THE BLESSING

BLESSED HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Giving Thanks When Life Isn't Perfect

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday, but I sometimes wonder if we've made gratitude a little too easy. We gather around tables filled with food, surrounded by family and friends, and give thanks for the good things in our lives. And we should. There is much to be grateful for. But what happens when the table has an empty chair? When the medical report isn't good? When money is tight, relationships are strained, or the future looks uncertain?

What does Thanksgiving mean then?

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Notice what he didn't say. He didn't tell us to give thanks for all circumstances. He told us to give thanks in them. That's an important distinction. We don't have to be grateful for illness, grief, loneliness, or hardship. God doesn't expect us to pretend that painful things are good. Christian faith isn't about putting on a happy face when our hearts are breaking. Instead, gratitude is a way of recognizing that even in the middle of life's difficulties, God's grace is still at work.

John Wesley understood that faith is something we practice, not simply something we believe. We grow in grace through prayer, worship, acts of mercy, and the ordinary ways we care for one another. And I would suggest that gratitude is part of that growth.

When we give thanks, we begin to see the world differently. We notice the kindness of a neighbor, the encouragement of a friend, the beauty of an ordinary morning. We discover that grace often arrives without fanfare, in the small and easily overlooked moments of life. But gratitude should do more than make us feel better. It should change the way we live.

If we're thankful for having enough to eat, we ought to care about those who don't. If we're grateful for friendship, we ought to notice those who are lonely. If we're thankful for the love and mercy we've received, we ought to extend that same love and mercy to others. That's where thanksgiving becomes more than a holiday. It becomes a way of life.

This November, I encourage you to do something beyond making a list of your blessings. Think about how you might become a blessing to someone else. Make a phone call. Share a meal. Offer forgiveness. Visit someone who doesn't get many visitors. Give generously, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. And if this Thanksgiving finds you carrying a heavy burden, remember that you don't have to manufacture happiness to be faithful. God meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be.

Maybe the deepest thanksgiving of all is simply this: Whatever life brings, we do not walk through it alone.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Rob

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11/2 VIRGINIA RINKA-LETENDRE
11/6 SUE GORDON
11/7 JACK KONEY
11/8 CHRIS ZIMMERMAN
11/18 NOLA OROZCO
11/19 MASON LYMAN
11/20 ETHAN COUNSELL
11/21 GREG KLIPPEL
11/24 EDITH CLARK
11/30 SHARON THOMAS



11/3 JOSH & VAL RIEWE
11/9 LUIS & JESSICA CHAVARRIA

SPECIAL SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 29TH



Your generous gift supports our students. When you give, you help provide for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.



Fall back one hour for Daylight savings on Nov 1st. Set your clocks back Saturday night (10/31) before you go to sleep.

The Worst Part About Gratitude?

It Works. I recently came across a humorous Instagram video in which a comedian talks about his therapist encouraging him to practice gratitude. He clearly does not want to do it. With frustration and sarcasm, he talks about being told to name a few things he is grateful for each day. And then he delivers the punchline: the worst part about gratitude is that it works.

That line stuck with me.

This time of year naturally turns our attention toward gratitude. Thanksgiving invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks. But if we are honest, gratitude can feel harder to practice when finances are tight, uncertainty is high, or the future feels unclear. Churches feel that pressure. Families feel that pressure. Individuals do too. In those moments, gratitude can sound too simple – almost naïve. But gratitude is not pretending everything is easy. It is not denial. It is not ignoring hardship. Gratitude is choosing to notice that, even in the middle of challenge, God is still present, still faithful, and still at work. In that sense, gratitude changes what we see.

When I used to ride a motorcycle, I learned a simple but important lesson: where you look matters. If there is something in the road you want to avoid, you do not stare directly at it. If you fixate on it, there is a good chance you will ride right into it. Instead, you look toward where you want to go.

Life is often like that too. If we focus only on scarcity, fear, and what might go wrong, those things begin to dominate our vision. They shape our mood, our decision-making, and our sense of possibility. But IF we intentionally look for (1) signs of God's provision, (2) evidence of changed lives, and (3) the gifts already in our midst, that focus begins to shape us too. It does not eliminate difficulty, but it changes how we travel through it.

That is especially true in stewardship. Gratitude helps move us from anxiety to trust, from fear to faith, and from clenched hands to open ones. It reminds us that stewardship does not begin with obligation. It begins with recognizing what God has already given. We give because we have first received from God's grace.

This November, even in difficult financial times, perhaps one of the most faithful things we can do is practice gratitude. Name what is good. Give thanks for what God has done. Notice the blessings that are already present. As that comedian discovered, much to his irritation, the worst part about gratitude may just be that it works.

Written by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Edited by George Affeldt

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NEXT MEETING:

Tues November 10th at 11:00 am

Program : Marie Garnhart

World Thank Offering

Hostess: Bev Scott

Devotions : Sue Gordon

All are welcome. Please bring your own sandwich, Coffee, Dessert, & Trimmings will be provided

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE



It's that time of year where we prepare for Advent and Christmas! Help decorate the church for the Christmas Eve service by placing an order for your holiday poinsettia. Order forms are in the narthex. Please bring your order and payment to church or mail by November 29th. Thank you!



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 November are November 3 and November 19, 2026.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 22, 2026 for the Quilt Blessing. Quilts will be available for sale after the church service.

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!

Thank you to all who supported our Soup Bowl Sale after the blessing on September 20. The proceeds were used to purchase items through the Heifer International project. We had enough monies to purchase one pig, one sheep, one goat, honeybees and a flock of chicks for a total of $410.00. Through the end of October Heifer International has a matching program so we hope our contribution will qualify for matching. We will let everyone know.

The MUMC Ceramic Class meets on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00.

Upcoming dates for November are:

Monday, November 2nd , 9th ,16th, 23rd, & 30th

(Class will close at 4:30 on November 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 so we can let you in or send me a text.

We have now started the 2027 Soup Bowls – don't be shy, come and bring your ideas for a soup bowl.

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.

The MUMC Ceramic Class is still collecting soft plastics to be recycled. Collection bin is located in the entryway by the elevator at MUMC. Total pounds collected for the third quarter was 119.

The next Yarn Extravaganza will be held on November 13, 14 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and on November 15 from 9:00 am to noon. More yarn and fabric and miscellaneous. Lunch will be available for $5.00. Bring a donation of food for Project Concern. 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.



OUTREACH NEWS

FOOD OFFERING



Sunday November 1st.
Please bring in grains, pasta, canned veggies, canned fruit, canned protein like tuna, chicken, canned beans, & mac & cheese. The pantry could use coffee and tea, and condiments are always in demand. Please pick up a few extras when you shop and bring to church and drop off in the baskets in the Narthex.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP



Thank you to the K& C Group- 114 hats and 6 scarves were donated to La Casa Charter School in October.

THE GIVING TREE



Starting November 1st Blessed Hope & UP Church will participate in "The Giving Tree"! Gifts for 4- & 5-year-old will be collected for La Causa Charter School for their 3 Kings Day. Many of these children do not receive toys at Christmas. Pick a gift tag from the Giving Tree and return your wrapped gift donation with the gift tag attached to church by November 29th

HALLOWEEN CANDY



The United Women in Faith will be collecting wrapped candy again this year to make candy bags for the Northcott Neighborhood House There is a collection box in the narthex.
Please contribute your leftover Halloween candy and/or any post-Halloween-sale candy you might pick up to this project. Thank you very much for helping out.

COIN BASKET



Through Sunday November 15, we will collect coins for UP Church's Thanksgiving Meals. Groceries prices have skyrocketed! The rest of November and through December we will collect coins for Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Please reach deep into your pockets and throw your spare change into the bowl at the back of church, OR write your check out to BLESSED HOPE with UP CHURCH THANKSGIVING MEALS or Milwaukee Rescue Mission in the memo.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



The College Care Packages will be assembled in late November. If you have a college student (child or grandchild), we would love to include them. Please contact the church office to add or confirm your student. We will be accepting individually wrapped both purchased and home-made items. Please contact Karen Drescher if you have questions.

ShopWithScrip®

SCRIP ORDERS DUE: November 8th
If you wish to place an order for gift cards that help the church earn money please take a form from the display in the narthex, fill it out and return it along with your payment. **Culver's** Gift cards are available also and earn the church 10% !
Remember to include SCRIP on the memo line of your check. There's a sheet by the order forms that tells the percentage the church will earn from the particular vendor. Gift cards orders arrive within a week of order due date.

THANKSGIVING BAGS:



Urban Poiema Church will be giving Thanksgiving bags to families in need. We will be collecting food thru Nov 8th to help with this project. Items needed:
Instant Mashed Potatoes, Gravy mix Stuffing mix Cans of green beans, corn, yams, cream of mushroom soup, Crispy fried onions, Biscuit mix, Pie crust mix, Can of pie filling -(pumpkin or apple), $15 gift card to Pick n Save

(Please make sure food expiration date is at least past 12/26)

BLESSED HOPE EVENTS ~ NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	*MONDAY*	*TUESDAY*	*WEDNESDAY*	*THURSDAY*	*FRIDAY*	*SATURDAY*
1 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY **8:55 am Worship/ Holy Communion** **Food Offering** **Daylight Savings** **11 am UP Church**	**2** **10 am Bible Study** **1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC**	**3** **9:30 am – Noon- Sassy Sowers at MUMC**	**4** **6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study**	**5** **7 pm NA**	**6**	**7** **9:30 am OA**
8 **8:55 am Worship** **11 am UP Church**	**9** **10 am Bible Study** **1-9 pm Ceramics at MUMC**	**10** **11 am United Women in Faith**	**11** **6:30 pm- UP Church Bible Study**	**12** **7 pm NA**	**13** **5:30 pm-Up Church** Thanksgiving bag packing	**14** **9:30 am OA** **9 am Men's Breakfast at The Forum**
15 **8:55 am Worship** **11 am UP Church** ***12-2 UPC-*** *Friendsgiving* **2pm-UP Church** Thanksgiving Bag hand out	**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** **9:30 am- Noon - Sassy Sowers at MUMC** **7 pm NA**	**20**	**21** **9:30 am OA**
22 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY **8:55 am Worship** **11 am UP Church** **2pm-Charge Conference** Charge Conference	**23** **10 am Bible Study** **1-9 pm Ceramics at Memorial UMC**	**24**	**25**	**26** THANKS Giving Day **Church Office Closed** **7 pm NA**	**27**	**28** **9:30 am OA**
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **8:55 am Worship** **United Methodist Student Day** **11 am UP Church**	**30** **10 am Bible Study** **1-4:30 pm Ceramics at MUMC**	NOVEMBER 29th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT				

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Nov	Liturgist	Usher	Communion
1	George Affeldt	Marie G & Dale Shively	Nicole Counsell & Edith Clark
8	Bonnie Snyder	Marie G & Edith C	
15	Paul Drescher	Marie G & Edith C	
22	Kari Hendricks	Marie G & Edith C	
29	Dan Perry	Marie G & Edith C	





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.

LAY LEADERS

Administrative Council:	**Dale Shively**
Board of Trustees:	**Dan Perry**
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**

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, November 14th at the Forum Restaurant on Hwy 100 and Layton.

DINING OUT GROUP

NO DINING OUT THIS MONTH

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

NO WOMENS BREAKFAST THIS MONTH

CHARGE CONFERENCE

November 22nd 2pm
Blessed Hope UMC
All church members are eligible to Vote and encouraged to attend



TREASURERS REPORT

	September:	Year-to-date:
Receipts:	$14,933.40	$115,994.37
Disbursements:	$11,459.70	$145,130.38



Blessed Hope UMC
General Information & Staff

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