MUMC HERALD

NOVEMBER 2026

MILTON
United Methodist Church



Why Are We So Anxious!

I love the fall colors this time of year, except my back is hurting from raking all that spent beauty. I want to thank Karen Dexter and Julie Hull for bringing some of that beauty in our sanctuary. All the browns, oranges, and yellows give us an early Thanksgiving of the God's beauty. I'm relieved that it is of the artificial kind, so no raking is necessary.

Another thing happens every two years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, and that is the culmination of election campaigns and the day where may we use each of our voices as we head to the polls to vote. I encourage each of you to do that!

Now, before you assume that this is me preaching politics, let me assure you that I am more concerned about your ability to vote than who you voted for. So, vote! It is our civic duty.

But why do we feel so anxious?

A group of us has been meeting on Wednesdays talking about a book put together by The United Methodist Council of Bishops, Building Beloved Community. It was a book that was given out at both Northern Illinois and Wisconsin's Annual Conferences this past June. In chapter 6 of the book, it talks about our Faith in Public Life, and it asks the question, "Should Christians be engaged in politics"?

Well, that can be viewed with a variety of difference of opinion, but the word politics comes from the Greek, politika, and it means "affairs of the city".

Jesus, in the Gospels: Mark 12:17, Matthew 22:21, and Luke 20:25, when confronted whether to pay taxes to the Roman government or not, says, "Pay Caesar what is due to Caesar".

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Jesus viewed local governmental authorities as legitimate, but goes on and says that his ultimate authority is that of God. John 18:36, Jesus says." My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight". Do you think there were political ads in Jesus' time? Or maybe, it was a reflection on humankind.
In the book, it says this, that "Our political engagement is not about supporting particular parties or candidates but about insisting that all political activity be measured against the values of God's kingdom: justice, mercy, peace, and love".
Maybe that is where we get hung up. One's view of justice differs from another's view, etc. Or maybe it's to what degree or rank order of each.
I believe God treats each equally, because that is the kingdom. When justice, mercy, peace, and love are realized to their fullest.
As Christians, we live in a "affairs of the city" reality whether we like it or not, and we have a responsibility to love God and to love neighbor. Jesus said that is the most important commandment and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ that is what we are supposed to do. It's not a one or the other commandment deal. It is a both/and commandment because, you really can't do one without the other.

I encourage us to be in prayer, meditation, and conversation about this. Respectful conversation, where we listen as much if not more than we speak. Maybe that's where the Beloved Community starts is with those conversations. My door is open!
So, why do we feel so anxious, tired, and "I just want to be done with it" feeling? I don't think there is any easy answer to that. It may be different for each of us.
Pray for it. I'll be praying overtime about it!
I have included a prayer for you to pray in the days before and even after election day. My prayer for you is to be less anxious, less fearful and less "I just want to be done with it". Because our call as Christians is to seek God's justice, mercy, peace, and love.

Heavenly God,
As we prepare for the upcoming elections, place my trust in You and seek Your guidance. I pray for wisdom, peace, and unity to cover our nation and its leaders.
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"
Philippians 4:6 NIV
Grant voters' clarity and discernment, and may Your will be done through these elections. Protect our country and let Your peace guard our hearts and minds.
In Jesus name we pray, Amen
Pastor Jeff

Collective Service Suspended For Now

The Collective Service which was occuring at 10:30 am, is in process of regrouping to possibly relaunch sometime in 2027.
Pastor Jeff plans to use this time to to extend fellowship, offer bible studies, and other faith strengthening opportunities.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Karen Dexter

September 2026

General Fund – 8/31
$11,026.54

Operating Revenue
$8,499.12

Operating Expenses
($10,671.19)

General Fund – 9/30
$8,854.47

YEAR-TO-DATE

Operating Revenue
$135,524.74

Operating Expenses
($134,903.62)

Operating Gain/(Loss)
$621.12

APPORTIONMENTS 2026

Year-to-Date

Due:
$20,358.00
Paid:
$11,310.00

DESIGNATED YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Missionary Support
$1,028.36

Open Table
$3,187.50

Samaritan's Purse
$486.95

Summer Lunch
$301.00

Complete financial records always available to members by calling the office at 608-868-2860 or email miltonunitedmethodist@gmail.com

MEMORIALS

Nancy Hilton

No Report

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Will be working on nominations for 2027. Several will be fulfilling their faithful terms of service. If interested in serving on Trustees, Staff/Parish, or Finance teams, talk with Pastor Jeff

SPRC REPORT

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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Sandy Roach

Thank you to all who participated in Laity and UWF Sunday. UWF honored Dennis Peabody with a recognition pin during the service. Unfortunately Dennis was out of town and wasn't in church for our surprise recognition. We will be giving him his pin and our many thanks when he returns.



Our November meeting is November 4th at 1pm. Sue Johnson will present the WORLD THANK OFFERING and Jan Carwardine will report on Mujila Falls, Sue Koepke will present the Response Magazine and Julie Hull and Bess Ann Wenham are the hostesses.

(Continued in next column)

Looking ahead to December's meeting when we have our Baby Shower for Jesus. We will be supporting Mercy Hospital's Labor and Delivery department with 2 boys and 2 girls gift bags filled with diapers, wipes, blankets, and new or gently used clothing. In addition to Mercy Hospital we are going to support The Janesville Pregnancy Helpline. At the time of this writing we are unsure of their needs beyond diapers of all sizes and wipes. More information will be passed on when we become aware of their needs. Thank you for supporting this mission project.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

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

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Due to scheduling conflicts on Tuesday, the monthly Coffee with The Pastor is now the first Monday of the month.
8:30am -10am @ Cafe 26

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 Monday of each month at Cafe 26 from 8:30 to 10 am. The next meeting is Monday, November 2nd. Please contact Pastor Jeff 815-985-3626 or pastor@miltonumc.org for details.

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 December 7-11th 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 November 4th. For more information, contact Sandy Roach at 608-774-4907.

MILTON FOOD PANTRY

The Milton Food Pantry is requesting donations of:
Canned fruit, Canned chili, Ramen , Saltines, Cake mixes, Laundry detergent pods, Dish soap

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 November 15th. 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 November 10th, becauseof the election. 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.

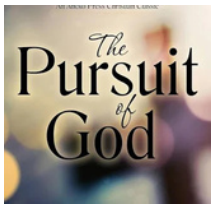
OPEN TABLE



The next Open Table is Saturday, November 28th at 4 pm.
The menu is:
Vegetable Beef Soup
Ham Sandwiches
Salad
Dessert
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 1pm.
For more information contact Julie Hull 608-921-9045.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Women's Small Group 10 am	Coffee with Pastor 8:30 am @Cafe 26	Quilting Ministry 9 am	Book Study 10:30 am Men's Small Group 11:30 am UWF mtg 1pm Book Study 6:30 pm Nancy Hilton	Judy Wenham		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Noisy Can Sunday to benefit Mujila Falls Women's Small Group 10 am Fellowship Luncheon 12 pm	Milton UWF Reading Group 1pm newsletter articles due	Brian Towns	Book Study 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm Book Study 6:30 pm	Christian Movie 12:30pm Conference Room	Loanne Beal Beth Gunderson Betty Roberts	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Milton Reading Group 1pm Krueger's	Joan Schultz	Men's Small Group 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30pm		Alice Reynolds	Open Table 4 pm
29	30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5

Bread Order Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Bread will be available for pickup on Saturday, November 21st, at Milton UMC between 9:00 am & 10:00 am. If you cannot pick up your bread on this day, please notify Karen Dexter at 608-921-5552 or make a note on this form. All Proceeds will support UWF Missions!

Loaves	# of Loaves (without nuts)		Total Amount
Banana Bread	_____	@ $8.00 ea.	$_____
Zucchini Bread	_____	@ $8.00 ea.	$_____
Pumpkin Bread	_____	@ $8.00 ea.	$_____
Oatmeal Bread (Oatmeal Bread availability is limited to 30 loaves)	_____	@ $9.00 ea.	$_____

All orders must be in by Sunday, November15th **Total Order:** $_____

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check made payable to: Milton United Methodist Women. Please give check to Karen Dexter or Sue Johnson or mail to Karen at 6 E Evergreen Ln, Milton, WI 53563
Thank you for your order!



MILTON
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How to Support Milton United Methodist Church
We invite your regular offerings to support the ministries of:
Milton United Methodist Church
and the wider church throughout the state, nation and world.

1) You may place an offering in the plate as it is passed during Sunday worship
2) You may mail a contribution to the church (P.O. Box 158, Milton, WI 53563-0158)
3) You may enter link below

https://secure.myvanco.com/YJF3/home

or scan QR code with your mobile device

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