

October
2024

The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church



Congregational Photo taken 9/8 by Patrick McGrath on our Kick-Off Sunday!

WHAT IS THE “GOOD NEWS?”

This week, all the United Methodist clergy of Wisconsin gathered at Green Lake Conference Center for ‘School for Ministry.’ Our speaker, Dr. Dong Hyeon Jeong, Assistant Professor of New Testament Interpretation, led us through a series of discussions about the early church as described in the Book of Acts. On the last day, he asked us to spend some time writing down our own “elevator speech” about what the ‘Good News of Jesus Christ’ means to us.

There was a time when I believed there was only *one* definitive articulation of the Good News. Dr. Jeong’s exercise helped to show how there are *infinite* ways to give voice to the “Good News.” That’s why, at the end of most of my messages, I end with “Hear the Good News of Jesus,” and that News is always spoken in a different way each time.

Here are some examples of how other clergy articulated the “Good News” for themselves. I hope these very intimate articulations from your pastors can inspire you to be thinking about how you’d say it when asked:

#1: Jesus Christ is Light in the darkness; I was once an addict and I know that whenever people are dealing with addictions and mental illness, darkness is our entire world. Only Jesus can break into that darkness and bring us out of it. Jesus did that for me.

#2: Jesus is the Bread of Life and Living Water that satisfies every longing and heartache in my life. He is the Shepherd whom I trust to lead me through problems. He is my Resurrection and my Way and my Truth and my Life. And that’s who I’ve found.

#3 (Ty Hines): Jesus is the smell of freshly cut grass; the sound of waves on a lakeshore; the magnificent sun setting; the smell of a baby’s head; the touch of a friend in times of grief; the sound of wind through the leaves; the sight of entire fields in bloom. Jesus is our unexpected moments of awe.

#4 (Rebecca Niese): Jesus is the embodiment of God’s love for us.

#5: Jesus is God’s way of coming down to be with us intimately. I prayed to God once, “I feel so lonely and abandoned,” and God responded, “But I can be your Friend.” And so that is what Jesus is for me, a Friend. That’s why we call him ‘Emmanuel – God With Us.’ He will never abandon us.

#6 (Pastor Caleb): The Good News of Jesus Christ is that we all can fully enjoy God and God’s creation as we become the greatest versions of ourselves.

FIRST WEDNESDAY

Hymn-sing service on the first Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday, November 6th – 6:00 – 7:00 PM – PRAISING CHRIST

**Wednesday, December 4th – 6:00 – 7:00 PM – PROMISED COMING
Fellowship Hall.**

We sing through lots of hymns—learn a few new ones, sing lots of favorite classics!
The message is in the lyrics! (*Not livestreamed.*)

Children's Church Update

YES, we are continuing with Children's Church (a.k.a. Sunday School)!

Children's Church will continue to meet the **SECOND** Sunday of each month during this school year. It is open to children of any age. We will continue to invite kids during the worship service, following the Children's Message, down to the beautiful classroom we have been blessed with!

The kids will be learning about God's love and listening to stories from the Old Testament (in the fall). They will be learning the song, "This Little Light of Mine," and we hope to share it with the congregation soon.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with this ministry.
Let Pastor Caleb know if you are interested.

For any child that attends regularly, especially on weeks we do **NOT** have Children's Church, we can put together personalized activity bags. These are in addition to the regular activity and quiet bags we have in the foyer of the church.

-Sincerely, *Ellen Mazurek*

Children's Church Dates:

~~Sunday, September 8th~~

Sunday, October 13th

Sunday, November 10th

Sunday, December 8th

Sunday, January 12th

Sunday, February 9th

Sunday, March 9th

Sunday, April 13th

Sunday, May 11th

Appreciation Dinner for *El Café* Employees



Fidel Perez (*El Café* owner), Ezequiel (cook), and all the waitresses (Lorri, April, Kim, and Mary) and their families were present for our PEUMC appreciation dinner, organized by the Witness Team.

Why did we do this?

We felt it was appropriate to say “Thank You!” to the people of *El Café* for not only feeding us but providing a new and lively community space. Fidel is a true entrepreneur and has a big heart for the overall vitality of the community. He wants to work with our church to provide events that could help people get connected to resources and life skills. He has purchased apartments in Port and is currently fixing up additional parcels in the business district. His mind is always working and coming up with more ideas to make his café more than just a place to eat – but one of the heartbeats of our community. For what he has brought to Port Edwards in these past 19 months – including good food at reasonable prices – we say “Thank you!”

It is our hope that more Appreciation Dinners can happen at PEUMC. If you have a thought about a constituency in the Port Edwards area who should be recognized, please let Pastor Caleb know. A second dinner has not been planned, *but maybe we can do this again in the spring?*

Thank you to the members of our congregation who brought food! It was a simple yet very nice evening.

P.E.U.M.C. walks the Homecoming Parade



On Thursday, October 3rd, members of the church carried our banner and passed out “Port Pride” orange beads to the crowds for the 2024 P.E. Homecoming Parade.

Pictured: Becky T., Lori & Mike H., Julie B., Lindsey H., and Tiara G.



PETER KURTH GOES ON THE NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

Pictured: Peter and his brother-in-law at the Wisconsin monument at the World War II Memorial, and Peter at the Vietnam War memorial wall.

(Note: Peter is only in a wheelchair for the trip; it was a lot of walking that day.)

The event started the night before with a special dinner, speeches, and entertainment at the Hilton in Wausau. Peter left Mosinee airport early in the morning, arrived two hours later in Washington D.C., visited all the memorials at the National Mall and returned to Mosinee past midnight!

Peter got his mail-call on the return flight.

Joann and Peter commented how many letters and cards from church members that were in the pile! They are very grateful for the response from our church! Thank you for sending your cards!

Peter shared pictures, stories, and memorabilia with Pastor Caleb following his trip.

HALLOWEEN CANDY NEEDED!

We are participating, once again, in the Port Edwards annual Trunk or Treat event in the business district. In these events, cars are lined up with their trunks opened decorated. The children go from car-to-car. This is a safe and convenient alternative to traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. This year, the Trunk or Treat is on **Sunday, October 27th, 2024 – 4:00 – 6:00 PM**



The
LOVE>hate
Project

**A MESSAGE FROM JESSIE – presentation with Dr. Buck Blodgett
Wednesday, October 9th – Lake Arrowhead Golf Clubhouse
1195 Apache Lane, Nekoosa, WI**

**6:30p – socializing and light hors d'oeuvres /
7:00p – program and Q&S**

Hear the story of Jessie Blodgett's life, her violent death, her legacy of **The LOVE>hate Project**, and a father's journey of survival and overcoming. **Told by her dad**, the story is graphic and disturbing, but rich in profound messages of Resilience, Purpose, Love, and Forgiveness.

A life-changing call to action, listeners are challenged to advance their personal and cultural transformation and engage in the movement to **END interpersonal violence**.

A McGregor Returns to the Land of Scots

remiscing on my honeymoon

We, Pastors Caleb and Doug, went on our Scottish Highland Fling of a honeymoon in September. Many have already seen and enjoyed our photos posted on Facebook.

The trip was done through *Globus*, a touring company.

We flew Aer Lingus (Irish) from Chicago to Dublin, then to Edinburgh. Forty-four were in our group – and yes, we were – by far – the youngest. (Story of our lives!)

Day #1: Doug and I spend the first day walking around Edinburgh (tour hadn't started yet). I got to visit the café that J.K. Rowling started writing her *Harry Potter* books, and we enjoyed the views of the River Forth and from Castle Rock.

Day #2: With the group, we toured the historic parts of Edinburgh and visited the Edinburgh Castle. On our free time, we took a ghost tour of Edinburgh, which led us to the underground vaults of Bridge Street, where I was designated as the one to stay behind in order to make sure everyone got safely out of each dark, damp room. *Joy!*

In the evening, we had a Scottish Evening event at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, where we were introduced to *haggis* – Scotland's most famous food – a “savory pudding containing sheep's heart, liver, and lungs, minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and cooked while traditionally encased in a lamb's stomach.” Modern rendition of haggis uses an artificial casing. I really liked it!

Day #3: We had a full-size coach and a driver named Graham. Our tour guide was Roseanne. On this day, we traveled north from Edinburgh. We made a stop at Saint Andrews – Mecca of Golf. Doug and I enjoyed the ruins of the cathedral and walked the quaint streets of this little town (with a major University). Many tour buses were passing us, and I had the strange sensation that many other tourists were filming us. I told Doug, “We're going to be in so many people's videos and they're are going to think that we – like Prince William – are ‘posh’ enough to attend the University here! Pretend like we're rich students!” (Also, it was the filming location for *Chariots of Fire*. I didn't run along the beach, but I did hum the theme song when I saw University students running in packs.)

We had lunch at the very beautiful village of Pitlochry where some Highland Games were taking place. We crossed the Cairngorms National Park and arrived for the evening along the banks of River Ness (think Loch Ness) at Inverness. We enjoyed dinner at MacGregor's – The Best Bar in Scotland! (*I told them my name – no discount, though.*)

Day #4: We visited the ancient standing stones of Clava Cairns Bronze Age tombs (4,000 years old – think age of Abraham and Sarah). Then we visited Dunrobin Castle and viewed a falconry show in the gardens. As we traveled farther north, we ended up in the tiny village of Thrumster, where we had a traditional Gaelic *cèilidh* (kay-lee) or ‘kitchen party’ at Old Smiddy's Inn, where a piano player and two teenage bagpipers led us in some traditional Scottish tunes. The piano player told us stories about Scotland through song lyrics, like the famous words to ‘The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond’: ‘O you'll take the high road and I'll take the low road.’ In Scotland mythology, anyone who dies within the land takes the “high road,” but anyone with Scottish heritage who dies outside the country, their souls will take the “low road” back to their homeland, where they will finally rest in peace. Our day ended at Thurso, the northernmost town in the U.K. mainland.

Day #5: We took a morning ferry to the Orkney Islands. There, we visited Skara Brae, a 5,000-year-old prehistoric village on the beachfront. We enjoyed lunch at a whiskey distillery and spent some time in Kirkwall, visiting the Cathedral of Saint Magnus and enjoying some Orkney dairy ice cream.

Day #6: We traveled west along the northern coast, making a stop at Ullapool for some fish and chips and viewing of the landscape. We ended up in Gairloch, where we stay a manor-turned-hotel that was once a WWII hospital! A bagpiper provided us with some dinner music.

Day #7: We traveled through Isle of Skye and spent some time at Loch Shiel and the Glenfinnan Viaduct, which made me feel like a child again, reading *Harry Potter*. This area was used, digitally, as the imaginary location of Hogwarts. We spent some time in Fort Williams at the base of Ben Nevis, the highest peak in Britian. In Fort Williams we toured another whiskey distillery and arrived at our place in Glencoe.

Day #8: On this day, we took a ferry to the Island of Mull and from Mull took another boat to the famous Island of Iona. This island is famous for being the birthplace of Celtic Christianity in Scotland when Saint Columba settled there in the year AD 563 to establish an abbey which still stands today. The Iona Abbey today is an ecumenical church of particularly historical and religious interest to pilgrims and visitors alike. It is the most elaborate and best-preserved ecclesiastical building surviving from the Middle Ages in Scotland. The Iona Community was formed in 1938 and is an ecumenical Christian community of people from different walks of life and different faith traditions in the Christian church committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel of Jesus in today's world.

Day #9: From Glencoe, we travelled through the barren Rannoch Moor and down into the beautiful Trossachs National Park. This is a place of many lochs, glens, and mountains. It is also the historic lands of Clan MacGregor. And as our tour guide told me, "Today is MacGregor day!" While we traveled around Loch Lomond, she told us about the stories of Clan MacGregor and the famous Rob Roy MacGregor, the Scottish Robin Hood. We stopped at the quaint loch-side village of Luss, where I bought my Harris Tweed hat and Clan MacGregor tartan tie. In some small way, I felt connected to my Scottish roots on that day, imagining my ancestors traversing the steep hills of these Highlands peaks in their kilts. By the afternoon, we had arrived in the industrial center of Scotland, Glasgow. We visited the cathedral and took in the city views. The night concluded with our farewell dinner. My final meal was Chicken Balmoral – chicken stuffed with *haggis*!

Day #10: An early morning rise to catch British Airways from Glasgow to London and London to Chicago. It was a long 26-hour day, and I was so incredibly tired when we got to our final hotel in Madison.

The weather was cool but clear and dry. It was almost unheard of how good the weather was for us. Scotland felt so untouched and underdeveloped. Miles upon miles of pristine landscapes and vistas. The people there live modern yet simple lives; many are still cattle and sheep farmers. Once in a while, we would see the wooly, rustic form of a Highland Cow (Cow). We stayed primarily at family-owned hotels and they provided very nice services. The country was not packed with tourists BUT tourism is now their biggest industry (after whiskey). Doug and I noticed that the U.K. is much more aware of, and concerned about, people's food allergies than what we find in the U.S. They were very accommodating to people's dietary needs.

Doug and I really enjoyed our honeymoon, and we felt like we squeezed as much out of Scotland as we could, so now we are looking ahead for our next trip in a few years to another part of the world.

DONATE TODAY TO OUR "LOBBY CARPET" FUNDRAISER!

"Remove your sandals, for the lobby you are standing in is holy (and soft)." -PEUMC 4:13-14



Each square will **\$16.**

Project quote is **\$6,027.00** (Freedom Carpet)

That's **375 squares!**

So far, at the time of this printing, we have raised **\$2,412.00** or **40%**

That is **151 squares funded!**

Go to peumc.org/donate OR use this QR Code:



We will be picking up a special offering for this on the last Sunday of each month until we have reached our goal!

Trustees Projects

- **FINISHED:** Elevator area landscaped; lawn reseed; sprinkler system reconnected.
- The foyer floor will be replaced with carpet squares. Price of each square will be \$16.



Some simple, but nice landscaping, and new grass for the front lawn, makes the exterior of the elevator look nice and is the official end to our elevator project!

Our Prioritized Church Goals

#1: Provide learning opportunities for the community.

#2: Provide a compensated children/youth/family coordinator.

October Household Prayers

Throughout this month, the congregation is asked to pray for the following families

(randomly chosen on 9/29):

- Glenna S.
- Lucy & Norm S.
- Ashley M.
- Kathy & Pat McG.



Meetings in September

MemoryShare – Tuesday, October 1st – 10:30a

Tuesday, November 5th – 10:30a

Circle of Friends – Wednesday, October 9th – 1:00p

Church Council – Sunday, October 20th – 11:15a

Sunshine Book Club – Wednesday, October 23rd – 11:00a

Worship Committee – Tuesday, October 29th – 8:30a - ZOOM

REMINDER ABOUT CHURCH EMAIL

If you haven't already changed it in your contacts and emails,

Please note that the church office's new email address is office@peumc.org.

The email-forwarding service from the previous office email will end at the end of this year.

The pastor's is still caleb@calebmccgregor.com but you can also use pastor@peumc.org.

The former is preferred for church members, the latter for organizations & others.

G.R.A.C.E. RAISES MONEY FOR LOCAL SCHOOL MEAL DEBT RELIEF



\$2,029.50 has been raised so far. This money will go to the high schools in the Rapids area to help graduating seniors pay off any outstanding debt caused by meal costs. Some schools do not allow students to graduate "in good standing" if they have outstanding debt. Sometimes the school takes on this debt, but eventually it is sent to collection agencies. We want our young adults to start the

next chapter of their lives debt-free. G.R.A.C.E. is the local ecumenical group of which PEUMC is a member. It stands for the "Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism." Pastor Caleb is the treasurer. *Photo: Pastor Caleb prays for our schools with the group in downtown Rapids during the Walk-Off Debt event on Sat., Sept. 7th.*



On August 29th, Pastor Caleb led a Prayer Service in the gazebo at the Port Edwards Middle/High School.

Blessing of the Animals Service

On Monday, September 9th, PEUMC hosted a simple Blessed of the Animals Service at the Port Edwards Scentrail Dog Park at Ripple Creek. This is our fourth annual service. Pastor Caleb was able to bless a handful of dogs that were present. A few orange ribbons have been added to our "Pet Memorial Tree" near the church gazebo. Each orange ribbon is in memory of a lost or deceased family pet. Older ribbons have names that have faded; unknown to us, but known to God.



Pastors Doug and Caleb outside Edinburgh Castle (9/13)



What is Unique About United Methodists?

by Pastor Caleb

Lutherans, Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians – we feel like they all have a firmer grasp as to what it means to be a member of their own faith tradition than we do. But it tends to be a lot harder for us average Methodists to know what makes us unique among the world’s Christian traditions.

This can be illustrated in a story.

For two-and-a-half school years, I (Pastor Caleb) rode the Amtrak into Chicago. This was my weekly commute while attending Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. (This same route is famously described by Arlo Guthrie, “Ridin’ on the City of New Orleans, Illinois Central, Monday morning rail. . . . The train pulls out of Kankakee, rolls along past houses, farms, and fields, passing towns that have no name . . .”) One day, while sitting on the train, I noticed the man next to me was wearing gray sweatpants and a plain white t-shirt. When I looked around, *every single person in the car was wearing gray sweatpants and white t-shirts!* When I started chatting with the man next to me, he told me that he had just gotten released from the Centralia Correctional Center, a medium-security state prison for men. Everyone in my car had just gotten released on the same day and was heading back to their homes in Chicago! *Yikes!!*

Anyway, when I told him that I was a United Methodist pastor-in-training, he said, “Oh, I love the United Methodists!” (Actually, he said, “I love the United Methodist WOMEN!”) He told me that there were lots of denominations who had groups which visited the prison. He met people from a wide variety of traditions. Here is how he described them: “Some Christian were loud and rowdy, some were pushy, some were anxious; some wanted desperately to convert me, correct me, or save me; others were rigid and dry, others boring and lifeless. But the Methodist ladies . . . out of all of the others, they were just . . . REAL.”

Just . . . REAL!

I like it! Why is that?

The vast majority of Christian traditions today emphasize *beliefs*. For them, the way to salvation (getting into heaven) is *right knowledge* . . . knowing the *right things*. It’s a comforting way to do religion. People flock to these traditions in droves today because it’s satisfying to have someone just tell them what to believe. In these churches, beliefs are well-defined and well-articulated. In the process, the line between who is in and who is out is clearly expressed. It is so incredibly satisfying to know you are on the *inside* – while most others are on the *outside*. Quite frankly, there was a time when I would have LOVED this: *Just tell me the basic points! Just give me the 101 Entry Level version – summarize it all for me, okay!? Tell me I am “in,” and remind me that not everyone is “in.”* My “in” is so much better when there is an “out” full of everyone else. That was me, 15 years ago!

In these traditions, you most likely will find *catechisms* – carefully laid out teachings in question-and-answer forms. I have enjoyed reading through these, because it was refreshing for an ADHD boy like me: Nice. Clean. Articulate. Clear. Organized. (*NOTE: not all catechism-ridden churches are as fundamentalist as I’ve just described above. I’m just making a general correlation between the two. Some catechisms are far from fundamentalist.*)

Methodists tried creating their own catechism around the turn of the 20th century. It was short-lived. We tried to be like the other traditions. It just didn’t work well for us. Why?

We don’t care that much about “right belief.” Did you know that we didn’t even practice “Confirmation” until the mid-twentieth century? Confirmation was too closely associated with traditional catechisms. Teaching in classroom-like settings. There is nothing inherently wrong with catechisms (or Confirmations) or teaching. I know that a lot of people at PEUMC, who were once Catholics or Lutherans, underwent catechism courses and you all turned out alright!

Methodists, especially United Methodists, have always emphasized “right practice.” John Wesley was a “practical theologian.” If it didn’t relate to, or effect, real life behavior – then why how onto it? Focus on those beliefs that lead to a changed life – lived-out practices and actions. For instance, memorizing the books of the Bible is not high up on our Methodist list of priorities. How does memorizing the order of the prophets guarantee a fruitful Christian life? No. *Knowing* the fruits of the spirit and *living them out* are two totally different things! If the former helps the latter, then all the more power to it!

All these other Christian traditions that visited the Centralia prison probably over-emphasized “right belief.” If “belief” and “knowledge” are the most important things about salvation, then they often lead people in two directions: (1) they breed pushiness (the desperate need to convert everyone through in-your-face evangelism) and arrogance (I’m right and you’re wrong) but it also (2) breeds apathy and rigidity: I know what I need to know; I’ve checked off all the boxes, I’m good to go; no need to help anyone; I’m fixed for eternal life. As you can tell, “right belief” often leads to two very opposing conclusions: pushy and arrogant vs. cold and insular.

“Right practice” can also breed some bad Christian behaviors, too: we earn salvation by *doing*, we *work* our way into heaven, we buy into that “Protestant Work Ethic,” and we gain God’s favor by how good we’ve been behaving. We overemphasize *doing* over *being*. We’re busybodies. But United Methodists have a secret weapon: **John Wesley’s emphasis on personal experience.** This fact led that former inmate on the train to describe the visiting group of United Methodist Women as “REAL.” So, while people accuse Methodists has being wishy-washy – it’s only because we are seeking *practical Christianity in daily life*. (FACT: the first thing that the Global Methodist Church did when they formed themselves last year was to create a new catechism; for them, they need everyone in their pews to believe the exact same thing—not very “Methodist,” is it?) We ask our members to affirm the basic Christian beliefs (none of which is exclusively Methodist) and for all the other stances and viewpoints of the church, they are guidelines for the denomination itself. We do not require concurrence on all these nonessential matters. It is not ultimately about “right beliefs” or even “salvation by working until we’re burned out.” We are about **forming holy habits**. This is way it’s rather hard for Methodists to preach about “*Three things to do to earn salvation,*” or “*Five steps to get to heaven,*” or “*Seven rules for being a real Christian.*” We don’t do well with “soundbite,” “spoon-fed” religion (which is all the RAGE in today’s short-attention-span world). We cannot effectively condense our faith teachings into just one or two sermons. It’s because we are trying to engrain our practices into a *lifestyle*. We can *describe* *some* helpful ways to make this happen, but we cannot *prescribe* (impose) them. There are no two Christian lifestyles out there.

The closest we ever get to having “rules” are John Wesley’s “Three Simple Rules”: **(1) Do no harm; (2) do good; (3) stay in love with God.** These are infuriatingly easier-said-than-done! Sounds lovely on paper, but impossible to convert into a daily to-do list. That’s why many people are not attracted to the ways of United Methodism. Because you must *think* for yourself. You must *discern* for yourself. You must absorb your own habits and develop your own lifestyle. Granted, we do this in *community*. We are not on our own; nevertheless it cannot be spoon-fed or distilled for you.

THAT is why that man called United Methodists “REAL.” Because we have nothing to prove. We have no agenda, except to perform the “ministry of presence.” We do not convert or proselyte. We do not think we are the only ones going to heaven or that we’re the ones who have “gotten it right.” We are not Christianity’s *defenders* or *saviors*. We just share our own personal retelling of the Good News. We are just a bunch of un-showy, un-flashy Christ-followers trying to live out our holy habits (“and scratching out a simple tune without breaking our necks”) and helping others move along their own journeys. We have no real “assurance” or “evidence” in our faith except the supernatural ability and willpower to “keep going.” That’s why we talk about the Wesleyan pursuit of the “Perfection of Love.” The only assurance of salvation (liberation) is the never-ending, inevitable journey we all take to perfect our love in our daily lives.

What does that breed? People who are simply and plainly . . . REAL!

September-October Mission Projects

Part One: Collect \$\$\$ for



New Beginnings for Refugees is a non-profit organization based out of the First United Methodist Church of Wausau, WI. It is the official local organization that partners with the government to provide resources for refugees and asylum seekers in Wausau. The **Wisconsin's Refugee Resettlement Program** is a federally funded program that helps individuals and families admitted into the U.S. as refugees to become self-sufficient after their arrival. But this program only provides help for the first 90 days. For long-term stability and help, the WI RRP relies on local non-profits like **NEW BEGINNINGS** to provide local support. **NEW BEGINNINGS** helps to furnish apartments, provide English (ESL) classes, transportation needs, and guidance with legal papers.

Through the present, they have furnished around 100 apartments and have 40-50 refugees enrolled in their English classes with 20 volunteer teachers. The program receives around 12 families a year. Many of these families come here with only the clothes on their backs. This program helps them get settled in conditions right for starting a new life. **NEW BEGINNINGS** is not federally or state-funded, but they do rely on donations and grant monies. Right now, as they are between dedicated grant-writer, they have suffered from a lack of funds. The two largest populations of asylum-seekers coming to Wausau are Afghanistan and Congolese.

NEW BEGINNINGS also accept all things household items, hygiene items, and furniture. They have a large warehouse to collect these large items.

Part Two:

Write 100 Cards to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight (Wausau)



Write general letters to the veterans going on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight out of Wausau.

DEADLINE: Veteran's Day 2024.

GOAL: 100 letters.

INFO.: As part of the event, veterans who go on the honor flight are presented with letters on their return flight in an old fashioned "military mail call." Most of these letters are from friends and loved ones. NFHF always accepts general letters to supplement each veteran's packet so that each receives a generous amount.

An Example Card for the Honor Flight

Below are some examples of what to write in a letter or card for the NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT.

This is a compilation of multiple examples found online:

Dear American Hero / Dear United States Veteran / etc.:

Thank you for the example you have set for us all. Thank you for your sacrifices and your service. Thank you for serving our country and being willing to put yourself in danger for the sake of others. You have done so much for us. I am proud of you for serving the U.S.A. It must have been really difficult to leave behind your family to protect a nation of families. If no one had served, our lives would have been very different. Thank you for bravely doing what you were called to do so we can safely do what we're free to do. You deserve so much more than honor; you deserve love and hope. Please know that you are appreciated and recognized as someone who helped protect our freedom. You have given our country your life, time, energy, and love. You are such an honorable person and 'thank you' just doesn't seem enough to say I appreciate what you have done. You are in my heart, and even though I do not know your name or face, I will pray for you as you go on your honor flight. I wish for you comfort, happiness, contentment, and many moments filled with joy. My Dad was in World War II and thinks about those times often. I hope the life ahead of you is full of happiness and blessings. God bless you!

-Signed: A Thankful U.S. Citizen / A Grateful American / [Your Name] / etc.

The example above is not meant to compromise your own words from your heart. Consider sharing about someone in your own family who served.

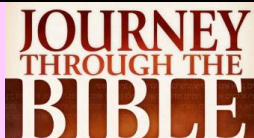
DO's and DON'Ts

- Do **not** use dates, since NFHF won't know when they will be given out.
- You *may* share your name and address, *if you want*; no last names for minors.
- Do **not** seal your envelopes
- You may write "letters" or "cards." Include an envelope, but leave it unmarked.
- If you are creating duplicates of the same letter/card, please bind them together; this helps NFHF sort through the cards and keep the same veteran from getting the same card twice.
- Deposit your letters/cards in the designated place in the church lobby; PEUMC will make sure they get delivered around Veteran's Day. You do **not** need to mail them yourselves.

WORSHIP SERVANTS (so far) FOR OCTOBER

COMMUNION: Sue CANDLES: SKIP	GREETER(S)	USHER	LITURGIST	PEW AMBASSADOR	MUSICIAN
OCTOBER 6 TH	Candy P.-T.	Pat Mc.	Kathy Mc.	Kathy Mc.	Ellen
OCTOBER 13 TH		Sue T.	Leo T.	Maribeth L.-S.	Judy
OCTOBER 20 TH		Skip M.		Sue T.	Sue/Ellen
OCTOBER 27 TH	Julie B.		Bob B.	Diane S.	Judy

Sundays in October

Oct. 6 th	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	 YEAR 3 THE BELOVED COMMUNITY IN POLARIZING TIMES	Exodus 12 & 13 (Communion Sunday)
Oct. 13 th			1 Samuel 7 & 8
Oct. 20 th	U.W.I.F. Sunday		1 Kings 1:5-6, 23-35
Oct. 27 th			1 Kings 5 & 6
Nov. 3 rd	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY		Book of Jonah



Join us for the 3rd time in our 40-week journey through the Bible!

Dates

Stories

Location

September 8 th thru October 6 th	First Age of Humanity Abraham's Gnarled Family Tree	OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 4 / 22 / 45 Exodus 12 & 13 / 32
October 13 th thru October 27 th	God's People Ask for a King to Rule them All	1 Samuel 7 & 8 1 Kings 1 / 5 & 8
November 3 rd & 10 th	Fictional Biblical Stories: Jonah & Job	Book of Jonah Book of Job
November 17 th thru December 15 th	The Age of Prophets	Isaiah 6 / Jeremiah 36 & 31 Daniel 6 / Joel 2 / Isaiah 61
December 15 th thru June 8 th	"Second" Age of Humanity Begins	NEW TESTAMENT: Gospel of Luke



G.R.A.C.E.



The Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism

Thanksgiving Worship– Sunday November 24th @ 6:00p
@ First Congregational UCC. Pastor Caleb to preach.



Young families of the community enjoyed our Homecoming weekend showing of the 2023 animated Netflix movie "Leo."
Due to possible inclement weather, we held in the sanctuary.

Church/Charge Conference 2024

Saturday, December 14th – 11:00a – 11:30a - PEUMC

D.S. Park Hunter will be with us in-person.

We are planning to take D.S. Park out to lunch afterward.

Problems Corrected with YouTube Live Audio

On September 8th, the worship service online had no audio. Once in a while, the computer defaults and it affects the audio signal on the program that processes and live streams the video. This is easily rectified. This is just typical software oopsie-daisies. The sermon from 9/8 was rerecorded and uploaded to YouTube for anyone online who wanted to hear it. Actions have been taken so that we can troubleshoot these problems during the service.

On September 15th, the sermon was a recorded video played over the TVs. The audio was low in the recording, but the TVs were turned up 100%. Some people could not hear it that well. Hard copies of the sermon manuscript are available at the front table. Also, the sermon can be heard fine on the live stream recording of it.

Thank you for understanding!

It's Coming . . .

Stewardship Consecration Sunday

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

*A catered Celebration Lunch will follow the service.
Your commitment cards for 2025
are asked to be turned in by this date.*

Did Jesus talk about money?

Yes. 11 out of His 39 parables were about money. Jesus taught that money serves as a tool to reveal our true priorities and allegiances. He talked about money more than anything else, except the Kin'dom of God. How we use our money is one way we participate in Kin'dom Work.

What is a tithe?

It means "one tenth of annual produce or earnings."

Is tithing in the Bible? Here are just a few examples . . .

- "Bring the full tithe (10%) into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house" (Malachi 3:10).
- "All that You, God, give me I will give a full 10th back to You" (Genesis 28:22).
- "Every tithe (1/10th) of the land . . . is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30).
- "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up . . ." (1 Corin. 16:2).
- "Each one must give as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God lives a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

*What do we learn from this? A "tithe" is a Biblical ideal; not a mandate. Neither do we require our members to give a certain amount. **But it is a deeply spiritual practice.***

Why is giving financially to the church important?

- 1.) So the church can provide live-changing ministries by the funds in its accounts.
- 2.) So the church can maintain its building a physical reminder of God's presence in the community and as place where most of the ministries are planned and executed. The brick-and-mortar building represents a spiritual home to many people.
- 3.) So that the unique transformative message of Jesus' Good News in the Methodist spirit, continues in this community.
- 4.) Because Jesus said to use our resources for the glory of God and to the work of God's disciples.

Who looks at my finances?

Only the Financial Secretary of the local church. However, ¶340.2.c. of *The Book of Discipline* states that the pastor has the authority to access the financial records. This is often understood as a “need to know” basis. A concern sometimes raised is that a pastor’s ministry may somehow be biased if they are aware of such information. In reality, an individual’s financial discipleship is part of their faith journey, and both are vital gauges for pastoral ministry. Financial giving is an important sign of one’s faith, as are prayer, church attendance, and involvement in the church’s ministries. (We’re not talking exclusively about amount-equals-faith, but about *regularity*). A change in a member’s giving (either up or down) is a pastoral concern. An increase in giving can be an opportunity to say, “thank you.” A decrease in giving may indicate a broader pastoral concern, such as a job loss or family difficulty.

PEUMC has had the practice of keeping giving records restricted to only the Financial Secretary. The records are stored on a non-networked computer in a locked place.

I’ve received a Commitment Card? What is it?

A commitment card is similar to, but distinct from, a pledge card. The Stewardship Consecration program is not keeping long-term track of your “pledge.” The commitment card is primarily for *your* sake. However, for the purpose of our Celebration Lunch, we want ALL our commitment cards to be returned so that we can total everyone’s projected giving amounts for 2025. It is a celebration of our giving *together*, not keeping record *your* personal giving. The commitment cards are not retained permanently.

Why does the church want to know what I plan to give?

The church, while a ministry, also has important “business-like” duties to take care of:

paying the pastor’s salary and four other staff members; paying the utilities; paying for important repairs; paying the insurance; providing fire protection and a contract for elevator maintenance. Yes, it is expensive to manage a physical church building today!

In addition to these expenses, we need to faithfully budget how much our Nurture, Family, Outreach/Missions, Witness, and Worship ministries should be spending. Saying, “*This is all we can do this year because this is all we got,*” is not a very Christ-like inspiring way to do Kin’dom Work. But if we could say, “*Help us support what we’ve been called to do,*” that will look and feel a lot different. Faithful ministry takes important planning. Including financial planning. We cannot simply “hope” that the money comes in on time. We must plan ahead, and by doing so, become better stewards of the people’s giving. We ask that you help us!

How often should I give to the church?

As often as possible. Irregular giving (giving only when you’ve attended services) makes it hard on the cash-flow of the church. The fact that giving continues to wax-and-wane throughout the year signals that some are still giving according to their attendance. Setting up an account through our website can help with this. None of us want the church to worry about summer cash-flow problems. Giving (electronically or by mail) helps us continue to provide care to the people who need it even when you cannot be present. By doing this, we are recognizing that we are NOT paying for a service rendered to ourselves; we are participating in a **group effort** called *Christian ministry*. It is a continuous, daily facet of our life together!

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Service 10:00 AM Vikings - Noon	11:00a - Sunshine Book Club - <i>El Café</i>	10:30a - MemoryShare - <i>El Café</i>		HOMECOMING WEEKEND AT PORT		
				P.E.U.M.C. TO PARTICIPAT E IN HOMECOMI NG PARADE	<i>Pastor's day off</i>	8:00a - Men's Breakfast - <i>El Café</i> Showing of "Leo" movie at the church 6:30-8:12p
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Service 10:00A Birthday Norm Silvester Rams - 1:25p			1:00p - Circle of Friends		<i>Pastor's day off</i>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Service 10:00A Sunday School 3rd Sunday Refreshments Birthday Marissa Harnisch Cardinals-Noon	Birthday Joan Harnisch		Birthday Kathy McGrath		<i>Pastor's day off</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
UWIF Sunday Service 10:00A Anniversary Donna & Damon Klinger 11:15 - Church Council Meeting Texans - Noon	Pastor Away - Anniversary #1		Birthday Dennis Slattery 11:00a - Sunshine Book Club - El Café.	Birthdays Bob Bruener Glenna Sunderland	Anniversary Leo & Sue Thomasgard <i>Pastor's day off</i>	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Service 10:00 am Truck or Treat - 4-6PM Jaguars 1:00		8:30 - Worship Committee - Zoom	Birthday Ella Huser (Hintz)			UWIF Bazaar

November 3rd
ALL SAINTS
SUNDAY

Church Office Hours:

Connie: Monday through Friday : 8:00a – noon
 Pastor: Monday through Thursday : 9:00a – 1:00p