



Ponderings from the Pastor's Pen

As part of a birthday gift this year one of my dearest friends from high school sent me the book *Placemaker: Cultivating Places of Comfort, Beauty, and Peace* by Christie Purifoy. The author has lived in many different homes in several different states and I found that as a pastor who has also moved from place to place her words resonated with me—words about cultivating relationships in each new community and creating a beautiful physical space for friends to gather or family to find refuge.

While there is much in the book that intrigued me, one of the most poignant sections was when she reflected on *loss* after the death of her brother-in-law, a young marine who died in a helicopter crash off the coast of Hawaii, leaving behind a wife and young children. She writes, “Loss is painful, sometimes catastrophic, but like some terrible, black soil, it also has the potential to bear exquisite fruit. ... *What happens next?* That is the hope-filled question I am learning to ask. *What astonishingly beautiful thing happens next?*”

We, too, have been through a whole year of loss in this world. I wonder though, if we might be ready to start asking God to reveal the astonishingly beautiful thing that happens next? For some the grief may still be too raw, but for others perhaps we are getting close enough to the finish line of this pandemic that we see hope dawning just ahead. Could you add this to your Breakthrough Prayer this month perhaps—simply asking at the end of the prayer for God to show you what happens next?

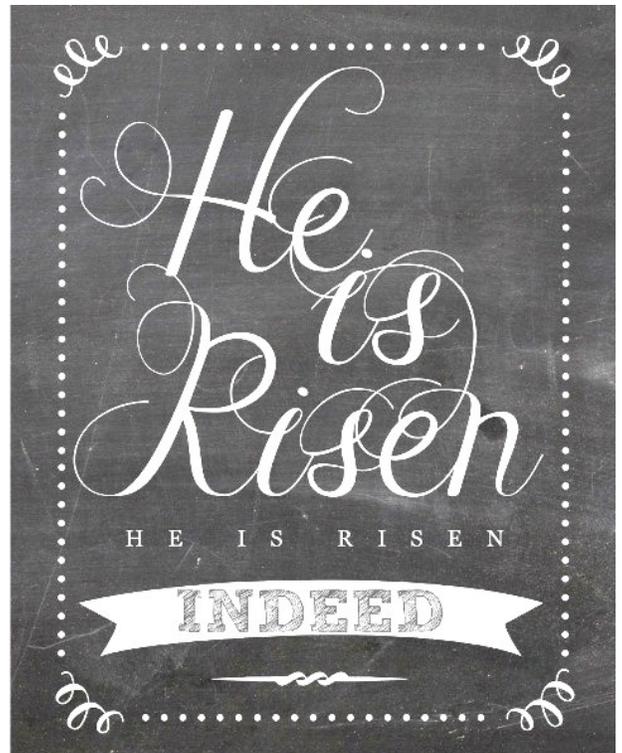
Romans 8:15 in The Message version of the Bible says, “This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike ‘What’s next, Papa?’” Easter reminds us every year that death and despair never get the last word. God’s story and our stories never end with the grave for there is glory yet to come! There are astonishingly beautiful things that will still occur in this life and even more in the life to come. May we wait expectantly for God to reveal those next things, and then work diligently at whatever part God gives us in bringing those beautiful things to fruition.

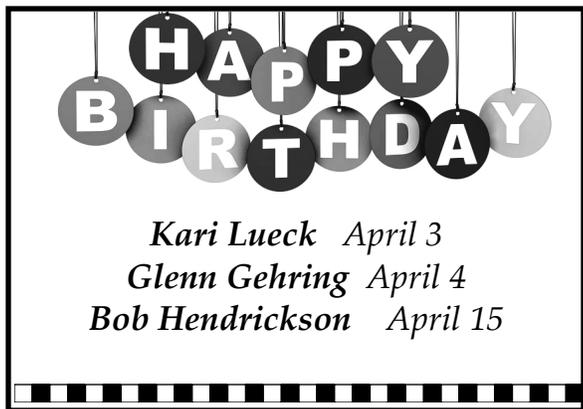
I look forward to seeing you soon at church as we watch some of those beautiful next things unfold!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wendy

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*Kari Lueck April 3
Glenn Gehring April 4
Bob Hendrickson April 15*

Let's Celebrate!

If you would like us to post in our newsletter birthdays or anniversaries, please let Lori know at the church office in advance.

Our church family would like to celebrate your day!



thank you!

I thank you all for your kind thoughts, birthday cards, and lovely gifts for my birthday in March. Knowing each of you and serving alongside you is a gift in itself! I love serving in this community and I am so grateful that each of you are a part of it!

*Gratefully,
Pastor Wendy*

Wanted

Your used Christmas Cards

Also looking for lace to decorate the cards.

Donated cards can be mailed or delivered to:

Betty Hazen
American Lutheran Home
Menomonie, WI 54751



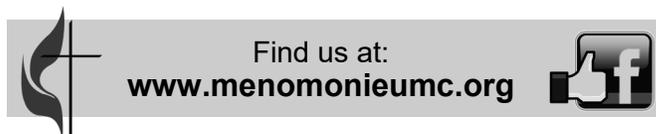
Financial Footnotes:

Apportionments, what are they? Many of you may have heard or read about them but are not real clear as to how they work in the Menomonie United Methodist Church. We also use the term "Shared Giving" which is the same as apportionments. Each year the WI Annual Conference determines what our share will be for the year. The formula used is a percentage of our local church expenses and our church membership in 2019. Our membership in 2019 was 309 and our local expenses were \$213,673. The conference uses the figures from a year and a half ago. This year our apportionment (or share) total is \$40,596, if you do the math that is approximately \$131 dollars per member. The Menomonie UMC takes 10% of our weekly general giving and sets that aside for apportionments which are then sent down to WI annual conference.

So, what is the money actually used for once it leaves Menomonie? The theory is that by sending what we can and combining it with what other churches are able to send that we accomplish larger goals. Together we can now afford to support projects at the annual conference and the general UM church. This may include new church starts, UM seminaries, bed nets in Africa to aid in the children dying from Malaria and disaster relief in our country and worldwide.

We want to thank each one of you for supporting the church with your time, talents and financial gifts. Our prayer is that we will soon be worshipping with our whole church family.

Lynn Klatt



Sunday Study | 2020-2021 Join us via Zoom Sunday Mornings at 10:30am

I have been so thankful to be able to connect with our kiddos and families via Zoom this year. I continue to be impressed with the way our children contribute and participate in our virtual format. As we ease back into in-person Worship we will continue to meet largely virtual during the months of April and May as we finish out our Sunday Study year. As the weather improves, the Education Team will be looking into a few possible outdoor Sunday Study opportunities. We are still working through the details, please be watching for emails from me.



The Education Team will be delivering a new supply basket to registered families for the next round of lessons 4/10/21 so that you have what you need for our new unit starting on 4/11/21. We will also be collecting the flower craft that your children made when we drop off the baskets (or you can return the completed crafts to Church if you prefer).

If the Zoom meeting is not your preferred way to Worship and Study, all of the lesson materials and more are located right on our church website www.menomonieumc.org > Grow> Children and Families. New lessons are put up each Wednesday evening and stay available for the week.

The Education Team is also working on a Bible Camp Day for this summer (think simplified VBS in a single afternoon), more details to come!

Please continue to pray over our children and families that this year would draw us closer to God.

Blessings,
Amanda Tireman
Email: cyfministry@menomonieumc.org
Cell: 402-658-4344

Youth Group News

We are back to in person with following safety protocols. April 7th, 14th and 21st we will be in person. Meeting at the church at 6:00 pm and ending at 7:00 pm.

On April 28th we will meet at Christ Lutheran Church 4:45pm and end at 6:00 pm.

Please look for emails to give details as we progress. As of right now we will not be having meals at youth group.

Amanda Viana

Wisconsin United Methodist Summer Camps 2021 Summer Camp Registration is Officially Open!

The Wisconsin United Methodist Camps have been working really hard to be able to move forward with Summer Camp opportunities this year. When you register, you are also added to their mailing list to get regular updates on the evolving COVID precautions and plans for summer. Full details can be found at: <https://wiumcamps.org/summer-camps/>

We will explore the fun during Camp Sunday on Sunday, March 7th during Sunday Study!

Here is a sneak peek at this summer's camp options:

- Create
- Classic Lake Lucerne
- Wild: Treehouses
- Wild: Backpacking
- Leaders in Training
- Makers
- YoMiCa
- Movers
- Imagine
- Family Camps
- Grandparents Camp
- Mother-Daughter Camp



Save the Date | Church Family Retreat

Pine Lake Camp | August 6th-8th

Disciples of all ages are invited to spend a little time apart with God. Join your church family on a weekend retreat!

**Friday, August 6th
(starting at 6pm)
through
Sunday, August 8th (ending at 12pm)**



Watch for more details to come!

Is God Calling You?

Every year the work of the church is accomplished largely by faithful volunteers like you!

We still have room for new volunteers on our Leadership Board, Education Team, and other ministry teams.

Talk to Pastor Wendy if you are would like to serve in any way in the year ahead!



PrimeTimers Spirit Summit: 2021

Tues. Apr. 13th 2021 from 9:00-10:15 am *on Zoom*



FREE but please register with Gail Burgess hb53104@aol.com Lois Brennan Coordinator (262) 492-1212

Sponsored by the WI Annual Conference UmC - Rev, Rich Rubietta Facilitator

PrimeTimers Spirit Summit: 2021

Tu. Apr. 13th from 9:00-10:15 am *on Zoom*

**A fun Zoom Retreat with Singing, Scripture Study
and lively conversation with people in their prime!**

Cost: Free, but please Register via email w/ Gail Burgess at hb53104@aol.com

For more information please contact: Lois Brennan-Coordinator: (262) 492-1212

Sponsored by the WI Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Rich Rubietta - Facilitator

You must be 55 or older to attend - Please bring your ID :)




Author & Speaker
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



*1 night – 3 hours
Just for Women
An evening full of laughter,
learning, stories & music*

**FRIDAY
APRIL 30, 2021**

**VALLEYBROOK
CHURCH**
412 S. BARSTOW ST.
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

7:00PM SHOW
6:30PM GA DOORS OPEN
6:00PM VIP DOORS OPEN

Comedy by
KRISTIN WEBER



Worship with
MIA KOEHNE



ADVANCE TICKETS
\$25 Gen. Admission | \$35 VIP
\$20 Groups of 10 or more.
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP ticket includes early entry for preferred seating and Q+A session with all the speakers and artists.

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100**
or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

Abingdon Women Compassion EFP Extreme Faith Productions

**Weekly Devotional,
Prayer Request
& Happenings Available**



Each week Pastor Wendy creates a Devotional of Sunday's worship. We also have a Prayers, Joys and Concerns and Happenings as well. Please let Lori know at the office if you would like these emailed to you or sent to you via regular mail.




**COVID-19
Vaccine**

Attn: 1A & 65+

If you are a 1A eligible healthcare worker or aged 65+ and would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, please fill out the form for the individual waitlist on the Dunn County Website:
<https://www.co.dunn.wi.us/covidvaccines>



**UWEC Continuing Education's
Spring and Fall 2021 Foot and Nail
Clinics have been cancelled.**

Being committed to the health, safety, and well-being of our customers and staff and after many conversations, we feel this is the best decision for 2021.



Are you 65+ and wondering where you can get your COVID-19 vaccine?

Give your local ADRC team a call at 715-232-4006

COVID Vaccine News

The Menomonie Medicine Shoppe is scheduling Covid vaccine (Moderna) appointments through their website. It can happen that a dose or two is "left over" at the end of the weekday, and it should not be wasted. If you are 65 or older, live in or near Menomonie, and are interested in being called on short notice for such an opportunity, do NOT call the Medicine Shoppe!

Call Fred Ochs at 715-235-0412 to leave a message with your name, birthdate, drive-time from home, and phone number.

We ALL want every dose to find an arm!

-Submitted by Fred Ochs

The Medicine Shoppe in Menomonie is seeking volunteers to help prepare and hand out paperwork for individuals receiving the Covid vaccination. 3 hour shifts. Volunteers be sure to ask about vaccine availability. Call Fred at 715-235-0412