



April 2025

# Messenger

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

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## Attendance

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
3/2	10	23
3/5 Ash Wednesday Service	--	14
3/9	12	36
3/12 Lenten Service	12	--
3/16	12	27
3/19 Lenten Service	--	15
3/23	17	27

## Special Services

### Lenten Services

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

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

Easter Sunday - April 20

#### **Rib Lake UMC**

6:30 a.m. SonRise Service  
breakfast to follow service

#### **Medford UMC**

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration  
brunch served before service  
9:30 am - 10:15 am

**Medford UMC is now taking orders for Easter Lilies at the cost of \$17.95 each to honor and remember our loved ones. Orders will be accepted through April 13.**

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Medford UMC (memo: Easter Lilies)  
Place this form in the offering basket or return to the Charge Office by April 13.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." -- John 14:8.*

Philip asks Jesus to show him God, the Father. What he does not recognize when he asks them question is that God is right in front of him in the form of Jesus. This must frustrate Jesus. In fact, Jesus answers with, "Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." I am sure the disciples themselves were confused by this answer.

What the disciples would come to realize, after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, was that they had been in the presence of God the entire time. God was in everything Jesus ever said or did. They had a front row seat to the kingdom of God.

One problem that many have today is that they do not see God. I remember when the planes hit the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, there were those who asked where God was. God was present in every first responder, every firefighter, every police officer, every doctor and nurse that were on duty that day. Bad things happen in this world. God is always there to respond.

There are times, when we lose a loved one, we might wonder where God is. It might feel that God has abandoned us. That is the furthest from the truth. God is with us in every person that sends condolences, in every casserole that is brought to our homes, in every person who attends services. We have to remember that God is with us at all times, even when it seems otherwise.

How do we see God today? We see God in every volunteer at a food pantry, in every person who gives blood at a blood drive, in every person who visits another in a hospital or care center, in every person who takes someone to a doctor's appointment. God is definitely in the volunteers of this world.

God also works in and through each and every Christian. When we share the love of God in this world, we are allowing God to work through us. When we allow God to work through us, then others see God in us.

As Christians, we are important to God's ministry of salvation and mission of love. We do the things that God through Jesus has taught us. We serve those in our world whom Jesus served in His. We go to the least and the lost, just as Jesus did. God will work through us, and others will see God in us.

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

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

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

# MEDFORD and RIB LAKE EVENTS of APRIL 2025

3

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

## 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.

1

2

(R) 1:00 pm  
Life Group  
(M) 4:00 pm  
Worship / Lay Servants  
(M) 4:30 pm  
Confirmation  
(M) 5:30 pm  
Soup/Sandwich Supper  
(M) 6:15 pm  
**Lenten Service**  
(M) 7:00 pm  
Choir Practice

3

**Red Cross  
Blood Drive**



**Medford UMC**  
12 noon - 5 pm

4 Office closed

5

**6 5th Sunday in Lent**

**Holy Communion**

(R) 9:00 am - Worship  
(M) 10:30 am - Worship  
(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

7 Office closed

8

9

(M) 11:00 am  
Keenagers  
(R) 1:00 pm  
Life Group  
(R) 4:30 pm  
Confirmation  
(R) 5:30 pm  
Soup/Sandwich Supper  
(R) 6:15 pm  
**Lenten Service**  
(M) 7:00 pm  
Choir Practice

10

11 Office closed

12

**13 Palm Sunday**

(R) 9:00 am - Worship  
(M) 10:30 am - Worship  
(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

14 Office closed

15

(M) 6:00 pm  
**Ad. Council**

16

(R) 9:00 am / 4:00 pm  
Food Pantry  
(R) 1:00 pm  
Life Group  
(R) 2:30 pm  
**Ad. Council**  
(M) 6:00 pm  
Choir Practice

17

**Holy Thursday**  
7:00  
**Rib Lake UMC**

18 Office closed

**Good Friday**  
7:00  
**Medford UMC**

May  
Newsletter  
Pictures and  
Articles Due

19

**20 EASTER**

(R) 6:30 am  
**SonRise Service**  
(R) Breakfast following service  
(M) 9:30-10:15 Easter Brunch  
(M) 10:30 am  
**Easter Celebration**  
(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

21 Office closed

22

23

(M) 5:00 pm  
**Sticker Day**  
(M) 5:00 pm  
Confirmation  
(M) 6:00 pm  
Choir Practice

24

25 Office closed

26

**27 2nd Sunday of  
Easter**

(R) 9:00 am - Worship  
(M) 10:30 am - Worship  
(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

**Spaghetti Dinner**  
10:30 am - 1:00 pm  
**Rib Lake UMC**

28 Office closed

29

30

(M) 5:00 pm  
Confirmation  
(M) 6:00 pm  
Choir Practice

**Spaghetti Dinner  
& Basket Raffle**

**Sunday, April 27**  
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adults - \$10  
10 and under - \$5  
Under 2 - Free

**Rib Lake UMC**



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

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

## Weekly Volunteer Schedule

### Greeters

April 6 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman  
 April 13 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger  
 April 20 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig  
 April 27 (M) James Zajicek

### Worship Leaders/Liturgists

April 6 (M) Sue Breneman	(R) Carol Punzel
April 13 (M) Jean Nuernberger	(R) Karon Dallmann
April 20 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb Polacek
April 27 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Dorathy Nelson

### Slideshow

April 6 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
April 13 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
April 20 (M) Brenda Bengtson	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
April 27 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.

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

April 6 (M) TBD  
 April 13 (M) TBD  
 April 20 (M) Easter Brunch  
 April 27 (M) TBD

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

April 6 (M) Corliss Jensen Memorial Flower Fund  
 April 13 (M) TBD  
 April 20 (M) Easter Lilies  
 April 27 (M) Easter Lilies

**\*\*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](mailto:connection@medfordchargeumc.com)  
 715-965-4006

Office: [mcumc@medfordchargeumc.com](mailto: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

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April 1 (M) Linda Lundy (B)  
 April 2 (M) Carter Ray (B)  
 April 7 (M) Lee Nuernberger (B)  
 April 18 (R) Debbie Polacek (B)  
 April 21 (R) Shanna Scheithauer (B)  
 April 23 (M) LeRoy Zittlow (B)  
 April 26 (R) Paul & Melanie Church (A)  
 April 27 (M) Melanie Heier (B)  
 April 30 (M) Brian Ingersoll (B)

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

## World Day of Prayer 2026

Rib Lake UMC will be hosting World Day of Prayer 2026. It will be held at 1:30pm on March 6, 2026. We will be celebrating/praying for the people of Nigeria. ***I will be the representative for our church but I will need everyone's help to make this a memorable and an uplifting experience for all who attend.*** If all the churches that participated this year do again next year, we will have parishioners from ten different congregations joining us!! This worldwide event is open for all people – men, women and children. It is well worth your time to attend and participate. I will keep you updated as the day's events unfold. Feel free to reach out to help or with questions.

**Dorathy – 715.897.3541**

### 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

## Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle

**Sunday, April 27**  
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adults - \$10  
10 and under - \$5  
Under 2 - Free



**Rib Lake UMC**



### 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.

### Second Quarter Mission



**WOUNDED WARRIOR  
PROJECT®**

**Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)** is an American charity and veterans service organization that operates as a nonprofit. WWP offers a variety of programs, services, and events for wounded veterans who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or co-incident to their military service on or after September 11, 2001.



# MEDFORD AD. COUNCIL

Medford United Methodist Church - Ad. Council Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025

**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:** Stan Schmidt, John DeBruyne, Cheryl Ketelhut, Linda Murphy, Bill Breneman, Pastor John Hazen, Dennis Jones, and Brenda Bengtson.

**Call to Order:** Cheryl called the meeting to order at 6pm. Pastor John led the opening prayer. The January meeting was cancelled because of the cold.

**Devotions:** Bill led the devotions and used Mark 10; 35-34. He read from October 21, 2024 devotion by PyungAhn "Peace" Kim.

**March Devotions:** Linda

**Changes/Additions to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of December 17, 2024 SALT Minutes:** Brenda will get copies for March meeting, as Cheryl did not have a copy.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance Report:** Stan reported that the 2024 budget was for \$116,463.19 and that accounts receivable was only \$83,270.69. That means the church had a deficit of \$33,192.50. He said that basically the Church was not bringing in enough to keep the doors open. The actual expenditure for 2024 was \$90, 574.76. That still leaves a deficit of \$7304.07 without paying the apportionments of an additional \$12,141.02 to meet our apportionment commitment listed in the budget. John said he thought most of the churches were having the same problem. Maybe it is time to investigate seeing if any other church would be willing to merge. We have a newer church that is handicapped accessible. Every council person hated the thought that the church would have to close. Stan suggested that the Council members think about the finance situation and come back next month with ideas and suggestions. No decision had to be made right away.

Stan thought there should be a church wide meeting to let the congregation know the situation of the Finances. All agreed.

**SPRC Report:** The Council was given a listing from Rib Lake showing that they were paying for "Mortgage". John said that they were paying for housing for the Pastor as a shared expense with Medford. This will be relayed back to Rib Lake.

**Worship Committee:** See report in February report -Lay Servant/Worship Minutes . There are 2 more weeks of the Life Group sessions.

**Trustee Report:** John reported that the new Insurance Company was still requesting more information. Church Mutual (old Insurance Co) was paid. Will get a reimbursement when everything is settled.

**Church Roof:** The roof over the Sanctuary needs to be replaced as the shingles are bad. They are planning on using steel to replace the shingles. The estimate is \$30,000. Work will begin in May. Furnace is 25 years old. It is working fine as of now, but no one knows how long it will. The thermostat is programmable with it running at 60 degrees for the most part. It is programmed to heat the sanctuary on Sunday's starting at 3 AM and going back to 60 after church. Dennis reported from his experience that by not changing the thermostat a lot, the furnace should last a lot longer. Neubauer Plumbing and Heating gave an estimate of \$15-20,000 to replace the furnaces. Stan made a motion to replace the steel (standing seam) over shingles for \$30,000. Brenda seconded. The Motion was passed. Money for the new roof and furnace would have to come out of the Corliss Jensen Fund.

**Pastor Report:** March 5 is the beginning of Lent. It will be Soup and Sandwich supper at 5:30PM, with service at 6:15PM. The earlier time of 11:30 didn't seem to bring any more people to the Advent service, so Lent is moved back to 5:30 at night. Good Friday is April 18. Easter is April 20. Rib Lake has the sunrise service and Medford's is at regular time. May 5-11 Pastor is on vacation. June 6-8 is Annual Conference.

**Old Business:** Advertising for Worship/Activities – This was put on hold till March 18, 2025 meeting.

**New Business:**

**Terms of Council Members:** Brenda Bengtson:1 yr. Linda Murphy: 2 yr Bill Breneman: 1 yr Cheryl Ketelhut: 3 yr. Dennis Jones: 1 yr Stan Schmidt: 3 yr.

**Vice- Chair:** to be decided

**Use of Fellowship Hall for Blood Drive:** Pastor John said that the Red Cross Committee was coming next Wednesday to look at the hall. Cheryl said that Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin was also interested in doing Blood drives at the Church. Cheryl wants to look into Versiti Blood Center as she has not heard about them. Linda also said she had not heard of them.

**Memorial Money:** Cheryl reported that Mary Lou Costello was not comfortable about doing records for Memorial Funds. After a short discussion it was decided if someone would need to replace her or if Nancy G would be doing the same thing.

Linda made a motion to adjourn. Bill seconded. All approve. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26PM.

# CHURCH EVENTS

7



**Wisconsin  
Camps**

CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES  
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE | UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W8301 County Road M  
Westfield, WI 53964  
608.296.2720  
camping@wisconsinumc.org



*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



**Blood Drive**  
**Medford Community  
United Methodist Church**

287 E Allman St

**Thursday, April 3, 2025  
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: United Methodist Church Medford to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass!

Come give April 1 to 13 for \$15 Gift Card (email) plus  
chance to win \$5K prize. See [rcblood.org/hope](https://rcblood.org/hope)



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.



The Medford UMC Choir performed during the World Day of Prayer service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on March 7th.

# CHURCH EVENTS

## Keenagers Open to all adults!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 - 11:00 AM  
KELLI'S KITCHEN

WE WILL MEET AT KELLI'S KITCHEN FOR LUNCH AND FOR PLANNING UPCOMING MEETINGS AND THE JUNE 26TH & 27TH RUMMAGE SALE.

MAY MEETING DESTINATION IS ALREADY PLANNED, WE WILL BE GOING TO THE HIGH GROUNDS MEMORIAL IN NEILSVILLE. DATES AND TIMES WILL BE IN THE MAY NEWSLETTER.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH.

20 people from our church did go to the play in Colby under the Keenagers title on March 14. It was enjoyed by all who did go. The play was called "Airport Encounters" and was put on by Showcase Players.

Sue Breneman: 719-775-1443 or [sebreneman@gmail.com](mailto:sebreneman@gmail.com)

Visit our YouTube channel!



Subscribe

[youtube.com/@medfordunitedmethodistchurch](https://youtube.com/@medfordunitedmethodistchurch)



### 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 - 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.**

### **Rummage Sale**

June 26<sup>th</sup> 8AM-5PM & June 27<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:sebreneman@gmail.com)



# MEDFORD FINANCES

## Medford UMC Finance Report - February

Checking Account:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Beginning Balance 2/1/2025	\$2,497.40	\$6,155.97
February Receipts	<u>22,093.06</u>	<u>27,572.85</u>
	24,590.46	33,728.82
February Checks	<u>22,503.33</u>	<u>31,641.69</u>
Balance 2/28/2025	\$2,087.13	\$2,087.13

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	899.38
Beds From Christ	4,049.21
1st Qtr Missions	104.01
Book Sales	45.69
Sunday School	142.77
Easter Lillies/Palms	149.96
Poinsettias	84.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,475.92</b>
Checking account balance as of 2/28/2025	\$2,087.13
Designated funds held in checking	<u>5,475.92</u>
Total available to spend in checking:	<u>(\$3,388.79)</u>
Apportionments due for 2025:	\$14,436.00
Apportionments paid YTD	
Apportionments paid in February	<u>-</u>
Balance remaining to pay:	<u>\$14,436.00</u>

\*\$1203 per month would meet 2025 apportionments.

Medford Ad. Council Members - 2025		SPRC Members
Brenda Bengtson	715-785-7480	<b><u>Medford</u></b>
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	<b><u>Rib Lake</u></b>
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](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

**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.



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