

# Methodist the messenger

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

*God cares about you*



*and so do we*

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**Centenary Celebration of the Church Building (1923-2023)**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

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Dear Family of FUMCWA in Christ,

November greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we enter the eleventh month of the year 2023, I am reminded that we are coming to the close of the year 2023 in two months. More importantly, I am prompted by the Spirit of God to focus on a couple of matters of importance and relevance. I would like to share with you a few verses from the Scripture on those matters.

## **WORLD PEACE**

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives; do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

I Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

James 3:18: "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

Psalms 34:14: "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

Let us continue our faithful prayers for God's peace in the world, particularly in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine and other regions with conflicts.

## **THANKSGIVING DAY**

Psalms 50:14: "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and perform your vows to the Most High"

Psalms 107:8-9: "Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

I Corinthians 1:4: "I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus."

In the midst of and in spite of many conflicts and difficult times, locally, nationally, and globally, we are called to offer our thanks and praises for God's abundant grace and unfailing love and all the wonderful deeds of the past.

**PRAYER:** Lord, grant us peace within and beyond. Lead us to the day of thanksgiving with a heart filled with gratitude for Your gracious hands upon us and the entire humanity. Amen!



Dear Brothers and Sisters, saved in Christ.

Let us be in fervent prayer this month for peace in the World. I pray especially for children and refugees; please join me. We pray also for political leaders that God will bring them into the fold.

One of the powerful messages of Nehemiah is **how much you can accomplish when you align yourself with the will and plan of God.**

Nehemiah and his followers do what seems impossible because they are doing what God has called them to do. You don't have to rebuild a wall to do the will of God. But we are each expected to contribute to the foundation of the Church. We might participate in Christian education and invite our buddies to join us. We surely pray together for guidance and building instruction. I am thankful to be with you all.

Thomas Bolton  
414-704-5478

As Paul wrote in Romans 16:33, "The God of peace be with all of you. Amen."

**Stewardship Sunday:** We would like to express our gratitude to all the members and friends of FUMCWA who returned their pledge cards indicating their financial commitment to the ministries and mission of the church on Stewardship Sunday which was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Throughout the Stewardship journey this year, we were privileged to hear church members share about their own giving journey and the reasons why they are excited to contribute to the work of Christ at FUMCWA. We all had the opportunity to pray and discern what our commitment would be. If you haven't returned your pledge card and you wish to contribute to the life of the church financially, please mail your pledge card to the church office.



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

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$267,227.58	\$185,003.37	\$82,224.21
Expenses	\$303,751.49	\$366,510.33	\$62,758.84
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$(36,523.91)	\$(181,506.96)	

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!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FUMCWA

# *Worship* **TOGETHER**

### SERMON THEMES - Month of November 2023 - Lectionary Readings

*"Our Hymns of Grateful Praise"*

11/5 All Saints' Sunday, Matthew 23:1-12, "From Every Tribe"

11/12 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew 25:1-13, "Enter the Gates"

11/19 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew 25:24-30, "In Everything"

11/26 Christ the King Sunday, Matthew 25:31-46, "After Giving Thanks"

12/3 Centennial Celebration Service at 10:00 am

First Sunday of Advent, Mark 13:24-37

### FAITH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:** Since January 2023, a small committee has met twice a month to create a memorable booklet for members and friends of this church. We have been busy sorting through old pictures, taking new pictures, confirming historical dates, gathering stories, and going on a field trip to the West Allis Historical Society. We hounded a couple of Trustees (that will probably continue until December 3rd) and emailed one another hundreds of times. We had laughs and great conversations at our meetings. Ellen Kuchta had a warm way of sharing interesting and detailed stories about the early days of our church and her ancestors who helped build it. We also became quiet with thoughtfulness and then respect for all of the people who brought this church, our church, to where it is today. The history of the First United Methodist Church of West Allis is rich and beautiful, but foremost, it is Holy. God was faithful! The booklet is now complete. It went to Holly Champagne, the graphic designer. She designed it all and gifted her work to the church. It is now with the printer. This brings us to December 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Sunday morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be one worship service at 10:00 am. Pastor Sam has invited Bishop Hee-Soo-Jung, former pastors, Mayor Dan Devine, and special friends to join us for this important day. Following the service, "Sunday Dinner" catered by Rupena's will be served in Fellowship Hall. There will be items and photos on display highlighting special events over the years. Please join us for this wonderful gathering.

~Joanna Schachtely

*You and your family are cordially invited to a special worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 10:00 am in the sanctuary to celebrate the centenary of our church building's current location. The event will recognize and commemorate the many milestones of our church over the past one hundred years. Following the service, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a celebratory meal. You will also receive a Commemorative Booklet, which will include a narrative of church life along with pictures. This booklet will be a wonderful keepsake. We hope that you will join us on this special celebration Sunday.*



*The menu includes Turkey, Ham, Beef, Fried Chicken, Rolls with Butter, Red Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad with Dressings, Fresh Fruit, Cookies, Cake, Coffee, Tea, and Milk.*

**Advent 2023:** As we approach Christmas, the Advent season offers us a chance to rejoice in the promises we celebrate: the HOPE that Jesus will come back and bring about a new beginning, the JOY that comes from worshipping Him today and always, the PEACE we experience with God now and hope for our world to experience, and the LOVE of a God who gave up His own Son. We invite you to be a part of our Advent Book Study as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

**An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story by Rachel Billups**

This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds using both video and written word. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

**In-Person Study Begins Sunday, November 26, 9:30-10:30 am, Light House Room**

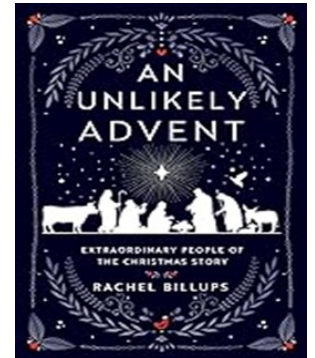
**Leader: Val Holzman**

The class runs from **November 26 - December 17**. The book is optional. Books will be available for sale in the church office.

**Zoom Study Begins Tuesday, November 28, 7:00-8:00 pm**

**Leader: Bonnie Chesky**

The Zoom class will be held on **November 28, December 5, December 12, and December 19**. Please contact the church office to register. The book is optional. Books will be available for sale in the church office.



The First United Methodist Church of West Allis (FUMCWA) will hold its **2023 Annual Charge Conference** on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. The conference will take place in Fellowship Hall and will be presided over by Rev. Ebenezer Insor, the South East District Superintendent. The agenda for the Charge Conference includes the Approval of the Membership Audit, the 2024 Church Budget (including Pastoral Compensation), the Nominations Report for 2024, Lay Preachers' Certifications, and Audit Reports. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**FAITH COMMUNITY UPDATES, NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship Schedule Update:** The Church Council still needs to finalize action on the worship schedule. The work team has wrestled with the schedule because there are two very compelling arguments. On the one hand, the church wants to honor the needs of the few people who can only worship at 8:00 am, and the desires of those who are very concerned about rollback, as well as the concerns of those who see small turnouts and a shortage of volunteers for two services. Lay Leader Tom Bolton says, "We care very much for both these groups within our beautiful church."

**Greetings from the Wesleyan Congregation Care Team!** As we begin a new month, we want you all to know our listening ears are available on Sundays. We each have a badge like the one pictured identifying ourselves as a WCCT member. Feel free to approach any of us about care concerns for yourself or someone you love and care about. If you'd like to be more discreet about talking with us, slip us a little note or let Pastor Sam or Laura Molleson know you'd like us to contact you.

~God Cares About You and So Do We~



**Wesleyan  
Care  
Team  
Listener**



**November Mission Moment:** Sincere thanks to all of our casserole makers. Your skills are needed again on Saturday, November 11th. Please deliver hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am.



The **November Coins of Love** collection will be donated to the displaced persons in West Allis who are currently living on the streets. The funds will be used to purchase hoodies and sweatpants, which will be distributed by the social worker of the West Allis Health Department. Our AWANA clubbers have been helping these individuals by providing them with PB&J sandwiches and Blessing Bags that contain grooming supplies. Your charitable donations are greatly appreciated by our community in need. The Missions Committee extends their gratitude.



**September** Coins of Love: Thanksgiving Food basket Ministry \$558.98

**October** Coins of Love: United methodist Children's Services \$140.14



**Food Pantry:** We have seen a big influx of people who need food and personal care items to help them get through the weeks ahead. We ask that any food items you bring be nonperishable and that the dates on the items are current and not expired. Items that are needed are crackers (any kind), pancake mixes (add water), chunky soups, stews, chili, pasta sides, pickles (any kind), jelly or jam, oatmeal, and canned meats. We welcome any other items that you can donate. Also much needed are the large handled grocery bags. Personal care items needed are men's shavers, body wash (especially for men), and deodorants. Supplies such as Kleenex, dish soap, liquid hand soap, laundry detergent, and aluminum foil are also needed. Thank you for your generosity and support. We have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers who are touched and blessed by the people we meet.

**United Women in Faith (UWIF):** Due to a number of reasons, we are sorry to say that our Cookie Sale will not take place this year. We hope that we will be able to have one in the future. We struggled with making our decision but feel that it is the right thing to do. Thank you to all who have supported us in the past. Our next Unity Circle meeting will be on Monday, November 13th, at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We have a number of new ladies who have joined us, and we welcome any others who would like to attend. If you have questions about our group, please call Annette at 414-257-4166. We would love to have you join us!



**Book Discussion Group:** On Monday, November 20, at 1:30 pm the group will discuss the book: ***Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights*** by Ashley Boggan Dreff.

This book tells the story of American Methodist women's efforts to fight for women's rights, beginning with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ending with the #MeToo movement. Each chapter documents particular Methodist women and provides the reader with a basic historical context of the time or situation at hand as it shows how Methodist women engaged and fought for women's equality or women's rights in American society and American Methodism. The faith of these Methodist women emboldened them to reach beyond their social confines to find political avenues of social justice. As women engaged in missions, they sought to not simply fix social ills but to prevent them from happening again. They addressed the causes of oppression and, by stepping out of their place, made a place for others. The group meets in The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.



I am very appreciative and thankful for the many cards, calls, and emails I have received while recovering from my injury. I also want to thank you for keeping me in your prayers during this time. Dennis Thomae

**YOU'D LOOK GREAT IN WINGS!** In Milwaukee and hundreds of other American Cities this Christmas, forgotten victims of crime will receive gifts from people they've never met. These victims are the children of men and women in prison. They will benefit through Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, a program sponsored by Prison Fellowship, an interdenominational Christian outreach, and FUMC of West Allis. The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree at our church opens on Sunday, November 19th. Our church members can select one or more angels from the decorated tree in the church narthex. The requested gifts need to be purchased, wrapped, and returned to the church by Sunday morning, December 10th. Judy Affeldt is the coordinator, and she will need volunteers to help with phone calls, addressing envelopes, and delivering the gifts. If you can help, please call Judy (414-690-4560) and volunteer for this wonderful project. Look for more information in the coming weeks.



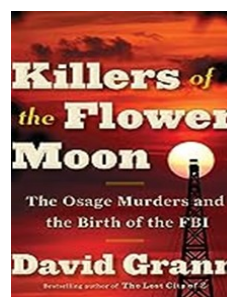
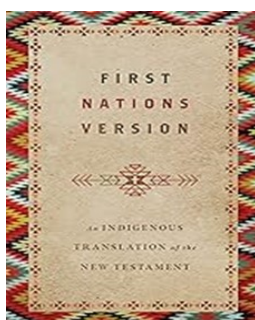
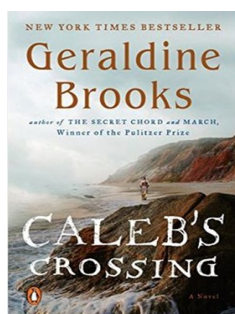
**Thanksgiving Basket Ministry:** As the cost of food continues to rise, we are incredibly grateful for your financial support in ensuring that we can distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to those most in need. The distribution of Thanksgiving Food Baskets will take place on Saturday, November 18th. Please get in touch with the church office if you know of any members of our church family who would benefit from receiving a Thanksgiving Food Basket. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



It's that time of the year again when you can place your order for **Poinsettias for Christmas Eve Services**. All orders and payments must be submitted by Sunday, November 19th. Please check the order insert in the Sunday bulletin for details. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Church Office at 414-774-5500.

**The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library:** Fall is a great time for reading. Your Library Committee invites you to visit The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library to check out these or other titles:

***Caleb's Crossing: a Novel*** by Geraldine Brooks  
***First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament***  
***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*** by David Grann



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



**Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator:** November is the last month you can donate to our Super Senior Fund, which goes to the Thanksgiving Baskets fund at the First United Methodist Church. Did you know that the Thanksgiving Baskets were started by the Senior League years ago? Well, the answer is Yes! So, please donate either to our fund or to the church, thank you. Senior League Christmas Luncheon tickets are on sale now until the end of the month, either at our Senior League meetings or in the church office. The date is **Wednesday, December 6th**, tickets are \$20.00, punch is at 11:30 am, and the luncheon is at 12:00 pm. Please choose your entree, either Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin or Turkey Tetrazzini. Program Entertainment at 1:00 pm: Milwaukee H.S. Arts Choir, Raymond Roberts, Director. Plan ahead and get your tickets; this is a festive afternoon! **Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in 2023 in our 48th Year with Senior League!**



### Meetings in November:

- November 1 12 Noon** Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Coleslaw, Chips, and Val's Birthday Cake  
Program: Grapevine Nutrition Presentation by Nurse Pat Shapiro  
Devotions: Charlene Buncich
- November 15 12 Noon** Raggedy Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Veggies, and Pumpkin Bars  
Program: "Bee Guy" Presentation by Andy Hemken, Beekeeper  
Devotions: Laurie Halvorsen

**Fireside Coach Trip Wednesday, December 13th, "Scrooge, The Musical"**. Our passenger list is currently closed, but feel free to call the church office to be put on the waitlist if you are interested.

### Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:

**All Saints Sunday - November 5, 2023:** Please join us at the 8:00 or 11:00 am worship service as we celebrate those we love but have lost at our Services of Remembrance. Come early to light a candle honoring the loved one or ones who have made a difference in your life and have gone on to be with the Lord. The names of those honored will be read during the service. If you have a candle from past years, you are welcome to bring it. Those unable to be at church on November 5<sup>th</sup> may call the Church Office with the information, and a candle will be lit and the name read at the services.

**"Journey to Bethlehem" film - November 10th -15th at The Ridge Theater in New Berlin:** Pastor Sam and Shanti saw a preview showing of this musical and recommend it highly. It is rated PG and suitable for the whole family. Go individually or with a group (Choir, AWANA, Sunday school class, etc.). View the trailer at [JOURNEYTOBETHLEHEMMOVIE.com](http://JOURNEYTOBETHLEHEMMOVIE.com) and check the Marcus Theater site for showtimes at The Ridge and to buy advance tickets if so desired. Lance will try to obtain discussion guides for groups.



**Methodist Movie Matinee / Discussion - Nov. 19th following 2nd service:** "We like comedies" is what I heard after last month's film (Bruce Almighty), so we're going to see its PG sequel, Evan Almighty. Evan Baxter (Steve Carell from the 1st film) leaves the news business to become a congressman and seems to have it made until God (Morgan Freeman) throws a crisis of biblical proportions at his feet. The Lord wants him to build an ark and gather all the animals 2 X 2 in preparation for a flood. As usual, the movie, popcorn & beverages are FREE. Stay for a brief discussion and pizza afterward. Free will offering to defray the cost of the pizzas. Please come and BRING A FRIEND!!!

**Concluding Words:** Sisters and Brothers in Christ, as people of gratitude, let us offer our thanks and praises for all the blessings of the past and present and the blessings that God has stored for us in the future. Let us continue our prayers for the church and the community that we might continue to be a light of the world and the salt of the earth. *"For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise."*

David Affeldt,  
Chair, Church Council

Sam Royappa  
Lead Pastor