



Phone: 873-5117

Menville United Methodist Church

November 2023

450 S. 1st ~ P.O. Box 801 ~ Menville, IA 51039

Email: mumchurch@wiatel.net www.menvilleumc.org

Facebook: Menville United Methodist Church

Our Mission is to:

PREACH the Gospel of Jesus Christ

TEACH love and forgiveness

REACH out in service

(Matthew 28:19-20)

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Y-T-D Expenses Through September	\$45,582	\$64,029
Y-T-D Income through September	\$74,312	\$63,821
October Income Received	\$7723	\$6544
Wkly Ave Inc Rcvd (Last 4 wks)	\$1565	\$1636

Grace and Gratitude

I love the fall season. I love to see the colorful leaves and experience cool temperatures. It reminds me of the goodness of God in creation. God is the author, creator, and owner of all things. The Psalmist says, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). The whole concept of stewardship begins with God and his ownership of the universe.

I believe stewardship includes caring for all that God has entrusted to us and using our gifts to honor and serve the mission of God. Because of God's grace toward us, we can humbly give thanks. We can never repay God. God acts first toward us in grace by extending us love, forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation. "Karl Barth writes, "The only answer to grace is gratitude. Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice, an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder, lightning."

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation and use our resources in serving his church and mission. God is the giver of good gifts. Our motivation to give back to God must come from a grateful heart. The apostle Paul writes,

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

As we experience the fall season and anticipate the Thanksgiving holiday, may we always be people of gratitude to almighty God for his many blessings. Let us never forget the grace of God in our lives. It is God's grace that allows us to participate in the work of the church. God bless you and grace to you.

Have a blessed Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Eric Sayonkon

Pastor

Reverend Eric Sayonkon

Office Administrator

Holli Countryman

Music Director

Accompanists

Christina Canning

Rochelle Wilson

Lay Leader

Treasurers

Jeff & Mary Krejci

Ad Council Chair

Susan Hunting

Finance

Chair:

Gene Groetken

Vice-Chair:

Scott Gernhart

Member Support & Ed

Co-Chair:

Diane Weaver

Co-Chair:

Becky Dahna

Co-Chair:

Kristi Baier

SPRC

Chair:

Kirk Scheelhaase

Vice-Chair:

Deb Sitzmann

Trustees

Chair:

Jody Weaver

Vice-Chair:

Randy Petersen

UWIF

Janice Schlotman

MUMC has a Permanent Endowment Fund. Your charitable gift will continue to work forever. Gifts can be made outright, can be memorials to family or friends, or bequests within your estate planning. You may designate the gift to a specific fund within the endowment: General, Building, Missions, Special Ministries, or Education. The fund's interest earned may then be used. After the third quarter of 2023 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$17,900; Building \$3800; Missions \$250; Special Ministries \$170; Education \$1200. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund.



ENDOWMENT FUND

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY October 19, 2023

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Pastor Eric, Diane Weaver, Bev Arvin, Harold Werley, Janice Schlotman, Kirk Scheelhaase, Deb Sitzmann, Jeff and Mary Krejci.

Susan opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting were read; no corrections were noted. Motion to approve by Jeff, 2nd by Janice; motion passed.

FINANCE REPORT - September weekly giving and expenses are both below budget. Building Fund activity - paid first half of property taxes for the parsonage in the amount of \$1667. Expenditures for the parsonage included repair parts and carpet cleaning.

September collection for our Guatemalan student was \$96.45, bringing that account balance to \$851.24.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Will be sending out a stewardship letter to all church members before the end of the year. He is also in the process of planning Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at MUMC and Grace UMC in Correctionville.

PARSONAGE UPDATE - Harold has been preparing to begin a small claims procedure against the previous tenants in the parsonage. Motion by Jeff to grant authority to Harold to legally represent the church in filing small claims action against Ashley Nicole Brand and Lisa Brand for unpaid rent and unpaid city of Merville utilities. 2nd by Diane; motion passed. Total amount of the claim should be approximately \$6500.

Current parsonage update - Diane reported that our new tenant, Sara McCormick, signed the lease and is in the process of moving in. Her furniture will be delivered this weekend. Sara has paid the security deposit equal to one month's rent (\$1250), prorated October rent (\$400), and the last month's rent (\$1250). Sara understands that someone from our church will be walking through to inspect the property each quarter.

CHARGE CONFERENCE FORMS AND BUDGET -

The 2024 budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee on Tuesday, October 17th. The Ad Council went through the 2024 budget item by item. Motion by Janice to accept this 2024 budget proposal, 2nd by Bev; motion was passed. Pastor Eric plans to meet with the Correctionville church council on Sunday to finalize the pastor portion of the budget that is shared with Correctionville.

One noteworthy change to the 2024 budget vs. past budgets is that all income and expenses from the Building Fund have been rolled into our General Budget.

Pastor asked for input on Mission and Ministry goals for our Charge Conference report.

- We would like to have growth in membership and in faith.
- We would like to see spiritual growth in our congregation.
- We would like to focus on rebuilding relationships with members "on our books" who may not be active in worship right now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Finance - Motion by Jeff to provide \$700 for Pastor Eric to attend "Facing The Future" conference in Atlanta November 14-16, 2023. 2nd by Janice; motion passed.

Missions - Bev is in contact with Woodbury Central School to receive name(s) of families who are in need of help this Christmas. We will obtain names and a "wish list" for students and their families and then donate to fulfill their "wishes." She will have names and wishes by the end of November.

Education - Attendance at Adult Sunday School has been poor. Fellowship hour and Children's Sunday School conflict with the meeting time of 10:00 a.m. Sunday. We will consider changing the meeting day or time so more can attend. Pastor would also like to start an Advent Study either Mondays or Thursdays.

SPRC - Deb will post on Facebook, looking for a music director. Terri Koehn and Linda Waugh will be new members of SPRC to replace the people on that committee who have left the church.

UWIF - Diane Dreves spoke to the group about her Guatemalan travel experience. It left the women's group feeling very grateful for our lives here in America. November will be Pledge Month.

Next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Krejci

MEMBER CARE

This Thanksgiving let us count..
Count your blessings instead of your crosses.
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes.
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears.
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean.
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth.
Count on God as well as yourself.

author unknown

CHURCH DISAFFILIATION UPDATE

To date 84 congregations have had their request for disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church approved. The Bishop has called a special Conference session on November 18 for a vote on 59 additional congregations requesting to disaffiliate on November 30.

With Conference approval, a total of 143 Congregations will have left the United Methodist Church. This is 19.8% of the 722 local United Methodist Churches in Iowa. At the end of this statistical year there will be 579 local UMC congregations.

2023 MISSION INGATHERING

On November 4, Iowa United Methodists will bring their monetary and in kind gifts to one of the five Ingathering sites around the state. we at Merville will take our contributions to the Cherokee site in the form of donations for hunger grants, kit processing, Heifer International, CWS blankets and Personal Dignity and Student School Kits. We won't know the total of our giving until all gifts are in and delivered. A report on the totals from Merville and the whole state will be given in next month's newsletter.

Thank you to each of you who have shown your caring for the needs of others by supporting the annual Mission Ingathering.

THE WARMING SHELTER

What makes the Warming Shelter different from any other location that supports the homeless is that it welcomes any and all who need shelter. Once an individual comes into the Warming Shelter, there is support to help them get their life on track by providing shelter, food, hope and stability. In 2021, 231 persons were identified as homeless in Sioux City. The Shelter provides compassion, help and direction to those who need it most.

Warming Shelter needs:

Paper or Styrofoam plates, cups, bowls
Plastic utensils
Winter gloves
Men's jeans & sweatpants (size 30-38)
All sizes women's underwear
Backpacks & drawstring bags
Bath towels
Travel size shampoo
Men's & women's deodorant

A donation box is in the entryway

Email Addresses

The best way for us to stay connected with our members and friends, and for you to receive Sunday worship information/sermons, updates and news, is through our weekly emails. If you are not receiving church emails, please email the church at mumchurch@wiatel.net or call the church office at 712/873-5117.

SEND EMAIL



Community Basket

For the month of November we are collecting baking supplies that will be given to the Community Basket. You may bring your donations to church on Sunday's or you may drop them off at the Community Basket. Thank you for helping those in need!



MOMENT OF GRACE

The Bible says we are stewards of God's grace. Thank God for his grace upon us! Thank you for your prayers and financial giving to the ministry of the Mowile United Methodist Church. You will be receiving our stewardship letter/pledge card this month in preparation to support our next year's mission and ministry. Please continue to pray and support the work of God through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We are all in this together. God bless you.

Pastor Eric Sayonkon and church leadership Team



A variety of animals are made available to families seeking a better life. Animals provide adequate and a cash income to struggling families. Support the work of Heifer Project with your quarters. Place them in "Rosie" the Cow on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



United
Women
in Faith

November 8
Luncheon at 12:30 pm
Program: Pledge Service
Lunch: Bev Arvin &
Irene Clause

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." *Philippians 4: 6*

Offering & Gifts

OFFERING
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

If you are unable to worship with us in-person we encourage you to continue to mail in your offering and gifts so that we may continue to pay staff, bills, apportionments and take care of the upkeep of the church building. If you would like to contribute through online giving, please contact Holli in the church office by phone or email. There is a form to be filled out and a voided check will need to be obtained.

Mission Moment

Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

Each Sunday you have an opportunity to give a monetary gift to help support Lesly, a student from Guatemala in her education journey.

A container is available at the back of the sanctuary to place your donation in. If you are unable to worship with us, you may mail in your monetary gift to the church office.

Please continue to keep Lesly and her



A friendly reminder for those of you that send in an end of the year check for your contributions—please have your checks into the office no later than January 10. Thank you!!

There are plenty of Upper Room Devotionals in the entryway of the church placed in the magazine rack. If you would like a copy but can't make it to church Janice would be happy to deliver one to you. Please contact her or the church office, 873-5117 if you would like one delivered to you.

Mowile UMC Social Media Sites

For news and updates regarding Mowile United Methodist Church, please go to:

You Tube channel: [www.youtube.com Mowile United Methodist Church](http://www.youtube.com/MowileUnitedMethodistChurch)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mowilleumc>

Website: <http://mowilleumc.org> or

Instagram: at mowilleumc



Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

Birthdays

- 4 Cassie Colyer
- 5 Joseph Groetken
- 8 Todd Kuebler
Susanne Weaver
Laurie Warren
- 10 Samantha Mahaney
- 11 Randy Petersen
- 13 Curt Havlicek
Donna Roeschke
- 17 Casey Crawford
- 20 Glen Clark
Carol Logan
- 23 Megan Warren
- 24 Janice Schlotman
Charles Clark
- 26 Janna Hiemstra
- 29 Susan Chapman



Anniversaries

- 16 Craig & Deb Sitzmann
- 27 Gene & Jill Groetken



Day Light Savings November 5

Don't forget to turn your clocks back
1 hour before you go to bed Saturday
night.

November Lectionary

November 5, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion All Saints Day (daylight savings)	6	7	8 UWIF 12:30 pm	9 Ad Council 7 pm	10	11 Veteran's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Community Thanksgiving Service 7 pm	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 Happy Thanks Giving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Veterans Recognition

On **Sunday, November 5th** during worship we will be recognizing the members of Merville UMC who are veterans. Please contact the church office if we have missed someone who should be on the list. Thank you for your service!

George Allen
Maurice Arvin
Nate Bauer
Gene Belknap
Blaine Borland
Gary Chapman
Glen Clark
Jeff Crick

Bill Dahna Sr.
Bill Dahna Jr.
Briley Dixon
Larry Etler
Chuck Eskov
Tony Jensen
Todd Kuebler
Dean Livermore

Brad Nash
Derl Petersen
Randall Petersen
Bob Seitzinger
Marcia Smith
Jim Utesch
Barry Wahlberg
John Weaver

Please join us for All Saints Sunday November 5

Honoring and remembering those who have passed.

Bonnie Daniels	11/7/22
Loren Neville	1/4/2023
Joyce Rawson	1/22/2023
Wyndham French	5/2/23
Howard Logan	8/14/23



Poinsettias



It's that time of the year to order the poinsettias for the altar. They will be delivered Tuesday December 12th so we need to have our final count in no later than Tuesday, November 28th. The cost is \$21.00 and must be prepaid before the order is sent in. Please enclose a check to the church at the time of your order. They will be available to take home Christmas Eve.



Merville Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19, 2023

**7:00 pm at
Church—TBA**