



# Menville United Methodist Church

May 2024

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

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
YTD Income (incl rent) thru March	\$22,579	\$26,716
YTD Expenses thru March	\$25,021	\$27,337
April Member Giving	\$4314	\$7,638
Wkly ave. Member Giving (last 4 wks)	\$1078	\$1763

## PLANTED AND GROWING

The beauty of Spring is all around us. Everything is green. New life is exciting around us, attributed to God's beautiful creation. Have you planted your crops? For farmers, it is the planting season. Some will plant in their gardens.

Everything alive grows. It is important to plant the seeds of God's love in the field of our world. Whatever is planted will grow. However, it depends on how well it is nurtured and rooted. We are commanded to grow spiritually. We serve Christ not out of duty but because he first loved us and planted the deep love in us out of his mercy and grace.

Therefore, The Apostle Peter writes, "But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen (2 Peter 3:18)

When God calls us to become members of His body, he builds a root system among us. To grow to maturity, we must encourage each other in the Lord. When we grow, we bear fruit and flourish with the help of the Holy Spirit to produce fruit of the Spirit: "Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

May we constantly plant in the lives of others and grow in God's grace in all we do in this year. God bless you and grace to you.

Growing in Grace,  
Pastor Eric



Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and support for me to attend the General Conference of the United Methodist Church globally in Charlotte, North Carolina. I will be sharing a report on May 8th to our congregation.

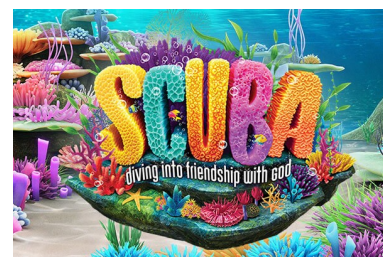
God bless you! Pastor Eric



Thank you Christina for serving as our accompanist. It has been a pleasure having such a talented player for our musical needs. Your time and talent has been much appreciated by our congregation. Our thoughts go with you and wish you happiness in your new home.

## VBS

Have you been looking for the perfect opportunity to volunteer? Menville Community VBS planning is underway and could use your talents! June 23rd– June 27th (evening VBS) will be more fun that you can stand! At Scuba VBS we will be diving into friendship with God! Do you want to lead a group of students through the nightly stations full of fun? Would you like to lead a station as the students come visit you to learn about God? Is Science your thing? Or Music? Would you rather support us with food service for our light supper? Can't make the whole week but still want to help? You are welcome! Just want to help decorate? We will take that too! Please contact Liz Wahlberg 515-490-1981. [etwahlberg11@gmail.com](mailto:etwahlberg11@gmail.com) or Angie Duffy 712/560-2593.



### Pastor

Reverend Eric Sayonkon

### Office Administrator

Holli Countryman

### Music Director

Elizabeth Ross

### 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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY April 11, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Janice Schlotman, Kirk Scheelhaase, Jody and Diane Weaver, Pastor Eric Sayonkon

Pastor Eric opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the March 14, 2024, meeting were reviewed and no corrections were noted. Motion to approve by Janice, 2nd by Diane; minutes approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

March giving was about \$800 below budget. Year-to-date expenses through March were \$25,021 versus year-to-date budget of \$27,337. Year-to-date income (including rent) through March was \$22,579 versus year-to-date budget of \$26,716.

We collected \$144.25 for our Guatemalan student, bringing our balance in that account to \$981.85.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

The General Conference originally scheduled for 2020 is coming up from April 23rd - May 4th in Charlotte, NC. Pastor Eric is planning on attending. This should be a very important conference for the United Methodist Church. Jeff made a motion to commit \$500 from our Iowa Annual Conference budget to cover a portion of Pastor's travel expenses. Along with this, Kirk made a motion to use \$500 from the pastor's Continuing Education budget and also to take up a Love Offering on April 14th and April 21st to assist with Pastor Eric's travel expenses. Janice seconded the motions; motions passed. Kirk will make this announcement at church services. Any money collected in the Love Offering will help offset the Continuing Education/Travel Expenses incurred.

Our District Conference is coming up on May 5th in Algona. Iowa Annual Conference is being held June 7th-9th in Des Moines. The Bishop will be visiting the districts to hear concerns and issues that may be on the minds of the congregations. Pastor will be holding a congregational meeting in our church on May 12th to hear our thoughts and feedback on how things are going within our church. The meeting will take place during the church service that morning.

We will be celebrating Mother's Day and honoring our high school graduates during service on May 12th.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

We are still searching for a new pianist for our church services. Christina will be leaving Mid-May to move closer to family.

In appreciation for all her years of dedicated service to the church, Kirk made the motion to purchase a gift card for her, there was a 2nd by Diane; motion passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE** - Finance committee has designed a form to be used for permission to attend youth activities and also to be used for reimbursement for activity fees in attending church-approved events. Jeff distributed the form for all Ad Council members to review.

Gene Groetken, Scott Gernhart, and Randy Peterson completed the annual church audit on March 2, 2024. The paperwork has been sent into the district office with the following recommendations: 1) Financial policy and authority guidelines need to be written, approved, and implemented by the Finance Committee, 2) Add a budget line item (activity number) for Church Decorations.

**MEMBER SUPPORT/EDUCATION** - We want to note the difference in Fellowship that has occurred since Sandy Baker has been serving breakfast each Sunday. Attendance at Fellowship has improved noticeably and we feel the fellowship that is shared at these breakfasts is very important to our church. Thank you so much, Sandy!

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Catholic Church. The theme this summer is "Scuba."

**TRUSTEES** – Jody replaced some tiles in the lower-level bathroom of the parsonage that had been damaged by a water leak earlier this year.

The tree from the back of the parsonage has been removed. The contractor did a very good job and removed the trunk completely. We have paid the bill of \$1450 for that job.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** – We will have a district officer speaking at the June meeting.

Pastor Eric thanked all the members of the Ad Council for our continued work and cooperation.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Krejci

## **MEMBER CARE**

It's Up To You!

God gave you this day to do as you would.

You can throw it away - or do some good.

You can make someone happy or make someone sad.

What have you done with the day that you had.

You can hand out a smile, or just give them a frown,

You can lift someone up or push someone down.

You can look for a rose or just gather weeds.

What did you do with your beautiful day?

God gave it to you, did you throw it away?

Author unknown

## **SENIOR RECOGNITION**

**Class of 2024 seniors will be recognized  
on May 12th at 9 am worship service.**

Seniors:

Kennison Countryman, Bella Moodie

Luke Sayonkon

Please wear your cap and gown to worship.

You will sit with your families.

Please keep these young adults in your  
prayers as they start new adventures in their  
lives.



## ***Easter Lilies***

**Name:**

Donna Flewelling

Tammy & Robin Kreisel

Carol Logan

Randy & Kathy Petersen

Russ & Buddie Spotts

Jody & Diane Weaver

Rochelle & Roger Wilson

**In Memory of:**

Marvin Flewelling

Terry Casey, Gene Donna Belknap

Bob Logan

Bernedine Petersen

LeRoy, LaVonne & Roger Miller

Catherine Chapman/Jeanie Crick

Family

Fanchon & Keith Haddock

Floyd & Earline Wilson

Carin can Drunen Littel

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.



Newsletter deadline is the 20th of  
each month but is welcome any  
time before that date. 😊

## **Moville UMC Social Media Sites**

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

**You Tube channel:** [www.youtube.com/MovilleUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.youtube.com/MovilleUnitedMethodistChurch)

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/movilleumc>

**Website:** <http://movilleumc.org> or

**Instagram:** at movilleumc



## 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 [movilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:movilleunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com) call the church office at 712/873-5117.

SEND EMAIL



## Community Basket

For the month of May we are collecting peanut butter and/or jelly 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!



## Offering & Gifts



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.



United  
Women  
in Faith

May 8, 2024 - 12:30 Luncheon  
Served by Janice Schlotman  
& Carol Logan

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 (NLT)

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous be strong; Do everything in love."*

## Mission Moment

### Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

Another school year, February to November, has begun for Leslie Jimenez who lives in Western Guatemala. Merville UMC is providing scholarship funds for a third year as Leslie enters 10th grade.



We also fund her participation in "Lifting Up my Student" which provides support with online courses and private tutors to help with subjects at school. Leslie's scholarship is totally funded by your donations (no money comes from the church budget). One-half of Leslie's yearly scholarship of \$1,100 has been paid. A container remains on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your donation. Your help is really appreciated for the 2024 school year.

## HEIFER HIGHLIGHTS

A few years ago, Kelly and Steven Grappe quit the corporate world and started their own sustainable small-scale farm where they could better the land and provide personal attention to their animals near Rose Bud, AR. They received training on how to raise pigs from Heifer and joined a Farmers' Cooperative which ensures they have a place to sell their goods. The small farm provides enough income to sustain the family thanks, in part, to Heifer. Your gifts to Heifer are appreciated. Please continue to feed "Rosie the Cow" on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.



## ENDOWMENT FUND

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 first quarter of 2024 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$24,700; Building \$4900; Missions \$350; Special Ministries \$200; Education \$2200. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund.

## INGATHERING UPDATE

The Conference Ingathering Task Force has awarded grants totaling \$16,000 to 71 hunger projects within the Iowa Conference. Each \$225 grant was awarded to a local UM church sponsored hunger project. These funds were donated to the 2023 Ingathering last November. Our church sponsors The Community Basket here in Merville which will receive a grant of \$225 for its food distribution program. Your financial giving to this November's Ingathering will provide hunger grants to projects approved in 2025.



# Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

## Birthdays

1 Jeff Krejci  
John Neely  
2 Jeff Schultzen  
5 Eric Harris  
Ken Mahaney  
13 Jan Countryman  
15 Larry Koehn  
16 Ellen Gallagher  
17 Margaret Nissan  
18 Rachel Bracy  
22 Beth Nielsen  
28 Robin Beck  
30 Abbygail Flewelling

## Anniversaries

12 Kelly & Susanne Weaver  
17 Jim & Mary Utesch  
31 Terry & Linda Waugh

## Peace with Justice Sunday

This Special Sunday offering is taken in May. Your gifts support the development of social justice ministries that seek peaceful resolutions between parties. One half of the amount collected remains in each Annual Conference. Offering envelopes and information cards are on the table in the entry way.



## May 2024 Lectionary

May 5  
Acts 10: 44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5: 1-5  
John 15: 9-17

May 12  
Acts 1: 1-11  
Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Luke 24: 44-53

May 19  
Acts 2: 1-21  
Palm 104: 24-34, 35b  
Romans 8: 22-27  
John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

May 26  
Acts 6: 1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8: 12-17  
John 3: 1-17

## May 2024

Each Sunday: 9:00 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion	6	7 OFFICE open 9 am—12 pm	8 UWiF Luncheon 12:30 pm	9 Ad Council Mtg. 6 pm	10	11
12 Senior Recognition Congregation meeting & celebration <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28	29	30	31	