



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

How is it with your soul today, dear ones? Have you noticed lately? If you've been so busy cobbling together a "new normal" that you haven't really listened to your soul recently, I encourage you to take a moment now to pay attention. Breathe deeply. Listen for God. Simply rest for a moment and take notice of what thoughts or concerns rise up in your mind. Give those concerns to God.

Lately grief has been weighing on my soul. There is the collective grief of our nation as we approach 100,000 deaths in the last few months from COVID-19. There is the personal grief I feel for the eleven people among my own friends and acquaintances who have or have had this disease. Two of them have died. Two of our own church members have died of unrelated causes during these months of social distancing, too, and a dear colleague of mine died unexpectedly in the past month as well. It all feels heavy. Prayer brings me some comfort and a sense of connection even when we cannot gather for memorial services, and so I pray often.

Perhaps you are feeling grief too. Even if you haven't lost loved ones to COVID-19 or other illnesses during this time, perhaps you are grieving for the graduation ceremony that didn't happen the way you expected it would, for a birthday party that was only a "drive by and honk" event this year, for family members you miss because you can't safely see each other face to face except perhaps through a computer screen, or for a job you have lost. There are many sources of grief these days. Take the time you need to name and acknowledge those losses.

It is important to grieve although Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 that as Christians we grieve differently than others do. We do "not grieve as others who

have no hope". Even in grief, we grieve as people with hope. We trust that God is still at work in this world, and we work along with God to bring hope and healing in every way we can.

Today, may that healing begin with you, as you listen and care for the needs of your own soul. Perhaps you can call a friend for a little moral support. Perhaps you can read through some of the psalms and take comfort and catharsis in the whole spectrum of emotions expressed there. Perhaps you can go for a walk or watch out your window as beautiful things grow in this season as spring gives way to summer.

You are loved. You are precious in God's sight, and he promises us that we never walk alone. God is with us even when we walk through the dark valley of the shadow of death. As Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I look forward to seeing you when it is safe and wise to do so, and until then I pray for you often. May it be well with your souls!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wendy

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**FEAR NOT FOR
I AM
WITH
YOU
ISAIAH 41:10**

Returning to Church

The Safer at Home order has ended, but of course the coronavirus pandemic has not. The Accountable Leadership Board and I are continuing to monitor the latest updates from the Dunn County Health Department and from the CDC as our community slowly begins resuming activities in phases. Our Bishop has set June 21 as the earliest possible date for United Methodist Churches in Wisconsin to resume in-person gatherings, but given the risk factors of so many members of our congregation we plan to wait a bit longer than that before resuming. We will notify you once a plan is in place.



As you may have seen in last month's newsletter, the Wisconsin Council of Churches has outlined suggested guidelines for the ways churches might safely ease back into worship and other activities:

<https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/>. Even in the next phase of resuming activities, we will be restricted to no more than 50 people in our building. Singing is discouraged because it leads to higher levels of virus transmission even when people are more than six feet apart, sharing food or lingering for fellowship is not recommended either, and people over the age of 60 or who have other health risks are still encouraged to shelter in place. Our church leaders are weighing the risks and benefits of in-person worship, and hope to resume when we can offer a worship experience that is at least as good as what we are able to offer now online.

This continues to be a great time to engage in more small group ministries and/or local mission work. Keep praying the Breakthrough Prayer each day at 7:03 and if the Spirit inspires you with a new ministry idea that can be accomplished within the guidelines outlined in the link above, let Pastor Wendy know so we can help you get started!

faith



Each May, we are invited to contribute to the United Methodist Health and Welfare Ministries here in our state, including Harbor House Crisis Shelters right here in the North West District. To donate, mark "Golden Cross" on the memo line of your offering check to mail to the Menomonie UMC or you can give online at wisconsinumc.org by clicking on the "Local Church & Golden Cross Donation" button.

A Note from the District Superintendent

We recently received a hand-written thank you note from Rev. Barb Certa-Werner saying:

*Dear Menomonie UMC Members,
Thank you for your faithfulness in giving 100% towards apportionments. Your gifts support mission and ministry in Wisconsin and throughout the world. You have blessed many lives in Jesus' name.*

*Shalom,
Rev. Barb Certa-Werner*



Dear Friends,
I want to truly thank you for the many good wishes I received in beautiful cards, flowers, and many phone calls in honor of my 98th birthday, especially during a time when I was staying close to home because of the pandemic. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

God has truly blessed me with many wonderful friends, a great family, and good health. May He bless each one of you as He has blessed me.

Most Sincerely,
Rosella Blakley

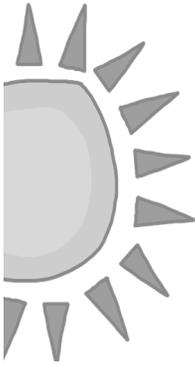


Find us at:
www.menomonieumc.org





Sunday Study 2019-2020



It is hard to believe that our Sunday Study year has already come to an end. It continues to be a joy to work with and worship with our kiddos and families. I pray that over the past couple of months that you have been able to find meaningful ways to Worship at home, whether it was from the weekly email suggestions, the online Worship Services, or another devotional that has worked for your family. If you are in need or want of resources for this summer please let me know and I would be happy to help find something that is a fit

for your family.

Typically this newsletter is bursting with Summer Programming and fun. The Education Team met in early May to discuss Summer Programming. We have made the tough decision that with so much unknown in the months to come, all Summer Programming is on pause. We have made the hard decision to postpone VBS this Summer. We are still evaluating possible Fall options or may hold on to the curriculum until next Summer. We are still very hopeful to be able to put together some family activities later on this Summer, but are unable to commit to dates and details at this time. Continue to watch your emails and Facebook for future details.

Blessings,
Amanda Tireman
Children and Family Ministries Director

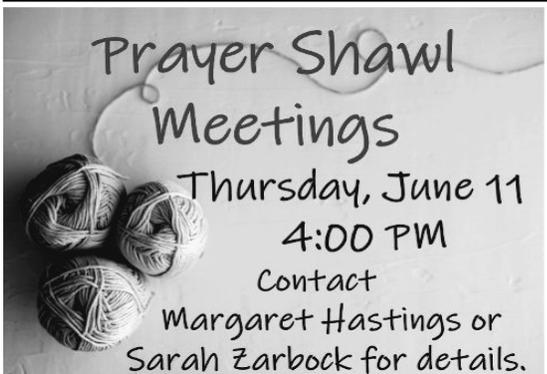


Prayer Walking

Starting Tuesday, June 9th
9:30-10:00 am

We will meet at church and walk around the neighborhood.

Every Tuesday during summer.
If rain will cancel. Mask optional.



Prayer Shawl Meetings

Thursday, June 11
4:00 PM

Contact
Margaret Hastings or
Sarah Zarbock for details.

Prayer Walking and Centering Prayer/Meditation

During this transition time of moving back into a new normal, thoughtful consideration is needed. One example of thoughtful consideration is prayer. Starting in June, our church will offer prayer walking every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer walking is an activity that consists of walking and praying at the same time.

We will be in the neighborhood of the United Methodist church.

On a prayer walk, we will be able to smell the freshness of a new rain, the flowers outside or other wonderful smells of our beginning summer.

We also might hear children laughing and playing and other families around.

These things will give us insight to what's going on around our church neighborhood and help us with prayer insights.

Please plan to meet in church parking lot to begin, if rain is in the forecast, call re cancellation.

Another opportunity for prayer will be during the centering prayer and meditation Thursday mornings from 10 am.

This will be done on the back patio, in good weather. I will also offer the opportunity to call in for meditation on speaker at 715-308-1698.

We will be praying for unity in our church as we move forward!

Blessings as our summer begins,
Sarah Zarbock
Parish Nurse

Centering Prayer Meditation

Starting Thursday, June 4th
at 10:00 am

Every Thursday during summer.

Meet at church back patio.

If rain will meet inside.

Bring mask for inside.

Also I will have it available by Zoom and you can call my phone at 715-308-1698 if you don't want to come to the church and I'll put you on speakerphone.

Office Hours Reminder

Office hours will vary during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please call before you stop in to verify that someone will be here to assist you.

Thank you!



Opportunities for Help and to Serve at Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones of Dunn County continues working hard to meet the needs of our community, within the social distancing requirements and health precautions prescribed by the health department. If you need assistance you can reach them at 715-235-2920 or info@steppingstonesdc.org. Food distribution takes place via curbside pick-up four days each week: Mondays from 11-2, Wednesdays from 3-6, Fridays from 11-2, and Saturdays from 10-12. Be sure to pop your trunk from inside your car if you can so that volunteers can place a pre-packed box of food in your trunk for you while maintaining the required 6-foot distance, and be sure you've made room in your trunk ahead of time.

More volunteers are still needed too. If you are interested in taking a 2-3 hour shift to help pack boxes of food for curbside pick-ups, contact Jill at communityconnect@steppingstonesdc.org or call 715-235-2920, extension 3. Volunteer shifts are available every day except Sunday. Gloves and masks are provided for all volunteers. Call ahead to schedule your shift(s) so that Stepping Stones staff can ensure they don't exceed the limit of volunteers they can have in the building at one time.

Financial donations are also appreciated. You can donate online at www.steppingstonesdc.org or call to process or credit card over the phone or mail a donation to Stepping Stones, 1602 Stout Rd, Menomonie, WI 54751.



In addition to the food assistance available at Stepping Stones here in Menomonie, there is also food assistance available once a month through Ruby's Pantry at the Elk Mound High School (see details below). **If you would like to help box, distribute, or load food for Ruby's Pantry, contact Sue Suechting from Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church at ssuechting@centurytel.net for details on how to help during the next distribution on Saturday, June 13th.**



Update Spring 2020

Ruby's Pantry

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION
SHARING AND CARING IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

A hand up, not a handout!

2nd Saturday of Every Month

Guest Registration 7:30-9:00 AM

Distribution Starts at 8:30 AM

Distribution Ends when all guests are served

Temporary Location Change!

**Elk Mound High School Parking Lot
405 University Street, Elk Mound, WI**

\$20 Donation, Cash only

**** Walk-In, or Preregister on website ****

**Money helps cover operational, shipping, & handling costs,
10% of funds are used to benefit the community**

**Visit www.rubyspantry.org or call 651.674.0009 for
more information!**

See our Facebook page [Elk Mound Ruby's Pantry](#)

Upcoming Dates:

June 13th July 11th

- You receive an abundance of grocery items
- Everyone is Welcome, there are NO qualifications!
- Cash Only; No checks accepted

**Temporary Change: We will provide boxes and prepack your
food for you!**

Contact us @ 715-879-5115 or rubys.sothem@gmail.com

this is what the
LORD
 † says:
 I have heard
 your prayer
AND I will
 heal you

2 KINGS 20:5



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www.menomonieumc.org



Direct Answers To Questions About Electronic Donation

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Q. What is electronic donation?
A. Electronic donation is an automatic transfer program which allows you to make donations without writing checks</p> <p>Q. What is the advantage of electronic donation?
A. It saves time. You also help the church stabilize its budget and save money</p> <p>Q. How is my electronic donation automatically deducted from my account?
A. Once you authorize the transfer, your specified donation is electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church's account.</p> <p>Q. When will my donation be deducted from my account?
A. On the date you authorize.</p> | <p>Q. If I do not write checks, how do I balance my checkbook?
A. Since your donation is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.</p> <p>Q. Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my donation?
A. Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. It is your proof of donation. Your church also continues to provide a giving statement.</p> <p>Q. Is electronic donation risky?
A. Electronic donation is less risky than check donation. It cannot be lost, stolen or destroyed.</p> <p>Q. What if I change bank accounts?
A. Notify us and we will give you a new authorization form to complete.</p> | <p>Q. How much does electronic donation cost?
A. For you nothing!</p> <p>Q. What if I try electronic donation and don't like it or need to change it for any reason?
A. You can cancel or change your authorization by notifying us any time. But, once you've enjoyed the convenience, time and money savings of electronic donation, we doubt you will want to go back to making donations the way you did before.</p> <p>Q. How do I sign up for electronic donation?
A. Complete and sign the authorization form below and return it to the church office along with a voided check or voided savings deposit slip.</p> |
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Menomonie United Methodist Church

Authorization Form

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ENVELOPE #

DATE

- Type of Authorization Form:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization | <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking/credit card information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount | <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date | |

Last Name

First Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Date of first donation:

____/____/____

Frequency of donation: (please check only one)

- Weekly - Mondays
 Bi-Weekly
 Semi-Monthly - 1st and 15th
 Monthly on the 1st
 Monthly on the 15th

Church fund designations and amounts:

- Operating Fund \$ _____
 Advance Specials \$ _____
 Improvement Fund \$ _____
 Easter Offering \$ _____
 Christmas Offering \$ _____

Special Instructions:

Total \$ _____

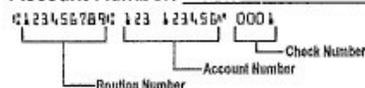
CHECKING / SAVINGS

Please debit my donation from my (check one):

- Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)
 Checking Account (attach a voided check)

Routing Number: _____
 Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3

Account Number: _____



I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to the church office for processing.