THE MESSENGER

November 2026

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3450 S. 52nd St,
Greenfield, WI 53219
(414) 545-2440 memorialchurchumc.org

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*

November Birthdays

2 ***11/9 Pat Rode***
11/13 Elijah Miescke
11/25 Sandy Broyles
11/29 Carolyn James

November Anniversaries

11/4 Peggy & John Stoekl





Remembering Our Loved Ones

On November 1st, we will come together to celebrate All Saints' Day. This special occasion allows us to honor and remember those who have gone before us. We will offer thanks for our loved ones' lives and the impact they have had on our own. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on the saints in our lives, both those who have passed and those who continue to inspire us.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Club will meet @
9:00am on Tuesday, November 17th –
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Club meeting will be **@ 8:30am on Thursday, November 19th at**
Open Flame Restaurant,
5081 S 108th St, Greenfield

DINING OUT GROUP



Saturday, November 7th
@ 5pm at:
Final Approach Restaurant,
4959 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee
We're looking forward to seeing you there!! ~~John
P.S. If money is tight this month, give me a call.
I'm sure something can be worked out.
Your presence is most important. 414 687-3627

SASSY SOWERS AT MUMC

Did you know that Sassy Sewers is Sassy Sowers? This group "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 October are **November 3rd & 19th.** Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 22, 2026 for the Quilt Blessing with a Café hosted by the Sassy Sowers following the church service. Quilts will be available for sale after the blessing.

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

EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS



Christmas is right around the corner and Raiseright can help you get your shopping done early. appreciates getting a gift card and Raiseright can help you get the gift cards you want and help out the church financially at the same time. You could have your shopping done by the end of November!

Just pick up and order form in the Chapel Lounge. Look over the selection of gift cards available and check off the gift cards you would like to purchase. (For example, what fine lady would not appreciate a gift card from Bath and Body Works and the church would receive 12% of the gift card amount). Add them up and write a check out to Memorial Church for the total amount. Hand the form and check to Tom Rowe and your shopping is done. Order forms and checks should be turned in by the third Sunday of the month (November 15th). Your gift cards will be delivered to you the next Sunday.

Of course you can turn in your order at any time and that way you don't have to worry about the deadline. And if you are interested in a gift card and do not see that particular gift card on the order form, just ask to see an expanded list of gift cards available.

Get your shopping done now and you can relax and enjoy the Christmas season. And remember and Ace Hardware gift card is a lot easier to gift wrap than a new shop light!

If you have questions, please call 414 331 3753 or see Tom Rowe.



First and foremost, Phil and I want to thank you for the school supply donations! As always, you will have made some kids very happy! The school supplies were taken to Glenwood the week of school starting along with some winter hats for those who may not have any or for those who have lost them!

I am looking for ideas for the loose coin collection for 2027. Please let me know if there is a special place you can suggest that these coins can go to!

Please continue to place your gently used items such as towels, shirts, sweaters, coats etc. on the mission cart. We see to it that they go directly to Father Genes to help those who have less than we do.

Please continue to leave small soaps, toothbrushes, body lotion, toothpaste, etc in the mission baskets in the hallway. I made small bags that were delivered to Father Genes full of the wonderful donations that you placed in the baskets. These were delivered when we took the rest of the donations to Father Genes.

I want to take a moment to say a BIG THANK YOU for those who helped us make this MISSION PROJECT such a great success.
God Bless all of you!

~Cyndi Eickstaedt & Philip Gruntzel

SALE! SALE! SALE!
YARN EXTRAVAGANZA 2
AND MORE (LOTS OF FABRIC)



Friday, November 13, 2026, 9 am to 3 pm
Saturday, November 14, 2026, 9 am to 3 pm
Sunday, November 15, 2026, 9 am to 12 noon

Memorial United Methodist Church
3450 South 52nd Street
Greenfield, WI 53219

Please invite your Family, Neighbors and Friends!!!!!! Please share this information, thanks.

Bring a can of soup or fruit and receive a skein of yarn free for Project Concern (up to three free items). All yarn and fabric are reasonably priced, cash only please.

A light lunch will be available for a fee of $5.00

Any questions please contact:
Mary Schultz at 414-526-2715 or greeneyesgerman@gmail.com.

CHAOS



Hello:
Some of you may have heard in passing about the **CHAOS Committee.** In case you didn't know, CHAOS is the **Church Hospitality and Organizational Support Committee.**

We are here to assist Memorial United Methodist Church in coffee hours, cafés, funeral receptions, anniversary celebrations and other events. If we cannot assist, we will assist in finding people to assist. Please contact Kathy Vandenburg, Linda Brumm or Mary Schultz if you have questions about hosting a coffee hour or need assistance.

Sign-up sheets for coffee hours through the end of the year are available on the pedestal in the Chapel Lounge. There are many dates open from now until the end of the year. We can assist you if you need help in setting up, etc. If you need financial assistance in providing for the coffee hour, save your receipts and give them to Carolyn Ettlie and she will process these for your refund.

This year for the Advent Season, we would like to have members of our congregation to assist each Sunday for coffee hour beginning Sunday, November 29 by sharing one of your favorite family traditions for Christmas with a food item. Two families per Sunday would be appreciated. Sundays of Advent are November 29th, December 6th, December 13th and December 20th. Sign-up sheets are also on the pedestal in the Chapel Lounge.

Trustee's Toolbox



Greetings from our memorial trustees! We have been busy shifting from fall to winter.
Some of the duties being worked on are:

- Removal of the air conditioners
- Putting up storm windows
- Enclosing the large fan in the balcony
- Helping with special events from now until Christmas.

That's it for now!
Respectfully~~Memorial Trustees

MEMORIAL UMC'S CERAMIC CLASS

Thank you to all who supported our Soup Bowl Sale after the blessing on September 20th. 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. Don't forget to knock on the window for entrance to the church. Knock on the window to the west of the parking lot door with the sign on it so we can let you in or send me a text.

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 meets on **Mondays from 1:00 pm to 9:00pm.** Upcoming dates for November are every Monday, **November 2nd, 9th, 16th 23rd & 30th (class will close at 4:30pm this day).**

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

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

Thanks 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.





Sunday Coffee Hours with Refreshments

Sunday, Nov. 1st
- refreshments sponsored by Peggy & John Stoekl

Sunday, Nov. 8th Coffee Hour Volunteers needed

Sunday, Nov. 15th
- refreshments sponsored by Mary Schultz

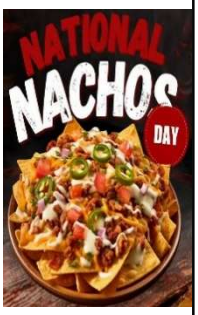
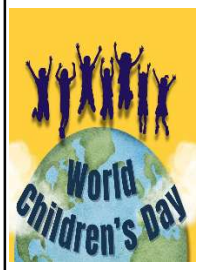
Sunday, Nov. 22nd Coffee Hour Volunteers needed

Sunday, Nov. 22nd
- The Blessing of the Quilts / refreshments sponsored by the finance committee

Sunday, Nov. 29th - Coffee Hour Volunteers needed

ALL SAINTS DAY
NOVEMBER 1ST

MEMORIAL EVENTS ~ NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	*MONDAY*	*TUESDAY*	*WEDNESDAY*	*THURSDAY*	*FRIDAY*	*SATURDAY*
1 9:15AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion & Worship 11:30AM Coffee Hour 2-6 PM MOL	**2**	**3** 9:30AM-Noon Sassy Sowers 	**4**	**5** 6:30-7:15PM Chancel Choir 7:30-8:30PM Joyful Bells 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**6** 	**7** 6PM MOL Dining Out Group-5pm at: Final Approach Restaurant 4959 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207
8 9:15AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee Hour 2-6 PM MOL	**9** 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**10** 	**11** 6:30PM NAMI 	**12** 6:30-7:15PM Chancel Choir 7:30-8:30PM Joyful Bells 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**13** Yarn Extravaganza 9AM-3PM	**14** 6PM MOL Yarn Extravaganza 9AM-3PM
15 Yarn Extravaganza 9AM-Noon 9:15 M Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Hour 2-6 PM MOL	**16** 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**17** 9AM Women's Breakfast at: TO BE DETERMINED	**18** 1-3PM Kitting/Crocheting	**19** 8:30AM Men's Breakfast- Open Flame Restaurant, 5081 S 108th St, Greenfield, WI 9:30AM-Noon Sassy Sowers 6:30-7:15PM Chancel Choir 7:30-8:30PM Joyful Bells 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**20** 	**21** 6PM MOL
22 9:15AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Blessing of the Quilts 11:30AM Coffee Hour 2-6 PM MOL	**23** 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club	**24** 	**25** 	**26** 	**27** 	**28** 6PM MOL Decorating the Church 10AM-Noon
29 9:15AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Coffee Hour 2-6 PM MOL	**30** 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC 6:45-8:45PM Aikido Club					

KNITTING, CROCHETING and NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Wednesday, October 28th
Wednesday, November 11th & 25th
Wednesday, December 9th & 23rd
From 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



Memorial United Methodist Church
3450 South 52nd Street
Greenfield, WI 53219
Upstairs in the Chapel Lounge

Please invite your Family, Neighbors and Friends!!!!!! All skill levels are invited, bring your own project, beverage and snack.

Invitation is open to those who do not do knitting or crocheting; maybe embroidery, cross-stitch, or other type of needlework.

Whatever your skill is: knitting, crocheting, needlework. Come and share with a wonderful group of people.

Any questions please contact
Linda Brumm at 414-659-1037
or lbrumm@aol.com.



MEMORIAL UMC

General Information & Staff

3450 South 52nd St, Greenfield, WI 53219

Church Phone: 414-545-2440

Church Email: mumcgreenfield@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Rob Odum, 414-238-8367

Pastor's Email: robdodum@gmail.com

Director of Music: Sarah Brumm

Hymn Leaders: Sarah Brumm,
Summer Ketchell, Emily Bergeron

Pianist & Organist: Karen Fetzer

Live Stream Production Team: Brad Weller,
Xylia-Sophia Conn, John Stoekl,
Tom Rowe, Greg Ettlie

Office Administrator: Peggy Leonhardt

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-1pm



The Blessing of the Quilts will be held at Memorial United Methodist Church during the worship service on Sunday, November 22nd.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Sunday, 9:15am

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday, 10:30am

CERAMICS: Mondays, 1-9pm

AIKIDO: Mondays from 6:45-8:45pm &
Thursdays from 6:45-8:45pm

NAMI: 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30pm

CHANCEL CHOIR: Thursdays from 6:30-7:15pm

JOYFUL BELLS: Thursdays from 7:30-8:30pm

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP:
2nd & 4th Wednesday from 1-3pm

SASSY SOWERS:
1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday, 9:30am-Noon

DINING OUT GROUP: Saturday, November 7th @ 5pm at:
Final Approach Restaurant 4959 S Howell Ave,
Milwaukee, WI 53207

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: The 3rd Tuesday (Nov 17th),
at 9am at – **LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

MEN'S BREAKFAST: 3rd Thursday (Nov. 19th),
8:30am at Open Flame Restaurant,
5081 S 108th St, Greenfield, WI 53228

SCRIPT CARD PROGRAM:
Orders for Script Cards (gift cards) are due on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

YARN EXTRAVAGANZA 2:
Friday-Sunday, November 13, 14 & 15 from 9am to 3pm

QUILT BLESSING: Sunday, November 22nd

DECORATING THE CHCURCH:
Saturday, November 28th @ 10am-Noon

CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING:
Sunday, December 6th @ 12:30pm

BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, December 8th from 1-6pm