

# Tuscola United Methodist Church Connect

## January 2025



Grace and peace to the People of Tuscola,

Happy New Year 2025

For me, 2025 conjures up an image of the future and is a societal milestone.

We are now a quarter of the way through the 21st century and living the future we once dreamed about.

For some of us, it may be a time when the children are grown and starting families of their own, or maybe a time when we can set back and look at a lifetime of accomplishment, or perhaps it is a time when we are now in a place to make a change and help serve in the church and the community.

I recently turned 35, a milestone for many. This is the time in one's life when we stop seeing ourselves as still learning how to do everything and transition into slightly more seasoned and experienced adults.

Of course, that does not mean anyone older than 35 should be so arrogant as to think we should stop learning or going in knowledge or faith.

Milestones are essential for us as a church and as individuals.

They teach us to look back and to the future.

I want to focus on the future part. As a church, we have been in our current building for 24 years, and much like people at 24, we must start taking care of ourselves and this building a little differently.

Instead of thinking everything in the building will still work as if it is new we must begin to acknowledge that some things may need work and upkeep.

It is also a time to allow ourselves to reimagine what have and how, now that we are in this future, we are able to use this building and our abilities in ways we could never have imagined 24 years ago.

The future may be brighter than we thought or full of new challenges we could not have dreamed of years ago.

Now that the seemingly distant future is the present, how do you see the world differently than before?

What will we do as a church to meet the future that we have, instead of the one we may have been imagining and planning for?

As we think about these questions and the future we must ask ourselves, where can we as a church grow to serve our current world and help them experience the love of God?

Blessings,

*Pastor Bennett A Woods*



**Don't forget  
to sign up for  
Kids Club!  
Speak to Pastor Kim  
for details!**



## **From The Deacon's Desk**

**As we step into a new year, we are reminded of the fresh opportunities and possibilities ahead of us. The start of January is a time for reflection, renewal, and trying new things. Whether deepening your spiritual practices, finding new ways to connect with others, or exploring ways to serve, this new year invites us to embrace the abundant life God offers each of us.**

**This past December, our church was filled with the joy and anticipation of the Advent season. Our Kids Club explored the story of Jesus' birth and reflected on the ways we can carry the joy of Christ with us daily. The children sang in service about the humble birth of Christ and learned why we celebrate Christ in December and continue to celebrate him throughout the year. As we move into January, we'll continue fostering a sense of curiosity and faith in our youngest members, encouraging them to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the new year. We resume meeting with Kids Club on January 8th and if you have a little one who needs to sign up, it's never too late to join in the after-school fun!**

**Kids Church will resume twice-monthly gatherings during Sunday services, offering crafts, music, and lessons that help children learn about Jesus in engaging and age-appropriate ways. It's such a joy to see their faith grow as they connect in this space. We were not able to meet twice in December due to all of the wonderful events during service which the children were present for, though we did make some snowflakes to deck the Education Hall and shared about the joy of Christ's birth as we geared up for Christmas celebrations. Our lessons in January will focus on the new year and new opportunities to grow in faith together, both in the classroom and in the sanctuary.**

**I'm also excited to share that I will resume my public office hours at Hometown Grounds beginning Thursday, January 9th. I'll be there on Thursday mornings with a warm drink and a listening ear, ready to catch up and connect with anyone who stops by. I hope you'll take the opportunity to visit, share what's on your heart, and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of this local business.**

**Our SAM Pantry continues to be a vital ministry for our community. On our last day of operation in 2024, we were blessed to serve over 100 families. We are deeply grateful for the support that made this possible. As we reopen on January 8th, we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of families in Douglas County. Your donations and prayers make a significant difference, and we are thankful for your partnership in this important work.**

**As we embrace the possibilities of this new year, may we remain open to God's guidance and presence in our lives. Let us strive to share love, hope, and kindness with those around us, knowing that every act of service and faith helps build God's kingdom here on Earth.**

**Blessings to you all in this new season!**

*Rev. Kim Woods*



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We are looking for more volunteers for SAM  
Pantry on Wednesday mornings from roughly  
7am-10:30am.**

**If you are interested, contact Pastor Kim for  
more information**



# January Volunteers

**1/5/2025**

**Greeter: Cheryl Bozarth**

**Liturgist: Judy Schenkel**

**Head Usher: Robert White**

**PowerPoint: Maria Amill-Pearman**

**1/12/2025**

**Greeter: Jody Patton**

**Liturgist: Wayne Ward**

**Head Usher: Dan Craddock**

**PowerPoint: Reegan Willoughby**

**1/19/2025**

**Greeter: Georgia Wilkinson**

**Liturgist: Janet Butler**

**Head Usher: Leon Kinney**

**PowerPoint: Dave Butler**

**1/26/2025**

**Greeter: Lora Zimmer**

**Liturgist: Rodney Zimmer**

**Head Usher: Andy/Cindy Wood**

**PowerPoint: Jim/Mary Ann Pattenaude**



# Lay Leader Letter


**Happy New Year to my fellow parishioners at TUMC!**

**As we enter 2025 and my term as Lay Leader ends, I was reminded of these verses from 2 Timothy 4:7-8 written by the Apostle Paul as he is held in a Roman prison and is facing death.**

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**We do not know what this new year holds for each of us personally, for TUMC, or for the country, but we do know that God is in control and he will not forsake us if we keep our eyes on him. Make a New Year's resolution to join a Sunday school class or Bible study to help you finish the race. You will not regret it!**



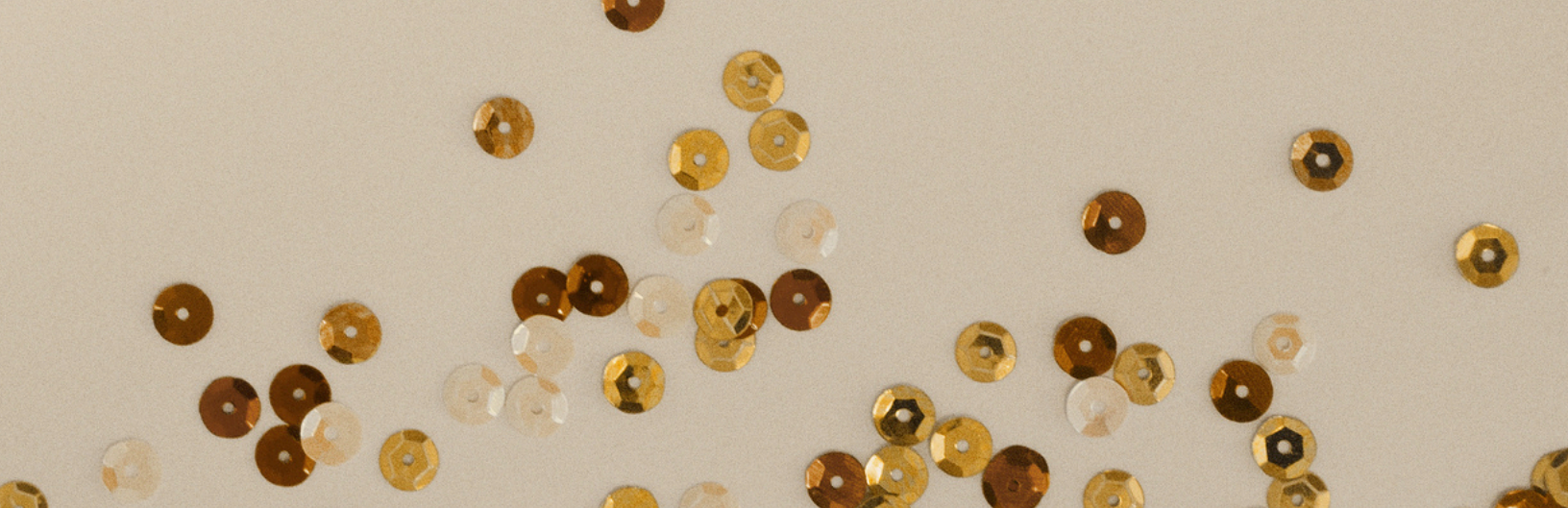


**Trustees did not meet in December though they did vote via email to have a repairman look at the church dishwasher which is having some issues.**

**The Finance committee met on 12/16 and took one last look at the 2025 budget. The members agreed that the finances of the church appear good as we move into the new year. Pastor Bennett reported that Doug Abbott from Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign would like to train two people to do the audit.**

**Church Council held a special meeting on 12/16 where the final 2025 budget was approved. See the budget below. Janet Butler will serve as Church Council chair for one year.**

**If you have questions or comments regarding any of the information in this newsletter article or just in general, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at [kbbenner@gmail.com](mailto:kbbenner@gmail.com) or by phone at 217-721-7750.**





	<b>Pastor Compensation</b>	<b>79,981.00</b>	<b>81,399.00</b>		<b>1,418.00</b>	<b>1.77%</b>
	Pastor BW - Salary	58,467.00	52,200.00		(6,267.00)	-10.72%
	Pastor Healthcare Stipend	0.00	15,225.00		15,225.00	NEW
	Pastor BW - travel	2,300.00	2,200.00		(100.00)	-4.35%
	Pastor BW - Professional Exp	600.00	700.00		100.00	16.67%
	Pastor education	400.00	500.00		100.00	25.00%
	Annual Conference - Pastor	0.00	500.00		500.00	NEW
	Parsonage Phone Line/Cable	840.00	1,200.00		360.00	42.86%
	Direct Billing Confer Pension #1	3,674.00	3,915.00		241.00	6.56%
	Direct Billing Confer Pension #2	5,700.00	4,959.00		(741.00)	-13.00%
	Pastor TH Pension Contribution	8,000.00	0.00		(8,000.00)	-100.00%
503.200	Service Musician	3,300.00	3,300.00		0.00	0.00%
503.210	Sanctuary Choir Director	2,870.00	2,870.00		0.00	0.00%
503.220	Handbell Choir Director	1,575.00	1,575.00		0.00	0.00%
503.230	Children's Choir Director	1,575.00	1,575.00		0.00	0.00%
503.250	Family Ministry Director	20,800.00	31,200.00		10,400.00	50.00%
503.255	Youth Director Assistant	4,368.00	4,368.00		0.00	NEW
503.400	Secretary	25,350.00	27,040.00		1,690.00	6.67%
503.500	Custodian	9,360.00	9,360.00		0.00	0.00%
503.700	Staff Continuing Education	300.00	300.00		0.00	0.00%
503.800	FICA - taxes	6,500.00	6,500.00		0.00	0.00%
503.850	Insurance - Workman's Comp	1,000.00	600.00		(400.00)	-40.00%
	<b>Subtotal Staff Parish Expense</b>	<b>156,979.00</b>	<b>170,087.00</b>		<b>13,108.00</b>	<b>8.35%</b>
504.200	Evangelism	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
504.600	Advertising	400.00	400.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Evangelism Expense</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
505.100	Choir Music Materials	150.00	150.00		0.00	0.00%
505.105	Bell Choir Music Materials	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
505.110	Children's Choir Music Materials	75.00	75.00		0.00	0.00%
505.200	Bulletins	600.00	600.00		0.00	0.00%
505.300	Devotional Literature	350.00	300.00		(50.00)	-14.29%
505.900	Worship Supplies & Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Worship Expense</b>	<b>2,375.00</b>	<b>2,325.00</b>		<b>(50.00)</b>	<b>-2.11%</b>
506.210	Teacher/Leadership Resources	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
506.300	Children's Ministries	2,500.00	2,500.00		0.00	0.00%
506.400	Adult Ministries	750.00	750.00		0.00	0.00%
506.800	Library acquisitions	350.00	350.00		0.00	0.00%
507.000	Youth Ministries	1,500.00	1,500.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Education Expense</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

	Clergy Support/Admin Apportion	19,500.00	16,812.00	(2,688.00)	-13.78%
508.100	Benevolences/Connectional	7,968.00	11,784.00	3,816.00	47.89%
	<b>Subtotal Apportionments</b>	<b>27,468.00</b>	<b>28,596.00</b>	<b>1,128.00</b>	<b>4.11%</b>
509.100	Mission Support	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00%
509.200	Glabe Salary Support	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Other Expense</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>274,942.00</b>	<b>290,728.00</b>	<b>14,658.00</b>	<b>5.33%</b>
	<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (31,202.00)</b>	<b>\$ 580.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,290.00)</b>	<b>13.75%</b>

**Estimates of giving has not been finalized as Pledge cards are still being received.**

*We are very grateful for  
Kirby Foods  
for collecting  
donations from customers for  
SAM Panty!*



# **SAM Pantry Wishlist**

**Toilet Paper  
Cake Mix  
Sugar  
Deodorant  
Mayo  
Grape Jelly  
Peanut Butter  
Canned Vegetable Soup  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Canned Potatoes  
Honey Nut Cheerios  
Canned Diced Tomatoes  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste  
Boxed Macaroni and Cheese  
Salt/Pepper/Seasonings**

**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](mailto:kwoods@tuscolaumc.com)**

**Pop top lids for canned goods are preferred as able.**



# MISSION IN MOTION

off-site mission opportunities

## WHY HOST AN OFF-SITE MISSION EVENT?

We bring the mission to you! With three off-site event options that you can host at your church or organization, you can choose an event that is perfect for your group.

Off-site mission events connect congregations, grow teams closer together, and deepen discipleship. Just like going on a mission trip, hosting an off-site event creates a space where community is shared and memories are made, all while actively being the hands and feet of Jesus.

We provide:

- All supplies and equipment
- How-to videos and assistance

You provide:

- tables and space
- set-up /clean-up volunteers

## RICE MEAL PACK

### 1 Rice Meal Bag feeds 6 people.

Each Rice Meal is a nutrient-dense meal filled with:

- Vitamin Pack
- Dehydrated Vegetables
- Soy
- White Rice

**Cost:** \$2 per bag + potential staff and mileage costs

### 2 Options to Receive the Supplies for the Event

1: You pick up the ingredients and equipment from us

- 300-bag minimum
- We provide a trailer for you to transport all supplies and equipment from Midwest Mission, to your location, and back
- We provide training and instructional videos

2: We deliver the ingredients and equipment and assist at your event

- Within 100 miles: 600-bag minimum and \$100 staff fee
- Over 100 miles: 1,200-bag minimum and \$200 staff fee
- Round-trip mileage charged at the current IRS rate

With 1 line of equipment, 8-10 people can pack approx. 175 bags in an hour.

## SCHEDULE YOUR EVENT

Contact our Mission in Motion Manager:

217-697-4680 or [missioninmotion@midwestmission.org](mailto:missioninmotion@midwestmission.org).

For more info: [midwestmission.org/off-site](http://midwestmission.org/off-site)



## KIT ASSEMBLY

### Important to Know for Kit Assembly

**Cost:** \$8 per kit + potential staff and mileage costs

### 2 Options to Receive the Supplies for the Event

1: You pick up the kit items from us

- 50-kit minimum
- We provide an instructional video

2: We deliver the kit items and assist at your event

- Within 100 miles: 140-kit minimum and \$100 staff fee
- Over 100 miles: 280-kit minimum and \$200 staff fee
- Round-trip mileage charged at the current IRS rate

### Student Kit Assembly

Student Kits allow students the chance to excel in their education because they have items that will help them along the way.

#### Kit items:

- 3 notebooks
- 1 ruler
- 6 pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pencil eraser
- 1 box 12 colored pencils
- 1 box 24 crayons
- 1 pair of student scissors
- 1 one-handed cloth bag
- 1 coloring page/prayer card

### Personal Dignity Kit Assembly

Personal Dignity Kits provide needed hygiene items that empower people in their daily lives, and give hope that comes from Jesus.

#### Kit items:

- 1 hand towel
- 1 washcloth
- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 lotion
- 1 bar soap
- 1 shampoo
- 1 deodorant
- 1 1-gal resealable plastic bag
- 1 Midwest Mission bag
- 1 prayer card

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

Church Office Closed  
New Years Day  
1/1/2025

Martin Luther King Jr  
1/20/2025

December  
Attendance & Offerings

11/1	94	\$5,832
11/8	83	\$3,152
11/15	83	\$5,200
11/22	93	\$9,145
11/29	120	\$4,803

Digital Giving Total \$4,559

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.

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Worship at Brookstone

To help with this ministry, contact:

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

# 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

## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>1</u> New Years Day Office Closed	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Christian Justice 2-4pm	<u>13</u> Finance 5pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	<u>20</u> MLK Jr Day Office Closed	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> Sunday School 9am Worship 10am	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	