



May 2025

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	
Rib Lake Church News	5
Life Groups	6
Medford Ad. Council Minutes	7
Church Events	8
Medford Finance Report	9



Medford UMC - Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, June 1
following service

Topic of discussion:
Budget concerns

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Training

Thursday, May 15 ~ 6:00 pm

Please let Crystal know if you are planning to attend.
A sign up sheet will be available.



Attendance

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
3/26 <small>Lenten Service</small>	14	--
3/30	canceled	25
4/2 <small>Lenten Service</small>	--	?
4/6	15	37
4/9 <small>Lenten Service</small>	14	--
4/13	13	33
4/17 <small>Holy Thursday</small>	?	--
4/18 <small>Good Friday</small>	--	14
4/20	20	47

Rummage Sale

Thursday, June 26

Friday, June 27

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Volunteers needed for set up / drop off
on June 23rd-25th, 9:00 am - 12 noon.

Contact Sue Breneman for more information.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Jesus said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of them age."

-- Matthew 28:20

This was Jesus' last statement recorded in the gospel of Matthew. It is a promise to His disciples that Jesus will always be with them—He will never leave them. While He may be gone physically, Jesus will always be with them spiritually. They will always have Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This was a promise to the disciples of Jesus' time, and is a promise to all disciples down through the ages, even you and I.

Sometimes this seems like a promise not kept. We have been through some pretty dark times in our lives. We are currently experiencing some confusing times. It gives one pause and might cause one to ask "Where are you, Jesus?"

This is where faith comes in. It is our faith that helps us to know that Jesus is there for us at all times. As we age, we tend to lose more people we love from our lives. In these last few years, I have lost my father and my good friend Sarah. My mom is now 87 and nearing the last years of her life. It is good to know that Jesus is with me, that He walks at my side and in my heart, and that I can count on Him to get me through these parts of my life.

It also helps to hold on to the promise of salvation and the kingdom of God. It is good to know that I will be with those loved ones in the kingdom with Jesus.

It is not necessarily easy for those of us who call ourselves Christian. There are more and more people every year who do not claim the name of Christian. The category of no faith grows larger and larger with each passing year. That makes it harder for us. All we can do is our best to live out the promises of God, to live our lives modeled after the life of Jesus.

When we live our lives as Jesus lived His, there will be people who notice and will want that kind of life for themselves. They will want the peace of God in their lives. They will want the love of God as shown through the life of Jesus for themselves.

We have just celebrated Easter morning. We have felt the joy of the empty tomb. We felt the eventual joy of the women at the tomb. Remember that the joy began as confusion and it took them a moment to realize the joy.

May the joy of Christ overtake you this day.

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.

MEDFORD and RIB LAKE EVENTS of MAY 2025

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.

4 3rd Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

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

5 Office closed

6

7
 (M) 6:00 pm
 Choir Practice

1

2 Office closed

3

11 4th Sunday of Easter

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

12 Office closed

13
 (R) 1:00 pm
 SPRC

14
 (M) 9:30 am
 Keenagers - Car Pool
 at Medford UMC
 (M) 5:00 pm
 Confirmation

15

**Volunteer
 Appreciation
 Dinner &
 Training**

**6:00 pm
 Medford UMC**

16 Office closed

**June
 Newsletter
 Pictures and
 Articles Due**

17

18 5th Sunday of Easter

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

19 Office closed

20
 (M) 6:00 pm
 Ad. Council

21
 (M) 5:00 pm
Sticker Day
 (R) 9:00 am / 4:00 pm
 Food Pantry
 (M) 5:00 pm
 Confirmation

22

23 Office closed

24

25 6th Sunday of Easter

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

26 Office closed

27

28
 (M) 5:00 pm
 Confirmation

29

30 Office closed

31

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

PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

May 4 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger
 May 11 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman
 May 18 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig
 May 25 (M) James Zajicek

Worship Leaders/Liturgists

May 4 (M) Jean Nuernberger	(R) Kathy Joy
May 11 (M) Bill Breneman	(R) Debby Lind
May 18 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Karon Dallmann
May 25 (M) Kelley Isola	(R) Carol Punzel

Slideshow

May 4 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
May 11 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
May 18 (M) Brenda Bengtson	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
May 25 (M) Crystal Ludwig	(R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.

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

May 4 (M) Linda Murphy
 May 11 (M) TBD
 May 18 (M) TBD
 May 25 (M) TBD

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

May 4 (M) Corliss Jensen Memorial Flower Fund
 May 11 (M) TBD
 May 18 (M) Corliss Jensen Memorial Flower Fund
 May 25 (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

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) (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 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**

RIB LAKE CHURCH NEWS

RIB LAKE UMC QTRLY FINANCE REPORT

CHECKING ACCOUNT:	<u>1ST QTR,</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u> (1/1/2025)
Beg. Bal. 1/1/2025	\$ 18,247.86	\$ 18,247.86
1ST QTR. Receipts	\$ 9,474.20	\$ 9,474.20
	\$ 27,722.06	\$ 27,722.06
1ST QTR. Disbursements	\$ 15,538.26	\$ 15,538.26
End Bal. 3/31/25	\$ 12,183.80	\$ 12,183.80
Designated Funds held in checking for Food Pantry	\$ 6,358.30	
Designated Funds held in checking for Beds for Christ	\$ 55.00	
Total available for Operations	\$ 5,770.50	
Apportionments due for 2025	\$ 5,280.00	
Apportionments paid for 2025	\$ 880.00	
Balance remaining to pay:	\$ 4,400.00	

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

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



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 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

I Know Something Good About You

Wouldn't this old world be better
If the folks we meet would say -
"I know something good about you!"
And treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
If each handclasp, fond and true,
Carried with it this assurance -
"I know something good about you!"

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me!

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me,
I know something good about you?

By Louis C. Shimon (1935)



Love. Grow. Serve.

A big THANK YOU to
Corrie S. and Linda M. for
the beautiful decorations
we enjoyed during the
Easter Celebration. Our
church looked amazing!

Also, THANK YOU to
everyone that helped make
the Easter Brunch a
delightful part of our
Easter morning.



CHURCH EVENTS

Keenagers Open to all adults!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 - 11:00 AM
HIGHGROUND MEMORIAL PARK

The Keenagers will be traveling to The Highground Memorial Park in Neillsville on Wednesday, May 14. We will be taking a guided tour at 11 AM & eating afterwards. We will be carpooling from the Methodist Church, gathering at 9:30 AM and leaving by 9:45.

The tour will start at 11 AM, with a picnic/potluck to follow.

The address if you do not wish to carpool is:
W7031 W Ridge Road, Neillsville, WI 54456

Sue Breneman: 719-775-1443 or sebreneman@gmail.com

The
**Rib Lake Community
Food Pantry**
is very grateful to the
Medford United Methodist
Church for their recent
donation!

We are feeling very
blessed that our sister
congregation is helping us
on our mission to do as
Jesus instructed us to
“feed my people.” May
God bless you all!

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 26th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

June 27th 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Medford United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

The Keenagers are again organizing the church rummage sale.
All funds raised will go to support the church budget.

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.**

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 but are currently scheduled for June 23rd-25th, from 9:00 AM - Noon.

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 - March

Checking Account:

	Month	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance 3/1/2025	\$2,086.63	\$6,155.47
March Receipts	<u>12,048.67</u>	<u>39,621.52</u>
	14,135.30	45,776.99
March Checks	<u>8,827.50</u>	<u>40,469.19</u>
Balance 3/31/2025	\$5,307.80	\$5,307.80

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	899.38
Beds From Christ	3,810.50
1st Qtr Missions	198.01
Book Sales	45.69
Easter Lillies/Palms	
Poinsettias	
Total	4,953.58
Checking account balance as of 3/31/2025	\$5,307.80
Designated funds held in checking	<u>4,953.58</u>
Total available to spend in checking:	\$354.22
Apportionments due for 2025:	\$14,436.00
Apportionments paid YTD	
Apportionments paid in March	<u>-</u>
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	715-748-0329	
Bill Breneman	719-775-1442	Cheryl Ketelhut
Stan Schmidt	715-560-2811	<u>Rib Lake</u>
John DeBruyne	715-965-4479	
Cheryl Ketelhut	608-485-2459	
Pastor John Hazen	715-748-2165	

**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.



May 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