

Tuscola United Methodist Church Connect

February 2025



**Grace and peace to the People of
Tuscola, for our God in heaven,**

Why are we here?

Where do we want to go?

These two questions are at the heart of a book called *The Unstuck Church* by Tony Morgan. This book covers the stages of a church's life cycle: launching, momentum growth, strategic growth, sustained health, maintenance, preservation, and life support. It also discusses why the church may be in certain stages of the life cycle and how to move effectively to other stages.

In momentum growth, Morgan identifies that churches should plan out the mission, vision, and strategy to answer these questions. So, let's look at the first two.

Why are we here?

I take this as two separate questions: one, why are you, as an individual, at this church or want to come to this church, and two, in Morgan's words, why do we (the church) exist.

These are both simple and challenging questions to answer. I always say that when I teach this in a group setting, I will not accept as an answer 'because my parents came here and made me go here' or 'because I always have'.

Why are we here?

We should be able to list our experiences with God and how we see the church helping us continue to be in that relationship.

Why does the church exist?

I encourage people not to say that 'it will always be here'. Most churches in the US have only existed for 200 years, especially here in Illinois. A bar in England has existed since 947 AD, the Pouch House, far longer than Methodists have been there.

This question of why we are here as individuals and the church must have an answer because, without it, we cannot answer the following question:

where do we want to go?

Where we want to go is called vision.

One of my “favorite” interview questions is:
where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Because, much like the Muppet Elmo answered, “5 years? I don’t know what I am doing in the next 5 hours.”

But as a church that intends to exist forever, 5 years in the life of a church is 5 hours.

The Vision takes that question and says we know why we exist, so what do we want to do with our existence?

The churches that have vision, growth, and healthy goals continue to happen; the churches that say ‘well, we exist, and that is all that matters’, usually end up in the life support stage of the church’s life cycle.

We are asking ourselves these questions, which will be the topic of discussion for the next Church Council meeting and the two meetings we will have this month.

They are called cottage meetings.

We are holding them to get input from church members on these questions to help the church have a clear Mission and Vision Statement.

I know this church can do that as we have done so before.

Methodis have moved here, built buildings to meet in, created programs for the safety and care of children, and continued to feed those who need food.

They had a vision of a better future they could help create.

Blessings,

Pastor Bennett Woods





Illinois Great Rivers Conference
The United Methodist Church

**Bishop Kennetha
scheduling
District Town Hall
meetings**



Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Save the Date

Sunday, February 23rd

East District churches are invited to a town hall meeting with Bishop Kennetha on Sunday, February 23rd (Exact meeting time & location to be announced)

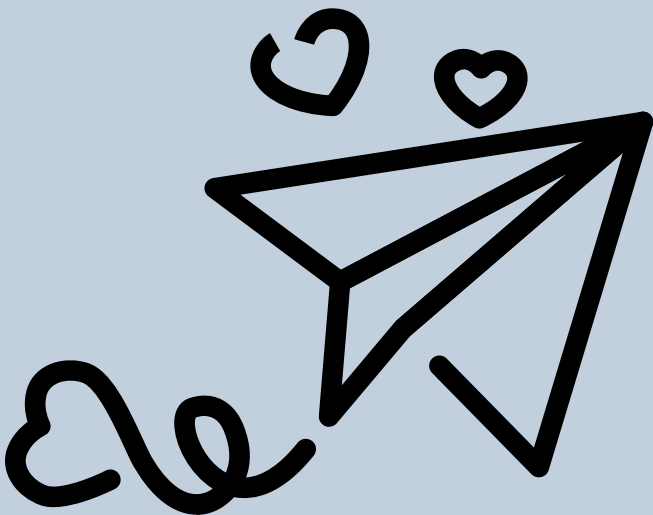
Mark your calendars and plan to join us on this Sunday afternoon to ask questions and meet one of our new bishops.

This will be an opportunity to meet Bishop Kennetha and ask questions.

SENDING LOVE

**PLEASE JOIN US IN SENDING SOME LOVE AND KIND THOUGHTS TO OUR
HOME BOUND AND ASSISTED LIVING MEMBERS**

**CARDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SIGN ON A TABLE IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL HALLWAY**





**Don't forget
to sign up for
Kids Club!**

**Speak to Pastor Kim
for details!**



BE A PART OF SOMETHING

BIGGER

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuscola United Methodist Church

Friday, February 14th

10:00 am-1:30 pm

Donate in the Fellowship Hall

901 N. Prairie St.

Appointments requested

**To book appointment, scan QR code,
visit bloodcenter.org or call
ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.**

**All successful donors will get either an egift card or
choose a donation to charity!**

Group Code: 71203

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 12/20/24



SHIMMER & SHEEK
BOUTIQUE

SAVE THE DATE

♡ FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 5-9PM ♡



DRINKS - SHOPPING - FOOD - ACTIVITES

♡ Downtown Tuscola ♡

DETAILS COMING SOON!

4th Annual

Galentine's Event

Friday
February
7th

Celebrate the season of love with
your best gal pals at Tuscola's

Galentines event!

- **Shimmer & Sheek Boutique** -serving wine, free valentine heart necklace with purchase of \$75 or more
- **107 West Sale Street**
 - **Rustique Boutique**- Custom charm necklace/trucker hat bar
 - **Three French Hens**
- **Hometown Grounds**
 - **Permalinx Jewelry**
 - **Wildflour Bakery**
- **Jesye J. Fashion**- reusable bag with purchase & valentine coupon
- **Visual Image Salon**- 14% off products & \$10 brows
 - **Fused by Morgan Perkins**
 - **My Grandmas Kitchen**
 - **Scentsy**
 - **Best Life Medi Spa**
 - **Crunchy Cravings & More**
- **Rachel Ray Photography**- V-day photos & giveaway
- **Cast Iron Pub**- drink & food specials
- **The Vault**- free make & take valentine painting class 5-7pm
- **Joe's Pizza**- cheesecake & pasta specials
- **Bookie's Tavern**- drink specials
- **Calf's Western** Wear- handing out roses

Downtown
Tuscola
5-9pm



From The Deacon's Desk

As we shake off the chill of January, we enter into February with compassionate hearts and warm spirits.

With Valentine's Day on the horizon, this month can be a time to reflect on love—God's love for us, our love for one another, and the ways we can express that love through service and kindness.

February invites us to deepen our relationships and embrace the abundant life God offers, even in the heart of winter.

This past month, we began the year with a focus on reflection and renewal.

Our Kids Club resumed with a sense of excitement as we encouraged our youngest participants in the church to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the year ahead.

We focused on starting the new year on a good note by keeping our eyes on Jesus and learning how we can carry his teachings into our daily lives.

We have also been practicing new music, and the kids are excited to share their songs in worship on February 23rd.

We encourage everyone to attend and are glad to help provide these opportunities to connect with our children through worship and service.

Youth Group has also been active and engaged as we meet to discuss current events and reflect on how they shape our lives of faith. Last month, we set our sights on new aspirations for the year and learned to let go of the past, trusting in God's guidance as we move forward.

These gatherings are an excellent opportunity for our young people to share, grow, and build relationships within a supportive community.

Our SAM Pantry has been richly blessed by the generosity of our community.

In particular, Kirby Food helped to collect over ten thousand dollars in monetary donations from our community members at the end of last year!

This incredible outpouring will help us continue to provide food and resources for families in need throughout the year.

We're deeply grateful for these contributions, and we encourage everyone to check out our list of requested items in this newsletter if you're looking for ways to help further.

Your donations and prayers are a vital part of this ministry's success.

Looking ahead, I want to remind you of my public office hours at Hometown Grounds.

I'm there Thursday mornings with a warm drink and a listening ear, ready to connect and hear what's on your heart.

These moments of fellowship and conversation are precious opportunities to strengthen our community bonds, and I'd love to see you there.

This February, let us remain open to God's love and learn to share God's abundant compassion with ourselves and with one another.



Blessings,

Rev. Kim Woods

Singers Needed for Community Easter Cantata



WELCOME Junior High
Adult

Directed by Janet McCumber

Rehearsals on Sundays, Feb. 23,
March 2,9,16,23,30, April 6 3:00 – 5:00pm
Performance Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

All held at First Christian Church, Villa
Grove

ALL VOICES
through

Performance will be accompanied by area instrumentalists

For more information, please contact Janet McCumber 217-493-2425 or
Judy Zylstra 320-224-7665 or call First Christian Church 217-832-5231

Tuscola Moose Lodge

PUBLIC WELCOME

POTLUCK

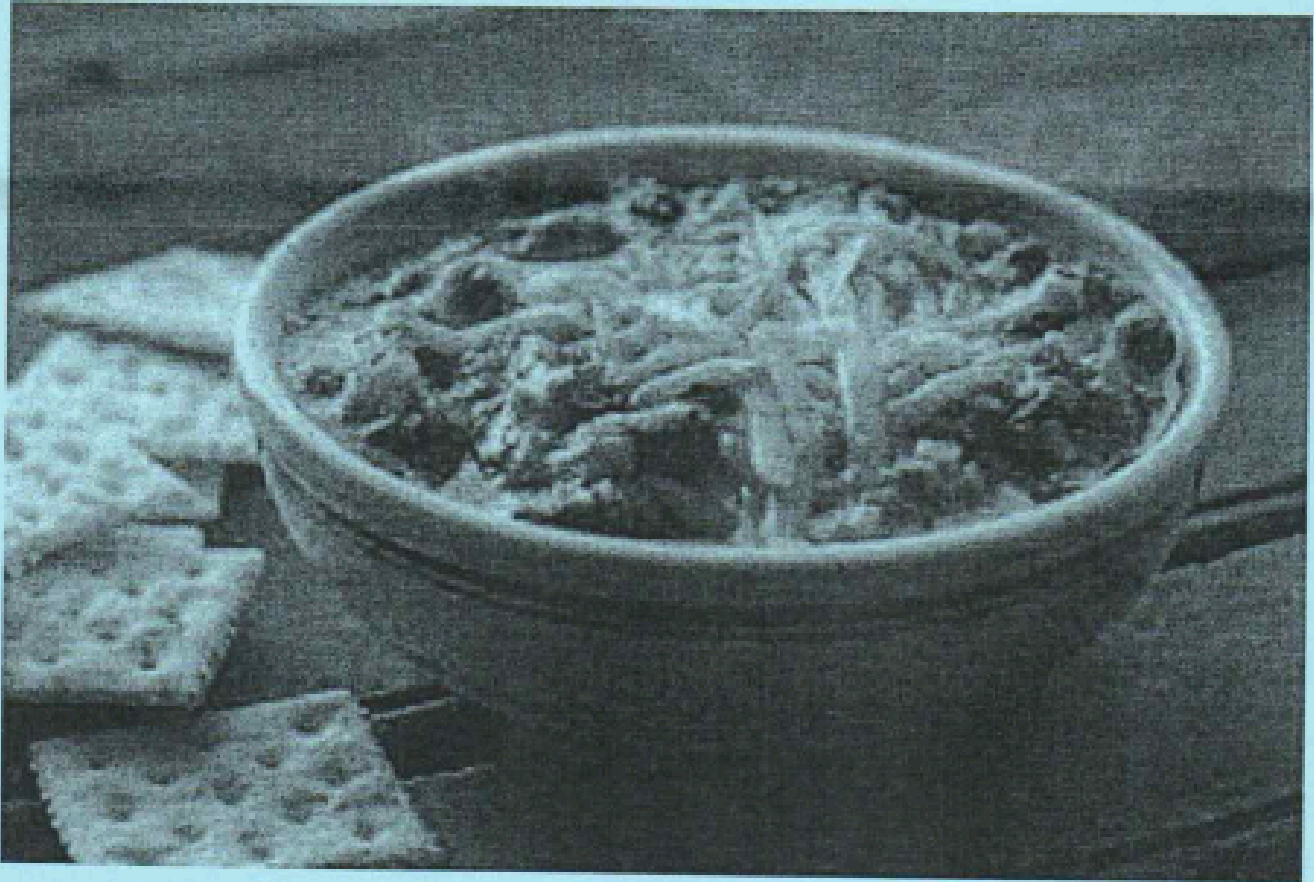


SUPER BOWL

February 9

3-11

St. Mary's annual
Chili and Soup Supper



Sunday, February 16th
4:00-6:30pm

St. Mary's Catholic Church

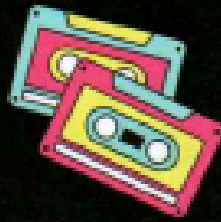
1247 Co. Rd. 200 N, 2.5 miles east of Pesotum

Brrr!! It's cold outside! Join us for homemade chili and vegetable beef soup with sandwiches, hot dogs, drinks and homemade desserts!
Quilt raffles, 50/50 raffle, and BINGO.



Across the Decades

Tuscola Music Boosters
Fundraising Concert



Questions Contact:
Autumn 714-8230
or
Andrea 369-1885

Dinner & Show

- Assigned Table Seating
- Doors Open @ 5:45pm
- \$18/ Person
- Limited seating
- Pre-Order Deadline Feb. 14th

Show Only

- Balcony Bleacher Seats
- Doors Open @ 6:45pm
- \$5/ Person--Pay at Door
- Children Under 5 Free

**Dinner will be catered by
Griffins' BBQ:**

Pulled Pork or Pulled Chicken Sandwich.

Sides, Dessert, and Beverages



To Buy Tickets:

1. Use Event-Brite QR Code below (subject to convenience fee)
2. Visit TCHS or EP to buy tickets in-person



February Volunteers

2/2/2025

Greeter: Cheryl Bozarth

Liturgist: Judy Schenkel

Head Usher: Robert White

PowerPoint: Maria Amill-Pearman

2/9/2025

Greeter: Jody Patton

Liturgist: Wayne Ward

Head Usher: Dan Craddock

PowerPoint: Reegan Willoughby

2/16/2025

Greeter: Cammy Seguin

Liturgist: Janet Butler

Head Usher: Leon Kinney

PowerPoint: Dave Butler

2/23/2025

Greeter: Lora Zimmer

Liturgist: Rodney Zimmer

Head Usher: Dave Butler

PowerPoint: Jim/Mary Ann Pattenau



JOIN US FOR A

VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR 2

February 14

TUSCOLA MOOSE LODGE

STEAK, BAKRD POTATO,
SALAD OR CHICKEN
ALFREDO, GARLIC BREAD,
SALAD. \$30.00 A COUPLE.
GET YOUR TICKETS
EARLY. OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC

2025

Approved Budget

Tuscola United Methodist Church

2025 Proposed Budget

<i>Account Name</i>	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Corrections	Amount Difference	Percent Difference
Committee on Finance	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
EFT Charges	1,300.00	1,300.00		0.00	0.00%
Moving Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Annual Conference Expense - Lay Member(s)	500.00	500.00		0.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	3,000.00	3,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Postage	700.00	700.00		0.00	0.00%
Kitchen supplies	500.00	500.00		0.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Admin Expenses	8,200.00	8,200.00		0.00	0.00%
Electricity	18,000.00	20,000.00		2,000.00	11.11%
Gas	7,000.00	7,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Water & Sewer	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Office Phone Lines/Internet	3,000.00	6,300.00		3,300.00	110.00%
Trash Removal	1,100.00	1,100.00		0.00	0.00%
Insurance - Building	20,000.00	30,000.00		10,000.00	50.00%
Maintenance - Building	10,000.00	10,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Maintenance - Parsonage	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Acquisition - Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Maintenance - Equipment	5,000.00	5,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Internet services	1,920.00	0.00		(1,920.00)	-100.00%
Tech Support	550.00	550.00		0.00	0.00%
Church Website	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Bldg/Equip Operations	72,570.00	85,950.00		13,380.00	18.44%

Pastor Compensation	81,399.00	83,237.00		1,838.00	2.26%
Pastor BW - Salary	52,200.00	53,505.00		1,305.00	2.50%
Pastor Healthcare Stipend	15,225.00	15,660.00		435.00	2.86%
Pastor BW - travel	2,200.00	2,200.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor BW - Professional Exp	700.00	700.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor education	500.00	500.00		0.00	0.00%
Annual Conference - Pastor	500.00	500.00		0.00	0.00%
Parsonage Phone Line/Cable	1,200.00	1,200.00		0.00	0.00%
Direct Billing Confer Pension #1	3,915.00	4,013.00		98.00	2.50%
Direct Billing Confer Pension #2	4,959.00	4,959.00		0.00	0.00%
Service Musician	3,300.00	4,125.00		825.00	25.00%
Sanctuary Choir Director	2,800.00	2,975.00		175.00	6.25%
Handbell Choir Director	1,575.00	1,750.00		175.00	11.11%
Children's Choir Director	1,575.00	1,750.00		175.00	11.11%
Pastor Compensation	31,000.00	31,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor KW - Salary	25,300.00	25,300.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor KW - travel	700.00	700.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor KW - Professional Exp	491.00	491.00		0.00	0.00%
Pastor education	400.00	400.00		0.00	0.00%
Annual Conference - Pastor	500.00	500.00		0.00	0.00%
Direct Billing Confer Pension #1	759.00	759.00		0.00	0.00%
Direct Billing Confer Pension #2	2,850.00	2,850.00		0.00	0.00%
Youth Director Assistant	4,368.00	4,368.00		0.00	0.00%
Secretary	27,040.00	35,490.00		8,450.00	31.25%
Custodian	9,360.00	9,360.00		0.00	0.00%
Staff Continuing Education	300.00	300.00		0.00	0.00%
FICA - taxes	6,500.00	6,500.00		0.00	0.00%
Insurance - Workman's Comp	600.00	600.00		0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Staff Parish Expense	169,817.00	181,455.00		11,638.00	6.85%

Evangelism	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
Advertising	400.00	400.00		0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Evangelism Expense	1,400.00	1,400.00		0.00	0.00%

Choir Music Materials	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
Bell Choir Music Materials	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
Children's Choir Music Materials	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00%
Bulletins	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%
Devotional Literature	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
Worship Supplies & Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Worship Expense	2,325.00	2,325.00	0.00	0.00%
Teacher/Leadership Resources	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
Children's Ministries	2,500.00	3,000.00	500.00	20.00%
Adult Ministries	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%
Library acquisitions	350.00	350.00	0.00	0.00%
Youth Ministries	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Education Expense	5,300.00	5,800.00	500.00	9.43%
Clergy Support/Admin Apportion	16,812.00	14,340.00	(2,472.00)	-14.70%
Benevolences/Connectional	11,784.00	8,364.00	(3,420.00)	-29.02%
Subtotal Apportionments	28,596.00	22,704.00	(5,892.00)	-20.60%
Mission Support	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00%
Glabe Salary Support	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Other Expense	2,250.00	2,250.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Expense	290,458.00	310,084.00	25,518.00	8.79%



FEBRUARY

SAM Pantry Wishlist

Toilet Paper

Canned Corn

Carrots

Dry Beans (all varieties)

Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Diced Tomatoes

Pork & Beans

Canned Pineapple

Applesauce

Cream of Chicken Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Raisins

Collared Greens

Muffin/Cupcake Mix

Donations can be dropped off during regular church office hours or with one of our wonderful volunteers!

If you have any questions, ask a volunteer or email our director, Pastor Kim - kwoods@tuscolaumc.com

Pop top lids for canned goods are preferred as able.



Church Office
Closed

2/17/2025

President's
Day

January
Attendance & Offerings

1/5	N/A	N/A
1/12	66	\$3,152
1/19	75	\$6,101
1/26	86	\$7,377

Offerings based on Sunday, memorial, and electronic giving.

Contact TUMC Office to set up electronic giving from your checking/savings.

info@tuscolaumc.com
217-253-4232

Please verify all contact information is correct and up to date on file to be included in all upcoming events and information.

City of Tuscola Offices are closed
Monday February 17, 2025



Worship at Brookstone

To help with this ministry, contact:

John Watson
217-369-6867
jfw@craiglaw.net

SAVE THE DATE

**Monday
March 10th
5pm -7pm**

SAM PANTRY Open House

Interested in learning more about SAM Pantry?

Drop in between 5pm and 7pm on Monday March 10th.

**Grab some snacks, tour the pantry, meet some of our volunteers,
& learn about the ways you can help support this ministry and
service for our community and all of Douglas County.**

Connect

Tuscola United Methodist Church
 901 N. Prairie St.
 Tuscola, IL 61953

Our Staff

Pastor Bennett Woods
 Pastor
 bwoods@tuscolaumc.com

Pastor Kimberly Woods
 Director of Christian Education
 & Community Engagement
 kwoods@tuscolaumc.com

Brooks Osmundson
 Financial &
 Administrative
 Secretary
 info@tuscolaumc.com

Kathleen Dyer
 Custodian

Jeannie Craddock
 Director of Sanctuary Choir,
 Celebration Ringers, and
 Methodist Children's Choir
 dcjc91@gmail.com

Brittany Patton
 Assistant Children & Youth
 Ministries Director

Cathy Mannen
 Service Musician

February 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1
2 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	3	4 Bible Study 11am	5 SAM Pantry 7am Choirs 6-8pm Kids Club	6 SPRC 6pm	7	9
9 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Cottage Meeting 2-4pm	10 Finance 5:30pm Church Council 6pm	11 Bible Study 11am	12 SAM Pantry 7am Choirs 6-8pm Kids Club	13 MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm	14 Blood Drive 10-1:30	15
16 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Cottage Meeting 2-4pm	17 Office Closed President's Day	18 Bible Study 11am	19 SAM Pantry 7am Choirs 6-8pm Kids Club	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	24 Christian Justice 1pm	25 Bible Study 11am	26 SAM Pantry 7am Choirs 6-8pm Kids Club	27	28	