

Methodist the messenger

Rev. Ron Kral, Interim Pastor

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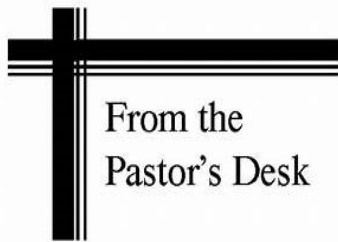
June 2024



God cares about you



and so do we



From the
Pastor's Desk

Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

It has often been said that the only thing that never changes is the fact that everything changes. And I know that FUMCWA has been through change over the last months with the retirement of Pastor Sam, my coming, and now Pastor Grace's arrival in July. I also know that my experience with FUMCWA's ability to negotiate the transition from Pastor Sam to me has been remarkable - as I expect it will be as Grace comes aboard. You have been helpful, welcoming, and very affirming. This is, as I have told anyone who would listen, a remarkable congregation.

From my position as interim pastor, I have been able to see how well you work together for the good of the church, the community, and the mission of Christ to reveal God's kingdom here on earth. I have also had the privilege to work with some pretty amazing people, including your remarkable staff, leaders, committee members, volunteers for various ministries, and members at all levels. In fact, rather than trying to list them all, I would simply direct you to the Membership Directory. Pick a name, and you've probably selected someone who has greeted, encouraged, supported, or helped me in some manner.

My experience has been far beyond my expectations, and I am leaving changed for the better. Watching how you function has offered me a snapshot of what it truly means to be the church. Seeing how you cared for one another through your prayers and interest in one another's lives (Prayer Ministry, Visitation & Wesley Congregational Care Team) underscored for me Jesus' command to love your neighbor - a lesson which FUMCWA also lives out in its commitment to the community (e.g., the Food Pantry), the unhoused (Second Saturday Servants), and the world (Mission giving). Participating in your worship, which so effectively blends amazing music with all the "behind-the-scenes magic" of the ushers, acolytes, video/sound/streaming, and liturgists, was rich and meaningful. You are blessed by the commitment to Christian education embodied by the ongoing classes as well as the AWANA adventure on Wednesday evenings.

As I look back over these months, all I can do is reach into my brown paper bag and pull out a little plastic turkey ... Hmm, what does this suggest? It reminds me of Thanksgiving and all the blessings we celebrate as friends and family on that holiday. It says, "Thanks! Deep, heartfelt thanks" for allowing me to serve alongside you these months. It has truly been a gift.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Ron

A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

The Great Commission Will Change Us

The Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28 is what many of us evangelical Christians point to as our driver for building the kingdom on earth. We recall how the resurrected Jesus *“said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*

It is a powerful conviction to any disciple of Jesus to go into the world and make disciples. This scripture is the basis for the mission statement of the UMC which says that we are “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” First Church has a great history and awareness of missions into the world--locally, nationally, and internationally. I am so proud of our history and who we are!!

The wisdom of the great commission is not that other people are converted but rather that we are converted!!

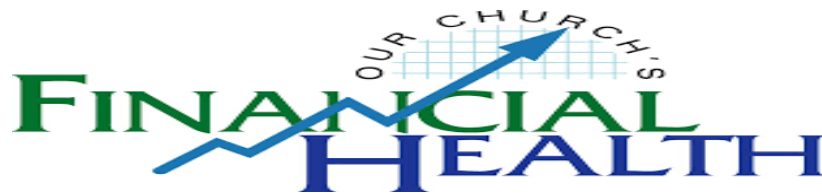
Before we can baptize and teach others about Jesus, we have to go to all the nations--all kinds of places outside of our comfort zone. We think in terms of changing and serving others. We are not to conquer others. If we go into the nations then we would have to first leave our little nations - our bubbles of thought, theology, comfort etc. To go to the nations means that we have to set aside ourselves, and meet, befriend and come to love the ones who are not of our “nation”. When we leave our bubbles, when we leave our homelands of comfort, when we like Abraham set out to the places unknown, we live by faith. Living by faith converts us. As Pastor Ron has been preaching to us lately, it transforms us.

We have many opportunities to experience the Great Commission at First Church--from AWANA missions to Food Pantry to Coins of Love, to hosting many visitors.

Our Future of Hope goals for 2023 continue to move us forward in 2024. Please continue to Pray, Participate and Promote for the benefits of the kingdom and for each of us. I invite each of us to do this personally, and I ask our committees and ministries to continue to work on their goals.

I close with words of Paul in Romans: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." We demonstrate to the world our Vision: God cares about you and so do we.

Tom Bolton, 414-704-5478



The Church Financial Statement of Activities ending April 30, 2024:

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$161,581.60	\$92,493.36	\$69,088.24
Expenses	\$130,506.30	\$152,885.40	\$22,379.10
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$31,075.30	\$(60,392.04)	

Our hope with prayers is that members will continue to give generously as we envision a better and brighter future with goals and strategies to keep FUMCWA healthy, growing, and vital. God cares about you and so do we. Thank you for your financial support to the life and the mission of FUMCWA.

Worship TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS & SERMONS - June 2024

June 2 - Communion Sunday

Text: Mark 8:1-9

Title: *"Let's Picnic"*

The Gospels suggest that Jesus was quite fond of eating, especially with others. What does his "preoccupation" / "occupation" with food reveal to us about spirituality?

June 9 - "Baseball" Sunday (folks should wear something supporting their favorite team)

Text: Philippians 2:1-5

Title: *"Playing Ball"*

"America's Game" offers a theology of cooperation, humility, and perseverance. Step up to the plate and take a swing at baseball's deeper message.

June 16 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: 1 John 2:6

Title: *"Take a Hike"*

We usually take the process of walking for granted. It is, however, a rather complex activity that offers insight into our relationship with Christ.

June 23 - Eden Aubrie Bolton Baptism

Text: Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission)

Title: *"As You Wish"*

We will be celebrating a baptism this Sunday offering us an opportunity to consider our own baptisms as well.

June 30 - Final Sunday

Text: Acts 9:1-9

Title: *"On the Road"*

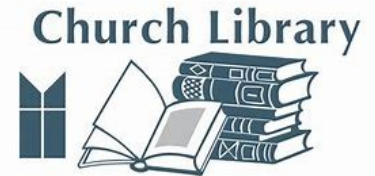
We have been traveling *"Holy Roads"* together here at First UMC for the last 6 months, connecting, supporting, and changing one another. But, the faith journey is not about resting too long in one place. It is about living on the "road".

2024 Vacation Bible School: VBS Camp FUMCWA Firelight is a free week-long event for children from 3K to Grade 5 at FUMCWA. It will take place July 15th-19th from 9:00 am to noon. Led by the Camp Counselor and Lumen, the lightning bug puppet, Campers will learn how to face their fears by trusting in God. Camp FUMCWA Firelight offers a variety of activities such as music, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and snacks. Campers will also learn Bible stories that demonstrate how to accomplish great things in God's name. They will learn to trust God in any situation, know that God is always with them, and share the good news of God's love through Jesus. VBS Camp FUMCWA Firelight information and registration forms will be available in the Narthex, in the church office and on the church website. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and grandchildren to join us for a fun-filled week with many special activities and surprises.



FUMCWA MINISTRIES

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY: Feel free to stop by The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library anytime during the week while the church is open. On Sundays, library volunteers are available to assist you from 11:30 to 11:50 am. The library is a resource that supports the church's mission and the growth of our faith. Take some time to browse the library collection – you might be surprised at what you find.



We are grateful for those who have been bringing our monthly food and personal care/household cleaning aids. This helps a great deal with expenses and purchases. Your monetary gifts are especially important to us in continuing this much-needed mission. We are also making a few changes to help with rising costs and increasing community needs. We accept all non-perishable food items, but please note the expiration date if bringing from your own food supplies. We also accept personal care items and household cleaning aids such as disinfectants, laundry detergent, dish detergent, soap, scrubbers, foil, plastic wrap, etc. Place items in the mission corner marked for the food pantry. We are also in need of large grocery bags with handles.

Some stores are eliminating them so if you have some, please consider bringing them for our food pantry. Thank you for all your help! We are blessed by a wonderful and caring congregation. Our food pantry guests are so very grateful for the items we offer, as it helps them get through some rough times. Blessings to you in return!

May's Good Samaritan Offering: \$1092.90

Pantry Items for June:

Canned Pasta (any kind) and Aluminum Foil

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWIF): Unity Circle would like to thank Jane Henderson for the wonderful program on arranging and planting flowers in pots, as well as for providing information on soil and types of plants for shade and sun. She also presented a little container with a couple of plants in it for all those in attendance! Thank you, Jane, for your time and expertise!

Our last meeting before summer break will take place on **June 10th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. We will have a salad luncheon with desserts. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those who will be in attendance. If you would like to attend and were not at our last meeting, please call Annette Intravaia (414-257-4166) to add your salad choice for the luncheon.

We have had a wonderful year with several new members joining us. Let's keep growing! We will resume meetings in the fall, with our first meeting on September 9th. Please consider joining our group!



Thank you so much for your generous support of the **UWIF Spring Product Collection Drive** for Community Projects for Seniors. Your donations have not only helped us carry out our important work but have also strengthened our commitment to serving others. Because of your contributions, we have been able to extend our reach and touch the lives of many in our community. Here is a summary of the items collected: 252 rolls of toilet paper, 74 rolls of paper towels, 67 boxes of facial tissue, 49 bars of soap, 93 washcloths, and 10 boxes of trash bags.

Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: We have a variety of programs planned for Senior League this summertime, so don't stay away! In June, July, and August, you will find drama, music, science, and a zoo program. You can also count on the fantastic lunches made by our chefs Cheryl and Serena for \$10.00. Come and bring a friend.

Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in our 49th Year with Senior League in 2024!

Meetings in June 2024:

June 5 12 Noon Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, and Mint Chip Ice Cream
Program: Jessica Michna: "MaryAnn Bickerdyke" Civil War Nurse
Devotions: Tom Bolton

Friday, June 7th: Coach Trip Fireside: "Nunsense" Leave Franklin at 9:00 am, FUMC at 9:30 am (Trip is now closed). Please arrive 15 minutes early before the bus departure.

June 19 12 Noon 3 Cheese Chicken, Broccoli Cheese and Rice, and Blueberry Coffeecake
Program: Ted Oliver Productions; Musician Pianist & Vocalist
Devotions: Laura Grabowski



FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS

Second Saturday Servants in June calls for more hot breakfast casseroles in pans double-sprayed for easy serving. Please bring hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am on June 8th.

Coins of Love: June's Coins of Love will support Habitat for Humanity: Helping to build homes for those in need. Building Homes, Building Hope!

April's Coins of Love - WIUM Pine Lake Church Camp \$470.38

May's Coins of Love - Ingathering 2024 Wisconsin Annual Conference \$162.00



Let's Feed those Builders: Habitat for Humanity is greatly increasing the number of homes that they are building and restoring in metro Milwaukee this year. We have had members volunteer with them in the past. A suggestion was made at a Mission Committee meeting that maybe First Church might help now with accommodating and feeding some mission groups coming here to help. Habitat for Humanity liked our offer. We have been asked to provide a meal for a group of young people coming here to work as a Mission Trip on building a home; our date is Saturday, June 22nd, at 11:30 am. The location is on North Val Phillips Street; we will have 15 to 20 hungry workers.

Val Holzman has put together an easy menu for us to provide:

String Cheese
Baby Carrots
Small Bag of Chips
Water bottle (she has some flavorings they can add)
Watermelon slices
Rice Krispie Treats
Sub Sandwiches

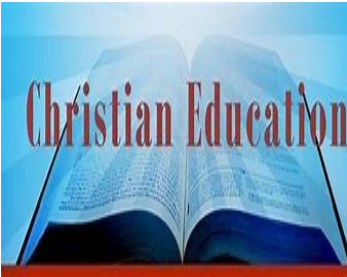


I am also sending some extra PBJ sandwiches for them to take back to work. If you can make or provide some of these items for that morning, please contact Tom (414-704-5478) or Val (414-544-1260). If you can help deliver to the site, let me know; I want to go, but it is during my Dialysis Time.

Also, I will be contacting folks to pray for that group of volunteers and write a welcome note for them.

Tom Bolton, Lay Leader

FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



We Must Continue to Learn by Tom Bolton, Lay Leader and Disciple: When we hear about “Christian education,” we often think first about schooling that seeks to operate according to biblical principles. Perhaps we think of Christian private schools or homeschooling or Sunday School. We think of desks and homework and assignments and teachers. I have been reviewing my classes on how to be a better Sunday School teacher, and I want to share a few points for each of us. I am particularly remembering that Bible Study is not just for children; it is important for every adult, too.

Have you ever considered, for example, that Jesus’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is a charter for Christian education? Precisely because Jesus has been invested with “all authority in heaven and on earth,” he can command his followers to “go and *make disciples* of all nations.” We do this, Jesus tells us, by doing two things: (1) after they repent of their sins and trust in him, we *baptize* them in the name of the Trinity, and then (2) we teach them to *observe* all that he commanded us. We can do this with confidence because Christ himself will be with us always, even to the end of the age. Christian education is as big as God and his revelation. This is why we offer a variety of classes for all ages and with a variety of styles and topics. If you would like something more or different, please let me know, or any member of the Adult Education Committee.

1. True Christian education involves loving and edifying instruction, grounded in God’s gracious revelation, mediated through the work of Christ, and applied through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that labors to honor and glorify the triune God.
2. Christian education is important for each of us each day. John Wesley promoted regular Bible Study and classes. **"All scripture is inspired of God** -The Spirit of God not only once inspired those who wrote it, but continually inspires, supernaturally assists, those that read it with earnest prayer. Hence, it is so profitable for doctrine, for instruction of the ignorant, for the reproof or conviction of them that are in error or sin, for the correction or amendment of whatever is amiss, and for instructing or training up the children of God in all righteousness."--from *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*: "2 Timothy 3:16."
3. Also, Christian education recognizes the insufficiency of merely receiving, retaining, and relaying factual knowledge (1Corinthians 8:1) (Matthew 7: 21-23) but insists that our knowledge must be relational and covenantal (1Corinthians 13:12) such that our study results in delight (Psalm 37:4; 111:2), practice (Ezra 7:10), obedience (Romans 1:5), and the further disciplining and teaching of others (Matthew 9: 19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2).

We take breaks from some classes in the Summer, but we offer some special ones. Please seek out classes from our Pastor, Bonnie Chesky, Tom Bolton, Michael Odle, Nancy Lanman, Laura Grabowski, and others as often as you can. I am working with Leadership Development to offer some classes this summer on the various committees at First Church so that you may better understand how you may fit in and "which committee does what."

Bless each of you as you learn to be Disciples.

Book Discussion Group: **Book Discussion Group:** On Monday, June 17th, at 1:30 pm, the group will discuss ***Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens*** by Sarah Griffith Lund (Nurturing for Community). Mental illness can be tremendously isolating. This book helps remove the barriers of stigma and shame associated with mental illness in children and teens, helping them understand they are worthy. In addition to a helpful collection of stories, the book includes practical resources such as prayers and a guide for age-appropriate talks about warning signs and how to get help for themselves and friends. The author, the Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, is an ordained minister who also serves on the national staff of the United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. The group meets in the Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

FUMCWA EVENTS



Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:



Brewer's Game: Saturday, June 15th - 3:10 pm

New Event!!! We have purchased a limited number (14) of Terrace Infield seats for this afternoon's game vs. the Reds. The plan is to meet in our church parking lot around 1:30 pm to "tailgate" before taking 2 vehicles to AmFam Field. Please bring some kind of tailgate food to share - beverages will be provided. Tickets will cost \$35 / person including our preferred parking passes. *Purchase tickets (1st come/1st served) by contacting Lance Lambert at lambert@fumcwa.org ASAP.* Great opportunity for fun and fellowship!!!

Looking ahead...

All Church Picnic & Swim and "Welcome Pastor Grace":

Sunday, July 21st – 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Save the date! We're going back to our traditional "potluck" format from years gone by. Please bring a dish to pass to Hoyt Park (Wauwatosa). Sandwiches, chips, beverages, and (of course) S'mores will be provided. There will be a play area nearby, as well as contests and fellowship. I suggest bringing a lawn chair for your comfort. For swimmers, we will pay your admission to the fantastic Hoyt Pool again this year. FUN, FUN, FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

From The Board of Trustees: New Elevator Access Code -To improve the security of the church building, the elevator keyless access will be changed. This is recommended by the Trustees. Only church members who need the elevator outside of church office hours will be given the new access code. This includes church committee members and choir members that meet during the evenings. If you are in need of the new access code, please contact the church office. The access code will be changed on July 1st.

thank
you

PASTOR RON

Please join us for a Re-Retirement and Thank You Reception honoring Pastor Ron after service on Sunday, June 30th in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you and spend time together in fellowship as we celebrate the blessing of Pastor Ron's appointment to our church. Cake and coffee will be served. Mark your calendars!