Wesley United Methodist Church

Worship Sundays 9 AM
211 S. Maple Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449 | 715-384-2292
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Rev. Douglas Clement | wumcpastor@wesleyhopeconnection.org | 262-902-5914

October 11, 2026

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Larry Shortess*

Loving God, you are an enigma. For despite the fact that you are beyond our comprehension, you're also nearer to us than any other, offering us what we need to face these moments in our lives. Although we may not always understand, we trust that the gifts we return are a sharing in the good that you are doing. May they help us to grow in our connection with all your children. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *Lord, We Come to Ask Your Blessing (*V. 1 & 4*)* TFWS # 2230

JOYS & CONCERNS

Leader: God of Grace… **People: …hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN *O Church of God, Unified* UMH # 547

+BENEDICTION Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE *All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord Blessings* *Sharwin Gosse*

Our Mission Statement

Reaching Up to Worship God | Reaching Out to Serve Others | Reaching In to Grow Together

20th Sunday after Pentecost

+Indicates that all are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Congregation is invited to respond as indicated by **Bold Print**

PRELUDE *Meditation | Ode to Life | Lengthening Shadows | Lay Your Burdens Down*

GREETING & WELCOME *Pastor Doug*

BREAKTHROUGH SIGHTINGS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (UNISON) *Pastor Doug*
God, we do not know what to do, but You do. Open our hearts, eyes, and minds to You. Amen.

CENTERING TIME *Call to Worship* *Sharwin Gosse*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Larry Shortess*

Larry: Within our congregations; through the streets of our wider communities,
All: God's Spirit is moving, poured out on all people as a sign of God's grace.
Larry: By clear, specific invitations; by silent stirrings, deep inside our hearts,
All: God calls us to something more-to share together in common heritage.
Larry: With God's help, we continue to grow together as believers and neighbors,
All: gaining understanding and finding God's presence in the places we live.

+OPENING HYMN *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* UMH # 152

+OPENING PRAYER (UNISON): *Larry Shortess*

God of the Unknown, everything we see (in heaven and earth), you created from the great mystery that came before. The mountains, seas, skies (and all that is in them) bear witness to your being. Even we, ourselves, have been formed according to your likeness. You fill us with your wonder, you imbue us with your love, and you call us to grow together, in right relationship with one another. Yet, we turn away from these vital connections. We separate ourselves from those around us; we refuse to meet each other where we are at; we fail to obey the greatest of your commandments. Forgive us, O God! Remind us that, first and foremost, we all belong to you. Help us to see that, no matter where we are or what we have done, we are made part of your family (by your grace). Teach us to recognize your presence in the people that we encounter, and move us to reach for the neighbors who are right here, trusting that doing so is, itself, an embodiment of your kin-dom. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

+SILENT PRAYER

+SHARING THE PEACE
We shake hands and say, "The peace of Christ be with you." If you are not comfortable shaking hands (or have difficulty moving about), you are invited to bump elbows, wave, or offer some sign of peace.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Pastor Doug*

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 17:22-31 *Larry Shortess*

22 Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. 23 As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. 25 Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. 26 From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. 28 In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. 30 God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. 31 This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

SERMON **"The Call to Neighboring"** *Pastor Doug*
Searching for God in the places we live

HYMN *Who is My Mother, Who is My Brother* TFWS # 2225

COMMUNITY PRAYER *Larry Shortess*

OFFERTORY *All Who Love and Serve Your City*
+DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH # 95

This week's **YouTube** link for Sunday—

https://www.youtube.com/live/w4V7wtn-Nf8

LET'S PRAY THIS WEEK FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS!

If you have a joy or concern let us know! wumcoffice@wesleyhopeconnection.org

JOYS: those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week (see announcement page). Share with us your joys so we may celebrate together and glorify our Lord for your blessings!

- For a **friend of Pastor Doug's**, who was accepted into their doctoral study program.
- For a **colleague** and **their wife**, who welcomed a daughter into the world on Sept. 28.
- For the **16th Parkinson's Conference**, hosted by the Respite Care Center.
- For **Tammy** (*sister of Karalee L.*), who seems to be doing well with her recovery.

CONCERNS:

- For **Megan** (*niece of Karalee L.*), who is beginning the next phase of her treatment.
- For **Dean G.** (*regular attender at Marshfield*), hospitalized last Friday (Oct. 2).
- For **Shar** (*friend of Mary E.*) whose hand is hurting.
- For the **son of a colleague**, who lost a friend to suicide recently.
- For the family of **Kay** (*neighbor of Penny M.*), who passed away Thursday, (Oct.1).
- For the family of **Kathy M.** (*member of Port Edwards UMC*), whose funeral was Oct. 3.

HOMEBOUND: Dorothy D. Shirley S. Ardis A. Marge K.

OTHERS:

- For **Jane Doe** and countless other women, children, and minorities who suffer abuse.
- For **Christa Pike**, who was hospitalized following a botched attempt to execute her on Sept. 30.
- For the family of **Bradley R.** (*WI state trooper*) who died while on duty Monday (Sept. 21).
- For the residents of the **Wolf River** and **Neenah-Menasha communities** facing a long, difficult road to recovery from disaster this year.
- For the people of **Palestine**, as photos and testimony continue to reveal the scope of the destruction that has been inflicted upon them.

THIS WEEK, WE SAW GOD "BREAKING THROUGH"…

- …in gathering around with the table with siblings from **Port Edwards UMC**.
- …in close, meaningful time spent with friends and colleagues this past week. (*Pastor Doug*)
- …in the beautiful sunshine, colorful leaves, and puffy cotton clouds. (*Sharwin G.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER'S NOISY CAN

Community Thanksgiving Meal

For almost 20 years, the Marshfield Community Thanksgiving Dinner has provided a home-cooked traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day. The meal is FREE to all who are looking for a hot meal. American Legion Hall Post 54, 2100 S. Maple Ave. has hosted the dinner in -person as well as a carry out option. It takes a lot of volunteers and donations to make this event happen. Around 700 people are usually served at this meal. As the meal fills so many stomachs each year, let's fill the Noisy Can!

Wesley's next week to serve at the Food Pantry is October 26th-30th (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). Please see Jackie if you are available to volunteer.

New volunteers are always welcomed!

Growing in

The Art of Neighboring

Starting **Sunday, October 11**, we will be embarking on a six-week journey through scripture, tradition, and our lived experiences, with the help of the book ***The Art of Neighboring*** by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. We will grow more deeply in faith, together, and we will learn how to build relationships with others.

What we hear in worship will inform discussion and prayer in small group sessions during the week (**Mondays at 11:00 am** and **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**). Together, we will discern actionable steps to be taken within our own neighborhood and community, as we seek to more fully embody God's love for those who are right next door.

The church has purchased a copy of the book free-of-charge for every household. If you have not received your copy yet, please contact the church office so that we can get one to you.