



September 2025

Messenger

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

**SonShine
Kids**

Resuming in
September!



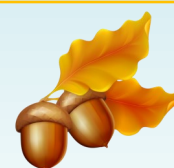
Love. Grow. Serve.

Attendance

Date	Rib Lake	Medford
7/27 Charge Picnic	26	--
8/3	12	27
8/10	11	26
8/17	14	34
8/24	15	23



United Women of Faith Annual Fall Gathering 2025 Saturday, September 27, 2025



Theme of the Day - Fall Harvest

Come and join us for the North West Annual Fall Gathering
as we explore our mission
and our relationship to God and to the Earth
as we hear from retired missionary from
Wisconsin, Rev. Paul Webster.

Paul will be re-visiting Zambia in August 2025 and will bring
back a fresh, updated message of the Harvest happening in
Mujula Falls, Zambia.



Escape Room

The Rib Lake UMC is having an Escape Room.

No, we are not locking you in a room!

Teams will be given keys to unlock puzzles that
solve the mystery. Interested? It will held on
Wednesday, September 24th at 1 pm.

Contact Karon @715-657-0466 to register.

This is the first time we have ever tried
something like this, so come join the fun!

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

2026 Will Be a Year of . . .

Let me begin with gratitude.

Thank you for your faithfulness, especially for how you have offered the peace and presence of Christ in tumultuous days.

You have been planning trainings to make clear how our mission is antithetical to Christian Nationalism. You have been organizing to provide sanctuary for people who have been harassed by the empire. You have been experimenting in ministry, some with mergers, some with reaching new people—and practice grace for the experiments as needed. I have seen your energy about vacation Bible school and supporting our camps.

I also celebrate the increase in apportionment payments in both annual conferences. Your gift helps us advance vocations into service, develop programs and connections that a local church cannot do alone, and help us grant and coach congregational development so that we might innovate and bless our ministries in this space and time.

This year I have appreciated the ways that the Northern Illinois and Wisconsin conferences have been living out a year of grace. Even before it is visible to us, we know prevenient grace is at work.

Grace is the unconditional, expansive love of God offered to all people in every moment. We have learned how we are here to grow by grace working in love. Thank you for the ways that you have explored and lived gracefully in your communities.

Obviously, we share a common mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. My life is seized by that mission and has been transformed in it. I trust your life has as well.

I'm very grateful that The United Methodist Church adopted a new vision statement. I do believe we are here to "love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously." I celebrate this vision for our steps together.

Let me now look ahead to 2026 by turning to scripture; specifically, Psalm 130:5: "I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word, I hope."

This is a psalm for the night. Poets and prophets have spoken eloquently about our night prayers or our dark nights of the soul. One of my favorite lines in the scripture is John 20:1, which introduces Jesus's resurrection by saying, "while it was still dark . . ."

I love the fact that God is working while it is still dark and when God's ways are unseen to most of us. When I was born, the doctor told my mother a message about the night. I was born with pneumonia and jaundice. "If he gets through the night, he may make it," the doctor said.

Maybe this reminds you of the ways you have found God or reached out in prayer while it was still dark. We all have had those nights when we prayed fervently for healing or wellbeing, or we have had some experience of the dark night of the soul or an experience of night that seeks the hand of God.

Meantime, what kind of spiritual focus is needed for our leadership in this moment?

It is a time when many are dispirited for a variety of reasons. We have been divided by powerful monied interests who want us to fear and distrust each other so that we can be administered by fear. That has robbed us of our conviction that Christ is more than our opinions and that we are building back church unity, local collaboration, functional systems, and relationships at our holiday tables. It must be said that we are now being administered by misinformation that takes us toward darkness.

But we are people of hope. There is always more God than meets the eye.

I was attending United Women in Faith's Mission u in Northern Illinois and listened to a study on "practicing hope." I was touched and moved by the ways in which UWF recognized that the challenges in this time start with the soul and how we can remain grounded and oriented to Christ when political messages threaten people groups.

They explored how the nature of our God is hope, how God's coming in the flesh is hopeful, how there is always more God than meets the eye, and how our life together is one of practicing hope.

A deaconess (a lay order of women who pursue love and justice) named Martha Lundgren, who is a member of Renewed Hope UMC in Chicago, sat next to me at lunch. She told me how her congregation realized that they spent most of their budget on maintaining the building. Wasn't God calling them to do more and be more?

MEDFORD and RIB LAKE EVENTS of SEPTEMBER 2025

3

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

31 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

(R) 9:00 am - Worship

(M) 10:30 am - Worship

Potluck lunch after service

(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

1

2

3
(M) 6:00 pm
Women's Choir

4

5 Office closed

6

7 13th Sunday after Pentecost

(R) 9:00 am - Worship

(M) 10:30 am - Worship

(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

8 Office closed

9

10
(M) ? 9:00 am ?
Keenagers @
The Rec Center
(M) ? 7:00 pm ?
Women's Choir

11

12 Office closed

13

14 14th Sunday after Pentecost

(R) 9:00 am - Worship

(M) 10:30 am - Worship

(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

15 Office closed

16
**(M) 6:00 pm
Ad. Council**

17
(R) 9:00 am
Food Pantry
(R) 3:30 pm
Food Pantry
(M) 6:00 pm
Women's Choir

18
(M) 9:00 am
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*
(M) 5:30 pm
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*

19 Office closed

**October
Newsletter
Pictures and
Articles Due**

20

21 15th Sunday after Pentecost

(R) 9:00 am - Worship

(M) 10:30 am - Worship

(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

22 Office closed

23

24
(R) 1:00 pm
Escape Room
**(M) 5:00 pm
Sticker Day**
(M) 6:00 pm
Women's Choir

25
(M) 9:00 am
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*
(M) 5:30 pm
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*

26 Office closed

**27
United
Women
In Faith
Annual
Fall
Gathering**

28 16th Sunday after Pentecost

(R) 9:00 am - Worship

(M) 10:30 am - Worship

(M) 2:00 pm - Oasis

29 Office closed

30

1
(R) 1:00 pm
Life Group:
The Chosen S.2

2
(M) 9:00 am
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*
(M) 5:30 pm
Life Group:
*The Rock, the Road,
and the Rabbi*

3 Office closed

4

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

PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

September 7 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig
 September 14 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger
 September 21 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman
 September 28 (M) James Zajicek

Worship Leaders/Liturgists

September 7 (M) Crystal Ludwig (R) Kathy Joy
 September 14 (M) Jean Nuernberger (R) Deb Lind
 September 21 (M) Sue Breneman (R) Karon Dallmann
 September 28 (M) Kelley Isola (R) Carol Punzel

Slideshow

September 7 (M) Brenda Bengtson (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 September 14 (M) Crystal Ludwig (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 September 21 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 September 28 (M) Brenda Bengtson (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.

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

September 7 (M) TBD
 September 14 (M) TBD
 September 21 (M) TBD
 September 28 (M) TBD

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

September 7 (M) TBD
 September 14 (M) TBD
 September 21 (M) TBD
 September 28 (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:

Pastor John Hazen; 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:

District Superintendent PyungAhn "Peace" Kim; Bishop Dan Schwerin

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 1 (M) Ronald Bengtson (B)
 Sept 4 (R) Cody Church (B)
 (R) Gwen Clendenning (B)
 (M) Gwen Thomas (B)
 Sept 6 (M) Morgan Ludwig (B)
 (M) Colton Zittlow (B)
 Sept 8 (M) Brenda Bengtson (B)
 Sept 10 (R) Tahlia Scheithauer (B)
 (R) Talon Scheithauer (B)
 Sept 11 Pastor John Hazen (B)
 (R) Hal Swenson (B)
 Sept 12 (R) Tasha Couillard (B)
 (M) Chas Witz (B)
 Sept 13 (M) Oliver Ludwig (B)
 Sept 17 (R) Carl & Kristin Lueck (A)
 Sept 19 (M) Peter Loniello (B)
 Sept 22 (M) Gaitlin Piller (B)
 (R) Valerey K Roiger (B)
 Sept 23 (R) Sierra (Mannel) Ulrich (B)
 Sept 24 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger (A)
 (M) David & Melinda Robinson (A)
 Sept 28 (M) Jim & Jean Flood (A)
 Sept 29 (R) Melanie Church (B)
 (R) Allison Heiser (B)
 Sept 30 (R) Jack Wiitala (B)

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

CHURCH EVENTS

Message from Rib Lake Administrative Council:

Rib Lake Ad Council met to discuss what we as a church can do while Pastor is out.

Services will be covered by Jean, Cheryl, and Bill through the month of September.

We are hoping to get a retired pastor in to do communion one Sunday a month.

If you should have a pastoral emergency you can call the church phone (715.427.3670), Karon Dallmann has the cell and she will contact the DS, Rev. Peace Kim, as to what steps we should take. Rev. Kim is willing to help us in any way that he can.

Pastor John is very anxious to get back to the pulpit but his health right now is priority.

Continue prayers for Pastor John.

Medford UMC - Third Quarter Mission



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Rib Lake UMC - Third 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.

Keenagers

The following is a tentative schedule for our Keenagers group, as planned by the group at our August gathering.

September 10th: We will be touring the REC Center, located at 540 Jensen Drive, behind the Medford Vet clinic. We hope to start the tour at 9 or 10 AM & then we will go to the Prickly Pear for lunch, located at 238 S Main, after the tour, around noon.

September 27th: United Women in Faith District meeting, we have been asked to provide lunch. More info to come on that. We will need people to serve lunch, donate salads and desserts.

Thursday October 9th: please note this is a Thursday. Some will start out at the Bible study at the UMC @ 9 AM. After that we will carpool to Hill of Beans for lunch and then drive thru and around Timms Hill for a color tour.

Saturday November 1st: we are organizing a fund raiser for the church. We are calling it the "Lords Acre Bazaar & Harvest Supper". There will be no auction, just the sale of pre-priced items and possibly a silent auction. Items such as fall produce, canned goods, baked goods, maple syrup, honey, quilts, craft items, etc. The time will be 4:30-7:00 pm. If you bring items and they do not sell, you will take them home with you.

There will be a Christmas party, we did not set a date. We are looking for suggestions of where to have it and fun ideas for the party.

Thanks for all that you all do to support our church.

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

LIFE GROUPS



Rib Lake UMC

Season 2 of “The Chosen”

**Wednesdays - 1:00 p.m.
8 weeks beginning October 1**

We will watch an episode each week, followed by a question and answer session.
Call/text Dorathy at 715.897.3541 to register.
No books and no homework!

Fall Life Group

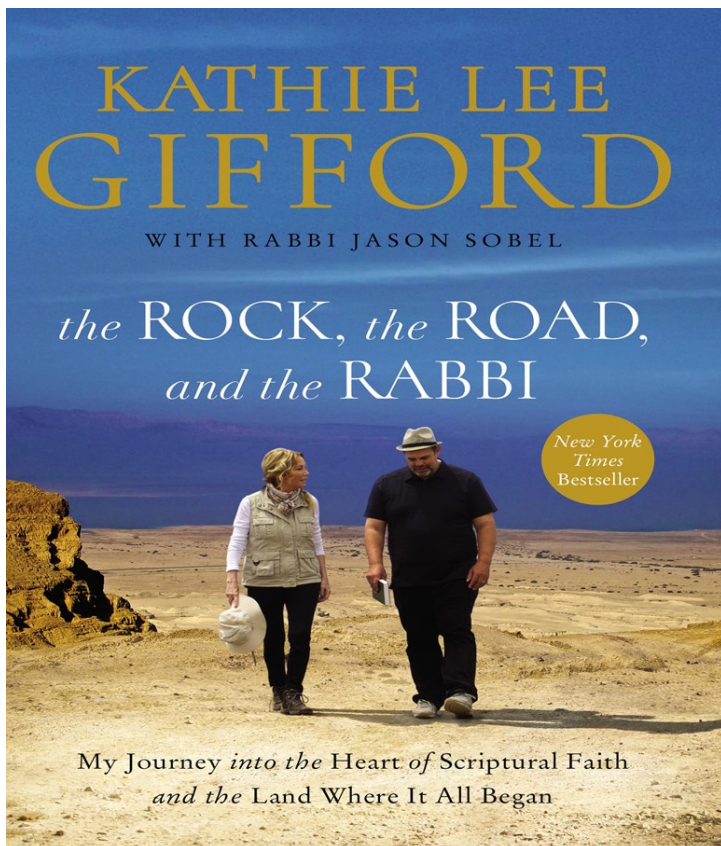
- 6 Weeks -

September 18 – October 23

Groups meet Thursdays

at 9 A.M. or 5:30 P.M

No book to buy,
no homework.



A Journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem

See Cheryl or Jean if you
have any questions!

BISHOP'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

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Continued from page 2

So they prayed, grounded themselves in God and discernment, and considered what Jesus would have them do with the people they were given to love. They eventually sold the building and focused on how they might bring Christian love and a faith community into the neighborhood to impact the lives of people in their area.

Now they have a powerful ministry with residents of a nearby nursing home.

"I think we are practicing hope in our ministry," she said, "and I wonder, Bishop, if what you say is true for almost everyone: that most churches have 35 or fewer in worship. Maybe for the year 2026 we should pray and think about our theme's being "practicing hope"?"

I put down my pea soup and knew God was whispering.

In this dark time we might be stronger if we practiced hope. I love the idea that we are not alone; we practice hope as a community of faith.

We are practicing hope when we worship together and decide we will not isolate but bear witness with and to each other.

We can practice hope as we "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves," to quote our baptismal vows. What does it mean to do this? What brings hope for you?

I sense that the churches that are trying to decide their futures could make better decisions if they were practicing hope as they discern what God may have for them in the future.

We will still live out our vision and be seized by the same mission, but we can be stronger in this moment when we know our two conferences, our episcopal area, is practicing hope together.

I believe we are grounded in the hope of our baptism, where we have joined Christ, where we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

I believe the creativity and freedom of God calls us forward in hope. This is not fake happy talk, or hope on a shelf, but gospel grounded life lived on the foundation of our baptism: the never-ending love that is poured into our hearts and life in Jesus Christ.

Hope allows for newness. Hope allows that God will call us forward. Hope allows us to say yes to whatever call is placed on our lives.

I believe that as long as we have a relationship with Jesus Christ, we have a relationship with hope. John Wesley reminded us that we are not defined by our opinions or agreements, but by the image of God born in us and growing by grace in and through us. All people bear the dignity of the image of God. Our discipleship itself is a stance against racism.

I wonder if we might think about the end of this year as a time to ground ourselves in grace so that we approach Advent and the new year asking the question, How is God calling us to be people who are practicing hope?

I know that our God offers us a hopeful imagination. We are children of an Exodus God, a God who knows how to carry us through exile; a God who knows the path from death to resurrection. How might hope grow in your life and lives of our churches and how might that bring hope to those God has given us to love?

Best of all, God is with us, and God is not finished with us yet.

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope."

Thanks be to God.

Hope to you in the power and love we know as Christ.

Dan Schwerin, Bishop

Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area

The United Methodist Church



MEDFORD AD. COUNCIL

Medford United Methodist Church Admin Council Minutes - Tuesday, August 19, 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 core the Love of Jesus Christ.

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

Attendance: Brenda Bengtson, Bill Breneman, Cheryl Ketelhut, Dennis Jones, Linda Murphy, and Stan Schmitt.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Cheryl, and she gave the opening prayer.

Devotion's: Brenda had devotions. It was based on John 15, verses 1-8. Just as the power goes off, we can't connect thru the computer, we often become spiritually disconnected to God. We can stay connected to God thru reading scripture, acting on our faith, and sharing the love of God with others.

Changes/Additions to the Agenda: Cheryl noted that Brenda wasn't going to be able to attend tonight, but changes in appointments made it possible.

Approval of July 19, 2025 Minutes: Bill noted that Pastor John was listed as attending. He was not at the meeting. Brenda will make the change in the minutes. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes with Approval of July 15, 2025 the change. Stan seconded, all approved.

Committee Reports:

Finance Report: Stan has been in contact with Nancy to let her know if she needs money to let him know. The Church is still not receiving enough money to meet expenses.

SPRC Report: Bill reported that Pastor John will be gone until at least October. Bill and Dorathy met with Rev. Peace Kim, District Superintendent. They let him know that Jean and Cheryl are qualified to be Lay Servants with Jean certified to be a Lay Speaker. Corrie is also qualified. Pastor Kim will do the service on August 31 and will have communion at that time. He will also do the Service on Oct. 5 with Communion. It was noted that if a Pastor blesses the Communion bread and wine, the Lay speaker can administer the sacraments. Jean and Cheryl have met to decide the Sundays they will take till October.

Worship Report: The worship committee met earlier in the month. Cheryl said that Kelley will be the teacher for the new Sunday School Startup. Cheryl, Corrie and her husband, Galen, will be backup teachers. Kelley is looking at a curriculum to follow. Sunday School should start on either the 21st or 28th. Sept. 13, 2025 will be the start of the new Bible Study. The name is "the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi," by Kathie Lee Gifford.

Trustee Report: Stan reported that the final payment was made on the roof of \$15,030. The trustee expenses should be current except for the cleaning of the church and the Parsonage. The parsonage is on hold for now. Power Clean is hired to clean the Church. The church property was sold for \$13,650.00 to Shane Schultz. Stan said there may be a slight difference is that the survey is to the middle of the road.

Pastor's Report: None

Old Business:

Beds from Christ: Jean has ordered more beds. Money keeps trickling in, but when money runs out, Beds from Christ will be phased out.

New Business:

Sunday School: See above

Stan asked if there is someone available for pastoral needs if needed. Bill will talk to Pastor Kim. Also, the message on the answering machine will be changed to call Cheryl's number or Bill's number as of now. This is only a temporary arrangement.

Bill has talked to Pastor John. He reported that the Pastor is planning on retiring at some point. Brenda made a motion to adjourn, Stan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm

MEDFORD AD. COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

Medford UMC Finance Report - July

Checking Account:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Beginning Balance 7/1/2025	\$5,493.93	\$6,057.39
July Receipts(Offering- Deposits)	<u>14,007.89</u>	<u>81,114.76</u>
	19,501.82	87,172.15
July Checks(Bills Paid)	<u>11,256.98</u>	<u>78,927.31</u>
Balance 7/31/2025	\$8,244.84	\$8,244.84

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	854.38
Beds From Christ	4,102.29
2nd Qtr Missions	247.00
Total	5,203.67

Checking account balance as of 7/31/2025	\$8,244.84
Designated funds held in checking	5,203.67
Total available to spend in checking:	<u>\$3,041.17</u>

Apportionments due for 2025:	\$14,436.00
Apportionments paid YTD	510.87
Apportionments paid in May	<u>120.00</u>
	510.87
Balance remaining to pay:	<u>\$13,925.13</u>

*\$1203 per month would meet 2025 apportionments.

Medford Ad. Council Members - 2025		SPRC Members
Brenda Bengtson	715-785-7480	<u>Medford</u> Dennis Jones Bill Breneman Cheryl Ketelhut
Linda Murphy	715-965-2015	
Dennis Jones	715-748-0329	
Bill Breneman	719-775-1442	
Stan Schmidt	715-560-2811	<u>Rib Lake</u> Karon Dallmann Dorathy Nelson Deb Polacek
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



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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.



September 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