



February 2024

# 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	
Life Group	5
Church Info	6
Rib Lake Church News	7
Medford Church News	8
Medford Finances	9

## Lenten Services

### February 14 - Rib Lake UMC

Soup & Sandwich Supper - 5:30 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Service - 6:15 p.m.

### March 6 - Medford UMC

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 12:15 p.m.

### February 21 - Medford UMC

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 12:15 p.m.

### March 13 - Rib Lake UMC

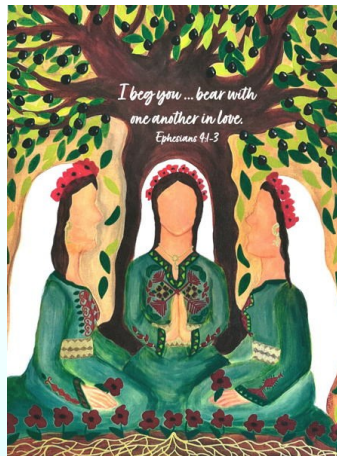
Soup & Sandwich Supper - 5:30 p.m.  
Worship Service - 6:15 p.m.

### February 28 - Rib Lake UMC

Soup & Sandwich Supper - 5:30 p.m.  
Worship Service - 6:15 p.m.

### March 20 - Medford UMC

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 12:15 p.m.



## World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 1

6:00 p.m.

Community United Church  
of Medford

## Attendance Numbers

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
12/31	CANCELED	
1/7	15	33
1/14	16	25
1/21	12	43

Community United Church of Medford will host this year's World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service. For 2024, the Christian Women of Palestine developed the theme, "I beg you . . . bear with one another in Love," from Ephesians 4: 1-3. A free will offering will go toward the work of World Day of Prayer.

Both men and women are invited to this ecumenical service.

# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* -- John 13:34

Jesus gives us a command: Love one another.

This is quite possibly the hardest command of Jesus to follow. I believe one reason is that we get the word love confused. We have the modern culture's definition of love, based on the TV shows and movies and books and advertisements. However, that is not the definition of love that God gives us.

For us, the word love is defined by the example of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ loved the world, and gave us the example of service to the world. Jesus, as King of Israel, came to serve the world. Most kings do not serve their kingdom—they rule their kingdom with an iron fist. Jesus came to serve His kingdom.

The greatest service to His kingdom was dying on the cross for His kingdom. Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and that we may have eternal life. What earthly king would have done such a thing?

His death on the cross was His ultimate show of love, but Jesus loved His kingdom in many other ways. He loved His kingdom through the miracles, healings, teaching, preaching—ways that are too numerous to mention here.

How can this be an example to us?

The love of God can be shown in many, simple ways. We can show the love of God by helping others with their yard work, helping others unload groceries from their car, driving people to and from appointments, helping people clean their houses. We can show the love of God to others by donating to charities, volunteering our time to charitable organizations, and many other ways.

Before I became a pastor, I lived in Menomonie, Wisconsin. I volunteered my time with an organization called "Friends of International Students." At the time, UW-Stout had many international students. We volunteered to sort of adopt and mentor students from other countries to help make the transition to our country easier. That was sharing the love of God with them.

There are many, many ways to share the love of God. It is something that can be done by child and adult. It can be done with family, friends and strangers alike. I urge all of you to share that love of God with whomever you meet.

God's Blessings, *Pastor John*

Home Phone: (715) 748-0477

Office Phone: (715) 748-2165

Cell Phone: (715) 560-3606

Email: [pastor@medfordchargeumc.com](mailto:pastor@medfordchargeumc.com)

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

**If you would like to become  
a member of the Medford or  
Rib Lake churches, please  
speak with Pastor John.**

# MEDFORD and RIB LAKE EVENTS of FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group</u> (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group</u>	2 <i>Office closed</i>	3
<b>4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>(R) 9:00 am - Worship</b> (M) 9:15 am - SonShine Kids <b>(M) 10:30 am - Worship</b> (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	5 <i>Office closed</i>	6 (M) 6:00 pm Lay Servants / Worship Team	7 (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice	8 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray" (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray"	9 <i>Office closed</i>	10
<b>11 Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>(R) 9:00 am - Worship</b> (M) 9:15 am - SonShine Kids <b>(M) 10:30 am - Worship</b> (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	12 <i>Office closed</i>	13	14 (R) 9:00 am Food Pantry (M) 10:30 am Keenagers @ Creative Hideaway (R) 4:00 pm Food Pantry (R) 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich <b>(R) 6:15 pm</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	15 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray" (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray"	16 <i>Office closed</i>	17
<b>18 1st Sunday in Lent</b> <b>(R) 9:00 am - Worship</b> (M) 9:15 am - SonShine Kids <b>(M) 10:30 am - Worship</b> (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	19 <i>Office closed</i>	20 <b>(M) 6:30 pm</b> <b>SALT</b>	21 (M) 11:30 am Soup & Sandwich <b>(M) 12:15 pm</b> <b>Lenten Service</b>	22 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray" (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> "When You Pray"	23 <i>Office closed</i>  <b>March</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Pictures and</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	24
<b>25 2nd Sunday in Lent</b> <b>(R) 9:00 am - Worship</b> (M) 9:15 am - SonShine Kids <b>(M) 10:30 am - Worship</b> (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	26 <i>Office closed</i>	27	28 <b>(M) 3:00 pm</b> <b>Sticker Day</b> (R) 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice <b>(R) 6:15 pm</b> <b>Lenten Service</b>	29	1 <i>Office closed</i>  <b>WORLD</b> <b>DAY OF</b> <b>PRAYER</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Community</b> <b>United Church</b>	2
<b>3 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> <b>(R) 9:00 am - Worship</b> (M) 9:15 am - SonShine Kids <b>(M) 10:30 am - Worship</b> (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	4 <i>Office closed</i>	5 (M) 6:00 pm Lay Servants / Worship Team	6 (M) 11:30 am Soup & Sandwich <b>(M) 12:15 pm</b> <b>Lenten Service</b>	7	8 <i>Office closed</i>	9

The Event Calendar is subject to change. Watch the weekly announcements for updates.

# PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

## Weekly Volunteer Schedule

### Greeters

February 4 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger  
 February 11 (M) Craig Butor / James Zajicek  
 February 18 (M) Eunice & Steve Mayer  
 February 25 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman

### Worship Leaders/Liturgists

February 4 (M) Jean Nuernberger (R) Deb Lind  
 February 11 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut (R) Karon Dallmann  
 February 18 (M) Steve Mayer (R) Carol Punzel  
 February 25 (M) Sue Breneman (R) Deb Polacek

### Slideshow

February 4 (M) Brenda Bengtson  
 February 11 (M) Crystal Ludwig  
 February 18 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut  
 February 25 (M) Carrie Ziembo

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

February 4 (M) Brenda & Ron Bengtson  
 February 11 (M) TBD  
 February 18 (M) TBD  
 February 25 (M) TBD

### Altar Flowers (sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall)

February 4 (M) TBD  
 February 11 (M) TBD  
 February 18 (M) TBD  
 February 25 (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](mailto:connection@medfordchargeumc.com)  
 715-965-4006

Office: [mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com](mailto:mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com)  
 715-748-2165

The Medford United Methodist Church nominations committee is still trying to fill positions. We currently have two open positions on the SALT board. We also need team leaders for the Congregational Care ministry Team and the Discipleship Ministry teams. We will need a new treasurer and a new membership chair.

If you feel you can fill any of these, please let Pastor John know.

## Prayer Requests

### Health Concerns:

Kelli Ray; Chyrel Houston; Marge Blair; Jean Romang; Barb Schief; Judy Troyk; Brenda Clark; Craig Butor; Dennis Lind; Hal Swenson; Krist Punzel; Don & Donna Hoefferle; 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

**pray**  
*continually*  
1 Thessalonians 5:17  
[medfordchargeumc.com](http://medfordchargeumc.com)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Feb 1 (M) Bill Doberstein (B)  
 Feb 2 (M) Gaige Ingersoll (B)  
 Feb 3 (M) Jim Flood (B)  
 Feb 5 (M) Jerry Hubbard (B)  
 Feb 7 (M) Aren Kirkeeng (B)  
 Feb 11 (M) Jean Flood (B)  
 Feb 15 (R) Dorathy Nelson (B)  
 Feb 16 (M) Kaena Farris (B)  
 Feb 19 (R) Don Hoefferle (B)

**\*\*Please submit corrections or additions to the church office by calling 715-748-2165 or emailing [mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com](mailto:mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com)**

Where Do  
**You?**  
 Fit?



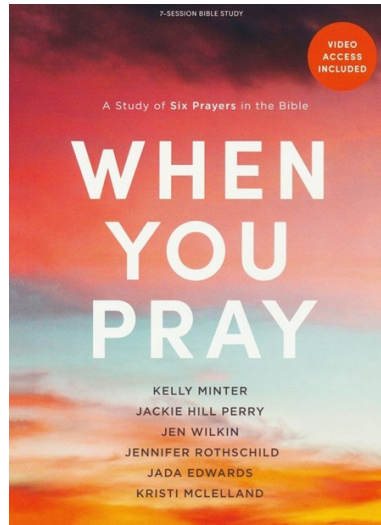
# Life Groups – Learning Together

**L** - Live

**I** – in

**F** – Faith

**E** - Everyday



Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all?

You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray. Join six beloved Bible study teachers, Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilkin, Jennifer Rothschild, Jada Edwards, and Kristi McLelland in this study.

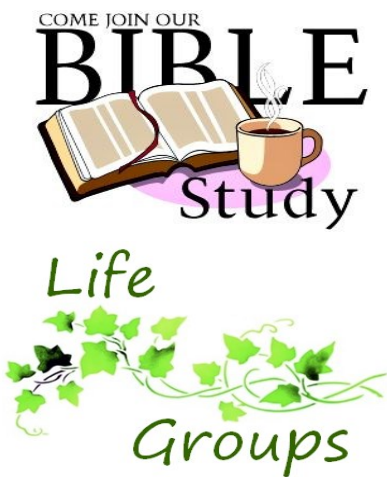
Learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. The videos are approximately 25-40 minutes long with discussion to follow.

description from ChristianBook.com

**The 7-week study begins Thursday, January 11- February 22.  
Groups will be at 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.**

**Books are not required, but if you would like to go deeper in the study, you can order one. Both Amazon and Christianbook.com have this book. The price is around \$25.**

**Please contact Cheryl or Jean to for more information about this Life Group.**



Please share your church life stories and photos in The Messenger!

Send them to...  
**connection@medfordchargeumc.com**

## Keenagers

Our February gathering will meet on Wednesday, February 14 at Creative Hideaway in Dorchester for a quilting demonstration by Crystal Ludwig of Crystal Clear Quilting. The carpool will leave Medford UMC at 10:00 a.m. with the demonstration scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m.

We will be eating lunch in Dorchester after our time with Crystal.

Keenagers is open to all those aged 50 years and older.  
Please contact Sue Breneman with any questions.  
719-775-1443

6

# CHURCH INFO

**THERE ARE MORE SLAVES IN THE  
WORLD TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE  
IN HUMAN HISTORY**



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAS OCCURRED IN  
EVERY COUNTY IN WISCONSIN.  
THE AVERAGE AGE OF TRAFFICKING  
VICTIMS IN WISCONSIN IS 13 YEARS OLD.**

**You're invited to learn more.**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

**6:30PM - 8PM**

**Holy Rosary Catholic Church**

**215 S Washington Ave, Medford, WI**

**Gymnasium**

**Open to the public**

The Medford United Methodist Church nominations committee is still trying to fill positions. We currently have two open positions on the SALT board. We also need team leaders for the Congregational Care ministry Team and the Discipleship Ministry teams. We will need a new treasurer and a new membership chair. If you feel you can fill any of these, please let Pastor John know.



If you have an event or meeting that you would like included on the monthly calendar and the slides, please contact the church office with all necessary information.

**715-748-2165 or  
mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com**



*"For where two or three  
are gathered together  
in my name, I am there  
among them"*

Matthew 18:20 (NRSV)



Carson I. celebrated  
his Confirmation on  
Sunday, December 3



Sunday Mornings **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**



# RIB LAKE CHURCH NEWS

## 2024 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@medford  
chargeumc.com**

**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:

Beg. Bal. 10/1/2023  
4TH QTR. Receipts

4TH QTR. Disbursements

End Bal. 12/31/23

Designated Funds held in checking for Food Pantry

**Total available for Operations**

Apportionments due for 2023

Apportionments paid for 2023

Balance remaining to pay:

### 4TH QTR.

\$ 9,283.88

\$ 15,510.41

\$ 24,794.29

\$ 14,247.45

\$ 10,546.84

\$ 4,808.68

**\$ 5,738.16**

### YEAR TO DATE

(1/1/2023)

\$ 11,759.14

\$ 47,516.96

\$ 59,276.10

\$ 48,729.26

\$ 10,546.84

## First Quarter Mission



Beds from Christ is a mission of Medford United Methodist Church, whose goal is to provide bedding to those in need within Taylor County.



## **Rib Lake Community Food Pantry**

Anything your family enjoys eating is a good candidate for donating!

Some items always in need of are:  
cash for buying meats and dairy; peanut  
butter, catsup, mayo.

Why cash? We can purchase meats, etc.  
from Feed My People cheaper than you can  
buy it in the store.

# SALT MEDFORD CHURCH NEWS

## Medford United Methodist Church – SALT Board Minutes

Tuesday December 19, 2023  
6:30 PM at Fellowship Hall

**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.

**Our Core Values:** Preaching and teaching scripture, encouragement, fellowship, prayer, and worship.

**Aspirational Value:** Service to ALL Others

**Attendance:** Pastor John Hazen, Stan Schmidt, Bill Breneman, Dennis Jones, Linda Murphy, and Brenda Bengtson

Call to order-Welcome-Opening Prayer- Co-Chair Bill. Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM. Bill led the opening prayer.

2. Steve had devotions but was unable to attend. He sent the message to Bill to read. The theme was what Christmas meant to him.
3. Changes to the meeting:

Brenda asked if all the members of SALT Committee were retired? Linda said she still worked till

5pm. Brenda thought if all were retired maybe the winter, the meetings could be changed to the afternoon. The time will stay the same at 6:30 pm.

4. **Approval of minutes** from Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> SALT Board meeting. Dennis moved; Brenda seconded to approve the minutes. All approved.

5. **Review of current finances/vital:** Brenda asked on a \$3,500 Beds for Christ donation. Pastor John said it was a grant from the Methodist Church Conference. Nancy Jones stated that \$470. was earned for Rib Lake Food pantry from the bake sale held on December 17, 2023.

Dennis made a motion to approve the financial report., Stan seconded. All approved.

6. **Pastor's Report:**

- This Wednesday Advent Service will be in Rib Lake.
- Christmas Eve Day: Rib Lake will have a regular service at 9am, then will have a Christmas Eve Service at 5PM. Medford will have its Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 AM.
- Pastor John will be on Vacation from Dec. 26 thru Jan 1, 2024. He will be back to work on Jan 2, 2024.
- Jan. 11, a new Life group will start. It will be "When you Pray". Pastor John will lead the morning class, and Cheryl will lead the 5:30pm class.
- The North Central conference will not exist in Jun of 2024. This conference will be divided between the Northwest Conference and the Northeast Conference. Pastor John did not know where Medford will be in what Conference
- General Conference will be held in May and the Annual Conference will be in July.

7. **SALT Board Training:** Chapters 10 and 11. Next month will be Chapter 12, the final chapter.

8. **Ministry Reports:** None

9. **Pressing issues:** Bill brought up the Bill for Black Creek Services. The company was used to salt the driveway for Ron Isaacson's Funeral. The Salt Board approved the bill of \$100.00.

- A. Election of SALT Board Chairperson: Bill made a motion to elect Dennis as new Chairperson, Stan Seconded. All agreed.
- B. Status of filling 2024 Board openings: Linda Murphy and Cheryl Ketelhut will fill the positions of Stan Schmitt and Steve Mayer, but are still short 2 people on the board.
- C. Decision on paying part of Apportionment for 2023. Stan and Brenda asked where would the money come from. Stan reported that the financial committee has had to use the money from e-trade account to pay bills now. He could not see how the Church could pay any money towards apportionments. It was the consensus that no money would be paid.
- D. Election of 3 SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)  
Dennis is automatically a SPRC member as Chairperson of SALT. Bill said he would stay on but would not Chair. Bill will check with Cheryl to see if she would be willing to be on the committee and possibly chair it.
- E. The SALT Board would like to Thank Stan and Steve for being on the SALT Board for their terms and extended terms. Stan said that he would be willing to come and discuss the Financials with the SALT Board. Again, it will be grateful. Thanks Stan and Steve for all your time and efforts with the SALT Board over the years.

10. **Next SALT Board meeting** is January 16, 2024. Time is 6:30PM

11. Items for Agenda for January 16, 2024 meeting:

- a. Mission Possible Chapter 12
- b. Other as needed

12. No new Communication plan

13. Prayer Requests: Flooding on both sides of United States;

14. Closing prayer by Pastor John

15. Adjournment: Linda made a motion, Stan seconded to adjourned. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**If anyone contacts you through texts or emails claiming to be Pastor John or another member of the church and they ask you to send money or buy gift cards of any kind, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST. IT IS A SCAM.**

**For some time now these types of scams have become more prevalent and more sophisticated in their making the request look real. Most times the request states that Pastor is visiting someone in the hospital and the person needs a gift card to help them buy things during their stay. AGAIN, THIS IS A SCAM. DO NOT SEND ANYONE MONEY OR GIFT CARDS THROUGH TEXT OR EMAIL. Please contact Crystal if you have any questions.**



# MEDFORD FINANCES

## Medford UMC Finance Report - December

Checking Account:

	Month	Year-to-Date	
Beginning Balance 12/1/2023	\$6,166.15	\$4,115.79	1/1/2023
December Receipts	<u>12,286.39</u>	<u>143,088.91</u>	
	18,452.54	147,204.70	
December Checks	<u>9,075.76</u>	<u>137,827.92</u>	
Balance 12/31/2023	\$9,376.78	\$9,376.78	

Designated funds held in checking at 12/31/2023

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	914.28
Beds From Christ	2,845.91
4th Qtr Missions	642.06 **
Book Sales	45.69
Sunday School	142.77
Poinsettias	164.98
Total	<u>4,755.69</u>

Checking account balance as of 12/31/2023	\$9,376.78
Designated funds held in checking	<u>4,755.69</u>
Total available to spend in checking:	\$4,621.09

Apportionments due for 2023:	\$14,086.00
Apportionments paid YTD	2715.00
Apportionments paid in December	<u>0.00 *</u>
	2,715.00
Balance remaining to pay:	<u>\$11,371.00</u>

\*Paid \$0 toward apportionments this month; \$200 designated but will carry over to 2024 as payment could not be made by Wisconsin Conference deadline for 2023; \$1,174 per month would meet 2023 apportionments.

\*\*The Christmas Bake Sale brought in \$480 which is included in the figure above and will be given to the Rib Lake Food Pantry in January 2024.

### Medford SALT Members

Dennis Jones	jonesnancy157@gmail.com
Brenda Bengtson	bengtson7230@yahoo.com
Bill Breneman	wkbreneman@gmail.com
Cheryl Ketelhut	c_ketelhut@yahoo.com
Linda Murphy	LindaMurphy249@gmail.com
Pastor John Hazen	pastor@medfordchargeumc.com

### SPRC Members

<b><u>Medford</u></b>
Dennis Jones
Bill Breneman
Cheryl Ketelhut
<b><u>Rib Lake</u></b>
Karon Dallmann
Dorathy Nelson
Deb Polacek

**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](mailto:mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com)

[www.medfordchargeumc.com](http://www.medfordchargeumc.com)

[www.facebook.com/medfordwisconsinumc](https://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.



February 2024



**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](mailto:mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com)