

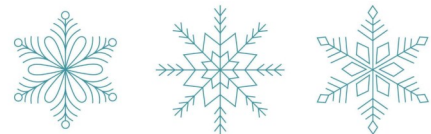
# THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

---



JANUARY  
2026



**Happy New Year!** As the calendar turns to January 2026, we naturally think about making resolutions—aiming for better health, better habits, and overall improvement.

But for us as United Methodists, our annual resolutions must be rooted in something deeper: the lifelong journey toward holiness.

This January, I invite you to start the year with the ultimate goal firmly in sight: Sanctification.

John Wesley taught us that God's grace is not just about our initial forgiveness (justification), but about a continuous process of growing in love and purity (sanctification). The "end in sight" for the Christian is not just getting to heaven but becoming "perfected in love" while here on earth.

This means the goal of our life is not merely to *believe* in Christ, but to *become* more like Christ. As the Apostle Paul wrote, we are called to be "conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29). This is our high calling.

If the "end in sight" is becoming a person whose heart is filled with God's perfect love, what specific steps will *you* take at the *start* of 2026?

You are called to renew your commitment to the spiritual disciplines that allow the Holy Spirit to shape and refine you.

This year, consider these three areas of commitment:

1. **Diligence in Personal Grace:** You can be faithful in private prayer, studying the Scriptures daily, and intentional reflection on how God is working in your life. Sanctification starts when you make time to listen to God.

2. **Growth in Corporate Grace:** We can actively participate in the life of the church—in worship, Holy Communion, and especially in small groups and Bible studies. Community is where iron sharpens iron, and where we learn to practice love in messy, real-time ways.

3. **Holiness in Action:** Ensure your serving is not just *doing* good things, but *doing* them out of a pure heart. Whether it is service inside our church or ministry outside our walls, your actions should reflect the love and compassion of a sanctified heart.

This journey is not something you accomplish by grit alone; it is powered by God's amazing, transforming grace. But you must be a willing partner.

As we enter this New Year and the season of Epiphany (Christ being revealed), allow the Spirit to reveal to you the areas of your life that still need refinement. Press on toward the high calling of holiness in 2026, keeping our glorious, ultimate "end" constantly in sight.

May God bless your pursuit of holiness.

*Pastor Rob*

## January BIRTHDAYS

- 1/2 Tiffany Koehler
- 1/3 Jacob Miron
- 1/8 Ellie Rosewitz
- 1/15 Dan Counsell  
Seward Owen
- 1/16 Chris Weed
- 1/17 Tim Retzlaff
- 1/21 Allan Cogan  
Joshua Riewe  
Elliott Kopplin
- 1/25 Peter Krecak
- 1/29 Mike Klawitter
- 1/31 Jeanne Geraci

## January ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/17 Clark & Ann Hillery
- 1/24 Rev. Joe & Nancy Lukonic



### WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE:

#### **(Look for the Answer)**

1. Who is the commander of Aram that went to Elisha to cure his leprosy?
2. What was the 1st miracle Jesus performed?
3. Isaac was the son of Abraham.  
*True or False*
4. Matthew was David's first born son. *True or False*
5. What Sea was parted to allow the Israelites to depart Egypt?
6. Who was swallowed up into a belly of a fish for 3 days & 3 nights?
7. King Ahab was the husband of Jezebel. *True or False*
8. Who was sent into a den of lions upon the decree of King *Darius*?



## RESPONDING TO BEGINNINGS

As we all know January begins a new year. It also begins a new budget year for Blessed Hope UMC. Of course, it also begins a new tax year for all of us. Some financial consultants emphasize giving so that you can use the tax deductions available on your IRS Form-1040. However, the church looks at the situation differently. We see giving not for the personal advantage from lower tax liability, but for the joy of giving and helping others.

The joy of giving aligns with our mission to CONNECT with God and people, to GROW in faith and relationships, and to SERVE creating a difference in the world. This service happens with the outreach we do in our community, the support we give for our General Church missions (domestic and foreign), and our United Methodist Church efforts in education, agriculture, health care, evangelism, etc. Of course, through our giving we support our pastor and other employees who keep Blessed Hope UMC running smoothly and our building and property properly maintained.

As we begin 2026, we ask you to be generous in your giving to Blessed Hope UMC. Please reflect gratefully on how generous God has been to you and those you love and please respond appropriately.

George Affeldt, Finance Chair,  
Blessed Hope UMC





## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

NEXT MEETING: Jan 13th 11am

Program: Show & Tell

Devotions: Lenore Brost

Hostess: Karen Drescher

Please bring an item that has meaning to you and about which you can tell a brief story

Six of us met on Dec. 9th from 9:30-11 to pack 111 Candy bags for La Causa Charter School.

There were no program, devotions, or lunch

*(No February meeting)*

## **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

**January 18th**

Your generous gift supports the Community Developers Program and community advocacy through United Methodist

Voluntary Services, related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation program, General Board of Church and Society.



## **2. John 2:1-12**

### **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.

### **TAKING DOWN THE GREENS**

Saturday ~ January 10th

Beginning at 9 AM

Please come help take down the Advent decorations.



## **ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION REPORTS**

Contribution Statements for year end will be available in mid January.

To have your contribution count for 2025, please have it in the offering plate by Dec. 28th



## **MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS**

Happy New Year!

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

A new year has begun for our Soup Bowls. Bring your ideas and come paint with us. We are off to a good start on the Empty Bowl Project for 2026 with 24 completed bowls ready and packed.

Upcoming dates for January are:

Monday, January 5, 2025

Monday, January 12, 2025

Monday, January 19, 2025

Monday, January 26, 2025

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

We still collect items for Project Concern and support other activities within our church families.

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.



# OUTREACH NEWS

## Thank You!

**Thank you** to everyone who donated to the CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE! 77 Christmas gifts and 111 candy bags will be given to La Causa Charter School for their "3 Kings Celebration in early January! A big thankyou to Edie Clark for organizing the Giving Tree! Thank you to UMW for putting the candy bags together! And a big shout out to UP CHURCH for participating in this ministry!

**THANK YOU** to K&C group! Over 250 cold weather items were donated to La Causa Charter School and Sojourner Peace Center. 67 premie hats went to Froedert Neo Natal Center, and 48 prayer shawls were dispersed this year! A big shout out to VAL RIEWE for making 38 of the prayer shawls!

**Thanks** to EVERYONE who donated to UP CHURCH'S Thanksgiving Dinner Bags. A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO JESSICA CHAVARRIA for coordinating/ shopping for the event. And a big THANKYOU to Edie Clark, Marie Garnhart, Sue & Tom Gordon for helping put things together. 40 bags were given out!



### FOOD OFFERING

**January 4th**

Let's collect comfort food! Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese and canned stew. Toilet paper, soap, & toothpaste is in demand too! Next time you are at the store, pick up a few extra items and bring them to church! Please remember the pantry will not accept expired or damaged items.



### COIN BASKET

During the month of January/February we will collect for the Heifer Project.



*Coming in February*

### CHRISTMAS CARDS & CANDY CANES:

Thanks to George Affeldt's donation of Christmas cards— UP church was able to give out 88 cards with encouraging messages and candy canes to the residents at Heritage Senior Living!



### 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 ~ JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1. II Kings 5:1-14</b>  				<b>1</b>  Church Office Closed 7 pm NA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am OA
<b>4</b>  <b>8:55 am Worship</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Food Offering</b> <b>11 am UP Church</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b> <b>1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6. Jonah 1:15-17	<b>8</b> 7 pm NA	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9 am Men's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant</b> <b>9 am Taking Down the Greens</b> <b>9:30 am OA</b> <b>10 am T-Shirts to Totes Project</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>8:55 am Worship</b> <b>11 am UP Church</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b> <b>1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC</b>	<b>13</b> <b>11 am United Women in Faith</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>15</b> <b>12 pm Dining Out at The Forum Restaurant</b> <b>7 pm NA</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9:30 am OA</b>
<b>18</b> <b>8:55 am Worship</b> <b>Human Relations Day</b> <b>11 am UP Church</b>	<b>19</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b> <b>1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC</b>	<b>20</b>  January 18 - 25 <b>Week of Prayer FOR Christian Unity</b>		<b>22</b> <b>8:30 am DCOM meeting</b> <b>7 pm NA</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:30 am Women's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant</b> <b>9:30 am OA</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:55 am Worship</b> <b>United Women in Faith Sunday</b> <b>11 am UP Church</b>	<b>26</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b> <b>1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7 pm NA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  3. True





### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, January 10th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



Women's Breakfast

### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast January 24th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.

### DINING OUT GROUP



The Dining Out Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, January 15th at Noon. We will gather 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

O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to  
**follow you**  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
**loving guidance.**

### 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



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 Volunteer Schedule

Jan	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
4	Karen Drescher	Marie & Volunteer	Edith Clark & Kari Hendricks
11	Bonnie Snyder	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
18	George Affeldt	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
25	Pam Weed	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	7. True

### 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: robodum@gmail.com

Organist: Sue Weber

Choir Director: Karen Drescher

Office Manager: Jessica Chavarria

Custodian: Christine Stapleton

*Church Office Closed New Years Day*