

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)

MARCH 2023

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Dear FUMCWA Family in Christ,

2023 Lenten Greetings!

The season of 2023 Lent continues with Lenten rituals, worship experiences such as Taizé, a spiritual retreat, special offerings, study on *The Creed*, and other social events which lead us to the week of Passion where we will experience the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

Very recently, I came across the phrase “*Big Storms and Blue Ocean*” which is an appropriate focus for the season of Lent this year. This means the *storms* may represent all the obstacles that we face in life, church, and community. At the same time, the *blue ocean* may open opportunities in the midst of obstacles. In other words, the storm is the way to open a blue ocean.

For example, in the last couple of years, we have faced obstacles such as coronavirus, lockdown, economic recession, lack of resources, a decline in worship attendance, natural disasters, and bad weather. These obstacles have opened windows and doors to see the provisions of God (the blue ocean) that we sought ways and means both creatively and differently to stay in love with God and people. There are numerous stories of God’s sustaining grace and power that have built and strengthened resilience in us.

One of the signs of the blue ocean is for FUMCWA to see the future with hope, looking beyond the current reality of decline or plateau. The second goal of the year 2023 is to connect with church members who are not actively engaged in the life and mission of the Faith Community. They are the first target of our church’s health, growth, and evangelism efforts which will hopefully improve when we are intentional and proactive. In this year’s season of Lent, I invite all to pray for them and to start exploring ways of reaching out to these brothers and sisters and families. Let them be the *blue ocean*, an opportunity for the season of Lent this year that they might be brought back to the life and mission of our church. Please invite them to worship services such as Easter, to social events such as the Palm Sunday Brunch, to join a Christian Education study such as *The Creed*, and other occasions.

Acts 2:42 reads: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Lord, help us to be a channel of blessing to all. Amen

MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

By Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

CHANGE: Is it time for change?

“Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.” Joel 2:12-14



With February comes the cold dark days of Lent. Are you ready? Are you ready to seriously look inside yourself? Are you ready to be honest about what is godly and what is not? Are you ready to change?

Change is a great theme word for Lent. Many things change health, wealth, and politics. It changes without us trying and definitely without us wanting it to change. But in Lent, things change because we make them change. It is our time to change our habits, minds, action, and internal/external words to become more like Christ.

Do you need to change your change? Think about how much you give to the church. Should/can you give more? Maybe your answer is “I don’t know.” Think about this: How much do you spend each month going out to eat? How much money do you spend on coffee? How much money do you spend on fun items, hobbies, and events? Now compare those numbers to the amount you give to God each month. Do you need to make a change?



The Church Financial results for FUMCWA for January 2023 are as follows:

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$42,498.72	\$20,555.93	\$21,942.79
Expenses	\$42,899.06	\$40,723.37	\$2175.69
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$ (400.34)	\$ (20,167.44)	

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!

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



MARCH SERMON THEMES/SCRIPTURES

3/5 Second Sunday in Lent, Genesis 12:1-9, "Leave and Go"

3/12 Third Sunday in Lent, Taizé Worship (both services)

3/19 Fourth Sunday in Lent, John 9:1-12, "Where is Jesus?"

3/26 Fifth Sunday in Lent, Taizé Worship (both services)

4/2 Palm/Passion Sunday, Matthew 21:1-11, "In Awe of Grace: This is the Day"

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



Taizé Worship - March 12 and March 26, 2023 [Sundays - both services]

Taizé is a small village in France that is home to an ecumenical community of one hundred Catholic and Protestant monks from around the world. Since its founding, the practice has spread worldwide since it is non-denominational and seeks to unite all forms of Christianity. Its peaceful, contemplative nature has drawn millions from all over the world to practice this kind of worship. Taizé remains resolutely ecumenical, bringing together people from all denominations and cultures. It is a sign of hope in a divided world and its spirituality has brought new life to Christian churches throughout the world. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. *Please invite others to join us.*

CHURCH EVENTS SUPPORT TEAM: As approved by the *Committee on Nominations and the Church Council*, a new TEAM has been formed since the beginning of 2023 (1) to support the work of Lance Lambert, Church Events Coordinator; (2) to assess the effectiveness of the ongoing church events; (3) to creatively explore and design new social events. The creation of this TEAM is one of the 2023 goals in the process of *Health, Growth, and Vitality* of FUMCWA. The Team Members are Lisa Nelson (Leader), Barb Pier, Nancy Karr, David Ziegler, Pam Freybler Johnson, Carole Schumm, Lance Lambert (staff), and Pastor Sam.

2023 GOALS IMPLEMENTATION: As a church of Jesus Christ, we are called to find ways to celebrate and honor the past while NOT losing the momentum of the future with hope. I do believe that the past and present offer support to the future vision with health, growth, and vitality (HGV) under nurture, outreach, and witness (NOW). Our church building has completed 100 years at this current location. Our primary communication tool, *The Methodist Messenger*, has been in existence for 70 years. Our monthly focus-mission *Coins of Love* has impacted people beyond the church's four walls for 30 years. To God be the glory! It's time to turn the legacy into a tool, guide, and leverage to see the ways God opens the future so that we might champion implementing the 2023 - 2025 goals strategically, creatively, and gradually. It is NOT the work of a few but the entire congregation, we mean EVERY MEMBER, whose passion and commitment are indispensable, precisely because this is God's church, your church, my church, our church that needs to stay as a Mission-post at the corner of 76th and Lapham forever. Are you in?



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

January Coins of Love: Divine Intervention Sleep Shelter \$452.40

February Coins of Love: Morning Glory Ministries \$211.56

FAITH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS



March Mission Moment: Second Saturday Servants will be serving hot casseroles on March 11. Please bring the hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am. Your support is a blessing to our neighbors. Our mission is to make a difference for all those around us. Contact Val Holzman (414-378-1082) if you are able to supply a hot casserole. Donations of warm winter clothing and winter coats for men, women, and children are needed. Thank you for your generosity.

March Coins of Love will support Pine Lake United Methodist Camp. Since 1947, this camp has been providing life-changing experiences of spiritual growth for people of all ages and interests.



Mission Trip News: We are excited to announce the Midwest Mission Distribution Center Mission Trip dates. We will depart from the church parking lot on Monday, July 31, and return on Friday, August 4. Eight people have expressed interest so far. We have room for many more. We will be sorting donated items to share with needy people. We encourage you to let Pastor Sam or Val Holzman know by June 1 of your interest. Your cost will be minimal. Your sweat equity will be a blessing to others. We will stay in an air-conditioned dormitory with a central activity room. Please consider loving and serving others by participating in the mission trip this summer!

Book Discussion Group: On Monday, March 20, at 1:30 pm the group will discuss Jane Fonda's book **What Can I Do?: My Path from Climate Despair to Action.** In 2019, daunted by the looming disaster of climate change and inspired by Greta Thunberg, Naomi Klein, and student climate strikers, activist Jane Fonda asked herself one question: What can I do? She moved to Washington, D.C., and teamed up with Greenpeace, leading climate scientists and community organizers not only to understand what's at stake, but to equip all of us with the education and tools we need to join her in protest. **What Can I Do?** isn't a wish list but a to-do list, urging us to wake up and take action. The group meets in The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN: All youth from our church and the community are invited to participate in the church-sponsored LOCK-IN on March 17 (Friday) from 5:00 pm to March 18 (Saturday) at 8:00 am. Dinner and breakfast will be served at no cost. There is no registration fee for the event. Registration forms are available in the church office. Please invite your friends and family members. For more information, please contact Kiersten Schelman, John Bolton, Michael and Elizabeth Coover, Pastor Sam, email the church office (fumcwaoffice@fumcwa.org) or call the church office (414-774-5500).



United Women in Faith (UWIF): Unity Circle invites all those who would like to watch a CPR demonstration and learn how to use a defibrillator to attend our meeting in Fellowship Hall on March 13 at 1:00 pm. Nancy Nikolaus' son, Daniel, who is a retired Captain from the Milwaukee Fire Department, will be presenting the program. If you plan to attend, please call Annette Intravaia at 414-257-4166 because we need to know how many are attending so Daniel can ask for additional help if needed. We welcome men as well as women. Come join us for this informative and useful program!



FAITH COMMUNITY UPDATES, NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS



A Message From Laura Molleson - The Wesleyan Congregational Care Team (WCCT):

What is the Wesleyan Congregational Care Team (WCCT)?

This is a group of trained individuals who are willing to walk alongside another person in whatever journey they are on, without judging them, without making them feel powerless, without trying to fix them or direct any outcome. When we hold space for others, we open our hearts, offering unconditional support. Building trust and confidentiality are the cornerstones of our basic purpose.

When might I need to reach out to the WCCT for assistance or support?

This team is here to support anyone in an emotional and/or spiritual valley. This can be due to a new or long-term illness, personal loss, or grief, as well as feeling low, lost, or vulnerable. We want to be present to walk with you, listening without judgment, while offering encouragement and compassion. This can be as simple as a request to lift your need(s) up in our prayers or we can plan to meet by phone or in person over a period of time.

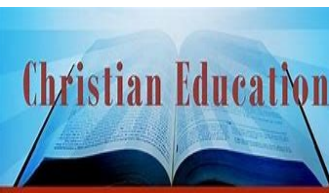
Who are the current caregivers for this team?

Pastor Sam Royappa, Julie Bryson, Bonnie Chesky, Karen Bolton, Val Holzman, Laura Molleson, Laurie Halvorsen, Donna Woods, Salud, Karen Johnson, and Tom Bolton

But we always have room for anyone called to be part of this team.

How would I reach out to request a visit?

Whether you just want to be included in our prayers or inquire about a phone or in-person visit, you can contact the church office. If you would prefer to contact one of our team personally that is also acceptable.



Bible Study in Our Adult Christian Education by Tom Bolton: I sometimes share the story of how I wrestled with God to not be a teacher. God won. Ask me to share the story of how I was led to facilitate Christian Education with youth and adults. I'll share with you one on one. This year I have attended 10 classes on improving my teaching. I will continuously work on this, but I try to incorporate three stages in each lesson. I think my colleagues do the same. First is our Motivational Stage: We focus attention on the Bible study, and the principles, maybe playing a song, asking a question, watching a video clip, or relating a principle to our lives. Second is the Examination Stage: I try to be a guide by your side and I want to speak less than the other students. We share reactions to the readings for the week and maybe to the video. We each learn from each other in non-judgmental ways. The final stage is a Short Application Stage: I often call this the taking it with you piece. Is there a promise to claim? A lesson learned? A topic to address in the next week?

I am starting a new long Disciple Bible Study after Easter. We will be using the course, Jesus in the Gospels. I know that some people fear the readings and the journaling during the week. But I encourage you to join me. We will spread some lessons over two weeks so that the readings won't overwhelm you. Some lessons we will complete in one week. I will keep you posted in class and via text messages. Don't fret if you get behind. You will still learn and grow in class and from the video lessons. This is a great opportunity to really learn the Bible lessons and to become a Disciple of Jesus. If you have been afraid to work in the Bible, this is a good one to try.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - Community Health Prevention Action Team for West

Allis: The West Allis Health Department has initiated a city-wide program with a process to considerably reduce violence in the community of West Allis. Pastor Sam, Becca Kraetz, and Nick Maniaci are co-leading a Task Force with the following goals for areas of focus in 2023-2027: (1) connecting populations experiencing domestic violence and safety planning; (2) increasing awareness and understanding of healthy relationships and family support; (3) empowering the community to build a culture of respect and resiliency. Pastor Sam invites the members of FUMCWA to pray, support, and promote this initiative for the sake of keeping our communities safe and healthy. Hopefully, our church may host listening sessions on this topic in the summer of 2023, inviting parents and others from the community of West Allis.

Food Pantry: Thank you for all of the large paper bags with handles. We can still use more and also the small red Sendik's bags are needed. We also thank you for the donations of food and personal care products. Our guests enjoy being able to choose extra food items that are not included in the bags that are prepared for them. Any food items are accepted. If donating food from your home, please check the food dates to ensure it is not expired. Personal care products are also appreciated, especially for men. Our team of Food Pantry volunteers includes Annette Intravaia, Karen Connell, Jenny Rutter, Julie Bryson, Carole & Wayne Schumm, Bonnie Chesky, Scott Olson, Dennis & Joan Thoma, Dave & Oksana Carlson, Joanna Schachtely, Dorothy Thoms, Carol Ward, Karen Bolton who brings our bread, and donations of personal care products through couponing from the Ilseman's daughter, Joan. Laurel Grulke from the West Allis School District and three young adults fill the bags during the school year. This is a great team and all are blessed each time they work together for this wonderful mission.



Centenary Church Building History by Joanna Schachtely: 2023 marks the 100-year celebration of our church building at its current location. The First United Methodist Church of West Allis traces its history back to April 24, 1842, when a "Methodist Class" was formed in a schoolhouse. Meetings were held in various schoolhouses until local political issues forced them out. The congregation then met in a barn on the Douville farm (where half of the barn was for the Methodists and the other half for the animals). Finally, in 1888, the congregation had its own building on 81st and Becher. As the city of West Allis grew, so did the church. In

1923, the Trustees purchased a site for the church on the corner of 76th and Lapham and began the building of a new church home. The educational unit was built first on this property and was dedicated on December 2, 1923. The church's growth continued. On September 10, 1950, groundbreaking began for the Lannon Stone Church to seat 500. The opening service for the sanctuary (our present sanctuary) was on June 15, 1952, with the consecration service on September 7, 1952. The building of the new educational unit started in 1958 and with it, the beautiful stained-glass windows were added. The consecration of this unit was on April 19, 1959. There was a remodel to the church in 2001, with a task force working on the project for three years. The remodel included four new restrooms, the Fireside Room, the church office, the Wesley Room, the Gathering Room, and other improvements to meet the needs of an active and growing congregation. It is due to the groundwork and thoughtful efforts of the men and women before us that we are worshiping in this beautiful sanctuary and have the opportunity and space for the many activities this church offers.

Pastor Sam's Renewal Leave: Pastor Sam will be on Renewal Leave from April 10-28, 2023. Shanti, Selwyn, and Pastor Sam plan to visit India during the renewal leave to attend Pastor Sam's mother's (Mary Royappa who died in April 2020) Memorial Service and the Dedication of her gravesite. This will be an opportunity also to visit siblings and family. In Pastor Sam's absence, please call or email the church office for pastoral needs: 414-774-5500 or fumcwaoffice@fumcwa.org

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



Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Did you ever wonder how many different churches are represented by our Senior League members? Well, I did, so in January, I had the members write the names of the churches they attend. There were fifteen different churches represented, the results were 3 Methodist, 1 Presbyterian, 5 Lutheran, 4 Catholic, 1 Non-denominational, and 1 Evangelical Free Church. My thanks to who all who participated. Our average attendance has been 45 for our Senior League meetings, lunch costs are \$10.00 cash or check, come and bring a friend! **Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in 2023 in our 48th Year with Senior League!**

Meetings in February:

March 1 12 Noon -Chicken Carbonara, Salad, and Spumoni
Program: Sue Harrits; Travels to Turkey & Greece during the Time of Paul
Devotions: Val Holzman

March 15 12 Noon-Shepherd's Pie, French Roll, and Mint Ice Cream
Program: Irish Dancing by Bella Pitterle
Devotions: Jean Molitor



Thursday, March 23: Fireside Trip: "The Music Man" Ticket price: \$102.00. Leave Franklin at 9:00 am and FUMCWA at 9:30 am. Approximate return around 5:00 pm. This trip is now closed, if you are interested, please contact Laurie or the church office to be put on the waitlist.

Friday, April 28: Fireside Trip: "Grumpy Old Men, The Musical" Ticket price: \$100.00. Includes dinner, show, transportation, and gratuity. Please choose from the following entree selections: Pretzel Crusted Stuffed Chicken, Grilled Pork Ribeye, Rainbow Trout, or Vegetarian Medley. Your payment for this trip is due by **Wednesday, March 15!** Leave Franklin at 9:00 am and FUMCWA at 9:30 am. Approximate return around 5:00 pm. Reservations required. This trip is OPEN TO ALL. Please contact the church office or see Laurie.

From Lance Lambert - Events Coordinator: This year's "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" was a BIG success! Your generosity enabled us to send **\$567** to our youths' choice of a beneficiary - World Central Kitchen's Ukraine Relief - to help Chef Andres' fight to feed the hungry in that war-torn region. My thanks to our youth, the Events Team, and many others who helped with the soup tasting/contest. This year's chosen "winners" (and still champions) by your votes are Jason and Susan Noll. Michelle Fuller made the runner-up soup. Thank you to Val Holzman, Ray Roberts, Nancy Karr, Barb Pier, Jason and Susan Noll, and Michelle Fuller for joining me in the fun of making our tasty soups.

"Methodist Movie Matinee/Discussion" has a **NEW DATE** - Sunday, March 5 - 12:00-3:00 pm. Join us to watch this double Oscar / double Golden Globe-winning animated feature. *A middle school band teacher has a mishap after landing his dream gig at the best jazz club in town and goes to "The Great Before" where new souls get their personalities. He desperately tries to show his soul what's great about living.* You know the drill... movie, popcorn & beverages are FREE! Stay for pizza & a brief discussion after the film with a free-will offering taken to defray the cost of the pizzas. Bring family & friends! Hope to see you there!!

Palm Sunday Brunch & Crafts - *Save the Date* - Sunday, April 2 - following 2nd service. Brunch, crafts & fellowship. Great fun for your family and a great opportunity to bring friends or neighbors to enjoy First church's warmth!

CONCLUDING WORDS: Dear brothers and sisters, we honor the past without losing the future. As a people of celebrations, we are called and challenged to become a people of the future, dreaming of a better future for our Faith Community. Are you committed to being passionate and willing to join the journey of implementing the 2023 Goals for the sake of enhancing the potential for growth? A Future with Hope is to improve our church's health and growth with vitality. Matthew 18:20 reads: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Amen.

David Affeldt
Chair, Church Council

Sam Royappa
Lead Pastor