

Methodist the messenger

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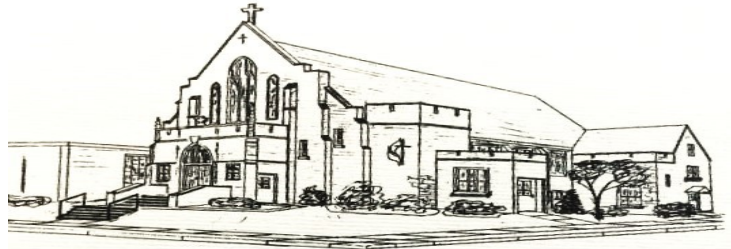
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God cares about you



and so do we

MAY 2025



Happy Eastertide, fellow followers of Jesus! These next weeks, we continue celebrating the story of Jesus resurrected, being with his disciples, teaching, and preparing them for when he ascends.

What happened to him was vile, even as he was fulfilling a prophecy and showing the people of God the extent of his and God's love to the point of welcoming death. As resurrection people, we reflect on life in death and life after death. It is the life in death we explore and live out.

The United Methodist Church movement in Christianity has gone through tremendous conflicts, divisions, and grief with how we are called to be the church currently on earth. Now that we have faced deaths of relationships, affiliations, and covenants, it is possible to see life after death—getting grounded in the basic tenets and movements of the Holy Spirit through the Wesleyan practice of faith.

You've heard me quote John Wesley's memorable line from his April 2, 1739, journal entry, about having preached for the first time outside the confines of the pulpit: "At four in the afternoon I submitted to be more vile, and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation..." Wesley's conversion called him to grow and get out of the regimen of the Anglican tradition of only preaching within church walls. To "be more vile" for him is to acknowledge God outside of church walls and with the people in the fields who were not acceptable to be in the church. This is the time to be clear who we devote our faith allegiance to and distinguish our acts of ministry from our national identity. I have said before how faith needs to inform our politics rather than the other way around. Our call to hope, justice, mercy, and joy can transpire in any political party when we see our faith move us to action of social holiness.

I have mentioned before the name Ashley Boggan, the new('ish) General Secretary of the United Methodist History and Archives. I have heard her in conferences, and I am reading one of her books that just came out, "Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity."

Her clarion call is to reclaim our Wesleyan story of seeing God's grace in all and inviting and welcoming strangers to become friends to the point of vile-ness (Wesley way) to have "vile-tality."

Today is the day followers of Jesus practicing faith through the Wesleyan Methodist tradition are called to re-activate our resolves to make a difference in the world, spread the good news of grace upon grace, accompany and protect immigrants from harmful acts of violence and exclusion, and offer a refuge to whoever needs to be fed, to offer water to the thirsty, to visit the sick, and declare the year of the Lord.

It is an exciting time for me to be a Jesus follower! I hope you share that excitement!

Pastor Grace

A Message From Our Lay Leader, Tom Bolton

In the Seed, There is an Apple Tree

Greetings Cohorts in Christ.

As I write this, it is near Earth Day, and I am also looking ahead in the Lectionary for May 4. It is a time for growing and planning and planting seeds for all of us.

The hymn starts like this:

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

God alone can see our future, but we are all called to prepare the soil and plant for the future of the church. We plant the seeds, and God nourishes them to grow.

I think today, especially, about tending to the earth and sharing food with all who need it in this world. Food justice is a recognition that not everyone has access to the same kinds of nutritious foods that are available in some places, depending on geography, infrastructure, and economics. Unjust systems are in place. Part of our call as Christians is to interrupt those unjust systems and provide for all. Let us try to make service and prayer this month a rehearsal of the justice-oriented practices that will bring about a world where God's abundance is available to all.

Let us pray for farmers and our food distribution ministries—global and in our local church.

We find a powerful story of community and care in John 21:1-19. After a night of unsuccessful fishing, the disciples, guided by Jesus' suggestion, cast their nets on the other side of their boats and bring in a bountiful catch. This abundant harvest is not merely a gift; it comes with a call to action. It is a call to recognize the potential for plenty when we collaborate and share resources. Following this moment of provision, Jesus commissions Peter with the responsibility to "feed my sheep," emphasizing the importance of caring for others—to tend to their tangible needs for food, safety, and community support.

Last month, I let you know that we would be working on adding a definition of the values of our congregation to our planning and church goals. As you contemplate our church values, also be thinking about the skills, strengths, talents, and interests that our church is blessed with. We will be using a workbook or worksheets from Pastor Grace in preparing our responses on our values. We are called to envision the future of our congregation strategically and intentionally. These efforts provide us with tools to help leadership and all of us to prioritize missions and ministries in the near and far future. We are all part of that process of planning. Our next step will be reaching concurrence on the values of our congregation.

I pray for great growth from the seeds that we plant this spring. I pray for great growth and healing for each of us.

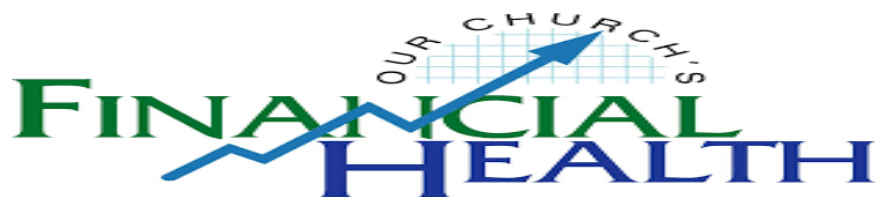
Tom Bolton, Lay Leader

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God loves you and so do we.

Discipleship Never Ends.





The Church Financial Statement of Activities ending March 31, 2025:

	Year To Date Actual
Giving & Other Income	\$116,338.40
Expenses	\$102,581.39
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$13,757.01

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.



SCRIPTURE READINGS & THEMES MAY 2025

May 4, 2025, Third Sunday of Easter/Communion

Texts: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Texts: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18, 2025, Fifth Sunday of Easter/Recognition Sunday

Texts: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25, 2025, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

VBS 2025: Join us for **ROAD TRIP VBS: ON THE ROAD WITH GOD**, based on Joshua 1:9 – "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Kids (Travelers) in 3K-Grade 5 will embark on exciting adventures with our Navigator and a puppet named Scout, exploring stories from the Bible that highlight God's presence in their lives. This fun-filled week, from July 21-25, 2025, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to Noon, will include engaging activities, games, and lessons about God's love. Registration and information will be available in June in the Narthex and church office. Invite friends and family for a memorable experience!



FUMCWA MINISTRIES

Church Library Ministry (The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library): For the month of May, the Church Library has set up a book cart in the Gathering Room featuring books on women's thoughts, concerns, struggles, and contributions. We draw strength and inspiration from the women who came before us – and from those remarkable women among us today. We encourage you also to visit our church library any time during the week during church hours. Library Volunteers are available to assist on Sundays from 11:30 to 11:50 am.



Food Pantry Ministry: Our food pantry has been blessed with another wonderful donation. A client of Dave Affeldt was looking to help someone in need, and Dave suggested our food pantry. It is wonderful to know that there are those who care about our community and give with a loving spirit. Thank you, Dave! What a great ambassador you are! Our church has many people who give what they can: food, personal care products, monetary donations, and the gift of service through volunteering. We are grateful for each of you!

Now that warmer weather is on the way, our numbers are increasing, and we can really use any nonperishable food items you can give us. Our guests have varying needs and appreciate being able to choose a few items of their choice. We can also use personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, shavers, liquid hand soap, and hand cream. Household cleaning items such as laundry detergent, dish detergent, and disinfectant cleaners are welcome. Other needs are band aids, aluminum foil, Kleenex, and paper towels.

Our guests are so thankful for this mission and share with us some of their personal struggles to make ends meet. They express their gratitude and leave with things that will help them get through another few weeks. Blessings to all of you for helping them do that!

April Good Samaritan Offering: \$5,352.18

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR MAY:

CEREAL OR PASTA/RICE SIDES AND KLEENEX OR DISH DETERGENT

United Women in Faith: Our April meeting was a treasure swap, and we had some interesting items to swap. It was a lot of fun, and we also had some interesting discussions. Our May 12th meeting will take place at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Betty Grypp will present and talk about new books in the library and the book club in our church. Please join us and find out a little more about our library.

In June, we will have a potluck luncheon and will have a sign-up sheet available at our May meeting. Our group is growing, and we invite any woman who is looking for fellowship, spiritual growth, and support to join us. We also have refreshments!! If you have any questions, please call Annette Intravaia (414-256-4166). We would love to see you!



Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Tickets continue to be on sale for the Senior League 50th Anniversary Party through May 23rd. Our Celebration Party will take place on Wednesday, June 4th. The social gathering is at 11:30 am, and the luncheon is at noon. The cost of the ticket is \$20.00. Please choose your entree when purchasing your tickets at the Senior League meetings or in the church office. Our entertainment for the 50th party will be the Caribbean Eclipse, a Steel Pan and Marimba Band. This celebration will be full of surprises, delicious food, fun, fellowship, and great entertainment!



This is a special First Church celebration, and all are welcome to come to the party!

Meetings in May

May 7

12 Noon: Cousin's Sub, Chips & Cookie
Program: Irish Dance Program; Presentation by Bella Pitterle
Devotions: Laurie Halvorsen

May 21

12 Noon: Chicken Fajitas, Oriental Salad & Churro
Program: Women of Note; Musical Chorus, Directors Laurie Halvorsen & Barbara Taylor;
Accompanist Alyssa Roberts
Devotions: Nancy Lanman

Fireside Coach Trip: Friday, June 13th "The Church Basement Ladies in the Last (Potluck) Supper." Sign-up is currently full, we have started a waitlist if you are interested in the trip. Cost \$110.00. Leave Franklin at 9:00 am, FUMC at 9:30 am.

Come join Senior League in our 50th Year for Fun, Food & Fellowship in 2025!

FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS



Second Saturday Servants: Spring flowers and warmer temperatures attract more people to the Morning Glory food distribution site. Please bring your donated hot casserole to the church kitchen on Saturday, May 10th, by 7:45 am. Your service is appreciated!

May's Coins of Love will support the Ingathering at the 2025 Wisconsin Annual Conference. The coins will be used to purchase items for Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits. Your support is appreciated.

March Coins of Love - Sunday School Lenten Mission Project \$572.99

April Coins of Love- Pine Lake Active Young Adults Camp (PLAYA) \$238.48

Lenten Coins of Giving Calendar "Wash and Wellness" - \$422.66

Easter Special Offering- \$ \$3,994.80 (UMCOR); \$500.00 (Non UMCOR)



FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Christian Education: How many of us know that we have entered the time in the life of the Christian Church known as The Great Fifty Days? If you are like me, before I attended seminary, I just knew about Advent before Christmas and Lent before Easter! However, there are so many interesting and important times in the Church's life that orient us in our faith journeys and help us, in exciting ways, to prepare and experience our discipleship journeys! Learning about "Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church" (By Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey, my Worship professor at Wesley Seminary) is just one of the opportunities we hope to be offering in the upcoming fall roster of study classes.

Are you aware that there is both Ordinary and Extraordinary time in the Christian Church? Do you know that the Great Fifty Days mentioned above is a Feast of Weeks, seven weeks of seven days following our Easter celebration, leading up to Pentecost? This is where we begin to learn more about the work of the Holy Spirit and how the Church continues to enfold us into the life and ministry of Christ and God's intentions ever since the time of Creation!

The Church also celebrates seven major feasts each year, and seven are very important throughout the story and within our sacred Scriptures. As Dr. Stookey notes in his opening chapter, in our faith tradition, we become part of this story as we each are learning how to live our lives "at the intersection of time and eternity."

A few moments ago, I mentioned Creation, and, at April's post-worship Social Principles study session, participants were challenged to remember "The Divine Rhythm of Work and Sabbath." This relationship was discussed in a beautifully written account of the creation story (The Spring Issue of the Plough Quarterly, themed "Why We Work," a Mennonite Journal that seeks to inspire faith and action) by theologian and professor Alastair Roberts. Humanity seems to have forgotten God's intention for us to continue this divine labor and God's intentions for us to carry on the amazing work begun, making it "fruitful, effective, and good!" This was even meant to become an ongoing relationship of work in communion; We are challenged to consider the deeply critical moral implications of having become negligent or half-hearted in forgetting this communal relationship by having let our work, our labor, become acquisitive, harmful, and even violent in proportions.

The committee overseeing the work of the Adult Christian Education component of FUMCWA's ministry will meet on Tuesday, May 13th, at 1:45 pm. The new co-chairs, Sue Klescewski and Deacon Nancy Lanman, look forward to meeting with other teachers and committee members, including Bonnie Chesky, who has so graciously and faithfully led the group for many years! They are so thankful her experience will continue to be part of our work. Attending a class can also be an enriching and encouraging way for each of us to become a meaningful part of alleviating and addressing the brokenness we are experiencing so profoundly now. It can gift us with joy when least expecting it!



Book Discussion Group: This month's book discussion will take place on Monday, May 19th, at 1:30 pm. We will discuss **Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People** by Tracy Kidder (Education for Mission). Authored by Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times bestselling author Tracy Kidder, **Rough Sleepers** shares the powerful tale of one doctor, Jim O'Connell, who made a difference by helping create a program to care for Boston's homeless community, addressing one of American society's most difficult problems instead of looking away. Kidder spent five years following O'Connell and his colleagues as they worked with thousands of homeless patients, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens. NPR, BookPage, and the Chicago Public Library named it a Best Book of the Year. The group meets in the church library and welcomes anyone who loves reading!

Join the **Adult Sunday School Class** to view and discuss "The Chosen," Season 4 Episodes: Clashing Kingdoms. As Jesus' influence grows, rival rulers and religious leaders ally with the Romans, and His followers face escalating opposition. He urges them to RISE UP. The class meets in the Lighthouse Room from 9:00 to 10:00 am, starting April 27th. Everyone is welcome. Val Holzman is the facilitator.

FUMCWA EVENTS



Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:

Mother's Day 2025 - Sunday, May 11th: To commemorate her mother in 1907, Anna Jarvis delivered 500 white carnations to St. Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. She was also instrumental in the creation of a federal resolution making the 2nd Sunday of May "Mother's Day" in 1914. We will have carnations available in our Narthex for those who want to take one to remember, or give to their mother, or because they are a mother. This is a beautiful and "Methodist" tradition.

Join us in honoring mothers this Mother's Day by wearing a hat or bonnet in their honor or memory! Everyone is welcome to wear a hat—girls, women, boys, and men. No contest, just fun out of love!

Got an Idea for Lance? Day - Sunday, May 18th: I will be at a table in the Gathering Room from 9:45 to 10:15 am, ready to listen to any ideas or suggestions from **you** for new events or ways to improve existing ones. Please think about ideas - I really want to "freshen up" our Events. *Also, please consider joining our Events Team. It's NOT a committee (we don't have meetings), but I need a pool of people to call upon occasionally to help with events. All ages welcome!*

Methodist Movie Matinee / Discussion - Sunday, May 25th: Following worship, we will screen "Unconditional" in the sanctuary. This 2012 biographical drama starring Michael Ealy and Lynn Collins was inspired by true events and is rated PG-13. The story revolves around a woman whose idyllic life is shattered when her husband is killed in an act of violence, leading to unexpected encounters that change everything. She begins to realize that no matter the circumstances, God's love always reaches out to us. *As always, film, popcorn, and beverages are totally free. Stay afterwards for pizza and have a brief discussion if you want. A free-will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the pizzas. Join us & BRING A FRIEND!!!*

FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



A heartfelt thank you for all the prayers and cards I received following my knee surgery. I strongly believe my rapid recovery is due to the help of my church family. You all have a special place in my heart. Val Holzman

As this singing and ringing season comes to a close, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who participated in the Music Ministry. Raymond and I are thankful for the time and talents many share to provide music for worship. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Erica, Lance, the singers, ringers, instrumentalists, choir helpers, music librarians, and dedicated families for attending choir practice and Sunday School each week. We hope you enjoy a restful break during the summer months and look forward to gathering again closer to fall. Alyssa Roberts



UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) is sponsoring a team for the World Vision Global 6K for Water. You can walk, sponsor a walker, or donate! Participate from anywhere—on a treadmill, on your favorite trail, or in your neighborhood. Join thousands worldwide to help provide clean water for those in need. Contact Raymond Roberts for details about this May event.