

# Methodist the messenger

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*God cares about you*



*and so do we*

## AUGUST 2024



Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

Thank you, First West Allis, for your warm welcome. I am buoyed by your commitment to God, giving of your gifts and talents in making the reign of God happen. I so enjoy working with the staff and volunteers as peers and colleagues. I am grateful for the deep conversations I have had with people whom I have met while they do

ministries in the church (be it counting on Monday, leading and helping with VBS, stopping by the church, or visiting with me). I so appreciate your authenticity and sharing your story with me.

I appreciate your patience as I get settled in the rhythm of life here at First. Since I commute to church from Kenosha, I've really appreciated your communication with Michelle to meet with me. I will be taking my Sabbath on Mondays and will be in the office Tuesdays through Thursdays. I will be working remotely on Fridays unless there are appointments set with me beforehand.

As a United Methodist elder, I serve the local church (First WA), the community, the state, the nation, and the world. Each elder (as well as laity) is tapped to serve the whole denomination because we believe and practice connectionalism. I am called to teach/facilitate Intercultural Communication at the conference level and also with our Ecumenical partners. That means that I have to travel for work (statewide as well as out of state and sometimes out of the country.) Michelle Fuller will know where I am and will be able to let me know and convey your message.

The Spirit of the Lord is here in West Allis First, and I'm looking forward to working alongside you in loving God as we worship, learn, and serve and love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

May we boldly and courageously praise and share God's abundant and amazing love!

*Pastor Grace*

## A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

**We are a Church of Healing and Discipleship:** First, let me say that I know we are to ask for God's healing, for ourselves and others, knowing that He hurts with you, cares for you, and still heals in miraculous ways today. We are especially healed when we pray for others.

"There were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus, in pity, touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed Him. "

— Matthew 20:30-34 ESV

I also have been drawn back to the Book of Acts early this summer. It reminds us so much about the importance of active discipleship. First Church has an awesome history of active missions and active outreach. It is hard to capture the full list of our ministries.

In Max Lucado's study of Acts, he asks, " Can anyone encounter the resurrected Christ and remain unchanged?" Understanding and accepting the most compelling event in the history of mankind changed the disciples. Having been brought face to face with God, they **couldn't remain the same.**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, their days became full of witnessing, ministering, solving practical problems, and resolving differences. They were Christ-filled.

John Wesley said, "he (is chosen) to testify of me. It is undeniable that some men are unconditionally chosen or elected to do works for God." It seems to me, that the men and women of First Church have been so chosen by God to witness to the world.

The disciples were transformed. They gave us a legacy of faith. The earliest Christians demonstrate that what God did for them, he longs to do for each of us.

I hope to see you in Church again starting in October. For now, I have to isolate.

--Tom Bolton

God loves you and so do we.



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

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$211,571.49	\$138,740.04	\$72,831.45
Expenses	\$182,085.47	\$229,328.10	\$47,242.63
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$29,486.02	\$(90,588.06)	

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 & SERMON SERIES - August 2024

### "CALL FOR CHRIST CULTURE"

#### **August 4** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Title: "Who Are We In Christ?"

"What must we do in order to accomplish what God requires?" (John 6:28)

What are the traits of a Jesus follower?

#### **August 11** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

Title: "The Truth of It All"

"Each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor because we are parts of each other in the same body." (Ephesians 4:25b)

From death to life, Paul reminds the Ephesians to live in community, as they strive to be imitators of Christ.

#### **August 18** Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Title: "Living Christ"

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Being in Christ produces behaviors acting in love and countering hate.

#### **August 25** Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:59-69

Title: "Edge Walkers"

"Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength." (Ephesians 6:10)

The life in Christ calls each one of us to live not only for ourselves but for God.

**Vacation Bible School** was held from July 15-19, 2024, with the theme "Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God!" During VBS week, 23 children and 29 caring adults and youth helpers had a wonderful time together. It was a spiritual, fun, faith-filled, and meaningful week. The VBS Campers learned the lesson that "Whenever we are afraid, we can put our trust in God." Many thanks to all for your prayers for a successful VBS week.

We extend sincere thanks to the following individuals for making this week special: Barb Sorenson, MaryAnn Sorenson, Nathan Sorenson, Regina Grantz, Ilsa Roberts, Adrienne Coover, Jenny Rutter, Riley Kamps, Brian Shutta, Sophia Ting, Logan Ting, Val Holzman, Darlene Schuler, Bonnie Chesky, Carole Schumm, Pat Nelson, Liz Coover, Mimi, Mike Coover, Kiersten Schelman, Salud, Michelle Fuller, Karen Jesse, Connor Coover, Skyla Coover, Ben Page, Abby Page, Pastor Grace, and Deb Semrad.

Many thanks to MaryAnn, Nathan, Eric, and Natalie Sorenson for organizing and preparing the food for the VBS Thursday Night Picnic.



## FUMCWA MINISTRIES

**Church Library Ministry:** “Reading is an exercise for the mind.” As you enjoy the summer, remember to take time to read. Just as we take time to exercise our bodies, we need to take time to exercise our minds. The quotes and the list of some of the benefits of reading are from the website [youngreadersfoundation.org](http://youngreadersfoundation.org). We invite you to visit The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library.



“Reading helps kids calm down and relax, opening doors of new knowledge to enlighten their minds. Kids who read grow up to have better cognitive skills. Reading is good for everyone, not only children or young adults.” Reading: Improves vocabulary, Develops critical thinking skills, Improves memory, Broadens horizons, Improves focus and concentration, Makes you more empathetic, Helps you learn at your own pace, Develops emotions.



We have greatly appreciated your help with the items of the month. For the month of August, we are asking for a variety of boxes of instant oatmeal or cereal. For personal care, we are asking for Kleenex or disinfectant wipes. Most items can be purchased at Dollar Tree or related stores.

Any nonperishable food items are welcome. Please note the expiration date. Some other items often selected are pancake mixes (add water), pasta sides, stews, chili, mustard, pickles, mayo, jams, and cake mixes. We are also in need of large grocery bags with handles and red Sendik's bags. Personal care items such as men's and women's deodorant, hand lotion, liquid hand soap, and laundry detergent are also needed. Please place items in the bin marked for food pantry in the Narthex or bring to the office during office hours. Thank you for the monetary donations that have been coming in. The need in our community is great, and we are blessed to be able to help these families. Thank you for opening your hearts to this great mission.

**July's Good Samaritan Offering: \$20,622.44**

**PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR AUGUST:**  
**INSTANT OATMEAL OR CEREAL AND**  
**KLEENEX OR DISINFECTANT WIPES**

**Music Ministry:** We are excited to begin the fall music season at church. New singers and ringers are always welcome. If you are interested in joining a choir, please see Alyssa or Raymond Roberts.

Asbury Bell Choir begins Thursday, August 29th, at 6:30 pm

Chancel Choir begins Thursday, August 29th, at 7:30 pm

Celebration Ringers begins Tuesday, September 3rd, at 7:30 pm

Learn to Ring Bell Choir begins Tuesday, September 24th, at 6:30 pm

Children's singing and ringing choirs will resume alongside Sunday School on September 15th. Please contact Alyssa or Raymond with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!





**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:** Our Executive Committee will be meeting during this month to plan for our 2025 calendar year. Our first Unity Circle meeting will be on September 9th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Pat Shapiro will lead our program about brain health. We would like to have you join this community of women who are interested in supporting one another, increasing our faith, and expanding our knowledge. We are growing and enjoying the opportunities to share our ideas and experiences. Please consider joining us in September. If you have questions about our group, please call Annette Intravaia (414-257-4166).

**Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator:** Our Senior League programs in August will entertain you with music. We have piano students entertaining us, as well as a professional musician. Come enjoy the great food, fellowship, and music with your friends and meet new friends this summer. **Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in our 49th Year with Senior League in 2024!**



**Meetings in August 2024:**

**August 7 12 Noon** Rib Sandwich, Cheesy Potatoes, Laurie's Birthday Cupcakes with Ice Cream Cups  
Program: Naomi and Munchkins Piano Students  
Devotions: Rev. Nancy Lanman

**August 21 12 Noon** Raggity Beef with Potatoes, Cauliflower & Zucchini, Brownies Dessert  
Program: Musician; Craig Siemsen Guitar  
Devotion: Betty Frey

**FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS**



**Second Saturday Servants:** We need more hot breakfast casseroles for Saturday, August 10th. Please bring your hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am. If you can bring a cold but cooked casserole to church on Thursday, August 8th, please leave it in the white kitchen refrigerator, and we will warm it on Saturday. We have needed 5 additional casseroles for the past few months. Your added help will be greatly appreciated.

**August's Coins of Love** will support funding for school supplies for the West Allis/West Milwaukee School District. School supplies are crucial for a successful academic experience but can be expensive, particularly for low-income families and teachers who often have to spend their own money on classroom supplies.

June's Coins of Love - Habitat for Humanity \$272.44

July's Coins of Love - Midwest Mission Distribution Center \$205.32



“God Cares About You And So Do We” is not only our congregational vision statement but is the core belief of the **Wesleyan Congregational Care Team (WCCT)**. This team of wonderful volunteers are here to walk beside you through life concerns or difficult times whether big or small. Please reach out to Pastor Grace or our group leader Laura Molleson, if we can be of any assistance to you or someone you love. The following quote reminds us to care for ourselves as well.

“Stay close to what comforts you.  
Listen to your needs.  
Follow what feels right.  
Take breaks as often as you can.  
Nature helps reset even if you sit by a window.  
Touch the sky with your eyelashes.  
Reach out to a friend.  
Cry if you need to.  
Find joy in the little things.”  
By Carolyn Riker



## **FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Adult Christian Education Invitation:** As Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, we are encouraged to grow in knowledge and faith. The Bible frequently refers to us as in a race. In Hebrews 12:1, we are directed to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and... run with perseverance the race marked out for us". Can you think of anything in your life that hinders you from growing spiritually? That would be "anything that draws our attention away from Jesus and the path he has made before us" (Disciplines, August 14, 2022). So how do we know the path and find the markers along it that keep us on it? By joining a group of fellow Christians studying the Bible. Together we become more focused on the goal of knowing Christ and loving one another. We encourage you to join a class this fall on Sunday morning or weekday morning/evening. Discover the joy of growing in knowledge and faith on the path God has appointed for you to run.

## **FUMCWA EVENTS**

### **Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator**

**End of Summer (so sad!) Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 18th:** Join us downstairs following worship in the Small Dining Room to build your own sundae, banana split, or enjoy a root beer float. Cool off with your Church Family and *bring a friend to share in the First Church spirit!*

**Looking ahead...**Gathering Sunday is September 8th! We will celebrate the start of the Fall church season with Magic Mason, back by popular demand!

~Sunday school classes for all ages start September 15th.

~The Methodist Movie Matinee will also be back starting in September.

***There's more to our church than you might think. Participate!!!***



## FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **LONDON 2025: Church History & Faith Today Trip**

We (**Suamico UMC**) are going to England on May 24th to celebrate John Wesley Day and explore the church history that led to the Methodist Movement. Tentative Dates: We will depart Tuesday, May 20, 2025, and return Wednesday, May 28, 2025. *We will fly midweek for reduced airfare costs.* We plan to order plane tickets in November 2024. The initial payment of \$1200 is due October 31, 2024. Remainder due February 28, 2025.

The following information describes the activities for this trip. *All details are tentative as of April 2024, with final details to be posted. Tentative Cost: \$2500 per person, double occupancy in hotel. The cost includes airfare, hotel, Westminster and St. Paul's entry, Wesley's Chapel fees, a Big Red Bus tour, and a water taxi. Local transportation, food, donations for church visits, the Tower of London, and other personal expenses are not included.*

If interested, please go to this link for more information: <https://www.suamicoumc.org/england2025> or speak with Pastor Grace.

