

May
2025

The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church

Pouring Forth the Living Water: Bloom by the River!



About 60 kids turned up to our third annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th! This year, the Easter Bunny laid **1,258** candy-stuffed eggs! 12 golden eggs earned winners \$3.00 certificates to Swiftwater Ice Cream in Nekoosa. Thanks to the generosity of Chuck L., we were able to serve free hotdogs, chips, and drinks to all in attendance! A special toddler egg hunt took place in the parsonage back yard.



HERE ARE JUST SOME RESPONSES TO THIS YEAR'S LENTEN CHALLENGE (ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS)

I helped a lady with her walker.

I told someone they were appreciated.

I protested against the removal of social support for our neediest citizens.

I delivered treats to a neighbor.

I invited someone to church.

I connected with an old friend.

I wrote a letter and sent a card to a friend I haven't talked to in a long time.

I visited my granddaughter.

I sent birthdays cards & treats to 4 people.

I donated to the Humane Society.

I donated treats to staff at assisted living.

I called shut-ins from the church.

I delivered Meals-on-Wheels.

I helped prepare the coffee fellowship at church.

I walked a friend's dog.

I made a dinner for an elderly neighbor.

I was the greeter at PEUMC for the Lenten service.

I asked about my pedicurist's family.

I made a favorite dessert for a friend for her birthday.

I wrote and sent cards to members for hope and healing.

I prayed for a family member.

I thanked someone for their service.

I made homemade soup for a 91-year-old neighbor.

I put away someone else's shopping cart.

I sent a note to my grandson's friend.

I called a former member of our church who moved away ~15 years ago.

I shared a meal with someone.

I purchased fish dinners and delivered them to friends.

I gave someone a hug.

I paid-it-forward at a local business.

I shopped for another person.

I sent a letter to someone I appreciate.

I gave a complete stranger a compliment.

I offered a ride to our Lenten services.

I held open the door for other people.

I warmly smiled at everyone I saw.

I fasted a day from gossip.

I sat down and listened to someone's life story.

I do a volunteer job.

I called someone at church we haven't seen in a long time.

I avoided complaining for a day.

I prayed for our emergency services, social services, and medical personnel.

I volunteered with children.

I gave someone some photo cards.

I cleared my heart & mind with a thorough prayer of confession.

I prayed for our Ukraine & Russia; for Gaza & Israel.

I made amends with someone.

I paid for someone else's meal.

I left a generous tip at a restaurant.

I prayed for our local & national elected officials.

I donated unused clothing.

I prayed for our nation.

I visited someone who is sick.

I let someone in line in front of me.

I helped load someone's groceries in their car.

I offered to clean up after someone.

I wrote a positive post online.

I left a parking spot closer to the entry for someone else.

I dropped some change in a charity jar.

I told someone I was grateful for them.

I thanked Jesus for what He went through for us.

I rounded up at the check-out.

I called the village office with a compliment.

I counted my blessings all day long!

I prayed for our church and pastor.

easter lily dedications

In memory of . . .

Gerald Studinski
My beloved grandmother:
Huldah Ellen Moore
Dorothy, Ralph, and David Boger
Nancy Klahn
Lloyd & Suzanne Lacasse,
Helen G. Reihmer
Sandy Karlson, Marion Parks
Joe & Alice McGrath,
Don & Lucile White
Helen C. Smith, Ed & Marie Heuer
Betty J. Week
Ellis John Mills
Our granddaughter, Amelia DeMeuse
Lois & Emil Mansavage,
Irene & Don Semple
Marty Kendall, Carl Knapp,
Rachel & Carroll Wise
Tom Wirtz
Bob & Mae Monty,
Paul & Jane Thomasgard

by . . .

Sharon Studinski

Sandy Robinson
Lisa Miller
Gerald Klahn

Maribeth Lacasse-Salo
Bill & Jody Parks

Pat & Kathy McGrath
Edwin & Mary Heuer
Kristin & Gregory Gennero
Kathleen Mills
Tom & Jef DeMeuse

Jean Mansavage

Sue Mitchell
Rose Wirtz

Leo & Sue Thomasgard

In honor of . . .

My son and daughter-in-law,
Trent & Kristina Tell
by Candy Prah-Tell

P.E.U.M.C. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

JENNIFER DEMEUSE



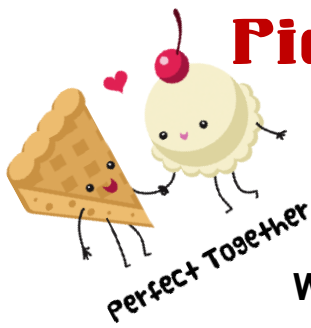
1. Do you have any nicknames? **Jef. My grandmother's name was Jenny. She did not want me to be called "Jenny." When I was 2, my parents found "Jeff" as a nickname. When I married the first time, my father-in-law spelled it with one "f". I liked that and have spelled it that way ever since.**
2. How long have you attended PEUMC? **Since December 2024.**
3. What is your favorite memory about PEUMC? **When my quilt was draped on the altar.**
4. What is your favorite hymn or Christian song? Why? **"I Love to Tell the Story."**
I love the melody and the words. In high school, I was a member of an organization called 'Job's Daughters' which was affiliated with The Masonic Lodge. The 'president' of the group was called 'honored queen.' There were 2 per year. When I was honored queen, my theme for my term was 'I Love to Tell the Story.'
5. What are your hobbies? **Knitting, quilting, gardening, and baking.**
6. What is your favorite holiday tradition? **Christmas ornaments.**
7. What is your favorite food or recipe?
Mashed potatoes & 'Tex Mex' (a Mexican-style *hor d'oeuvre*)
8. What church, or faith tradition, did you grow up with? **Christian Science.**
9. What brought you to this area? **We needed to move from up north. We chose this area because we have grand children in the Green Bay and Minneapolis areas.**
10. Share something fun about yourself that probably nobody here knows about you.
My daughter spent her junior year in college in Tanzania, East Africa. I went to visit her. Seeing Africa was a long time wish of mine. During that trip, I slept in a tent on the Serengeti. It was an amazing trip!
I also took several trips to the Boundary Waters between Minnesota & Canada. They were week-long trips with backpacking and canoeing.
11. What advice would you give someone curious about our religion (Christianity) or denomination (United Methodist) or our local church?
The Port Edwards UMC is a warm & friendly church with a beautiful sanctuary.
12. If you could choose your own superpower, what would it be and why? **X-ray vision. I play a lot of Baja Rummy and it would be nice to know which pile to draw from. ;-)**
13. What is your favorite animal? **Giraffe.** What is your favorite color? **Turquoise.**
What is your favorite restaurant? **Pedros** What is your favorite movie? **John Wayne Westerns**
What is your favorite ice cream? **French vanilla** What is your favorite season? **Spring**

P.E.U.M.C. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

TOM DEMEUSE



1. Do you have any nicknames? **In high school, it was 'Moose.'**
2. How long have you attended PEUMC? **Since December 2024.**
3. What is your favorite memory about PEUMC? **When we joined the church.**
4. What is your favorite hymn or Christian song? Why?
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" & "Not for Me to Understand." Lots of memories.
5. What is your favorite Bible verse or story and why?
"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" Job 38:4
6. What are your hobbies? **Fishing, construction, & repairing.**
7. What is your favorite holiday tradition? **Getting together with loved ones.**
8. What is your favorite food or recipe? **Fresh fried walleye.**
9. What church, or faith tradition, did you grow up with? **Lutheran.**
10. What brought you to this area?
To be closer to family, health reasons, and familiar with the area.
11. Share something fun about yourself that probably nobody here knows about you.
I rebuilt a 1929 Mack Firetruck.
12. What advice would you give someone curious about our religion (Christianity) or denomination (United Methodist) or our local church?
Do as much for the congregation as you are capable of.
13. If you could choose your own superpower, what would it be and why?
Fly like Superman . . . just because it's different.
14. If you had to play a character in the Bible, which character would you most like to play?
Noah or Moses.
15. What is your favorite animal? **Dog.** Favorite color? **Blue.**
Restaurant? **Round the Corner Pub in Mercer, WI.** Sports team? **Milwaukee Braves**
Movie? **Angels & Ornaments.** Ice Cream? **Licorice** Season? **Fall**
Vacation? **Fishing on Woman Lake in Canada**
16. Include any other information you'd like to share with us. **Since about 5-years-old, I grew up around the fire service and I loved serving in the fire service for 50 years.**
(Tom was the chief of the fire department in Shorewood Hills [Madison], while Jef was serving as municipal clerk.)



Pie & Ice Cream Fundraiser

10:00a – 4:00p

Saturday, May 17th

at the church's main entrance.

Why? to fundraise for the repair of our flat roof

We will need 3 people to serve in 3, 2-hour shifts.

BAKE SALE

(brownies, cookies, rice crispy treats)

Two-piece baggies - \$1.00

Bottled water - \$1.00

Saturday, May 17th

@ the Herschleb Home (4th & Ver Bunker)

Circle of Friends fundraiser



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ACTIONS – HIGHLIGHTS

FROM APRIL 13TH, 2025 – third meeting

- We should fundraise as much as we can toward our \$8,550 flat roof repair this summer.
 - Ideas: partner with another local entity for a fundraising dinner
 - Local entity ideas: Lions Club, Rotary, Family Center, etc.
 - Ideas: Use our parking lot during the rummage sale weekend.
 - Ideas: have members set up their own tables to sell; sell baked goods or pie/ice cream.
- We should prioritize our upcoming capital campaign projects
 - From less priority to most priority:
 6. Digital outdoor sign along the highway (~\$20,000)
 5. Making the front doors push-button operable (~\$10,000)
 4. Repair the parking lot (total redo) (\$70,000 - \$100,000)
 3. Finish the downstairs renovations (remove asbestos, paint, replace lights)
 2. Solar panels (will be at #1 if we get a new roof soon)
 1. Renovate bathrooms (downstairs & upstairs; to meet ADA code) (~\$90,000)

At each of our meetings, we open with a devotion from the Bible and a book study. For this year, we chose to look at what a disciple-making process can look like for our congregation.

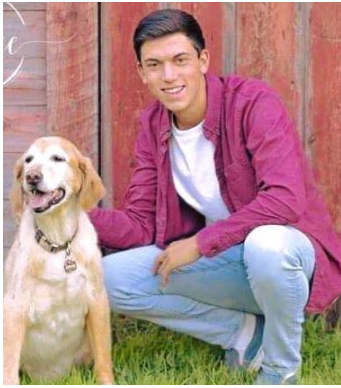


Another beautiful Easter at PEUMC!



Congratulations to our 2025 Graduates:

Danial H.



UW – Green Bay

Carson P.



UW – Madison

Colby G.



John Edwards High School

Our Graduate Sunday will take place on Sunday, May 18th
with a reception following the service.

2025 MISSIONAL GIVING REPORT

MONTH	CAUSE	AMOUNT
Jan.	Human Relations Day Special Offering (1/29)	\$143.00
Jan./Feb.	Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) (3/4)	\$510.00
March	Wisconsin Council of Churches (3/27)	\$150.00
March	Combined Lenten Services Special Offering: Families Helping Families (PESD Benevolence Fund) (3/12, 3/26)	\$210.00
Mar./Apr.	Easter Lilies (21 lilies ordered) (throughout Lent)	\$265.00
April	Final Combined Lenten Service Special Offering: FOCUS Food Pantry (4/9)	\$99.00
April	Wood County Jail Ministry (as of 4/24)	\$100.00
April	College Care Packages (as of 4/24)	\$100.00
Y2D		\$1,577.00

MAY & JUNE FUNDRAISING PROJECT



We need to raise **\$8,550** to replace the flat roof portions of our sanctuary! These areas cover the “music” & “flower” rooms off each side of the chancel. A core sample taken of the membrane shows interior moisture, necessitating a replacement of these roofs (including any insulating materials).

We will pick up a special offering for this on **May 25th** & **June 29th**.

An online giving portal for this project will be added to our Vanco platform for electronic giving.

Children's Church Dates:

Sunday, May 11th - Ellen

GATHERINGS FOR MAY - JUNE

MemoryShare:

Tuesday, May 6th @ 10:30a – El Café
 Tuesday, June 3rd @ 10:30a – El Café

Men's Breakfast:

Saturday, May 3rd – 8:00a – El Café
 Saturday, June 7th – 8:00a – El Café

U.W.I.F.: Thursday, May 1st – 12:15p

(A representative from our Northeast District will lead our program.)

Nurture: Tuesday, May 27th – 11a – El Café

Spring Retreat (UWIF): Saturday, May 3rd (Lake Lucerne Camp)

Mission u (ZOOM): June 17th – 19th – 6:00 – 9:00p
 June 24th – 26th – 6:00 – 9:00p

Mission u (in-person): June 12th – Location TBD

Nurture Notes

Our Nurture Cohorts (Sara T. & Diane S.) met again with Pastor Caleb to begin discussing upcoming nurturing opportunities for the congregation. Our Nurture Ministries have a purpose *“to provide opportunities to fellowship, learn, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, for the building up of the family of God, and nurturing our relationships with one another and with our relationship with Jesus Christ.”*

IN MAY:

- Mother's Day – flowers will be handed out.
- Graduate Sunday – a reception will follow the service. This “reception” also duplicates as a Town Hall meeting with the congregation. During this time, members of our new Leadership Council will offer an update on what has been discussed during our 3 meetings so far. The district superintendent will also be in attendance this Sunday.

IN JUNE:

- Pentecost Sunday is June 8th. We will be hosting a **“church birthday party”** after the service. There will be 6-themed desserts for the 12 months of the year. People will sit at their “birthday” table. It will be a full potluck. Pastor Rebecca Niese will be preaching that Sunday, being Annual Conference weekend.
- We will be participating in a **combined service with Marshfield Wesley UMC** on Sunday, June 22nd. This service will be held at the Dexter Park in Dexterville (along the shores of Dexter Lake). The shelter-house is immediately off HWY 80. The service will be from 11:00 to noon with a potluck lunch to follow.

IN JULY:

- We are planning to host summer services up in the Fellowship Hall on the last two Sundays in July and first two Sundays in August. We are planning for refreshments to be available each of these four Sundays.

IN AUGUST:

- We will be taking part in an ecumenical Vacation Bible School hosted at First Congregational (Aug. 4th – 6th)
- Our Labor Day weekend service with Nekoosa U.C.C. & First Congregational will held at RIPPLE CREEK PARK on Sunday, August 31st. *The Alexander-Edwards Memorial park was already booked.*

HOME GROUPS:

We have subdivided our membership into three parts. These groups will be “nurturing pods” called ‘Home Groups.’ These groups will help bring a sense of intimacy and connectivity to our congregation. While the Nurture Ministries will continue to provide *congregational*-wide opportunities for education and fellowship, our Home Groups will help extend this nurture deeper into the congregation, reaching out to both active and inactive members, both members nearby and at a distance. One group will include all those with a Port Edwards address. Another group will include all those with a Rapids address. The third group will include all those with a Nekoosa address. Any member with an address other than these three have been grouped in with one of the three. We will be seeking out a handful of leaders for each group to coordinate the nurturing activities for each group. More details to come.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5/1 – 6/8

Below are daily scripture readings that are based on Sunday morning's lectionary passages. While these passages will jump around within the Bible, just remember that they have been chosen to align *thematically* with either the previous Sunday's or upcoming Sunday's Bible story.

**These will be printed weekly in our bulletins as well.*

Abbreviations: "Corin." means "Corinthians" / "Thessa." means "Thessalonians."

5/1	Acts 1:12-17, 21-26	Matthias Replaces Judas	5/23	1 Thessa. 4:9-12	Living with Outsiders
5/2	Acts 3:11-26	Peter Speaks in Solomon's Port.	5/24	1 Thessa. 5:14-22	A Discerning Community
5/3	Acts 4:32-37	Believers Share Their Possession	Sun. 5/25	Romans 8:18-25	Paul & The Age to Come
Sun. 5/4	Romans 7:14-20	Paul & Temptation	5/26	1 Thessa. 4:13-17	Christ's Return
5/5	Romans 6:1-7	Paul & Grace	5/27	1 Thessa. 5:1-2	Christ Will Come Again
5/6	Romans 6:12-14	Who Is in Charge?	5/28	1 Corinthians 15:12-19	Death & Resurrection
5/7	1 Corinthians 10:12-13	How God Tests People	5/29 Day of Ascension	Romans 13:11-14 / Acts 1:6-12	Imminent Second Coming / Ascension of Jesus
5/8	Romans 1:18-20	Creation Points to Its Creator	5/30	1 Corin. 15:50-57	Resurrection as Transformation
5/9	Romans 4:9b-12	Faith & Circumcision	5/31	1 Corin. 15:35-44	A Spiritual Body
5/10	2 Corin. 5:16-17	The Old Has Vanished	Ascension Sunday	Luke 24:36-53	The Ascension of Jesus
Sun. 5/11	1 Corin. 7:25-31	Paul & Married Life	6/2	2 Corin. 3:1-3	Paul's Love for His Communities
5/12	1 Corinthians 7:1-7	Sexual Morality	6/3	2 Corin. 1:3-7	Individual and Community
5/13	1 Corinthians 11:3-9	So-Called "Male Superiority"	6/4	1 Corin. 5:9-13	Judging Community Members
5/14	1 Corinthians 14:34-35	Silence the Women!	6/5	1 Corin. 6:9-11	Living Open to God's Reign
5/15	1 Corinthians 7:8-15	Marriage & Divorce	6/6	1 Corin. 12:12-31	Members of One Body
5/16	Philippians 1:9-11	Love	6/7	1 Corin. 10:23-31	True Freedom of Conscience
5/17	Romans 13:8-10	Love Fulfills the Torah.	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2	A Mighty Wind Came
Sun. 5/18	Philippians 2:1-4	Paul & True Fellowship	<i>This is the end of our Journey Through the Bible, Year 3 (Year of Luke)</i>		
5/19	Romans 12:2	Conformity vs. Transformation			
5/20	Philippians 4:4-9	Right Thought & Action			
5/21	Romans 12:9-18	Live in Peace			
5/22	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Many Gifts; One Spirit			

May Households



Throughout May,
our congregation is asked
to pray for the following people:
(randomly chosen on 4/22)

**Joann & Peter K. / Leslie & Pat A. /
Sandy R. / Aaron H. / Tom & Jef D.
Curtis & Linda F. / Ava & Crystal S. /
Pastors Caleb & Doug**

We are challenging our congregation to pray for all 90 households related to the church (members & friends) in the next 12 months. This will be an average of 7.5 households a month. You are encouraged to send emails, cards, letters, or make house calls to these individuals during their month. Check your church directory for contact info.

Worship Servants for April

COMMUNION: CANDY P. CANDLES: CANDY P.	GREETER(S)	USHER	LITURGIST	PEW AMBASSADOR	REFRESHMENTS
SUN., May 4 TH					X
SUN., May 11 TH				Kathy M.	X
SUN., May 18 TH				Diane S.	X
SUN., May 25 TH				Sue T.	X

Please notify the church office if you would like your name down for a certain position and date.

office@peumc.org / 715-887-3011 /



thank you – thank you – thank you – thank you – thank you – thank you – thank you

Thank you to **participants of MemoryShare and Circle of Friends** (and **Connie Cross**) for stuffing 1,528 Easter eggs with candy this year! And to **ALL** who donated the candy!

Thank you to **Leo T.** and **Leona S.** for helping direct the kids during the egg hunt!

Thank you to **Chuck L.** for purchasing, preparing, and serving hotdogs, chips, and drinks for the hunt!

Thank you to **Leo & Sue T., Matt & Korbin B., Mark & Laura F., and Jeff D.** for taking part in the passion reading on Palm-Passion Sunday! And for **Korbin B.** for helping me hammer in the nails!

Thank you to the **members of our walk-in choir** for singing our anthem for Easter!

For **Candy P.-T.** being our liturgist for both Palm-Passion & Easter Sundays, as well as two of our weekday Lenten services!

For **Diane S., Rose W., Sue T., Kathleen M., Becky T., Candy P., Maribeth L., and Sharon S.,** for bringing refreshments to our weekday Lenten services (and for serving as ushers & greeters)!

For **Jennifer M., Candy P., Jef D., Diane & John S., Sara T., and Jerry K.** for bringing food to the Easter breakfast!

Sundays in May

May 4 th	Easter.3 (Communion)	SERIES: PAUL: <i>The First Christian Influencer</i>	Grace & The New Creation
May 11 th	Easter.4 (Mother's Day)		Sexuality & Love
May 18 th	Easter.5 (Graduate Sunday)		Living In Community
May 25 th	Easter.6 (Memorial Sunday)		The End Times



Calling All Singers . . . Again!: MAY CHOIR!

We have a walk-in choir, not a standing choir;
we invite our familiar faces AND new faces to join us!

We will be singing "The Lord is My Shepherd" by H. Goodall on May 18th.

[\(click here to listen to a YouTube version\)](#)

We will practice 3x

Sundays, May 4th / 11th / 18th – 9:15a in the sanctuary

Building & Grounds Update

- Ongoing Hail Damage Claim – Lauren's Exteriors and Church Mutual have entered into an arbitration period (throughout April). An independent third party will determine the level of damage and the status of our claim after reviewing several inspections.
- Church's New Insurance – Our Church Property is now with Travelers' Insurance; our Worker's Compensation is with SFM; our Liability is with Philadelphia. Our premiums for 2025 have increased slightly.

PEUMC's FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, May 18th

A "town hall" meeting is used to describe any event where leaders engage in open dialogue with their constituents.

The Leadership Council would like to host a town hall meeting with the congregation on **Sunday, May 18th** following the service.

(This also duplicates as the college student's reception.)

They will share with you updates about what the Council has been discussing and will invite you to share your thoughts in return.





Job Opening – Media Technician:

The Media Technician (MT) operates the computer & software in our sanctuary during our services for our live-stream ministry.

The job opening has been advertised at the high schools of Port, Nekoosa, and Lincoln.

- (1) *Do you know of anyone (high schooler or not) who may be a good fit for this position? A neighbor? A friend? A family member?*
- (2) *Do you think YOU would be a good candidate?*

- The position pays \$25 a service.
- Additional services, like Lenten services, weddings, funerals, etc. would also pay \$25.
- Apply by date: May 31st
- Start date: July 1st

Call the church office for an application.



Meghan, Caleb, and Katie McGregor (~1992)

I was born with a birthmark partial on my left eyelid which was surgically removed in high school.

May Mission Project (due June 5th)



INGATHERING

Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church

Collection of Personal Dignity Kits Items

(to be collected at Annual Conference for Midwest Missions Distribution)

Any \$\$\$ received in May will go toward this project.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand towels (no kitchen towels) | <input type="checkbox"/> shampoo (12-19 oz) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloths (no dishcloths) | <input type="checkbox"/> deodorant (2-3 oz) (stick, roll-on, or pump) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult toothbrush (no multipacks) | <input type="checkbox"/> lotion (8-10 oz) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bar soap (3-4 oz) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-gallon Ziploc bags |

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



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

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

Pat & Kathy McGrath

Sue Mitchell

Becky Taylor

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!**

**COMBINED SERVICE WITH
MARSHFIELD WESLEY UMC**

SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND

Dexter Park shelterhouse

Service: 11:00 – noon / potluck to follow. More info. to come.



SPRING CONCERT

Wisconsin Rapids Area Community Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 2025 – 4:00 PM

First Congregational Church, Rapids

Pastor Caleb will be playing top-hand piano on “Rhythm of Life.”
The song “For the Beauty of the Earth” is being performed in memory of Hans Hansen.



United Methodists Mourn the Loss of Pope Francis

We would like to speak in very personal terms and also on behalf of the Worldwide Methodist family.

It is with great sadness that the President and General Secretary of the World Methodist Council received the news of the death of Pope Francis this Easter Monday morning. It was as recent as December 2024 that a small company of us were received by the Pope in a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in Rome.

Pope Francis welcomed us as siblings in Christ. He invited all to have an open mind and heart to one another: *“In this way our communities will manage to unite the different minds and wills, letting ourselves to be guided by the Spirit.”*

He said, *“We can now thank God because, for 60 years, we are progressing together in knowledge, in mutual understanding, and love.”* He added that: *“This has helped us to deepen our mutual communion.”*

The Pope referred to the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, *“This occasion reminds us that we profess the same faith and, therefore, that we have the same calling to offer signs of hope that bear witness to God’s presence in the world . . . to persevere on the path to visible unity and in the quest of finding ways to respond fully to the prayer of Jesus ‘that they may all be one’.”*

Truthful to his roots, he was always calling us back to service to and with the poor. He courageously called us to speak prophetically for justice. Methodists understood his emphasis on a discipline of prayer, and his constant request for us not to forget to pray for him.

We say goodbye, Pope Francis, until we meet again in the Eternal City of God.

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
President of the WMC

Rev. Dr. Reynaldo Ferreira Leao Neto
General Secretary of the WMC

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church extends sincere condolences to the College of Cardinals and the entire Roman Catholic Church on the death of Pope Francis.

-COUNCIL OF BISHOP’S FACEBOOK PAGE.

United Methodists are mourning the death of Pope Francis and acknowledging the special relationship between Roman Catholic and Methodist traditions.

“(The pope) would have made an excellent Methodist,” said the Rev. Jean Hawxhurst, ecumenical staff officer for the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

The first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church died on Easter Monday at age 88 after a cerebral stroke.

Pope Francis *“was an inspirational witness of what it means to be a follower of Jesus the Christ,”* Hawxhurst said. *“With a little glimmer in his eye and kindness in his heart, he spoke truth clearly and unapologetically.”*

In October, Pope Francis celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. Between 1962 and 1965, the Catholic Church sought to be more relevant in a quickly secularizing world. They also opened the door for the first time to ecumenical (cross-denominational) dialogue. In a 2022 article in the *National Catholic Report*, journalist Christopher White said there is only one group who *“has been in official continuous dialogue with the Holy See since the start of the council: the Methodists.”*

Speaking of that relationship in a 2017 meeting with the World Methodist Council, the pope said, *“We need to remain together, like the disciples awaiting the Spirit, as brothers and sisters on a shared journey.”*

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett of the West Virginia Conference said *“the Church has lost a giant in the faith.”*

“Pope Francis expressed a genuine desire for deeper ecumenical collaboration, rooted not in uniformity but in shared purpose and love for Christ,” Wallace-Padgett said. *“His openness, warmth, and unwavering commitment to justice and mercy left a lasting impression on me – and on so many around the world.”*

Sally Vonner, top executive of United Women in Faith, said the pope *“required courage as he often went against the grain. Earlier this year, he named Sister Simona Brambilla to head a Vatican Office; the first woman to hold this position. He also called for more grace for persons who were divorced or members of the LGBTQIA community.”*

Even Pope Francis’ funeral will project humility. He will be buried in a simple wooden casket in a location outside the Vatican. *-UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE – APRIL 21ST, 2025.*

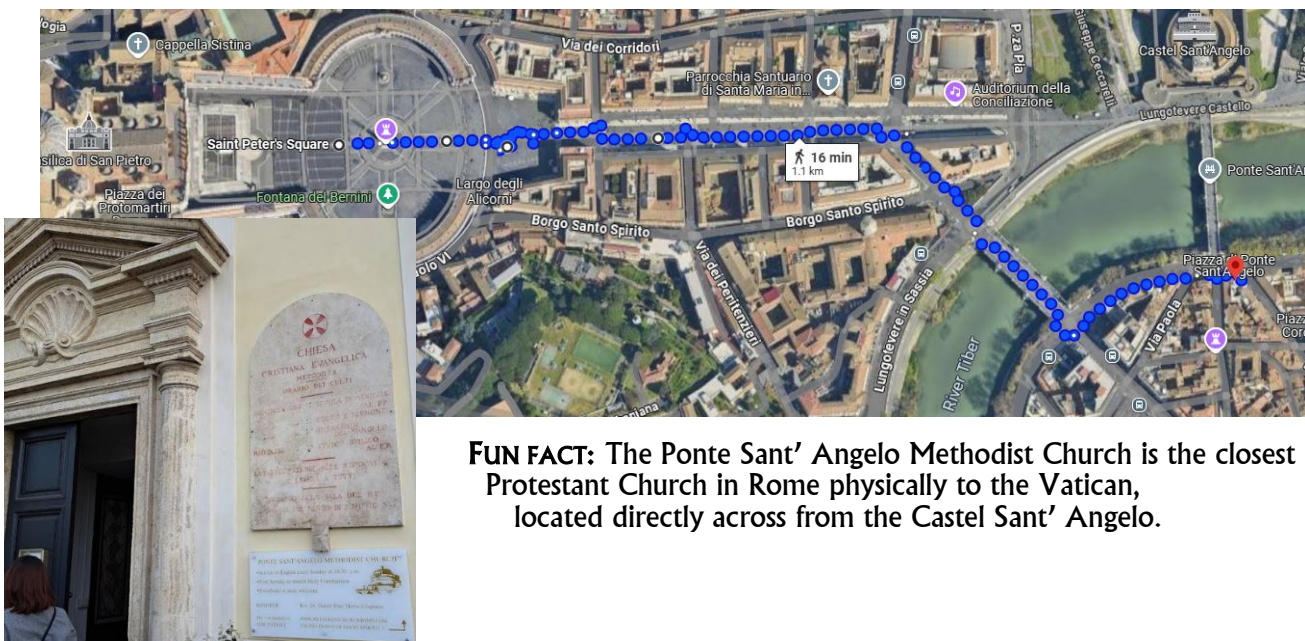


In 2023, while attending the European Methodist Historical Conference in Italy, the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History gifted Pope Francis a John Wesley bobblehead. The pope's face lit up with a smile, he chuckled and said, "*Wesley. Methodistica.*" And then proudly held it for pictures. Ticking the funny bone of Pope Francis will likely be the fondest memory for those in attendance that day.



Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, President Bishop Tracy S. Malone, met the Pope at the Vatican last year in March.

Pastors Caleb and Doug met while in seminary, but it was while on their seminary trip to Rome in 2014 that they really "hit it off." This may be their first official photo together, in the piazza in front of Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.



FUN FACT: The Ponte Sant' Angelo Methodist Church is the closest Protestant Church in Rome physically to the Vatican, located directly across from the Castel Sant' Angelo.

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Apr. 27	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	1	2	3
Service 10:00 am				UWIF Salad Potluck - District speaker Fellowship Hall 12:15p	Pastor's day off	Mens' Breakfast 8:00a @ El Café UWIF Spring Retreat at Lake Lucerne June
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Service 10:00a Communion Choir 9:15a		MemoryShare Group El Café 10:30a			Pastor's day off	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Service 10:00a Choir 9:15a Mother's Day					Pastor's day off	Ice Cream @ Church 10a - 4p Baked Goods @ Herschleb's
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Service 10:00a Choir 9:15a Graduate Sunday with Reception (and town hall mtg.) D.S. in Attendance					Pastor's day off	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Service 10:00a	Memorial Day	Nurture 11:00a El Café		Ascension Day (40 Days after Easter)	Pastor's day off	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Service 10:00a		MemoryShare Group El Café 10:30 am				Mens' Breakfast 8:00a @ El Café

Birthdays: Michaela W. – 5/2, Jerry F. – 5/4, Corey P. – 5/7, Adam H. – 5/8, Jody P. – 5/10, Tiffany H. - 5/10, Lynn R. – 5/18, Addisyn M. – 5/24, Korbin B. – 5/25, Lindsey H. – 5/25, Ashley M. – 5/26, Carson P. – 5/28, Maisie C. – 5/31, Carol Ann H. – 5/31

Anniversaries: Bob & Jeanne B. - 5/3, Skip & Ellen M. - 5/27, Ken & Meribeth S. - 5/28, Jeff & Becky T. - 5/30

Church Office Hours:

Connie: Mon - Fri. : 8:00a – Noon
Pastor: Mon. thru Thurs. : 9a – 1:00