

Methodist
the messenger

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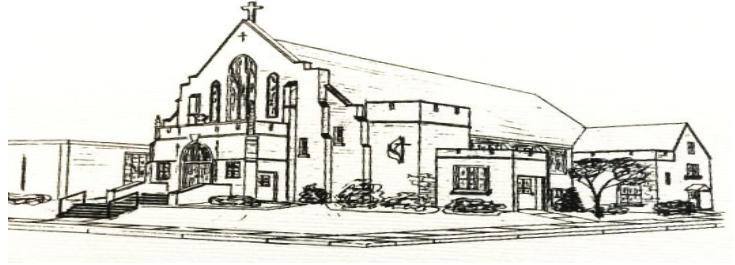
www.fumcwa.org

God cares about you



and so do we

OCTOBER 2024



Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

What a great Sunday to begin the new church year! Thank you so much for all who came to celebrate God together as God's church to worship, sing praise, and offer back to God the gifts God gave each one of us! With my deepest gratitude and great awe, I give thanks to the talented people who made *Faithe Faire* happen!

Michelle, Alyssa, Eric, Lance, Laurie, Deb, Barb, Patty, Laura, Annette, Joanna, Jane, Anne, Nancy, Pat; leaders and members of each committee and ministry team who created fun stuff, literature, and favors to give away; the choir for offering their voices; so many people who signed up to share food and beverage; the United Women in Faith for taking care of setting up the food. I apologize profusely in advance if I (and I'm sure I will!) forget someone's name and their generosity.

Your offering of your gifts written in the tri-fold reflection of Micah's question, "With what shall I come before the Lord?" (6:6) is a continuing and ever evolving discernment of who and whose we are and our service to God's creation. Thank you so much for your time responding to the question. I hope to continue to hear from you about your gifts, your concerns about what's happening in God's world and our siblings, and how each of us can be part of the transformation of ourselves and the world.

The committees responsible (Nominations and Lay Leadership and Development) will meet soon to find a way for all of us to find a place in our faith community using our spiritual gifts, talents, and time. As you can see from the multitude of people who made "*Faithe Faire*" happen, together, we can make things happen—and happen successfully and joyfully!

As I start my time with you as your pastor, I hope to continue with you the great story of First West Allis and how we respond to God's call for discipleship and stewardship in a time of great need for love, justice, peace, and compassion in our beautiful Earth!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Pastor Grace

A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

We are a Church of Caring: *"Master, pour out Your love so it fills my life and splashes over on everyone around me"* (based on 1 Thessalonians 3:12, The Message).

God cares about You, and so do We. That is our Vision statement, and that is how I see this Church, our little local congregation.

I am so proud of the many caring ministries that our fellowship offers and supports. I have been thinking about AWANA (Oh how I have missed being there!) and the families we support and love and relate with in the AWANA community. I think about our vibrant food pantry. What a great team! I love our Second Saturday Servants, and I look forward to joining the group again and serving meals to folks out in the field. We grow so much and are filled so full of Christ when we serve others and develop these new relationships. I am excited about the work of our Wesleyan Congregational Care team; if you have needs that you want to discuss with a caring person, please talk to Pastor Grace or Laura Molleson to get connected with a team member.

I am thinking about all the Christian education offerings in our Church. I hope you have found a class that suits you. Our classes are even better when you are there with us. If you are looking for something different or a different time or venue, please talk to me about what you are looking for or to Bonnie Chesky, our Chair of Adult Christian Education. I will be back to teaching my Discipleship class on October 20th- Jesus in the Gospels. I hope to also offer some lay servant classes again next year. Many of our classes function like Wesleyan Bands; these are great groups for sharing and growing. We have many more ministries and groups that serve with care to our communities.

Many of us are getting more mature (Many times around the block, my old boss used to call me) and we still have lots to share yet. Our roles as Disciples don't end; there is no mandatory retirement date for discipleship. Keep up the good work. I appreciate you all.

I will be back this month. I have missed you. I will wear a mask because my immune system is still suppressed to protect my new kidney. But don't be offended. I will be as close to you as I can ever be! God cares about you, and so do I. I truly love this Church.

Tom Bolton, 414-704-5478



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

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$257,284.16	\$184,986.72	\$72,297.44
Expenses	\$248,572.07	\$305,770.80	\$57,198.73
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$8,712.09	\$(120,784.08)	

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 & Themes OCTOBER 2024

October 6, 2024, World Communion Sunday

Texts: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

May this celebration draw us all into the surprising and beautiful depths of what it means to worship as the Body of Christ in different places and yet all at once.

October 13, 2024, Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

UWIF Sunday

October 20, 2024, Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Take the time to pray and celebrate the ways God is already at work and will continue to work among you!

October 27, 2024, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Reformation Sunday: United Methodists celebrate Reformation Day with a sense of moving toward unity and community. Though we are not descendants of Luther, both John and Charles Wesley were priests in the Church of England, so our roots are deep in the Anglican tradition.

THIS OCTOBER

Our call to discipleship is synonymous with our call to stewardship. Discipleship and stewardship go hand in hand as responses to God's love and gifts. We love because God first loved us. We gift the church and our neighbors generously because God gifts us abundantly with blessings and experiences of grace.

These coming Sundays, we are invited to reflect on our blessings and our response to God's generosity with our generosity. Through your giving, we can continue to serve God as a body of Christ and make a difference not only in our lives, in our neighborhood, but also, in the world. As United Methodists, we feed the hungry (in body, mind, and soul), heal the sick, and walk with the marginalized, globally.

May we see this time of stewardship as our opportunity to give back to God what is truly God's!

Pastor Grace

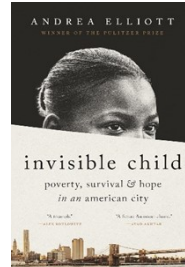
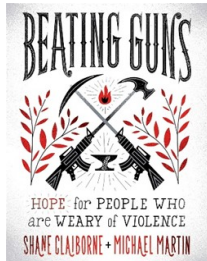


STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FUMCWA MINISTRIES

Church Library Ministry: You are invited to visit The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library and the library cart in the Gathering Room. The Book Discussion Group has found these titles (located in the library) to be informative and thought-provoking:

Beating Guns: Hope for People who are Weary of Violence by Shane Claiborne
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City by Andrea Elliott



Food Pantry Ministry: We have been getting brown paper bags with handles and now have a wonderful supply! Please continue to bring them and the red Sendik's bags. We have been greatly blessed by a large anonymous donation to our food pantry. It means we can continue this wonderful mission and provide families with food to help them get through the month. Not only do we provide food, but we also have personal care items and cleaning aids that help them throughout the month. We welcome all nonperishable foods (please check the expiration date if donating from your own pantry) and personal care items. Cleaning aids are also welcome such as laundry detergent, disinfectant cleaners, dish detergent, and liquid hand soap. Most items can be purchased at the Dollar Store. Thank you for all your help donating food, personal care items, and monetary contributions. All money goes toward purchasing food and items for families in need. Our congregation is so wonderful! God bless you all!

The September Good Samaritan Offering: \$193.00

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER:

DISH DETERGENT, CANNED PASTA (LIKE CHEF BOYARDEE),
STEWES, OR CHILI



United Women in Faith: We welcome all to our Monday, October 14th, meeting at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Dave Carlson will be answering questions that have been submitted concerning law. We would love to have you join us for this discussion.

Our Monday, November 11th, meeting in the Fireside Room at 1:00 pm will be presented by The United Methodist Children's Services' "Roots and Rising" program. Anyone is welcome to all of our programs. Please come and join us!

Coming on Sunday, December 8th, will be a new "Holiday Bake Shop" in the Gathering Room. It will feature various sweets and treats. Our annual Cookie Sale will no longer take place because of the tremendous amount of work it requires. More information on the "Holiday Bake Shop" will be out soon.

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

Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Our Senior League officers met with our chef Cheryl Spaude on 9/4 and decided on our Christmas luncheon selections, thank you to all. We will begin selling tickets on 10/2 at our Senior League meetings and in the church office until 11/24/24. Our Christmas luncheon is Wednesday, December 4th, with punch at 11:30 am and lunch at noon. The entree selections are Chicken Breast or Salisbury Steak. The program will be at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary, The Milwaukee High School of the Arts Choir; Raymond Roberts, Director. You won't want to miss this!! Come and enjoy this special Christmas time with your friends as we say goodbye to our 49th year of Senior League!

Meetings in October 2024:

October 2nd 12 Noon: Lunch: Mac & Cheese, 7 Layer Salad and Carrot Cake

Program: Downsizing "Just Stuff" by Margaret Finley

Devotions: Annette Intravaia

October 16th 12 Noon: Lunch: Chicken Fajitas, Oriental Salad, Churros

Program: Aromatherapy

Devotions: Charlene Buncich



**** Wednesday, October 30th, Senior League Officers Planning for 2025 for our 50th year Together! ****
Small Dining Room from 9:00-11:30 am

Fireside Coach Trip: December 11th to see "Miracle on 34th Street" Cost is \$107.00

Two Pickups: Franklin: Arrive 8:50 am- Leave by 9:00 am. FUMC: Arrive by 9:15 am and leave by 9:30 am.

We need more people, everyone is invited!! Please sign up at Senior League meetings or in the Church office.

FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS



We need hot breakfast casseroles for Second Saturday, October 12th. We were able to feed 107 hungry people in September thanks to the 17 casseroles that were generously provided. The casseroles that were dropped off and stored in the kitchen refrigerator were successfully reheated. We welcome new cooks and appreciate all the help we get. Please drop off hot casseroles at the church kitchen on Second Saturday at 7:45 am. Our dedicated packers have meals ready to be delivered to the food site by 9:00 am. Many thanks to our amazing cooks and volunteers.

October's Coins of Love will be benefiting the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. This organization is a daytime sanctuary and multi-resource center for homeless and at-risk individuals. Their core values are healing, spirituality, recovery, peer empowerment, dignity, nonviolence, advocacy, voice, sustainability, and mutual transformation. The sanctuary is a place to be, belong, and become within a transformational solidarity community — interfaith, nonpartisan, intercultural, and noncanonical. They are a racially and economically diverse family of hope who seek to strengthen Milwaukee's overwhelmed safety net.



August's Coins of Love - WAWM School Supplies \$338.00

September's Coins of Love - Thanksgiving Food Basket Ministry \$137.81

FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Christian Education Invitation: *We Grow and Learn in Classes*

*Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.
Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.
Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with
thankful hearts.* Colossians 3:16 NLT



First Church offers an exceptional number of classes for adults and youth. What a blessing this is. There is a book study on the third Monday of most months at 1:30. The book list is varied and inspiring. We also have a book study on a Max Lucado book on Wednesday mornings. We offer a variety of Sunday morning classes at 9:00 am. Rev. Deacon Nancy Lanman has been leading a class on Social Justice Principles through October 13th. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about our church. My discipleship class, Jesus in the Gospels, will resume on October 20th in the Confirmation Room. We are about a third of the way through the curriculum, but you can still join us. I'd love to see you and hear your thoughts on the material. Val Holzman teaches a class on Context and the Bible. There will be more opportunities in the future too.

We have Advent classes starting on December 1st. Pastor Grace will lead the class on Sunday mornings, and I will facilitate a rerun on Tuesday nights via Zoom. This four-week class will include videos and many opportunities for sharing your witness and thoughts. I look forward to this season.

Tom Bolton, Lay Leader

Book Discussion Group: On Monday, October 21st, at 1:30 pm, the group will discuss ***Echoes of Grace*** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (Social Action.) This triumphant new novel explores sisterhood, family secrets, inter-generational trauma, life, and love in a modern Gothic setting with a magical realist twist. In Eagle Pass, Texas, Grace struggles to understand the echoes she inherited from her mother's visions, often distorting her reality. One morning, a disturbing echo takes hold of Grace, and tragedy strikes. As Grace's echoes bring ghosts and premonitions, they also bring memories of when Grace fled to Mexico to her maternal grandmother's house—a woman who Grace had been told died long ago. Will piecing together the truth heal her, or will the echoes destroy everything she holds dear? The group meets in The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

FUMCWA EVENTS

Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator

Pet Blessing - Saturday, October 5th: Join us at our neighbor church to the East - First Lutheran Church (74th & W. Lapham) at 10 am. Bring your special pet (or picture) for a brief blessing service by Pastor Grace and Rev. Josh. Please have dogs on leashes and cats (& other critters) in carriers. "God loves our pets, and so do we".



Methodist Movie Matinee & Discussion - Sunday, October 20th: Following worship, please stay in the sanctuary just for fun to watch "**The Ghost and Mr. Chicken**" (it's getting close to Halloween, you know). This 1966 family comedy is unrated and stars Don Knotts and Joan Staley. *Luther Heggs (Don Knotts) aspires to be a reporter for his local small-town newspaper. He gets his big break when his editor asks him to spend a night in the (haunted?) Simmons mansion and write a report. Comedy ensues.* As usual, the movie, popcorn, and beverages are **FREE**. Stay after the film for pizza and a brief discussion. A free -will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the pizzas. ***Kids, friends, and neighbors are welcome!!!***



Trunk-or-Treat - Saturday, October 26th: Come to the church parking lot as we give out treats to our neighborhood kids from 4 to 7 pm. Decorate your car (and yourself) and join us for this annual event. *We get LOTS (300-400) of kids, so bring plenty of Halloween candy!* Please arrive between 3 and 3:30 pm so Lance can arrange the cars. This year, we hope to be joined by some of our friends from First Lutheran Church as well! Can't be there but want to help? **We need candy donations!** Drop off candy @ the church office or Lance's office. THANKS!!

FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



They were continually and faithfully devoting themselves to the instruction of the Apostles, and to fellowship, to eating meals together and to prayer. Acts 2:42

A big THANK YOU to everyone who shopped, cooked, baked, organized, and set up the small dining room for the Faithe Faire on Sunday, September 8th. The food was delicious, and the fellowship and sharing were wonderful. Joanna Schachtely, UWIF

New Elevator Access Code: To enhance the security of the church building, the keyless access code for the elevator will be changed. The Trustees strongly recommend this change. The new access code will be provided to church members requiring elevator access outside church office hours. This includes church committee members and choir members who have evening meetings. If you need the new access code, please contact the church office. The access code will be updated on October 1, 2024.



October is recognized as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. It is a sad fact that domestic violence occurs in our nation every minute of every day, with incidents happening about every 15 seconds. Unfortunately, most Americans are not aware of the prevalence of domestic violence and how many lives it affects. These incidents typically occur behind closed doors, making it difficult for victims to come forward and seek help. Domestic Violence Awareness Month was introduced to educate the public and raise awareness about this serious issue. The campaign also aims to provide the necessary support and strength to domestic violence victims.

Remember, love should never hurt, and help is available. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please seek help by calling our 24/7 hotline at 414-219-5555.

Thanksgiving Basket Ministry: With the rising costs of food, we are grateful for your financial support for this ministry to ensure that we will be able to distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need. If you would like to help with more than coins, please take a candy apple pop from the Thanksgiving Tree in the Narthex. Each basket of food costs \$65.00. Any donation will help. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Monday Morning Messenger: Every Monday morning, the church office sends an email containing a verse, a prayer, the week's calendar, church office hours, and any important announcements for the week. If you would like to receive this communication, please contact the church office with your email address.

Our Prayer Chain Team connects us through prayer. To join this ministry, contact the church office. You'll receive prayer requests via email and be asked to pray for them daily. **Submit prayer requests** by contacting the church office. Updates on prayer requests are also welcomed.