



THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



If you've driven around West Allis or Greenfield lately, you know that "Detour" signs are just a part of life. We usually hate them. They're an inconvenience; they add ten minutes to the commute and take us off the path we planned.

But in the Church, we have a name for a 40-day detour: Lent.

I used to think of Lent as a season of "giving things up" just to prove I had willpower. But lately, I've started looking at it differently. It's not a punishment; it's a season of simplifying. In the Bible, the "wilderness" wasn't a place where people went because they were bad; it's where they went to hear God more clearly.

When you're on a detour, you have to decide what's worth carrying in the car and what's just weighing you down. As we walk through these Lenten Sundays in March, I want to invite you to look at your "wilderness" moments as an appointment to lighten the load and re-fuel.

The Detour Checklist: What to Leave Behind & What to Carry

To help you navigate this "in-between" season, here are two ways to approach the road ahead:

1. What to "Leave at the Curb" (Subtraction) This isn't about being "extra holy"—it's about clearing space.

The Digital Fast: Try turning off your phone an hour before bed. What could you do with that quiet hour?

The Complaint Fast: Catch yourself before you grumble about the March slush or the traffic. Replace it with a quick "thank you" for something small.

The Clutter Fast: Find items in your house you don't need and donate them. Clear the physical space to clear the mental space.

2. What to "Pack for the Trip" (Addition) Sometimes the best way to grow is to add a new, life-giving habit.

The Encouragement Text: Every morning, text one person in our church family or your neighborhood just to say, "I'm thinking of you."

The Five-Minute Sit: Before you turn on the radio or the TV, just sit in silence for five minutes. Ask God, "What do You want me to notice today?"

The Open Table: Invite someone you haven't talked to in a while to grab a tea or a coffee. The wilderness is where the transformation happens. Jesus didn't go into the desert to be lonely; He went to be prepared. So, if the path feels a little winding this month, don't worry. You aren't lost. You're just on a detour that leads straight to Easter and new life.

I'll see you on the road

Pastor Rob



3177 South 107th Street ~ West Allis, WI 53227
(414) 541-9050 ~ blessedhopeumc.org



- 3-8 Maggie Munroe
 3-13 David Werner
 3-18 Kari Hendricks
 3-20 Nicole Counsell
 3-28 Kelly Drescher-Johnson
- 3-14 Jay ♥ Sue Paustian
 3-19 Art ♥ Dolores Poitz



WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE:

(Look for the Hidden Answer)

1. What was the name of Moses' brother ?
2. Let not you heart be _____: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
3. Paul's nationality was Greek- *True or False*
4. Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind - *True or False*
5. The 10 commandments were written on what material ?
6. What is the only sin that cannot be forgiven ?
7. Peter was released from prison by an Angel - *True or False*



March 6th



Eating from Trees We Did Not Plant

There's a quiet grace in realizing that much of what sustains us comes from work we did not do. We eat fruit from orchards we didn't plant. We sit under shade trees someone else nurtured decades ago. We benefit from schools, churches, hospitals, and ministries that were dreamed up and funded by people who never knew our names. Their generosity was never meant to circle back to them personally – it was offered for the sake of people they would never meet. Blessed Hope has greatly benefited from such people and their generosity.

That truth of giving with no thought of receiving can be unsettling in a culture that often asks, "What's in it for me?" Yet Scripture consistently points us toward a different way of living - one rooted in trust, hope, and love for the generations yet to come.

Generosity that only exists when there's a direct benefit attached is really just a transaction. But *generosity rooted in faith looks beyond immediate return*. It plants seeds without demanding proof of harvest. It trusts that God will use our gifts - of time, money, energy, and love - in ways we may never see or benefit from.

Many of the faithful choices we make today won't bear fruit tomorrow. They may not even bear fruit in our lifetime. But they matter! They shape communities. They strengthen ministries. They create possibilities for people we'll never know, just as others once did for us.

Living generously is an act of hope. It's a declaration that God's story is bigger than our own chapter - and that we're willing to plant trees so others can eat, rest, and thrive long after we're gone.

from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation,
 edited by George Affeldt



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



NEXT MEETING: March 10th
10:50 AM

We are having a special program on this day, and we welcome non-members from the congregation (*men included*).

Pastor Temo will be presenting a program about his mission trip to the small country of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) in Africa between South Africa and Mozambique.

The presentation will be followed by lunch. Dessert, chips, pickles & olives, coffee and tea will be provided. You will need to bring your own sandwich and any other preferred beverage. Please let Marie Garnhart know if you are a non-member attendee..

HOSTESSES: Sue Gordon, Sharon Thomas, & Lenore Brost

Palm Sunday Brunch

Sunday, March 29, 2026,
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
after the church service in
the fellowship hall at Memo-
rial United Methodist
Church
3450 South 52nd Street
Greenfield, WI

Please invite your Family
and Friends!!!!!!

A free will donation of \$5.00 per person



Pastor Rob, Sue Weber, Karen Drescher, Jessica Chavarria, and Christine Stapleton wish to thank everyone for your generosity as we recently received the 2025 staff gift bonuses.

We wish you all blessings, peace, and good health in this new year.



MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS

Greetings!

I cannot believe we are already into the month of March and for everything to begin changing to green.

The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00. Upcoming dates for March are: March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

Don't forget to knock on the window to the west of the parking lot door with the sign on it. for entrance to the church.

To date we have 36 bowls already finished and packed for the event in September. Racine Empty Bowls has received 48 bowls from MUMC Ceramic Class for their event on Monday, March 2, 2026 at Festival Hall in Racine. We wish for them a successful event. Racine Empty Bowls does not receive federal funding and depend on this fundraiser to fund the Racine County Food Pantry.

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.



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. Next Dates are March 3rd & 19th

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

OUTREACH NEWS

FOOD OFFERING

March 1st



Winter months hit the pantry hard. We will have Food Sun day every first Sunday of the month, but you can donate food anytime! Canned soup, tuna, peanut butter, canned chicken, mac & cheese. The pantry is low on instant potatoes, rice and toothpaste too! Any breakfast cereal, oatmeal even crackers...Toilet paper, bar soap. Grains, pasta and noodles go a long way. Please pick up a few extra items every time you shop and

GOOD SAMARITAN



We received a special request from Good Samaritan Emergency Pantry. They are in need of toilet paper for the people they help. So we at Blessed Hope will collect wrapped packaged toilet paper until April. We will continue to collect food too for Up Church. Feel free to bring toilet paper in anytime and leave it in the food offering baskets.

Any questions ask Cathy Shively

HOLY SOCKS



Unfortunately the "Holy socks" project which has involved UMC churches across Wisconsin for the last two years has come to an end. This project was made possible by a partnership between TerraCycle recycling and the Gold Toe Sock Co. The beneficiary that United Women in Faith of Wisconsin was supporting was Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. The total funds received by Northcott through October, 2025 was \$5,458.05. (That is 5,458 pounds of socks that didn't end up in land fill) There will be one last (small check) through the conclusion of the project at the end of Dec. 2025.

This is also a reminder that we are no longer collecting "socks".

COIN BASKET



During the Month of March we will collect coins for UP CHURCH Food Pantry. Food costs are up again, and the pantry can use our help. Dig deep in your pockets and throw your spare change in the bowl at the back of the church. Or write your check out to "Blessed Hope" and in the memo list "URBAN POIEMA Food Pantry."

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We are working on: prayer shawls, lapghans, caps, scarves, & preemie caps too!



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

We will start collecting donations for college care packages from April 12-26th. *More details in April*



A Big Thank you to everyone who has donated food to UP CHURCH. URBAN POIEMA has reported that they have given away over 250 lbs of food so far!



Thanks to EVERYONE who donated to the "SOUPER BOWL!"



ONGOING COLLECTIONS



Diapers and Wipes for Family Closet - Chosen - West Allis



Aluminum Pop Tops for the Ronald McDonald House

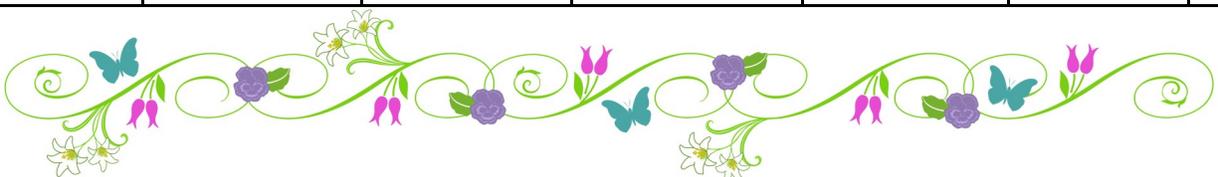


Toiletries for Sojourner Truth House
Vitamins for Guatemala



BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ MARCH 2026

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
1  Second Sunday <small>IN LENT</small> 8:55 am Worship Holy Communion Food Offering 11 am UP Church & 5pm Foundations Class	2 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	3 10 am - 1 pm Sassy Sewers at Memorial UMC	4 6:30 pm Up Church –Bible Study	5 7 pm NA	6  WORLD Day OF PRAYER 6:30pm-UP Church Young Adults Bible study	7 9:30 am OA
8  Third Sunday <small>IN LENT</small> 8:55 am Worship Daylight Saving Time Begins SCRIP Orders Due 11 am UP Church	9 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	10 10:50am United Women in Faith	11 6:30 pm Up Church –Bible Study	12 7 pm NA	13	14 9 am Men's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 am OA 10 am– T shirt to Totes
15  Fourth Sunday <small>IN LENT</small> 8:55 am Worship UMCOR Offering 11 am UP Church	16 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	17 Newsletter Articles Due	18 6:30 pm Up Church –Bible Study	19 12 pm Dining Out at the Forum Restaurant 10 am - 1 pm Sassy Sewers at MUMC 7 pm NA	20	21 9:30 am OA
22  Fifth Sunday <small>IN LENT</small> 8:55 am Worship 11 am UP Church	23 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	24	25 6:30 pm Up Church –Bible Study	26 7 pm NA	27	28 8:30 am Women's Breakfast at The Forum 9:30 OA
29  Palm Sunday 8:55 am Worship 11:30 am Palm Sun- day Brunch @ MUMC 11 am UP Church	30 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	31	April 1 6:30 pm Up Church –Bible Study	April 2 7 pm NA	April 3 2. John 14:1	April 4 9:30 am OA





Worship Volunteer Schedule

Mar	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
1	Karen Drescher	Marie G & Volunteer	Edith C. & Kari H.
8	Bonnie Snyder	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
15	Dan Perry	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
22	George Affeldt	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
29	Kari Hendricks	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	

4. True- 2 Kings 2:11

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, March 14th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



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.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8th!



Please join us for HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY: March 29th
8:55 AM at Blessed Hope UMC
10:30 AM at Memorial UMC

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 2nd 6pm
Combined Worship Service at Blessed Hope UMC

GOOD FRIDAY: April 3rd 6pm
Combined Worship Service at Memorial UMC

EASTER SUNDAY: April 5th
Traditional Resurrection Day Worship & Celebration
8:55 AM at Blessed Hope UMC
10:30 AM at Memorial UMC

THE DINING OUT GROUP

Thursday, March 19th at Noon at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton. Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend 414-651-5775 chrisz116@outlook.com



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast will be On March 28th at 8:30 am at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.



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 Director: Karen Drescher

Office Manager: Jessica Chavarria

Custodian: Christine Stapleton

