

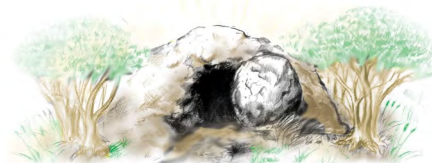


THE BLESSING

APRIL 2024

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3177 South 107th Street ~ West Allis, WI 53227
(414) 541-9050 ~ www.blessedhopeumc-westallis.org

During this joyous season of Easter, our hearts are filled with anticipation and hope. Easter is a time of profound significance in the Christian faith, reminding us of the triumph of light over darkness, hope over despair, and life over death. It is a time when we come together as a community to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Pastor Rob's Easter Message

In the midst of our daily challenges and uncertainties, Easter offers us a beacon of hope and renewal. It is a reminder that no matter how dark our circumstances may seem, there is always light on the horizon. The resurrection of Jesus Christ symbolizes the ultimate victory over sin and death, and it is a source of inspiration for all of us to persevere in our own journeys of faith.

During this Easter season, let us reflect on the profound meaning of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Let us contemplate the immense love that God has for each and every one of us, a love so great that He willingly gave His only Son for our salvation. As we meditate on the significance of Easter, may we be filled with gratitude for the gift of redemption and the promise of eternal life.

Easter also serves as a reminder of the power of transformation and renewal. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, triumphant over death, we too are called to embrace new beginnings and opportunities for growth. Whatever challenges or obstacles we may face, Easter reminds us that God's grace is sufficient, and His mercy is everlasting.

As we gather with family and loved ones to celebrate Easter, let us remember those who are less fortunate and extend a hand of compassion and kindness to those in need. Let us embody the spirit of Easter by sharing God's love and grace with others, spreading hope and joy wherever we go.

May this Easter season fill your hearts with hope, your spirits with joy, and your lives with abundant blessings. May you experience the presence of the risen Christ in your midst, guiding you, strengthening you, and filling you with His peace.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyous Easter!

With warmest regards,
Pastor Rob

WISHING YOU
Easter Joy



4/1 Christine Noseworthy
 4/4 Bonnie Snyder
 4/9 Nancy Cogan
 4/14 Joe Lukonic
 4/17 Tom Garnhart
 Jim Thomas
 4/18 Marilou Anderson
 4/20 Rita Dailey
 4/21 Dan Brzozowski
 4/25 Danny Miron
 4/27 Bob Weed
 4/28 Dolores Poitz
 4/30 Jerry Flanigan



4/3 Mike & Nancy Cogan
 4/4 Bob & Brenda Krey
 4/18 Ken & Pat Siegesmund
 4/26 Robert & Shelly Hecht



**Sunday ~ April 14th
 is Native American
 Ministries Sunday**



*Sincere sympathy to the
 family and friends of
Celia (Dolly) Lindsay
 who passed away on February 24th
 and
Shirley M. Lone
 who passed away on March 9th.*

We at Blessed Hope UMC have truly been blessed by generous people. Nancy Stamey of the former Calvary UMC congregation gave regularly to special projects which have benefited us all. Herb and Dorothy Rasching of the former Faith UMC congregation set aside in their wills a substantial amount of money for the church, some of which assists our operations and programming now.

It is time to celebrate the ways people have been generous, both to the church and in their lives. Consider, for instance, the points from this article from Forbes, “Wired to Give – How to Make the Most of Your Innate Generosity”:

“We’re wired to give. Neurologically, psychologically, socially, spiritually – everywhere we look, the evidence suggests that generosity is one of the hallmarks of humanity.

“You’re already a giver. You are likely more charitable than you even knew. Do you have any life insurance, for instance? It won’t do you any good personally, but it sure is helpful to anyone who depends on you financially.”

Praising behavior that you’d like to see more of goes a lot further than bemoaning what you don’t see happening. It’s a big part of having a mindset focused on abundance rather than scarcity. As children of God, we live in a world of abundance in many ways. Let us give God thanks for all that we have been given. Let us be generous to others.

George R. Affeldt, Finance Chair, Blessed Hope UMC

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 The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation provides many services to Wisconsin United Methodists and their congregations. The following is one story of how WUMF helped one of our neighbors:



In 2023, high school senior Sophia applied for and received a WUMF scholarship, writing that she planned to attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) to study animation and illustration. Hailing from Muskego, Wisconsin, she is a member of Our Lord’s UMC in New Berlin and was confirmed in 2019.

Sophia enjoyed soccer, basketball, and tennis in high school and belonged to the Art Club, where she helped design a positive messaging mural. Growing up, Sophia was a member of the children’s choir (Joyful Noise, love the name!), attended Sunday School, and now helps lead worship as a liturgist.

Rev. Kelly Fowler, wrote, “[Sophia] is a respected leader and a willing volunteer, able to balance her responsibilities in school, church, sport, and family.”

In her Sept. 2023 thank-you note, Sophia shared, “I just started school at MIAD a few weeks ago and it is going well so far! Thank you again.”



### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Five of us met on Tuesday, March 12th at 11:00 a.m. We planned for the March 27th Church Women United General Meeting which we will be hosting for the first time ever. This could be 40—50 women

from various protestant churches in the Milwaukee area. There will be a remembrance service for which Karen Drescher and Sue Schulkers will provide music. That will be followed by a keynote speaker, Dr. Kathe Hartke, a well-known speaker on social issues related to women. She is a retired OB/GYN physician and a United Methodist from Elm Grove UMC. Pastor Temo Rios and his wife Barbara will be assisting with the technical issues.

This meeting was the occasion for the program and offering called Prayer and Self-Denial. The offering goes to the Nat'l organization and the target this year is programs for Climate Justice. Lenore Brost was our hostess.

We will not meet at our regular time in April. The Conference UWF Social Action Day will be broadcast on ZOOM, and Blessed Hope is hosting a "Watch Party" with breakfast snacks starting at 8:30 and the ZOOM program from 9:00—12:00 with a break in the middle. The date for this event is Saturday April 13th. The topic is "Incarceration" and the speakers are Honorable/ Reverend Everett Mitchell - Dane Co Circuit Court Judge and Senior Pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptism Church and Peggy West-Schroder - Executive Director of the organization called FREE.

We don't meet in May, but we plan to have a "mini bake-sale" on Sunday, June 2nd and a "pot-luck" on Tuesday, June 11th, to which all are invited.



*Blessings* Easter



A note from Pastor Rob:

Well, I don't know about you, but this has certainly been the strangest Lent I've ever observed. The bypass surgery went well and the doctors are all pleased with the progress I've made since the surgery. I attribute this progress to God's abounding grace and the many prayers that both congregations have raised during this time. Thank you all for the prayers, thoughtful cards and phone calls, and the nourishing meals. I am truly blessed to serve as pastor to both Blessed Hope and Memorial.



### **MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS**

The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

We now begin the 2024 Soup Bowl season. Come and paint with us. No experience necessary.

We will have a special box in our ceramic room to collect items to be delivered to Project Concern. Our donation jar will be out all year round to put your pocket change or paper money in for Project Concern special projects. Specific items needed for the month of April are toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your enthusiasm in whatever project has come into our classroom. I appreciate your time, dedication, and flexibility when I need to change the schedule.

The ceramic class is looking for old buttons and broken old jewelry for an upcoming project. Collection bin outside the ceramic room or drop off on Mondays between 1 and 9 PM.

Please contact Mary Schultz at 414-526-2715 if you would like more information about the MUMC Ceramic Class.



# OUTREACH NEWS

## FOOD OFFERING

**April 7th**



CANNED BEANS are in such need! Red, pinto, cannellini, black, great northern, green, butter, chick pea, Pork & Beans. This is a big staple for many families and the pantry is very low! Also canned soup, tuna, peanut butter, canned chicken, mac & cheese, any breakfast cereal, oatmeal, and crackers too! Toilet paper, toothpaste, bar soap too! Please pick up a few extra items every time you shop and bring them to church.

PLEASE NOTE: The pantry will not accept products that are expired, damaged, or open.

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



It's time to submit the address of your college student for the college care packages. (Note: We will use the same addresses from the list used last fall. Please contact Karen if there have been any changes.)

If you have a child or grandchild who is attending college, we would like to let them know that the church family is thinking of them.

Donations for the packages can be placed in the labeled box in the narthex. Please remember that all items, store bought or home-made, must be individually wrapped.

For any questions, please contact Karen Drescher.

## COIN BASKET



We will collect coins for "Rooted and Rising Food Pantry" (formerly named UM Food Pantry). Rooted and Rising begins to plant a community garden in May.

We will collect money to go toward the plants and seeds that they will grow for fresh vegetables for late summer/fall harvest. Dig deep and throw your spare change into the bowl at the back of church, or write out your check to "Blessed Hope" and in the memo write "Rooted and Rising Community Garden."



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are low on prayer shawls! So the group will focus on that in the coming months. Check the classroom for yarn.



## ONGOING COLLECTIONS



Diapers and Wipes for Shared Journeys



Aluminum Pop Tops for the Ronald McDonald House



Toiletries for Sojourner Truth House



Vitamins for Guatemala



## SCIENCE CAFÉ

You are invited to a presentation by two experts in pharmacology followed by a conversation with community members.

**Tuesday ~ April 9th**

Dinner at 5:30 PM ~ Program from 6 - 7:30 PM

**The Importance of Medication Adherence:  
Taking Your Medicine the Right Way**

Register at: <https://is.gd/Sciencecafe>

## BLOOD DRIVE


**Tuesday ~ April 16th ~ 1 - 5 PM**

When you donate blood, you become an active part of healthcare in your community. Chances are you or someone you know will need blood someday and, by making the commitment to donate blood regularly, you help ensure it is available for patients in need.

Call Memorial UMC for more information:

414-545-2440

# BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ APRIL 2024

| <i>SUNDAY</i>                                                                                        | <i>MONDAY</i>                                                                                                         | <i>TUESDAY</i>                                                                                      | <i>WEDNESDAY</i>                                    | <i>THURSDAY</i>                                                                                                  | <i>FRIDAY</i> | <i>SATURDAY</i>                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                      | <b>1</b><br>10 AM<br>Bible Study<br>1-9 PM<br>Ceramics at<br>Memorial<br>UMC                                          | <b>2</b>                                                                                            | <b>3</b><br>7 PM<br>Urban Poiema<br>Bible Study     | <b>4</b><br>7 PM NA                                                                                              | <b>5</b>      | <b>6</b><br>9:30 AM OA                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>7</b><br>8:55 AM Worship<br>Holy Communion<br>Food Offering<br>11 AM Urban Poiema<br>Church       | <b>8</b><br>10 AM<br>Bible Study<br>1-9 PM<br>Ceramics at<br>Memorial<br>UMC                                          | <b>9</b><br>Science Café<br>at Memorial<br>UMC<br>Dinner at<br>5:30 PM<br>Program from<br>6-7:30 PM | <b>10</b><br>7 PM<br>Urban Poiema<br>Bible Study    | <b>11</b><br>7 PM NA                                                                                             | <b>12</b>     | <b>13</b><br>8 - Noon<br>United<br>Women in<br>Faith<br>Conference<br>Watch Party<br>9 AM Men's<br>Breakfast at<br>The Forum<br>Restaurant<br>9:30 AM OA<br>1 PM - ?<br>T-Shirt/Tote<br>Project |
| <b>14</b><br>8:55 AM Worship<br>Native American<br>Ministries Sunday<br>11 AM Urban Poiema<br>Church | <b>15</b><br>10 AM<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 PM<br>Administrative<br>Council<br>1-9 PM<br>Ceramics at<br>Memorial<br>UMC | <b>16</b><br>1-5 PM Blood<br>Drive at<br>Memorial<br>UMC                                            | <b>17</b><br>7 PM<br>Urban Poiema<br>Bible Study    | <b>18</b><br>12 PM Dining<br>Out at The<br>Forum<br>Restaurant<br>7 PM NA                                        | <b>19</b>     | <b>20</b><br>9:30 AM OA                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>21</b><br>8:55 AM Worship<br>11 AM Urban Poiema<br>Church                                         | <b>22</b><br>10 AM<br>Bible Study<br>1-9 PM<br>Ceramics at<br>Memorial<br>UMC                                         | <b>23</b><br>Newsletter<br>Articles Due                                                             | <b>24</b><br>7 PM<br>Urban Poiema<br>Bible Study    | <b>25</b><br>7 PM NA                                                                                             | <b>26</b>     | <b>27</b><br>8:30 AM<br>Women's<br>Breakfast at<br>The Forum<br>Restaurant<br>9:30 AM OA                                                                                                        |
| <b>28</b><br>8:55 AM Worship<br>11 AM Urban Poiema<br>Church                                         | <b>29</b><br>10 AM<br>Bible Study<br>1-9 PM<br>Ceramics at<br>Memorial<br>UMC                                         | <b>30</b>                                                                                           | <b>May 1</b><br>7 PM<br>Urban Poiema<br>Bible Study | <b>May 2</b><br><br>7 PM NA | <b>May 3</b>  | <b>May 4</b><br>9:30 AM OA                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Church Directory**

**UPDATE**



If you had a change of address, phone number, and/or email address since the last publication of the church directory in June 2023, and have not already done so, please notify me. Please put your changes **in writing** and leave them in my inbox in the church office **or** notify me by email.

Thank you,  
Jeanine Mazur ~ Secretary

### DINING OUT GROUP



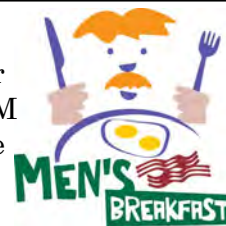
The Dining Out Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, April 18th at Noon. We will gather at The Forum restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton. Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend via call, text, or email.

414-651-5775

chrisz116@outlook.com

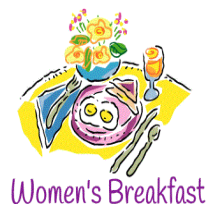
### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, April 13th at The Forum restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast will be at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 27th at The Forum restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



### WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

#### April

#### Dates

#### Communion Stewards

|    |                              |                  |
|----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 7  | Kari Hendricks & Edith Clark |                  |
|    | <b>Liturgist</b>             | <b>Ushers</b>    |
| 7  | Karen Drescher               | Marie Garnhart   |
|    |                              | <b>Volunteer</b> |
| 14 | Bonnie Snyder                | Marie Garnhart   |
|    |                              | Edith Clark      |
| 21 | Dan Perry                    | Marie Garnhart   |
|    |                              | Edith Clark      |
| 28 | Pam Weed                     | Marie Garnhart   |
|    |                              | Edith Clark      |

### Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Rob or the church office when members and/or friends of Blessed Hope are sick, hospitalized, having surgery, undergoing medical treatment, have special concerns, etc. Pastor Rob will lift you up in prayer during the Sunday Worship Service.



### BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Church's Website:**  
[www.blessedhopeumc-westallis.org](http://www.blessedhopeumc-westallis.org)

**Office Email:**  
[secretaryblessedhopeumc@outlook.com](mailto:secretaryblessedhopeumc@outlook.com)

**Office Phone Number:**  
414-541-9050

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Wednesday ~ 9:00 AM - 1PM

**Pastor's Email:**  
[robdodum@gmail.com](mailto:robdodum@gmail.com)

**Pastor's Phone Number:**  
414-238-8367

### STAFF

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Pastor:</b>             | Rev. Rob Odum       |
| <b>Organist:</b>           | Sue Weber           |
| <b>Director of Choirs:</b> | Karen Drescher      |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Jeanine Mazur       |
| <b>Custodian:</b>          | Christine Stapleton |

### LAY LEADERS

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Administrative Council:</b>       | Dale Shively   |
| <b>Board of Trustees:</b>            | Paul Drescher  |
| <b>Finance:</b>                      | George Affeldt |
| <b>SPRC:</b>                         | Cheryl Perry   |
| <b>Outreach:</b>                     | Cathy Shively  |
| <b>Worship:</b>                      | Karen Drescher |
| <b>Christian Education:</b>          | Dale Shively   |
| <b>Hospitality &amp; Fellowship:</b> | Sue Gordon     |
| <b>Wills &amp; Memorials:</b>        | Sue Gordon     |
| <b>Electronic Media Coord.:</b>      | Cheryl Perry   |