

December
2025

The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church

*Pouring Forth the Living Water:
Bloom by the River!*

Wrapped with Lights & Love

Despite cold, snowy weather, P.E.U.M.C. came together to "Hang the Greens" – Novem. 29th



Pictured:

Julie B., Diane S., Jean M., Blair S., Lisa M., Becky T., Bill P. Blair helped put the lights on the trees. **Bill** hung the garland. **Lisa** prepared the window dressings. **Becky** decorated other rooms of the church. And **everyone** helped decorate the front of the sanctuary.



Not Pictured:

(by fault of only the photographer)
Jody P., John S., Bob B.

Honorable Mentions:

Jeff & Becky T. hung the wreaths both inside and outside, and prepared the boxes for the event. **Pastor** provided a lunch of chili and his mother's persimmon pudding.



Adam H.

Who puts up the Chrismon Trees? (We'll give you a few Hintz.)



Lindsey H.



Lori H.



Mike H.

Thank you to the **Hintz Family** for putting up the two large trees in the sanctuary, and for **Mike** and **Adam** who put up the outdoor nativity scene mid-November!

A Church That Is FOCUS'd



Thursday, November 20th

was our opportunity to serve at
FOCUS Neighborhood Meals in Wisconsin Rapids.

Pictured: Pat Mc., Bill P., Rose W., Jody P., Judy M., Julie B., Sue T.,
Bob B., Leo T., Chuck L., Jef D., Becky T., Helmuth W., Sandy K.,
Candy P-T., Karen V., Pastor C., AND Kathy Mc.

Picture inset: Diane S. & Larry M.

<i>Dinner Menu</i>	
APPETIZER	Lettuce Salad
MAIN COURSE	Lasagna Tater Tot Casserole Garlic Bread
DESSERT	Pumpkin Torte
BEVERAGES	Milk Chocolate Milk Coffee



FOCUS NEIGHBORHOOD MEALS:

On behalf of FOCUS Neighborhood Meals, I want to thank **Port Edwards United Methodist Church** for sponsoring our Nov 20th meal - both *financially* and with a **full** roster of volunteers. We served 69 firsts + 19 seconds + 11 volunteer meals + 28 meals to Chula Vista + a 12 meals to Oxford House = **139 Total Meals**. Chula Vista a low-income housing unit built in Wis Rapids, and Oxford House is a half-way house for men located in downtown Rapids.

Our program cannot exist without our Sponsors. We are grateful that you share our passion for helping with food insecurity in our Community. Your congregation truly walks in Jesus' footprints when they are in our dining room. Again, thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with FOCUS.

Melani Johnson, on behalf of the FNM Meal Team



Port Pride!

Left: Becky T. & Kathy Mc. oversee the SupPORT Our Staff Cart in the P.E. school district, along with **Candy P.T.** (and others). Once a month, volunteers push these carts into each classroom for the teachers (and staff) to choose an item (snacks, treats, drinks, supplies, etc.) as a sign of appreciation. The remaining **\$52.00** unused from our *Christmas Cheer* student gifts project in Nov. will go toward stocking these carts on behalf of PEUMC.

Middle & Right: Big congratulations to Port Edwards Board of Education President, Leo T. and Board Treasurer, Kathy Mc.! Both were recognized by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards for their outstanding achievements and dedicated service at the WASB Fall Region 5 meeting on November 4th. The district (and community) (and church) are proud to celebrate their leadership and commitment to our schools! (*PESD Facebook post – November 6th*).

Fresh Faces, Growing Grace



On Sunday, November 2nd, we welcomed **Candy P-T.** as a professing member; she joins us from the First Congregation Church (U.C.C.) in Wisconsin Rapids. On Sunday, November 23rd, we welcomed in **Jennifer & Dave Murphy**, who join us from Grandview (Global) Methodist Church in Dubuque, Iowa. Candy has a background in the Reformed & Congregational traditions, Jennifer grew up United Methodist, and Dave grew up Roman Catholic. The PEUMC family is already comprised of *many* backgrounds but with a single heart to walk in the footsteps of Jesus through the Wesleyan way of salvation. All of them cited the wide welcome and deep sense of connection and the intentional desire to be full inclusive as a contributing factor to their joining our congregation.

WELCOME!
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING US
***YOUR* LOVE & COMPASSION!**

November: A Month of Missions!



One of our mission projects for November was to collect both food items and can openers for **FOCUS Food Pantry**. We were able to donate a **very heavy box of miscellaneous food items**, plus **22 can openers**. *Why can openers?* Food pantries like ours often find that some of their client families do not have a can opener at home (or lost/broke old ones), rendering many of the pantry's canned goods hard to open.

Thank you for your generosity toward our local food pantry, right when they needed it the most!

CHRISTMAS CHEER Student Gift project: We raised **\$365.00** dollars for the Port Edwards school project that helps district families in various kinds of hardships with Christmas gifts. **Jerene S. & Lily S.** did the shopping on Black Friday, spending a total of **\$313.00**. The remaining **\$52.00** has gone to support the SupPORT Cart (see article on previous page).

DAY TRIP TO THE 414



On Tuesday, November 18th, amid some rainy/snowy weather, a group from PEUMC piled into the Sweats' van and took a day trip to Milwaukee to tour two of our United Methodist community

programs. Our first stop was at **Northcott Neighborhood House**. NNH, whose ministries primarily support the racial minorities in their area, has at least one program for each age group, from infancy to elderly. They sponsor a course to certify young people in the field of arboriculture. They also host a weekly food pantry and an enormous community Christmas meal. Their greatest pride & joy is being the main organizer, since 1972, of the Milwaukee **Juneteenth street festival** which is one of the largest annual festivals of the city.

After a lunch at McBob's, the group then toured **Rooted & Rising**. R&R, formerly the *United Methodist Children's Service*, today sponsors a weekly food pantry, a day care center, a mental health clinic, and 72 low-income apartments. They are currently building more duplexes to add to their ministry outreach. Before leaving, the church's October donation of winter clothing & hygiene items were dropped off.

The group consisted of **Nancy H., Candy P-T., Diane S., Lucy S., and Pastor C.** (*the designated driver*). The photo on the left was taken at NNH and the photo on the right at R&R.

Events in December

COMMUNITY BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

a G.R.A.C.E. event

Thursday, December 18th

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA (1531 Whitrock Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI)

6:00p – 7:00p

A Blue Christmas service is a gentle, contemplative gathering that acknowledges grief, loss, and hardship during the holiday season, while offering hope through Christian presence. It is a sacred time and space for those finding the holiday season difficult (whether “blue” OR “busy”), honoring both sorrow and joy as part of the Christian journey.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24th

PEUMC sanctuary

4:00p – family service (*geared toward young worshippers*)

Last year: 53 minutes long

***7:00p** – traditional candlelight (*lessons & carols*)

Last year: 60 minutes long

11:00p – midnight mass (*a more intimate, shortened version of 7p*)

Last year: 45 minutes long

We especially need **scripture readers for the 7p service;
if you are willing to read one of the “lessons,” please contact the church office.
All the reasons are “Easy-to-Read” simple English!*

Sundays in December

Sunday, December 7th – Communion Sunday + gift wrapping party after the service.

Sunday, December 14th – Second Sunday Refreshments + Town Hall Meeting.

Recognition of leadership & worship helpers.

Sunday, December 21st – Last Sunday in Advent

NEWBORN SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, December 28th, 2025

Let the office know of any newborns born in 2025.

Who? Any newborn near and dear to you!

What? Submit: baby’s full name, birth day, parents’ names, and relation to you. Submit a photo, too.

How? Email or call the church office. office@peumc.org

When? By Christmas Eve, for inclusion on 12/28.

Why? To celebrate & welcome each newborn into the world!

And . . . ? Don’t forget to ask permission from their parents
about including this information in our public worship!

Dates in December - January

GATHERINGS

MemoryShare:

Tuesday, December 2nd @ 10:30a – *El Café*
Tuesday, January 6th @ 10:30a – *El Café*

Men's Breakfast:

Saturday, December 6th – 8:00a – *El Café*
Saturday, January 3rd – 8:00a – *El Café*

U.W.I.F. & Circle of Friends: Potluck Christmas Party - December 10th – 12:15p
Sara's Soup Luncheon – January 14th – 12:15p

Sunshine Reading: _____



First Saturdays of each month.

8:00a – *El Café*

Open to all the men of the church (*no girls allowed!!!*)
Socialize with some devotions



MemoryShare

First Tuesday of each month.

10:30a – *El Café*

A support group
for all who have lost a loved one.

Prayer Requests

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 or this QR Code:



Email-Forwarding Is Over

For the past year, we have been email-forwarding from our old office/pastor emails to our new ones. (Email-forwarding works just like mail-forwarding through the USPS; it also has an end-date.) This email-forwarding will end this month.

We no longer use:

peumc.office@gmail.com or pastor@wete.net

We now use:

office@peumc.org & pastor@peumc.org

Please make sure this information is updated wherever you have this saved.

Scripture & Sermon Series

Dec. 7 th	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday + gift wrapping	JOURNEY THRU THE BIBLE: JOHN! ADVENT SERIES: "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Valley – Dry Bones
Dec. 14 th	Third Sunday of Advent Refreshments + Town Hall		Isaiah 55:1-13 "The trees of the fields"
Dec. 21 st	Fourth Sunday of Advent		John 1:1-5, 14 "The Word was God . . . and lived among us."
Dec. 28 th	First Sunday of Christmas Newborn Saints Sunday		John 1:6-18 "The Lamb of God"

December Sermon Series (Unit #4)

"A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"

Charlie Brown's search for meaning mirrors humanity's longing for hope. His own lament – "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" – echoes the Advent cry for God's presence in a weary world.

Week 1 – November 30th – "THROWN INTO THE FIERY FURNACE" (Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego)

The fiery furnace in Daniel 3 can represent either joyful anticipation or its close cousin: anxiety. The three men were not unnerved by the threat of being thrown into the furnace for their faith; they knew that, somehow, God would protect them. God protects us, too, and helps us to lead with confidence and anticipation, rather than anxiety.

Week 2 – December 7th – "DEM BONES, DEM DRY BONES" (Valley of the Dry Bones)

Even when we feel dry and weary – even "dead" – God can still breath new life into us. In fact, this "wintery" season of our soul is only preparation for the upcoming springtime blossoming in our lives. We just have to wait, and enjoy the rest.

Week 3 – December 14th – "THE CLAPPING TREES" (You shall go out with joy and be led forth in praise)

Just as the trees of the field will clap their hands, so Charlie Brown's little Christmas tree will "join the chorus" transformed by love into a symbol of hope. God delights in what is humble and overlooked, turning weakness into glory.

Week 4 – December 21st – "THE WORD WAS GOD" ("and the Word lived among us")

Do not fear – you can let go of your security blanket. Linus did.

(December 28th is the First Sunday of Christmastide)

Sunday School Dates:

December 14th – Sara T.

(January – no class)

February 8th – Becky T. / March 8th – Sara T.

April 12th – Lori H. / May 10th – Ellen M.

Worship Leaders

Communion: Becky Candles: Becky	Greeter(s)	Usher	Liturgist	Guest Relations	Refreshments
Sun., December 7 th	Candy P-T	Jennifer M.	Jef D.	Kathy Mc.	
Sun., Decembr 14 th	John & Diane S.		Candy P-T.	Kathy Mc.	Sara T. & Diane S.
Sun., Decembr 21 st	Bill & Jody	Pat Mc.	Kathy Mc.	Diane S.	
Sun., Decembr 28 th	Rose W.		Matt B.	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 /



News from November



On Sunday, November 23rd, the Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism (G.R.A.C.E.) hosted their third annual **Community Thanksgiving Service** at the Rapids Moravian Church. A pie reception followed. Pastor (via Lorrie from *El Caf *) provided an expresso chocolate cheesecake and Candy P-T. provided a pumpkin pie. An offering was taken up to support the work of G.R.A.C.E. and their goal to eliminate all student debt from the graduating class of all our area public schools.

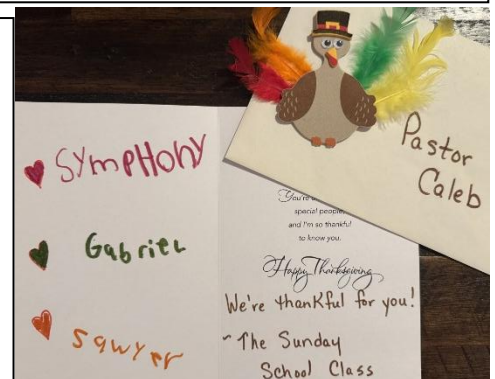


The Communion Table was adorned with many candles, on November 2nd, which were lit by members of our congregation in memory of loved ones we have lost over the years. This is part of our annual All Saints tradition.



On November 23rd, PEUMC recognized First Peoples' Sunday. A Land Acknowledgement Liturgy was read, recognizing the land we worship on was once cared for by Indigenous tribes up to 10,000 years ago.

The UMC special offering, Native American Ministries, was also observed.



On November 9th, during Sunday School, the kids of the church made some Thanksgiving greeting cards, one which was given to Pastor Caleb. Pastor says, **"Thank you, children of God: Symphony, Gabriel, Sawyer!"**

HOLIDAY BAZAAR THANK YOU



A super BIG thank you to absolutely everyone who participated in the November Holiday Bazaar!

We sincerely appreciate those of you who promoted the event, who donated generously, worked that day and before, who prepared food, baked, provided wonderful items to sell, played music, came to shop, had lunch, and offered moral support. Our church could not have had such a successful event without ALL of you! Thank you, again!

To date, proceeds total **\$3,292.08** (with all bills paid).

Celebrating Gift Giving

At our gift-giving meeting on Thursday, November 6, UWIF rejoiced over the success of the Bazaar and then designated the proceeds for the following:

Missions / North East District Pledge Remainder	\$1,000.00
Thank Offering	100.00
Special Mission Recognition	80.00
Gift to Mission	5.00
In Memory of Barbara Taylor	25.00
Total	\$1,210.00
Mid-State Tech / Scholarship for Female Student	300.00
ODC	200.00
Northcott Neighborhood House	200.00
Wisconsin Rapids Family Center	200.00
Rooted & Rising	200.00
Harbor House	200.00
FOCUS Food Pantry	300.00
Adams County Food Pantry	200.00
Midwest Distribution Center	200.00
Hands-on Project / Bags	300.00
Total	\$2,300.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,510.00

A special thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement, and faithful service to the UWIF.

Mary Heuer, Treasurer



Thank You, from the Heuers

Dear Church Family:

We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your kindness and loving support at the time of Ed's passing. We so appreciate you all – **those who assisted in the service** to make our visitors feel welcome and comfortable; to **Sara and her crew** for prepping Fellowship Hall, serving the meal, baking goodies for desserts, and cleanup; our musicians: **Ellen, Judy, and Bill**; our Media Technician, **Colby**; **Ritchay Funeral Home** for their excellent work and our own **Pastor Caleb** for his visits, caring, and beautiful service; he learned Ed's favorite, *Misty*, to perform at the end of the service, and what a magnificent send-off!

So a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make Ed's celebration of life and death so meaningful!

- Mary, Marc, Kurt, Becky

WINTER WEATHER

Let us review our winter-weather protocol:

- our parking lot and sidewalks will be plowed and salted for every Sunday morning services.
- the drop-off area nearest the main entry will be de-iced, salted, and sanded as best we can.
- greeters are asked to look out for those arriving and who may be having difficult approaching the entry.

SERVICE CANCELLATION:

An official call to cancel services will be made by 8:30 AM on Sunday morning. We will use these means to notify you: MailChimp (email), PhoneVite (phone), and on the main page of our church website. **PLEASE** make sure you sign-up for one of these services.

PLEASE EXERCISE GOOD JUDGMENT WHEN COMING TO WORSHIP DURING

CHURCH/ CHARGE CONFERENCE

2025

Saturday,
December 13th –
11:30a – 1:00p –
El Café

District D.S. Hunter will be
with us in-person. All
professing members are
encouraged to attend & vote.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS, FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NOVEMBER!



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!**

2025 Missional Giving Report, YTD

MONTH	NAME	AMOUNT COLLECTED	DATE VOUCHERED
Jan	Human Relations Day – Special Offering	\$143.00	1/29/25
Jan/Feb	Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)	\$510.00	3/4/25
March	Wisconsin Council of Churches	\$150.00	4/9/25
March	Families Helping Families (PESD Benevolence Fund)	\$210.00	4/9/25
March/April	Easter Lilies (21 lilies ordered)	\$277.00	N/A
April	FOCUS Food Pantry – Wis. Rapids	\$99.00	4/15/25
April	Wood County Jail Ministry	\$100.00	5/6/25
April	College Care Packages	\$230.00	N/A
Private Donat.	Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)	\$500.00	5/6/25
May	Annual Conference In-Gathering	\$120.00	6/3/25
June	G.R.A.C.E. local student debt	\$407.49	8/6/25
Sp. Offering	Habitat for Humanity	\$220.00	10/6/25
July/Aug	Habitat for Humanity	\$480.00	10/6/25
Sp. Offering	Stuff-the-Bus School Supplies	\$20.00	10/6/25
Sept/Oct	Recycling Bins & Trash Cans	\$285.00	Not yet
Nov	Christmas Cheer (PESD)	\$365.00	Not yet
Nov	Native American Ministries – Special Offering	\$255.00	Not yet
Nov	Neighborhood Table Dessert	\$40.00	Not yet
Private Donat.	United Methodist Committee on Relief	\$100.00	Not yet
YTD Total:		\$4,511.49	

December Mission/Nurture Project

Collecting money & items to fill **FIVE** Christmas Baskets for Members

These members lost loved ones this year.

Baskets #1 - 4: For females / Basket #5: For a male

Suggested items for inclusion in baskets:

Chocolates or truffles	Shortbread/butter cookies	Caramels or fudge
Preserves/marmalade/jams/jelly	Herbal teas/herbal remedies	Hot cocoa mix
Dried fruit	A soft shawl/scarf/lap blanket/knit hat	Warm socks/slippers
Hand warmers/heat pack	Festive mug	Scented candles
Hand cream/body lotion	Lip balm	Eye mask
Bath salts/bubble bath/spa treatment	Holiday CD	Nail care set or emery boards
Handwritten card	Holiday-themed book or devotional	Small ornament
Crossword puzzles / word search books	Fresh fruit	Mixed nuts
“coupon” for a visit, phone call, or outing together		Small plant
Scratch pad/shopping list pad	Manicure/pedicure kit	Tea towels
Wine/cider	Baking kit	Coffee grounds
Sausage & cheese platter	Breads	Beard or shaving kit

Dollars given this month will go toward supplementing the items that others have brought. We plan to present these baskets between 12/21 and 12/24.

December Households



Throughout December,
our congregation is asked
to pray for the following people:
(randomly chosen on 11/29)

**Ashley M. / Phil O. / Natalee H. / Mark L. /
Kari L. / Dennis & LuAnn S. / Carson P. /
Nancy H.
Pastors Caleb & Doug**

Leadership Council Update

Their November meeting was their final meeting of the year.
The Leadership Council met 8 times total.

- (1) *Discipleship Discussion:* Pastor asked the Council to share with the group what they have learned this year during their discipleship talks or other discipleship-related thoughts they may have. One member brought up that we need to work on bringing people together to learn more about one another, that there are many long-time church members who still don't know each other well. Surface-level, congregational-wide events are good, but we need places to be a little bit more vulnerable and learn from one another and share our stories. We need to provide more (or better?) opportunities to have more intimate, get-to-know-each-other, nurturing opportunities.
- (2) *Discipleship Team Update:* We are still moving ahead with our nominations for 2026.
- (3) **APPROVED:** For 2026, we will only be using a third-party accountant to do our payroll. The rest of the church's expenses will be paid "in house" through our church treasurer. The church treasurer will be given check-writing authority, and the Administrative Assistant will be given bookkeeping responsibilities. In lieu of this, the A.A. will receive a \$0.75 an hour raise to compensate for these additional duties.
- (4) **APPROVED:** With the retirement of Sandy as our accountant at the end of December, we will now contract with Ramona L. Mathews of RLM Tax & Accounting Inc. in Wisconsin Rapids for payroll work only.
- (5) **AFFIRMED:** The 2026 Church Budget & Pastor's Compensation Packet, along with the entire Church/Charge Conference forms have been affirmed for presentation at Church/Charge Conference.

Church Installs New Restroom Paper Towel Dispensers



New towel dispensers have been installed in the men and women's restrooms in the lower level, the main office's storage closet, and the flower room. Two additional ones are in storage as back-ups.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS– 12/7– 1/19

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.*

<u>12/7</u>	<u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u>	<u>Valley of Dry Bones</u>	<u>12/29</u>	<u>2 Kings 1:7-8</u>	<u>Description of Elijah</u>
<u>12/8</u>	<u>Ezekiel 39:25-29</u>	<u>Israel's Restoration</u>	<u>12/30</u>	<u>Malachi 4:5-6</u>	<u>God Will Send Elijah</u>
<u>12/9</u>	<u>Ezra 1:1-11</u>	<u>The End of the Exile</u>	<u>12/31</u>	<u>Luke 3:1-18</u>	<u>John Preaches</u>
<u>12/10</u>	<u>Ezra 3:1-7</u>	<u>Worship Again in Jerusale.</u>	<u>1/1/26</u>	<u>Matthew 3:13-17</u>	<u>Jesus is Baptized</u>
<u>12/11</u>	<u>Ezra 3:8-13</u>	<u>Rebuilding the Temple</u>	<u>1/2</u>	<u>Matt. 4:1-11</u>	<u>Wilderness Temptations</u>
<u>12/12</u>	<u>Isaiah 52:3-10</u>	<u>Restoration of Israel</u>	<u>1/3</u>	<u>Matth. 4:12-17</u>	<u>Jesus Begins Ministry</u>
<u>12/13</u>	<u>Isaia 54:1-10</u>	<u>God's Covenant of Peace</u>	<u>1/4</u>	<u>John 1:35-51</u>	<u>Come & See</u>
<u>12/14</u>	<u>Isaiah 55:1-13</u>	<u>Seek the Lord</u>	<u>1/5</u>	<u>Matthew 4:18-20</u>	<u>Simon & Andrew</u>
<u>12/15</u>	<u>Proverb 8:1, 22-26</u>	<u>Wisdom in Creation</u>	<u>1/6</u>	<u>Matthew 4:21-22</u>	<u>James & John</u>
<u>12/16</u>	<u>Proverbs 8:27-31</u>	<u>Wisdom in Creation</u>	<u>1/7</u>	<u>Matthew 9:9-13</u>	<u>Matthew's Call</u>
<u>12/17</u>	<u>Psalms 8:1-9</u>	<u>A Psalm of Creation</u>	<u>1/8</u>	<u>Matthew 9:35-38</u>	<u>Harvest Is Great</u>
<u>12/18</u>	<u>Isaiah 11:1-9</u>	<u>Prophecy of the Messiah</u>	<u>1/9</u>	<u>Matthew 10:1-4</u>	<u>The 12 Disciples</u>
<u>12/19</u>	<u>Luke 1:26-38</u>	<u>The Annunciation</u>	<u>1/10</u>	<u>Matth. 10:5-12</u>	<u>The Mission of the 12</u>
<u>12/20</u>	<u>Luke 1:46-55</u>	<u>The Magnificat</u>	<u>1/11</u>	<u>John 2:1-11</u>	<u>The Wedding at Cana</u>
<u>12/21</u>	<u>John 1:1-18</u>	<u>The Word Became Flesh</u>	<u>1/12</u>	<u>Luke 14:7-11</u>	<u>Wedding Parable</u>
<u>12/22</u>	<u>Luke 1:5-25</u>	<u>John's Birth Foretold</u>	<u>1/13</u>	<u>Luke 14:15-24</u>	<u>Great Dinner Parable</u>
<u>12/23</u>	<u>Luke 1:57-66</u>	<u>John is Born</u>	<u>1/14</u>	<u>Psalms 104:10-16</u>	<u>Food & Drink for All</u>
<u>12/24</u>	<u>Luke 1:67-80</u>	<u>Zechariah's Song</u>	<u>1/15</u>	<u>Revelation 19:1-10</u>	<u>Eternal Wedding Feast</u>
<u>12/25</u>	<u>Luke 2:1-20</u>	<u>The Savior is Born</u>	<u>1/16</u>	<u>Isaiah 25:6-9</u>	<u>The Feast of the Lord</u>
<u>12/26</u>	<u>Luke 2:21-38</u>	<u>Jesus Is Dedicated</u>	<u>1/17</u>	<u>Psalms 23:1-6</u>	<u>Overflowing Wine</u>
<u>12/27</u>	<u>Luke 2:41-52</u>	<u>Boy Jesus</u>	<u>1/18</u>	<u>John 2:13-25</u>	<u>Cleansing the Temple</u>
<u>12/28</u>	<u>John 1:19-34</u>	<u>The Lamb of God</u>	<u>1/19</u>	<u>Jeremiah 7:1-11</u>	<u>Temple Prophecy</u>



YEAR-END GIVING REMINDER

DEADLINES: For **electronic (online) giving for 2025:** **Friday, December 26th**
 (Electronic giving for 2026 starts Monday, December 29th)
 For **non-electronic (check/cash) giving for 2025:** **Tuesday, December 30th**

UPDATING ONLINE GIVING AMOUNTS:

Option #1: You change your recurring amounts yourself by logging in to your Vanco account and changing the amount for 2026.

Go to peumc.org/donate – choose 'Donate Now' - sign in to your account.

Option #2: Authorize Bill P., our Financial Secretary, to change this for you.

NOTE: Your 'Estimate of Giving' Card does not authorize Bill to do this.



Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism

Meeting Notes

December 3rd, 2025
Rapids Moravian Church

1. **Financial Report** (Caleb): \$174.00 was collected from the Thanksgiving Worship Service.
2. **Fundraising Planning**
 - a. **For Student Debt Relief** (*for required feeds, not "extra/optional" things*)
 - i. Rocky Rococo's – Sunday, February 8th – a % of their income during a designated time period will go to our relief cause.
 - ii. Trivia night – Looking at B' Taphouse again for February
 - b. **FOCUS or Family Center**
 - i. Radio-a-thon – Beth will check with WIRI. Following the holidays, we will explore with FOCUS/Family Center to see how we can support their needs.
 - c. **Life Skills Program at Lincoln H.S.**
 - i. Paint Party/Class – An art teacher is offering a painting class to raise funds to help support the Life Skills program at Lincoln. Do sometime after Easter
3. **Community Worship Services**
 - a. **Blue Christmas** – Thursday, December 18th – 6:00p – Grace Lutheran. Fellowship time to follow
 - b. **Christian Unity Pulpit Swap:**
 - i. On January 18th: Beth to Woodland Lutheran / Kate to Moravian / Margo to First U.C.C.
 - ii. On a different date TBA: Michelle to PEUMC / Caleb to Grace Lutheran
 - c. **Lent** – doing one community service on Sunday, March 22nd in the afternoon or evening.
Suggestion: stations of the cross or final words of Jesus.
4. **Community VBS** – First Congregational will host again. Week of July 13th for K-6th grade.
5. **Medical Debt Relief:** We will investigate partnering with organizations, like Undue Medical Debt, to see if we can help eliminate local medical debt. UMD can relieve \$100 of medical debt for every \$1 raised; they need a minimum of \$10,000 raised (to eliminate \$1,000,000 – able to benefit the debt of those living in our area).

The Do's & Don'ts of Welcoming New People to Church

By Laura Buchanan – November 14th, 2025

I visited quite a few congregation during my college graduate years on my quest to find the best fit. Often, I was scared away by the rusty invitational and welcoming skills I encountered. The following list may seem obvious or even patronizing. I simply want to offer you an opportunity to learn from my own experience (each of the following were literally things I had to endure while visiting a new church):

What NOT to do

- DON'T tell someone they are sitting in "someone's seat." Nothing is less invitational and hospitable than shuffling visitors to a back row, or in my case, a folding chair in the far aisle behind a post.
- DON'T hug people so fiercely that they are uncomfortable. This tells them that you are shocked a visitor is among you, which is not a good message. A lot of people value personal space when it comes to strangers, so start with a handshake, eye contact, and a smile.
- DON'T invite a visitor to sit between you and other family members and then proceed to lean over the visitor to chat with your family throughout the worship service.
- DON'T discuss church business, conflicts, or grievances with new visitors, less-active members, or people outside of your congregation. They will get a negative impression of the entire church and will likely avoid being a part of it.

Yes, all of these things happened to me!

What TO do

Welcoming and inviting is actually pretty simple: **Smile, be friendly, invest time and serve as guide.** Here are some ways to put those skills into action:

- DO invite family members, friends, neighbors and others to more than just worship services. Many people are more willing to attend an event, Bible study, concert or small group gathering first.
- DO be sure at least one congregant is keeping an eye out for visitors so that they can take extra measures to connect with them and welcome them to your church.
- DO remember: When you meet a visitor, take time to get to know them. Ask questions about their life and invite them to join you for lunch. Building a friendship shows that you really care and want them to be a part of your supportive community.
- DO let visitors know about the many ministries and spiritual growth opportunities your church offers so that they get a full picture of how your congregation is following God's call.
- DO show visitors around the building so it feels familiar. Guide them to the nursery. Show them where the youth gather. Usher them to the fellowship hall for the potluck.
- DO introduce visitors to church members who are similar in age or life situation. I became a member at a church at the end of my long search because someone connected me with another young adult, who then showed me where their Sunday school class met. That's all it took for me to return the following week and get plugged into the community.

Advent Message from the U.M.C. Council of Bishops

December 3, 2025

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, urges all United Methodists to embrace our new **Vision** as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, who brings hope to a world full of despair.

The Holy Scriptures tells us that even in these times of despair, ***"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"*** (Isaiah 9:2) and it encourages us not to live in fear, for God proclaims, ***"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."*** (Luke 2:10-11)

Our Vision Statement serves as our guide reminding us that ***"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."***

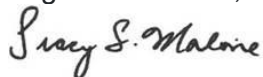
Advent is a time of expectation and renewal—a season when we prepare for Christ's coming as we live into our shared **Vision** in tangible ways as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- **Love Boldly:** As Christ's love breaks into the world, we are called to extend grace and compassion to neighbors near and far.
- **Serve Joyfully:** Advent reminds us that service is a gift. Every act of kindness becomes a sign of God's kingdom breaking into our communities.
- **Lead Courageously:** In times of fear and despair, we lead with faith—proclaiming the good news that Christ comes to dwell among us.

So, as we light the candles of **hope, peace, joy, and love**, let us embody these gifts in our homes, churches, and communities. Advent is not passive waiting; it is active preparation. It is living our vision so that the world may know Emmanuel—God with us.

May God empower us through the Holy Spirit to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously as we await Christ's coming.

In grace and love,



Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>Service 10:00 AM</u>		MemoryShare 10:30 El Café			<i>Pastor's day off</i>	8:00a Men's Breakfast at El Café
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>Service 10:00 AM</u> (Communion)  Bears	Edgewater Haven Service 1:30pm		UWIF & Circle of Friends Potluck Christmas Party 12:15pm		<i>Pastor's day off</i> Newsletter items due	Church/Charge Conf. El Café 11:30-12:30
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<u>Service 10:00 AM</u> Sunday School 2 nd Sunday Coffee  @ Broncos				Community Blue Christmas Service – Grace Lutheran Church 6pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i>	 @ Bears
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<u>Service 10:00 AM</u>			<u>Christmas Eve Services</u> 4:00p 7:00p 11:00p	Christmas	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Electronic giving must be completed by this date.	 Ravens
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<u>Service 10:00 AM</u> <u>NEWBORN SAINTS</u> <u>SUNDAY</u>  Ravens	Electronic funds given this week are attributed to Jan. 4 th .		New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		8:00a Men's Breakfast at El Café  @ Vikings

Birthdays: Lucy S. 12/13, Joy R. 12/15, Leona S. 12/18, Sue T. 12/21, Pat A. 12/31

Anniversaries: Art & Carol Ann H. 12/5, Terry & Marie H. 12/26, Guy & Jo Ann D. 12/26, Peter & Joann K. 12/29, Mike & Kali M. 12/29, Pat & Kathy Mc. 12/30

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