



THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



This July, our nation marks a monumental milestone—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A semiquincentennial is a rare moment in history, an invitation to look backward with gratitude for the enduring ideals of liberty and community, while looking forward to the work of the future. It is a time for celebration, reflection, and deep gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy.

Yet, as people of faith, our citizenship is always rooted in something even more enduring than a 250-year-old republic. Our ultimate allegiance is to the Kingdom of God, and our highest blueprint for living is found in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

When we look at the foundational promise of our nation—the pursuit of liberty and justice for all—we find beautiful echoes of Christ’s own ministry. In the Gospels, Jesus stepped forward to announce his mission: to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and to let the oppressed go free. He modeled a life where true freedom is not the right to do whatever we please, but the power to do what is right, just, and loving.

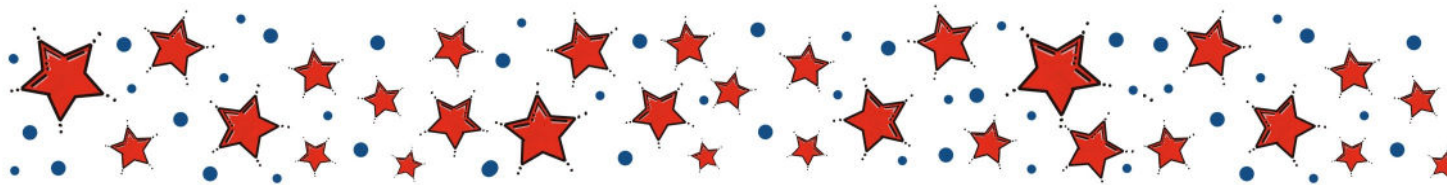
While nations measure success by strength and prosperity, Jesus calls us to measure our lives by love, humility, and service. In the Sermon on the Mount, He didn’t command us to conquer, but to comfort; he didn’t call us to be self-reliant, but to be peacemakers, to show mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

As the fireworks fade and the celebrations conclude, our calling remains to live out the radical grace born in the Gospels. We have the daily opportunity to use our freedom to lift up the vulnerable, to extend hospitality to the stranger, and to love our neighbors across every dividing line.

This historic July invites us to celebrate how far we have come, to honestly reflect on the journey ahead, and to walk faithfully in the footsteps of the One who offers true and everlasting freedom.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Rob



4. Daniel 7

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(414) 541-9050 ~ blessedhopeumc.org



- 7/1 Dan Perry
 7/4 George Affeldt Jr.
 Robert Hecht
 7/8 Mackenzie Weed
 7/10 Elaine Pudleiner
 7/14 Fiona Odum
 7/16 James Koney
 Barbara Werner
 7/18 Pastor Rob Odum
 Jon Wade
 7/20 Stephanie Sanders
 Lisl Brzozowski
 7/26 Cheryl Perry
 Barb Matzek



- 7/8 Dan & Nicole Counsell
 7/16 Russ & Barb Matzek
 7/28 John & Marie Ingraham



WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE

(Look for the Hidden Answer)

1. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be _____ (John 3:17)
2. What is the last word of the Bible?
3. God caused Aarons rod to sprout buds that blossomed producing _____ (Numbers 17:8)?
4. Who envisioned a lion with eagle's wings?
5. _____ is called the sting of death. (1Cor 15:56)

Seeing God in the Ordinary

One of the challenges of faith is learning where to look for God. Many of us grew up hearing stories of burning bushes, parted seas, miraculous healings, and dramatic conversions. We read about manna falling from heaven and prophets calling down fire. If that's our expectation, we may assume that God's presence always arrives with flashing lights and unmistakable signs. But most of life isn't lived in the extraordinary.

Most of life happens in ordinary moments. It happens in the exhausted joy of holding a newborn child for the first time. It happens in the quiet conversation shared over coffee with a friend who asks how you're really doing. It happens when a neighbor shovels a driveway, a teacher stays late to help a struggling student, or someone sends a card simply because they sensed another person needed encouragement. It happens when we sit on the porch at the end of the day and watch the sun sink below the horizon. It happens around dinner tables, hospital bedsides, baseball fields, church potlucks, and family reunions.

These moments may not seem miraculous, but perhaps they are holy, nonetheless. The Book of Esther offers an intriguing reminder of this truth. It tells the story of a young Jewish woman who becomes queen and, through courage and wisdom, helps save her people from destruction. Yet there is something unusual about the Book of Esther. God is never mentioned by name. Not once.

No booming voice from heaven.
 No angelic messenger.
 No spectacular miracle.

Instead, God seems to work quietly through ordinary people making courageous choices at precisely the right moments. Through faithfulness. Through relationships. Through wisdom. Through risk. Through love.

Mordecai says to Esther, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Perhaps that is how God often works. Not only in grand displays of power, but through everyday people who choose kindness over indifference, courage over fear, generosity over selfishness, hope over despair. Maybe the invitation of faith is not simply to ask, "Where are the miracles?" but to train our eyes to notice God's fingerprints already present in our daily lives. This summer, slow down enough to pay attention.

Watch the sunset.
 Celebrate milestones.
 Notice unexpected kindness.
 Give thanks for ordinary blessings.

You just might discover that God has been closer than you realized all along.

- Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, edited by G. Affeldt



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We don't meet again until September, but we had a very successful mini bake sale on June 1st. Thanks to the diligent bakers and the generous customers we made \$338 toward our annual mission pledge. In July, our unit is sponsoring two young ladies for one week "Yo-Mi-Ca" camp at Pine Lake UMC summer camp. Each received half of the needed funds through Wisconsin Conference UMF scholarships, and our unit provided the remaining half.



SASSY SOWERS AT MUMC

Did you know that Sassy Sewers is really Sassy Sowers. This group keeps our "Community in Stitches."

Sassy Sowers is meeting twice a month at MUMC. The first Tuesday and third Thursday from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. (NOTE TIME CHANGE). Feel free to bring your own beverage or snack. We are working on quilts to be donated in November of 2026.

Dates for the month of July are July 7 and July 16, 2026.

You do not need to have sewing skills to join us. Any questions, please contact Deb Soderland at 414-659-5625.



1. Saved

MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS



Greetings!

Happy 250th Anniversary to the United States. Only 2 months left of the 2026 Soup Bowl season. 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 so we can let you in or send me a text.

To date we have 72 bowls already finished and packed for the event in September. We now have yarn bowls. We have some already finished. You can order one in your favorite color or come and paint your own. Yarn bowls are for sale at \$20.00.

Upcoming dates for July are:

[Monday, July 6, 2026](#)

[Monday, July 13, 2026 – *This is our Picnic Potluck*](#)

[Monday, July 20, 2026](#)

[Monday, June 27, 2026](#)

Monday, July 13 is our Picnic Potluck. Festivities begin at 1:00 pm. Brats and hot dogs will be provided. Come and socialize and bring your favorite picnic side dish.

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

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.

OUTREACH NEWS



FOOD OFFERING

July 12th

we will collect food for UP CHURCH FOOD PANTRY on July 12th. Summer months are hard on the pantry, please bring in non perishable items like canned goods, vegetables, fruits, spaghetti, protein items. They are always in need of grains and pastas, healthy cereal too! Dried beans and condiments are always accepted. Please bring in your items, and leave in the baskets in the Narthex, we will not accept expired or damaged goods.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



During the summer months the group will focus on Preemie Hats and Winter Hats! There is yarn in the classroom.

GOOD SAMARITAN



Please continue to bring in toilet paper or laundry soap for Good Samaritan. These two items are in such demand.

COIN BASKET

We will collection coins for UP CHURCH- dig deep into your pockets and throw your spare change into the bowl in church.



Urban Poima Church

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

AUGUST 8TH
11:30AM - 2:30PM

FREE LUNCH & KIDS ACTIVITIES!

I LOVE MY CITY will be giving away backpacks with school supplies (While supplies last)

COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JULY!

SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS - WIDE RULED
POCKET FOLDER
GLUE STICKS
KIDS SCISSORS
MARKERS

CRAYONS
COLORLED PENCILS
PENCIL BOXES & POUCHES
PENS & PENCILS
BACKPACKS

I ♥ MY CITY

If you have any questions, ask Jessica Chavarria or Cathy Shively. If you want to write a check for school supplies, write it out to Blessed Hope with "UP CHURCH BACK TO SCHOOL" in the memo.



2.Amen (Rev 22:21)

BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ JULY 2026

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
5. Sin			1 6:30 pm-UP Church Bible Study	2 7 pm NA	3	4 9:30 am OA 
5 8:55 am Worship Holy Communion 11 am Urban Poiema Church	6 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	7 9:30am-12pm Sassy Sowers at MUMC	8 6:30 pm-UP Church Bible Study	9 7 pm NA	10	11 9am– Mens Breakfast-The Forum 9:30 am OA 10 am T-Shirts to Totes Project
12 8:55 am Worship Food Offering SCRIP Orders Due 11 AM Urban Poiema Church	13 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC Picnic potluck	14 Newsletter Articles Due	15 6:30 pm-UP Church Bible Study	16 9:30am-12pm Sassy Sowers at MUMC Noon– Dining out 7 pm NA	17	18 9:30 am OA
19 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	20 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	21	22 6:30 pm-UP Church Bible Study	23 7 pm NA	24	25 9:30 am OA
26 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	27 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	28	29 6:30 pm-UP Church Bible Study	30 7 pm NA	31	



PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

**DINING OUT**

There will be no Dining Out in July or August

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The Men's Club will meet for breakfast Sat, July 11th at 9am at The Forum -Hwy 100 & Layton

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

The Women's Breakfast gathering is off for the summer and will resume in September.

**Worship Volunteer Schedule**

July	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
5	Pam Weed	Marie G & Volunteer	Edith C & Kari H
12	Kari Hendricks	Marie G & Edith C	
19	Bonnie Snyder	Marie G & Edith C	
26	Paul Drescher	Marie G & Edith C	



Congratulations to Ben Owen for being the salutatorian of his class at Midwest Bible College! He earned a degree in Associate in Bible Studies

3. Almonds**STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Rob Odum
Organist: Sue Weber
Director of Choirs: Karen Drescher
Office Manager Jessica Chavarria
Custodian: Jessica Chavarria

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

Blessed Hope UMC
General Information & Staff

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 Pastor's Email: robdodum@gmail.com
 Organist: Sue Weber
 Choir Director: Karen Drescher
 Office Manager: Jessica Chavarria

