

Methodist the messenger

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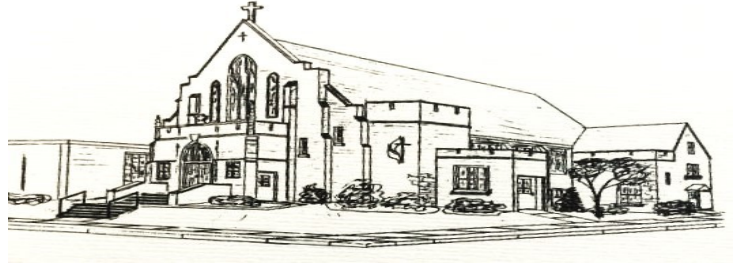
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God cares about you



and so do we

OCTOBER 2025



Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

It's astounding how time flies so quickly! I long for time to stand still so I can catch my breath. But time is constant. It's we who put in too much in a day. Or maybe, there's just too much happening that needs our attention. Either way, welcome October!

First West Allis is a buzz with life and energy—music rehearsals, book studies, prayer services, Senior League, Awana, Food Pantry, Second Saturday, Sunday School... all good and wonderful things. It is an exciting time to be church; to be a refuge, to be with one another, to learn and grow together, to be a place where we can be and do ministry together.

As time is constant, so is church. As church is here, so is God. God is in this place with us to guide our ways as God's children. And as God's children following the incarnate God, Jesus, we are here to continue the life and teachings of Jesus in the present time that has present needs and challenges.

I'm so grateful the faith family of First West Allis continues to be a loving neighbor to our siblings in the community. I hope each one of us recognizes the love of God in us and the gifts God blessed us with, to be part of sharing that love, care, and justice.

May we continue to grow and discover God's goodness in us so we can be God's goodness to others who need to experience God's love.

I hope you invest in God through First. We love and care for you, as God cares and loves you.

Pastor Grace

**Join us on October 5th
as we celebrate**

**world
communion
sunday**



A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

We are a Church of Caring and Love of Justice

This Old Testament verse keeps popping up in my studies lately, and so I share it here with you:

He has told you, O man (Adam), what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?
~Micah 6:8 English Standard Version~

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 see us also as a Church that loves justice, and we keep learning to humbly live and act on it. I am so proud of the many caring ministries that our fellowship offers and supports. I have been thinking about AWANA (It was so great to be there with the kids and families this past month!) and the families we support and love and relate within the AWANA community. I think about our vibrant food pantry. What a great team! I love our Second Saturday Servants. 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 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 think about our amazing music ministry--a powerful presentation of our faith and theology. I think about all the visions we shared at our retreat in September! More on that shortly.....

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 Nancy Lanman or Sue Klescewski, our Chairs of Adult Christian Education. I will be starting a new class--ReConfirm--on Sunday mornings and Tuesday nights, starting October 19 at 9:00 am or October 21 alternatively, zooming at 6:30 pm. 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.

A dozen of us shared **visions at a Retreat last month**. We will be sharing our main activity visions in worship and discussing and presenting at a Church Council meeting. We concluded with five main visions to pursue. Work committees have already started working on some of these:

--Revitalize our building for more community use. We are having a study done to help us plan this. Many of you will be involved in helping to define and develop this in the next few months.

--Develop a music academy at First Church to serve the greater community with Church music programming and teaching. This will take advantage of our background, contacts, reputation and talented resources.

--Strengthen our Food Pantry and maximize safety and loving care for our clients and servants.

--Provide ongoing education and training on Christian Social Ethics, building on what we have started in recent years.

--Engage our whole congregation in being a welcoming, inclusive community, that is a place of comfort and community for many cultural and diverse backgrounds. We will make use of training that we have received in the past, and partner with other congregations and communities and share our invitation with many others. There are many ideas raised to help with this. We will **discuss and engage** more and more as a full community of Christ.

As I noted a year ago, many of us are getting more mature, 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.

Tom Bolton, Lay Leader, 414-704-5478 ~God loves you and so do we. Discipleship Never Ends.~

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

	Year To Date Actual
Giving & Other Income	\$247,148.19
Expenses	\$280,145.69
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$(32,997.50)



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 OCTOBER 2025

October 5, 2025, World Communion Sunday

Texts: Lamentations 1:1-6, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

October 12, 2025, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jerimiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jerimiah 31:27-34, Psalm 19, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Reformation Sunday

Texts: Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

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.

In the 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!

FUMCWA MINISTRIES

The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library: During October, please visit the Gathering Room and browse the library cart featuring "Something for Everyone." You may check out any of the titles on the cart. Also, you are invited to The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library, where there are titles for children, youth, and adults in both fiction and nonfiction.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." -Joseph Addison



Food Pantry Ministry: Thank you for continuing to support the food pantry by contributing food, personal care products, household cleaners, and monetary gifts. Please check the dates if contributing from your own food pantry. We have a dedicated food pantry crew that cares for our guests, listens to their stories, and offers support and encouragement. We are seeing new people who are struggling to make ends meet. We accept all non-perishable food items. Personal care products include hair products, deodorant, shavers, shaving cream, liquid hand soap, hand lotions, and band aids. Household cleaners include kitchen disinfectant sprays, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, dish detergent, laundry soap, scrubbing pads, paper towels, and Kleenex. Every bit of help makes a difference, and we really appreciate it. Thanks so much for being there for us!

The September Good Samaritan Offering: \$252.00

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER:

~PANCAKE MIX (ADD WATER) AND PANCAKE SYRUP~

~SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER~



United Women in Faith: We would like to thank Pat Shapiro, our former parish nurse for presenting our program on Bone Health in September. It was very informative and the handouts were great! Thank you Pat for giving of your time and expertise!

Our Monday, October 13th meeting will be on Scams presented by Capt. Brian Saftig of the West Allis Police Dept. Please join us at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. All of us should be aware of what is happening because these scams keep changing!

On Monday, November 10th, Laura Molleson will present a program on Reki.

Please join UWF, you will be glad that you did! Any questions, please call Annette Intravaia 414-257--4166.

This QR Code will take you directly to our church website. The website has up-to-date information about events and schedules, and links to online Sunday worship services. www.fumcwa.org



Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator: Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordina-

tor: Our Chef, Cheryl, and our Officers have been planning for our 2025 Christmas Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd. Punch will be served at 11:30 am, and the luncheon will begin at 12 noon. Ticket sales start on Wednesday, October 1st, during our Senior League meeting, for \$22.00, or can be purchased at the church office. Please choose from three main entrees: Stuffed Pork Chop, Steak Tenderloin, or Chicken Cordon Bleu; there will be various side dishes and a delicious triple mousse mini layer cake for dessert. Our entertainment will be provided by the Milwaukee High School of the Arts Choir, directed by Raymond Roberts. Don't delay; everyone is welcome to attend. Purchase your tickets soon.

Meetings in October

October 1: 12 Noon: Shepherd's Pie, French Roll, Apple Crisp

Program: Ted Oliver; Musician, Pianist

Devotions: Bonnie Chesky

October 15: 12 Noon: Variety of Marco's Pizzas, Ice Cream Cones

Program: Jessica Michna; Dolley Madison

Devotions: Sylvia Cody



Coach Trip: Fireside "Oklahoma" Friday, October 3rd Leaves Franklin 8:45 am Leaves FUMC 9:15 - 9:30 am. This trip is currently closed. Please call the church office if you are interested in being placed on a waiting list. Cost \$110.00.

Coach Trip: "Christmas Stars" Saturday, December 6th, with a show at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre in Appleton, lunch included at Fox River Brewing Co. in Oshkosh. Cost \$130.00. Departure from FUMC at 9:00 am Four meal choices: 1. Crispy Chicken Sandwich, 2. Cheeseburger, 3. Shrimp Basket, 4. Caesar Salad with Chicken. The sign-up list has just started for this trip; everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a Senior League member. This is a beautiful Christmas show that is definitely a WOW!

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

FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS



Our wonderful casserole cooks continue to share their generosity this season! Please bring your hot dishes to church by **7:45 am on Saturday, October 11th.** The Servant Team will promptly package them for distribution through the **Morning Glory Ministry.** In addition to meals, **warm coats and hats** are deeply appreciated to help those in need as the weather turns colder. Thank you to all our servant-hearted volunteers. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and care.

October's Coins of Love will support Rooted & Rising – Washington Park which is committed to the dignity and potential of all individuals. They aim to help families meet basic needs, establish stability, and pursue their dreams. Their community center offers housing, childcare, food programs, and resources, fostering a supportive environment. They prioritize listening to our neighbors and collaborating with partners to create a stable and equitable community, helping everyone in Washington Park thrive.

August's Coins of Love - MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary \$497.31

September's Coins of Love - Thanksgiving Food Basket Ministry \$317.00



Wesleyan Congregational Care Team: Fall is here, and winter is right around the corner. Like the change of seasons, we often find our circumstances change. Change can also affect our emotional well-being. No matter what may be going on in your life, your Wesleyan Congregational Care Team caregivers are always willing to provide a steady shoulder or a listening ear. Please know we are here for you. You can simply reach out to Pastor Grace or call the church office. Members of the Care Team can also be identified on Sundays by the badge below. *"God Cares About You & So Do We"*



FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Christian Education Offerings by Deacon Nancy Lanman: Last month, after our summer respite, First United Methodist Church - West Allis highlighted the energetic return of Sunday School and Christian education programs with its vibrant fall foliage at the entrance to our sanctuary! Brilliant fall colors also emphasized new learning opportunities and resources designed to deepen our faith journeys and enhance ministry participation within the community.

Many of us may not be aware that our teachers have been working to discover new ways of offering resources to our community, and that this summer we provided a foretaste of what we have learned and additional sources of materials we have discovered. Tom Bolton invited us to share an exciting journey to the Holy Land and its sacred places through a series of engaging and moving videos. Sue Klescewski and I put together and distributed a collection of current articles from respected faith-oriented journals and magazines that challenged us to exercise our moral muscles to alleviate critical social justice issues. Articles chosen related to our current study of the Climate Change Crisis that our UMC Social Principles enumerate.

The entire congregation was also invited, after worship one Sunday, to view and reflect upon an episode of the new PBS series, the Human Footprint, that dealt with the ecological costs of hydroelectric dams. These resources are being offered, not solely in the context of regular classes, but in new ways to give our people a greater opportunity to experience a wider and deeper understanding of engaged discipleship, one that helps us to become better equipped to share our gifts in ministries underway here in our neighborhood and city.

Sunday School, worship, engaging in ministry all help us "to know not what to think, but how to think," as disciples of Jesus Christ and as how he would have us do as his followers. We must become more aware of how we are his presence, gifted in the Holy Spirit's presence, to then engage in our lives as Jesus did, when he lived among us.

Book Discussion Group: On Monday, October 20, at 1:30 pm, the group will discuss *Thief of Corinth* by Tessa Afshar. After years spent living with her mother and oppressive grandfather in Athens, Ariadne runs away to her father's home in Corinth, only to discover the perilous secret that destroyed his marriage: though a Greek of high birth, Galenos is the infamous thief who has been robbing the city's corrupt of their ill-gotten gains. Desperate to keep him safe, Ariadne risks her good name, her freedom, and the love of the man she adores to become her father's apprentice. As her unusual athletic ability leads her into dangerous exploits, Ariadne discovers that she secretly revels in playing with fire. But when the wrong person discovers their secret, Ariadne and her father find their future - and very lives - hanging in the balance. When they befriend a Jewish rabbi named Paul, they realize that his radical message challenges everything they've fought to build yet offers something neither dared hope for. The group meets in the Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

FUMCWA EVENTS



Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:

Pet Blessing - Saturday, October 4th @ 10:00 am: Once again we will join our neighbors to the East - First Lutheran Church - @ 74th and Lapham for this service. Bring your special pet or a picture of your current or past pet for a brief blessing service by Pastor Grace and Rev. Josh. All pets are welcome! (well... maybe not a pet bear). *Please have dogs on leashes and cats in carriers.* "God loves our pets, and so do we."

Methodist Movie Matinee / Discussion - Sunday, October 12th following worship: We will be seeing the film "*Unsung Hero*". Based on a true story, this PG film follows David Smallbone as he moves his family from Down Under to the States, searching for a brighter future. The family finds success with sons Joel and Luke's duo *For King and Country* and daughter Rebecca's Christian music career. *Yup... Movie, Popcorn and Beverages are FREE.* Stay for a brief discussion & pizza. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the pizzas. **PLEASE COME!!!**



Trunk-or-Treat - Saturday, October 25th from 4 - 7 pm in our Church Parking Lot: Once again we'll be giving out treats to our neighborhood kids. Decorate your car (and maybe yourself) and join us for this fun outreach 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 cars. We hope to be joined by some of our friends from 1st Lutheran, too!* I will have the church open for restroom use, and hot cider to keep us warm. **WE NEED CANDY DONATIONS!** Drop off candy in the Church office or Lance's office any time before the 25th. *Be there or be square!*

FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 treat and giving envelope from the Thanksgiving Tree in the Gathering Room. Each basket of food costs \$65.00. Any donation helps. Thank you for your kindness and continued support. Together, we're sharing the spirit of Thanksgiving with those who need it most.

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 welcome.



Gather & Give: A Housewarming for Samson & Nardos: Let's help turn their house into a home! Samson, Nardos, and their family have journeyed far from Ethiopia, found work, and now have a place to call home. Now it's our turn to help make that home warm, welcoming, and well-stocked! We're collecting **new or gently used kitchen and household essentials** to help them get started. Please see the list below, and if you have items to contribute, contact **Michelle at 414-**

774-5500 to avoid duplicates. Then bring your items to **church by October 12**. Let's come together to celebrate new beginnings, share kindness, and show what community is all about.

Coffee maker • Spice grinder • Egg cooker • Toaster • Griddle for pancakes • Juicer • Meat slicer • Mattress for full size bed • Bunk bed and mattresses for boys • Twin bed and mattress for Genesis • Pillows for all • Sheets for all • Comforters for all • Towels and washcloths • Dish towels • Microwave • Pans - all types - sauce/soup pans, cookie sheets, cake pans, etc. • Mixing/serving bowls • Sofa • Table and chairs • Vacuum • Slow cooker/crock pot • Cooking/baking utensils/serving • Lamp(s) • TVs • soup/cereal bowls (they have plates and coffee cups) • Cups • Sharp knives • Dressers/shelves/cabinets for clothes and/or other items • Money donations and gift cards



The **Wednesday Morning Prayer Service** offers an opportunity for a spiritual "midweek reset." We will come together to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God's presence. Through heartfelt prayers and moments of quiet reflection, the service revitalizes our spirits, providing comfort and inspiration to carry us through the week. We invite you to join us every Wednesday in the Fireside Room at 10:30 am.

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.

Recycle Socks & Support Northcott Neighborhood House: We're keeping the momentum going—our sock collection drive continues! Help us spread the word to neighbors and coworkers, encouraging them to clean their dresser drawers and upcycle their old socks. Our latest shipment of well-worn socks contributed a \$10 donation to Northcott Neighborhood House, a local Methodist mission dedicated to literacy and mentoring. Every pair makes a difference! Drop your old, clean socks in the collection basket in the Gathering Room and be part of this simple yet impactful way to give back. Thank you for supporting our mission!

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 (NIV)