



THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Beyond the Brunch: Living the Resurrection

Easter Sunday is often the finish line. We've made it through the solemnity of Lent, the shadows of Holy Week, and the early morning chill of the Sunrise Service. We celebrate with lilies, brass instruments, and perhaps a bit too much chocolate, and then—by Monday morning—we tend to pack the "Alleluias" away with the plastic eggs.

But if the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is only a date on the calendar, we are missing the heart-beat of our faith. Easter is not just a day to remember; it is a way to live.

The empty tomb didn't just happen 2,000 years ago; it is a current reality that demands a response every single morning. When we say "He is Risen," we are declaring that death, despair, and "the way things have always been" no longer have the final word.

Living an Easter life means:

- **Choosing Hope over Cynicism:** In a world that thrives on bad news, the Resurrection empowers us to look for the "new thing" God is doing in our neighborhoods and our hearts.
- **Practicing Renewal:** Just as Christ rose, we are called to rise above our old habits, grudges, and fears. Every day is an opportunity for a "mini-resurrection."

Being People of the Light: We don't just celebrate the light on Sunday; we carry it into the dark corners of our community through service, kindness, and radical hospitality.

In the early church, the followers of Jesus weren't known for how they celebrated a holiday; they were known for how they lived "The Way." They lived with such boldness and generosity that people couldn't help but notice something was different. They were Easter People.

As we move past the festivities of the season, I challenge you to ask yourself: *How does the reality of the empty tomb change how I treat my neighbor on Tuesday? How does it change my perspective on a difficult Friday?*

The stone has been rolled away—not just so we could look in, but so we could go out. Let's not let the joy of Easter end when the lilies fade. Let's live so vibrantly that the world knows the Resurrection is true, simply by watching us.

Pastor Rob



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



4/1 Christine Noseworthy
 4/4 Bonnie Snyder
 4/9 Nancy Cogan
 4/14 Joe Lukonic
 4/17 Tom Garnhart
 Jim Thomas
 4/20 Rita Dailey
 4/25 Danny Miron
 4/27 Bob Weed
 4/28 Dolores Poitz
 4/30 Jerry Flanigan



4/3 Mike ♥ Nancy Cogan
 4/4 Bob ♥ Brenda Krey
 4/18 Ken ♥ Pat Siegesmund
 4/26 Robert ♥ Shelly Hecht



WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE

Easter Edition

(Look for the Hidden Answer)

1. To whom did Pilate send Jesus ?
2. The message on the cross of Jesus was written in which language?
3. Who was the 1st person to see Jesus after his resurrection?
4. Jesus was dressed in a red robe during his mockery by Roman soldiers - *True or False*
5. Who brought burial spices for Jesus' body ?

Starting with What We Have

In a Lenten devotional I read recently, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail reflected on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When the disciples saw the crowd gathering, they immediately began doing the math. There were simply too many people and far too little food. Their focus was on the problem. But Jesus started somewhere else.

Instead of beginning with what was missing, Jesus began with what was already present: five loaves and two fish. What seemed impossibly small to the disciples became the starting point for a miracle in the hands of God.

Churches can fall into the same pattern of thinking. We sometimes begin by naming everything we lack — too few volunteers, tight budgets, or not enough people in worship. Scarcity can shape the way we see our future. But the Gospel story reminds us that God does not begin with scarcity. God begins with what we have.

I once heard a pastor describe stewardship this way: imagine placing everything your church has on a table — your people, your ministries, your building, your finances, your passion for serving others. It might not look like much compared to the needs of the world. But that is exactly how the miracle of the loaves and fishes began.

The miracle did not start with abundance. It started with a small offering placed into Jesus' hands. And that is often where God's work begins today as well. Can you place your small offerings into the hands of Jesus?

This reflection was inspired by a devotional by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail in the Sanctified Art Lenten devotional The Good News Is... Together, the Impossible Is Possible.

From the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, edited by George Affeldt





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NEXT MEETING: April 14th

11:00 AM

PROGRAM: Prayer & Self Denial

(Special Annual Offering taken)

HOSTESS: Marie Garnhart

DEVOTIONS: Pam weed

All are welcome. We each need to bring our own sandwich. Trimmings, dessert & coffee provided.

Report from last meeting:

We had a special program on March 10th presented by Pastor Temo of the Urban Poiema UMC. We had invited extra guests and there were 5 ladies from Oak Creek Community UMC and 3 men in addition to 8 regular members. Our hostesses, Sharon Thomas, Sue Gordon, and Lenore Brost supplemented our sandwiches with a marvelous spread for lunch after the excellent presentation about Pastor Temo's mission trip to the small African country of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) located between South Africa and Mozambique.



SHOE COLLECTION

April 12th—26th

We will be partnering with UP Church to collect gently used &

new men's, women's, and kids shoes to be sent to those in need in Africa by Soles for Jesus. Look for the Large White Collection box in the narthex

No winter boots, slippers, flips flops, or heels over 3". Also, please do not bring shoes that have holes, are worn out, dirty, or stained



This same organization— Soles for Jesus has a Charity walk event called “**Stroll for Soles**” on Saturday June 13th 10:30 am-1pm at Lisbon Community Park in Hartland. There is a registration fee that includes a t-shirt, lunch from a food truck, kids activities, and a 1 or 2 Mile Course to Walk/Run/Stroll. More info can be found at solesforjesus.org/ or contact secretary@blessedhopeumc.org. If you cannot go, but would like to sponsor someone from UP Church to go please contact the above listed email.



MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS

Greetings! Well, I thought Spring was right around the corner but with the recent snow, I am thinking differently.

The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00. Upcoming dates are: Monday, April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

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 48 bowls already finished and packed for the event in September. We now have yarn bowls. We have some already finished, but can do one in your favorite color or come and paint your own. Yarn bowls are for sale at \$20.00.

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.

The Yarn Extravaganza was a great success. Another event will be held in November. Details will be out in the next few months.

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

3. [John 20:14-18 Mary Magdalene](#)

OUTREACH NEWS

FOOD OFFERING

April 12th

(the Sunday after Easter) is the next Food Sunday. **CANNED BEANS** are in such need! Red,



pinto, cannellini, black, great northern, green, butter, chick pea, pork & Bean. This is a big staple for many families and the pantry is very low! Also canned soup, tuna, peanut butter, canned chicken, mac & cheese, canned spaghetti, any breakfast cereal, oatmeal and crackers too! Toilet Paper, toothpaste, bar soap too! Please pick up a few extra items every time you shop and bring them to church.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



We are low on prayer shawls! So the group will focus on that in the coming months. Check the classroom for yarn. Premie Hats too!

Thank you to K&C group -12 scarf/hat sets, 20 hats, 12 pair of mittens – New Beginnings –A Home for Mothers



*Thanks to everyone who donated to the Souper Bowl 2026! - \$124.00 will go to Empty Bowls.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



It's time to submit the address of your college student for the college care packages. (Note: We will use the same addresses from the list used last fall. Please contact Karen if there have been any changes.)

If you have a child or grandchild who is attending college, we would like to let them know that the church family is thinking of them.

Donations for the packages can be placed in the labeled box in the narthex. Please remember that all items, store bought or home-made, must be individually wrapped.

The boxes will be packed for mailing on April 27th.

For any questions, please contact Karen Drescher.

COIN BASKET



April through May we will collect coins for Heifer International. This organization helps fight hunger and poverty in 3rd world countries by providing animals to families. Please dig deep into your pockets and through your spare change into the bowl at the back of church, or write your checks out to Blessed Hope with Heifer International in the memo



MIDWEST MISSION

During the months of April and May Blessed Hope and UP Church will collect Personal Dignity Kits for Midwest Mission.

Each donated kit should include:

- 1 Hand Towel (no kitchen towels)
 - 1 Bar of soap 3-4 oz
 - 1 Washcloth (no dishcloths)
 - 1 Shampoo 12-19 oz (lid taped)
 - 1 Adult toothbrush (individually packaged)
 - 1 Deodorant 2-3 oz
 - 1 Lotion 8-10 oz (lid taped)
 - 1 Gallon zip lock bag
- Place all items in the zip lock bag . Along with 2 - \$1 bills to cover the cost of toothpaste and a carry bag.

2. John 19:19-20 Greek, Latin & Hebrew



ONGOING COLLECTIONS

Diapers and Wipes



for Family Closet - Chosen - West Allis



Aluminum Pop Tops
for the Ronald McDonald House

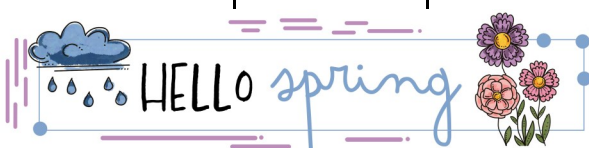





Toiletries
for Sojourner Truth House



Vitamins for Guatemala
Books for Reach a child

BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2  Maundy Thursday 6pm Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm NA	3  Good Friday 6pm Good Friday combined service @ MUMC 6:30 pm-UP Church Good Friday Service	4 9:30 am OA
5  Easter Sunday 8:55 am Worship Holy Communion 11 am Urban Poiema Church (Easter egg hunt after)	6 10 am Bible Study 1-9 am Ceramics at MUMC	7 10 am - 1 pm Sassy Sewers at MUMC	8 6:30 pm Up Church -Bible Study	9 7 pm NA	10 6pm- UPC Young Adults Bible Study <i>UP Church—Decorate Lower level for Saturday event</i>	11 9am Men's Breakfast at The Forum 9:30am OA 8am-United Women in Faith 10am T-Shirts to Totes Project <i>1-8pm UP Church-Lower level rental</i>
12 8:55 am Worship Food Offering SCRIP Orders Due 11am Urban Poiema Church /1-4 pm - lower space use for baby dedication celebration	13 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at MUMC 6:30pm Administrative Council Meeting	14 11am United Women in Faith Newsletter Articles Due	15 6:30 pm Up Church -Bible Study	16 10 am- 1 pm Sassy Sewers at MUMC 12 pm Dining Out -Forum Restaurant 7 pm NA	17	18 9:30 am OA
19 8:55 am Worship Native American Ministries Sunday 11 am Urban Poiema Church & 5 pm Class	20 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at MUMC	21	22 6:30 pm Up Church -Bible Study	23 7 pm NA	24	25 8:30 am Women's Breakfast at The Forum Restaurant 9:30 am OA
26 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	27 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at MUMC	28	29 6:30 pm Up Church -Bible Study	30 7 pm NA		





Worship Volunteer Schedule

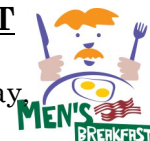
Apr	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
5	Pam Weed	Edith Clark & Volunteer	Marie G & Sharon Thomas
12	Karen Drescher	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
19	Dan Perry	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	
26	Bonnie Snyder	Marie Garnhart & Edith Clark	

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 April 11th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.



Holy Week Schedule

Please join us for worship:

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 8:55 am
Traditional Resurrection Day Worship at Blessed Hope UMC
10:30 AM at Memorial UMC

THE DINING OUT GROUP

Thursday, April 16th at Noon - 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

Saturday April 25th- 8:30 am at The Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.



If you had a change of address, phone number, and/or email address since the last publication of the church directory in June 2025, and have not already done so, please notify by email –secretary@blessedhopeumc.org

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

1. Luke 23:7 Herod