



Why 12 Days of Christmas ?

The Season of Christmastide starts on December 25th. Christmas Day is the First Day of Christmas. This is a season to celebrate Christ's nativity (birth). The Twelve Days are from December 25th to January 5th. The twelfth night is Epiphany Eve. The Twelve Days of Christmas came about in the year 567 AD, when the Council of Tours "proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas Day to Epiphany [Eve] as a sacred and festive season."

But why?

The season has its roots in the division of Eastern and Western Christianity. Eastern Christianity (mainly, Eastern Europe), uses the Julian Calendar, while Western Christianity (and all of the Western World) uses the Gregorian calendar. These two calendars have a thirteen-day difference. The Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate Christmas on *their* December 25th, which translates to our January 6th. In order to bring unity between the two traditions and their respective calendars, the Church of the time promoted Christmas as a season that connected the dates on both calendars (*hence, why Epiphany Day is always January 6th, but has no numerical or historical significance to us for being on that exact day*).

Numbers *are* certainly important to us, and the Church was not about to create a THIRTEEN-day season! Back then, as now, thirteen was an unlucky number. So, it was suggested that Christmastide end on the EVE of Epiphany Day.

Twelve is much nicer!

In Western Christianity, the Twelve Days are packed with both secular and religious celebrations. December 26th is "**St. Stephen's Day**," to recognize the very first martyr in Christianity (see Acts 7). December 27th is "**St. John's Day**," to celebrate the author of the Fourth Gospel. December 28th is the "**Feast of the Holy Innocents**," a time to remember the massacre under the orders of Herod the King of all the male children who were two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. John Wesley popularized a **Watch Night** service on New Years Eve, a time to review the passing year and pray for the year to come. January 1st is the "**Feast of the Circumcision**" or "**Naming of Jesus**," according to the biblical account when Jesus was circumcised and ceremoniously bestowed the name of 'Jesus.' (Some traditions count Christmas as a season of 40 days. 40, of course, is biblically very significant. Jesus was presented at the temple – according to the customs – forty days after birth. Forty days after December 25th is February 2nd. It's no coincidence that this is also Groundhog's Day.)

In some cultures that celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, each person would receive twelve gifts, which they would open *one per day* throughout the season. My grandmother, Jaqueline, was from France, and thus, Roman Catholic. She remembers opening a gift *each day* between Christmas and Epiphany. Naturally, these were small, simple gifts.

But . . . what about the partridge in the pear tree? And eight maids a-milking?

(see next page)



The TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The legend has been around for a while that the carol “**The Twelve Days of Christmas**” contains hidden biblical symbolisms as a means to “teach the faith” in secret.

But this has been shown to be false.

Firstly, the legend states that, at a time of persecution of Roman Catholics at the hands of Protestants, it was a way for Catholics to teach their catechisms in secret; but it has been pointed out that all the symbolisms in the carol were not specific to Catholicism, and neither were the symbolisms related to “beliefs” at all.

Really, the carol comes from England. It is a classic example of a cumulative song for children, detailing a series of increasingly numerous gifts given to the singer by their “true love” on each of the twelve days of Christmas. It was first published in a children’s book in 1780 and the tune, as we know it, was written in 1909.

I do not believe the song has any secret meanings in it.

But . . . sometimes it’s harmless (and human) to insert meaning where there isn’t any before.

So here is the traditional biblical understanding of this children’s song:

A partridge in a pear tree: Jesus Christ! A mother partridge (bird) is known to fake an injury to protect her young, symbolizing Christ’s sacrificial love (though Christ didn’t *fake* it). The pear tree symbolizes the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.

Two turtledoves: The Old and New Testaments. Together, they reveal the fullness of God’s nature.

Three French hens: “And now these three remain: *faith, hope, and love*” (1 Corinthians 13:13). These virtues are essential for living a God-loving life. It could also refer to the **Holy Trinity**.

Four calling birds: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These Gospels “call out” the Good News of salvation to the world. [*The original word was “collie” birds, meaning “black.”*]

Five golden rings: the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the *Pentateuch*. These books contain the story of God’s creation, humanity’s sinfulness, and God creating covenants with a chosen people. They could also refer to the **five wounds of Jesus** on the cross.

Six geese a’laying: The six days of Creation. Just as the geese bring forth life with their eggs, God brought forth life into the world.

Seven swans a’swimming: The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, service, and Godly love (Isaiah 11:2-3). Like swans gracefully moving through the water, these gifts help us navigate the waters of life with spiritual grace.

Eight maids a’milking: The eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10). These blessings offer a path to true happiness and spiritual fulfillment.

Nine ladies dancing: The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Their joyful dancing reflects the abundant life that comes from living in the Spirit.

Ten lords a’leaping: The Ten Commandments. They serve as God’s moral law; the leaping lords coveys the joy and freedom that comes from living according to God’s law.

Eleven pipers piping: The eleven faithful apostles. These apostles became the “pipers” spreading the Good News to the whole world.

Twelve drummers drumming: The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed, the concise summary of the Christian faith. The steady rhythm of the drummers reminds us of the strength and consistency of these truths.

Church Directory 2025

January 2025: Members will be receiving a simple, stapled copy of our directory. This will last through August.

September 2025: Our next spiral-bound directory will be released at this time. From then onwards, our annual directory will align with the school.

Honorary Members: In previous directories, we have included names and contact information of members and friends of the church who had moved away. If you know of a former member who is still emotionally and spiritually connected with our congregation, you ask them to include their names in our directory again.

January-February Mission Projects

#1: COLLECT MONEY TO SUPPORT RMN

The **Reconciling Ministries Network** (RMN) is the official-unofficial “gay caucus” of The United Methodist Church; it seeks the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities throughout the denomination.

It was founded in 1983 as a system for congregations to publicly support LGBTQ+ persons and welcome them to full participation in the life of the church. The group was called “Reconciling Congregations” in reference to the need for reconciliation between gay people and the church.

In 1986, the first annual conferences to publicly endorse RMN were the Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Conferences! Because of previous prohibitions, RMN was barred from functioning *within* the denomination and its structure. Now that the UMC has removed LGBTQ+ restrictions from all parts of our *Book of Discipline*, the question was raised if RMN would become an official commission or agency *within* the Church. They currently believe they will be more effective remaining *outside* the official church structure than *within* it, giving them more latitude and flexibility and in a better position to work with churches of other denominations as well.

Therefore, RMN does not receive any official denominational funding; it is funded purely by private donations. RMN maintains a small staff within Chicago Temple UMC near Daley Plaza.

***As a Reconciling Congregation, we are a member of RMN and are encouraged to give annually to support their budget. We have yet to establish our commitment in this way; HOWEVER, we hope to help them through this project.*



#2: Collect Cans of Soup for FOCUS Food Pantry

We will be collecting **cans of soup** throughout January. We will bless them and send them off on February 9th, a.k.a, **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**



thank you from pastor caleb

In addition to the cards and baked goodies from individual members, I received a total of **\$700.00** from the congregation for Christmas.

I want to thank you all for supporting my ministry with your prayers, your presence, and your pocketbooks!

I am so blessed to lead this congregation. You are truly an amazing group of Christ followers, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2025!!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2024 – THANK YOU

NET PROCEEDS \$3,142.67



A super BIG THANK YOU to EVERYONE who participated in the November Holiday Bazaar.

We sincerely appreciate those of you who promoted the event, donated generously, worked the day of and the day before (ladies & gentlemen alike were amazing), prepared food, baked, came to have lunch, provided WONDERFUL items for sale, shopped, and prayed for the Bazaar.

Our church could not have had such a successful event without ALL of you. Thank you again!!

CELEBRATING GIFT-GIVING

At the gift-giving meeting on Thursday, November 7, the United Women in Faith rejoiced over the Bazaar's success, then designated the proceeds for the following:

Missional Support

Pledge Remainder	\$1,000
Thank Offering	\$36
Special Mission Recognitions	\$120
Gift to Mission	\$5
In Memory of Kathy Sweet & Ginnie Oliver	\$50
Total	\$1,211

ODC	\$200
Mid-State	\$200
Northcott	\$200
Family Center	\$200
Children's Services	\$200
Harbor House	\$200
FOCUS (Food Pantry)	\$200
Love Inc	\$200
PE Schools (Christmas)	\$200
Midwest Distribution	\$100
Banner\$100
TOTAL	\$2,000

GRAND TOTAL \$3,211

A special thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement, and faithful service to the United Women in Faith.

~*Mary H*, UWIF Treasurer.



Thank you to our Carpet Project Donors!

In chronological order of receipt (between 7/28/24 and 12/15/24)

Marge & Randy B., 2x	Candy P-T., 2x	Kathy & Pat M.
Ann D-J.	Sharon S.	Maribeth L-S.
Kathleen M.	Rose W., 3x	Larry & Judy M.
Jeff & Becky T.	Mike & Lori H.	Jef and Tom D., 2x
Sue & Leo T., 2x	Dennis & LuAnn S., 2x	Art & Carol Ann H.
Norm & Lucy S., 4x	Bob & Julie B., 2x	Peter & Joann K.
Jim & Midge H.	Jody & Bill P	Leona S.
Mary & Ed H, 2x	Bill & Marna L.	John & Diane S.
Jerry K., 2x	Jean & Blair M., 2x	
Skip & Ellen M.	Rusty & Suzann S.	8 Anonymous Givers
Sue & Ken B.	Helmuth & Sandy W-K.	

Parts, or all, of the memorials for **Nancy Klahn, Gaylord Johnson, and Ginnie Oliver** were designated for the carpet project, as well.

This list is a compilation of donation cards that were signed, checks that were designated, designated memorials, and online giving records. Please let us know if we left off a name that should be listed above. We'll add it next month! Our apologies for any omissions.

Blue Christmas Service - rescheduled

The Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism (G.R.A.C.E.) is continuing its practice of putting on a community Blue Christmas service.

The original service date was cancelled due to inclement weather. Below is the new date:

Sunday, January 9th

7:00 PM

hosted at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

(320 Oak Street, Wisconsin Rapids - across from the Post Office)

Blue Christmas (also called 'the Longest Night') is a tradition that marks the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. Around this date (12/21 to be exact), churches hold services that honor people who have lost loved

ones, are experiencing grief, or are just not getting into the holiday spirit. Services often include opportunities for expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ.

Packing the Greens

We will be taking down our church Christmas decorations after the service on Sunday, January 12th.

This also coincides with our Second Sunday Refreshments.

Church Newsletters 2025 – Sign Up For *Your* Copy

If you didn't know . . . we have a monthly church newsletter!!!! If you've never seen it before . . . then look at the packet of papers currently in your hands: Our newsletter looks almost exactly like this! 😊

There are 4 ways to view our monthly newsletter:
(1) You can pick up a copy in the lobby of the church,
(2) you can view it thru our weekly MailChimp email,
(3) you can view in it on our website, or
(4) you can have it mailed directly to your house.

Some have previously received their newsletter by mail but are no longer. We needed to condense the mailing list because it was costing the church over \$20

a month to mail them out. Now, only shut-ins and those who live at a distance from the church receive the newsletters by mail. If someone has the ability to pick theirs up at the church within a couple of weeks, they no longer receive it by mail.

Additionally, starting with our January newsletter, we want each person to sign up specifically for their own hard copy. By doing this, we know exactly how many copies to print. Your copy will still be free but it will now be labeled with your name on it. You will be able to pick up your copy from the welcome table in the church lobby.

Here is a list of those who currently receive their newsletter by mail (by request, or by default of their situation):

Crystal S.	Jack M.	Richard & Page C.
Barbara T.	Samantha G.	Ed & Mary H.
Crystal R.	Phil O. (<i>friend of the church</i>)	Jerry F.
Chuck & Rachel L.	Mark L.	LuAnn S. (<i>requested</i>)
Joann L.	Denise D.	Evelyn Lampman (<i>new</i>)
Karen & Herb B. (<i>requested</i>)	Mable J.	



PEUMC has been subscribing to HomeTouch for many years now. HomeTouch provides, among other things, a monthly packet of activities and devotionals from HomeTouch, which all convey a message of love and remembrance. HomeTouch is a ministry for those who are either permanently “shut in,” temporarily “homebound,” or who currently lives alone. The packet is mailed monthly and features weekly devotionals.

The following are the names who currently receive HomeTouch:

Jerry F.	Leona S.	Kathleen M.
Mary & Ed H.	Phil O. (<i>friend of the church</i>)	Barbara T.
Jack M.	Sara T.	Gloria W.
Glenna S.	Jim H.	Sharon S.
Rose W.	Mable J.	Evelyn Lampman (<i>new</i>)

Children's Church Dates:

(*Sunday School*)

January – no C.C.

Sunday, February 9th

(*Becky T.*)

Sunday, March 9th

Sunday, April 13th

Sunday, May 11th

FIRST WEDNESDAY

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

Wednesday, January 1st – 6:00 – 7:00 PM – JESUS' BIRTH

Wednesday, February 5th – 6:00 – 7:00 PM – JESUS' LIFE

No service in March – First Wednesday is Ash Wednesday

Memorial Lounge

We sing through lots of hymns—learn a few new ones, sing lots of favorite classics!

The message is in the lyrics! (Not livestreamed.)

GATHERINGS FOR JANUARY:

MemoryShare –

Tuesday, January 7th @ 10:30a – El Café

Tuesday, February 4th @ 10:30a – El Café

First Wednesday Hymn Service

in the Memorial Lounge

Wednesday, January 1st – 6:00p

Wednesday, February 5th – 6:00p

Men's Breakfast –

Saturday, January 4th – 8:00a – El Café

Saturday, February 1st – 8:00a – El Café



Roger Cole

(April 2nd, 1937 – November 30th, 2024)

*Roger, and his wife, Jan, were both members of Port Edwards United Methodist Church during the years of Revs. Boettcher and Niese.

His obituary states: *"Wherever they landed, the Coles were active participants in the local United Methodist Church, where Roger enjoyed singing in the choir, leading bible study, or helping out however he could. Roger is survived by his wife, Jan, and their two sons: Douglas and Jeffrey. We celebrate Roger's life and mourn his passing. The world is a sadder place without him, but we cherish every moment that we had with him."*

The Coles retired in Merrimac, Wisconsin, but he was buried in the Arpin Cemetery in Arpin, Wisconsin. Pastor Caleb officiated at the request of the family.

Funeral for Gerold Lampman

Pastor Caleb will be officiating the funeral of **Gerold Lampman**, 88, of Port Edwards, at PEUMC, on Tuesday, December 31st (11:30a service). He was a member of Wisconsin Rapids UMC, but his family requested that his services be held in Port Edwards. Coordinators will be asking for some helpers for the luncheon, which will be through the IGA in Rapids.

Evelyn Lampman, 85, is requesting her membership be moved to Port Edwards.

Evelyn Lampman, the widow of the recently deceased Gerold Lampman, has requested that her membership be moved to Port Edwards United Methodist Church from Wisconsin Rapids. Her husband's death was very unexpected and sudden. She, and her family, are rightfully grieving.

I am inviting you to send her sympathy cards and/or cards of welcome to our congregation.

**Evelyn Lampman
601 Seneca Road
Port Edwards, WI 54495**

Why I love the Port Edwards area:



It is beautiful in every season!



CHRISTMAS WITH THE IN-LAWS

We gathered with Doug Clement's family on Wednesday the 18th of December for dinner and gift exchange.

Doug grew up in Wind Lake in Waukesha County, where his parents still live. He has two younger brothers, Alexander and Andrew.

This allows us (Doug & myself) to have the laziest, most perfect Christmas Day ever!

No plans & nowhere to go. We ate, watched movies, and put a puzzle together!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS – 12/29 – 2/8

Below are daily scripture readings that are based on Sunday morning's lectionary passages. While these passages will jump around within the Bible, just remember that they have been chosen to align *thematically* with either the previous Sunday's or upcoming Sunday's Bible story.

**These will be printed weekly in our bulletins as well.*

Sun. 12/29	Luke 2:21-38	Baby Jesus in the Temple	Sun. 1/19	Luke 4:14-30	Jesus Brings Good News
12/30	John 1:14-18	The Flesh Lived Among Us	1/20	Isaiah 58:6-12	Loosing Bonds of Injustice
NYE 12/31	Psalm 23	The Lord is My Shepherd	1/21	1 Kings 17:8-14	Elijah and the Widow
NYD 1/1	Jeremiah 23:1-4	Caring Shepherds	1/22	2 Kings 5:1-17	The Healing of Namaan
1/2	Genesis 17:9-14	Sign of the Covenant	1/23	Luke 4:31-37	The Man w/ an Unclean Spirit
1/3	Matthew 2:13-15	The Escape to Egypt	1/24	Luke 4:38-41	Healings of Simon's House
1/4	Luke 2:39-40	The Return to Nazareth	1/25	Luke 4:42-44	Jesus Preaches in the Synagogues
Sun. 1/5	Luke 2:41-52	Boy Jesus in the Temple	Sun. 1/26	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus Fishes for People
Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-12	The Visit of the Wise Men	1/27	Isaiah 6:1-8	A Vision of God in the Temple
1/7	Exodus 13:1-2	Consecration of Firstborn	1/28	Luke 5:12-16	Jesus Cleanses a Leper
1/8	Leviticus 26:3-6	God Will Grant Peace	1/29	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus Heals a Paralytic
1/9	Leviticus 26:7-13	The Covenant Revealed	1/30	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating and Responding to Christ
1/10	Malachi 4:4-6	Advice for the Coming of the Lord	1/31	Luke 5:27-32	Jesus Calls Levi
1/11	Isaiah 62:10-12	Build Up a Highway	2/1	Luke 5:33-39	The Question About Fasting
Sun. 1/12	Luke 3:1-22	Jesus is Baptized	Sun. 2/2	Luke 6:1-16	The Lord of the Sabbath
1/13	Malachi 3:1-4	Coming of the Messenger	2/3	Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Keeping the Sabbath
1/14	Acts 19:1-7	Baptism & the Holy Spirit	2/4	Luke 6:17-19	Jesus Touches and Heals
1/15	Ephesians 4:1-7	One Baptism	2/5	Luke 6:20-26	Blessings and Woes
1/16	Luke 3:23-38	The Ancestors of Jesus	2/6	Luke 6:27-36	Love for Enemies
1/17	Luke 4:1-4	Jesus in the Wilderness	2/7	Luke 6:37-45	Judging Others
1/18	Luke 4:5-13	The Temptation of Jesus	2/8	Luke 6:46-49	The Two Foundations

CHRISTMAS EVE AT U.M.C.



Christmas Eve at P.E.U.M.C. was a wonderful time!

We had 35 attend our 4:00p service. It was our “Family” service centered around telling our young people about the story of Jesus’ birth. The service emphasized having the children act out parts of the story, while Kathy McGrath read a poetic version of the Nativity. We had 6 children up front, but more were in the pews, too! Erin Taylor played the piano for the prelude, and her children lit the Christ Candle. Colby was able to run our live stream, as well.

We had 56 attend our 7:00p service. This was our traditional Festival of Lessons-and-Carols. Judy played our carols, and Corey and Carson Parks lit our Christ Candle.

We had 3 attend our 11:00p service, a simplified version of our 7:00p service. Pastor Doug, Bonnie Wheeler, and a nurse from Edgewater Haven. Bonnie’s church also had 3 services at 4, 7, and 11, but since she didn’t have to do anything for the last service, she decided to attend another church where she could just worship. The nurse said we were the only ones in Port Edwards offering a late-night service. She was technically on the clock, but others covered for her as she attended our service. It was much appreciated by her.

We did not have any greeters, ushers, or liturgists for this last service, but that was no problem. It was a simple service, held up in the chancel area, with no camera, no PowerPoint, no microphones. We may have had only 3 attendees show up, but I think it’s still an important outreach opportunity. We will never make our Midnight Mass a big production like any given Catholic Church in our area, but it **does** provide an opportunity for those who cannot make it any other time. Nobody at PEUMC has asked me to host this service; this is my own “baby.” I will continue to provide this, as long as 2-3 choose to gather together for such a late time as that!

HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

- A FRIEND INVITED ME - 86%
- ORGANIZED VISITATION - 6%
- PASTOR INVITE - 6%
- ADVERTISING - 2%

PEOPLE BRING PEOPLE!

Be kinder than necessary because everyone is fighting their war or battle and suffering losses. Live simply, love generously, care deeply for the needs of your neighbour, speak softly... And leave the rest to the Lord. It is not faith, nor dogmatics, nor mysticism, nor ascetism, nor fasting, nor long prayers, but love that makes one a true Christian.

Everything becomes pointless without this fundamental thing - love for our neighbour.

St. Luke (Voyno-Yasenetsky)

This Christmas, many may spend the holiday feeling alone. May you be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, loved, and supported.

The Bible was written by an oppressed people under Imperial occupation. It is, in the words of Dr. Wil Gafney, “The underground literature of an oppressed people.” If we miss this, we miss the meat of the Bible.

— Gregory Jerome Bentley

Christmas Eve Offering:

Between our 3 services, we raised **\$411.16**.

We will retain **\$206.16** at P.E.U.M.C. in our general fund.

\$205.00 will be remitted to the student meal debt relief fund for students in the Rapids area, a fund overseen by G.R.A.C.E.

(of which Pastor Caleb is treasurer). Thank you to all who gave!

RECOGNIZING OUR 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

On Sunday, December 15th, Diane (Nurture Ministries Coordinator) recognized those who have participated as a worship assistant (liturgist, usher, greeter, musician, or pew ambassador) sometime during the 2024 year. Thank you for helping us provide our worship experience each week!

Marge & Randy B.

Bob & Julie B.

Jeanne B.

Ken & Sue B.

Colby & Tiara G.

Art & Carol Ann H.

Mike & Lori H.

Maribeth L-S.

Sandy L. (*friend of Tiara's*)

Skip & Ellen M.

Kathy & Pat M.

Judy M.

Lisa M.

Kathleen M.

Sue M.

Candy P-T.

Norm & Lucy S.

Sharon S.

Diane & John S.

Leona S.

Becky T.

Sara T.

Leo & Sue T.

Rose W.

Thank You from . . .



Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

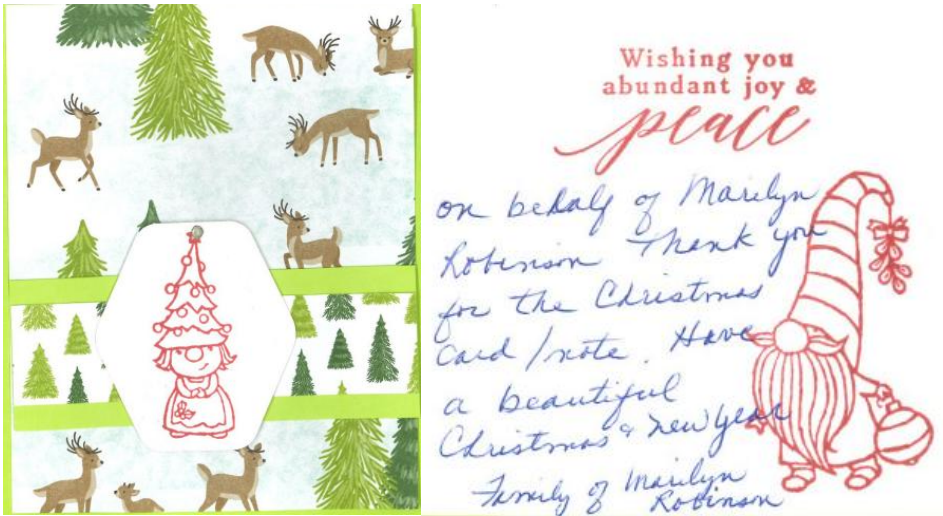
Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

	Gift Amount
UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery (for Hurricane Helene relief):	\$615.00

Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas a little brighter for some of our struggling Port Edwards school families. Your generosity each year is appreciated!

Thank you,
Port Edwards School District
Christmas Cheer Program



NOTE: card is Marilyn Robinson's creation
Note from her daughter, Charlotte Cormier: Marilyn is in memory care as of June 2024.
Notes and cards can be sent to her at
5413 Heron Trail
Middleton, WI 53562
(daughter's address)
She turned 90 in May.

Minutes

from our 2024 Charge/Church Conference

Date: Saturday, December 14th, 2024 @ 11:00 AM – Perkins Restaurant, Wisconsin Rapids

Presiding Elder: Rev. Park Hunter, District Superintendent of the Northeast District of the WI Conference.

Present: Rev. Caleb M., John & Diane S, Midge H., Jerry K., Leo T., and Bill P.

Excerpts:

We listened to a seven-minute message from **Bishop Dan Schwerin** for us on YouTube. He said that each of our local churches are **experiments**, always experimenting how to be Christians in an ever-changing world. The need to be creative to reach NEW people is our missional imperative right now.

Rev. Parks says he likes being a hands-on district superintendent and tries to visit each of the churches in his district annually. He offers a monthly ZOOM meeting for anyone in his district to attend (clergy and laity). It is on the second Mondays at 6:00 pm (next one is in February).

Rev. Park updated us on the changes with our conference-wide group insurance coverage. It will no longer be with **Church Mutual** (Merrill, WI) due to deteriorating customer service and claim acceptance. The conference has decided to partner with **M3**, an insurance broker from Madison, WI. This change, for each church, will be in effect in 2025.

Pastor Caleb stated that our Church Council has just agreed to pay a portion of our apportionments with a one-time payment of **\$15,000.00**, representing 60% paid for 2024.

Rev. Park asked what the members present liked about our church. Things that were mentioned: members are generous to missions; we like our pastor and our services; we are a welcoming church; with four additions this year and only three deaths, we will end the year with a +1.

The Charge Conference voted and approved the pastor's compensation packet for 2025, a Resolution to Change our Organizational Plan to the Simplified Accountable Governance Structure, along with the nominations report of leaders for 2025, and our 2025 church budget. We will also be pursuing the official incorporation of our church to protect us legally.

Diane Sweat, *recording secretary*.



- our parking lot and sidewalks will be plowed and salted for our Sunday morning services.
- the drop-off area nearest the main entry will be de-iced, salted, and sanded as best we can.
- greeters are asked to look out for those arriving and who may be having difficult approaching the entry.

SERVICE CANCELLATION:

An official call to cancel services due to bad, snowy, icy conditions will be made by 8:30 AM on Sunday morning. We will use these means to notify you: MailChimp (email), PhoneVite (phone), and on the main page of our church website. PLEASE make sure you sign-up for one of these services.

January Household Prayers

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

(randomly chosen on 12/28):

Sandy K. & Helmuth W. Mable J.

116 4th Street
N., WI 54457

1175 Blue Iris Ct, #307
W. R., WI 54494

Rose W.

117 Ward St.
N., WI 54457

Jef & Tom D.

3121 11th St. S
W.R., WI 54494

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS,
FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS
IN DECEMBER!**



A program of Aspirus Riverview Hospital
made possible by United Way of
South Wood & Adams Counties

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

- Pat & Kathy McGrath
- Nina Pelo
- Leo Thomasgard
- Becky Taylor

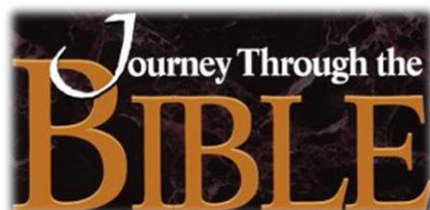
Every four weeks, PEUMC volunteers deliver a hot and nutritious noon meal to homes of Wisconsin Rapids area residents who are unable to prepare their own meals. Anyone interested in helping with this program may contact Becky Taylor (715-887-2163) for more information. **THANK YOU!**

Worship Servants for January

COMMUNION: CANDLES:	GREETER(S)	USHER	LITURGIST	PEW AMBASSADOR	REFRESHMENTS
JANUARY 5 TH					
JANUARY 12 TH	Spots are ripe for the pickin'!				Sue & Leo T.
JANUARY 19 TH					
JANUARY 26 TH					

Sundays in January

January 5 th	Epiphany Sunday <i>Communion Sunday</i>	SERIES: JESUS HAS ARRIVED!	Jesus in the Temple at Age 12
January 12 th	Baptism of the Lord Sunday		Jesus is Baptized
January 19 th	Ecumenical Sunday		Jesus Preaches
January 26 th	Wesley's Covenant Service		Jesus & His Disciples
February 2 nd	<i>Communion Sunday</i>		Jesus Breaks the Sabbath Rules
February 9 th	Souper Bowl / Pulpit Exchange <i>Another clergy of G.R.A.C.E. will be preaching at P.E.U.M.C.</i>	SERIES: JESUS HEALS!	Jesus Heals & Brings Back Life



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



WHY TECHNOLOGY?

Communication is so tough right now. Back in the day, a simple notice in the local newspaper would have reached 99.9% of one's constituency. Today, very few rely on the local newspaper or radio for community news. Many have transitioned to receiving correspondence electronically (via the internet). This is a cheaper and quicker option. For these individuals, they revel in not having to deal with so much paperwork. For others, paper-based is still the preferred method. I myself would rather have a hard-copy of a publication than an electronic one, but I'm an oddball in my generation.

The church must continuously push forward with its technology, simply because younger generations communicate via ever-new ways through electronic devices and media. It's always changing and transforming. Unfortunately, we are always under the threat of forgetting about our paper-based friends. *What can a church today? Solution: hire 3 full-time secretaries!*

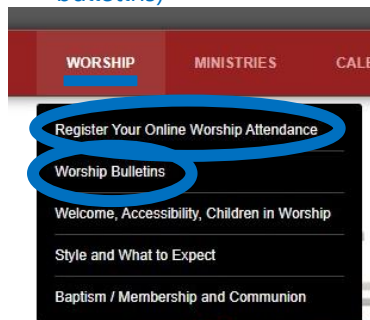
We must find ways to communicate by phone, by email, by newsletter, by social media, and we must always be looking at ways to expand our means of communication.

Therefore, it is very important for us to be providing both hard-copy and electronic versions of everything we do.

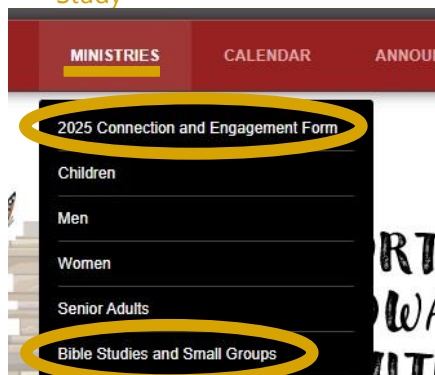
What can you do through our website?

peumc.org

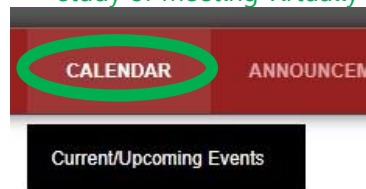
- ✓ Register Your Online Worship Attendance
- ✓ View our bulletins (+ children's bulletins)



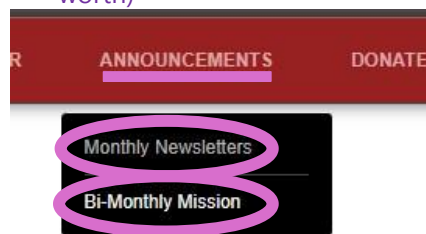
- ✓ Fill out your 2025 Connection Form (yellow packet asking what you can participate in at the church)
- ✓ Sign up for an upcoming Bible Study



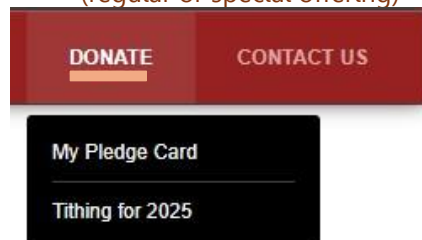
- ✓ View our current calendar
- ✓ Use the ZOOM link to attend a study or meeting virtually



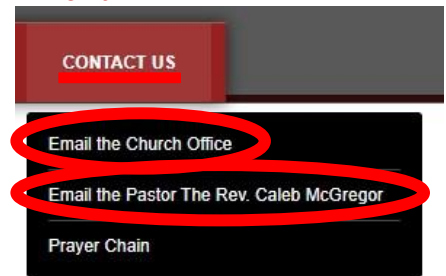
- ✓ View current announcements & missions projects
- ✓ View our newsletters (2 years' worth)



- ✓ Donate electronically (regular or special offering)



- ✓ Contact the church via phone or email



- ✓ On the **home page, at the very bottom**, we try to update our **"WEATHER ALERT"** weekly during the winter months. Around 9:00a each Sunday (if we can), you can see the condition of the parking lot. If we don't have it updated for that Sunday, then assume that the parking lot is manageable.



What can you do through our weekly MailChimp email?

- View the latest empty spots for upcoming **worship assistants**. Click in on the green link below this to email the church office if you're willing to take on a role!
- See the ways you can **donate to the church**. Click on any of the tiles and it will take you straight to the place on VANCO.com to designate your giving!
- Use the link provided to take you straight to our upcoming **worship video on YouTube**.
- View our latest **worship bulletin**!

Worship Assistants for the month:


DATE	Liturgist	Usher	Greeter
January 5th			
January 12th			
January 19th			
January 26th			
February 2nd			

DATE	Musician	Pew Am.	Refreshments
January 5th			Sue & Leo T.
January 12th			
January 19th			
January 26th			
February 2nd			


Click here to notify the church office of your willingness to take a role in one of our upcoming services!

Ways You Can Support Your Church


(click on the images below)




General Operating
All monies given to this fund are designated as dollars for the general day-to-day operations of the church.



Bi-Monthly Designated Mission
Monies donated to this fund will be parts of six different bi-monthly missions.



Congregational Care Fund
Monies donated to this fund are designated for helping the congregation extend tangible signs of care to our members, friends, and neighbors.



Endowment Fund
All monies donated to this fund will be deposited into the Endowment Fund for the prolonged life of the church.

WATCH OUR ONLINE WORSHIP (YouTube):
CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW:



VIEW OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN
Click here for this week's bulletin.
Click here to view previous weeks.



- See our **monthly calendar**.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services 10:00 am (Communion)	2 10:30a Newcomers E-Calls	3 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	4 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	5 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	6 Pastor's day off	7 8:00a Henry's Breakfast E-Calls
8 Services 10:00 am 2nd Sunday Refreshments Church Council Meeting 11:00a	9 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	10 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	11 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	12 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	13 Pastor's day off Bible Study	14 Charge Conferences 11:00-11:30a
15 Services 10:00 am Bible Study	16 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	17 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	18 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	19 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	20 Pastor's day off Bible Study	21 8:00a Henry's Breakfast E-Calls
22 Services 10:00 am	23 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	24 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	25 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	26 10:30a Fellowship E-Calls	27 Pastor's day off Bible Study	28 8:00a Henry's Breakfast E-Calls
29 Services 10:00 am Newcomers Sunday Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	30 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	31 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	1 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	2 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	3 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.	4 Announcements Prayer & Praise Miss & Kelli H.

Church Office Hours:
Consec: Monday through Friday : 9:00a - noon
Pastor: Monday through Thursday : 9:00a - 1:00p

- See the ways you can **contact us** during the week.

Contact Us

Phone	Email	Address
715-887-3011	<p>Main Office (Connie)</p> <p>Pastor</p> <p>office@peumc.org pastor@peumc.org</p>	411 Wisconsin River Drive Port Edwards, WI 54469
<p>Visit us at</p> <p>peumc.org</p>		

- View the latest **children's bulletins** for the week.
- Register your **online attendance**

VIEW AND PRINT THE WEEKLY BULLETINS MADE FOR THE "YOUNG-AT-HEART."

Children's Worship Bulletins™

Click here for ages 3 and up
Click here for ages 7 and up
Click here to view previous weeks.



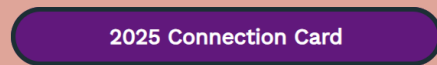
REGISTER YOUR ONLINE ATTENDANCE (GUEST OR MEMBER): CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO THE LEFT (church website page)

DONATE TO OUR MINISTRIES (AS A ONE-TIME OR RECURRING PAYMENT PLAN): CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO THE RIGHT (PEUMC's landing page at Vanco.com)

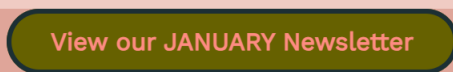


- Fill out your **2025 Connection Card**

2025 Connection Card
These "cards" are an important way for the church to help engage its members and understand where the passions, interests, and abilities lay within our congregation. You can view, complete, and submit this form directly from our website to our church office email here:



- View our latest newsletter **Church News**



Notify the church office if you would like to start receiving this weekly email. The contents ***DO*** change regularly so make sure you are reviewing the whole publication. When you receive your email, it may look like this in your inbox:

P Port Edwards United Methodist Church P.E.U.M.C. - Weekly Church News - 12-08-2024

The point of these two pages in the newsletter is to show our attempt of providing multiple ways to sign up for something, view something, or keep updated with the latest news.

If we are passing clipboards arounds, or inviting people to do something in-person, and we are watching online, you can bet that we have an electronic version that you can utilize.

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		New Years Eve <i>Gerold Lampman Funeral @ PEUMC @ 11:30a</i>	New Years Day 1st Sunday Service – Memorial Lounge		Pastor's day off	Mens' Breakfast – 8a @ El Café
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship @ 10:00am Epiphany Sunday <i>(Twelfth Night) (Holy Communion)</i>	Epiphany Day	MemoryShare Group El Café 10:30a			Pastor's day off	<i>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship @ 10:00am Baptism of the Lord Sunday <i>(Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Vows)</i>					Pastor's day off	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship @ 10:00am Ecumenical Sunday	<i>The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day</i>				Pastor's day off	
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18 th – 25 th						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Worship @ 10:00am Wesley's Covenant Service					Pastor's day off	<i>Mens' Breakfast – 8a @ El Café</i>

Birthdays: Sharon S. – 1/1, Marge B. – 1/14
Skip M. – 1/5, Ken B. – 1/20, Danial H. – 1/22,
Jeanne B. – 1/28

Anniversaries: Nina & Ken P. – 1/29

Church Office Hours:

Connie: Mon. thru Fri. : 8:00a – noon
Pastor: Mon. thru Thurs.: 9a – noon