SEPTEMBER 2026

Practicing Hope
Spotlight

More of What's Happening!

WELCOME TO "MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING"!

by Pastor Kelly

Welcome to "More of What's Happening"! Contents here will reiterate upcoming ministry events, expand information from board meetings in the areas of finance, building/grounds and mission. You will hear staff voices and be introduced to an area of ministry, community member or a ministry partner in each issue.

My role is to reflect the bigger picture ministry we're joined with as connectional United Methodists both in terms of opportunity and obligation.

The 2026 WI Annual Conference theme, as set by our Bishop, Dan Schwerin, is "Practicing Hope". I encourage the board conversations and ministry planning to view their ideas and work through this lens. I invite you to join me as I pray the 'Breakthrough Prayer' as an action of "Practicing Hope".

Your board (ALB) committed to a quadrennial onboarding of our full apportionment payment (our financial support for the UM connectional ministries beyond our walls.) Watch the finance updates for 'how we're doing' on this commitment and how you can help.

We are blessed with the legacy of building and sustaining this ministry planted here in 1968 on this 4 acre parcel. We discern how God is leading us to plant and tend this ministry for the harvest work of the Holy Spirit for the growth of God's kin-dom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Let us pray: *"May God continue to keep us open and flexible for the work God intends in this place now and in the days to come. Amen."*

BUILDING PARTNER HIGHLIGHT "NEW BERLIN PRESCHOOL"

Our longest, onsite, ministry partner is owned and operated by Francie and Kristin. For the 2026-2027 school year they anticipate morning and afternoon classes for 3 and 4 year-old children Monday through Thursday and morning classes on Friday. The preschool welcomes ALL children and their families with inclusive hearts and reflects our UM values for the care for the education of children. New Berlin Preschool supports church outreach and mission events including the Thanksgiving "Food Pantry Pack" Mission and the Trunk or Treat and Holiday Gift Shoppe outreach events. NB Preschool families have been spotted walking the ALL Together Story Path, they've been read to by church members and children have been entertained by the LFCC (another building partner) guest guitar player. New Berlin Preschool families are supported by pastor and staff and is a valued building and ministry partner that this year, for the first time, is bringing a few family into the church! (see *Baptism feature)

SACRED TIME

August brought the long-awaited celebration of Holy Baptism for Logan Patrick Zalesky. His parents, Jess, Pat, and sister Parker have joined us all summer after signing Parker up with New Berlin Preschool! Logan gave ALL the children a front row seat on Sunday August 16th for his Baptism! It was a special time when we ALL remember that God welcomes EVERY CHILD, EVERY PERSON into God's heart! And, Our Lord's is "Practicing Hope" by offering a hearty and heartfelt welcome to ALL who cross the threshold for whatever purpose.

Welcome, Logan Patrick (and the Zalesky family) to Our Lord's UMC!

Accountable Leadership Board View "YOUR seat at the table"

Thanking God for the generous givers that have enabled the flat roof project to begin!

NOTE: ALL monthly meeting minutes and supporting docs are openly shared in the rack across from Pastor Kelly's office in a marked binder. ALL monthly meetings welcome everyone!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CAROL POPE, ALB MEMBER, WORSHIP LEADER

Carol was born and raised in Milwaukee, and graduated from John Marshall High School in 1969. She received her BA in Mass Communication in 1973, and her MBA in 1976, both from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Carol grew up at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and returned as a member there in 1990. Before that, she was a member of The Church of the Good Hope in Milwaukee and Community UMC in Elm Grove. Carol's career has included working in marketing, advertising, and public relations (for Schlitz Brewing and the Stroh Brewery) in Detroit, where she got to manage PR for all brands, along with the Schlitz Rocks America Tours - Fleetwood Mac, The Who, and ZZ Top! She moved into teaching as a professor of Business at Alverno College and Mt. Mary College. She retired from Alverno in 2016 and moved to Florida.

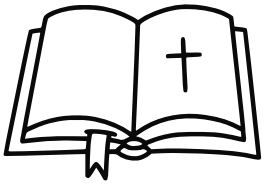
Carol returned to teaching in 2023 as a middle school Business teacher. She moved back to Milwaukee in January of 2025, and currently teaches Spanish at Divine Mercy School.

Carol is a nature photographer and sells her work. She continues to design online curriculum for many colleges and universities.

MISSION MINISTRY FEATURE: SUMMER GIVING GARDEN

The Giving Garden at Our Lord's UMC provided 96 pounds of fresh produce on August 26th. This brings the running total to 532 pounds of healthy vegetables harvested and delivered to Rooted and Rising. Thanks be to God!

WEEKLY IN THE WORD



Pastor Kelly preaches from the Revised Common Lectionary as a matter of consistency and practice and invites you to a weekly lectionary study. This prepares ALL who attend for the Sunday message sand steeps attendees in a regular, spiritual practice in the community. ALL are welcome for these weekly, one hour sessions, in person or via Zoom, on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. CT beginning Tuesday, October 6th, 2026.

FINANCE SNAPSHOT

	1st quarter Budget	Actual	2nd quarter Budget	Actual
Income				
01 - Donations	70,260.74	85,415.68	43,288.74	101,611.42
02 - Other Income	10,875.00	11,076.84	10,875.00	11,728.47
Income:	**81,135.74**	**96,492.52**	**54,163.74**	**113,339.89**
Expense				
	Budget	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Actual**
01 - Christian Svc & Mission	3,560.25	3,425.02	3,560.25	8,502.23
02 - Pastoral Ministry	25,743.32	24,929.00	25,263.32	24,680.54
03 - Church Staff	15,262.70	13,602.03	15,037.70	13,797.72
04 - Church Administration	1,424.00	1,140.31	1,403.00	1,194.97
05 - Worship Ministries	1,265.00	550.00	575.00	15.50
06 - Education Ministries	225.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
07 - Finance & Stewardship M	770.00	807.05	765.00	587.06
08 - Nurture & Fellowship Min	120.00	19.35	120.00	50.00
09 - Outreach Ministries	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10 - Trustees - Church Prprty	25,786.51	29,876.72	17,945.01	15,469.45
11 - Communications	609.99	357.00	484.99	125.70
13 - Debt Retirement	5,268.06	5,268.06	5,268.06	5,268.06
Expense:	**80,134.83**	**79,974.54**	**70,522.33**	**69,691.23**
Income:	81,135.74	96,492.52	54,163.74	113,339.89
- Expense:	80,134.83	79,974.54	70,522.33	69,691.23
Net Income:	**1,000.91**	**16,517.98**	**-16,358.59**	**43,648.66**

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

9/2 - "Float Into Fall" Story Path event (4-7 p.m.)
9/6 - SHARED MINISTRY @ OL (9:45 a.m.)
9/7 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
9/13 - Panera Fundraiser (4-8 p.m.)
9/19 - Fall Picnic at Caldwell UMC
9/27 - Rescue Mission Forum (time TBD)
10/6 - Bunch for Lunch (noon)

Be sure to check the church website for upcoming events and important dates to remember. Go to www.ourlordsumc.org or scan the QR code.

But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

-Romans 5:3-5, CEB

Let us pray:
God of Emmaus and God of the storm, pour your love into our days that we may be hope-bearers for you. Amen.