



THE BLESSING

DECEMBER 2025

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3177 South 107th Street ~ West Allis, WI 53227

(414) 541-9050 ~ blessedhopeumc.org

Preparing a Place in Our Hearts



December arrives with a flurry of activity. Our calendars fill with gatherings, our to-do lists grow with tasks, and the world around us brightens with lights and festive music. In the midst of this familiar hustle and bustle, the season of Advent calls us to a different, deeper kind of preparation. It calls us to prepare a place in our hearts for the Christ.

We often focus, quite rightly, on the preparations in the world around us—decorating our homes, buying gifts, and planning special meals. But the true work of this season is internal. We are reminded of the journey of Mary and Joseph, who found "no room for them in the inn" (*Luke 2:7*). This simple, poignant line from the Christmas story serves as a powerful, probing question for us today: **Is there room in our hearts?** In our lives, filled as they are with our own plans, worries, and routines, is there space for Christ to be born anew?

The message of John the Baptist, the great prophet of Advent, echoes through the centuries: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (*Matthew 3:3*). This isn't a call to build a physical highway, but to clear a spiritual path.

So, how do we "prepare the way" and "make room" in our hearts?

It can be as simple as setting aside just five minutes each morning for silent prayer, or choosing to drive without the radio on, simply listening for the "still, small voice" of God (*1 Kings 19:12*).

Preparation often means clearing out what is no longer needed. We can ask ourselves: What spiritual clutter is filling my "inn"? Is it the dust of an old resentment? The distraction of worry? The piles of busyness that block the door? Advent is a time to sweep these things away through reflection, confession, and forgiveness.

We make room by practicing hospitality, not just in our homes, but in our hearts. We prepare for Christ by welcoming the stranger, caring for the neighbor in need, and extending grace to those around us. In serving the "least of these," we are serving Christ himself (*Matthew 25:40*).

May this Advent be a blessed and transformative time for you and your loved ones. And when Christmas morning dawns, may we all be ready, with hearts wide open, to joyfully receive the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, God with us.

In Christ's abundant peace,

Pastor Rob





- 12/4 Debbie Wade
Heidi Koney
12/6 Sue Shapiro
12/8 Alyssa Noseworthy
12/9 Jeff Petoskey
12/12 Mary Bartley
Jesse Shapiro
Morgan Paradis
12/15 Holly Owen-Pauers
12/17 Gary Chatham
Valerianne Weed-Riewe
12/18 Melissa Burish
Bill Sanders
12/19 Allison Redel
12/20 Tom Phillips
12/22 Pete Wade
Randy Pauers
12/23 Karen Graff
Debbie Lyman
12/24 Terry Hogan
Riley Matzek
12/26 Katie Paustian
Leah Pauers
Shawon Paradis
12/27 Arlene Roginske
Randy Zimmerman
12/28 Levi Stachewicz
12/30 Shelly Hecht



12/29 Dave & Barb Werner



Shining the Light of Christ Through Generosity

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." - John 1:5

As Advent candles flicker to life, we're reminded that even the smallest light can push back the darkness. The weeks leading up to Christmas invite us to wait with hope, to prepare our hearts, and to remember that God's love comes to us not through power or wealth, but through the humble gift of Jesus.

This Christmas season can feel busy and heavy - with travel plans, shopping lists, and end-of-year pressures. However, Advent calls us to pause and notice the light already breaking into our lives. Light shines in a child's laughter, a shared meal, a simple act of kindness. It shines through generosity that makes someone else's day a little brighter.

As you light your candles and prepare your homes and hearts for Christmas, may you be reminded that Christ still comes into our world - quietly, gently, persistently - with hope for all people. And as God's light takes root in us, we are called to reflect it outward, helping others see that the darkness does not win.

May the Light encourage you to be generous to others, directly and through groups, focusing on others. May you help our church be generous to others.

Edited from an article by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

www.wisconsinumf.org

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday ~ December 14th ~ 1:00PM

open hearts
open minds
open doors



Blessed Hope Church.

All church members are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend!

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP



Do you love to knit or crochet?

Why not join a group to knit or crochet together?

If so, what day of the week? Time of day?

How often would you like to meet? We

could begin in January...Contact Linda

Brumm with your thoughts:

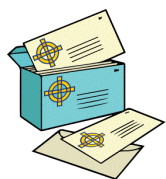
LIBRARY



Virginia Rinka-Le Tendre has started a small library in the corner of the John Wesley room.

Anyone is welcome to take a book to read and return when done. UP church also has a library in the 2nd set of lower level cabinets to the right.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES



Look for envelopes for 2026 in early December in the narthex

-Sharon Thomas
Financial Secretary

SNOW/WEATHER CLOSINGS



When inclement weather necessitates closing of the church for Sunday worship, meetings, etc.,

WISN - Channel 12 will be notified and the announcement of the closing will be televised. Please tune in to WISN - Channel 12 before venturing out in inclement weather.

MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS



The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00. Don't forget to knock on the window (west of parking lot door with sign) for entrance to the church.

A new year has begun for our Soup Bowls. Bring your ideas and come paint with us. We were able to donate 120 bowls this year for Empty Bowls. Our soup bowl sale and with a donation from Blessed Hope we were able to give a gift of \$752 to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Thank you to all for your generosity!

Upcoming Classes are:

Monday, December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

If you have a project you wish to have completed for Christmas, now is the time to begin your projects. Last class before Christmas is December 22 for project pick up.

The MUMC Ceramic Class is still collecting soft plastics to be recycled. Collection bin is located in the entryway by the elevator at MUMC.

Thank you to each and every one of you for supporting our class.

Come join us, no experience necessary!

Please contact Mary Schultz at 414-526-2715 if you would like more information about the MUMC Ceramic Class or if you have any other questions.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NEXT MEETING:

December 9th 9:30 am

On Nov 11 six of us attended the Nov. meeting with a program related to the annual WORLD THANK OFFERING. Lenore provided devotions, Marie was hostess & provided a short program. We had some decisions to make at the business meeting, particularly regarding our Dec. project of making candy bags. They will go to Kari Hendricks school rather than to Northcott. We are still collecting individually wrapped candy for this project. There is a box in the narthex.

NO LUNCH, WE WILL JUST WORK ON THE PROJECT OF FILLING THE CANDY BAGS.

OUTREACH NEWS

FOOD OFFERING

December 7th



Let's continue to help stock the UP CHURCH shelves with canned meat, tuna, peanut butter, canned beans, veggies and fruit, boxes of cereal, canned soup ,coffee, tea, & toilet paper. Winter months can be tough for families. Please be generous and bring a few items to church.

THANKSGIVING BAGS UPDATE

Together with UP Church, 40 Thanksgiving bags were packed for families in need in our the community! Thanks to all who donated & to T-shirts to Totes for the t-shirt bags for this project!



WINTER MITTEN DRIVE

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.



Blessed Hope & UP Church will participate in "The Giving Tree"! This year toys valued at \$10-\$15 for 4-5 yr old children will be collected for La Causa Charter School's Three Kings Day ! Many of these children do not receive toys at Christmas.

We at Blessed Hope will have 75 tags available for donations. Please bring the gift back wrapped by Sunday Dec 7th. Take one or more tags! If you have any questions, please contact Edie Clark or Cathy Shively.



UWF CANDY BAGS

United Women in Faith are collecting candy donations which will be bagged and given to La Causa Charter School. Candy can be brought in until Sunday December 7th.

COIN BASKET

Collecting coins for Milwaukee Rescue Mission— provides a place to stay , meals, job training, and many opportunities for the homeless.. Please dig deep and throw your spare change in the bowl in the back of church or write your check out to "Milwaukee Rescue Mission."



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Thank you for your generous donations for the College Care Packages! Also, thank you for keeping the office informed of the updated addresses for our college students.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawls and winter hats are in demand! K&C group will focus on this special ministry for a while. *There is a lot of yarn in the classroom at church.*



The **Sassy Sowers** Community is blessed to be donating 77 quilts to non-profit organizations soon! We would love to donate a jar of baby food to accompany each quilt. Would you like to help? A "baby box" for donations can be found in the Chapel Lounge at MUMC. Please donate no later than Sunday, December 14th. Thank you for the support you give our "sowers"!



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



BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	2	3	4 7 pm NA	5	6 9-11am  Hanging of the Greens 9:30 am OA
7  SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:55 AM Worship 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	8 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	9 9:30 am - United Women In Faith	10	11 7 pm NA	12	13 9 am Men's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 am OA 10 am Blue Christmas Service
14  THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:55 am Worship 11 am UP Church 1 pm Charge Confer- ence	15 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17 Charles Wesley's Birthday	18 12 pm Dining Out at The Forum Restaurant 7 pm NA	19	20 9:30 am OA
21  FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	22 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC (Holiday Social)	23	24 4 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser- vice	25  Christmas Day 7 pm NA Church Office Closed	26	27 8:30 am Women's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 am OA
28 8:55 am Worship No Service- UP Church	29 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	30	31 	January 1  Happy New Year! 7 pm NA Church Office Closed	January 2	January 3 9:30 am OA



WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

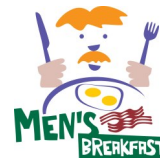
<u>December</u>	<u>Communion Stewards</u>	
7	Marie Garnhart & Kari Hendricks	
	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
7	Dan Perry	Edith Clark & Volunteer
14	George Affeldt	Marie Garnhart Edith Clark
21	Pam Weed	Marie Garnhart Edith Clark
28	Kari Hendricks	Marie Garnhart Edith Clark

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 will lift you up in prayer during the Sunday Worship Service.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, December 13th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



DINING OUT GROUP

The Dining Out Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, December 18th at Noon at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton. Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend via call, text, or email. 414-651-5775 chrisz116@outlook.com



Hanging of the Greens

*Help Decorate
the church for Christmas
Saturday December 6th 9 am*

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

December 13, 2025 at 10 am. Mark your calendars and join us - The Worship Committee

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

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast will be December 27th 8:30 am at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Blessed Hope UMC

General Information & Staff

3177 South 107th Street
 West Allis, WI 53227
 414-541-9050

Office hours M-Th 9 am -2pm
secretary@blessedhopeumc.org
www.blessedhopeumc.org

Pastor: **Rev. Rob Odum**

Pastor's Phone: 414-238-8367

Pastor's Email: robdodum@gmail.com

Organist: Sue Weber

Choir & Bell Choir Director: Karen Drescher

Office Manager: Jessica Chavarria

Custodian: Christine Stapleton