

October
2025

The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church

Pouring Forth the Living Water: Bloom by the River!



PEUMC enjoyed brats and burgers on September 7th. Due to cooler weather, our Kick-Off Sunday Cook-Out turned into a Cook-In. Our Leadership Council provided the meat, condiments, and chips, while the rest of the congregation brought together the side dishes and desserts. It was such a wonderful time to fellowship over some food in our beautiful Fellowship Hall!



On Sunday, September 7th, the congregation blessed a cross that was later given to Norm S. at his new residence. Two framed photos were also prepared for him: a photo of our 2025 congregation and the clergy photo from our 125th Anniversary. He was all smiles when he received these small signs of love from his congregation!



On Sunday, September 14th, Kathy Mc. offered a children’s message on the “Methuselah Generation” of the butterfly cycle. This is the fourth generation born each year and the only one to make the migration south to Central America and back. This generation lives upwards to 4x longer than its previous generations, just like Methuselah, a man in the Bible who “lived” for 969 years.

After that, Ann Lepak shared from the pulpit about the work of Opportunity Development Centers (ODC) in Wisconsin Rapids and Central Wisconsin. Ann has been serving at ODC for 33 years. ODC’s origins begin with our own member, Dorothy Boger, who, with others in the 1960s, sought to find local opportunities to build skills and provide employment for their special needs children. Let it be known that Ann was very impressed with our church and congregation!



PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE!

October is DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, and The Family Center is asking businesses and homes to light a **purple** lightbulb throughout this month to raise awareness of this epidemic. PEUMC

joined the awareness by changing our highway lights to **purple**. **Purple** bulbs can be found at Wal-Mart, Ace's Hardware, and Home Depot.

Domestic violence is any pattern of abusive behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over another in an intimate relationship. It can take on many forms of abuse: *physical, emotional, sexual, economic, psychological, and technological*. In 2024, **109** people in Wisconsin lost their lives due to domestic violence. **53%** occur in rural areas. Between October 2023 and September 2024, Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families funded **268,670** nights of safe shelter for **4,790** survivors and their children (of which **46.5%** were children/youth). **30,568** survivors received advocacy, counseling, and community-based support.

Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence Victims
Thursday, October 23rd – 6:00p – McMillan Library



Pastors Doug and Caleb enjoyed a few days in Door Co. in September. Pastor Caleb's parents came up to discover this "Cape Cod of the Midwest" for themselves. On Friday, both sets of in-laws enjoyed a round of Pirate's Cove miniature golf. Doug Sr. and Doug Jr. won by the simple math of the score, but Pastor Caleb won by having the most fun! 😊

2025 Missional Giving Report, YTD

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)	\$277.00
April	Final Combined Lenten Service Special Offering: FOCUS Food Pantry (4/9)	\$99.00
April	Wood County Jail Ministry	\$100.00
April	College Care Packages	\$230.00
April	Reconciling Ministries Network (a private donation through the church)	\$500.00
May	InGathering 2025	\$120.00
June	G.R.A.C.E. local student debt	\$407.49
Sp. Offering	Habitat for Humanity (one-week special offering)	\$220.00
July/August	Habitat for Humanity	\$490.00
Sp. Offering	School Supplies (Stuff-the-Bus)	\$20.00
Sept/Oct	Recycling Bins & Trash Cans (as of October 4 th)	\$165.00
YTD		\$3,641.49

LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE: For the week of . . . October 5th – **Chuck L.** (end of season)

Thank you to all our lawn mowers:

Chuck L.! Ellen & Skip M.! Mike H.! Bob B.! Tiara & Scott G.!
Jean M.! Bill & Jody P.! Bill L.! Leo T.! Pastor Caleb! Sue M.!



Becky T., Jean M., and Pastor Caleb participated in the 2025 Port Edwards Homecoming Parade on Thursday, September 25th. We handed out bags of orange necklaces and candy. The weather was great, the crowds were spirited! Be proud: We were the only church represented in the parade!



Ed Heuer Elementary students had a blast during Homecoming week with a special visit from the Blackhawks Football team! Players stopped by to hang out, spread school spirit, and make lasting memories with our youngest Blackhawks!

Pictured: Ethan B., our media technician, interacted with the students at lunchtime. Ethan was nominated onto the Homecoming court this year!

Congrats, Ethan!

Defying Gravity!

The Broadway-show-turned-movie (2024) rivals that of *Wizard of Oz* (1939) in the level of wonderment and amazement upon its release. The music, storyline, set designs, choreography, and cinematography all came together to make an incredible experience –

warming the hearts of even the greatest detesters of musicals!

The movie, based on the Broadway musical, based on the Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel, is a reimagining of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Set in the Land of Oz prior to Dorothy Gale's arrival from Kansas, the plot explores the early relationship between Elphaba,

the future Wicked Witch of the West, and

her dormitory roommate Galinda,

who becomes Glinda the Good Witch.

The musical is split between two movies: *Wicked* (2024) and *Wicked: For Good* (2025).



Indoor movie afternoon:

"Wicked"

Monday, November 17th

PEUMC sanctuary (blow-up screen)

2:00p

Night at the Movies:

"Wicked: For Good"

when released in theatres (~Nov. 21st)

Rogers Cinema

GATHERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

MemoryShare:

Tuesday, October 7th @ 10:30a – *El Café*

Tuesday, Novemb. 4th @ 10:30a – *El Café*

Men's Breakfast:

Saturday, October 4th – 8:00a – *El Café*

Saturday, November 1st – 8:00a – *El Café*

U.W.I.F.: October 19th will be UWIF Sunday
Thank You, Brunch – Nov. 6th – 9:30a

Circle of Friends: December 10th



SAVE THE DATE:

P.E.U.M.C.'s week to serve at Neighborhood Meals
(formerly 'The Neighborhood Table')

is Thursday, November 20th (~4:30-6:30p)

THE PORT EDWARDS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S ANNUAL

HOLIDAY BAZAAR & LUNCHEON

SAT., NOV. 1, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Requesting Your HELP for Setup

Setup of the Fellowship Hall will take place on

Sunday, October 26th

(after the potluck that will take place after the service).

For those unable to help on Bazaar-Day, this will give you an opportunity to help in another way.

We appreciate all those hands that make light work!

The week preceding the Bazaar will be a busy one,
but with everyone's help it will be a very successful day.
Don't forget to invite your friends for lunch and shopping!
All proceeds go to Missions and Scholarships
supported by United Women in Faith.

Holiday Bazaar Crafts

(so far)

Jean M. . . . candy cane reindeer / **Jef D.** . . . quilted items

Kathy M. . . . photo cards / **Candy P.T.** . . . fused fabric pictures

Food

(so far)

Blair S. – 2 salted caramel cheesecakes / **Jean M.** – macaroon cookies

Jody P. – molasses cookies, puppy chow, other . . . (blueberry pie for lunch)

Becky T. – pecan pie, brownies, cookies (caramel apple pecan for lunch)

Julie B. – cookies (2 pies for lunch) / **Sharon S.** – _____

Pat & Kathy M. – peanut butter cookies, approx. 258-layer bars (give or take), rice Krispie treats,
apple kucken

Candy P.T. – snack mix / Sandra K. – cookies / Lucy S. – breads

Locations still receive fliers:

Dollar General (x3) / Misty's / KI (Kellner International) /
American Table / Roundabout / Aspirus / Wal-Mart

Vendor Tables for Rent

All 5 tables established for outside vendors have been filled.

Marshfield Wesley UMC to Join PEUMC in Worship

Sunday, October 26th

By request,
of the people of Wesley UMC in Marshfield,
will be joining us for worship & lunch!
Pastor Douglas Clement will be preaching!
A potluck will follow the service, after which
we will setup the F.H. fo the bazaar!



SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST ELECTRONICALLY

Send your prayer requests (joys or concerns) to prayer@peumc.org
(email goes to pastor's private email).

OR you can use the online form available at peumc.org/prayer.



First Saturdays of each month.

8:00a – El Café

Open to all the men of the church (*no girls allowed!!!*)



MemoryShare

First Tuesday of each month.

10:30a – El Café

A support group
for all widows/widowers



U.W.I.F. SUNDAY

Sunday, October 19th

Ana Olivos, a member of Portage UMC will be speaking
about her experience as an immigrant in America.



BISHOP DAN'S

MEET-AND-GREET @ PEUMC!

Saturday, October 11th - 1:30 – 2:30p

Our new bishop, originally from Wisconsin, has chosen our church to be the location of a 1-hour meet-and-greet following his presentation at Wisconsin Rapids UMC's UWIF Conference Gathering. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

What to expect? A no-agenda, relaxing time to get to know our new bishop and for him to get to know the people of his Conference. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall.



Worship Servants for October

Communion: Judy M. Candles: Judy M.	Greeter(s)	Usher	Liturgist	Guest Relations	Refreshments
Sun., October 5 th	Kathy/Pat	Pat	Kathy Mc.	Kathy Mc.	
Sun., October 12 th	Sharon S.	Skip		Kathy Mc.	Mike & Lori / Sara T.
Sun., October 19 th	Jean M.		Jef D.	Diane	
Sun., October 26 th	Sweats		Becky T.	Sue T.	

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

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



Sundays in October

October 5 th	<i>World Communion Sunday</i>	JOURNEY THRU THE BIBLE: JOHN!	The Golden Calf
Octob. 12 th	<i>Sawyer H. Receives 3^d Grade Bible Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness</i>	NEW SERIES: "UNSHAKABLE HOPE FROM UNEXPECTED VOICES: GOD'S POWER IN FRAGILE TIMES"	Judge Deborah
Octob. 19 th	<i>UWIF Sunday Guest speaker from Portage, WI</i>		David & Goliath
Octob. 26 th	<i>Marshfield Wesley joins us</i>		Kingdom splits in two
Novemb 2 nd	<i>All Saints Sunday</i>		Daniel's Dream

October-November Sermon Series (Unit #2)

"UNSHAKABLE HOPE FROM UNEXPECTED VOICES: GOD'S POWER IN FRAGILE TIMES"

A 4-part sermon series of divine disruption, unexpected leadership, and the tension between human fragility and God's sovereignty. What do these passages say about our own current "FRAGILE TIMES?"

Week 1 – October 12th – (Powerful Women: Deborah & Jael) – "PROPHETS & PEGS"

God raises up leaders outside traditional power structures.

Week 2 – October 19th – (David and Goliath) – "STONES AGAINST GIANTS"

God empowers the faithful with what they already carry.

Week 3 – October 26th – (Compromise arrogance fracture the kingdom) – "KINGDOM CRACKS"

Power without compassion leads to division;

God remains faithful even amid political collapse.

Week 4 – November 2nd – (Daniel dreams of God's reign outlasting empires) – "NIGHTTIME VISIONS"

See yourselves as part of an enduring Kin'dom beyond borders and beasts.

PORT HOME GROUP GATHERING – OCTOBER



Saturday, October 18th –

Aaron's Wines and Steins (& pizza) – 5:30p

Jody Parks, *host*

NEKOOSA-LAKES HOME GROUP GATHERING – OCTOBER

TBA

Anyone inside and outside our congregation may attend Home Group events. It does not matter which “Group” you are in. *(Please observe any RSVP requests.)*

Leadership Council Update

At their September 21st meeting, held in the parsonage, the Leadership Council made the following decisions:

- (1) *Discipleship Discussion*: the church of the future needs to move away from the typical planning of schedule-filling event/programming (a culture born of the Baby-Boom era) to providing more opportunities for hands-on **discipleship**. *Simply stated*: people of all ages and generations are busier than ever and our ministries need to land closer to our mission of making disciples.
- (2) APPROVED: Removal of the ash tree in front of parsonage along Market Avenue; it is in the process of dying. Jeff is authorized to seek a vendor for tree removal and or stump grinding.
- (3) APPROVED: Installation of a wired doorbell in the parsonage for front and back doors. (There has only ever been a battery-powered doorbell system.)
- (4) APPROVED: A rack of coat hooks will be installed in the upstairs hallway
- (5) APPROVED: Jeff is authorized to seek a bat-expert to identify and mitigate any possible entry points for bats inside the church. (Three bats have been found in the church in the last month; some bats in the area have been tested positive for rabies).
- (6) APPROVED: The stone façade on the front of the parsonage garage will be removed. (The stone is not part of the structure; it is slowly pulling away from the wall. Evidence of patchwork repairs have been made for decades but will be too expensive to try to fix and still look good. NOTE: this is not **all** the stone, just around the garage wall and possibly the flower box.)
- (7) Staff compensations for 2026 were discussed and proposed for Charge Conference approval.
 - a. A 2.5% increase for pastor to \$54,478.75.
 - b. Administrative Assistant to go from \$16 to \$17 an hour.
 - c. Custodian will remain at current rate of \$26.57 an hour.
 - d. Maintenance Technician Contract to be at \$34 an hour.

CHARGE CONFERENCE:
Saturday, December 13th –
11:30a – El Café



First Female Archbishop of Canterbury

Dame Sarah Mullally has been named as the new Archbishop of Canterbury – the first woman in Church of England’s history. A former NHS chief nurse, the 63-year-old became a priest in 2006 and was appointed as the first female Bishop of London in 2018. In line with tradition, the process of choosing a new archbishop involves a name being given to the Prime Minister and the passed on to the monarch. While the King is technically the head of the Church of England, the person holding the role of Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop and spiritual leader of the Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. Dame Sarah has openly shared about her dyslexia and how it has shaped her journey. Far from being a limitation, Mullally has described dyslexia as part of her unique way of thinking and listening deeply.



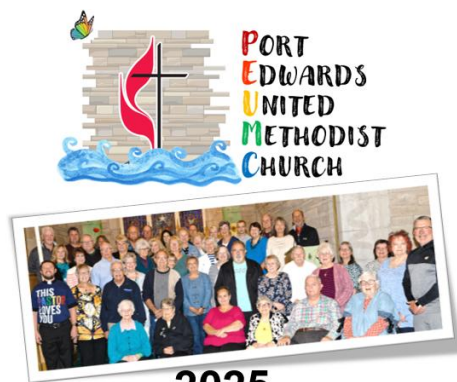
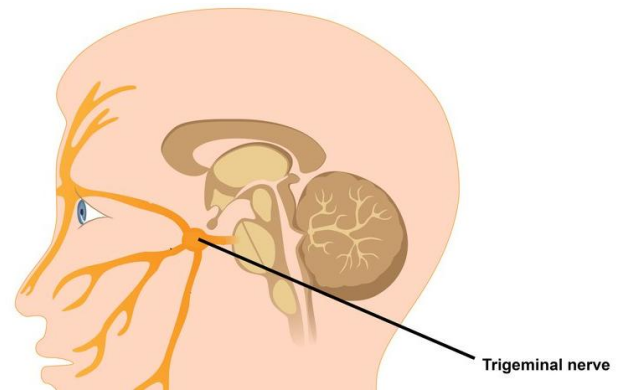
Second Sunday of each month
during the worship service.
Our next sessions will be on
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
and
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

Wear **Teal** for Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

Previously set for 10/5, we will be wearing **teal** on Sunday,
October 12th instead. This is to raise awareness of TN
and to be in solidarity with one of our members with TN.

If you don't have anything teal to wear,
we have **teal** ribbons you can wear for the service.



2025

Membership Pictorial Directory & Handbook
(for September 2025 through August 2026)



Our New Directory Is Out!

A great majority of our members and friends have
submitted photos or had their photos taken. Thank you!

Also include in the back of the directory is a
"Member's Handbook," featuring some of our policies
and other facts about our church and membership.
This was included to help guide our members, and
friends, through relevant policies and procedures
established by our church leadership.

As of the release of this newsletter, we are still in the
process of getting a copy of this directory to each
household. We will begin issuing future directories in
the fall to incorporate any updates pertaining to the
school year.

LETTER OF THANKS

To the Congregation of Port Edwards United Methodist Church,

I wanted to thank you all for your condolences, prayers, and kind words. Thank you
for wrapping your loving arms around my mother, Sara, and I. Thank you for your grace
and love. We are grateful for you all. My God-Sighting this week was the love shown
from you all. God bless you!

Gratefully yours,
Nikki Heitman & family

Two September-October Mission Projects

1.

COLLECTION OF ITEMS, *NOT* MONEY!

Hygiene:

Toilet paper
Bars of soap
Toothpaste
Individually-wrapped toothbrushes



Winter Clothing:

Jackets
Fleeces
snowpants
Hats / mittens / scarves
Handwarmers

R&S, a United Methodist ministry, manages 72 units of income-restricted apartments and townhouses near Washington Park (Milwaukee), provides a state-licensed childcare center, emergency food assistance, and provides events, resources, and spaces to foster community engagement.

2.



New Trash & Recycling Bins for the Church

Collecting Money

In accordance to our efforts to “Go Green,” we are seeking funding for the purchase of several PAIRS of trash & recycling cans like the ones in the photo above. One pair of bins costs \$80 (\$40 separately). We would like, at a minimum, two sets.

NOTE: Project #1 is not a fundraiser, but a collection of items.

Project #2 is the fundraiser.

All donations for the “Sept.-Oct. Bimonthly Mission” will go toward this project only.

Connection Lists – Time to Review & Renew!

Connection Lists are our way of supplementing the work of our church leadership in lieu of maintaining 10,002 committees, 679,546 spots to fill, and 4,560,104 hours of meetings. This makes our administrative tasks more streamlined, efficient, missional, easier on nominations, and most importantly, relieves *you* – our members – from expending valuable time dealing with endless church business matters and more time being disciples of Jesus Christ.

Connection Lists are about discerning the interests and gifts of our congregation by asking members to write down their name under *specific* categories for the possibility of being called to help the leadership complete a defined task. The **Lists** are set for the year, with an open call in the fall to review and renew.

We started our **Lists** last year, but also promised that in the fall, there would be an open call to review and renew these Lists for 2025. You will soon be invited to review which **Lists** you are on currently, updating them appropriately, so that our **Lists** may remain relevant for the new year!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS – 10/6 – 11/16

Below are daily scripture readings that are based on Sunday morning's lectionary passages. While not all parts of the Bible can be covered, the weekday readings help to connect on Sunday's readings to the next one.

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

10/6	Exodus 33	Leaving Sinai	10/28	1 Kings 18	Elijah on Mt. Carmel
10/7	Exodus 34	New Tablets	10/29	1 Kings 19	Still, Small Voice
10/8	Exodus 40	Tabernacle Built	10/30	Daniel 1	Israelites in Babylon
10/9	Judges 1	Israel's Failure	10/31	Daniel 2	King's Dream
10/10	Judges 2	Israel's Disobedience	11/1	Daniel 4	King's 2 nd Dream
10/11	Judges 3	First Judges	11/2	<u>Daniel 7:1-18</u>	<u>Daniel's Dream</u>
10/12	<u>Judges 4</u>	<u>Deborah & Jael</u>	11/3	Daniel 8	Daniel's 2 nd Dream
10/13	Judges 13-14	Samson	11/4	Hosea 11	God's Compassion
10/14	Judges 15-16	Samson & Delilah	11/5	Hosea 14	Assurance of Forgiveness
10/15	1 Samuel 1	Samuel's Birth	11/6	Joel 2:18-32	God's Spirit Poured Out
10/16	1 Samuel 3	Samuel's Calling	11/7	Amos 4	Israel Rejects Correction
10/17	1 Samuel 8	Demand for a King	11/8	Amos 5:1-13	Lament for Israel's Sin
10/18	1 Samuel 9	Saul Chosen	11/9	<u>Amos 5:14-24</u>	<u>Day of the Lord</u>
10/19	<u>1 Samuel 17</u>	<u>David & Goliath</u>	11/10	Amos 9	Destruction & Restoration
10/20	2 Samuel 2:1-7; 5:1-5	David as King	11/11	Obadiah (entire)	Vision of Obadiah
10/21	2 Samuel 6	Ark of the Covenant	11/12	Isaiah 2	House of God
10/22	2 Samuel 7	God & David	11/13	Isaiah 5:1-7	Unfruitful Vineyard
10/23	2 Samuel 11-12:15	David & Bathsheba	11/14	Isaiah 5:8-23	Social Injustices
10/24	2 Samuel 12:16-25	Solomon is Born	11/15	Isaiah 6	Vision of God
10/25	1 Kings 1	Solomon Succeeds David	11/16	<u>Isaiah 9:1-7</u>	<u>A Child has been born!</u>
10/26	<u>1 Kings 11 & 12</u>	<u>Kingdom Splits</u>			
10/27	1 Kings 17	Elijah's ministry			

October Households



Throughout October,
our congregation is asked
to pray for the following people:
(randomly chosen on 9/28)

**Lynn R. / Nikki H. / The Mykisen Family /
Lucy & Norm S. / Becky & Jeff T. /
Lindsey H. / Maisie C. / Vi S. /
Pastors Caleb & Doug**

It's Coming . . .

Stewardship Consecration Sunday SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

A free, catered Celebration Lunch (by Chat-R-Box)
will follow the service.

We invite you to return your commitment cards
for 2026 by this date. *(sent by snail mail)*

Why is it important to give financially to the church?

- 1.) So the church can provide live-changing ministries by the funds in its accounts.
- 2.) So that the unique transformative message of Jesus' Good News in the Methodist spirit continue.
- 3.) Because Jesus said to use our resources for the glory of God and to the work of God's disciples.
- 4.) So the church can maintain its building; buildings are physical reminders of God's presence in the community. The brick-and-mortar building represents a spiritual home to many people.
- 5.) So the church can support a pastor's ministry of pastoral care.
- 6.) So the church can tackle important administrative & maintenance work through paid staff.

Who looks at my finances?

Only the Financial Secretary (Bill P.) looks at our financial records. However, ¶340.2.c. of *The Book of Discipline* states that the pastor has the authority to access financial records. This is often understood as a "need to know" basis. An individual's financial discipleship is part of their faith journey, and both are vital gauges for pastoral ministry. Financial giving is an important sign of one's faith, as are prayer, church attendance, and involvement in the church's ministries. A change in a member's giving may raise a pastoral concern. An increase in giving can be an opportunity to say, "thank you." A decrease in giving may indicate an opportunity to extend card in the face of life's realities, such as a job loss or family difficulty.

PEUMC has a policy of restricting access to giving records to only the Financial Secretary, who relays any significant changes in giving patterns to the pastor. These records are stored on a non-networked computer in a locked space.

I've received a Commitment Card? What is it?

A Commitment Card is similar to, but distinct from, a pledge card. Your Commitment Card is primarily for *your* sake. However, for the purpose of our Celebration Luncheon, we want ALL our Commitment Cards to be returned so that we can total everyone's projected giving amounts for 2025. It is a celebration of our giving *together*; it is not about keeping record of *your* personal giving. The Commitment Cards are not retained permanently.

Why does the church want to know what I plan to give?

The church, while a ministry, also has important “business-like” duties to take care of:

- paying the pastor’s salary and four other staff members;
- paying the utilities;
- paying for important repairs and general upkeep;
- paying the insurance;
- providing fire protection and a contract for elevator maintenance, among many other legal or contractual obligations.

Yes, it is expensive to manage a physical church building today!

In addition to these expenses, we need to faithfully budget how much our Nurture, Family, Outreach/Missions, Witness, and Worship ministries should be spending.

Without any pledge campaign, this is the message the church sends: *“Sorry, this is all we can do this year because this is all we got.”* This is not a very Christ-like inspiring way to do Kin’dom Work. Campaigning is a way for churches to say: *“Help us support what we’ve been called to do.”* This message looks and feels a lot different. Faithful ministry takes important planning; this includes financial planning. We cannot simply “hope” that the money comes in on time. We must plan ahead, and by doing so, become better stewards of the generosity of our people.

How often should I give to the church?

As often as possible. Truth be told, regular giving is of higher importance than the amount. Irregular giving (giving *only* when you’ve attended services) makes it hard on the cash-flow of the church. The fact that giving continues to wax-and-wane throughout the year signals that some are still giving according to their attendance. Setting up an account through our website or getting into a habit of mailing in your financial giving can help with this. None of us want the church to worry about summer cash-flow problems. Giving (electronically or by mail) helps us continue to provide care to the people who need it even when you cannot be present. By doing this, we are recognizing that we are NOT paying for a service rendered to ourselves; we are participating in a **group effort** called *Christian ministry*. It is a continuous, daily facet of our life together!

WHY DO WE SAY ‘ADONAI’ DURING SCRIPTURE READINGS?

In Exodus 3:14, God famously told Moses (through the burning bush), *“I AM WHO I AM”* or *“I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE.”* But these words are just a stand-in. These 5 English words replace the original 4 Hebrew consonants – *yod, he, vav, he* – or YHWH in the Arabic alphabet, which likely derives from the verb meaning “to be” or “to exist.” These four consonants form the **Divine Name**. (“God” is a title, not a name.) But we do not know how YHWH was originally pronounced because the Ancient Hebrews avoided pronouncing AND writing down the Divine Name. (*There are no original copies of the Old Testament, if ever the Name was written down in full at all.*) These four letters are called the **tetragrammaton**. When filtered through German, the tetragrammaton becomes JHVH. Someone, centuries ago, filled in the “gaps” with vowels and created the word: JEHOVAH. But it is now almost universally accepted among Biblical and Semitic linguistics scholars that the pronunciation is YHWH, or YAHWEH.

We must remember that the Jewish people, even today, do not write or pronounce the Name of God – because it is considered holy. Therefore, in print and in spoken form, the Jewish faith says LORD (in English) or its Hebrew equivalent: ADONAI. This is also the same reason why our Bible translations also often say, “the LORD our God.” The all-caps LORD is a stand-in for the Divine Name (even though Christians often do not find it to be problematic to speak/write the name of God). For interfaith purposes, at PEUMC, are choosing to say the original Hebrew – ADONAI – which would be what one would hear in a synagogue.

Just remember, we are not adding something “new” to the scriptures, we are just choosing to say ADONAI (meaning ‘LORD’) as a respectful stand-in for the unutterable Name of God.

Which Generation Attends Church Most Regularly? (The Answer Will Surprise You!)

by Emily Brown – September 8th, 2025 – relevantmagazine.com

Gen Z (ages 18 to 28) and **Millennials** (29-44) are attending church more often than any other generation, according to new research from the Barna Group.

The study surveyed 3,500 U.S. adults and found that of the self-proclaimed churchgoers, **Gen Z** (18-28) attends church an average of 1.9 times per month, while **Millennials** (29-44) follow close behind at 1.8. That adds up to roughly 22-23 times a year. This is more than **Gen X**, who averages about 19 times annually, and **Baby Boomers**, who attend closer to 17.

Across all adults, the national average sits at 1.6 times a month, or just under 20 times a year.

“This is not a typical trend,” said Daniel Copeland, Barna’s vice president of research. “The fact that young people are showing up more frequently than before challenges the idea that the Church is losing an entire generation.”

The data adds to a growing body of evidence suggesting younger Americans are showing renewed interest in faith. The numbers point to a rising trend: Gen Z and Millennials are not only attending church more often, they are helping lead a broader resurgence of faith in America.

by Religion News Service Press (RNS) – September 3rd, 2025

BOULDER, Colo. – For the first time in decades, younger adults, specifically **Gen Z** and **Millennials**, are now the most regular churchgoers, surpassing older generations who have traditionally led in church attendance. The frequency of churchgoing for **Millennials** and **Gen Z** has nearly doubled in just five years.

“While churchgoing alone doesn’t form disciples, churches that offer relational connection, volunteer engagement, and clear discipleship pathways that resonate with younger generations can help them build a resilient and lasting faith,” says David Kinnaman, CEO of Barna Group.

Looking back, **Elders** (those born before 1946) who attended about 2.3 times per month in 2000 now attend around 1.4 times, and **Baby Boomers’** attendance has dropped from 2.0 to 1.4 times per month. **Gen X** attendance has remained steady.

“Since many aren’t in the pews every week, churches that prioritize relational touchpoints and digital engagement – through text, social media, and other online tools – can better reach younger generations where they already are. Every interaction counts, and this trend presents an opportunity for leaders to help grow their faith in new and impactful ways,” says Brad Hill, president of Gloo Media Network.

What This Means for Churches:

Opportunity: Younger adults are coming back. Churches that offer relational connection, spiritual mentoring, and authentic belonging can nurture this renewed interest into depth of faith.

Challenge: Attendance, while improving, is still far from weekly. Discipleship strategies must account for a rhythm where people are present at church less than half the time. Digital tools can help bridge this gap. Church apps for texting and small groups, as well as online resources for spiritual growth can help augment the in-person Sunday experience.



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



I.C.E. TARGETTING UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN: “FREAKY FRIDAY”

For Immediate Release – October 2nd, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

In our United Methodist work in the area of immigration, we have been assisted by information shared with us by the National Immigration Litigation Alliance (NILRA). Today we received the following information from the NILRA concerning immigrant children in the U.S. that is deeply concerning.

Beginning tomorrow, October 3, 2025, ICE will launch an operation reportedly named “Freaky Friday,” targeting unaccompanied children aged 14 and older of all nationalities.

- Children detained and released will be sent a “threat” letter from ICE threatening indefinite detention and immediate transfer to ICE upon age-out if they do not waive jurisdiction under the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA) and withdraw applications for relief.
- Children will be offered \$2,500 to return to their countries of origin.
- If children do not comply with the “offer,” the letter intimidates their parents in the U.S. with threats of arrest.
- ICE plans to detain all children who reach the age of 14 and are ready to be released from detention, and they anticipate legal challenges.
- There are indications that the age threshold for this threat letter may be lowered to 10 years old.
- We understand they plan to target detained children but will also target children released from custody.

Given this alarming information, we strongly encourage annual conferences and local churches to the extent possible, to:

- Provide Know Your Rights presentations to the families of children in ICE custody advising them of this plan and their right to not sign any document without consulting their attorney.
- Also, consider advising the families of immigrant children out of ICE custody about the possibility of receiving an ICE letter.
- If a child receives a letter, please consider helping them to prepare an affidavit that particularly highlights the manner in which this ICE letter was delivered (was counsel present and able to advise, were youth able to ask questions), evidence of coercion or intimidation, underlying fear of being returned to the country they immigrated from.
- Litigators are coordinating and we will provide more information shortly on who to direct these affidavits to.

Please report concerns to the HHS Ombudsman office here: uc00@acf.hhs.gov.

Conference Chancellors may be able to provide support in this critical situation.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, *Chair* – Council of Bishops’ Immigration Task Force

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAN SCHWERIN

Siblings in Christ,

I write to remind the Church of Jesus’ commitment to children, and that our welcome and treatment of children, in the words of Jesus, ‘welcomes Me.’ Check on your neighbors. Reach out to family. Watch coming and going from schools. Protect unaccompanied minors who may be targets of racial profiling.

Church, please be in prayer, returning to the Lord’s Prayer, that ‘Your kingdom come, Your will be done.’ Thank you.

Peace to you.

Dan Schwerin, *Bishop*

Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area – The United Methodist Church



Northern Illinois - Wisconsin
Episcopal Area
of The United Methodist Church



A Message from Bishop Schwerin Urban Occupation by the U.S. Military

Siblings in Christ,

Jesus taught His disciples to pray in a world of Roman occupation that offers some context for the petition, 'lead us not into temptation.' While our own praying may be about help with many [personal] temptations, [John Dominic] Crossan suggests that perhaps Jesus' view is that we should *pray that we do not fall into the temptation of violence as a solution to the problems that vex us*. The Lord's Prayer affirms there can be bread enough, forgiveness enough, and God enough to order life between us with compassion, abundance, and neighborliness.

We live in a moment when we are being divided by misinformation and fear. The National Guard is being politicized by being sent to some places seen as more crime-critical, so far, 'blue' cities such as Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Portland, and Chicago. Be reminded there are not blue places or red places, a map is not the people, that people are more than words that reduce them to a color. May we pray that Jesus would lead us not into this temptation of vision that creates and tacitly supports division and unnecessary violence.

May we not politicize the police or armed forces by using persons who serve in uniform for political ends. O God, lead us not into temptation of making enemies of neighbors who serve. Or enemies based on where they live or their voting majority in the last election.

In The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline, among the disciplines by which bishops are encouraged to lead the church is: "a prophetic commitment for the transformation of the world" (403.1d). The subparagraph continues: "the role of the Bishop, is to be a prophetic voice for justice . . . and alleviation of human suffering." My hope is to offer a prophetic reminder that God's relentless love is among us to reduce fear, and to help support those who must ask questions of public theology that we might renew our search for a common good.

In the face of Roman occupation, Jesus chose neither violent revolt nor passive withdrawal, but another way, the way of nonviolent resistance. We might say Jesus' resistance was also embodied as He sat at the table with the marginalized, touched and healed the wounds of the sick, and celebrated God's reign among the poor and oppressed.

I would remind us also to prayerfully consider Rev. Dr. King's six principles of nonviolence:

- 1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.**
- 2. The beloved community is the framework for the future.**
- 3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil.**
- 4. Accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal.**
- 5. Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence.**
- 6. The universe is on the side of justice.**

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Peace,

Daniel W. Schwerin, Bishop

Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area – The United Methodist Church

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



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

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

Julie Berg
Skip & Ellen Mazurek
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!**

**G.R.A.C.E. Community
Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday, November 23rd, 2025

@ 6:00p

Moravian Church, Rapids
Pastor Kate West, *preaching*

**G.R.A.C.E. Community
Blue Christmas Service**

Thurs., December 18th, 2025

6:00p –

Grace Lutheran, Rapids

**Week of Christian Unity
Pulpit Swap**

Sunday, January 18th, 2026

MISSION TRIP INVITE



Rev. Wanda Veldman is inviting people from PEUMC who may be interested in joining members of the Nekoosa UCC to experience a mission trip in **Biloxi, Mississippi – Back Bay Mission.**

The trip is scheduled for **June 7th-12th, 2026.**

Participants must be at least 14 years old. All adults need to pass a background check.

The cost per person is \$250 for lodging at Back Bay Mission and materials, plus transportation costs and *en route* hotel costs. Lodging at Back Bay is air-conditioned dormitory-type arrangements with wonderful commercial kitchen for our use! We will provide our own meals as a group and split the cost of groceries.

People can sign up to shop and prepare our meals. At least one night we'll go out for dinner.

Work may include: rehab of homes and building new homes for those who can work on job sites. BBM also offers work in their homeless day shelter, a soup kitchen, and a food pantry.

Back Bay Mission is just a few blocks from Biloxi Beach and about 1.5 hours from New Orleans. Our work days normally end by 4:00p so there will be time for groups to explore the area in the evenings.

Website: thebackbaymission.org

If interested or have questions, please call Nekoosa UCC: 715-886-3371

"Grief never ends . . . but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith. . . . It is the price of love." -Elizabeth I

"Your 'yes' to God requires your 'no' to all injustice, all evil, all lies, all oppression and violation of the weak and poor." -Deitrich Bonhoeffer

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	1	2	3	4
					Pastor's day off	8:00 am - Men's Breakfast El Café
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship Service 10a World Communion Sunday	1:30 - Service @ Edgewater	10:30a MemoryShare El Café			Pastor's day off	UWIF Conference Gathering Wis. Rapids UMC 1:30-2:30 Bishop Meet & Greet @ PEUMC
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship Service - 10a Sunday School Wear teal for Trigeminal Neuralgia Sawyer - 3rd Grade Bible 🕒 3:25 pm Bengals	<i>Indigenous Peoples Day</i>				Pastor's day off	<u>Port Home Group:</u> Aaron's Wines & Steins (& Pizza) 5:30p
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Service - 10a UWIF Sunday Leadership Council meeting after service 🕒 3:25 pm - Cardinals	Pastor out of town				Pastor's day off Discipleship Team - 10a	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
Worship Service - 10a Marshfield Wesley UMC joins us for worship (potluck after service) Set up for Bazaar after church 🕒 7:20 pm Steelers	← Port Trunk or Treat Event 3-5p (Sunday)	Nurture 11a			Pastor's day off	Annual Bazaar 10a - 2p

Birthdays: Norm S. 10/6, Marissa H. 10/13, Joan H. 10/14, Kathy Mc. 10/16, Dennis S. 10/23, Bob B. 10/24, Glenna S. 10/24 Tiara G. 10/26, Colby G. 10/27, Ella H. 10/30

Anniversaries: Damon & Donna K. 10/20, Pastor Caleb & Pastor Doug 10/20, Leo & Sue T. 10/25

Church Office Hours:

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