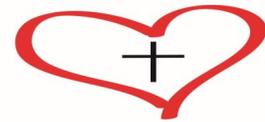


Methodist the messenger

Celebrating 70 Years of The Methodist Messenger (1953-2023)

God cares about you



and so do we

FUMCWA – 7520 West Lapham Street, West Allis, WI 53214 / 414-774-5500



Centenary Celebration of the Church Building (1923-2023)

JANUARY 2023

CONTENTS:
PASTORAL LETTER
A FUTURE WITH HOPE UPDATE
CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT
STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE
HIGHLIGHTS OF FUMCWA
UPCOMING EVENTS
UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear FUMCWA Family in Christ,

New Year Greetings!

“Great is Thy Faithfulness!” By God’s grace and guidance, we are blessed with another year to lead a life of faith, engage in God’s mission, and exhibit an exemplary life for future generations. Let us hear God’s promise for the new year from the Prophet Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” As a disciple of Jesus Christ and a church of Jesus Christ, let us all be assured that there is a plan, a hope, and a future for all of us individually and collectively. To God be the glory!

The Year 2023 brings us joy and celebrations of wonderful blessings. I invite all of God’s people to focus this year on a three-fold celebration of FUMCWA’s milestones. They are: In the year 1923, the current church building was built and dedicated - 100 years. In the year 1953, the first Methodist Messenger was published - 70 years. In 1993, “Coins of Love” was launched. A sanctuary, a Communication Tool, and a Mission were born into the life and ministry of FUMCWA for the glory of God and for the extension of God’s Kingdom. The good Lord has faithfully led these milestones for the last 100 years, 70 years, and 30 years. Hundreds and thousands of people have been blessed by these milestones. That is all it matters in the sight of God.

This year, we intentionally take time to celebrate God’s faithfulness and people’s faithful efforts to take this Faith Community to new horizons. Ministers, members, leaders, and volunteers have leveraged people of all ages, nations, and races to wake up to a new horizon every day, week, month, and year, filled with the promise of new opportunities and adventures. Let us wake up to a new horizon this year 2023 and beyond for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. The journey continues!

PRAYER: Gracious God, bless us to the new year and the new year to us. Lead us to the green pastures and the still waters. May Your mercy and goodness lead us! Great is Thy Faithfulness! Amen.



We are reminded of the proverb, “it takes a village to raise a child.” Yes, it takes the entire Faith Community of people called FUMCWA to lead the congregation into a better and brighter future toward church health, growth, and vitality. We are invited to pray daily for The Church Council and the collective leadership, as they move to a strategic plan of implementing the goals, specifically for the year 2023 with God’s abiding presence, God’s everlasting promise, and God’s empowerment. We belong to each other. We need each other. We affect each other. We depend on Emmanuel - God with us in this journey and adventure. You are invited to share your words of support, encouragement, and input along the way. A Future with Hope!



The Church Financial results for FUMCWA for November 2022 are as follows:

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$308,402.39	\$223,402.63	\$84,999.76
Expenses	\$391,163.78	\$454,372.93	(\$63,209.15)
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	(\$82,761.40)	(\$230,970.30)	

For the year 2022, FUMCWA is showing an operating deficit which was discussed at the 2022 Church/ Charge Conference. While acknowledging and appreciating the generosity of our members, there is an average deficit of \$5000 per month, which is not good for the long run. Our pledges for the year 2023 total \$237,671.20 which again projects a deficit budget for the year ahead.

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!

MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

By Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

This story is from “I Like Giving” by Brad Formsmma. His book and corresponding web-site, www.ilikegiving.com, are full of stories and videos about the power of generosity.

It is hard to characterize my brother-in-law, James. He’s not a guy who draws a lot of attention to himself, and he’s not a guy with great wealth. In fact, James is, well, quite average, but when it comes to generosity, James is one of the most above-average people I’ve ever met. For instance, if James needed to borrow your car, he would likely return it with a full tank of fuel or maybe a new set of tires. Or maybe it would have been detailed. And unless you happened to notice, he wouldn’t draw any attention to it. Which is exactly what happened with the floor mats in our Honda Accord. They were worn-out. I mean, they’re floor mats. They are one of those things you think about replacing when you vacuum the car and say to yourself, “Wow, these look terrible. I need to replace them.” You finish vacuuming, put the mats back, and never give them another thought until the next time you clean your car. However, this particular time I did notice them. They were new. I immediately asked my wife if she’d bought the new car mats. She said she thought I had. Immediately we knew it was James. I could not think of when he might have done it. I went back in the house, called him, and asked if he was responsible. As I suspected, he was. “When did you put new mats in the car?” I asked since we hadn’t seen him in weeks. “About three months ago” he sheepishly replied. I couldn’t believe I’d been so unobservant, but I wasn’t the least bit surprised by James’ thoughtful act of generosity. It’s a lifestyle with him. I truly can’t think of anything he enjoys doing more than giving, and I can’t think of anyone who has more fun finding unique ways to give. I mean, who would ever think of replacing someone’s car floor mats?



GIVE ONLINE (Easy, Fast, Secure) Scan the QR Code. The QR Code will take you directly to the FUMCWA Online Giving page.



HIGHLIGHTS OF FUMCWA

Worship
TOGETHER

JANUARY SERMON THEMES/SCRIPTURES

- 1/1 Wesleyan Covenant Service with Holy Communion, Jeremiah 31:31-34 & John 15:1-8
- 1/8 Baptism of the Lord, Acts 10:34-43, “Glimpses of the Kingdom”
- 1/15 Second Sunday after Epiphany, First Corinthians 1:1-9, “We Lack Nothing”
- 1/22 Third Sunday after Epiphany, First Corinthians 1:10-18, “Same Mind Same Purpose”
- 1/29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, First Corinthians 1:18-31, “Youth-Led Worship”
- 2/5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Communion, First Corinthians 2:1-12, “The Gifts Bestowed on Us”



THE BIBLE YEAR

A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days

MAGREY R. DEVEGA

Not the type to sit down and read the entire Bible? It may sound overwhelming to read the whole Bible in a year but think about it in terms of smaller, daily goals. Think about a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. You can do that – especially since **The Bible Year** has it all mapped out for you day by day. Plus, you'll also get summaries of key themes and ideas to help you better digest and understand your readings. You are not just reading verse after verse, you're enriching your spiritual life, developing a deeper faith, and forming a closer connection to God. **The Bible Year** is a wonderful way for individuals to grow closer to God. Daily Bible goals start here! This is a great independent study that you can do when you have the time each day. The devotional is available in paperback and eBook. Paperback copies are available in the church office. Begin your journey through scripture in 365 days on January 1, 2023!

TRAINING FOR "EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP" SERIES - JANUARY 28:

Pastor Sam and others will lead a Training Series on "Effective Discipleship" on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 9:00-11:00 am in the Gathering Room. This training aims to have participants learn about practical tools for being and becoming effective disciples of Jesus Christ in a local church context. The first session (1/28/23) will focus on: What is discipleship? Who is a disciple? Why is discipleship a key aspect of growing in our faith? The format will include a presentation, small group discussion, and Q and A. Light refreshments will be served. This training series will continue once a quarter. The next session will be scheduled in late April 2023. *A Future with Hope...*



*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for
your generosity!*

Ukraine/UMCOR Thanksgiving Eve Special Offering: \$750.96

Thanksgiving Special Offering: \$3090.00

Christmas Special Offering: \$1270.00

November Coins of Love: Joy House \$305.00

December Coins of Love: God's Parking Lot Hot Dog Ministry \$160.82

FAITH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH LENTEN RETREAT: Pastor Sam and Julie Bryson will lead a Lenten Retreat March 3-4, 2023, from Friday 5:00 pm to Saturday 5:00 pm at The Siena Retreat Center, Racine, WI. The theme is: "Staying Spiritually Strong." The Retreat features include Worship, Silent Time, Study, Prayer Time, and Fellowship. The registration fee is \$75 per person, including overnight stay and three meals at the center. If interested, please call the church office to register by February 20, 2023.



January Mission Moment: Second Saturday Servants will be serving hot casseroles on January 14. Please bring the hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am. The guests enjoy and appreciate our food. Winter is near and so is the need for warm hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for our less blessed neighbors. Thank you for serving our neighbors in need. We are planning a mission trip in early August to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in southern Illinois. Watch for dates and details soon.

January's Coins of Love will support the Divine Intervention Sleep Shelter at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church. 2022 Coins of Love missions have received additional donations in addition to our monthly support thanks to the generosity of God's people. 2023 marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of Coins of Love Ministry (1993-2023). Let us celebrate for God's glory!



Book Discussion Group: On Monday, January 16, at 1:30 pm the group will discuss Isabel Wilkerson's book **Caste: The Origins of our Discontents**. In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through immersive, deeply researched narratives and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system. The group meets in The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.



United Women in Faith (UWIF): Our Unity Circle Christmas Party will be held on Monday, February 13, at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Please bring a food item to share. We also will have the installation of our officers. Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy, book, puzzle, gift card, or anything else for the Ronald McDonald House. We will not have a Circle Meeting in January. The Executive Committee will meet on Monday, January 23, at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

WUMF- Save the Date: How to Reach & Welcome New People (and how Foundation Grants can help!) Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church or virtually. Sponsored by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation and the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Church. More details to follow.

FAITH COMMUNITY UPDATES, NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 Angel Tree Report: This Christmas we were successful in sharing the love of Christ with 32 children. We did this by letting them know that he or she has not been forgotten while Mom or Dad is in prison. The work and love that our church members pour into this ministry means the world to prisoners, their children, and their families. We can all be proud that we purchased and wrapped 64 gifts and delivered them to the children's homes in time for Christmas. Thanks to everyone who addressed envelopes, purchased and wrapped gifts, and finally helped deliver them to the homes. Many thanks to Pat Nelson for all of her help. I have been blessed by leading this important mission for many years. I am happy to report that Pam Johnson has expressed an interest in taking on this role next year. Please consider volunteering to help again with Angel Tree in 2023. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Judy Affeldt, Angel Tree Project Coordinator



A Note of Thanks: We are so very grateful for the love and support of our church family on the loss of our beloved daughter Tammy. Tammy devoted her life to helping others, and we have felt that same loving spirit from you, our church family, in your calls, notes, and prayers. Please know how much each of you has meant to us during this past year. We are especially grateful to Pastor Sam, who has been here for our family throughout this difficult time. Our love and sincere gratitude to each of you. God has richly blessed us with our church family. Dave and Oksana Carlson

FILL THE STOCKING Advent Mission Project Update: The Children's Sunday School classes would like to thank the generous congregation of FUMCWA. Socks are a basic need because they provide both warmth and comfort. Unfortunately, we often see homeless people wearing shoes without socks. Hundreds of feet will be staying warm this winter because you cared. The new, unworn socks will be distributed to area homeless shelters.



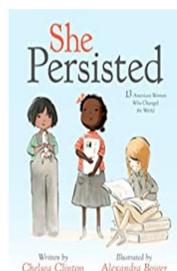
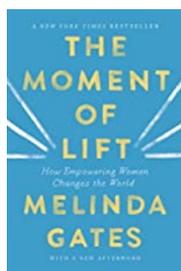
Food Pantry: Our food pantry has seen more people in need of food the past few times, and the need will even be greater in the coming months. Some food items that we offer on a normal basis are being limited when buying in large quantities, so we are asking help from the congregation in supplying some of these items: Macaroni and Cheese, pasta in 1 lb. packages, all kinds of crackers, instant mashed potatoes, chicken noodle soup, cream soups, and chunky soups. Any help we can get is greatly appreciated. Other needed items include liquid hand soap, dish detergent, and personal care items (i.e., shampoo and conditioner, body wash). Thank you to all who have continued to help with supplying large-handled paper bags and small red Sendik's bags.

The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library: We invite you to check out these titles recently added to The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. Each of these titles was written by a well-known American woman and each title is part of the United Women in Faith Reading Program.

Becoming by Michelle Obama

The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World by Melinda Gates

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton



The prayer below will be the prayer of dedication each Sunday after the offertory time throughout 2023. All congregants and church committees are also encouraged to pray this prayer throughout 2023.

CENTENARY PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

As we celebrate Your faithfulness, O God, for one hundred years at this location, we give You thanks and praises for the gifts and graces that have been invested in the lives of the many past, present, and future generations, including those who had a vision of a Faith Community in this place, and those who sacrificed their resources to make the mission of Christ happen thus far. As we move forward with a Future with Hope, we commit to praying daily so that our church will seek God's will and God's Kingdom. We commit to worshiping regularly so that our church will grow in Christlikeness. We commit to serving sacrificially so that our church will grow in nurture, outreach, and witness. We commit to supporting all ministries generously. We commit to participating in the life and ministries of the church passionately. May we also commit to God so that the vision and the mission of our church will continue blessing people of all ages, nations, and races forever and ever, amen.

INVITATION TO GATHER 100 STORIES: In honor of the Centenary Celebration, you are invited to write a story of what FUMCWA has meant to you in 100-150 words and send it to the church office or drop it in the box in the narthex by the end of October 2023. Thank you!

Laurie Halvorsen, Visitation Ministry: Blessed be our Homebound Visitation Members of The First United Methodist Church of West Allis! Fourteen Christmas Tote Bags filled with cookies and ornaments were distributed to our members before Christmas. I thank my elves Bridget Winston and Ruth Ann Werner for making Christmas ornaments and Jean Molitor for making Christmas cookies. Thanks be to God!

Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Our Senior League Christmas luncheon had 77 people attending on December 7, 2022. We enjoyed a special meal prepared by chefs Cheryl Spaude and Serena Potter. The day was highlighted by our program presented by The Milwaukee High School of the Arts Choir directed by Raymond Roberts and I am pleased to say that they are coming next year for this same event! Thank you to all who attended and thank you to our chefs!

Meetings in January:

January 4: 12 Noon- Senior League New Year Potluck 2023 (Bring your favorite potluck dish)
Program: New Year's BINGO with Prizes! (Prizes provided)
Devotions: Installation of the 2023 Officers

January 18: 12 Noon- Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Sherbet Cups
Program: Mike Neu Chr Hansen; Presentation Cheese Insights
Devotions: Laura Grabowski



Thursday, March 23rd: Fireside Trip: "The Music Man" \$102.00. Ticket price includes dinner, show, transportation, and gratuity. Leave Franklin at 9:00 am and FUMCWA at 9:30 am. Reservations Required. This trip is OPEN TO ALL. If interested, contact the church office or see Laurie.

**You will receive your New 2023 Program Schedule at the January 4 meeting!
Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in 2023 in our 48th Year with Senior League !!!**



From Lance Lambert - Events Coordinator: Methodist Movie Matinee/ Discussion - Sunday, January 22: Join us following 2nd service as we watch "Fatima" on the sanctuary screen. *In 1917 Portugal, a 10-year-old girl and her two younger cousins witnessed multiple visitations by the Virgin Mary. This is an uplifting story about the power of faith in the setting of*

WWI. The film, popcorn, and beverages are **FREE**. Plan to stay after the movie for a brief discussion, pizza, and beverages. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the pizzas. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome!

CONCLUDING WORDS: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the New Year 2023 is a gift to all of us for exploring new possibilities and new opportunities to cause growth and vitality of our Faith Community. Let us all come together as we sing the hymn of Charles Wesley "Jesus United by Thy Grace," for the sole purpose of focusing on God's plans for the future blessings of FUMCWA. Let us PRAY daily; let us WORSHIP regularly; let us SERVE sacrificially; let us BOOST constantly. May it be so!

David Affeldt
Chair, Church Council

Sam Royappa
Lead Pastor

This QR Code will take you directly
to the church website.

