# MUMC HERALD

OCTOBER 2026

MILTON
United Methodist Church



## *Harvest Time!*

It's Harvest Time! Wow... where has this year gone. October is already here, and harvest is already in full swing. Even the crisp coolness in the evenings moves us closer to bumping up the thermostats for heat in our homes. Fall has become one of my favorite times of year. The colors of the leaves, pumpkins and the apple orchards are all in full swing at this time of year. I have already eaten a couple of dozen apple cider donuts from area orchards around Milton.

My favorite spot in this vast United States for fall beauty is Estes Park, Colorado where Karen and I have vacationed many times over the years. I fell in love with the landscape and mountains when I was a kid on many of our vacations there with my parents and siblings.

Estes Park sits at about 7500 feet above sea level. Milton is only 900 ft above sea level, so its change of seasons comes much sooner than ours. The town has already received its first significant snowfall of the year. Hopefully, it will be a while until ours! The aspens are already beginning to turn bright yellow. It's interesting that Rocky Mountain National Park has more quaking aspens now. Forest fires and pine beetles have taken out many of the pines that are used to blanket the sides of the mountains. To prevent erosion from the now gone Ponderosa's, they have been replanted with aspens as they grow much faster than the slow growing pines.

Here in the Midwest, it is Harvest time! I can tell, by the haziness in the air of the combines picking the beans and the towering corn fields are becoming flat. And we drive a bit slower and more cautiously as we see deer darting across our roads.

The bible talks of harvest quite a bit. Farming was quite important and often important religious festivals marked the planting and harvest seasons of the crops grown. In the Old Testament, seven such feast festivals are identified. One being the Festival of Trumpets.

24 Say to the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month, you will have a special rest, a holy occasion marked by a trumpet signal. Leviticus 23:24

The Feast of Trumpets was important for several reasons. First, it commemorated the end of the agricultural and festival year. Also, the Day of Atonement fell on the tenth day of this month, and the Festival of Booths began on the fifteenth day.

The blowing of the trumpets on first day of the month heralded a solemn time of preparation for the Day of Atonement which fell on the 10th day of the month. The preparation time was called "Ten Days of Repentance" or the “Days of Awe."

The trumpet sound was an alarm of sorts and can be understood as a call to introspection and repentance. The Trumpet also heralds the coming of Jesus.

Luke 10:2 2 Jesus says,

"The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest".

He says this to the seventy-two that were sent out as God's Kingdom was laid upon them. Harvest is also our calling to proclaim to others of the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ as we go about our community each day. As we keep alert to farm equipment this time of year, let us al- so keep alert as we sound the trumpet and enjoy God's harvest!

Pastor Jeff

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# A Chance to Participate...

First, it is such a joy, privilege, and blessing to be the pastor of Milton United Methodist Church. I have met many of you, have had some in-depth conversations, and met with community members of Milton beyond our church. Yes, God is at work and up to something in our midst.

Many of you have joined in this work! The Summer lunch program prepared and handed out over 11,000 lunches, Open Table prepares and serves a monthly community meal, servants have stepped up to fill roles in worship. Fellowship meals after church, Men's group, Women bible studies, United Women of Faith gatherings, Blessing bags packed to be shipped off where needed, church shrubs trimmed, pesky weeds pulled, grass mowed only a sampling of what goes on around here.

I've noticed that there is life going on around here! Vital Life of the church! And it shows!

Secondly, I was asked recently by a friend to help with his PhD dissertation in Organizational Leadership at Indiana Wesleyan University, and he asked me if he could use our church along with some others in his research. Rev. Jaye Johnson is the Superintendent of Congregational Excellence and New Communities of Faith for the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. The title of his research is, "When Followership Flourishes" particularly in United Methodist churches in the Midwest. In church research like this, it most commonly involves the pastor and a few key leaders in the church. In this case though, it's you, or anyone that wants to participate in taking a survey based on your own experiences and ministry in the church.

It's a chance to take our "temperature" as a church so to speak. It's common sense to stick a thermometer in your month when you aren't feeling well to see if a cold or the flu is imminent. But usually, we wait until symptoms are present. I asked myself, what if we do that when good health is happening. When good and vital life is happening.

As a benefit of this research, we will get a snapshot of our temperature when "Followership is Flourishing". Normally these results would cost a church almost $500, but we will receive them at no cost if we submit at least 30 surveys.

Any adult 18 years of age or older are invited to share their perspectives. The survey takes about 25-30 minutes and is best completed in one sitting.

You can take the survey here

**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C023-Lay**

or scan this QR code with your phone



If you need assistance or a computer to take…Let me know and I can get you access to one.

The survey will not ask for your name or email address. The results will be for group results rather than identifying individual participants.

Thank you for considering participating. Hearing from a broad range of people will help provide a fuller picture of congregational life and health.

Pastor Jeff Brace

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Karen Dexter*

**August 2026**

General Fund – 7/31
**$9,068.24**

Operating Revenue
$15,028.33

Operating Expenses
($13,070.03)

General Fund – 8/31
**$11,026.54**

**YEAR-TO-DATE**

Operating Revenue
$127,025.62

Operating Expenses
($124,232.43 )

Operating Gain/(Loss)
$2,793.19

**APPORTIONMENTS 2026**

Year-to-Date

*Due:*
$18,096.00
*Paid:*
$11,310.00

**DESIGNATED YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING HIGHLIGHTS**

*Missionary Support*
$942.91

*Open Table*
$3,067.00

*Samaritan's Purse*
$466.40

*Summer Lunch*
$301.00

*Complete financial records always available to members by calling the office at 608-868-2860 or email office@miltonumc.org*

## MEMORIALS

*Nancy Hilton*

*No Report*

## TRUSTEE REPORT

A couple of items have been repaired! Lights now all work in the fellowship hall. They were replaced with LED's which are a bit brighter and will last over 50,000 hours before replacement.
The dimmer switches were replaced with ones that are compatable with the LED lighting in the sanctuary. This will prevent the lights from flickering and ensure consistant brightness.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our church conference is schedule for Monday, November 30th starting at 6pm

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

*Sandy Roach*

Heidi Careaga will be our speaker for our next Milton United Women of Faith meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 1pm
We have known Heidi since she and her husband were assigned to ministry at Mt Zion UMC in Janesville. We are excited to hear what she has to tell us about her many experiences. Now she has begun a new chapter in her life. Starting on September 1 of this year she accepted the position of Executive Assistant to our General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner, and our Treasurer and CFO, Tamara Clark. As Heidi wrote in the article she shared in our recent Catch the Vision Newsletter, "In many ways, this transition feels like a natural continuation of my calling as a Deaconess, to serve, to support, to uplift, and to help build structures that allow others to flourish. It is also a continuation of my commitment to United Women in Faith, a movement that has shaped me since the day I first walked into a local unit meeting."
Chris Anding and Sherrie Cottrell will host refreshments. Sherrie will share from our Daily Prayer Guide.
Please plan to bring a guest to hear Heidi share her amazing journey of faith. Let Betty Greising know who will be coming so we have plenty of places at the table. 608-449-1394

## MITTEN TREE COLLECTION

*Jan Carwardine*

We are making a change to our "mitten tree" collection this year. Many of the organizations that we donate them to have distributions in October and November so that those in need have the items before winter begins. Therefore, this year we will be collecting the items during the month of October. We are asking for donations of children and adult mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. They are then given to local organizations that have a need for them. In the past, we have donated them to Milton Area Youth Center, Boys & Girls Club of Janesville, Project 16:49, GIFTS Men's Shelter, YWCA Women's Shelter, and others.
We will have a collection area set up in the church entryway in October. Any questions, please contact Jan Carwardine (Missions Team), email jancarwardine@sbcglobal.net
Thank you for supporting this ministry.

## JAIL CHAPLAINCY TOY COLLECTION

*Jan Carwardine*

The Missions Team will be collecting toys for the annual Rock County Jail Chaplaincy "Gifts for the Children" program through November 22. The toys collected will be distributed to children whose parents are incarcerated over the holidays, to bring the kids some joy during this season.
Items should be new and unwrapped and appropriate for infants through age 12. Gift cards are requested for teenagers (Target, Walmart, McDonald's, Culver's, Kwik Trip, etc.). Monetary donations are used for gift wrapping or shipping supplies, postage, or purchasing additional gifts and gift cards.
A collection box will be in the church entryway in the month of November. Final collection day will be Sunday, November 22. Gift cards or monetary donations may be dropped off in the church office, or in the offering plate with a marking for "Jail Chaplaincy". Any questions may be directed to Jan Carwardine (jancarwardine@sbcglobal.net), (608) 436-1128.
Thank you for your support of this ministry.

## COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

1st Tuesday of each month at Cafe 26 from 8:30 to 10 am. The next meeting is October 6th. Please contact the office for more information.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to all of our Meals on Wheels volunteers who so graciously give their time to this important ministry. Our next scheduled delivery week is October 26-30th We are currently looking for a few additional volunteers, especially individuals who would be willing to serve as substitutes when regular drivers are unavailable. Deliveries are made in town, and volunteering is typically just one day a month. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact the church office at 608-868-2860 or office@miltonumc.org.

## MEN'S SMALL GROUP

The Men's Small Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 11:30 am for lunch.
Please contact Pastor Jeff @ 815-985-3626 for more information.

## HANDS FOR WORSHIP

Usher, Liturgist, Reader, Media, Praise Teams, and Sunday School Helpers. Please contact the office 608-868-2860 or office@miltonumc.org

## FELLOWSHIP HOST

Please sign up on the sign up sheet located in the church narthex. If you have any questions please call Sherrie Cottrell 608-580-0549.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Want to grow in faith and live out God's call to love your neighbors? Join United Women in Faith! The groups next meeting is October 7th. For more information, contact Sandy Roach at 608-774-4907.

## MILTON FOOD PANTRY

The Milton Food Pantry is requesting donations of:
**canned fruit, jello, pudding, pancake syrup, granola bars, saltines, instant white rice**
Donations can be placed in the collection box located in the church entryway. Thank you for supporting neighbors in need!

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The luncheon gathering is on the third Sunday of each month at noon. The next gathering will be October 18th. Call Loanne Beall at 608-868-3815 or Donna Bane at 608-536-1240 for reservations. All are invited to attend.

## QUILTING MINISTRY

The Quilt Ministry meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is October 6th For more information call Leslyn Helgeson 608-868-3155. All are welcome to join.

## BELL CHOIR

If you are looking for fellowship AND praising God at the same time, check out the Milton Bell Choir! The choir takes a break during the summer months and will resume rehearsals and performances in the fall. Please contact the office if you are interested.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

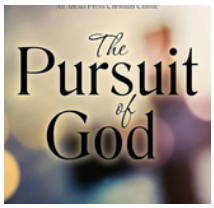
Prayer is an important part of our life together as a church. We invite you to share your prayer requests by placing them in the prayer request box located in the church narthex. It is our privilege to pray with you and for our community.

## OPEN TABLE

The next Open Table is Saturday, October 24th at 4 pm.
The menu is:
Meat Loaf
Mash Potatoes & Gravy
Squash
Apple Crisp
Open Table Team: Jan Burke, Karen Dexter, Penny Moore, Carla Olson, Alice Reynolds, and Judy Wenham

## WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

The Women's Small Group meets on the first and third Sunday of the month at 10 am. For more information contact Pastor Jeff at pastor@miltonumc.org




## PRAYER SHAWL

The Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting each Wednesdays 9am-1:30pm.
For more information contact Julie Hull 608-921-9045.

# October

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| World Communion Sunday<br>Women's Small Group 10 am | | Coffee with Pastor 8:30 am<br><br>Quilting Ministry 9 am | Book Study 10:30 am<br>Men's Small Group 11:30 am<br>UWF mtg 1pm<br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm<br>Book Study 6:30 pm | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | | Book Study 10:30 am<br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm<br><br>Book Study 6:30 pm | Christian Movie 12:30pm Conference Room | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Laity Sunday<br>Noisy Can Sunday to benefit Mujila Falls<br>Women's Small Group 10 am<br>Fellowship Luncheon 12 pm | Milton Reading Group 1pm | | Book Study 10:30 am<br>Men's Small Group 11:30 am<br><br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm<br>Book Study 6:30 pm | | | Open Table 4 pm |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | Meals on Wheels | Meals on Wheels | Book Study 10:30 am<br>Meals on Wheels<br><br>Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm<br>Book Study 6:30 pm | Meals on Wheels | Meals on Wheels | |
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