



October 2025

Messenger

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

A note from Bill Breneman, SPRC Chair of the Medford and Rib Lake UMCs to inform the congregations of the status of Pastor John Hazen.

Pastor John, because of a broken bone in his foot and being under a Doctor's order for no weight bearing on that foot, is in the Abbotsford Care Center for Physical Therapy Rehabilitation. An X-ray shows that the bone is healing, and the swelling is going down. His next Doctor's appointment is on October 8th.

On 9-15-25 I received a phone call from Pastor John. He stated had received a call from D. S. Rev. Peace Kim. He said that learned from Rev. Kim that he is eligible to retire at the end of December 2025, so that is what he is going to do. He, with the help of Rev. Kim has requested a short term disability leave from September 1st through November 30th. He plans to be back at work on December 1 if he is able.

I asked Pastor John what I could tell the two Ad Councils and Congregations about his status. He said that after I heard from Rev. Kim, it would be okay with him to report what our conversation today was.

I received a phone call from D.S. Rev. Peace Kim. He asked me what Pastor John had told me. I repeated what our conversation had been, and Rev. Kim confirmed everything.

Rev. Kim said it would be okay to release my conversation with Pastor John as far as his plans to retire December 31, 2025, his request for short term disability leave from September 1st through November 30th, and his plan to return to work on December 1st, if he is able. All of this has not yet been approved by the conference, and will be considered at a conference meeting on September 24th.

We are blessed to have two certified lay speakers and a third beginning the lay speaker certification process as well as others available to fill in for pulpit supply. Plans have been made to fill the pulpit for September, October, and November. On November 9th, D. S. Rev. Peace Kim will provide the sermon and serve communion.

He will be providing assistance to our two congregations for any emergencies or urgent needs that may occur.

If you would like to send Pastor John a card, or visit him, he is at
Abbotsford Health Care Center
600 E. Elm St., Rm. 107
Abbotsford, WI. 54405

We need to continue our prayers for healing for Pastor John.
Thank you.

Attendance Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rib Lake</u>	<u>Medford</u>
8/31	11	22
9/7	9	27
9/14	10	25
9/21	10	23

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

--Ecclesiastes 3:1

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits. It is at times like this that connection is most important. The Methodist Church is a connectional church, and that is shown mostly through our connections to each other.

I have to say that this is quite possibly the hardest thing I have ever gone through. I sit typing this in my room at the Abbotsford Health Care Center. I am on a no weight bearing schedule on my right foot. For those who may not have heard, I broke a couple bones in my right foot. We do not know how I did this. The fact is it happened and now we are trying to get it to heal.

I have had to be dependent on people for my basic needs, although that has recently loosened up somewhat. I have had to adjust to life with a roommate. This has been a real hard thing to do.

I believe in the scripture quoted above. There is a time for everything. However, it is hard for us to expect everything. There are things that happen to us that are unexpected. They come upon us without notice or announcement. These are the things that test us. These are the times when we need to cling to God's word and God's love.

I also believe that things happen for a reason, we just aren't always able to figure out that reason. Perhaps I needed to slow down—message certainly received. Perhaps I needed time to focus on myself—again, message received. Sometimes, we never know.

The one thing I have been able to do while here is focus on God. I have been able to spend time in prayer—prayers of thanks for my life and prayers of healing—prayers for our churches and prayers for my therapy. I have been reading and focusing on "Our Daily Bread." I know that God is with me through this ordeal.

God is with us all the time in any place. It is true at all times. Know that when you are going through hard times, God is with you. That connection with God is most important. Jesus Christ is that connection. May you cling to Christ always.

May you experience the love of God always.

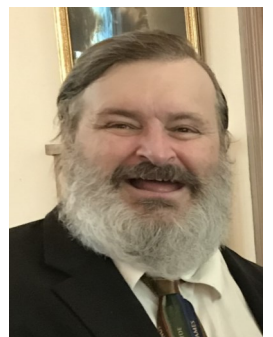
God's blessings,

Pastor John

Pastor John Hazen

pastor@medfordchargeumc.com

Cell: (715) 560-3606



MEDFORD and RIB LAKE EVENTS of OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 (R) 1:00 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Chosen S.2 (M) 5:00 pm Worship Team / Lay Servants (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice	2 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi	3 Office closed	4
5 17th Sunday after Pentecost (R) 9:00 am - Worship (M) 10:30 am - Worship (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	6 Office closed	7	8 (R) 1:00 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Chosen S.2	9 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi (M) 6:30 pm Keenagers @ The Yucca Club	10 Office closed	11
12 18th Sunday after Pentecost (R) 9:00 am - Worship (M) 10:30 am - Worship (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	13 Office closed	14	15 (R) 1:00 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Chosen S.2 (R) 9:00 am Food Pantry (R) 3:30 pm Food Pantry (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice	16 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi	17 Office closed	18
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost (R) 9:00 am - Worship (M) 10:30 am - Worship (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis	20 Office closed	21 (M) 6:00 pm Ad. Council Red Cross Blood Drive  Medford UMC	22 (R) 1:00 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Chosen S.2 (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice	23 (M) 9:00 am <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi (M) 5:30 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi	24 Office closed November Newsletter Pictures and Articles Due	25
26 20th Sunday after Pentecost (R) 9:00 am - Worship (M) 10:30 am - Worship (M) 2:00 pm - Oasis Harvest Days Parade & Trick-or-Treat	27 Office closed	28	29 (R) 1:00 pm <u>Life Group:</u> The Chosen S.2 (M) 5:00 pm Sticker Day (M) 6:00 pm Choir Practice	30	31 Office closed	1 Lord's Acre Bazaar & Harvest Supper 4:30-7:00 pm

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

PEOPLE SERVING, LEADING, PRAYING, LISTENING, & CELEBRATING

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Greeters

October 5 (M) Lee & Jean Nuernberger
 October 12 (M) Bill & Sue Breneman
 October 19 (M) Shane & Crystal Ludwig
 October 26 (M) James Zajicek

Worship Leaders/Liturgists

October 5 (M) Jean Nuernberger (R) Deb Polacek
 October 12 (M) Bill Breneman (R) Dorathy Nelson
 October 19 (M) Crystal Ludwig (R) Kathy Joy
 October 26 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut (R) Deb Lind

Slideshow

October 5 (M) Cheryl Ketelhut (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 October 12 (M) Crystal Ludwig (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 October 19 (M) Brenda Bengtson (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.
 October 26 (M) Crystal Ludwig (R) Deb P. / Dorathy N.

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

October 5 (M) TBD
 October 12 (M) TBD
 October 19 (M) TBD
 October 26 (M) **Harvest Days** - hot chocolate & apple cider during Trick-or-Treating (contact Crystal)

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

October 5 (M) TBD
 October 12 (M) TBD
 October 19 (M) TBD
 October 26 (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

pray
continually
1 Thessalonians 5:17
medfordchargeumc.com

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 1 (M) Ron Breth
 Oct 2 (R) Arlene Penning
 (M) Barb Schief
 Oct 3 (M) Karey Jensen
 (R) Mike & Jolene Kennedy
 Oct 5 (M) Paul Johnson
 Oct 12 (M) Braxton Ray
 Oct 18 (M) Linda Murphy
 Oct 19 (R) Dawn Swenson
 Oct 24 (M) Carly Hubbard
 Oct 26 (M) Sue Breneman
 Oct 27 (R) Paul Church
 Oct 28 (R) Kelly Polacek
 (R) Hal & Dawn Swenson
 Oct 30 (M) David Robinson

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

LIFE GROUPS



Rib Lake UMC

Season 2 of “The Chosen”

**Wednesdays - 1:00 p.m.
Through November 19**

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

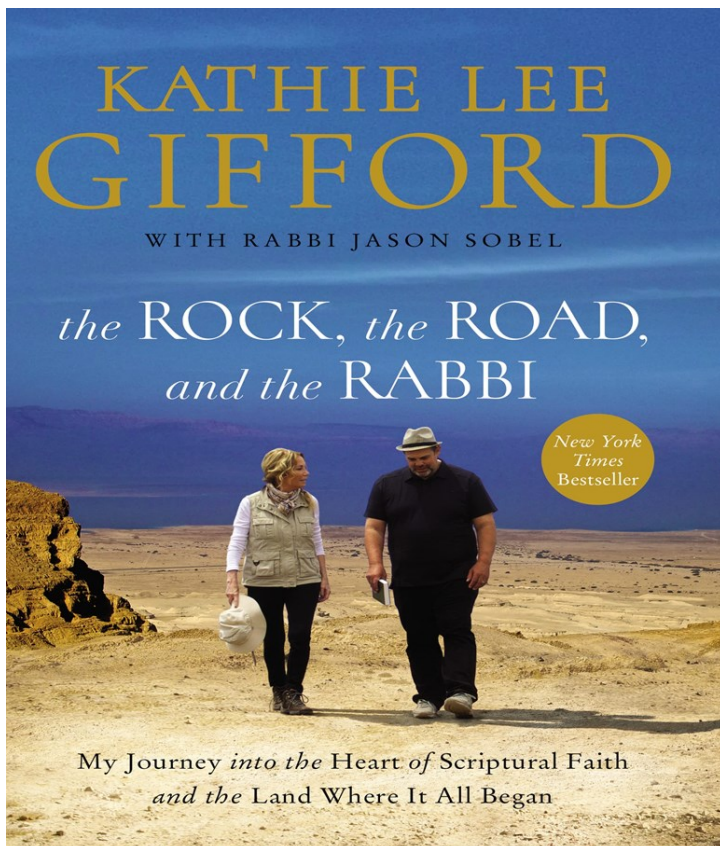
- 6 Weeks -

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

“The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi”

See Cheryl or Jean if you
have any questions!

CHURCH EVENTS

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 - Fourth Quarter Mission



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States.

Rib Lake UMC - Fourth Quarter Mission



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Marshfield

Our mission at Ronald McDonald House Charities is to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families during their most complex and challenging times. The purpose of the Ronald McDonald House Charities is to support access to care, reduce financial burden, provide psychosocial support to keep families together, enhance clinical experiences and outcomes, and help families resume normalcy.

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

Keenagers



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

Thursday October 9th: The play entitled "*Pig Farm*" will be performed at The Yucca Club on Main Street in Medford. Tickets are \$20, please contact Sue. Doors open at 6:30 pm, performance starts at 7:00 pm. ** the fall color tour has been canceled **

Saturday November 1st: we are organizing a fund raiser for the church. We are calling it the "Lord's 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

CHURCH EVENTS

7



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.

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

connection@medfordchargeumc.com

Lord's Acre Bazaar & Harvest Supper

Saturday, November 1st
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Sticker Day

Wednesday, October 29 - 5:00 pm

Sticker Day is the monthly event when people get together to help prepare the newsletter for mailing. It is our goal to set up a group of volunteers that would be scheduled on a rotational basis. Volunteers from Medford and Rib Lake UMCs are encouraged to participate. Training will be provided.

For more information, please contact Crystal at 715-965-4006.

Communion SUNDAY

November 9th

District Superintendent
Rev. Peace Kim



Harvest Days 2025

Sunday, October 26



- Harvest Days Parade
- Hot Chocolate & Apple Cider during Trick-or-Treating



If you are interested in helping with these fun community activities, please contact Crystal!



Love. Grow. Serve.



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

Send them to...

connection@medfordchargeumc.com

Rib Lake Community Food Pantry Every 3rd Wednesday



9 - 11 am
&

3:30 - 5 pm
Rib Lake UMC

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 - August

Checking Account:

	Month	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance 8/1/2025	\$8,244.84	\$6,057.39
August Receipts(Offering- Deposits)	<u>6,326.06</u>	<u>102,440.82</u>
E-Trade Transfer(for the new roof)- Deposit	<u>15,000.00</u>	
	29,570.90	108,498.21
August Checks(Bills Paid)	<u>22,566.36</u>	<u>101,493.67</u>
Outstanding checks or withdrawals (\$4194.90)		
Balance 8/31/2025	\$7,004.54	\$7,004.54

Betty Jensen Flower Fund	854.38
Beds From Christ	(639.64)
2nd Qtr Missions	287.00
3rd Qtr Missions	239.00
Total	740.74

Checking account balance as of 8/31/2025	\$7,004.54
Designated funds held in checking	<u>740.74</u>
Total available to spend in checking:	\$6,263.80

Apportionments due for 2025:	\$14,436.00
Apportionments paid YTD	584.82
Apportionments paid in June. July, August	<u>201.72</u>
	<u>584.82</u>
Balance remaining to pay:	\$13,851.18

*\$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



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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.



October 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