



THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



There are some things most of us would rather not plan. We plan vacations, birthdays, gardens, and sometimes even what we're having for supper three days from now.

But our funeral? That tends to remain near the bottom of the list.

Yet making a few plans for your funeral can be a genuine act of love for the people who will someday have to make those decisions for you.

I have sat with families as they planned funeral and memorial services. They are grieving, tired, and sometimes still in shock when suddenly someone asks, "What hymns would they have wanted?" "Was there a favorite Scripture?" "Who should speak?"

Too often the answer is, "I don't know." A few notes left behind can be a wonderful gift.

What hymns would you like? Maybe *Amazing Grace*, *How Great Thou Art*, *Hymn of Promise*, or something entirely different. Preferences work both ways. If you've spent the last thirty years thinking, "If anybody sings *On Eagle's Wings* at my funeral, I am coming back to complain," **write that down, too.** Your pastor will appreciate the clarity.

What Scriptures have mattered to you? Perhaps Psalm 23 has been with you since childhood. Maybe Romans 8 reminds you that nothing can separate us from God's love, or Revelation 21 gives you hope with its promise that God will wipe away every tear. Don't worry about choosing the "right funeral Scripture." Choose the Scripture that has been part of **your** journey with God. And leave some stories.

What would you want your family and friends to remember? You might write down: People and places that shaped you. How you met your spouse or closest friends. Work, hobbies, church ministries, or causes that mattered to you. Adventures and family traditions. Moments when your faith became especially important. Things you're grateful for. Stories that still make you laugh. What you hope your children, grandchildren, or friends learned from you. What you came to believe about grace, forgiveness, love, and God. Don't worry about sounding profound. The little stories are often the ones families treasure most: the fishing trip, the garden, the terrible jokes, the dog who ran the household, the recipe nobody else can quite duplicate.

For Christians, preparing for death isn't giving up on life. It is acknowledging that our earthly lives have a beginning and an ending while trusting that neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. So this doesn't need to be a ghoulish chore. Make a cup of coffee or tea. Remember the hymns that carried you, the Scriptures that steadied you, the people you loved, the laughter you shared, and the places where grace surprised you.

Write some of it down. Then tell someone where you put it. Better yet, turn a copy in to Jessica/Peggy. Someday, the people who love you may be sitting around a table trying to plan a service that honors your life. Imagine their relief when someone says, "Wait. They left us some notes." What a wonderful final kindness that could be.

And if you really don't want *On Eagle's Wings*, please don't leave that information to chance.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Rob



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



9/2 Scott Noseworthy
 9/3 Mike Cogan
 9/6 Sue Schulkers
 9/7 Clark Stachewicz
 9/8 Susie Condon
 Vicky Heckman
 9/11 Beverly Scott
 9/14 John Redel
 9/15 Kaelyn Hogan
 9/17 Judy Rosewitz
 9/18 Brenda Krey
 9/21 Chloe Hecht
 9/24 Anna Koney
 9/26 Russ Matzek



9/6 Chris & Becky Weed
 9/10 Joe & Courtney Stachewicz
 9/12 Ron & Linda Schultz
 9/14 Jim & Sharon Thomas
 9/18 Dan & Judy Redel
 9/23 Dan & Jackie Miron



WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE

(Look for the Hidden Answer)

1. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the _____ of our God will stand forever." *Isaiah 40:8*
2. What is the last word of the Bible?
3. Who was the father of King David?
4. When accused of knowing Jesus who denied him 3x ?
5. "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose _____ does not wither—whatever they do prospers." *Psalms 1:3*

NERVOUS-CITED



One of my favorite words ever coined wasn't found in a dictionary – it came from my daughter Macy when she was little. As summer ended and school was about to begin, we'd ask how she was feeling. Her answer was often, "I'm nervous-cited."

She couldn't decide whether she was nervous or excited because, truthfully, she was both. A new teacher. New classmates. Maybe reconnecting with old friends. Wondering where she'd sit at lunch. Wondering if she'd like her classes. Looking forward to seeing familiar faces while also stepping into the unknown.

I suspect we've all experienced that feeling. Whether it's starting a new job, moving to a new community, welcoming a new pastor, or beginning a new ministry, anticipation often carries both excitement and uncertainty. We wonder what lies ahead while hoping it will be something good.

As Christians, I wonder if we've lost a little of that "nervous-cited" feeling when it comes to the church. What if we came into worship each week wondering, What is God going to do today? What if we looked around the sanctuary asking, Who might be here for the first time? Who could use a conversation? Who might become a lifelong friend? What if we approached a new ministry opportunity with curiosity instead of caution?

The early church lived with that kind of expectation. They never knew where the Holy Spirit might lead next, whose life might be transformed, or what new opportunity for ministry might appear around the corner. They expected God to be at work.

Stewardship grows out of that same anticipation. When we believe God is still writing new stories, we naturally want to be part of them. We volunteer because we want to see what God will do next. We invite others because we believe their lives can be changed. We give generously because we're investing in something bigger than ourselves.

Perhaps this fall, as backpacks are filled and classrooms come alive again, we can reclaim a little of that childlike anticipation. Maybe it's okay – even healthy – to become a little "nervous-cited" about what God has in store for our churches. After all, the best chapters of God's story are never behind us. They're always the next ones God invites us to write together.

~ written by Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation,
edited by George Affeldt



OUTREACH NEWS



FOOD OFFERING

September 13th

Please bring in grains, pasta, canned fruit, vegetables, beans, tuna, chicken, Mac & Cheese, condiments, coffee and tea.



A heartfelt thank you to you and your church community for the wonderful donations to our food pantry. Your church truly helps us out and makes a huge difference for the families we serve—we appreciate it so much! We also wanted to mention that thanks to everyone's generosity, we currently have 27 boxes of cereal on hand, so we are fully stocked on cereal for the time being and won't need any more for a while. We will, of course, gladly accept any other non-perishable pantry items or essentials.

Thank you all again for your kindness and continued support!

Aliyana ~ UP Church

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated backpack supplies, money, and time! All items from Blessed Hope that were collected in July went to help Urban Poiema Church with their Annual Community Picnic! UP CHURCH filled and gave away over 140 backpacks! A big THANK YOU to Everyone at UP Church who helped make this community outreach a great event that helped many in need.



GOOD SAMARITAN

They have asked if we can continue to collect toilet paper and laundry soap.

They are always in need of personal hygiene items too. You can place items in the food baskets in the narthex.

COIN BASKET

Through September and October we will collect coins for UP CHURCH Thanksgiving Meals. It is never too early to start! Last year UP CHURCH helped many families by providing a bountiful Thanksgiving Meal. Reach into your pockets, and throw your coins in the bowl at the back of church, or write out a check to "Blessed Hope" with "UP CHURCH THANKSGIVING BASKETS" in the memo.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The group will continue to make lapghans, cold winter items and premie hats. There is yarn in the classroom if you need.



COLLEGE CARE BOXES

Back to School time means that it's also time to submit the address of your college student for the college care boxes. If you have a child or grandchild who is attending college or trade school we would like to let them know that they are not alone and the church family is thinking of them. Whether the student is full time or part time, on campus or at home, student life can be challenging.



Contributions for the packages can be brought to church and placed in the marked box in the narthex. All food items must be *INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED*.



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





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NEXT MEETING: September 9th
11:00 AM

PROGRAM: Marie Garnhart

Report on 2026

Quadrennial Assembly

HOSTESS: Marie Garnhart

DEVOTIONS: Karen Drescher

Everyone is welcome. Bring your own sandwich. We eat at noon and the hostess provides dessert and trimmings. Coffee is provided.



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 September are September 1 and September 17, 2026.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 22, 2026 for the Quilt Blessing with a Café hosted by the Sassy Sowers in the Fellowship Hall following the church service. Quilts will be available for sale after the blessing.

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



MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS

Greetings!

Class has been busy finishing soup bowls. This is the time to also start thinking if you want something done for Christmas.

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 84 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. The yarn bowls will be available at the Yarn Extravaganza held in November at MUMC.

Upcoming dates for September are:

Monday, September 7, 2026

Monday, September 14, 2026

Monday, September 21, 2026

Monday, September 28, 2026

Soup Bowl Sunday is September 20 - Join the Ceramic Class for the Blessing and café in the fellowship hall. Free will donation for the lunch.

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 on November 13, 14, and 15 from 9:00 to 3:00 pm. More yarn and fabric and miscellaneous. Lunch will be available for \$5.00.

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 or greeneyesgerman@gmail.com if you would like more information about the MUMC Ceramic Class or if you have any other questions.

EVENTS ~ SEPTEMBER 2026

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
3. Jesse		1 10 am - 1 pm Sassy Sowers at MUMC	2 6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study	3 7 pm NA	4	5 9:30 am OA
6 8:55 am Worship Holy Communion 11 am Urban Poiema Church	7  LABOR Day Church Office Closed 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	8	9 6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study	10 7 pm NA	11	12 9 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am OA
13 8:55 am Worship Food Offering SCRIP Orders Due 11 am Urban Poiema Church	14 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC Newsletter Articles Due	15	16 6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study	17 10 am - 1 pm Sassy Sowers at MUMC 12 pm Dining Out Group 7 pm NA	18	19 9:30 am OA 2-7 pm Lower Level Re- served
20 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	21 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	22	23 6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study	24 7 pm NA	25	26 8:30 am Women's Breakfast 9:30 am OA
27 8:55 am Worship 11 am Urban Poiema Church	28 10 am Bible Study 1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC	29	30 6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study	October 1 7 pm NA	October 2	October 3 9:30 am OA



Hello fall





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.

4. Peter



Worship Volunteer Schedule

Sept	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
6	George Affeldt	Marie G & Volunteer	Edith C & Kari H
13	Paul Drescher	Marie G & Edith C	
20	Bonnie Snyder	Marie G & Edith C	
27	Kari Hendricks	Marie G & Edith C	
Oct 4th	Vicky Heckman	Edith C & Volunteer	Marie G & Sharon T

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

5. Leaf

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, **September 12th** at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 & Layton.



DINING OUT

The Dining Out Group will meet for lunch on Thursday, **September 17th** at Noon.

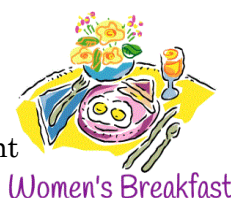
We will gather at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



Please contact Chris Zimmerman if you plan to attend via call, text, or email. 414-651-5775
chrisz116@outlook.com

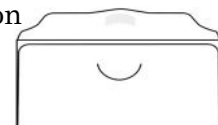
WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast is Saturday, **September 26th** at 8:30 am at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

I will be working on the contribution envelopes for next year in October. If you do not have envelopes and you wish to have them, please let me know if you want weekly or monthly envelopes. If you have weekly envelopes and want to change to monthly or have monthly and now want weekly, please let me know. My email is: sethomas1130@aol.com.



Thank you,
Sharon Thomas

Blessed Hope UMC General Information & Staff

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