

January  
2026

# River Glen Shared Ministry

## “United in Christ”

Pastor Vicky Strupp  
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Dear Friends,

As we stand at the beginning of 2026, we have much to be thankful for.

It is a joy to pastor these five churches-- in great measure because we realize we are better off together. We are sharing our resources, creativity, and wisdom. Our recent Las Posadas was a delight, with participation from all the churches. We're throwing around more ideas, including youth events.

I'm grateful for the lay speakers and musicians who work as a team to make meaningful worship happen in all the churches, and for all the finance people and board members who pay attention to details and get things done behind the scenes. We are all in this together!

Bishop Schwerin's theme for 2026 is Hope. In the Bible, hope is not just wishful thinking, but a confidence in God-- an assurance and trust in God's promises. Let us enter 2026 with the confidence that God is up to something here in the River Glen Shared Ministries, and let us join him in that work!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Vicky

A large, ornate, gold-colored word "Hope" is written in a flowing, cursive script font. The letters are thick and have a black outline, giving them a metallic and elegant appearance. The word is centered on the page and is the focal point of the bottom half of the document.

## Keep Praying! January 2026

Dear Friends,

I encourage you to continue to pray daily for all our churches. Find a specific time that works for you!

God is always up to something new! We need discernment to see where God is leading us, and we also need grace as we seek to follow his lead.

Look for the cardstock copies of the prayer at the churches so you can place one somewhere that it can be seen and remembered.

**Remember to listen** as you pray. Please let me know where you think God is leading us and how these prayers are helping you.

~Pastor Vicky

**“I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word, I hope.”**

Psalm 130:5

Loving God, we thank you for the hope that you give. Open our eyes to the new things you're doing among us, and help us to join you in your work. Give us wisdom to see and act on your new possibilities.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

Dear Friends,

It is a tradition in Methodist circles to begin a new year with John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. You can find it on p. 607 in our hymnal. Here is a version with updated language. I invite you to take this to heart and use it in your own prayer time.

*I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,  
Praised for you or criticized for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.  
And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Liberator, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.*

Keep praying!

Pastor Vicky

***Today I will pause to notice God's blessings around me.***

***12-16-25 Upper Room***

# PRAYER

elist...

Sister Alegria  
 Julie Babbit  
 Ray Wreford  
 Harry Christian  
 Darrell Nykanen  
 Marlys Tews  
 Pastor Sue Oeffler  
 Roxanne White  
 Pastor Shannon Mattison  
 Family & Friends of Art Jancoski  
 Family & Friends of Rick Bonte  
 Victims of natural disasters  
 Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes  
 A reminder: Please remember our  
 shut-ins with calls and cards.

## NewsLetter DEADLine

Gleaner news is due by  
 noon on Tuesday, January 20th.  
 Please contact Tammy Nelson  
 at 715-505-2657 or  
[rtsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rtsmnelson@hotmail.com) or  
[riverglensharedministry@gmail.com](mailto:riverglensharedministry@gmail.com)  
 with your news. Thanks.

## JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

### January birthdays:

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1  | James Harvey               |
| 7  | Charlie Hall               |
| 9  | Jessica & Melissa Blodgett |
| 9  | Haiden Salsbury            |
| 13 | Matthew Blodgett           |
| 24 | Sherry Smith               |
| 26 | Jim Salsbury               |
| 26 | Zachariah DeWitt           |
| 27 | Michael Hintz              |
| 29 | Shawn DeWitt               |
| 31 | Chris Burke                |

Happy Birthday and God bless you!

### January anniversary:

- 22 Roger & Anita Smith

Congratulations and God bless you!



### Thank You to our December Worship Leaders:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Howard Hintzman | Earl Blodgett |
| Carol Cherney   |               |

We couldn't do this without you!

***No matter how big my problems are, God is bigger.***  
**12-12-25 Upper Room**

## Women's Evening Fellowship Group

The Monday night Bible Study will meet on January 5th at Irma's House. We will be continuing our "Contagious Joy" study doing Chapter Three "A Reason for Rejoicing". Contact Judy Bender if you are interested in joining us! ([jbender298@gmail.com](mailto:jbender298@gmail.com)), or call 715-265-7362.

## Men's Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will meet at the Glenwood City Methodist Church. If you are interested, contact Julian Bender at 715 265 7362 or [jbender167@gmail.com](mailto:jbender167@gmail.com).



Thanks to your generosity we were able to donate:

- 791 empty pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministry

## Weekly Audio or Video Sermons Available

Sermon by Phone is an audio version of the weekly service - call 715-309-5114. This is a Menomonie number. The service is update each Sunday afternoon and is usually available by 4 pm. A video of each week's service is available on the United Methodist Church of Boyceville Facebook page, the Glen Hills Parish Facebook page, and at : [boycevilleumc.org](http://boycevilleumc.org).

## Grief Share

"A Journey from Mourning to Joy"  
Time to process your grief in a group with faith setting.

**Saturdays, January 3-March 28**

1:00-3:00 p.m. Fireside Room

Freewill donation

Please register through the GriefShare website at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) by Jan. 2 or contact Sarah Zarbock at 715-308-1698 or [zarbocks@gmail.com](mailto:zarbocks@gmail.com).

Open to Everyone

Menomonie United Methodist Church  
2703 Bongey Drive  
Menomonie, WI

***Our encouragement can change a person's life.***

***12-4-25 Upper Room***

## India Mission Presentation

Sunday, January 25, 2026

1:00-3:00 p.m.

At the Menomonie United  
Methodist Church

2703 Bongey Dr., Menomonie



**Peace**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Wheeler**  
**Worship Service at 11:15 a.m.**

O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to   
**follow you**  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
**loving guidance.**



*God always answers prayers.*  
**11-20-25 Upper Room**

# United Methodist Church of Boyceville

Worship Time: 10 a.m.

## Scripture Readers for Boyceville

### Reader

January 4 Earl Blodgett

January 11 Jim Strupp

January 18 Marguerite Blodgett

January 25 Jim Strupp

Coffee time will be after church on Sunday, January 25th. Marguerite Blodgett will serve.

## Boyceville Missions



Thank you to everyone who supported the Angel Tree this year. A special thanks to Sheila Hegeman and Carol Cherney for running the project this year.

Looking to the future we hope to meet in January to plan our projects for the coming year.



*With God, I am never beyond repair.*

**11-13-25 Upper Room**

**Faith**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Prairie Farm**

**Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.**

*thank you*

- To Bill and Margie Wiseman, Gary and Ila Knutson, Leslie Frisle and Allissa, and Janice Salsbury for trimming the tree and decorating the sanctuary on Nov. 23rd. It looks beautiful.
- To Gary and Ila Knutson for a monetary "Charitable Gift" donation to the General Fund.
- To all who served/participated in the Las Posada Nativity event.
- To Roxanne White for sharing the BIG beautiful red poinsettia which she received from Cardinal. It will be there during the season.
- To Lay Readers: Leslie Frisle, Jim Strupp, Robin Burke
- To Coffee Server: Robin Burke

**Faith Administrative Council meets on January 13th at 5:30 p.m.**

**Lay Reader   Coffee/Snack**

Jan. 4	Jim Strupp	Open
Jan. 11	Leslie Frisle	Leslie Frisle
Jan. 18	Robin Burke	Robin Burke
Jan. 25	Open	Open

**United Women In Faith**

United Women In Faith met at the church on December 4th with seven members present. For our Mission Giving we are giving to the following: Paying 3 month's apportionments (\$1224), \$200 to the Prairie Farm Food Pantry, \$50 to Boyceville's Blessing Box, and \$50 to the Graman Foundation. We also gave \$25 gift certificates to the township workers who plow out the churchyard. We then had a potluck lunch, followed by a white elephant gift exchange. A fun way to end 2025! Our next meeting will be on March 12th at 1:00 p.m.



Thanks for the phone calls, prayers, cards, visits, food, and concerns from so-o-o many. It is all much appreciated.

Roxanne White

***God holds me through good times and bad.***

***11-7-25 Upper Room***

# Downing United Methodist Church

Worship time: 11:00 a.m.

Downing Ad Council meets at  
2:30 p.m. on Thursday,  
January 8th.



*Today I will thank God for my blessings.  
11-8-25 Upper Room*

## Glenwood City United Methodist Church

Worship time: 9:15 a.m.



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!!!**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Art Jancoski. Art passed away on November 21, 2025

The Cookie Walk was a great success! A huge thank you to all who baked the delicious goodies we were able to offer. The variety was great and our customers appreciated your efforts! We made over \$700 which will allow the UWF to continue to support missions at in our area. Thank you to everyone for your support.

**The Glenwood City UWF Cookie Team**



*Today I will look for opportunities to give to others.  
11-10-25 Upper Room*

## **More Than a Resolution: Practicing Faithful Stewardship for the Long Haul January 2026**

Every January, many of us start the year with good intentions. We resolve to spend less, save more, pay down debt, or finally feel less anxious about money. Some of those resolutions stick for a while. Many don't. And it's not because we lack discipline or desire.

The truth is that healthy financial stewardship is rarely achieved through willpower alone.

Getting out of debt, learning to save, practicing contentment, growing in generosity, and cultivating gratitude are not quick fixes. They are habits – formed slowly, intentionally, and often imperfectly over time. Like prayer, worship, and service, faithful stewardship is a spiritual practice that shapes us as disciples.

Scripture reminds us that transformation is ongoing work. Paul writes, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds” (Romans 12:2). That kind of renewal does not happen because the calendar flips from December to January. It happens when we acknowledge that our relationship with money, possessions, and generosity is deeply spiritual – and that God’s work in us unfolds over a lifetime.

For some, this might mean seeking help to escape cycles of debt. For others, it may mean learning to live with enough, resisting the pressure to accumulate more. For still others, it might be discovering the joy of generosity - not just financial giving, but generosity of time, skills, hospitality, and compassion.

As individuals and as churches, the invitation at the start of a new year is not simply to make resolutions, but to recommit ourselves to practices that help us grow in trust, gratitude, and faithfulness. Stewardship is not about perfection. It's about progress – taken one faithful step at a time.

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact:  
Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns,  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at 608-837-9582 or [jason@wumf.org](mailto:jason@wumf.org).

RIVER GLEN SHARED MINISTRY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 129  
GLENWOOD CITY WI 54013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Newsletter of Boyceville, Dounaling, Glenwood City,  
Prairie Farm Faith and  
Wheeler Peace United Methodist Churches  
Parsonage: 715-749-6351  
Pastor Vicki Strupp  
Prairie Farm: Faith and  
Wheeler Peace United Methodist Churches  
Glenwood City Worship Service: 9:15 a.m.  
Boyceville Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Dounaling Worship Service 11 a.m.  
Wheeler Peace Worship Service 11:15 a.m.  
Welcome

January 2026

The Gleaner