

Menomonie Public Library
600 Wolske Bay Road