



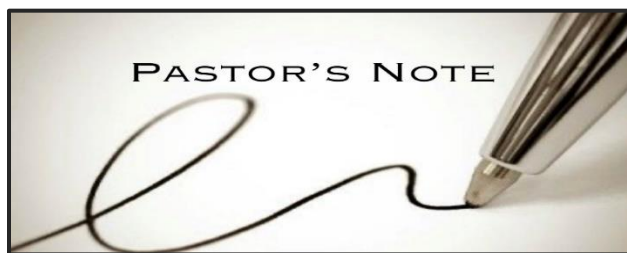
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*"Our Third Century in
Service of The Lord"*

Honorable Reverend
Sandra B. Mantz

October 2026 Vol. 48 No.10

Next Deadline Oct. 27, 2026



Dear UMCSO Family,

I love the fall. I enjoy the crisp sweater weather. Watching the leaves change delights me because of their beauty. As L. M. Montgomery writes, in Anne of Green Gables: "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." I become sentimental in the fall. I find great comfort in my memories. As a college football fan, my mind is never far away from University of Wisconsin – Madison, my alma mater. This time of the year it is such a beautiful place. A friendly, special place and I still have good friends there. I traveled there a few years ago and it is *still* wonderful! And like here in the Northeast, the fall is also gorgeous. I loved to sit at the table at our Memorial Union and look at Lake Mendota. If I looked to the left I would see Picnic Point. Picnic Point, a nearly mile-long peninsula along Lake Mendota's south shore, is among Madison's most distinctive features

and is part of a nature preserve. Walking on that path to the point was such an enjoyable experience; beautiful and so peaceful.

I was an English Literature major. One fall semester, I took a course centered on the American-born British writer, Henry James. Regarded as one of the key figures of 19th-century literature, this was a required course. I was supposed to write a long paper and couldn't come up with a topic. I was getting stressed out because the deadline was looming and I could think of nothing. So, I decided to go to my professor's office hours and discuss my plight. I discussed my stress and anguish and then Prof. Sealts took a deep breath, swung his chair around, pointed towards Picnic Point and said... "just don't forget that."

My take away from that is in the midst of the chaos of all of our lives, when we are stressed and lost, we should focus on what is constant and sure. Our God is a constant; he is amazing and stands with us. That conversation happened 48 years ago and I still remember it. In my mind's eye, I can see it. God has given us beauty and life so no matter what you are facing, know that God is waiting for us to join him in relationship. Then God takes us unexpected places and we find joy and rest.

"You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it." Psalm 65:9-10

In this passage, David praises God for His provision through the natural world. Autumn's harvest is something that will nurture us physically and also spiritually. God is a God of abundant generosity. God loves to bless his people.

As I write this it is lovely day. The leaves have begun to fall and there is a chill in the air. As I look at the changing colors, I continue to be amazed by the greatness of our awesome God. While the foliage turns and colors give way to a more barren landscape, I know that there is a promise of new life. It is the cycle of life. That is what the Christian life is all about. There is a cyclic nature to our Christian life. We have our ups and down but when we trust, we grown stronger.

May God bless you and keep you. Look for what matters and be a source of joy, hope and love for others.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Sandy

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2026



SUNDAYS, 10:30 AM

IN-PERSON & LIVE STREAMED

Oct 10th: District training day at UMCSO, 10 am – 12 pm with lunch following. Come Worship, Learn, and Connect - and discover what the roles of our committees are.

Oct. 17th: Women's Fall Tea from 2-5 pm. Sign-up sheet in the breezeway.

Oct. 17th: The **Farmer's Market** is every 3rd Sat. of the month in Peekskill. Next date is Oct. 17th. There are a couple more dates available before the season ends and that means a couple more opportunities for outreach. Volunteers to man a table are always an appreciated blessing.

Oct. 18th: Open House at the Parsonage following worship. Please consider bringing a dish to share. Sign-up sheet in the breezeway.

Oct. 25th: Trunk or Treat from 1-3 pm.

Oct. 31st: ASP Monster Dash 5K, 9:30 am at FDR Park. Register at: www.runsignup.com/Katonah.asp



Trustees: Monday, Oct. 5th at 7 pm on Zoom.

Craft Group Meeting Dates:

Friday, Sept 25th - 5 pm

Sat. Oct 3rd - 10 am

Sat. Oct. 17th – 10 am

Sat. Nov. 7th – 10 am

Craft Fair Set-up: Fri. Nov 13th, 5-7 pm

Craft Fair: Sat. Nov.14th 9 am – 3pm

Bowling Group: Weekly meetings have resumed on Sundays at JV Lanes from 2-5 pm, all are welcome.



Birthdays

Tawyanna Francis	2
Margie Carlock	3
Gretchen Gale	3
Daniel Pagano Sr.	3
Emily Grace	4
Gayle Spina	4
Je'Tesia Watkins	5
Derek Walls	5
Christopher Closs	9
Greg Gale	10
Cory Casey	11
Lindsey Gilbert	11
Lisa Will	11
Pat Watkins	13
Dez Hinds	15
Hank Schrot	16
Cherie Philips	17
Bruce Shields	17
Glory Dharmaraj	19
Wesley Battle	19
Maureen Magley	21
James Pinto	21
Alexandra Beliakovich	
Shkoda	22
Cassie Gaylor	23
Glen Bucher	25
Cathy Galecki	25
Billy Ryder	29
Bob Davies	31



Anniversaries

Maria & Tommy DeMartino	2
Patricia & Tony Capozza	3
Annette & Russ Reynolds	3
Lisa & Douglas Gaylor	7
Nancy & Ken Mannino	11
Fran & Bob Davies	12
Kathy & Jack Casey	15
Mary & Nigel Ferreira	22

Sunday School Corner

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." ~Proverbs 22:6

This month, we enjoyed not one, but two kickoffs for our Sunday School year! On September 13, the children participated in a very meaningful Blessing of the Backpacks during the church service. With Pastor Sandy away on a retreat, we were lucky to have Rev. Marjorie Nunes bless our students' backpacks for the school year ahead. After church, we celebrated Super Sundae, treating everyone to ice cream sundaes during coffee hour.



A week later, on September 20, we held our Rally Day and Pancake Breakfast. We enjoyed delicious food and a chance to connect with each other. Special thanks to "Flapjack" Casey and his minions, Cory and Lisa, as well as all of the other volunteers who made this event possible.



We are happy to report that we have three Sunday School classes going this year. Our elementary class continues to benefit from learning through Godly Play. Our middle school class promotes a balance between discussion and "fun" activities to build connections to God and each other. Finally, our high school class is based around discussion, focusing on how we can apply the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives.

Looking ahead to October, please mark your calendars for our annual **Trunk or Treat on October 25 at 1:00 pm**. This is always a wonderful event with hayrides, pumpkin painting, fabulous costumes, and of course, lots and lots of candy. Please spread the word and invite friends and family. All are welcome! We are grateful for the support of our church family. As we begin this school year, please continue to support our Sunday School with your prayers and presence.

Yours in Christ,
The Sunday School Teachers



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up for flowers on the altar please see the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or contact Michele Squibb (squibbm14@gmail.com) or Barbara Conklin (Sunflower777@gmail.com)

KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD USE A CARD?

If you know someone who is sick or having surgery, please let us know. Our dedicated members, Annette Reynolds, and Lynne Schrot, send cards to those who aren't well. So, please let us know and we will send a card to cheer them up or encourage them. ~ *Maxine Haigh*



UPDATES TO UMC SO CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you have any updated information or new emergency contacts, please get in touch with Maxine Haigh, Marilyn Bucher or the church office.

There's not a Sunday that goes by that I don't secretly wish the church doors would open and my daughter would walk in. I make the usual justifications for her absence; she's an adult with her own life now, she's the busy mom of 2 babies, she works all week. But still... I wish. A few days ago, she sent me the letter below, taken from a post on her friend's social media page. The fact that it touched her enough to share it with me gave me the reassurance that, even though she wasn't standing in this sanctuary with me on Sundays, despite the busyness of life, the hectic schedules, and the demands on her time, somewhere in the midst of it all, she was carving out little moments of sanctuary of her own and took the time to sit in them, just her and God, and read a letter He'd written, not just for her... but for all of us, so I thought I'd share.

Please read on,

Deb Vesuvio

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you (Ps. 139:1). I know when you sit down and when you rise up (Ps. 139:2). I am familiar with all your ways (Ps. 139:3), even the very hairs on your head are numbered (Matt. 10:29-31). You were made in my image (Gen. 1:27). In me you live and move and have your being, for you are my offspring (Acts 17:28). I knew you even before you were conceived (Jer. 1:4-5). I chose you when I planned creation (Eph. 1:11-12). You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book (Ps. 139:15-16). I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live (Acts 17:26). You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14). I knit you together in your mother's womb (Ps. 139:13), and brought you forth on the day you were born (Ps. 71:6). I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me (John 8:41-44). I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love (1 John 4:16). And it is my desire to lavish my love on you, simply because you are my child and I am your Father (1 John 3:1). I offer you more than your earthly father ever could (Matt. 7:11), for I am the perfect Father (Matt. 5:48). Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand (James 1:17), for I am your provider and I meet all your needs (Matt. 6:31-33). My plan for your future has always been filled with hope (Jer. 29:11), because I love you with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). My thoughts toward you are as countless as the sand on the seashore (Ps. 139:17-18), and I rejoice over you with singing (Zeph. 3:17). I will never stop doing good to you (Jer. 32:40), for you are my treasured possession (Ex. 19:5). I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul (Jer. 32:41), and I want to show you great and marvelous things (Jer. 33:3). If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me (Deut. 4:29); delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4), for it is I who gave you those desires (Phil. 2:13). I am able to do more for you more than you could possibly imagine (Eph. 3:20), for I am your greatest encourager (2 Thess. 2:16-17). I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles (2 Cor. 1:3-4). When you are broken-hearted, I am close to you (Ps. 34:18); as a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart (Isa. 40:11). One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and I will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth (Rev. 21:3-4). I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my Son, Jesus (John 17:23). In him, my love for you is revealed (John 17:26). He is the exact representation of my being (Heb. 13). He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you (Rom. 8:31), and to tell you that I am not counting your sins against you. Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled (2 Cor. 5:18-19). His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you (1 John 4:10). I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love (Rom. 8:31-32). If you receive the gift of my Son, Jesus, you receive me (1 John 2:23), and nothing will ever separate you from my love again (Rom. 8:38-39). Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen (Luke 15:7). I have always been your Father and will always be your Father (Eph. 3:14-15). My question is: will you be my child (John 1:12-13)? I am waiting for you (Luke 15:11-32).

Love,
Your Dad

Lectionary Scripture Readings



Sunday, October 4th **(19th Sunday after Pentecost)**

Exod 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Phil 3:4b-14
Matt 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11th **(20th Sunday after Pentecost)**

Exod 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Phil 4:1-9
Matt 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18th **(21st Sunday after Pentecost)**

Exod 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thess 1:1-10
Matt 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25th **(Reformation Sunday)**

Deut 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thess 2:1-8
Matt 22:34-46



October 2026

				1 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	2 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	3 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am Craft Group 10:00
4 13 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Baptism of Jaxon DeMaria	5 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7:00 pm	6 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP Room	7	8 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	9 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	10 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>District Training Day</u> 10 am – 12 pm
11 17 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	12	13 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP Room	14	15 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	16 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	17 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am <u>Craft Group</u> 10:00 <u>Women's Tea</u> 2-5 pm
18 18 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Parsonage Open House	19 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	20 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP Room	21	22 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	23 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	24 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
25 19 th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Trunk or Treat	26	27 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP Room	28	29	30	31 <u>ASP Walk</u> FDR 9:30 am