



Moville United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2026

God in the Changing Seasons

October reminds us that change is a natural part of God's creation. The leaves turn, the air becomes crisp, and the world around us prepares for a new season. As we watch these changes, we are reminded that our own lives move through seasons as well—seasons of joy, uncertainty, growth, challenge, and renewal.

But through every season, one thing remains constant: God is with us.

As United Methodists, we believe our faith is not meant to simply be something we believe—it is something we live. John Wesley encouraged Christians to “do all the good you can,” and October gives us many opportunities to put those words into action.

Coming up, our church will have several opportunities to serve, connect, and share God's love with our community. Trunk or Treat with the Daycare gives us a chance to welcome children and families into a safe and joyful celebration. Trick or Treating on Main Street allows us to be present in our community and share a friendly smile, a helping hand, and the spirit of our church. And through our Ingathering at the church, we have an opportunity to collect and give resources to those who need them.

These may seem like simple activities, but they are meaningful ways of being the hands and feet of Christ. Sometimes serving looks like organizing an event or donating supplies. Sometimes it is volunteering for an hour, greeting a family, handing out candy, or simply showing up. Every act of kindness can be a reflection of God's love.

Ecclesiastes reminds us, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” — Ecclesiastes 3:1

Whatever season you find yourself in, remember that you do not walk through it alone. God is with us, and we have one another. As a church family, may we continue to love God, love our neighbors, and put our faith into action.

This October, may we embrace the changing season with grateful hearts, open hands, and willing spirits—looking for every opportunity to do a little good wherever God places us.

Have a blessed Month!

—Cassie Colyer

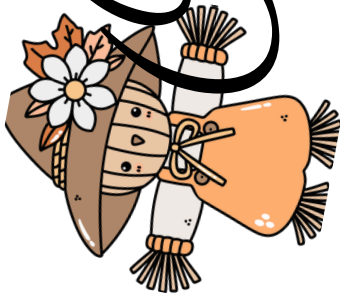




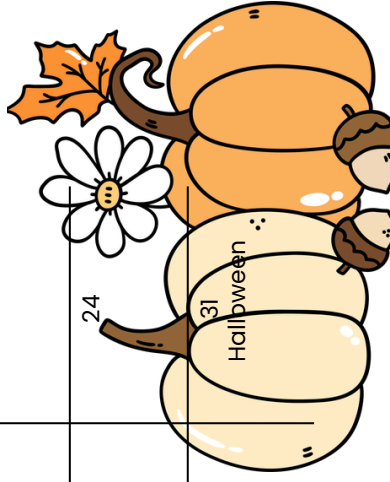
2026



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	1	2	3
Sunday School 10 AM			Wednesday Nights Confirmation 5:30	8	9	10
11	12 Ad Council Meeting 6PM	13	14 WIF Luncheon Sandy Baker 12:30	15 Girls Night Out 5:30 Dooskys	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween



Celebrating Life Together



Birthdays

1 Gage Jensen
2 Pert Degen
Pastor Eric
3 Charles Montange
6 Jill Groetken
Dasher Colyer
13 Irene Clause
20 Blake Stubbs
21 Roger Wilson
Becky Dahna
22 Tam Scheelhaase

Anniversaries

12 Barry & Bobbie Wahlberg
14 Chuck & Jodi French



The Starfish Thrower

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along it? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one."

HOPE ON THE HORIZON: UPCOMING EVENTS



Halloween Trunk or Treat with Crittenton Child Development Center

♥ The church was asked to participate with the Daycare to have a Trunk or Treat in our parkinglot. Specific details are not known yet but the office will update members when more is known.

Halloween October 31

We will be handing out candy in Moville Main Street's Trunk and Treat on Halloween.

Community Thanksgiving

The Moville Ministerial Association's Community Thanksgiving Service for 5:00 pm on Sunday, November 22 at the Moville United Methodist Church. Fr. Michael Erpelding is preaching and Pastor Ed Pease is putting the service together.

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.

♥ HOPE ON THE HORIZON: UPCOMING EVENTS

IOWA CONFERENCE *of the* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering



On Saturday, Nov. 7, our church will be one of five collection sites for the 2026 Iowa Ingathering. That morning will see a flurry of activity as United Methodists from northwest Iowa deliver kits and monetary donations. Boxes will be loaded into a semi-trailer, and people will be able to attend the Ingathering Information Fair inside the building. Come and be part of the action and experience the scope of the Iowa Ingathering. Hours are 8:00 to 11:00 am. For more info, check the newly revised website: www.iaumc.org/ingathering. (iaumc.org in Bing).

This is an exciting moment for our church—it is our first time hosting the Ingathering, and we are grateful for the opportunity to welcome so many visitors through our doors. We want to show everyone an amazing, warm Merville UMC welcome, and we could use volunteers to help greet guests, guide traffic flow, and support the morning's activities. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Werley or the church office.

***Come help assemble Blessing Bag Meal Packs at the Nov. 7th Ingathering.
Sign-up for one or more 30 minute shifts. Schedule is on easel at back.**

OCTOBER IS BLANKET MONTH



Here at Merville United Methodist Church, we have supported the Church World Service Blanket Appeal through the Ingathering for many years. These blankets are a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. For example, your donations to CWS through the Ingathering have provided blankets to the people living in "the flats" of the San Luis Valley in Colorado which is a very remote rural part of the state. Please be generous again this year in giving to the CWS Blanket Appeal through the Ingathering.

YOU ARE INVITED

Love. Serve. Lead

A hands-on mission celebration!

Learn More!



IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering

Saturday, November 7, 2026
8 am - 11 am

Mt. Pleasant UMC | Greenfield UMC | Merville UMC
1st UMC, Cedar Falls | Trinity UMC, Ft. Dodge

Bring your in-kind and monetary gifts — then stay for meaningful fellowship, worship, and a heartfelt time of thanksgiving.
Visit www.iaumc.org/ingathering.

EARLY DROP OFF

Friday, Nov. 6, 2026,
from 9:00 a.m. to
11:00 a.m. only at
Grace UMC in Glenwood,
Kanawha UMC,
Lamoni UMC, and
Midwest Mission
in Jefferson.

Boxes must be taped and
labeled with
completed paperwork.







✦ **Volunteers Needed for the Iowa Ingathering** ✦

Merville UMC has been invited to help represent CWS Blankets at this year's Iowa Mission Ingathering, and we are seeking one volunteer to serve as our CWS representative. This role is a simple but meaningful way to help congregations understand how their support provides warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbors in need.

CWS will fully equip and support our volunteer by providing:

- ✦ A virtual training session with a CWS staff member
- ✦ A sample CWS Blanket of your choosing
- ✦ A short video and printed materials to use during the event
- ✦ A small gift of appreciation for your time and service

CWS has offered to host the virtual training on October 13 or October 14, with flexible scheduling to fit the volunteer's availability. The training will walk through what a brief Ingathering presentation includes—sharing a video, explaining the impact of the Blankets Program, and describing how Merville UMC participates in Blanket Sunday.

Your help would play an important role in ensuring every Ingathering site has someone who can speak confidently about the ministries supported through this mission effort. CWS's goal is to make sure you feel prepared, appreciated, and encouraged every step of the way.

If you are willing to serve or would like more information, please contact the church office. Your involvement would be a blessing and help strengthen this year's Ingathering.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES –

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Monday, September 14, 2026

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Randy Petersen, Gene Groetken, Jody and Diane Weaver, Pastor Eric Sayonkon, Harold Werley, Deb Sitzmann

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 10, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Jeff to accept the minutes, 2nd by Diane; motion passed.

HAROLD - INGATHERING

Ingathering is Saturday, November 7, 2026. This year, Merville United Methodist Church will serve as a drop-off point. The Ingathering task force is appreciative to us for hosting a site this year. There are a number of needs they are requesting. They ask for connection to our church Wi-Fi, access to a copier, perhaps use of a laptop, power sources, and a number of people to help set up, load the semi trailer, direct traffic, serve in our fellowship hall, and then tear down at the end of the event; to name a few. Harold will serve as a resource for all questions, and will continue to keep us informed. All churches in the NW District are invited. Since COVID, a few years back, Ingathering has become more or less a "drop and run" event. This year, by having many mission displays and refreshments available, they hope to encourage people to come inside and view the various activities.

Motion by Randy to donate \$100 from the Mission portion of the endowment to Ingathering, 2nd by Gene; motion passed.

In order to help visitors locate our church, Harold asked that the sign at the entrance to our south drive be replaced in time for Ingathering

TREASURER'S REPORT

Weekly giving for August was \$2500 below budget. Weekly giving for the year is \$10,000 below budget. Our expenses year-to-date are nearly \$8000 over budget due primarily to charges for our portion of a new roof for the Correctionville parsonage, boiler work here in our church, and removal of a tree out front that came down in a storm.

Jeff removed \$7000 principal and \$865.12 interest from the Youth Account CD and transferred that to the Youth Account to cover future camp scholarships, college scholarships, and other youth activities yet to come. This leaves \$43,000 in that CD at a rate of 3.5% for 6 months.

Our \$139,000 CD from the sale of the parsonage comes due October 9, 2026. Motion by Jeff to renew the one-year CD at 4%. 2nd by Deb; motion passed.

Jody raised the question of using some of the building portion of the endowment to help defray some of the budget overrun associated with the Correctionville parsonage roof and our boiler.

Motion by Jeff to move \$5,000 from the building portion of our Endowment to cover most of the Correctionville parsonage roof. 2nd by Jody; motion passed.

Diane would like to have ad council limit the amount of money that will be paid out for camp scholarships since the individual scholarships have increased quite a bit in cost and the youth fund is being depleted at a fast rate. The Finance Committee will look at this at its next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Continued –

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor will be attending a retreat with the bishop this weekend. He will continue his Confirmation lessons on Wednesday evenings. We have four youth involved in this.

We will be welcoming Jan Boock as a new member to our church on Sunday, September 20th. Sunday will also mark the kickoff for 2026 Sunday School.

Annual Conference will be held in Cedar Rapids in 2027.

Pastor would appreciate donations for his upcoming mission trip to Africa.

OLD BUSINESS

CHURCH SIGNAGE UPDATE - Avery Brothers Sign Company has quoted us \$4632 for a new sign for the front of our church where the windows were removed. Aluminum letters would be 15 inches high and black in color and be mounted onto the blank wall space just to the right of our front entrance. Jeff made a motion to accept this bid, 2nd by Gene; motion passed. A church member has come forward and offered to cover the cost of this sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE/MISSIONS: Three scholarship applications have been completed and checks have been sent out to the colleges. One more application has been received but we are in need of further information on that. Gene is following up on that.

TRUSTEES - An insurance meeting has been set up with a representative to talk about the church insurance and the daycare insurance and how they mesh. We will make sure all property is covered.

We are still dealing with some items from the shed that must be removed. A new shed will be built in the same general area. It should be twice as large as the current shed and will be shared by the church and the daycare.

Gravel will be placed on the east end of the north wall of the church where the dumpster will be moved. There will also be screening placed for aesthetic effect. All costs associated with the new shed and dumpster are being covered by MCDAI as part of the daycare project.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Krejci



OCTOBER 2026 LECTIONARY

October 4, 2026: Nineteenth Sunday after
Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19
or Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15;

Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11, 2026: Twentieth Sunday after

Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
or Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23;

Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14 [1, 2, 3]

October 18, 2026: Twenty-First Sunday after

Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99

or Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13);

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026: Twenty-Second Sunday after

Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1;

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-40

September 14, 2026
Hosted by Sandy Baker
Luncheon 12:30



“There are different kind of gifts but the
same spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)

MUMC

Girl's Night Out

October 15, 2026

5:30 @ Dooskys

Come Join us for Companionship,
fellowship and laughs

Everyone is Welcome to Join Us!

United Women in Faith **2026 Bible Verses**

Hebrews 11:6: [1]

"He that cometh to God must
believe that he is, and that he is
a rewarder of them that
diligently seek him."



If you have any pictures you
would like to share of this
and any other event please
feel free to send them to the
Church Email!

Pastor
Reverend
Dr. Eric Z. Sayonkon

Office Administrator
Cassie Colyer

Music Director
Elizabeth Ross

Accompanists
Rochelle Wilson
Peggy Hammer

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:
Kristy Baier

SPRC Chair:
Deb Sitzmann
Vice-Chair:
Terri Koehn

Trustees Chair:
Jody Weaver
Vice-Chair:
Randy Petersen

UWIF
Janice Schlotman

MINISTRY CORNER

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY BASKET

We are collecting Hats, Scarves, Mittens 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! October food distribution will be on the 17th at The KP Middle School in Pierson at 10AM.

PERMANENT 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 second quarter of 2026 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$38,800; Building \$7300; Missions \$550; Special Ministries \$320; Education \$4300. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund."

OUR MISSION:
PREACH THE GOSPEL OF
CHRIST
TEACH LOVE AND
FORGIVENESS
REACH OUT IN SERVICE



Heifer Highlights

Heifer helps farmers build profitable agribusinesses by first organizing them into self-help groups or cooperatives where they can identify challenges and plan solutions together. The organization then provides market connections, skills training in production and business management, and essential extension services like animal health support. By working collectively and leveraging these resources, farmers are able to increase the value of their products, boost incomes, and strengthen their communities.



MIDWEST MISSION

Midwest Mission responded to communities in Indiana and Illinois that were hit hard by flooding in August which created an urgent need for hygiene supplies. Among other needed supplies, 96 hygiene kits (we call them Personal Dignity Kits) were delivered. These are the type of kits we prepare for the Ingathering each November. Thank you for helping MM be ready to respond.