



# THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2026

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3450 s 52nd St, Greenfield, WI 53219

(414) 545-2440 [memorialchurchumc.org](http://memorialchurchumc.org)



Yesterday, as I write this, we were encouraged to remember our baptism; in a few weeks we will be reminded that from dust we came, and dust we will return. We live our lives in the tension between these two profound truths. On one hand, we are the beloved children of God, claimed by name in the water. On the other, we are fragile, finite beings whose time on this earth is but a breath. Lent is the season where we sit in that tension—not to be morbid, but to be honest. It is a time to ask: *Given that my time is short and my calling is great, how then shall I live?*

In the United Methodist tradition, we answer that question through what John Wesley called "Means of Grace." He believed that God's love is always available, but we must "put ourselves in the way" of that grace through holy habits.

If we only remember our baptism, we might become complacent. If we only remember our dust, we might become despairing. But when we combine the two, we find the motivation for **Practical Divinity**.

This Lent, I invite you to move beyond "giving something up" for the sake of tradition. Instead, use these forty days to practice habits that turn our hearts outward:

**Rend Your Hearts:** Spend time in "Acts of Piety." Let the water of your baptism refresh your prayer life or your reading of the Word. Not as a chore, but as a way to sit with the One who claimed you.

**Work Your Hands:** Engage in "Acts of Mercy." Because our time here is a gift of "dust and spirit," let us spend it well. Feed the hungry, visit the homebound, and advocate for the vulnerable.

When we feed the hungry, we are remembering our baptismal vow to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression." When we pray, we are acknowledging that we cannot sustain ourselves on our own.

Lent is not a season of "doing more" to earn God's favor. It is a season of doing what matters to reflect God's light. As we journey from the font to the ashes, may we find that our habits—our small, daily choices—are the very things that make the Gospel visible to a world in need.

Walking with you toward the Cross,

Pastor Rob



### Birthdays

2/2 Tom Rowe  
 2/2 Robert Lang  
 2/2 Linda Groth  
 2/8 Greg Steck  
 2/8 Karen Fetzer  
 2/14 Karen Klockow  
 2/24 Shery Stech  
 2/24 Perry Brumm  
 2/25 Phil Gruntzel  
 2/27 Cyndi Eickstaedt

### Anniversaries

No anniversaries  
 in February

Please contact Pastor Rob or the church office when members and/or friends of Memorial UMC are sick, hospitalized, having surgery, undergoing medical treatment, have special concerns, etc.

Pastor Rob will lift you up in prayer during the Sunday Worship Service.



### FOOD BANK

Thank you all for your food donations. On Wednesday, January 13th, a load of food collected at Memorial was delivered to Blessed Hope. The food include canned soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, crackers, bread mixes, breakfast cereal, breakfast bars, flour, etc. Blessed Hope combines the food collected at Memorial with food collected at Blessed Hope and delivers it to a community food bank. This assures that the food is distributed in a timely manner so it does not expire.

Thank you again for your donations and for your continued support.



### DINING OUT GROUP

February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at:

Final Approach,  
 4959 S Howell Ave,  
 Milwaukee, WI

<https://finalapproachmilwaukee.com/menu/>

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.



### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Women's Breakfast will be at 9am on February 17<sup>th</sup> at Meyers.



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club will have their next breakfast meeting at 8:30am on February 19<sup>th</sup> at Meyers.



### Trustees Toolbox

Greetings from your Memorial Trustees.

We were busy undecorating the sanctuary after a wonderful Christmas Holiday. Thanks again to those that did such a great job getting the church ready in December.

The winter weather has provided us with the ask of keeping the organ loft humidifiers filled, which helps with the function of our organ and beautiful music during our Sunday service.

Looking ahead....our outdoor sign that we use once in a while on Morgan Avenue is in need of some repairs. We are in the process of determining what is required to fix the sign.



### RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS

We are continuing to make efforts to increase the use of the gift card program. This program allows members of Memorial to purchase gift cards for use at a variety of retail businesses including food

stores, restaurants, gas stations, theaters, and department stores. When these cards are purchased, Memorial Church receives a percentage return of the purchase price varying from 1 to 16 percent.

Order forms that list a large number of popular businesses are available in the Chapel Lounge. If you don't see the business you are interested in, a complete list of businesses is available. Remember, you can always purchase a gift card for yourself. Order forms are due the third Sunday of the month with gift cards delivered the next Sunday. If you want to order gift cards or have questions see Tom Rowe or call 414-331-3753.



# MEMORIAL EVENTS~FEBRUARY 2026

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bells	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Burmese Congregation
<b>8</b> Adult Bible Study, 9:15AM Children’s Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion 10:30AM Worship 2-6PM Burmese Worship	<b>9</b> 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> DINING OUT GROUP: 5pm at: Final Approach, 4959 S Howell Ave, Milw, WI  6:00 PM Burmese Congregation
<b>15</b> Adult Bible Study, 9:15AM  Children’s Sunday School 10:30AM  10:30AM Worship  11:30am-1pm Valentine/Mardi Gras Cafe  2-6PM Burmese Worship	<b>16</b> 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Women’s Breakfast at Meyers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:30 AM Men’s Breakfast  <u>Set-up</u> for yarn sale  10 AM-1 PM Sassy Sewers at Memorial UMC  6:30 PM Choir 7:30 PM Bells	<b>20</b> 9 AM-3 PM Yarn Extravaganza at Memorial UMC	<b>21</b> 9 AM-3 PM Yarn Extravaganza at Memorial UMC  6:00 PM Burmese Congregation
<b>22</b> Adult Bible Study, 9:15AM Children’s Sunday School 10:30AM 10:30AM Worship  After service until 1 PM—Yarn Extravaganza at Memorial UMC  2-6PM Burmese Worship	<b>23</b> 1-9 PM Ceramics at Memorial UMC	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM Burmese Congregation



February	Liturgists	Ushers
1st	Carolyn Ettlle	To be determined
8th	Chris Guse	To be determined
15th	John Hurley	To be determined
22nd	Connie Ziegler	To be determined



### **In Remembrance of Raymond and Joan Johnson**

On August 10, 2025 **Raymond Kenwood Johnson** joined the love of his life Joan (Holling) Johnson in eternal peace. They will both live forever in our hearts.

Married for almost 70 years prior to her passing in 2022 Joan teased Ray that he lived a “Huck Finn” life growing up on a farm in Oak Creek, WI since his birth in 1933. They met in high school and married in 1952.

Ray was a self-employed Master Plumber and a member of Plumbers Local 75 since March 25, 1957. Joan was a homemaker and worked in the Greenfield School District for 30 years where she earned the nickname “Saint Joan” for her kindness and patience. They were both stewards of Memorial Church since 1967 where they dedicated countless hours teaching Sunday school, celebrating with their church families, cooking, cleaning and maintaining both the church and the parsonage. They were loyal Packer fans with season tickets since 1965.

Together they raised 4 children; 7 grandchildren and an abundance of great grandchildren. Daniel/Paula Johnson (Carl, Hunter) Robin/Scott Heitman (Tyler, Rich, Savannah) Dave and Heidi/Jim Rottscholl (Alexandria, Kassi)

Both known as “selfless and generous to a fault” they loved each other, their family and their community. Everyone that knew Ray and Joan were touched by their love, generosity, kindness and wisdom. Once you met them you were forever friends!

A passion for lifelong learning kept them both in classes through their late 80’s. Joan was known as an avid reader and musician, an excellent cook, baker, seamstress and artist winning awards for her countless paintings that are displayed proudly in many of their family and friend’s homes.

Ray was a proud veteran and skilled plumber, electrician, carpenter, mechanic and was ALWAYS working on a project or two. His love for geography and history was reflected in his uncanny ability to recall not only world history but times in his own life dating as far back as the age of 3. He told captivating stories of days gone by with incredible detail and accuracy... as if it they had just happened yesterday.

They both had a great sense of humor, an abundance of friends and together enjoyed traveling, music, ballroom dancing, playing cards, nature and their cottage in Crivitz. Eternally young at heart their greatest joy was time spent spoiling their grandchildren who all loved them beyond words.

Ray managed to skillfully navigate through this world for 92 years with ease. It is no wonder his favorite song was “Like a Rock” by Bob Segar. He was a wise man and built his house upon a rock. (Matt. 7:24-25)

How fitting he left with amazing grace during a thousand year storm.

***Forever in our hearts~~Robin Heitman***

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Sunday, 9:15am

**CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday, 10:30am

**CERAMICS:** Mondays, 1-9pm

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** Thursday, 6:30-7:25pm

**JOYFUL BELLS:** Thursday, 7:30-8:30pm

**DINING OUT GROUP:** February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at:  
Final Approach,  
4959 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207

**SASSY SOWERS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, 10am-1pm

**WOMEN’S BREAKFAST:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 9am at Meyers

**MEN’S BREAKFAST:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 8:30am at Meyers

**VALENTINE / MARDI GRAS CAFÉ:**  
after the church service on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**YARN SALE:** February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-3, and  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9-1.

#### **Memorial UMC**

##### **General Information & Staff**

3450 South 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, 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](mailto: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 Ettl

**Office Administrator:** Peggy Leonhardt

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