

# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

## SEPTEMBER 2023



### *A Note From The Pastor*

Grace and peace to the People of Tuscola,

September starts many things, like students returning to school, farmers getting their equipment ready for harvest, and, of course, Football. Here at the church, many events and programs also start back up. In September this year, we have Kids Club and Youth group starting again, Choirs and handbells are starting to practice, and our UWF circles are restarting this month. That does not even include all of the user groups that are started back again, like MOPS and PASS. Starting again is as easy as we want to make it.

In the life of the church, starting again happens all the time. In our present age, we base our church's yearly calendar oftentimes around school year calendars. We start programs in the fall, have a big Christmas service, and pause until school starts in January. By May, our regularly scheduled programs are winding down, and the church may plan a few big events for the summer but not weekly or monthly events and programs. This is how most churches operate. This gives some volunteers and staff time off and time for planning for the next year. This can, though, give us

the challenge of getting people re-engaged in programs and activities in the fall.

As the church, we want to keep people engaged and reengage them when necessary. On August 27, in the sermon, I spoke on our elevator speech about how we would share the church's message to strangers, we also as a church should have a similar speech for reinviting and re-engaging people in the activities and the events of the church. This one can be easier because they already know some of the good the programs have already done. This month as we restart for the fall the programs and events of this church let us find a way to point out the positives of the events we are doing here, how we may participate in these wonderful ministries, and how we can make them grow and do better.

Mark 16:15: Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Blessings

Pastor Bennett A. Woods

# Starting this month!

## Kids Club

TUMC Kids Club will be held each Wednesday that Tuscola CUSD 301 school is in session, until 5:00! We will walk the students over from Northward to the church and will start with a snack and play time, followed by children's choir, then a lesson on the Bible. Children should be picked up by 5:00. Please come into the Sanctuary to pick up your children. We are also asking for parents to sign up for a date to provide snacks for the kids. Please watch your emails for both a registration form along with a snack sign up.

## Youth Group

Beginning on September 10th, youth groups will begin meeting on Sunday nights. Junior High Youth, consisting of grades 5th through 8th, will start at 5:00pm with Senior High Youth, grades 9th through 12th, will begin at 5:45pm. All youth will have the opportunity to mingle together during snack/dinner together as well. Please be watching your emails for a registration form to fill out for any child wishing to be a part of youth group

## Choir & Handbells

Jeannie Craddock will begin Choir and Handbell rehearsals on September 6th. If this is something that you have ever been curious about, or would like to join one or the other (or both!) please see Jeannie for more information. You can also email her at [dcjc91@gmail.com](mailto:dcjc91@gmail.com)

### August Attendance & Offerings

	Attendance	Offerings
Aug. 6	81	\$3,089
Aug. 13	68	\$2,630
Aug. 20	81	\$3,137
Aug. 27	102	\$1,245
Digital Giving Total		\$3,655

*(The offerings above are what is collected on Sunday in the plate and the electronic givings)*

**We also offer electronic giving that is safe and easy from your checking, savings, or credit/debit card. Call the church office, 253-4232, to get started today!**

### September Worship at Brookstone

**Sept 3 : Speaker— John Watson**

**Sept 10: Speaker— TBD**

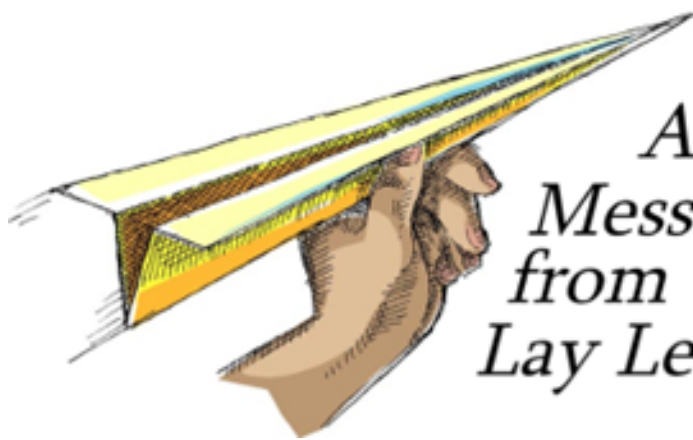
**Sept 17: Speaker— Pastor Bennett Woods**

**Sept 24: Speaker— Mary Ann Dier-Zimmermann**

**If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact John Watson at 217-369-6867 or email to: [jfw@craiglaw.net](mailto:jfw@craiglaw.net)**

To my fellow TUMC worshipers

Pastor Bennett's sermon on Sunday, August 20, reminded me of a saying that was hanging in my Sunday school classroom some years ago. "You are the only Jesus some people will ever know." Our actions and words are the means by which people will know of Jesus' love. Are we good examples of what Jesus would do if he was still on earth? Or are we turning people away from God because they see us, personally, or as a church as hypocrites? As your Lay Leader, I ask you to ponder this question.



## A Message from Our Lay Leader

The **Nominations** committee met on August 7. If you feel God is calling you to serve on a committee of the church, please let Pastor Bennett know. If you have not felt that calling, then ask God for discernment to know your gifts and where you might best serve. Each committee is important to the life of the church and TUMC needs all of us to do our part!

**SPRC** met and discussed the hiring requirements for the position of Children, Youth and Family director. The search for a new director has begun. The hiring committee will consist of the pastor, an SPRC representative, someone from Children's council and a youth. In the meantime, Tina Kestner will be the permanent volunteer to help with Children's church and Pastor Bennett will be providing the lesson and craft to be used each Sunday.

**Trustees** learned of more parsonage needs that should be addressed when they met in August. There is concern that the valves on the copper water pipes may fail and the heating and cooling duct work is not properly held together. The church's insurance company has indicated that the liability insurance should not be increased until the current policy expires in April, 2024. The committee will hold discussions regarding this until January, 2024. The copier expense for color copies had become too much so users of color copies had been restricted to only the pastor and secretary. To further decrease the number of color copies, the 25 copies of the newsletter that are mailed out each month will only be printed in black and white. Pastor Bennett will contact Ameren regarding their program to replace light fixtures with LED ones. Ameren will pay a portion of the cost for the fixtures and the labor to install them. Trustees need to set parameters for the financial secretary regarding which budget account for repair costs should be credited when something in the church is maintained or repaired.

**Finance** has requested that SPRC send the hourly rate for the custodian, musicians, and assistant to the Children, Youth and Family director to the treasurer each year when those amounts have been determined. Pastor Bennett signs off on the hours for these positions each pay period and the treasurer signs the pay checks. This will be another check on disbursements from the church. Dave Butler, treasurer, and Sarah Evans, financial secretary have attempted to rework the account numbering system but Church Windows, the church's accounting software, will not allow changes to accounts mid-year. A motion was made and approved to pay Pastor Terri Haas \$3000 as reimbursement for underpayment related to health insurance expense for 2023 subject to approval by the District Superintendent. A suggestion was made that the goals for the committee for next month's meeting are to make sure all the financial reports are correct, to have all committees get their budget numbers ready for charge conference in October, and to address Consecration Sunday needs.

If you have questions or comments, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at [kbbenner@gmail.com](mailto:kbbenner@gmail.com) or by phone at 217-721-7750.



# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We have a busy month with a district officers' meeting, Sept. 9th, the Salad Supper Sept. 14th at 6:30, and our Iroquois River District meeting here Sept. 23rd starting at 9:15. We need lots of our ladies to help with sign in, morning fellowship and coffee, to be ushers and welcome others.

Every woman is invited to enjoy good Christian fellowship, receive updates on Cunningham and Lessie Bates, learn about the "Doctrine of Discovery" from author Sarah Augustine, and participate in the Red Dress Project. You don't have to be a member of a Circle or any church. You do need to register by Sept. 12th, order your \$10 meal, and give Georgia Wilkinson your check. As Philip, one of the disciples said, "Come and See".

Two missions we support help many folks in need. Items requested for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House are: black ink pens, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Items for Cunningham Children's Home are: XL Twin sheets-boys' patterns/colors, bath towels-any color, luffas, toothpaste, men's body wash, men's white t-shirts, large or extra large, white ankle socks, size 6-12, Walmart or Amazon gift cards. Please give generously.

As part of our mission to support women, children, and youth, our local unit is asking for any food or personal care items for college students. Rev. Betzy Warren and students from Wesley Foundation at Eastern Illinois University spoke here last year. Their budget has been cut by 18% leaving programs in jeopardy. Our support is vital for students to know others care about their spiritual and physical needs.

A student wrote, "when I had COVID and was stuck in my apartment, Betzy delivered tortellini to my door". Another wrote, "The Wesley foundation is an invaluable part of my life. From providing comfortable meeting spaces for us to gather, to offering activities and worship services that foster spiritual exploration and growth, the Foundation has been a safe haven of learning, love, and acceptance. Betzy and the Foundation are quite literally saving lives." What a testimony! We can be a part of changing lives.

United Women in Faith circles will resume in September. Rebekah Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Monday, Sept. 25th at the church, and Rachel Circle will meet Tues., Sept. 26th at Flesor's. Any woman is welcome to attend either or both circles for interesting programs, fellowship, sharing, and good food.

If these times don't work for you, and you want to get involved, contact one of the officers. Georgia Wilkinson, Janet Butler, Judy Schenkel, Patty Russell, Kathleen Dyer will be glad to help you. New circles can be formed with new church attendees, younger women, working moms. Meetings could be online with occasional outings, at the park or a restaurant, in the homes, at the church, or whatever fits your schedule. The main objective is to meet and connect with other women and even teens who want to grow in Christian faith, fellowship with others, learn about needs and mission opportunities. There are special studies, books about Social Action, Leadership development,

Supporting Community, Spiritual Growth. A circle could be focused on books and how to put the information into action. Whatever your interest, there is something for you and unlimited possibilities to put your faith, hope, and love into action and help transform the world one person at a time.





## **You Are Invited!!**

### **The Tuscola United Women in Faith Salad Supper**

**When: Thursday, September 14, 2023**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Where: Tuscola United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**

**Program: Strings Attached Bluegrass Band**

Please bring a salad to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. There is no cost to attend. Feel free to invite a guest! A sign-up sheet will be available in the church foyer starting August 20th.

We will be collecting at this event Love Gifts for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Cunningham Children's Home. Items needed for LBDNH include black ink pens, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Items needed at CCH include XL twin sheets (especially boys), bath towels (body sized, any color), luffas, toothpaste, men's body wash, men's white t-shirts in LG or XL sizes, white ankle socks (Size 6-12), and Walmart or Amazon gift cards. (Donations may be placed prior to the Salad Supper in the church foyer LBDNH/CCH container.)

# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# FALL VENDOR & CRAFT FAIR

OCTOBER 7, 2023

ENJOY THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

9:00AM - 4:00PM



**MORE INFORMATION  
COMING SOON!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: [sevans@tuscolaumc.com](mailto:sevans@tuscolaumc.com)



# **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CONVERSATION**

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**OCTOBER 1, 2023**

**6:30PM**

**TUSCOLA UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL  
SNACKS PROVIDES BY THE TUWF**

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**JOIN US IN PERSON FOR A ZOOM CALL WITH JENNIE STUEBE  
WHO IS A SOCIAL WORKER ON AN O'JIBON INDIAN  
RESERVATION IN WISCONSIN. SHE WILL DISCUSS HISTORICAL  
TRAUMA OF OUR OWN INDIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND  
THE LASTING EFFECTS ON TODAY'S TRIBES. SOME QUESTIONS  
FOR JENNIE PRIOR WOULD BE APPRECIATED. YOU CAN EMAIL  
THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AT  
SEVANS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM OR DROP YOUR WRITTEN  
QUESTIONS OFF TO THE OFFICE.**



# CONNECT.

## TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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KATHLEEN DYER  
CUSTODIAN

### OUR STAFF

## SEPTEMBER 2023

# WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

			SAM Pantry 7am		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<u>4</u> Office Closed Happy Labor Day!	<u>5</u> TUWF Board 10am Bible Study 11am	<u>6</u> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm	<u>7</u> TCHS Varsity Football Team Dinner 6:30pm	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Staff Meeting 9:30am
<u>10</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Bible Study 11am SPRC 6pm	<u>13</u> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 2pm Choir/Handbells 6pm	<u>14</u> MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm TUWF Salad Supper 5:30pm	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<u>18</u> Finance 5pm Church Council 6pm	<u>19</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>20</u> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm	<u>21</u> TCHS Varsity Football Team Dinner 6:30pm	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm TUWF Salad Supper 5:30pm
<u>24</u> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group	<u>25</u> Congregational Care 1pm Missions & Evangelism 5pm	<u>26</u> Bible Study 11am Rachel Circle 1pm	<u>27</u> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells	<u>28</u> Worship Committee 3pm TCHS Varsity Football Team Dinner 6:30pm	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>