



March 2025

Messenger

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

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Attendance Numbers

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
2/2	11	19
2/9	12	26
2/16	14	26
2/23	11	23

Special Services in March & April

Lenten Services

Wednesday Nights at 6:15 pm
Soup & Sandwich Supper at 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday - Medford UMC

March 12 - Rib Lake UMC

March 19 - Medford UMC

March 26 - Rib Lake UMC

April 2 - Medford UMC

April 9 - Rib Lake UMC

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday

April 17 - 7:00 pm
Rib Lake UMC

Good Friday

April 18 - 7:00 pm
Medford UMC



Easter Services

Rib Lake UMC

SonShine Service - 6:30 am
Breakfast Served after Service

Medford UMC

Easter Service - 10:15 am

World Day of Prayer - 2025

Friday, March 7 - 6:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Medford

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 2025, the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands developed the theme, "I Made You Wonderful," from Psalm 139.

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, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." --Matthew 28:20

These words were among the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples before ascending into heaven. Jesus wanted them to know that wherever they went and whatever they did, He would be with them. He might not be with them physically, but He would be with them through the Holy Spirit. This allowed the disciples to go forth and invite people into a relationship with Jesus. They had the confidence to go forth beyond the boundaries of Israel into new territories and bring Jesus to the world.

Do we believe that Jesus is with us at all times—wherever we are and whatever we do? Think of what we could do if new actually believed that. We would not be afraid to take Jesus with us at all times. We would not be afraid to introduce others to Jesus. We would invite whomever we meet to church with us.

However, we would also know that it is God who brings the people to Christ. We can invite people to church and invite them into the worship experience, but it is God who warms their hearts and brings them to the kingdom. It is God who provides them with their salvation. We are only the vessels through which God works.

James Hays tells a story from his childhood. When he was a teenager, his church was having a revival. His mother invited a family to come and sit in the pew with them. This began that family's regular attendance at the church. They later committed to become Christians and members of the church. One of the children of that family would later become a pastor.

That invitation from James' mother would become a life-changing event for that family. However, once the invitation was made, it was God who did the work on the hearts of that family. It was God who worked on that son and led him into the ministry. James' family was the vessel through which God brought that family to church and then to Jesus.

Too many Christians believe they are the ones who save souls. They put the importance of their ministries on saving souls. Without God, they could do nothing. Without Jesus in their hearts and at their sides, they could do nothing.

As Christians, we are important to God's saving ministry in the world. We are important in helping spread the salvation of God. We are not the ones who save—that is God and God alone. God works through us, and we have to be open to God's work through us. It is God, and God alone, who does the work. We are the vessels through which that work is accomplished.

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: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

March 2 (M) James Zajicek
 March 9 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman
 March 16 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger
 March 23 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig
 March 30 (M) James Zajicek

Worship Leaders/Liturgists

March 2 (M) Kelley Isola	(R) Carol Punzel
March 9 (M) Bill Breneman	(R) Deb Polacek
March 16 (M) Jean Nuernberger	(R) Dorathy Nelson
March 23 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Kathy Joy
March 30 (M) Kelley Isola	(R) Deb Lind

Slideshow

March 2 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
March 9 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
March 16 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
March 23 (M) Brenda Bengtson	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
March 30 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.

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

March 2 (M) **TBD**
 March 9 (M) **TBD**
 March 16 (M) **TBD**
 March 23 (M) Ron & Brenda Bengtson
 March 30 (M) **POTLUCK**

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

March 2 (M) Corliss Jensen Memorial Flower Fund
 March 9 (M) **TBD**
 March 16 (M) Corliss Jensen Memorial Flower Fund
 March 23 (M) **TBD**
 March 30 (M) **TBD**

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

*****Please 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:

Marge Blair; Craig Butor; Brenda Clark; Hollie Harvey; Ray Parks; Barb Schief

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; District Superintendent PyungAhn "Peace" Kim; Bishop Dan Schwerin

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	(M) Marla Hemke (B)
March 2	(M) Ron & Sandy Breth (A)
March 5	(M) Kelley Isola (B)
March 8	(M) Shawn & Darci McDonnell (A)
March 12	(R) Kate Heiser (B)
	(M) Grace Ziembo (B)
March 13	(M) Kathi Burton (B)
March 15	(M) Kayla Heldt (B)
March 17	(R) Ron & Arlene Penning (A)
	(M) Stan Schmidt (B)
March 18	(R) Ray Parks (B)
March 24	(R) Rebecca Kennedy (B)
	(M) Trent Lietzow (B)
March 25	(M) Patsy Schmidt (B)
March 26	(M) Liam Johnson (B)
	(M) Carol Lietzow (B)
March 28	(M) Margie Lindow (B)

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

In May 2025, the Medford UMC Worship Committee will be holding an informational meeting and training session for current volunteers and those who wish to learn more about serving our church. Please watch for more information.

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.



“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

--Matthew 18:20

Rib Lake UMC 2025 Quarterly Missions

1st Quarter -
Beds from Christ

2nd Quarter -
Wounded Warrior Project

3rd Quarter -
Never Forgotten Honor Flight

4th Quarter -
Ronald McDonald House

First Quarter Mission

Beds from Christ



The Beds from Christ mission is to meet the basic need for sleep by providing new beds for Taylor County individuals and families in need.



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

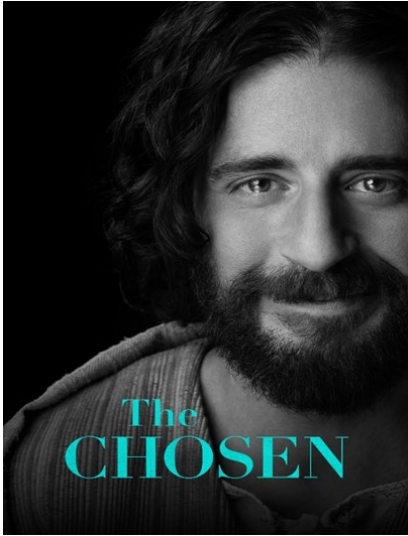
Why cash? We can purchase meats, etc. from Feed My People cheaper than you can buy it in the store.

Here are some more examples of items that will help the Rib Lake Community Food Pantry:

Hamburger Helper
Chicken Helper
Tuna Helper
Homestyle Meals
Cooking Oil
Canned Ravioli

Instant Oatmeal
Instant Cream of Wheat
Kleenex
Paper Towels
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Laundry Soap
Dryer Sheets

2025 Winter Life Group



Rib Lake UMC

Season 1 of "The Chosen"

Wednesdays - 1:00 p.m.

Dorathy's House

February 19 through April 16

no group on March 26

We will watch an episode each week, followed by a question and answer session.

Call/text Dorathy at 715.897.3541 to register.

Life Groups: we talk about God, Faith, and Life.
We are *learning together*.



Charge Office Hours:

Tuesday - 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Wednesday - 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Thursday - 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

The Charge office and Pastor John's office are located at Medford UMC.



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.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Research has shown that youth that participate in a camp experience are nearly 70% more likely to say that a church home is important to them later in life. Many pastors, youth directors, and other ministry professionals cite an experience at camp as critical to their call to full-time ministry.

Since 1947, the camp settings at Pine Lake & Lake Lucerne have been providing life-changing experiences of spiritual growth.

Great stories of firsts come from these places. The first time away from home. The first time catching a fish. The first time worshipping around a campfire. The first time eating a s'more. And for some, the first time they felt God encounter them personally.



A lot has changed at Pine Lake & Lake Lucerne over the years, but it still feels like home to campers that come back to visit. The quiet of the lake, the wind through the trees and the sound of voices singing together still wraps it's way through the forest.

We are eager to offer you the Christian hospitality and care that has always been a part of our story. We can't wait to have you at summer camp, host you for a retreat, or support your family, ministry or personal retreat!

Summer camp experiences are available for grades 2-12, as well as family and other inclusive events. There are many different programs available - from a focus on nature to fun with robotics, there is something for everyone!

Find out more about Wisconsin United Methodist Camps at **wiumcamps.org**, take a look at the informational packet in the church office, or request your own packet by emailing your mailing address to **camping@wisconsinumc.org**.



CHURCH EVENTS

Keenagers

Friday, March 14th, 7:30 PM Colby High School

The Keenagers will be attending the play, "Airport Encounters" on Friday, March 14th, 2025. The play will be presented at the Colby High School and it starts at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$10 at the door, but if you choose to bring a nonperishable food item the price is reduced to \$9. The play is a compilation of 10 vignettes and is classified as a comedy. There will be a signup list at church, but remember, we pay at the door, so no reserved seats. We may go out to eat prior to the show, but no decision has been made. If we do, it will probably be in Abbotsford. We will carpool from Medford for those that need a ride. Please let Sue know if you are going by Sunday March 9th, for carpooling purposes.

719-775-1443 or sebreneman@gmail.com

MEDFORD



POTLUCK LUNCH

MARCH 30 | AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Medford UMC 2025 Quarterly Missions

1st Quarter (local) -
Rib Lake Community Food Pantry

2nd Quarter (regional) -
Never Forgotten Honor Flight

3rd Quarter (national) -
Salvation Army

4th Quarter (international) -
UMCOR

Medford UMC - First Quarter Mission



Rib Lake
Community
Food Pantry

Visit our YouTube channel!



Subscribe

youtube.com/@medfordunitedmethodistchurch



Rummage Sale

June 26th 8AM-5PM & June 27th 8AM-5PM
Medford United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

I know this seems early, but we are already a month and a half into 2025 so we thought we would let everyone know that the Keenagers are again organizing the church rummage sale. If you desire to donate, we are looking for gently used items for resale. Items should be clean and usable for the next family that may have a need. Items that went well last year were household items, dishes, utensils, bedding, craft items, DVDs, sports and camping items, small furniture (like chairs, bookcases, not large furniture), and small kitchen appliances.

We cannot resell baby car seats or strollers.

We also cannot handle large appliances.

The Keenagers have not decided on a designation for the funds, but once we do we will advertise it.

The date of the rummage sale is June 26th & 27th, which is a Thursday and Friday. We may have a storage area for the items; we continue to work on that and will announce that soon. The dates of drop off at the church that week are dependent on the use of the church that week.

Questions or ideas for assisting with this project, contact Sue Breneman 719-775-1443, Bill Breneman 719-775-1442, or email Sue at sebreneman@gmail.com

MEDFORD FINANCES

Medford UMC Finance Report - January

Checking Account:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$6,153.00	\$6,153.00
January Receipts	<u>5,482.76</u>	<u>5,482.76</u>
	11,635.76	11,635.76
January Checks	<u>9,138.36</u>	<u>9,138.36</u>
Balance 1/31/2025	\$2,497.40	\$2,497.40

Designated funds held in checking at 1/31/2025

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	899.38
Beds From Christ	4,151.81
4th Qtr Missions	61.00
Book Sales	45.69
Sunday School	142.77
Easter Lillies/Palms	149.96
Poinsettias	84.90
Total	5,535.51

Checking account balance as of 1/31/2025

\$2,497.40

Designated funds held in checking

5,535.51

Total available to spend in checking:

(\$3,038.11)

Apportionments due for 2025:

\$14,436.00

Apportionments paid YTD

Apportionments paid in December

-

Balance remaining to pay:

\$14,436.00

*\$1203 per month would meet 2025 apportionments.

Medford Ad. Council Members - 2025		SPRC Members
Brenda Bengtson	715-785-7480	<u>Medford</u>
Linda Murphy	715-965-2015	Dennis Jones
Dennis Jones	715-748-0329	Bill Breneman
Bill Breneman	719-775-1442	Cheryl Ketelhut
Stan Schmidt	715-560-2811	<u>Rib Lake</u>
John DeBruyne	715-965-4479	Karon Dallmann
Cheryl Ketelhut	608-485-2459	Dorathy Nelson
Pastor John Hazen	715-748-2165	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

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

Nancy Graun, 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.



March 2025



**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