



# The Current

March 2023

Monthly News for our Port Edwards United Methodist Church Members.

## A Message from Your Pastor

I've been reflecting deeply on the words our U.S. President spoke upon last week:  
*"That's all a person can hope for during their lifetime—to set an example—and when they are dead, be an inspiration for history"* (William McKinley).  
I think this is what we all should inspire to become!

### *How will history look back on us 125 years from now?*

For those who do not know me, I am your new minister, Rev. Frank A. Nimits. I was appointed to your Central Wisconsin Circuit through the Wisconsin Annual Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church. Because of the size of my circuit, I can only be with you once a month. My circuit includes all of Wood, Adams, Portage, and Marathon Counties.

### *I would like to offer you some musings concerning recent events:*

- ☞ We are still in prayer for the 266 lives lost on the USS *Maine*, which exploded in Havana harbor in Cuba last week. As the U.S. continue its war with Spain, we ask for prayers that the Treaty of Paris will be signed soon to end this war.
- ☞ President McKinley received a letter on April 5<sup>th</sup> from Annie Oakley, offering the government the services of a company of 50 'lady sharpshooters' should the war increase with Spain.  
*Can you believe that?*  
*Women in the military?*  
*What's next? Votes for women?*  
*Women in the workforce?*
- ☞ I'm writing this announcement after having a surprisingly satisfying new kind of breakfast—a "corn flake" cereal that W.K. Kellogg invented this year. I hope that he can figure out how to frost them soon and keep them from getting soggy so quickly!

- ☞ Apparently, I was told I needed to try out Caleb Bradham's new carbonated soft drink he calls "Pepsi-Cola." Have you tried it yet? I'd go and get one, but my buggy is in the shop getting some brand new "Good Year" tires on it.
- ☞ *Can you believe it?* I saw my first electric buggy on the road last week. Although we've been hearing about these auto-whatsits since 1893, I'm not sure it'll catch on. Too noisy and too slow. And they don't even come with a cup holder! It'll put the farriers out of business!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:  
OUR 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION IS  
SUNDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

As we close out this turbulent century and end this decade of “the Gay Nineties,” let us look back at the major events in Wisconsin history this past decade:

- ✍ In 1890, the state supreme court decided that Bible-reading in the public schools is sectarian instruction, and therefore unconstitutional.
- ✍ 1892 was the year of many fires across the state. One in Iron River on July 25<sup>th</sup> and a succession of fires in Milwaukee.
- ✍ In 1894, we all remember the disastrous forest fires that swept through Douglas, Hayfield, Ashland, Chippewa, Pierce, Taylor, Marathon, and Wood Counties. Phillips, the county seat of Price, was almost entirely destroyed; over twenty people lost their lives.
- ✍ In 1895, legislation passed to prohibit race discrimination in restaurants, inns, and other public accommodations in Wisconsin.
- ✍ Last year, minimum age for employment was raised from age 13 to 14.
- ✍ This year, we have raised and equipped four regiments of infantry and one battery for the Spanish-American War—5,469 men in all.

Finally, I would like to impart to you some local news that might be of interest:

✍ We will be establishing the first permanent house of worship in Port Edwards this year! We all know the late Mrs. John Edwards, Jr. If you don't know her, she is the daughter-in-law to John Edwards who founded our village and own our local sawmill. She just spent \$1,400 of her own money purchasing the old schoolhouse and has offered this to the village as a chapel, since we do not yet have any permanent house of worship within our village. It is already fairly old; some of our older members remember when it was first built, back in the early 1830's. They shared many fond memories going to school there and sending their children and children's children there as well.

*Wasn't life so much simpler back then?*

*When our country was more united?*

Mrs. J. Edwards, Jr. plans to move the schoolhouse to the end of the Letendre Avenue, near the river, to land she is donating, then do extensive remodeling. The chapel will seat about 125 people, feature two refurbished outhouses only 30 yards away, and plenty of parking posts for our horses.

✍ I have been conversing with the other ministers in town. They also need a house of worship. While the chapel will be under the direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church, we wish to serve all denominations represented in Port Edwards. We are planning to share this chapel regularly with the Catholics and Lutherans. A preliminary schedule for Sunday mornings will be: Pope Leo XIII (8:00-8:30), M. Luther (9:00-9:45), and J. Wesley (10:00-11:00).

✍ We are currently in a heated debate over the new name of our chapel. The priest wants it to be called “SAINT MARY'S OF THE PORT,” the Lutheran pastor wants it to be called “DIE HILDEGARD VAN BINGEN GEDÄCHTNISKIRCHE,” and I proposed “PORT EDWARDS METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.” Mrs. John Edwards, Jr. suggested a fourth option: “Community Chapel.”

✍ Our first Sunday worship service will be later this month; it will be a combined service for the purpose of consecrating our new house of worship. The Catholics will bring the smells and bells, the Lutherans will bring Holy Communion and Bibles, and the Methodists will bring the songbooks and casseroles!

With great affection, *The Rev. Frank A. Nimits*  
(dated: Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 1898<sup>th</sup> Year of Our Lord)





## **“SOUP FOR THE SOUL”**

This project will result in a compilation of your responses to be included in a special PEUMC publication that will help tell the church's story

### ***March PEUMC ‘Soup for the Soul’ question/reflection:***



**“Tell us about how you have given back to the community (as a volunteer) and how this experience has shaped you as a person.”**

## **LOOKING AHEAD: 2023 BIMONTHLY MISSIONS:**

**May-June:**

**Harbor House in Superior, WI**

**(with a mission trip to work at H.H. in late June, early July)**

**July-August:**

**Mary's Place (new ministry in Wisc. Rapids; from Marshfield)**

**September-October: Annual Christmas Gifts for Local Kids /**

**Nekoosa's 'Families Helping Families' ministry**

**November-December: we will let Christmas needs & current events decide**



# Looking Ahead

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday in Lent <i>Communion Sunday</i>	Jonah 3:10-4:4 Matthew 20:1-16 <i>"Laborers in the Vineyard"</i>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Third Sunday in Lent	Proverbs 9:1-6; 1:23-28 Matthew 22:1-14 <i>"The Wedding Banquet"</i>
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Exodus 31:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30 <i>"The Parable of the Talents"</i>
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Women's History</i>	Ezekiel 34:17-22 Matthew 25:31-46 <i>"When Did We See You?"</i>

## LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Palm-Passion Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-11 Matthew 21:1-13 <i>"Jesus Enters Jerusalem"</i>
<b>Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Service</b> <b>Location &amp; Time: TBA</b>
<b>Friday April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Service</b> <b>Location &amp; Time: TBA</b>
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday	Breakfast @ 8:30 AM meal will conclude with a <i>"simple "service"</i> Choir practice @ 9:15 AM Regular Service @ 10:00 AM



# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Special Event on March 2

Plan now for our time in March! We have a VERY special event planned... If you're a regular attendee or have never come this is the time to be here! Bring a brown bag lunch and your friends for a program that is guaranteed to be filled with love, laughter, and challenges for us. Here's the scoop on our VERY special speaker.

**Pamela Karg** set off on a 6-week Individual Volunteer in Mission assignment to UMCOR in Armenia and, 18 years later, she's now returned to help her 83-year-old Mum in Milwaukee. During these years, she also extended her volunteering to include U.S. Agency for International Development's Farmer to Farmer Program for in-person assignments in 14 African countries, Jamaica and, most recently, Moldova, as well as volunteering with a Republic of Georgia NGO started by former UMWIM originally from Wisconsin. Karg also did several virtual Farmer to Farmer assignments when global travel was shut down during COVID.

**FARMER TO FARMER**  
The USAID John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

*Karg will be our guest speaker on March 2 beginning at 12:15 PM to talk about some of her experiences, lessons learned and her perspectives on the world gained through these years of formal and informal service to others.*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

***Our regular Sunday Service will \*not\* be held at PEUMC - We are having a combined service at Wisconsin Rapids First United Methodist Church (WRUMC).***

You may know that WRUMC's normal services are held at 9:00 AM, but they are moving it to **10:00 AM** for us.

- I (Pastor Caleb) will be leading the service.
- A representative from **Northcott Neighborhood House** in Milwaukee will be presenting.
- Following our service, we will be having a potluck with our Methodist neighbors.
- No Sunday School that day!



## About NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE



NNH is a multipurpose community center created by the United Methodist Church in 1961. They provide education, employment opportunities, and basic necessities to youth, families, and senior citizens in the Milwaukee area. Their goal is to lift the spirit of the whole community through our mission:

- *To empower families to meet their survival needs and provide good parenting to their children.*
- *To provide a safe place for youth as well as recreational and skill-building activities*
- *To provide the neighborhood with space, activities, and the opportunity to engage in community building and crime prevention.*



## U.M.C.O.R. Sunday

**-A SPECIAL OFFERING-**

**March 19th is UMCOR Sunday.** This is our annual offering. The first part of this offering goes toward the overhead costs of running UMCOR (The U.nited M.ethodist C.ommittee O.n R.elief)—the humanitarian arm of our denomination. Because of this offering, 100% of our emergency offerings throughout the year go directly to the places we designate. UMCOR continues to provide kits and buckets for a variety of disaster-related catastrophes (see our “InGathering” collection), but they no longer send supplies overseas. In most cases, UMCOR gives grants to the local United Methodist Churches to administer themselves—thus, reducing the cost of shipping supplies, empowering local congregations, and stimulating the local economy. UMCOR also coordinates disaster relief efforts through certified volunteers.

Pastor Caleb is an UMCOR-certified Early Responder. He went with a group to Victoria, Texas after Hurricane Harvey to tarp roofs. Pastor Caleb also worked with an UMCOR grant when a tornado went through Taylorville, Illinois in 2018. Taylorville First UMC received ~\$50,000 start-up money from UMCOR to help with long-term recovery in their town.



**NO W. orship O. n W. ednesdays in March**

# LENTEN SERVICES '23

## Our Special Lenten Services

### A Journey of Stones

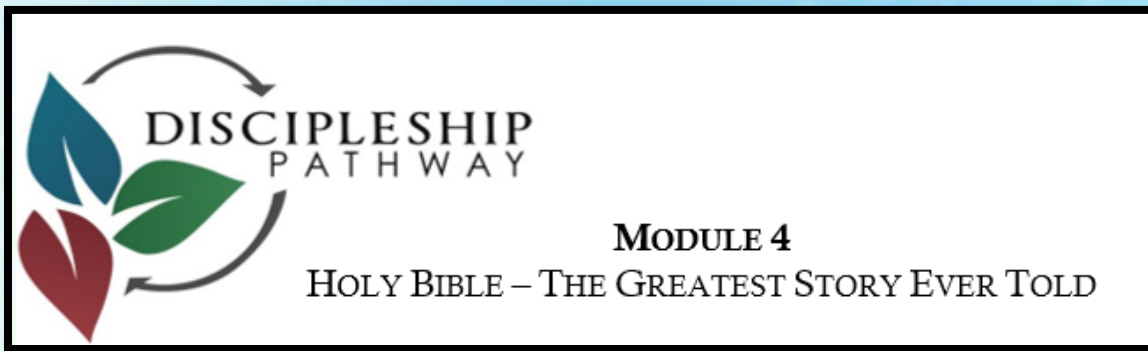
Prepare for a journey of prayerful and honest repentance—a powerful, life-changing journey! Along the way, we will confess our faith, we will weep with sorrow, and we will tell the truth about ourselves. We will stand together at the foot of the cross, lay our stones—and our sins—down, and leave in wonder.

*(Each service is hosted at PEUMC from 7-8 PM – Pastor Caleb preaching.)*

Wednesday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>	“REJECTED STONES”	<i>Psalm 118; Mark 12:1-2</i>
Wednesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	“STICKS AND STONES”	<i>John 8:1-12</i>
Wednesday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	“HEARTS OF STONE”	<i>Luke 11:37-52</i>
Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“UPON THIS ROCK”	<i>Matthew 16:13-20</i>
Wednesday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	“CRYING STONES”	<i>Luke 19:29-40</i>



- 8:15-9:00 AM - Easter breakfast (potluck-style) - Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM - Simple service shortly before 9:00 AM.  
(This service will allow those who need to leave early for travel.)
- 9:15 AM - The choir practice
- 10:00 AM - Our regular Easter Service and Sunday School!



**DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY is a series of 8 modules (units) which covers a variety of topics that seeks to educate and enhance the Christian life.**

### **Discipleship Pathway – Module #4 for May (looking ahead)**

The fourth module in our 8-module Discipleship Pathway is titled: “Holy Bible: The Only Story Ever Told.” This module is all about our sacred scriptures. This module will take place during the month of May and will feature 3 in-person gatherings. Times will be determined by those who sign up!



### **Bunco & Baked Potato Night - Part 2**

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Baked potato bar starts at 4:30 PM,  
Game begins at 6:00 PM



We need at least **3 people** to help plan our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event! Please respond by calling the church office by March 15<sup>th</sup>.  
(Beware the Ides of March!)

We also would like to train **5-6 people** on how to use our PowerPoint program and new computer/camera setup in our sanctuary. The project is also finished, and we'll need some adventurous souls to help run it!





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
February 26	February 27	February 28	1	2	3	4
			Elevator Mtg. – 10 AM Lenten Service 7:00 PM “Rejected Stones”	12:15 PM - UWIF Special Event <i>World Day of Prayer</i>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 AM Service 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday			Lenten Service 7:00 PM “Sticks & Stones”			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 AM Service 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  @WISC. RAPIDS United Methodist Church			The Ides of March: Have a ‘Caesar’ salad today! Lenten Service 7:00 PM “Hearts of Stone”		A pinch for Patty  St. Patrick’s Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 AM Service 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday Church Council Mtg		NURTURE/ CHILDREN MTG. — 10 AM	Lenten Service 7:00 PM “Upon This Rock”			
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
10:00 AM Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Women’s History Sunday School Ministry Team Mtg			Lenten Service 7:00 PM “Crying Stones”			

# Noteworthy

## MARCH/APRIL MISSION - INGATHERING 2023

Ingathering is an annual collection of items for Midwest Missions Distribution Center located in Chatham, Illinois. They are associated with the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). MMDC provides *birthing kits, feminine hygiene kits, tornado kits, layette kits, student kits, personal dignity kits, home care kits, bed packs*. They also make school desks out of old floorboards, refurbish old sewing machines, and repair old bikes. They distribute these kits and items around the world where the needs are the greatest.

Visit their website at [midwestmission.org/kits](http://midwestmission.org/kits)

**Port Edwards UMC is, once again, a drop off site for the Wisconsin Conference.**

This year, we are focusing on the **Personal Dignity Kits** and **Home Care Kits** (see items below). We are not collecting entire kits but are inviting you to bring an assortment of the following items. **Please take note of the specifics. Because of shipping and weighing, they can only accept certain sizes of products. All these items will be taken to Green Bay for Annual Conference 2023 (first weekend in June).**



### HOME CARE KIT

#### Items for the Kit

- Liquid household cleaners - 56-80oz total (no spray bottles)
- Dish soap - 42-64oz total
- Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150oz total
- 1 scrub brush (with or without handle)
- 5-gallon bucket with lid
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit



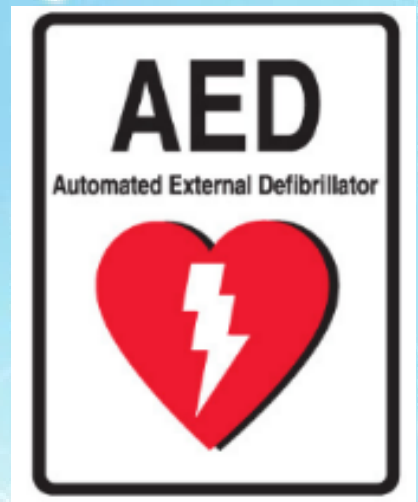
### PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT

#### Items for the Kit

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush - no multipacks
- 1 Bar soap - 3 to 4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 12 to 19 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2 to 3 oz (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit

# AED TRAINING, A REVIEW

On Sunday, February 12th, in recognition of Healthy Heart Month, Joan Harnisch offered us a demonstration of our new Philips AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Our AED is in the most central area between the sanctuary and educational wing of the church. It is on the wall near the old main entrance doors.



## Steps to take when someone collapses:

- **Call 9-1-1 first!**
- Check to see if the person has a pulse. Place two fingers on the person's neck under their jawbone. Count to ten: "1-1,000, 2-1,000, 3-1,000" etc. If there is a pulse, however faint, use the AED. AED's normally do not restart a stopped heart. AED's actually stop a beating heart to reset it.
- Open the AED pack and push the green **"START"** button. The machine will guide you with a clear, loud voice.
- There are two pads in the AED pack. These are meant for adults. The pads have pictures on them instructing you where to place them on the body (one of the right chest, one of the left side). Tearing off the cover off the pads activates them for use.
- The machine will discern if a shock is needed or not. Don't be alarmed if it does say anything. Not everyone will need a shock at this point.
- The shocks do not come automatically; the device will tell you if, and when, to press the red **"SHOCK"** button. You must stand clear of the individual when the button is pressed. You may be asked to deliver several shocks.
- Also inside our AED pack is an auxiliary bag which includes: special pads for children, a razor for shaving particularly hairy skin to prepare for the pads, a towel to dry off skin, and other First Aid-related items.
- Our AED pack also comes with an easy-to-read pictured instructions.
- "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) bracelets do *\*not\** apply to non-professional bystanders. Use the AED!
- An AED will not help a heart attack victim; a heart attack is a plumbing issue; cardiac arrest is an electrical issue. A heart attack victim often is in pain but still breathing and responsive; do not use the AED. A cardiac arrest victim is often unresponsive and not breathing.
- Do not place an AED pad directly on or near a pacemaker or personal defibrillator. *(additional information obtained from mayoclinic.org / avive.life / nhlbi.nih.gov)*





We collected **\$391** for UMCOR earthquake relief efforts in Turkey & Syria.



We have collected **\$650**, reaching our goal of \$500 for HEIFER INTERNATIONAL! \$500 was enough to purchase one heifer for a place in the world that needs such an animal for local economic stimulation and stability. The additional \$150 is enough to purchase a sheep/goat (\$120) and a flock of chicks (\$20). Whoever will receive the young female cow will be eternally grateful for PEUMC's simple generosity *"for heifer and heifer!"*



### MEMBERSHIP LETTER

Sometime in March, you will receive a letter in the mail from PEUMC. The purpose of this letter is to update and complete our membership records.

A letter with details will be sent to every member of our congregation.

Amy Palik, our office administrator, and Pastor Caleb believe that obtaining, retaining, and maintaining accurate records in the church is one way we can respect and celebrate faith journeys of our members.

As a "family member" of PEUMC, we hope that you will help us complete, or correct, the information we already have. The due date will be the last day in March.



We will soon have a new dishwasher installed in the church kitchen!  
When Jeff gives the OK,  
bring your dirty plates over and give it spin!



# Community

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS,  
FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS  
IN FEBRUARY!**



A program of Aspirus Riverview Hospital  
made possible by United Way of  
South Wood & Adams Counties

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

- Julie Berg
- Pat & Kathy McGrath
- Sue Mitchell
- Nina Pelo
- Leo & Sue Thomasgard

Every four weeks, PEUMC volunteers deliver a hot and nutritious noon meal to homes of Wisconsin Rapids area residents who are unable to prepare their own meals. Anyone interested in helping with this program may contact Becky Taylor (715-887-2163) for more information. **THANK YOU!**

**Port Edwards Lions Club Pancake Brunch**



**ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!**

- Pancakes:
  - Buttermilk
  - Cranberry
  - Chocolate Chip
- Scrambled eggs
- Sausage
- Applesauce
- Beverages

\*\*Port Edwards Baseball Association will be holding a bake sale as well!!\*\*  
All funds raised will go to PEBA!

- AT PORT EDWARDS HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

- MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

8AM - 12PM

- ADULTS: \$8  
- CHILDREN (3 TO 10): \$5



At our last potluck, Sharon Morell brought this beautiful cake in memory of Roberta Morell. Such beautiful work and so thoughtful as we honored Roberta.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**March 2**  
**Pat McGrath**

**March 4**  
**Addalynn Kawleski**

**March 5**  
**Curtis Frost**

**March 11**  
**Page Clark**

**March 13**  
**Becky Taylor**

**March 15**  
**Jean Osteraas**

**March 19**  
**Bill Lindroth**

**March 23**  
**Nathan Haddow**

**March 24**  
**Travis Hintz**

**March 25**  
**Samantha Gustin**

**March 27**  
**Kali Mayek**

**March 29**  
**Rose Wirtz**



**March 4**  
**Bob & Lynn Dunahee**

**March 7**  
**Dennis & LuAnn Slattery**

## **CLASSIC BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

- **LOW SELF-ESTEEM SUPPORT GROUP WILL MEET THURSDAY FROM 7-8:30. PLEASE USE THE BACK DOORS.**
- **USHERS WILL EAT LATECOMERS.**
- **DUE TO THE PASTOR'S ILLNESS, WEDNESDAY'S HEALING SERVICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**
- **IN RECOGNITION OF OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN, WE WILL BE SINGING THE HYMN: "JESUS PAID IT ALL."**
- **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK OF OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**