

# Methodist the messenger

Rev. Dr. Grace G. Cajuat, Pastor

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**JULY 2024**

*God cares about you*



*and so do we*



Members & Friends of FUMCWA,

Smith College and the Maryknoll Sisters have a strong relationship because of Dr. Elizabeth Carr, Catholic Chaplain at Smith College. A scholar in Christian Spirituality, she wrote about Smith alum Mollie Rogers (1905), who later founded the Maryknoll Sisters and became Mother Mary Joseph. As a music instructor at Smith, I worked with the chapel

closely and formed a wonderful working and personal relationship with Dr. Carr. I took my choir to Ossining, New York, the mother house, for a concert, commissioning a choral piece for the occasion. I also went to the mother house for retreats with Liz Carr. It was she who introduced me to Sr. Richard Marie, a retired nun whose ministry was teaching music. She was the first one to call me "Grace Note" back in 1996.

"Grace Notes" is not only a play on my name but a description of how I see our lives connected with God's grace. Theoretically speaking, grace notes can be before or on the beat, stressed or leaning towards. It can be one note of different values, or it can be a passage of notes circling to the major note. In faith, I see our lives as witnesses of God's grace, accenting it strongly or connecting it for people to see and experience God's grace. Our life in God connects us with others, letting them know of their belongingness to God through our witness of love and compassion.

As I begin my time with you, I am excited for the coming year as I am excited about you, and I look forward to what God has in store for us as people of God serving our neighborhood, the state, the nation, and the world. My goal is that each of us discover who we are by engaging the promises we made when we became a member of this United Methodist Church – "prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness." There already are opportunities for us to learn and open our hearts and minds to who God is and what God is calling us to be and do.

I look forward for us to ground our discipleship taking time and making time to understand and know God, and for us to listen to God. I want us to understand stewardship as a spiritual practice that is in everything that we live and do—how we care for ourselves so we may care constructively and healthily for one another and our neighbors, care for God's creation in our daily living, give of our time to service, use the gifts and talents God has given each one of us so others may know Christ, understand the money and resources we have is God's and when we pool them together, we make a greater impact together as a church.

I invite us to engage with curiosity and wonder with the assurance we are enfolded in grace. God's grace.

*Pastor Grace*

## A NOTE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

I think this is HUMP Month.

We are just past the middle of our calendar year and a little over halfway to Christmas again. This is the month of new Pastoral assignments, Church picnics, sunny days, and gorgeous nights to sleep outside. This is a month full of vacations and sleepy moments. But it is not a time to stop praying. It is a time for growth and learning new things--things out of our ordinary sphere, I think.

I'm looking forward to the arrival of our new Pastor, Grace Cajuat. She seems so bright and insightful! Please join me in welcoming her and making her comfortable with her new congregation.

This is a time for leisurely visits and surprising growth, but I will be away for a while. I am excited to let you know that I am getting a new kidney on July 16th. I thank God for keeping me alive and hopeful up to this point. I also thank all of you and my friends in various faith communities around the world for praying for me and encouraging me. I have to be isolated for a couple months after the transplant at St. Luke's, because my immune system will be suppressed to help prevent rejection of the new kidney. I hope to be online with most of you by the end of July. But we'll see! My priority will be restoring my health. Know that I will miss my church family and pray for you regularly.

Please keep supporting my wife, Karen. She will worry about me and miss my presence some of the time. Keep her in your encouragement and prayer program--more than me. Please.

See you soon!

Tom Bolton, Lay Leader (no phone number this month)

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God loves you and so do we.



The Church Financial Statement of Activities ending May 31, 2024:

	Year To Date Actual	Year To date Budget	Difference
Giving & Other Income	\$180,689.85	\$115,616.70	\$65,073.15
Expenses	\$154,953.48	\$191,106.75	\$36,153.27
Operating Income/ (Deficit)	\$25,736.37	\$(75,490.05)	

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.

# Worship TOGETHER

## SCRIPTURE READINGS & SERMONS - July 2024

**July 7** - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Communion Sunday

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rick Brewer

Text: Mark 12:28b-31; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13

Title: "The Greatest of These"

**July 13** - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Lay Leader Don Gilpin will preach

**July 21** - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Welcome Pastor Grace

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Message from the Word

**July 28** - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Ephesians 3: 14-21; John 6: 1-21

Message from the Word

**2024 Vacation Bible School:** VBS Camp FUMCWA Firelight is a free week-long event for children from 3K to Grade 5 at FUMCWA. It will take place July 15th-19th from 9:00 am to noon. Led by the Camp Counselor Sam and Lumen, the lightning bug puppet, Campers will learn how to face their fears by trusting in God. Camp FUMCWA Firelight offers a variety of activities such as music, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and snacks. Campers will also learn Bible stories that demonstrate how to accomplish great things in God's name. They will learn to trust God in any situation, know that God is always with them, and share the good news of God's love through Jesus. VBS Camp FUMCWA Firelight information and registration forms are available in the Narthex, in the church office and on the church website. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and grandchildren to join us for a fun-filled week with many special activities and surprises. Register by July 8th or in person on July 15th.

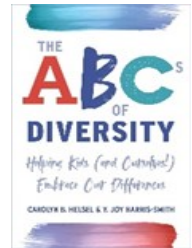


Save the date for the First Church annual ALL-CHURCH PICNIC at Hoyt Park in Wauwatosa on Sunday, July 21st, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. We'll be welcoming Pastor Grace and Chris to our church family. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet Pastor Grace and her husband, Chris. Please check Church Events for more details!

## FUMCWA MINISTRIES

**CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY:** Your Bernice Nailen Memorial Library Committee invites you to visit your church library this summer. Titles for all ages on various fiction and nonfiction topics are available. A recent addition to the collection on a timely topic is:

***The ABC's of Diversity: Helping Kids (and Ourselves!) Embrace Our Differences*** by Carolyn B. Helsel. How do we raise the next generation to respect and learn from people who look or believe differently than they do? From two educators who are also moms comes a guide to help parents and other teachers navigate conversations about all kinds of diversity. This practical resource includes activities to build compassion and empathy among differing religions, classes, races, genders, abilities, political affiliations, sexual orientations, nationalities, and more. This book is definitely worth reading. It offers valuable teaching and learning tools aimed at creating a community of acceptance and belonging. Also, there's a helpful chart available, and you can find the book in our library. Make sure to check it out!



Thank you to all who have been contributing food, personal care items, cleaning aids, or monetary gifts. Please know how much we appreciate all that the congregation does to help us continue to provide help for those in need in our community. Any nonperishable food is welcome. All personal care items are welcome. We serve a lot of men so those items are needed most. We have a lot of tooth paste at the moment, so we would prefer things like body wash, deodorant, shavers, etc. Any household cleaning aids are also welcome. We are in need of large paper grocery bags with handles and the red Sendik's bags. Please place items in the Mission Corner in the section for the food pantry or bring them to the office.

We would also like to thank Pastor Ron for his help during his stay with us. He has been present at each food pantry, lending a helping hand, providing encouragement to those experiencing a difficult time in their life, and providing new ideas for our food pantry. He encouraged the use of a computer program which he helped set up with the office staff that we will be utilizing in the next few months. He set up a visit in June with the Waukesha food pantry, which he helps with. We wish him much happiness and much-needed rest in his retirement!

If you can provide fresh produce from your garden this summer, we would appreciate any donations. Please bring them the week of the food pantry (the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month). If you can help us with any monetary gifts, we would be most grateful. We hope to continue this much-needed mission for as long as there is a need in our community. God bless each and every one of you!

Our food item for the month of July is pickles! Believe it or not, this item goes very fast! Any variety is welcome, but no large jars, as they are too heavy for the bags. Our household cleaning aid is kitchen disinfectant spray. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

**June's Good Samaritan Offering: \$1235.18**

### **PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR JULY:**

**PICKLES (ANY KIND) AND KITCHEN DISINFECTANT SPRAY**

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWIF):** Unity Circle does not meet in July or August. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall. We welcome any new members to join us on September 9th when we resume. Pat Shapiro will be presenting a program on brain health. We are growing, enjoying fellowship with one another, sharing ideas, providing informative programs, having devotion time, and ending each meeting with refreshments! Please consider joining us and if you have questions about our group, please call Annette Intravaia (414-257-4166).





**Laurie Halvorsen, Senior Ministries Coordinator:** Come pre-celebrate with us on July 3rd when we have a great indoor picnic prepared by our chefs and experience the program by the Milwaukee County Zoo. Come join us and bring a friend! **Join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship in our 49th Year with Senior League in 2024!**

### Meetings in July 2024:

**July 3 12 Noon** Brats, Burgers, Pasta Salad, Chips and Ice Cream Cones  
Program: Milwaukee County Zoo Program  
Devotions: Val Holzman

**July 17 12 Noon** Variety of Pizzas  
Program: Science Support by Scripture; by Chris Hathaway  
Devotions: Sylvia Cody



## **FUMCWA LOCAL MISSIONS**



**Second Saturday Servants** in July calls for more hot breakfast casseroles in pans double-sprayed for easy serving (this really helps-please keep doing this). Please bring hot casseroles to the church kitchen by 7:45 am on July 13th. Thanks for supporting this important mission.

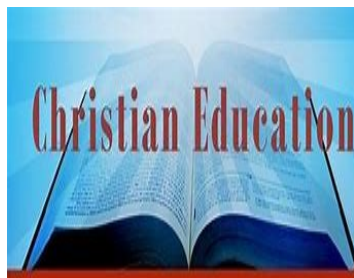
**Coins of Love:** July's Coins of Love will support Midwest Mission Distribution Center-Sending tangible resources to those in need and making a difference.

May's Coins of Love - Ingathering 2024 Wisconsin Annual Conference \$368.00

June's Coins of Love - Habitat for Humanity \$149.73



## **FUMCWA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**



**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MESSAGE FROM BONNIE CHESKY:** I am thankful to my Adult Education Committee for all the help in creating the past year of classes to offer growth in Bible knowledge and strengthen faith in Jesus. Thanks to our teachers this past year: Michael Odle, Tom Bolton, Val Holzman, Laura Grabowski, Nancy Lanman (2023) and most recently, Pastor Ron, who added his leadership to our group. Also, thanks to Deb Semrad for her invaluable help in running our Zoom classes. I want to encourage any who are not familiar with the series, The Chosen, to join our small group in watching an episode each Sunday this summer at 9:00 am in the Lighthouse Room. It's good to share our insights and love of the series after watching it. I also hope you are taking time for daily devotional study on your own this summer. My devotion offered this thought: "Jesus is inviting us to join in purposeful work for God's kingdom and then to release that work into the ever-moving love of God". (Mark 4:26-29) We each do our small part in spreading God's love, and God does the miracle of changing hearts. That's what we try to do through our ACE classes, and we hope you'll try one this fall.

## FUMCWA EVENTS



### Lance Lambert / Events Coordinator:

Everything you need to know about our annual All Church Picnic and Swim...

(This is Pastor Grace's 1st Sunday in our pulpit - let's give her a warm "1st Church" welcome)

**When:** Sunday, July 21st - 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**Where:** Hoyt Park in Wauwatosa - Picnic Area #1

**What:** We're going back to our traditional "potluck" format from years gone by (because Lance LOVES Methodist potlucks). Bring a dish to pass. Sandwiches, chips, beverages, and (of course) S'mores will be provided. There is a kid's play area nearby and there will be contests and lots of good fellowship, too.

**Bring:** A lawn chair for your comfort and be ready to enjoy yourself with your church family. Don't forget the above-mentioned dish to pass - you really don't want 50 hungry Methodists upset with you!

If you're a swimmer - bring your swimsuit and a towel. *If you haven't been there, Hoyt's pool is amazing!* Events will pay your admission to the pool.

Why not bring a friend or neighbor? This event is a *perfect* opportunity to introduce someone to our church. Oh, and before I forget, pray for good weather!



I will have maps available in the narthex starting July 7th. **Hope to see you there!!!**

Also, I need 2 or 3 strong people around 11:00 am that day to help set up our tent and move and set (really heavy) picnic tables at the park. Let me know if you can help.

## FUMCWA FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



To my Church Family, thank you for reaching out to me and my family during this very difficult time. My daughter, Cathy, was a very courageous person who will be missed. Your comforting expression of sympathy will always be remembered with deep gratitude. Love, Marion Syme and Family

Our family would like to thank our church family for the many cards and prayers for our wife and mother, Debbie Niespodziani, who passed away on May 8th. Debbie was a faithful servant to the Lord, and she will continue in that role in His kingdom. She always thought that FUMCWA was such a caring and welcoming church, and she was right. We thank you for all your kindness. Rick, Pamela, and Dan

**The Scholarship and Endowment Committee** has had a busy last few months! We met in May to review the scholarship applications from the West Allis High Schools. We were proud to award seven \$1,000 scholarships to very deserving recipients. In June we met to review and award our church member college students with scholarships. Congratulations to Abby Page, Thomas Harper, Jakob Noll, Ben Page, and Phillip Harper. Each student was awarded \$2,000 to go towards their college tuition. It was also approved by the committee to give \$500 to the church to be used for Vacation Bible School.

