



May 2023

Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN MEDFORD AND RIB LAKE WISCONSIN

What's inside?

Pastor's Message	2
Calendar	3
Monthly Volunteers	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	
Prayer List	
Committee News	5
Life Group	6
Rib Lake Church News	7
Medford Church News	8
Medford Finances	9



Love. Grow. Serve.

Attendance Numbers

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
3/26	13	57
4/2	12	53
4/6	10	--
4/7	--	11
4/9	18	64
4/16	14	27
4/23	16	42

Beds from Christ

The BFC's mission to provide beds and bedding to those in need in Taylor County is being realized in 2023. Since January, the program has provided beds to single individuals who have left difficult relationships, a young man ageing out of foster care, a blind, disabled person and others who have found themselves in difficult situations and unable to afford a bed. Those who have received a bed have expressed gratitude and disbelief that the United Methodist congregation is so generous to strangers in need.

The committee is also overwhelmed with the support the program receives from our church members. Nearly every week BFC is gifted another donation from a congregant. Miraculously; the quilt and bedding cabinet in the church remains stocked with items for delivery... always a pleasant surprise! Who knew that eating baked potatoes on Palm Sunday would result in the congregation donating \$458.00 to the program? Amazing! We are grateful for \$138.00 donation from the Rib Lake United Methodist Church first quarter mission and happy to report that three, of the 2023 beds, were delivered to persons in the Rib Lake area. Our mission is also extending outside our Methodist community. Our Saviors Lutheran Church provided another eight quilts for our bedding cabinet and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Medford just donated \$323.00 to the BFC program.

All this means that the Beds from Christ program is so grateful for all of you and your generosity. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You make it possible to complete the mission of the Bed's program.

Jean Flood

Announcement from the MUMC SALT BOARD

The SALT Board will be sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on May 7th following the 10:30am service to provide information to the congregation concerning the status of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. This meeting will be to provide information regarding the position of the Conference on Human Sexuality. *Child care will be provided in the Fellowship Hall during this meeting for those parents who choose to use this service.*

No action can be or will be taken until after the June 2024 Annual Conference. I suggest that congregation members who wish to research this issue use the website AskTheUmc@umc.org or better yet, copy and paste this site: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-series-is-the-umc-really>. The purpose of this suggestion is to get you to the series of "Is the United Methodist Church really...?" This will provide you with a lot of information on this issue.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Jesus said, "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." -- Matthew 18:4

To be humble has always been a part of the Christian life. Jesus also said, "The first shall be last and the last shall be first" (my paraphrase). The humble person will have greater status in heaven than the proud person.

For a child, humility seems to come easier. While they are, at times, worried about being first (competition seems a natural for all human beings), they are easier at letting others be first at things. They will let their friends go before them; they will help strangers; they will give that help with no preconditions.

When I worked in the public schools at the elementary level, it was fun watching the learning process of a child. Their curiosity is an amazing thing. Their willingness to work together is something that all adults could learn. Their creativity and imagination are wonders to behold. It is fun working with children eager to learn and willing to learn together. It seems that as we get older, those qualities fade and are replaced by the qualities of "me first" and "win at all costs."

It was the same in Jesus' time. Even the disciples argued about who would be the greatest in heaven. They walked with Jesus for three years--they watched the miracles--they watched Jesus caring for others--and they were still concerned about popularity and winning. They needed to see Jesus interacting with children and hear the message about humility.

Let us hear that message and be the servant that Jesus needs us to be. Let us put others first before ourselves.

God's Blessings,
Pastor John

Home Phone: (715) 748-0477

Office Phone: (715) 748-2165

Cell Phone: (715) 560-3606

Email: pastor@medfordchargeumc.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 12 noon



PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

May 7 (M) Craig Butor / James Zajicek
 May 14 (M) Steve & Eunice Mayer
 May 21 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman
 May 28 (M) Ron & Sandy Breth

Worship Leaders/Liturgists

May 7 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb Lind
May 14 (M) Steve Mayer	(R) Carol Punzel
May 21 (M) Sue Breneman	(R) Deb Polacek
May 28 (M) Sandy Breth	(R) Dorathy Nelson

Slideshow

May 7 (M) Carrie Ziembo
 May 14 (M) Jordan Ludwig
 May 21 (M) Brenda Bengtson
 May 28 (M) Crystal Ludwig

Coffee Fellowship (sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall)

May 7 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig
 May 14 (M) Sandy & Ron Breth
 May 21 (M) Brenda & Ron Bengtson
 May 28 (M) TBD

****You are responsible for finding a replacement if you are unavailable on your day.**

*****Please call or email Crystal or the office with any changes so the newsletter and slides are current, and so the correct people receive the worship info each week.**

Crystal: connection@medfordchargeumc.com
 715-965-4006

Office: mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com
 715-748-2165

Prayer Requests

Health Concerns:

Chyrel Houston; Marge Blair; Jean Romang; Barb Schief; Howard & Judy Troyk; Brenda Clark; Craig Butor; Dennis Lind; Hal Swenson; Krist Punzel; Don & Donna Hoefferle; Tom Curran; Dennis Jones; Jerry Hubbard

Mission/Missionary/Community:

"Beds From Christ" volunteers and recipients; the Medford Charge as we reach out to our communities; government leaders

Others:

Pastor John Hazen; Bishop Jung and the Cabinet; DS Tsuker Yang

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 2	(M) Dean & Carol Lietzow (A)
May 13	(R) Mike Kennedy (B)
	(R) Krist & Carol Punzel (A)
May 15	(R) Krist Punzel (B)
May 17	(M) Molly Isola (B)
May 20	(M) Jean Nuernberger (B)
	(M) Tracy Swedlund (B)
	(R) Tanya Wiitala (B)
May 22	(R) Kurt Mannel (B)
May 23	(M) Alyssa Nuernberger (B)
	(R) Ryan Scheithauer (B)
	(R) Nora Wiitala (B)
May 24	(R) Jeff Heiser (B)
May 25	(M) Depresha Isola (B)
May 26	(M) Kelli Ray (B)
May 27	(R) Gary & Dorathy Nelson (A)
May 28	(R) Kurt & Petti Mannel (A)
May 29	(M) Nancy Dorava (B)
May 30	(M) Craig Butor (B)

****Please submit corrections or additions to the church office by calling 715-748-2165 or emailing mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com**

God is
our
refuge
and
strength

Psalms 46:1



IN SYMPATHY

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Flood and Nuernberger families.
 Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

CHURCH EVENTS



SonShine Kids “Super Saturday”

Medford UMC Children’s Ministry



Life Groups – Learning Together

L - Live

I – in

F – Faith

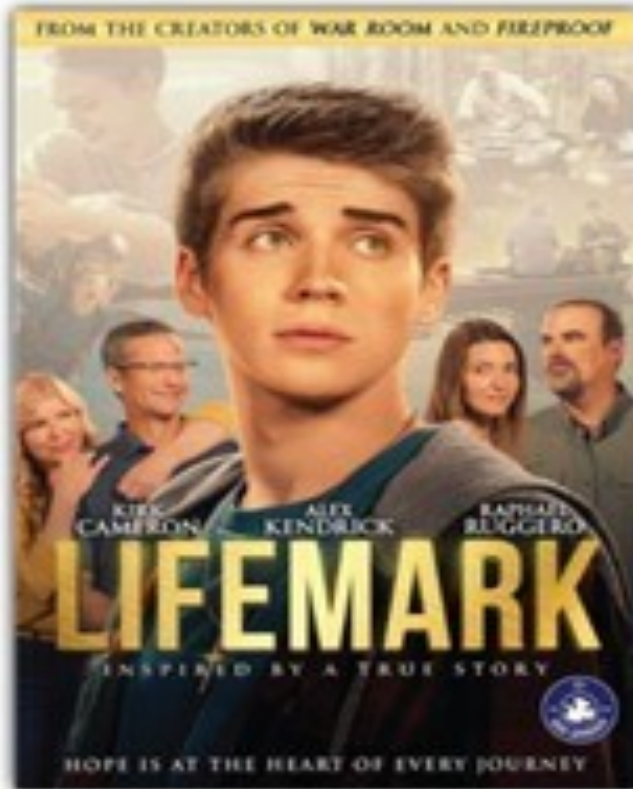
E - Everyday

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study

Life

Groups



MOVIE NIGHT

**Thursday,
May 18th @
5:30 p.m.**

Medford UMC

Join us to watch the movie **Lifemark**. All are welcome whether or not you attended the groups.

See Cheryl or Jean if you have questions.

Oasis

Experimenta - Conozca - Comparta



Domingo - 2:00 pm



**Sunday
May 7**
following service

**Town
Hall
Meeting**

IN THE SANCTUARY

Topic:

The position of the Wisconsin
Conference of the United Methodist
Church on Human Sexuality.

*Parents may choose for their children to watch a video
in the Fellowship Hall during the meeting*

RIB LAKE CHURCH NEWS

The mission of Rib Lake UMC is to help all people to know and grow in Jesus.



Our vision is to build a church family by providing opportunities to worship God, connect with others, and serve the community.

RIB LAKE UMC QTRLY FINANCE REPORT

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

	<u>1ST QTR.</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Beg. Bal. 1/1/2023	\$ 11,759.14	\$ 11,759.14
1ST QTR. Receipts	\$ 10,466.25	\$ 10,466.25
	\$ 22,225.39	\$ 22,225.39
1ST QTR. Disbursements	\$ 11,949.38	\$ 11,949.38
End Bal. 3/31/23	\$ 10,276.01	\$ 10,276.01
Designated Funds held in checking for Food Pantry	\$ 6,608.03	
Designated Funds held in checking for Mission	\$ 138.00	
Total available for Operations	\$ 3,529.98	
Apportionments due for 2023	\$ 5,304.00	
Apportionments paid for 2023	\$ -	
Balance remaining to pay:	\$ 5,304.00	

2023 Quarterly Missions

1st Quarter -
Beds from Christ

2nd Quarter -
Never Forgotten
Honor Flight

3rd Quarter -
Stepping Stones

4th Quarter -
Northwoods Veterans
Homestead

You can share your church life stories and photos in The Messenger! Send them to...

connection@medfordchargeumc.com

Second Quarter Mission



Never Forgotten Honor Flight

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a Not-For-Profit Organization of dedicated Volunteers providing Veterans with closure, gratitude & respect, by flying them to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials.

The Rib Lake Community Food pantry is graciously accepting donations.

Here are some examples of items that will help:

Hamburger Helper	Instant Oatmeal
Chicken Helper	Instant Cream of Wheat
Tuna Helper	Kleenex
Ketchup	Paper Towels
Cooking Oil	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Canned Ravioli	Laundry Soap
Homestyle Meals	Dryer Sheets

MEDFORD SALT BOARD

Our Mission: To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: By the grace of God we reach out to all those who need hope, comfort, support, and the love of Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we all believe in the power of prayer. We will often tell a friend in need that we will pray for them, and we have confidence that when we are facing life's challenges, our friends and family will do the same for us. Paul reflected this in Philippians 1:3-4 when he thanked all of those praying for him during his imprisonment, even though he recognized most of them did not know him personally. It has been my experience that sometimes the prayers of those who do not know us, but recognize our pain, touch us the most deeply.

Most of you will recall that in September of 2020, my 2 year old grandson Rashad, was critically injured in a shooting. Although we will never know what truly happened that night, I will never forget the strangers who supported me through the worst few days of my life.

When I arrived at the hospital I was unable to go to Rashad's bedside because of Covid restrictions. As I sat audibly sobbing on a bench outside the hospital, God sent an elderly man who gently placed his hand on my shoulder and said "God can fix anything." The next angel that God put in my path was the young lady who checked me into my hotel. She made the innocent mistake of asking if I was in town for business or pleasure. By the time I had spilled out the whole story, she took my hand and promised to pray for Rashad. Finally, I received an email from an address I didn't recognize that was signed only with initials. It turned out to be from a detective at work, whom I hardly knew. He offered words of support and prayer, having just gone through a critical health issue with his young son. Again I was overcome by tears. Much like an episode of "Touched By An Angel," I believe God sent those people to support me through those first unpredictable hours after Rashad's injury, and that their prayers contributed to his miraculous recovery.

We all need to take the time to pray for others whether we know them or not. When a medical helicopter flies over, lift the patient in prayer. When you pass an accident on the highway, say a prayer for the victims. Have the courage to gently place your hand on the shoulder of a stranger and remind them that "God can fix anything."

-- Kelley Isola

Your SALT members are:

Bill Breneman	(719) 775-1442 wkbreneman@gmail.com	Kelley Isola	(715) 965-3011 kisola1962@gmail.com
Stan Schmidt	(715) 748-6042 craftsandfishing@tds.net	Steve Mayer	(715)482-1313 seamayer@tds.net
Brenda Bengtson	(715)785-7480 bengtson7230@yahoo.com	Your Name Here?	
Dennis Jones	(715) 748-0329 or (920) 287-1718 jonesnancy157@gmail.com	“You are the salt of the earth ...” -- Matthew 5:13	

MEDFORD FINANCES

Medford UMC Finance Report - March

Checking Account:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Beginning Balance 3/1/2023	\$2,870.64	\$4,115.79	1/1/2023
March Receipts	<u>7,100.75</u>	<u>28,078.63</u>	
	9,971.39	32,194.42	
March Checks	<u>7,796.87</u>	<u>30,019.90</u>	
Balance 3/31/2023	\$2,174.52	\$2,174.52	

Designated funds held in checking at 3/31/2023

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	253.29
Beds From Christ	3,338.50
Missions	34.05
Book Sales	45.69
Easter/Lent	95.00
Easter Lilies	79.99
Total	3,846.52

Checking account balance as of 3/31/2023	\$2,174.52
Designated funds held in checking	<u>3,846.52</u>
Total available to spend in checking:	(\$1,672.00)

Apportionments due for 2023:	\$14,086.00
Apportionments paid YTD	325.00
Apportionments paid in March	<u>50.00 *</u>
	375.00
Balance remaining to pay:	<u>\$13,711.00</u>

*Paid \$50 toward apportionments this month (\$50 designated). \$1,174 per month would meet 2023 apportionments.

Second Quarter Mission



UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.



Rib Lake
Community
Food Pantry

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
287 E ALLMAN STREET
MEDFORD WI 54451-1122**

Medford Charge Office

Phone 715-748-2165

Fax 715-748-9719



mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com

www.medfordchargeumc.com

www.facebook.com/medfordwisconsinumc

Rib Lake UMC, Sunday Worship at 9:00am

1300 Church Street

Rib Lake, WI 54470

Phone 715-427-3670

Medford UMC, Sunday Worship at 10:30am

287 E Allman Street

Medford, WI 54451

Phone 715-748-2165

John Hazen, Pastor 715-748-0477 or 715-560-3606

Crystal Ludwig, Connectional Ministry Coordinator 715-965-4006

Diane Pernsteiner, Charge Treasurer / Office Manager

Address label



**The mission of Medford UMC is to
make new disciples of Jesus
Christ for the transformation of
the world.**

By the grace of God we reach
out to all those who need hope,
comfort, support, and the love
of Jesus Christ.



May 2023



**The mission of Rib Lake UMC is to
help all people to know and grow
in Jesus.**

Our vision is to build a church
family by providing opportunities
to worship God, connect with
others, and serve the community.



If you would like to unsubscribe from our
newsletter or feel that you have received it in
error, please contact the Charge Office to be
removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

715-748-2165

mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com