

Methodist the messenger

Rev. Dr. Grace G. Cajuat, Pastor

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God cares about you



and so do we

SEPTEMBER 2024



Gathering Sunday/Faith Faire September 8th



Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

Discoveries, Exploration, Embodiment

In the staff meeting on Tuesday morning, Lance Lambert oversaw the devotion for the day. Since we have been talking about and working on the Spiritual Gifts Assessment of our members and friends, he shared an article written by Jill Briscoe, founder of

Just Between Us (JBU), wife of Stuart Briscoe, founder of Elmbrook Church. The article offers a wonderful insight into why identifying our spiritual gifts is an important part of our faith profession.

Spiritual Gifts for the Church

*Did you know you have a spiritual gift that was given to you for the church's benefit?
Don't make the mistake of thinking of church as a spectator sport.*

"But to each one of us, grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and give gifts to [all]' (Ephesians 4: 7-8)"

...My husband (Stuart Briscoe) was asked to visit a family who was thinking of joining our church. "Pastor Briscoe," began the father, "what does your church have to offer my family?"

"What does your family have to offer my church?" replied my husband. He explained that the policy of our fellowship is to help people discover their spiritual abilities and exercise them for the good of the whole.

Paul explains that people are gifts (Eph. 4:11). There have been... evangelists with the ability to spread the Good News and pastors and teachers to shepherd the flock under Christ. All these people are there to teach the believers to do the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12). The greatest mistake people can make is to think of church as a spectator sport.

Paul writes that gifts are given to *all* Christians. Each one of us has a special gift(s). Each gift is different... Each personality with its matching gifts is unique, but, like a note in a chord of music or an instrument in an orchestra, it is intended to blend with others so that the message of salvation becomes the loveliest symphony of all.

Pastor Grace

A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

Greetings to you Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Let me start today on a personal note. My kidney transplant has been very successful. My current kidney function is the best it has been since pre-1990. I am also working on strengthening my legs and core, but am a little limited because I can't lift much or use more resistance than 15 pounds. But I am feeling good.

I thank you for your prayers and many cards. I have truly appreciated your care and love. I feel your prayers and warm concerns each day.

This has been a time for me to also explore more online courses and additional Bible studies. I have added a study of John and a study of Wesleyan beliefs on Grace to my summer routine. I am also redoing several Lay Servant courses. I encourage many of you to try some online courses; this is especially true for many young folks who have work and family schedules that conflict with our Adult Christian Education classes. I often put links or tips about classes on Band, and I encourage you to check that out.

My study of John has coordinated well with our worship this summer. Hasn't the lectionary study been great? I love to see you on the live stream on Sundays. I have discovered that my breathing exercises improve by 15% after I sing along with worship. I look forward to joining you in worshipping in person. I am hoping for early October. My doctors prefer late October, but we'll try to be there early. Also, I am anxious to return to AWANA.

I hope you have tried out the Sunday School Bible Quiz. It may encourage you to try a new class. We have so many opportunities at First Church! See you all at the Faith Faire!

See you soon!

Thomas Bolton
414-704-5478

God cares about you and so do we.



The Church Financial Statement of Activities ending July 31, 2024:

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$238,855.60	\$161,863.38	\$76,992.22
Expenses	\$220,038.33	\$267,549.45	\$47,511.12
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$18,817.27	\$(105,686.07)	

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 - September 2024

"CALL FOR CHRIST CULTURE"

September 1, 2024, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Title: "The Inside Says It More"

"Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above." (James 1:17a)

God's good gifts to us become our good gifts to others.

September 8, 2024, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

FAITHE FAIRE

"...faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity." (James 2:17)

September 15, 2024, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Title: "Who do you say I am?"

"Wisdom shouts in the street; in the public square she raises her voice." (Proverbs 1:20)

In wisdom, we declare who Jesus is.

September 22, 2024, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Title: TBA

"Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom." (James 3:13b)

Our actions shaped by wisdom and humility tell of our life in Christ.

September 29, 2024, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Title: "Shedding to Blossom"

"It's better for you to enter God's kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two." (Mark 9:47b)

Pruning is much needed for flowers to grow.



September 8, 2024, Gathering Sunday and Faithe Faire in Fellowship Hall

9:00 am to 10:00 am Gathering Sunday

Please join us for the kickoff of the new church year! Enjoy a delicious brunch.

The entertaining Magic Mason will be back again this year, so don't miss it!

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

This will be the prelude to the Faithe Faire Worship Service!

10:30 am to 11:30 am Faithe Faire

COME AND DISCOVER THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

~ Learn more about the different ministries ~

~ Discover your spiritual gifts and offer them to God through the ministries of First Church ~

~ Ask questions and discover where God is calling you to share your stewardship of faith, time, and talent ~

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP!

FUMCWA MINISTRIES

Church Library Ministry: The Library Cart will return to the Gathering Room this fall. For September and October, the featured library materials on the cart will be "Psalms and Songs." Please stop by the Gathering Room to browse these titles for inspiration, thought, and enjoyment.



Food Pantry Ministry: We would appreciate all handled paper grocery bags. Some stores no longer offer the handled bags, so if you have some to spare, please consider giving them to the food pantry. Also, the red Sendik's bags are needed.

Thank you for all the pantry items of the month you have given. For the month of September, we are suggesting body lotion as the personal care item and chicken noodle and tomato soup (the 10.5 oz. cans, please) as the food item. We welcome all non-perishable foods because these are items placed on the tables for our guests to choose as their extra two food items. Please remember when donating food from your home pantries that you check the expiration dates. We also offer personal care items and cleaning aids, so any items you wish to donate are welcome as well.

Thank you for giving to the Good Samaritan Fund, as this money will purchase the food. We will be making some changes in the coming months so that we can continue this much-needed mission for years to come. The congregation has helped the food pantry in so many ways. We appreciate all your support, your food and personal care donations, and your monetary giving. Blessings to you!

The August Good Samaritan Offering: \$365.18

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER:

BODY LOTION AND CHICKEN NOODLE AND TOMATO SOUP (10.5 oz)

Our Prayer Chain Team Ministry connects us to one another through prayer. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain Team, please email Michelle Fuller (mfuller@fumcwa.org) or call the church office (414-774-5500) to add your email address to the group. Once you are part of the team, you'll receive prayer requests via email and be asked to pray for them daily. **To submit a prayer request**, please contact the church office with your prayers and petitions, and these will be emailed to the Prayer Chain Team members. Updates on prayer requests are also appreciated and welcomed.





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: UWIF will start the calendar year 2024-25 with our Unity Circle meeting on Monday, September 9th, at 1:00 pm. in the Fireside Room. Pat Shapiro will present a program on Brain Health. We invite all women to join us for this important subject and for any of our programs throughout the year. On Monday, October 16th, Dave Carlson will present a program, answering questions that we might have regarding juvenile repeaters, estate planning, etc. He would like you to submit your questions in advance so that he can get that information if he doesn't know the answer. Please submit your questions before September 30th. Again, we invite anyone to join us for this program.

COMING!! NEW THIS YEAR!! THE HOLIDAY BAKE SHOP on Sunday, December 8th, in the Gathering Room. We will no longer hold our annual cookie sale but will replace it with other events. This year, it will be The Holiday Bake Shop. More information will come in the next couple of months. Linda Zeman will also be making her famous Gingerbread cookies!

If you have any questions about our group, please call Annette Intravaia at 414-257-4166.

Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Welcome to fall everyone in Senior League! Our programs in September focus on health issues presented by Aurora Health Care in West Allis. Come enjoy the presentations, great food, fellowship and time with your friends at Senior League. **It's Senior League's 49th Year in 2024!**

Meetings in September 2024:

September 4th 12 Noon: Walking Taco, Street Corn Salsa, and Ice Cream
Program: Sleep Issues Presentation by Aurora West Allis Health Care
Devotions: Salud



Note: At 2:00 pm after the meeting on 9/4 the Senior League officers will meet to plan the 12/4 Christmas Luncheon with Cheryl & Serena

September 18th 12 Noon: Pansit (Rice w/Pork & Veggies), Egg Rolls, and Cookies
Program: Advance Directives Presentation by Aurora West Allis Health Care
Devotions: Barb Pier

Fireside Coach Trip: December 11th to see "Miracle on 34th Street" Cost is. \$107.00. **Two Pickups:** Arrive Franklin 8:50 am- Leave by 9:00 am, FUMC Arrive by 9:15 am leave by 9:30 am.

Everyone is Invited! Sign up at the Senior League meetings or in the church office

FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS



Second Saturday Servants: We are in need of more hot casseroles on September 14th. Please deliver to the church kitchen by 7:45 am. Your contributions make a significant difference. If you choose to bring a baked casserole on Thursday before 2 pm, it will be refrigerated for reheating on Saturday. Our servers, Ruth Ann, Pat, Carole, and Judy, appreciate the well-greased pans. You are making a difference, and we are deeply grateful. Thank you!

September's "Coins of Love" will support the Thanksgiving Food Basket Ministry, a mission we are proud to continue. We have already started planning and preparing. If you are not familiar with this ministry, we have been giving food to families in the West Allis area for Thanksgiving for over 49 years. We receive names of families who are having financial difficulties from WA/WM schools as well as from our church members. Each family receives a turkey and other food needed to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. Each basket costs \$65.00. The goal again is to give Thanksgiving Baskets to 180 families. This ministry is funded mainly by donations from this congregation. We hope that you will give generously.

July's Coins of Love - Midwest Mission Distribution Center \$503.45

August's Coins of Love - WA/WM School Supplies \$103.80



FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Adult Christian Education Invitation: As we begin a new church class year with our wonderful new pastor, let us resolve to be all that we can be for Jesus and to grow in our faith and knowledge. As your Adult Christian Education Committee, we strive to offer a variety of classes to aid you in that goal. This Fall, Nancy Lanman will lead us in a continuation of her popular class from Spring 2023 on the **Social Principles of the United Methodist Church**. This is a 5-week class. After that, Tom Bolton will continue with his class called **Jesus in the Gospels**, and Val Holzman will offer a 6-week class called **Context** covering familiar Bible verses

and putting them in "context." You will find more about each class in the ACE Fall Flyer included in this month's Messenger. Please join us in one or two classes this Fall. You may sit quietly and absorb the insights offered by the leader and classmates. Or, you may share your story of faith with other members of the class as you feel led by the Spirit. Either way, you will discover new Christian friends, and God will bless you as you grow in faith and wisdom.

Book Discussion Group: On Monday, September 16th, at 1:30 pm, the group will discuss **Beating Guns: Hope for People Who Are Weary of Violence** by Shaine Claiborne (Social Action). Bestselling author and activist Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin will explain why Christians should be concerned about gun violence and how they can be part of the solution. The group meets in the Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

FUMCWA EVENTS

Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator

Gathering Sunday / Faithe Faire - Sunday, September 8th: Plan to attend this exciting morning here at church! We'll gather in Fellowship Hall @ 9:00 am for a show by Magic Mason and a backpack blessing. There will be a brunch and then a very special WORSHIP SERVICE in Fellowship Hall @ 10:30 am, with an opportunity to check out all of your church's various committees and ministries and see how your particular spiritual gifts might be of use to them. You don't want to miss this event!!!



Methodist Movie Matinee & Discussion - Sunday, September 22nd: Following worship, please stay to watch the film "**Signs**" on the sanctuary screen. This M. Night Shyamalan movie is rated PG 13 and stars Mel Gibson as Graham Hess, a farmer and man of faith who loses that faith when his wife dies and then encounters strange (alien?) events in his fields. Also starring Joaquin Phoenix. Movie: FREE, popcorn & beverages: FREE. Stay after the movie for a brief discussion and PIZZA. A free-will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the pizzas. PLEASE join us and BRING A FRIEND!!!

Looking ahead...

October 5th: Pet Blessing with our neighbors at First Lutheran Church

October 20th: Methodist Movie Matinee & Discussion (film TBD)

October 26th: Trunk-or-Treat

We are an active church spreading the good news to all. Get involved!!!



FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Finance Committee Update from Richard Rinka, Finance Chair: In the April Messenger, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I provided a long-winded summary of how our church has been performing financially over the past couple of years and let you know that we are carefully monitoring the situation.

The Finance Committee is very happy that 2024 has started out much better financially than the previous two. Through the first seven months of 2024, giving has exceeded expenses. This is different from 2022 and 2023, whereby, at the midpoint of the year, our expenses exceeded our income. That is the good news; the unfortunate news is that we are seeing a trend back to where our expenses could, by year's end, exceed our giving.

We are hopeful that the next update that we can provide will continue to be short, sweet, and good news. We still remain committed to funding needed programs and continue to do more with less. Thanks to all for helping make our congregation everything that it can be.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me.



First Church is excited and blessed to offer **AWANA** again this year. This fun Bible Club for children ages 3K to Grade 8 meets on Wednesday evenings at FUMCWA during the school year from 6:15-8:00 pm, **beginning September 18th**. Children are spiritually and physically challenged in a fast-paced learning environment geared toward their age level. There is the Cubbies Club for children ages three and four; for kindergarten through second grade, the Sparks Club; for grades three through six, the Truth and Training Club; and for grades 7 and 8, the Trek Club. Please spread the word and invite other families to join us as we begin year six. As the AWANA pledge states, the AWANA Club's goal is "to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ, and to train them to serve HIM." Come out and be part of the fun! Registration forms are available on the website, by contacting the church office, and in the Narthex. If you have any questions, want more information, or want to volunteer to help, please contact Deb Semrad at 414-774-5500 or jdsemrad@att.net.