

TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

APRIL 2024

A Note From The Pastor

Grace and peace to you, the people of Tuscola,

I wanted to take a moment and invite you to be in pray this month for the United Methodist Church. From April 23- May 3 the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting in North Carolina to make decision for the future of the Church as we do ever four years. Of course, there is many things special about this General Conference the first is that we did not have one four years ago because of COVID-19 and we have a special General Conference in 2019 to make decisions around the topic of Human Sexuality. The topics I want to talk about in this letter it what maybe expected at this 2024 General Conference (GC2024) and what it means to the Churches future.

So, first the GC2024 has not happened yet and so we do not know what the final outcome will be yet. Second there are multiple normal activities and decisions GC2024 will have to make like they do every time they meet, funding of programs, staffing questions, how we interact with other denominations. The third and probably what most people are interested in learning about is where the church is going on matters of Theology and Doctrine.

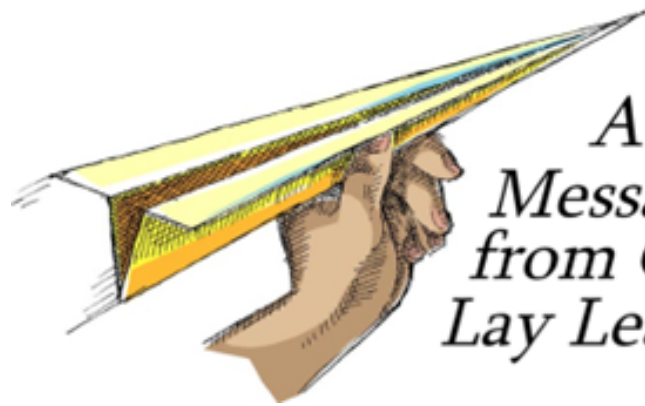
There is a lot of legislation coming before GC2024, there is legislation about reopening disaffiliation, and there is legislation about regionalization, Revising the Social principles, and Removal of harmful language about LGBTQ+ persons. If you are interested in a discussion about these things, please come to our Conversation on Sunday April 7 th at 2-4 in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss what GC2024 is and some of the Legislation.

Like every four years this is a change in the life of the Church and as the delegates that represent united Methodist all around the work, I ask you to pray for them to have safe travels, good conversations, and that God will move throw them.

Blessings

Pastor Bennett Woods

Finally! My garden seeds for this year arrived and some have been planted and are growing under lights! I love nurturing the seeds as they sprout and grow until they are viable enough to be placed outside in the wind and hot sun found in the garden. There is a similarity between new plants and new Christians. Hebrews 6:1 says this:



A Message from Our Lay Leader

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God.

The footnote in my Bible for this verse states this: Mature Christians should be teaching new Christians the basics. Then, acting on what they know, the mature will learn even more from God's Word. Do we, as the Tuscola United Methodist Church, nurture budding Christians in our midst whether they are children or adults? Do we have programs to help all of us become mature in our faith? We were created to do life together. Each of us needs a safe place to ask our questions, make new friends, and grow in our faith. If you feel the Holy Spirit urging you to join a Bible study or even lead one, please talk to me. My own Sunday School class is always open to new members. See my contact information at the end of this article.

Meeting information from February and March has been consolidated below for Trustees and Finance since they meet monthly.

Trustees decided there should be two additional phones installed at opposite ends of the building for emergency purposes. Since the phone system is now voice over IP (VoIP), the only two phones currently installed are in the office area which is locked after hours. A motion was passed for All-Pro to install a tankless water heater in the parsonage at a cost of \$3755. This work has been completed. Our insurance premium with Church Mutual has risen from \$20,000 to \$29,000 per year due to the wind and hail claims for the roofs and the claim recently settled from the broken water pipe in the parsonage upstairs bathroom in 2020. Therefore, Trustees agreed with the Finance committee to change the insurance premium payment from yearly to monthly to help with cash flow. Our insurance deductible has risen from \$5000 to \$10,000. A motion was made to sell the staging that had been used by our choir to Decatur Eisenhower

High School for which we received \$300. All memorials totaling less than \$1000 will now be used at the Trustees' discretion. It was decided not to erect a fence around the playground equipment for the time being. Four external church doors have been repaired by Bacon and Van Buskirk.

The **Finance** committee meeting in February was canceled. In their March meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of creating a bookkeeper-type position to handle payroll and financial reports. SPRC would be responsible for creating this position should it be deemed necessary.

Committee and team reports, including Finance and Trustee information reported above, were presented to the **Church Council** at their meeting on March 18.

The Lay Employee Policy Manual has been completed and **SPRC** members were asked to give it one final read and send any issues to Chair Cheryl Bozarth. The plan is to have it implemented by the end of April.

Christian Justice team has two programs scheduled related to the topic of the school to prison pipeline. A video followed by discussion is scheduled for April 21 from 2-4 PM. A speaker is scheduled for May 19. The Worship team is working on the 2024 list for liturgist, greeter, usher, soundboard, and communion stewards. If you would like to be a volunteer for one of these positions, please contact Jeannie Craddock, Cindy Wood or Judy Schenkel.

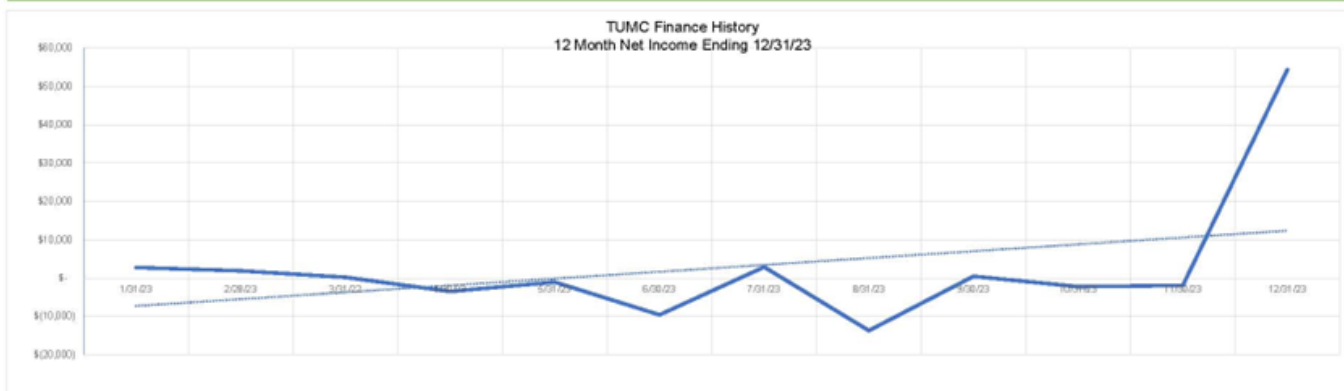
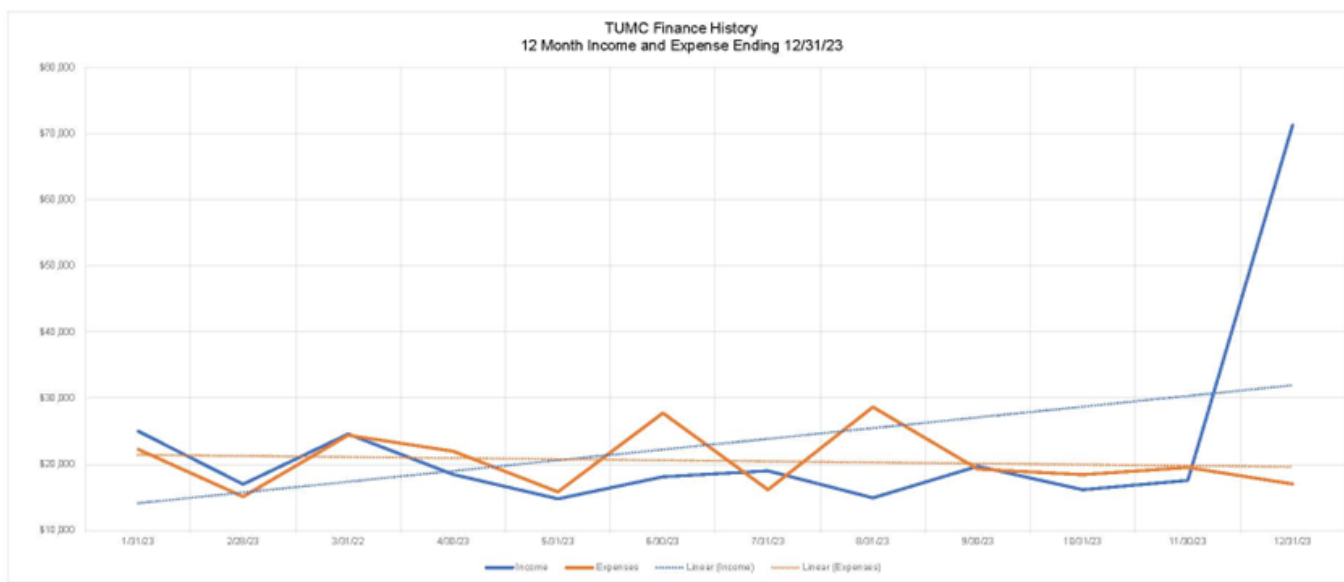
The **United Women in Faith** Mother-Daughter banquet will be held on April 18 at 6:30 PM.

SAM pantry statistics show that 30 more families were served in January and 16 less in February as compared to last year. The pantry coordinator position has not yet been filled.

In the **Pastor's report**, Pastor Bennett announced that the church office hours have been changed to Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The **Church Council** meeting ended with a discussion of the Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS). Former pastor Terri Haas introduced this concept in 2021 and implemented parts of it when the committees such as Worship, Christian Justice and Congregational Care were formed. Pastor Bennett stated that he believes TUMC would benefit by using the SAS model. A motion was made and passed authorizing Pastor Bennett to begin the steps toward full implementation. The next regular

meeting of Church Council will be May 20, 2024 at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. 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 or by phone at 217-721-7750.



HELLO
SPRING



Questions about General Conference?

Join Pastor Bennett on April 7th in the Fellowship Hall for a Q&A about General Conference

Peace Meals

May is one of months our church has the privilege of being able to serve others by **delivering Peace Meals**. It takes approximately an hour to deliver. It's best to have 2 people each day-one person to drive and the other to take the meals to the door.

Peace Meals are delivered Monday-Friday (except on Memorial Day). You start at 10:30 am with picking up the meals at the Tuscola Senior Citizen's Building (133 W Sale Street, enter through their back door).

We hope you can help us to serve others! There will be an email around April 8th with an online sign up and there will be a paper copy to sign up on Sunday, April 14th and 21st. If you want to sign up by phone after April 8th you can contact Mary Ann Pattenaude at 217-722-2117.

February Attendance & Offerings

	Attendance	Offerings
Feb. 4	97	\$5,512
Feb. 11	85	\$1,407
Feb. 18	117	\$3,217
Feb. 25	71	\$1,416
Digital Giving Total		\$4,509

March Attendance & Offerings

	Attendance	Offerings
March 3	97	\$5,991
March 10	85	\$1,835
March 17	117	\$4,116
March 24	71	\$2,950
March 31	143	\$2,865
Digital Giving Total		\$4,559

(The offerings above are what is collected on Sunday in the plate and the electronic giving's)

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

April Worship at Brookstone

- April 7 : Speaker — John & Kate Watson**
- April 14 : Speaker — Cindy Pringle**
- April 21 : Speaker — TBD**
- April 28 : Speaker — Darcy Sementi**

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

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Tuscola United Methodist Church

Friday, April 19th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall – 901 N. Prairie St. – Tuscola, IL

APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED.

For an appointment, call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401, visit www.bloodcenter.com or scan the QR code to schedule online.



Give & get choice of a **gift card**, a donation to **Best Friends Animal Society**, or **bonus points to the rewards store!**

Scan Here!



Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 2/23/2024
Group Sponsor Code: 71203



ImpactLife

50 Years of Saving Lives

TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MOTHER-DAUGHTER DINNER

WHEN: April 18, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: TUMC Fellowship Hall

ENTERTAINMENT: Tuscola Kitchen Band

COST: \$15.00/adult; \$7.50/children ages 6-12;
Free/children 5 & under

An evening of fellowship and fun is planned for the Mother-Daughter dinner! All women, daughters, nieces, etc. are welcome. Dinner will be catered by Front Street Market. The Tuscola Kitchen Band will perform.

Reservations/payments will be taken in the church foyer each Sunday starting March 24th. The deadline for making your reservation is **April 7th**. Make checks payable to TUWF. Bring guests! Join us!

GIVE-AWAY PRIZES!



Tuscola Kitchen Band

CONNECT.

TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 901 N. PRAIRIE ST.
 TUSCOLA, IL 61953

PASTOR BENNETT WOODS
 PASTOR
 BWOODS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

SARAH EVANS
 FINANCIAL &
 ADMINISTRATIVE
 SECRETARY
 SEVANS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

JEANNIE CRADDOCK,
 DIR. SANCTUARY CHOIR,
 CELEBRATION RINGERS HAND
 BELL CHOIR
 DCJC91@GMAIL.COM

INGRID MINGER
 CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR
 INGRIDMINGER@GMAIL.COM

KATHLEEN DYER
 CUSTODIAN

OUR STAFF

APRIL
 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>03</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 3pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>
<u>07</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Youth Group - 5pm	<u>08</u>	<u>09</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>10</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 2pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>11</u> MOPS - 9am Trustees - 5pm	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Youth Group - 5pm	<u>15</u> Finance Committee - 5pm	<u>16</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>17</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 3pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>18</u> TUWF Mother- Daughter Dinner 6:30pm	<u>19</u> Blood - Drive 9am - 1pm	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am School to Prison Pipeline Presentation 2pm Youth Group - 5pm	<u>22</u> Christian Justice Team - 1pm	<u>23</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>24</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 3pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>25</u> NAMI - 7pm	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Youth Group - 5pm	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Bible Study 11am				