

# 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)**

**OCTOBER 2023**

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Dear FUMCWA Family in Christ,

October Greetings to all God's People!

Fall has begun. We are back to the fall schedule. Kids are back to schools and colleges. Mission opportunities continue to knock at our doors. Challenges are always welcome. God is with us as we believe in the God of Immanuel. God's people are everywhere, a source of support and encouragement. We celebrate the life and mission of FUMCWA as the efforts to advance the missionary posts are on the increase. We witness the needs. We gather the resources. We seek support and participation.

Proverbs 3:9-10 reads: *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."* Traditionally, October is the month of stewardship, which means - inviting members of the Faith Community to be good stewards of their resources, gathering needed financial resources, and supporting the missions and ministries of the church programs, services, and expansions of our efforts. We will receive communications in words, visuals, and written messages. As Faithful Members of the church and disciples of Jesus Christ, we are commissioned to share what we are blessed with.

Christian Hospitality is about building and maintaining relationships with all. Relationships are the glue that holds a church together with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Whether nurture, outreach, or witness (NOW), resources are invested for the dual purpose of building relationships with God and People - vertical and horizontal. At the end of the day, we celebrate health, growth, and vitality (HGV). A Future with Hope!

**PRAYER:** God of grace and power, make us channels of your blessings here and everywhere! Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done! Amen!



I love Autumn time in the Church. We have new Sunday School classes ramped up, AWANA families fill the Sanctuary with excitement and beautiful words and singing, worship feels fresh, and the pews seem a little fuller again. I hope you are filled with the Spirit, too. If you aren't in a Christian Education class, I urge you to find one or two. You will be amazed at how that routine—that Spiritual discipline—will energize and fill your spirit. We feel so good when we rub shoulders in the pews. I am excited about all the activity and love at First Church. I pray that you feel it, too.

Tom Bolton, Lay Leader



Dear Members of our Faith Community,

I wanted to draw your attention to a matter of concern that has come to my attention recently. There have been instances of strangers approaching our church members in the parking lot and the building, asking for financial assistance or help in some other form. While we are always eager to help those in need, we need to exercise caution and prudence in our approach.

I kindly request all members to refrain from offering any financial assistance without first verifying with the church office or myself. Also, I urge everyone to avoid giving rides to strangers without proper references. These incidents have occurred before, and we need to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our community.

As a community that believes in "God cares about you and so do we," let us continue to practice kindness and compassion, but with due diligence and good judgment. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely, Pastor Sam



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

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$245,038.85	\$164,447.44	\$80,591.41
Expenses	\$270,727.92	\$325,786.96	\$55,059.04
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$(25,689.07)	\$(161,339.52)	

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



### OCTOBER SERMON THEMES/SCRIPTURES

Pastor Sam's sermon series is on "How Effective Leaders Motivate Themselves and Others" based on The Book of Nehemiah. You are invited to read The Book of Nehemiah. Today in the church, the Holy Spirit has bestowed gifts and graces upon each of us to help strengthen the body of Christ.

10/1 World Communion Sunday - Nehemiah 2:3-19, "Brick by Brick: Gracious Hand of God"

10/8 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Nehemiah 3:3-7, "Brick by Brick: People Working Together"

10/15 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Nehemiah 4:6-11, "Brick by Brick: Faith Joining Hands with Works"

10/22 Stewardship Sunday - Nehemiah 5:7-13, "Brick by Brick: Spiritual Commitment"

10/29 Youth-Led Sunday - Nehemiah 6:1-9 "Brick by Brick: Strengthening Our Hands"

### HOSPITALITY FOLLOW-UP FOR OCTOBER

Christian Hospitality calls forth three questions. They are: Why do people need Jesus and His love? Why do people need a church? Why do people need my/our church? The focal points of Christian Hospitality are Church Members, Non-participating Members, Guests, and Visitors. Every member is strongly encouraged to invite people to the following special services and events in October:

October 1 World Communion Sunday  
October 7 Pet Blessing (First Lutheran 74<sup>th</sup> and Lapham)  
October 17 Science Cafe  
October 22 Stewardship Sunday



### FAITH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

#### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - October 22, 2023

God has entrusted to our management time, possessions, abilities, and above all, our own lives. All are meant to be deployed and used for His honor and glory. As God has expectations, we will serve Him in every possible way and will grow to think, care, and love like Him. The 2023 Stewardship Campaign for our Faith Community is scheduled for the month of October. Each Sunday, we will hear "*Stewardship Moments*" from church members. We will receive a "*Stewardship Communication*" along with a 2024 Pledge Card. We will celebrate "*Stewardship Sunday*" on October 22nd at both services. God cares about you and so do we! A Future with Hope! Let our generosity continue building the Kingdom of Love through FUMCWA.



**October Mission Moment:** There are several mission events happening in October! On Saturday, October 14th, we need hot casseroles delivered to the church kitchen by 7:45 am. Additionally, we will be taking some peanut butter to the 8th and Dakota food site. As winter is approaching, we will be organizing a scarf cutting event on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Small Dining Room. The "mufflers" we create for adults and children will be distributed to local resource centers and our food bank guests in December. If more are needed, we will hold another scarf cutting event in November.



**October's COINS OF LOVE** will be benefiting Wisconsin United Methodist Children's Services on 37th and Lisbon in Milwaukee. This organization supports women and children by providing them with food, housing, and training toward independence.

**August** Coins of Love: Goodness Foundation in India \$338.57

**September** Coins of Love: Thanksgiving Food basket Ministry \$339.98



**Food Pantry:** We appreciate all of the large grocery bags with handles that have been donated. We would encourage anyone who has some to spare to please continue to bring them to the office or put them in the Narthex in the food pantry donation site. Any food items that you care to donate should be non-perishable. Please check the dates to make sure they are not expired. We also appreciate any personal care items or household cleaning supplies. Thank you for your continued support and donations. Our guests are very thankful for the variety of things that are offered, knowing that it will help them get through the next couple of weeks a little easier.

**United Women in Faith (UWIF):** We were pleased to be able to host the South East District Fall Gathering here at First Church on September 23rd. We had a virtual event as well as in-person attendance. A light breakfast was served, as well as lunch. The keynote speaker was Rev. Ellen Rasmussen, previous pastor of Brown Deer UMC and now pastor of Algoma Boulevard UMC in Oshkosh. Our next Unity Circle Meeting will be on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We welcome new visitors!



**MEMBERSHIP**  
CLASS

**New Members Class:** FUMCWA is a warm and welcoming community of faith. We are always glad to have others partner with us in our mission to share God's love! If you are interested in finding a place to call home as you grow in faith and deepen relationships with others, please consider becoming a member. A New Members Class will be held on **Saturday, October 21, 2023, in the Gathering Room from 9:00-11:00 am**. Please contact the church office or Pastor Sam if you are interested.

**Book Discussion Group:** On Monday, October 16, at 1:30 pm, the group will discuss two books: **Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World** by Vivek H Murthy, M.D. Murthy's book highlights the importance of human connection and how loneliness can have a hidden impact on our health and society. And **Our Growing Tree (Children's Curriculum): From Self-Love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation: A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13** by Ilka Vega. The group meets in The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library. All are welcome.

**SCIENCE CAFE with FUMCWA** - October 17, 2023, 6:00-7:30 pm: Come join us for the Science Cafe Program, an educational initiative sponsored by The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and hosted by FUMCWA. This program aims to enhance public health by engaging in dialogues about current medical and health issues based on the latest scientific developments. The event will take place in a relaxed, non-academic setting. We welcome everyone, both members and non-members, to attend the first FUMCWA-sponsored Science Cafe on October 17, 2023, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm, preceded by dinner at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Topic: Hypertension & Stroke with overview of Cardiovascular Issues. Presenters: Marcie Berger, MD and Stacy Gardiner, MD. Please contact Pastor Sam if you have questions and to register.



**HOLY LAND JOURNEY 2024:** Pastor Sam will lead/host a *Holy Land Journey 2024 - April 2 - 12, 2024*. In this journey, we will explore the Life of Jesus, His times, His land, and His Hebrew Faith. We will see the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Church of the Fish and the Loaves at Tabgha, the Chapel of the Primacy, Magdala, the Wedding Chapel in Cana, Tel Megiddo, Caesarea, Jericho, Qumran, Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity, Shepherds' Field, Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial, the Mount of Olives, the Palm Sunday Road, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, House of the High Priest Caiaphas, the Upper Room, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Jerusalem, and much more! **Brochures are now available in the narthex for more details and registration information.** This journey is in partnership with *Educational Opportunities Tours*, a Christian Travel Service.

### **FAITH COMMUNITY UPDATES, NEWS, 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 just 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 lollipop from the Thanksgiving Tree in the Narthex. Each basket of food costs \$55.00. Any donation will help. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Julie Bryson will step down as the leader of the **WCCT** at the end of this month. Laura Molleson will take over as the new leader.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR– Sunday, December 3, 2023**

We are excited to announce that a special worship service will take place on Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 10:00 am in the sanctuary to celebrate the centenary of our church building at its current location. Following the service, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a celebration meal. The event will recognize and commemorate the many milestones of our church over the past one hundred years. We welcome all guests and visitors to join us on this special day. We are also pleased to announce the release of a Church Memoir, which will include a narrative of church life along with pictures. This memoir will serve as a wonderful keepsake for all those who attend the celebration. You are cordially invited to join us on this momentous occasion.



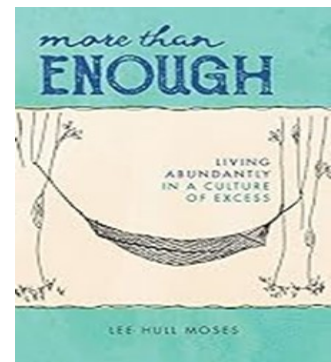
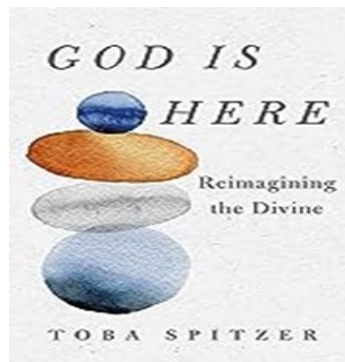
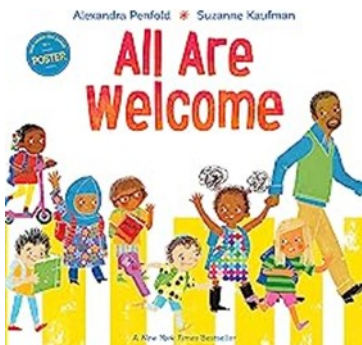
Congratulations to Seth Kinney on his graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this past Spring. Seth is the son of Jon and Sandy Kinney. Seth earned a degree in Computer Science, and after 300 applications were submitted for a job, he started work with Wisconsin Energy on September 11th. We are happy and proud to announce this and wish Seth much success in the future.

**The Bernice Nailen Memorial Library:** These are titles in your library. Your Library Committee invites you to please stop in to check out these or other titles:

***All are Welcome*** by Alexandra Penfold

***God is here: Reimagining the Divine*** by Toba Spitzer

***More than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess*** by Lee Hull Moses



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



**Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator:** Our tickets for our Christmas Luncheon on **Wednesday, December 6th, 2023**, will go on sale at all the Senior League meetings or in the church office. Tickets are \$20.00. Punch is at 11:30 am, and the Luncheon is at 12:00 pm. Menu: Entree choices of Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin or Turkey Tetrazzini, Vegetable Blend, Small Seasoned Potatoes, French Rolls w/Butter, and Molton Lava Cake. Program Entertainment at 1:00 pm: Milwaukee High School of the Arts Choir, Raymond Roberts; Director. Plan ahead and get your tickets; this is a fun and festive day!



### Meetings in October:

**October 4 - 9:00- 11:30 am:** Senior League Officer Planning Meeting for 2024 in the Small Dining Room

**October 18 12 Noon** Cousin's Sub Sandwiches, Chips, and Cookies  
Program: Pastor Sam's Indian Cultural Music Presentation  
Devotions: Annette Intravaia

**Fireside Coach Trip: Join us on Wednesday, December 13th, for "Scrooge, The Musical"!** The cost is \$102.00, which includes gratuity, and the trip is open to everyone. We have plenty of open seats, so feel free to invite your friends. To sign up, please visit the church office or attend the Senior League meetings. Checks can be made out to "The Senior League". The coach will depart from Sacred Heart Apartments-Franklin at 8:50 am and from FUMC at 9:30 am. Reservations are required.

**Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in 2023 in our 48th Year with Senior League!**

### Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:

**Pet Blessing - Saturday, October 7th - 10:00 am @ First Lutheran Church:** Bring your special pet to our neighbor church on 74th and Lapham for our annual pet service. Pastor Sam and Rev. Josh will conduct a brief service and allow time for individual pet blessings. Dogs must be leashed, and cats must be leashed or in carriers. All people (and all manner of pets) are welcome!



**Methodist Movie Matinee/Discussion - Sunday, October 15th - Sanctuary after 2nd Service:** How about another comedy? Come see **"Bruce Almighty"** and enjoy popcorn and a beverage, all *Free of Charge!* In this PG-rated film, Bruce (Jim Carrey) is a reporter who thinks the world is stacked against him, so God, aka "The Big Guy Upstairs" (Morgan Freeman), endows Bruce with all His powers. He challenges Bruce to take on the big job to see if he can do any better. Stay after the movie for pizza and a brief discussion. A free-will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the pizzas. Please come *and bring a friend!!!*

**Trunk-or-Treat - Saturday, October 28th - 4 to 7 pm - Church Parking Lot:** Decorate your car (and yourself) and join us for this annual "Good Neighbor" event. We get *hundreds* of kids, so come stocked with candy! We would also *really* need and appreciate donations of Halloween candy to help us with this worthwhile community outreach. Drop off candy at Lance's office or in the Church office. On the 28th, I'll have hot spiced cider to stave off the chill, and the church restrooms will be open. **Arrive between 3:00-3:30 pm so Lance can arrange the cars. Please come and/or donate candy!**

**CONCLUDING WORDS:** *Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord has been faithfully leading and guiding our Faith Community for two-thirds of 2023. As we celebrate the goodness of the Lord, let us move into the last quarter of 2023 with our missional commitment to continue supporting the church ministries generously and joyfully. God is our Lord and Savior. We are His beloved people. Blessings continue!*

David Affeldt,  
Chair, Church Council

Sam Royappa  
Lead Pastor