



THE BLESSING

OCTOBER 2025

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3177 South 107th Street ~ West Allis, WI 53227

(414) 541-9050 ~ blessedhopeumc.org



Pastor's Message

Well, it's official. October has arrived in Wisconsin. We know this not just by the calendar, but by the undeniable evidence all around us: the collective sigh of relief as the humidity finally packs its bags, the sudden sea of flannel at the grocery store, and of course, the invasion of pumpkin spice into everything from coffee to dog treats. The air has that perfect crispness, the Packers are giving us reasons to cheer (or groan, depending on the week), and our thermostats have become the subject of intense household negotiations. Welcome to autumn in Wisconsin!

Every year during this season, I find myself paying attention to the trees. They are, without a doubt, the best-dressed residents of our community right now. They don't seem to panic about the coming winter. Instead, they put on the most spectacular fireworks show of crimson, gold, and orange. They throw a brilliant party right before they let everything go. Meanwhile, we're out in the yard with a rake, trying to impose our will on a million leaves that have coordinated a swirling, chaotic dance in the wind, and we realize the trees handle this whole "change" thing with a lot more grace than we do.

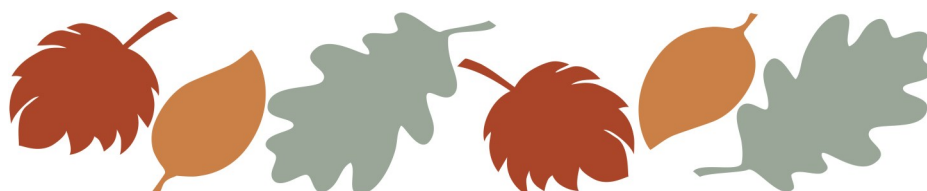
This beautiful, leafy surrender gets me thinking about our own lives. What "leaves" from a past season are we still clinging to, long after they've served their purpose? Maybe it's an old grudge, a worry that's worn a groove in our minds, or a fear that keeps us from embracing what's next. The trees teach us a powerful lesson in faith: there is beauty in letting go. It's an act of trust, a belief that releasing what's old and dead makes space for a season of rest and prepares the way for new growth to come.

As a church family, we practice this rhythm of seasons together. October kicks off with World Communion Sunday, a beautiful reminder that while we're navigating our autumn here, we are connected to brothers and sisters around the globe who are in seasons of their own. It's a powerful picture that we are never alone in our cycles of change, celebration, or rest. We are all part of one big, beautiful, and sometimes quirky family tree, held firm by the same roots of faith.

So my prayer for you this month is simple: get outside. Take a walk, breathe deep, and really look at the glorious, unapologetic beauty of it all. Let the season remind you that it's okay to let things go and trust in the God who orchestrates every sunset and every falling leaf. May you find joy in the cozy moments, courage in the changing seasons, and enough grace to get you through at least one more pumpkin spice commercial.

Blessings and Gratitude,

Pastor Rob





10/1 Kendall Matzek
 10/2 Jenna Koney
 10/4 Dolly Trankley
 10/7 Judy Redel
 10/14 Lenore Brost
 Scott Koney
 Evan Grams
 10/16 Brian Graff
 10/20 Patty Teschendorf-Mishich
 10/22 Keyian Berka
 10/23 Marie Garnhart
 10/26 Art Poitz
 10/28 Dennis Schulkers



10/2 Jeff & Mary Petoskey
 10/9 Seward Owen & Sue Weber
 10/10 Scott & Christine Noseworthy
 10/15 James & Heidi Koney
 10/19 Pete & Debbie Wade
 10/23 Randy & Holly Owen Pauers
 10/24 Bill & Stephanie Sanders

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5TH

Join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture.

But it's more than just worship. It's also a time to support scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities—helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve.



“Stepping Up”

If you listen to NPR or watch PBS (*Channels 10 & 36*) you will know that Congress has basically eliminated the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Public radio and television stations all over this nation are calling on their listeners and viewers to “Step Up” and cover the loss of federal funding.

In some places where population is more dense, there are enough donors to fill the gap. In areas of sparse population, many worry stations will not survive the funding cuts.

In the USA because of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, churches or synagogues or mosques of any kind do not receive public funds for religious purposes. That means that we in the church must always be ready to “Step Up.” We must step up with our prayers for the church and the world. We must step up with our actions of volunteering time and energy to help Blessed Hope UMC thrive. We must step up with our donations.

In the United Methodist system people contribute to local congregations. As you can see from the Blessed Hope budget, we pay for people to accomplish various kinds of work – pastoral, musical, administrative, property management, etc. Individual donors can always give to projects beyond our local church in the city, county, state, nation or around the world. One example of such giving is the six Special Sundays. The Special Sunday coming up in October is World Communion Sunday, which is designed to encourage an inclusive church. Gifts are divided half for Crusade Scholarships, distributed by the General Board of Global Ministries, and half distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Those funds go to scholarships and in-service training.

Stepping up is what Jesus calls us to do when we see needs that people have that must be met. How will you step up to further God's Reign?

G. R. Affeldt, Blessed Hope UMC

SCIENCE CAFE

Tuesday October 14th ,Dinner Served at 5:30pm, 6-7:30pm Discussion of Hip & Knee Replacement to treat Chronic Joint Issues
 Location: Our Lord's United Methodist Church
 Contact Pastor Rob if you plan to attend or register online at:
<https://is.gd/Sciencecafe> (at least 7 days before the event)



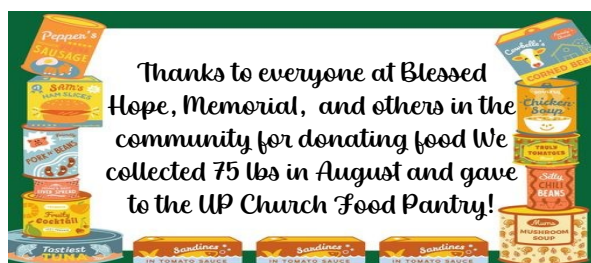
OUTREACH NEWS

FOOD OFFERING

October 5th



Collecting non perishable items for Thanksgiving bags for those in need: Mashed potato packets, Gravy mix, Stuffing boxes, Crispy fried onions, biscuit mix, Pie crust, canned cranberries, green beans, sweet potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, pie filling.
NO expired or damaged food please!



REACH-A-CHILD

REACH-A-CHILD is a Madison-based non-profit currently partnering with First Responders in many communities across Wisconsin. This effort involves the creation of REACH BAGS which are then delivered to the offices of the First responders in the Milwaukee Firehouses. We will be **collecting donations of books** appropriate for all reading abilities and should appeal to all ages of children pre K to age 12



The Giving Tree is Coming!
Look for more information in the November issue of "The Blessing."



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A BIG SHOUT OUT to the K&C Group for keeping up with the Prayer Shawl demand!!

With the cold weather coming –the focus will be making hats. All sizes and color are welcome.

47 hats, 8 scarf/hat sets, 10 baby blankets & various Toiletries went to Sojourner Peace Center. 67 preemie hats went to Froedtert & Children's Neo Natal Centers in September. See upcoming photos on website.

COIN BASKET



During the month of October, we will collect coins and help UP CHURCH with their Thanksgiving Food Collection. Many families will go without the holiday meal. 20\$ gift cards will be bought so families can purchase a turkey, other money will be collected for the trimmings. Please dig deep into your pockets and throw your spare change in the bowl at the back of church, or write your checks to out BLESSED HOPE with Thanksgiving in the memo.

COLLEGE CARE BOXES

Back to School time means that it's also time to submit the address of your college student for the college care boxes. If you have a child or grandchild who is attending college or trade school we would like to let them know that they are not alone and the church family is thinking of them. Whether the student is full time or part time, on campus or at home, student life can be challenging.



Contributions for the packages can be brought to church and placed in the marked box in the narthex. *All food items must be INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED.*

Thanks to Mike Klawitter for donating 100 lbs. of fresh organic rhubarb to Good Samaritan Food Pantry this summer!



ONGOING COLLECTIONS



Diapers and Wipes
for Family Closet - Chosen - West Allis



Aluminum Pop Tops
for the Ronald McDonald House



Toiletries
for Sojourner Truth House
Vitamins for Guatemala



PET BLESSING- BLESSED HOPE UMC

All God's
Creatures



Calling all critters and their humans! Our pets wiggle their way into our hearts and become part of the family. To honor these special friends, Blessed Hope will host a

Blessing of the Animals. It's a casual, happy occasion to celebrate the wagging tails, gentle purrs, and quiet companionship they bring into our lives.

Join us on **Sunday, October 5th, at 2:00 PM** for a short and sweet outdoor ceremony. Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, or lizards! Just make sure they are safely on a leash or in a carrier. If your animal pal can't make the trip, a picture works just as well for the blessing. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a beautiful autumn afternoon with neighbors and their animal companions. In a tradition honoring St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, let's come together to give thanks for the love and laughter our pets provide. We hope to see you and your furry, scaly, or feathered friends there!



WINTER MITTEN DRIVE

Starting in October, Blessed Hope will collect adult and children's mittens, all sizes and colors! There is great demand for cold weather items at General Mitchell School and for La Causa Charter School.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



NEXT MEETING: Nov 11th,

PROGRAM: World Thank Offering
Marie Garnhart

Devotions: Lenore Brost

Hostess: Marie Garnhart

We met on Sept 9th with 3 guests from the Oak Creek Unit. Marie did a program on "Brain Fitness" We do not meet in October.



MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

185th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday October 11, 2025

Museum tour: 4-5pm, Dinner: 5:30 pm, program to follow

Tickets \$20 per adult, \$10 per child, 5 & under free, rsvp by Sept 30th to

414-545-2440 or mumcgreenfield@gmail.com
no tickets available on day of event



MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS

The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The class is working on items for the MUMC 185th Anniversary Celebration and is also assisting in making Christmas ornaments for a tree at the Festival of Trees at the Tripoli Shrine in November.

The MUMC Ceramic Class is collecting soft plastics to be recycled. The collection bin is located in the entryway by the elevator. Thank you to each and every one of you for supporting our class.

For info contact Mary Schultz at 414-526-2715

HOLY SOCKS

Please continue to donate your old, worn out, but clean socks to the box in the narthex.

Marie Garnhart



SASSY SEWERS AT MUMC

Sassy Sewers is meeting twice a month at MUMC. The first Tuesday and third Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bring a bag lunch. We are working on quilts to be donated in November of 2025.

You do not need to have sewing skills to join us.

BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7 PM NA	3	4 9:30 AM OA
5  WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:55 AM Worship Holy Communion Food Offering 11 AM UP Church 2pm Pet Blessing at BHUMC	6 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	7 10 AM - 1 PM Sassy Sewers at Memorial UMC	8	9 7 PM NA	10	11 9 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM OA 10 AM T-Shirts to Totes 11-7 PM Church Lower Lev. Rented Memorial 185th Anniversary celebration
12 8:55 AM Worship 11 AM UP Church	13 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	14 5:30 Dinner, 6-7:30 pm Science Café at Our Lord's UMC	15	16 8:30-1 DCOM Meeting 10 AM - 1 PM Sassy Sewers at Memorial UMC 12 PM Dining Out Group 7 PM NA	17	18 9:30 AM OA 3-6 Bethel 19 Job's Daughter's Spaghetti Dinner /BH Lower Level reserved 10am-8pm)
19  8:55 AM Worship 11 AM UP Church	20 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	21	22	23 7 PM NA	24	25 8:30 AM Women's Breakfast 9:30 AM OA
26  REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:55 AM Worship 11 AM UP Church	27 10 AM Bible Study 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	28	29	30 7 PM NA	31	NOV 1 9:30 AM OA

JOB'S DAUGHTERS SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday October 18th 3-6pm
 Location: Blessed Hope UMC
 \$10 per person (*to go orders available*)
 Menu: spaghetti w/ meat sauce,
 Salad, Garlic bread, Bake Sale for dessert



Pastor Rob, Cheryl Perry,
 Blessed Hope Members and
 Friends,

Thank you so much for the special recognition of my retirement during the August 31st service, the "tasty" fellowship reception, and the thoughtful gifts, cards, and well wishes. It has been a pleasure being the church's secretary for over 17 years. I really appreciated all the support, conversations, opportunities for growth, and friendships created! Being a part of your "church family" has been very rewarding and will not soon be forgotten.

With a grateful heart,

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

Oct.	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u> <u>Stewards</u>
5	Pam Weed	Edith Clark & Volunteer	Kari Hendricks & Marie Garnhart
12	Karen Drescher	Marie Garnhart Edith Clark	
19	Kari Hendricks	Marie Garnhart Edith Clark	
26	Dan Perry	Marie Garnhart	

Please contact Pastor Rob or the church office when members and/or friends of Blessed Hope are sick, hospitalized, having surgery, undergoing medical treatment, have special concerns, etc. Pastor Rob

STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Rob Odum
Organist: Sue Weber
Director of Choirs: Karen Drescher
Office Manager: Jessica Chavarria
Custodian: Christine Stapleton
Pastor's Email:
 robdodum@gmail.com
Pastor's Phone Number:
 414-238-8367

MEN'S BREAKFAST

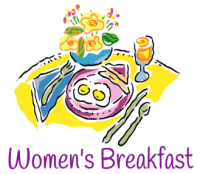
The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on **Saturday October 11th** at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.

**DINING OUT GROUP**

Thursday October 16th at Noon.
 Forum Restaurant (*Hwy 100 & Layton*)
 Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend via call, text, or email. 414-651-5775 / chrisz116@outlook.com

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

The next Women's Breakfast **Saturday October 25th 8:30 am** at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Contribution statements will be going out in October. Please look for yours either by email or printed in the Narthex.

Thank you,
 Sharon Thomas

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Not everyone has happy memories about Christmas. Some may be grieving about the loss of a loved one or some may be sad they cannot be with their family. We will have a Blue Christmas service at Blessed Hope UMC on **December 13, 2025 at 10 am.** Mark your calendars and join us

**LAY LEADERS**

Administrative Council: Dale Shively
Board of Trustees: Paul Drescher
Finance: George Affeldt
SPRC: Cheryl Perry
Outreach: Cathy Shively
Worship: Karen Drescher
Christian Education: Dale Shively
Hospitality & Fellowship: Sue Gordon
Wills & Memorials: Sue Gordon
Electronic Media Coord.: Cheryl Perry