



THE BLESSING

MAY 2024

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

As we approach the sacred season of Pentecost, we are reminded of the profound outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples, igniting within them a fervent zeal and empowering them to boldly proclaim the Gospel message to the ends of the earth. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, a vibrant community of believers united in faith, hope, and love, and commissioned to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.



In this season of Pentecost, we are called to reflect upon the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and within our faith communities. The Spirit breathes new life into our hearts and minds, guiding us, inspiring us, and equipping us for the work of ministry. Just as the disciples were filled with the Spirit and emboldened to envision a future shaped by the kingdom of God, so too are we invited to discern God's vision for our congregation and our ministries, guided by the same Spirit.

Visioning for the future is an essential aspect of our faith journey as individuals and as a faith community. It requires us to prayerfully discern God's will, to listen attentively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and to courageously step forward in faith, trusting that God will lead us where we need to go. As we engage in the process of visioning, may we be open to new possibilities, attentive to the needs of our community, and faithful to the calling that God has placed upon our lives.

The prophet Joel proclaimed, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions" (Joel 2:28, NIV). In this season of Pentecost, let us embrace the prophetic vision that God has for us, individually and collectively. Let us dream dreams and see visions of a future filled with hope, justice, and reconciliation. And let us be bold and courageous in pursuing that vision, knowing that the same Spirit who empowered the early disciples is alive and active among us today.

As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, may we be renewed in our commitment to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, guided by the Spirit, and empowered to proclaim the good news to all the world.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Pastor Rob





- 5/1 Lynda Burish
 5/2 Patti Chatham
 5/4 Makayla Counsell
 5/7 Karen Drescher
 Russell Brost
 Peter Brzozowski
 5/8 Linda Schultz
 5/10 Anne Geigel-Grams
 Robin Grams
 5/18 Nancy Hart
 5/19 Matthew Gorney
 5/22 Bob Anderson
 5/24 Vern Fisher
 5/25 Jackie Miron
 5/27 Amber Rosewitz
 5/29 Dick Lierman



- 5/6 Russell & Lenore Brost
 5/20 Dale & Cathy Shively



PAYING IT FORWARD

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow . . . So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6: 7, 9



According to the Good News Network, 84% of adult Americans agree with the idea that “what goes around comes around.” Many also say that they will go out of their way to “pay it forward” whenever possible.

Respondents reported that they were doing so in a number of ways, including:

- Treating their loved ones to something special (50%)
- Giving generous tips (48%)
- Helping out a neighbor by carrying their groceries or shoveling snow (46%)
- Donating money to organizations or charities (40%) In addition, almost four in ten said they volunteered their time to help friends or family or supported locally owned business.

The average adult engages in five generous acts per week, which adds up to 260 random acts of kindness each year. Whether it’s to align their cosmic mojo or simply acting out of human nature, those who pay it forward believe these acts have real effects on more than those on the receiving end. Americans feel better about themselves (49%), feel better about their life overall (37%), and feel more confident (22%) when they extend kindness to others.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

On March 27th we very successfully hosted a general meeting of Church Women United. Special thanks go to Sue Schulkers and Karen Drescher for great music, and to the rest of our unit for food contributions and time spent hosting the “Meet and Greet” time before the meeting and providing the clean-up. Also special thanks to Jim Thomas for help with “set-up” for that fellowship time. Instead of an April meeting, we hosted a Conference Social Action Day ZOOM Watch party. There were only three of us in attendance, but the technology worked perfectly and there were two very interesting speakers on the topic of the courts and corrections justice system. The first speaker, a judge, dealt mainly with youth (the child custody to incarceration pipeline). The second speaker dealt with issues of incarcerated women, especially those giving birth while incarcerated.

The pot-luck planned for June is cancelled, due to various conflicts. But since we didn’t meet in April, we will meet on the **first** Tuesday in May.

Final meeting until fall: Tuesday ~ May 7th ~ 11:00 a.m.

Devotions: Marie Garnhart

Hostess: Sharon Thomas

Please bring a sandwich as usual.



Are you interested in Electronic Giving? Blessed Hope is considering adding an electronic giving program as a way to automate your offerings. The secure option of donating will be added to our website should we receive a positive number of those interested.

If you like the idea of electronic giving, please let George Affeldt know about your interest or contact the church office by email or phone.

Thank you.



Many of us enjoy fellowship time after the church service. BUT-- we do need volunteers!!! If you are able to contribute on any Sunday, but would like some assistance or someone to volunteer with, talk to Sue Gordon. We would like to continue our fellowship time since it is a important and meaningful part of our Sunday mornings.



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 **no later than May 31st.**

Thank you,
Jeanine Mazur ~ Secretary

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements will be coming in early May. Please watch for them by email or pick them up in the narthex.

Sharon Thomas
Finance Secretary



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. Don't be bashful. No experience necessary. To date, we have 48 bowls ready for the next Blessing in September 2024.

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 May is hand and bar soap.

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

May 5th

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.

COIN BASKET

We will collect coins through the month of May /June for UMCOR Disaster Relief. Please reach deep into your pockets and donate to this ongoing mission.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Lapghans and prayer shawls are in great demand, so the group will focus on this for a while 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



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

May 26th



Do Justice
Practice Kindness
Walk Humbly With God

Your generous gift supports Peace with Justice ministries locally and globally. Half of the offering stays within your annual conference and is managed by the conference Peace with Justice Coordinator and the other half is administered by the General Board of Church and Society for ministry around the world.

WHAT IS ALDERSGATE DAY?

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24 (or the Sunday closest) to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London. As he heard a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his "heart strangely warmed." Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Charles Wesley only a few days before had also had a conversion experience in a building that still stands on an adjacent block (John Bray's house on Little Britain). We do not know whether the building where John Wesley's experience took place still exists, nor exactly in which building on Aldersgate Street it may have been if it still stands. A monument at the London Museum on Aldersgate Street marks where some believe the building may have been.

Over time, Aldersgate Street has been shortened by common Methodist usage to simply Aldersgate. The word has come to represent both the place and John Wesley's experience.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications

BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7 PM Urban Poiema Bible Study	2  7 PM NA	3	4 9:30 AM OA
5 8:55 AM Worship Holy Communion Food Offering 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	6 10 AM Bible Study 1-6 PM <i>(please note early end time)</i> Ceramics at Memorial UMC	7 11 AM United Women in Faith	8 7 PM Urban Poiema Bible Study	9 7 PM NA	10	11 8 AM-Noon UWF District Meeting 9 AM Men's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 AM OA
12  8:55 AM Worship Mother's Day 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	13 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	14 Science Café 5:30 PM Dinner 6-7:30 PM Presentation	15 7 PM Urban Poiema Bible Study	16 12 PM Dining Out at The Forum Restaurant 7 PM NA	17	18 9:30 AM OA
19  8:55 AM Worship 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	20 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22 7 PM Urban Poiema Bible Study	23 7 PM NA	24  Aldersgate Day	25 8:30 AM Women's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 AM OA
26  8:55 AM Worship Peace with Justice Offering 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	27  Church Office Closed 8 AM-Noon OA Special Meeting <i>No Ceramics at Memorial UMC</i>	28	29 7 PM Urban Poiema Bible Study	30 7 PM NA	31	



DINING OUT GROUP



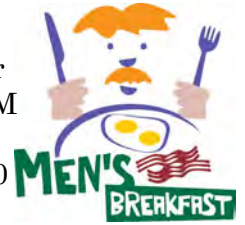
The Dining Out Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, May 16th at Noon. We will gather at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton. Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend via call, text, or email.

414-651-5775

chrisz116@outlook.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, May 11th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

May

Dates

Communion Stewards

5 Sharon Thomas & Nicole Counsell

Liturgist

Ushers

5 Kari Hendricks Marie Garnhart
Edith Clark

12 Bonnie Snyder Marie Garnhart
Edith Clark

19 Karen Drescher Marie Garnhart
Edith Clark

26 Pam Weed Marie Garnhart
Edith Clark

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast will be at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 25th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



Women's Breakfast

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

Office Email:
secretaryblessedhopeumc@outlook.com

Office Phone Number:
414-541-9050

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

Pastor's Email:
robodum@gmail.com

Pastor's Phone Number:
414-238-8367

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Rob Odum
Organist: Sue Weber
Director of Choirs: Karen Drescher
Secretary: Jeanine Mazur
Custodian: Christine Stapleton

LAY LEADERS

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