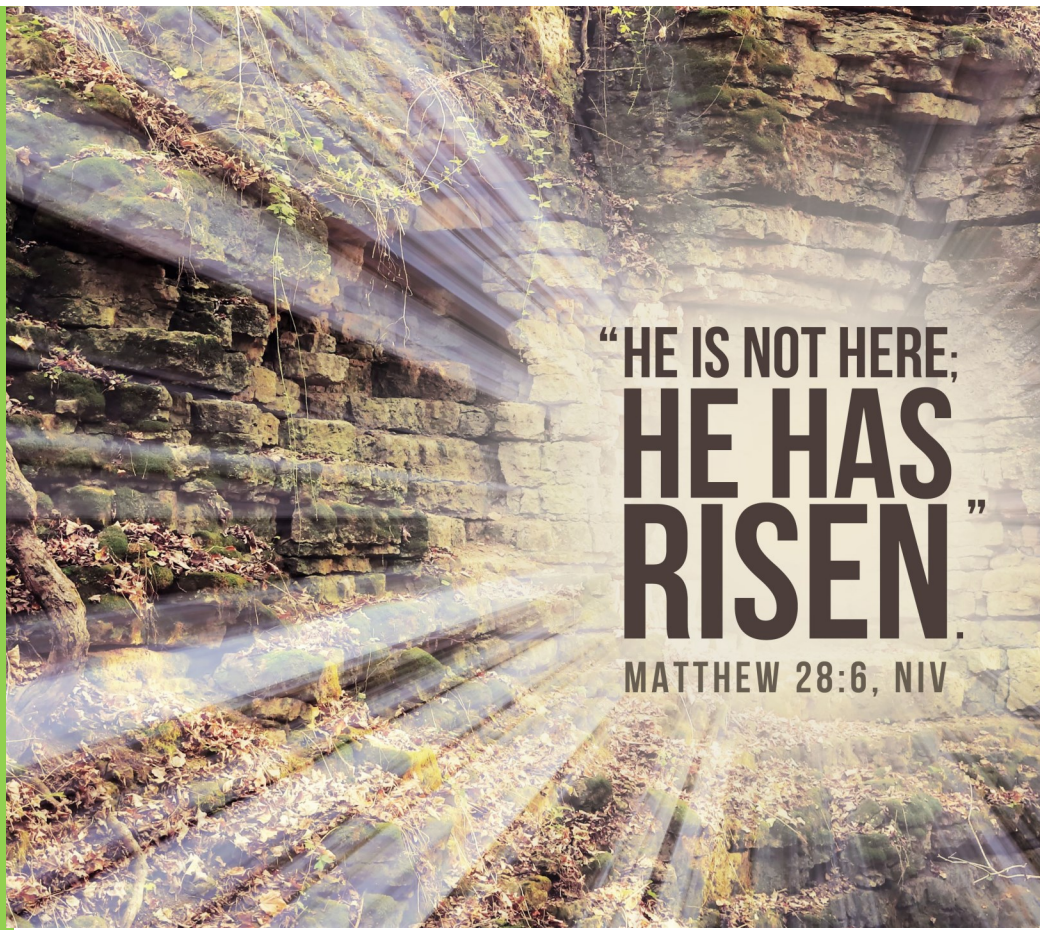


connect.

Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church

April
2023



“HE IS NOT HERE;
**HE HAS
RISEN.**”
MATTHEW 28:6, NIV

My grandmother was a Spring Cleaner. Each year around mid-April, she would fling open the windows and let the fresh air in. She would move the furniture to sweep and vacuum underneath it, take rugs and bedding outside to air out, pull everything out of the refrigerator and freezer and scrub the shelves, climb a ladder and wipe down the tops of her kitchen cabinets, and launder all the winter clothes and put them in storage.

Being from Florida where there is no spring, I never really got the concept, but now that I live in the north, I understand how the rooms that seemed cozy and warm in November now seem stale and oppressive. No matter how much you dust and vacuum, when spring arrives, we crave fresh air and light, and we want to make our living spaces reflect the joyful color and vibrancy that we see around us.

Spring is here. Out with the old and in with the new!

To me, spring is not only a time of renewal for our living spaces. It is a time of renewal for ourselves. As the days lengthen, our energy increases which brings new focus and purpose to our lives. It's time for us to clean out the old and let in the new and fresh.

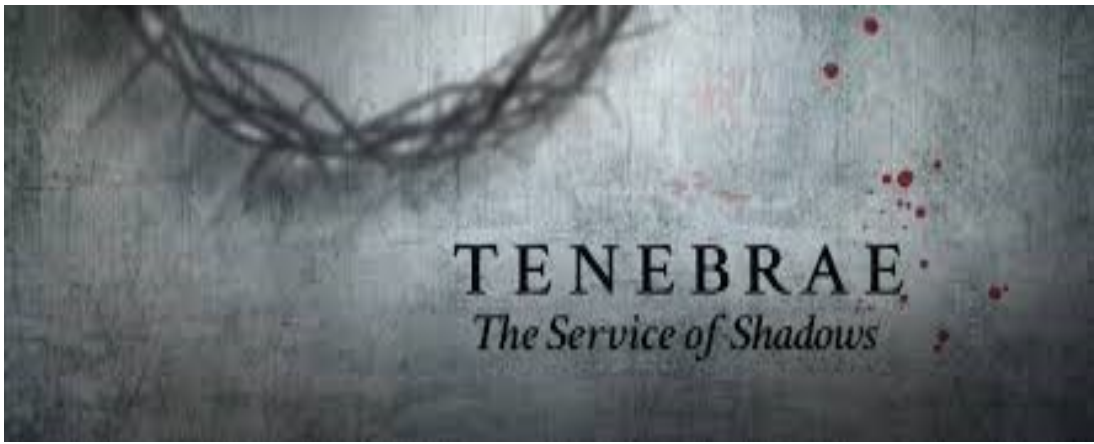
What are the things that you've been holding onto this year? Frustrations with a friend or co-worker? Anger at politics and government? A waning interest in your spiritual pursuit of God?

This is the perfect time of year to do some self-Spring Cleaning. Assess the behaviors that are allowing you to hold onto the negative feelings and let them go. Is your frustration with your friend because you are not allowing yourself to set boundaries and tell them how you feel? This is the time to do it. Is your anger at politics and government because you are listening to other angry people? Spend some time away from them refreshing your own spirit. Is your waning interest in your pursuit of God because you aren't spending enough time with God in conversation, reading, and studying? Then carve out some time each day to worship and pray.

Spring reminds us that we need to do some cleaning. This spring, spend some time cleaning out your soul, so you are prepared to celebrate fully and freely our resurrected Lord!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Terri



TENEBRAE

The Service of Shadows

Good Friday

Join us Friday, April 7 at 6 PM for a Tenebrae Service (a service of darkness). In Matthew 16, Jesus urges his followers to take up their cross and follow him. During this beautiful and powerful service, we will have the opportunity to do that. We will walk toward the cross with our Lord and Savior as we honor his sacrifice.



Sunrise Service

Join us Sunday, April 9th at 6:30 AM at the fire pit for our beautiful Easter Sunrise Service. There is no better way to celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior! A breakfast will follow.

Sermons

Sermon Series: My Lenten Playlist – February 26th – April 9th – In the same way that we find beautiful truths about the birth of Jesus through Christmas music, other hymns teach us about the power of sacrifice and God’s deep love. This Lent, we will examine the theological truths in hymns such as *Holy, Holy, Holy, Fairest Lord Jesus, Come Thou Fount, Be Thou My Vision, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, and Christ the Lord is Risen Today.*

April 2nd – Palm Sunday - John 11:45-57 – Stories of Jesus (Tell Me the Stories of Jesus)

April 9th – Easter Sunday

Sunrise – John 20:1-18 – Love’s Redeeming Work (Christ the Lord is Risen Today)

9 AM Service – John 20:1-18 – Spread the Word

Sermon Series: The Power of Borrowed Prayers – One of the things I hear most often from church members is, “I don’t know how to pray.” Many of us have been fortunate enough to hear someone who has a truly powerful gift of prayer, and the rest of us muddle through, our words totally inadequate to describe the glory, power, and mercy of God. We are very lucky, though, that many of the world’s best pray-ers have written down their words for us to use. This spring, we will examine some of the most beautiful and meaningful prayers ever written including The Lord’s Prayer, the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, The Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, The Prayer of Serenity by Reinhold Niebuhr, and The Trinity Prayer by St. Ethelwold. These prayers give rise to our deepest voice and allow us to say the things we’ve always longed to say but feel unable to express ourselves.

April 16th – Matthew 6:5-15 – The Lord’s Prayer

April 23rd – Matthew 5:1-12 – The Prayer of St. Francis Assisi

April 30th – Jeremiah 31:31-34 – The Covenant Prayer by John Wesley

February Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of 1/31/2023: \$35,729.04

February Income: \$16,936.71

February Expense: \$15,082.05

Balance as of 2/28/2023: \$37,583.70

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!

March Attendance & Offerings

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
March 5	87	\$3,955
March 12	80	\$5,137
march 19	77	\$2,589
March 26	61	\$819

(The offerings above are what is collected on Sunday in the plate.)

Worship at Brookstone

April 2 : Speaker— John & Kate Watson

April 9 Speaker— Cindy Pringle

April 16: Speaker— Terri Haas

April 23: Speaker— Darcy

Sementi

April 30: Speaker—Karen Benner

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

member spotlight

Tell us about your family.

Our family consists of Ted, Ingrid, Bronwyn, Brayson & Sheldon! Ted grew up in Metamora, IL, and Ingrid grew up in both Milledgeville, GA & Charleston, IL. Both kids were born at Sarah Bush in Mattoon and have lived their entire lives in Tuscola! Sheldon is our Bernedoodle and has been a part of our family for 3 years! He is the BEST pupper ever!

How long have you been attending TUMC?

We have attended TUMC for 9 years. Ted & I were married at Wesley UMC in Charleston, Bronwyn was baptized on December 15, 2013 at Wesley in Charleston & Brayson was baptized on September 6, 2015 at Tuscola UMC.

What drew you to TUMC?

I (Ingrid) have been United Methodist since the day I was born. I grew up going to Hopewell United Methodist Church in Milledgeville, GA. When we moved to Charleston, Wesley UMC was our new church home. When Ted and I started dating, I was attending Wesley UMC and he joined and though he was raised in the Apostolic & then the United Church of Christ, he really liked the principals of the UMC and decided to join at Wesley, under the pastoral care of Rev. Wally who we both just adore (He's a MAJOR Cubs fan so that helps too :))

What do you and your family do for work and for fun?

Ted is a middle school Tech Teacher & Ingrid is a middle school librarian! Bronwyn is in 3rd grade at Northward and Brayson is in 1st grade at Northward. We are ALWAYS on the go! We love to travel & find new adventures we can go on as a family. Ted coaches football and enjoys all things sports. Ingrid loves to read and bake and knit.

Brayson loves video games & Bronwyn loves all things art!



FROM the Youth director

Hello All, 🙋

I would like to thank everyone who donated Easter candy or money for the children's egg hunts. The Youth Group has been busy stuffing eggs on Wednesday nights for the last couple weeks. The children will be very happy with lots of sweets.

Kids Club Egg Hunt is Wednesday March 29. The regular Easter Sunday Morning Egg Hunt will be at 10 am after the service. Please bring bags or baskets for both days.

The Children's Ministry area has collected enough donations from our coffee hours to buy 2 flocks of chicks 🐣 and 1 bee 🐝 hive for Heifer International. Our next goal is to purchase a goat 🐐 for a family.

Speaking of animals...let's talk VBS my friends 😊.

VBS will be June 20 21 22 from 6pm-730pm. Our theme is "Pets Unleashed...Where Jesus Cares FUR You". I have already booked and confirmed Harvest Ministry Praise Band and Pauly's BBQ for June 22 closing night. If you are interested in helping I will have a sign up sheet on my office door and also online. We need set decorations crew, teachers, lesson helpers, craft helpers, cleanup crew and lobby welcome staff. Pauly's have asked for one helper to help him in the food truck. 🚚 **(Adults only)**

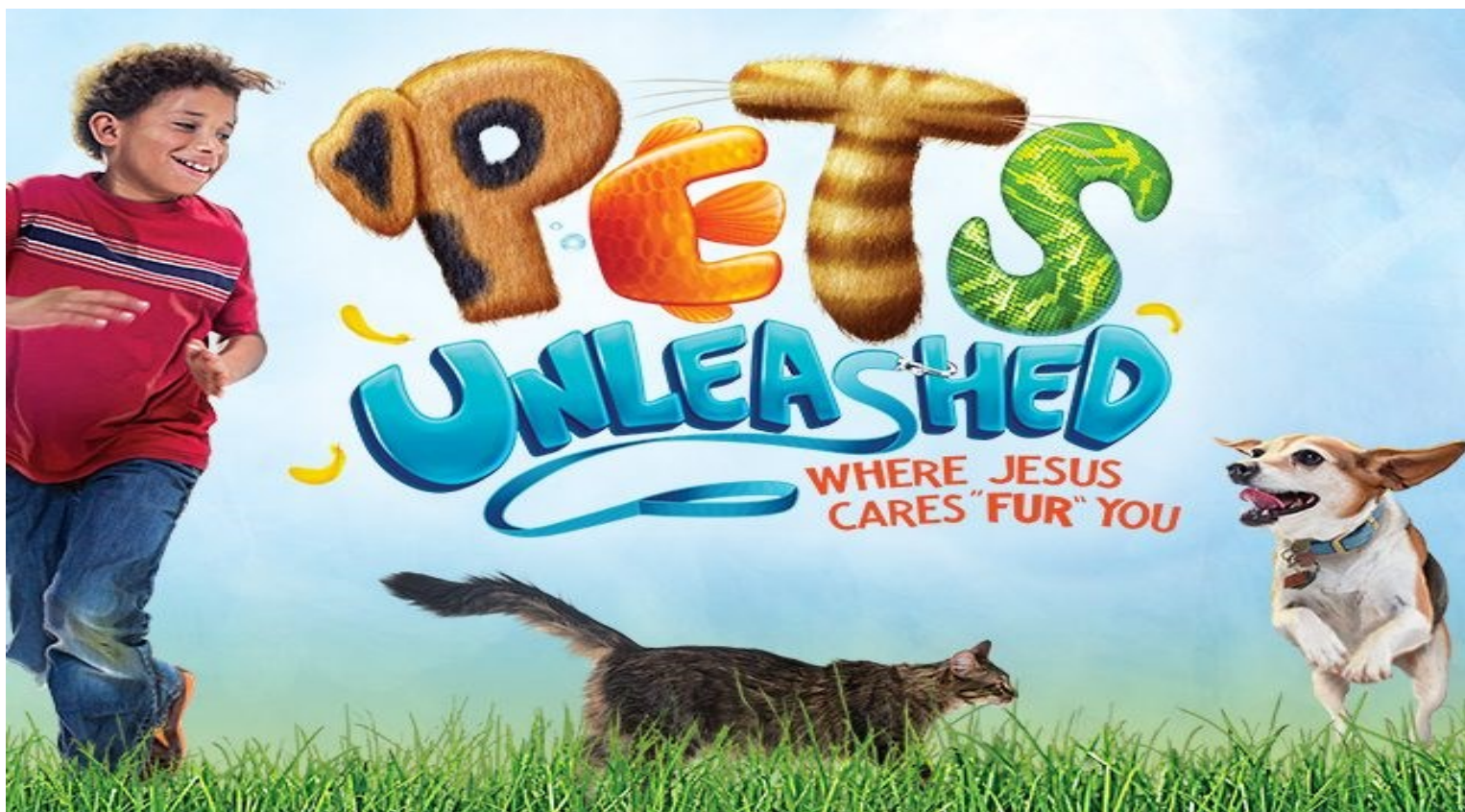
Sign up early to get your spot. 🙋

The Children's Choir room is absolutely amazing. The kids are really enjoying having their own area filled with kid friendly activities and lots of room to dance and celebrate our Faith.

If anyone would like to donate snacks or **(no red dye)** juice 📦 boxes to the Children's Ministry Area that would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Spring and thank you for continuing to support our Children.

Cheryl 🌸



In The Mailbag



Dear TUMC Family,
Thank you very much for your thoughts, prayers and gifts for Kyle! We appreciate your kindness and generosity as he begins a long healing process. It means the world to have your prayers and support as he begins his recovery. Thank you!
Love,
Lora, Rodney, Kyle and Emma Zimmer

The families of Joyce Ellis would like everyone to celebrate her life with them on April 8th, at I I am at Hilligoss Funeral Home here in Tuscola. Please join the families in celebrating the life of a long time member who is dearly missed.



For anyone that would like to help in other ways than volunteering or monetary donations, please visit our Facebook page for links to our Amazon Wishlist's. These lists include different things needed for kids club, Childrens Church, Youth Group and even our upcoming VBS! All help is greatly appreciated! And we thank everyone in advance! If you would like a printed list, please pick on up from the table outside the fellowship hall.

FUNDRAISER

Tuscola United Women in Faith

YOU CAN HELP! – Tuscola United Women in Faith is leading a church-wide effort to purchase a new ice-maker and commercial refrigerator. The lack of a large capacity ice-maker and adequate refrigeration is causing problems with funeral dinners, SAM Pantry, and other events. The problems will only escalate as daily temperatures rise. The estimate to purchase both is \$7,000. An anonymous donor has stepped forward to do a dollar-for-dollar match to each dollar donated, up to \$3,500. So the goal is to raise \$3,500 from church members and to do so before the end of April. Make out your checks to TUMC and in the note area, write “Ice-Maker/ Refrigerator.” Checks may be given to Sarah or Pastor Terri...or members can take their check to the church and put in Sarah’s mailbox...or put it in the collection plate on Sunday...or mail it in to the church. Please look into your heart and donate whatever you can...no donation is too small! If the total donations exceed the cost of the equipment, the remainder will go into the church’s maintenance fund to help with future repairs.



Columbarium

Many of you may not be aware, but our church is home to a beautiful columbarium. For those of you who are unfamiliar with that term, a columbarium is a set of niches designed to hold cremated remains. Our columbarium is located in the education wing next to the chapel. It is a peaceful space to sit and pray or speak to our loved ones who have gone on. If you have not visited this space, I encourage you to do so. If you have any interest in reserving a niche for yourself or a loved one, please speak to Pastor Terri.



Tuscola United Women in Faith

In 2023, we would like to highlight the two Tuscola United Women in Faith (TUWF) Circles that make up the Tuscola UWF unit. The two Circles are named Rachel and Rebekah for strong women in the Bible. This month, we are featuring **Rachel Circle** which is co-chaired by Patty Russell and Betsy Stuerke. This group meets generally at Flesor's Candy Kitchen at 1:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday, September through May.

The Circle agenda for their meetings includes the following: The ladies order lunch (if desired) and socialize during the mealtime, as well as talk about the most recent TUWF Board Meeting and TUMC topics. Following the meal, prayer and devotion, an informative program is then provided by a volunteer from the Rachel Circle. This Circle supports Red Bird Mission in Kentucky and the Thank Offering for UWF each year. In addition, donations from the Circle are made to Lessie Bates Davie House, EIU Wesley Foundation and other missions to help with their needs.

At Christmastime, the Circle enjoys getting together for a special gathering to celebrate the holiday. (See the picture below.)

There are special events that the TUWF unit hosts during the year, i.e., Mother-Daughter dinner, Salad Supper, and a Fundraiser event, and both Circles are an integral part of these events.



TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Tuscola United Women in Faith are requesting donations for **CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME** and **LESSIE BATES DAVIS HOUSE**. If you would like to donate, please place the items in the tub in the church foyer. Items will be collected until April 20, 2023.

CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS:

- Epsom Salts (any scent or unscented, any size)
- Athlete's Foot Spray
- Body or Hand Lotion in Lavender or Cocoa Butter scents
- Men's Body Wash
- Men's White T-shirts in small or medium size
- Hand Soap with Pumps
- Men's Stick Deodorant
- Walmart or Amazon Gift Cards

LESSIE BATES DAVIS HOUSE NEEDS:

- Bar Soap
- Bath Towels
- Lotion (Hand and Body)



TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MOTHER-DAUGHTER DINNER

- WHEN:** April 20, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
- WHERE:** TUMC Fellowship Hall
- PROGRAM:** *"It's A Girls Spa Night"*
- COST:** \$15.00/adult; \$7.50/children ages 6-12; Free/children 5 and under

A delightful evening is planned for the Mother-Daughter event! First, enjoy an array of food items during our dinner. Immediately following the meal, you may step into our spa area where you can visit vendors who will show you a variety of items such as health and beauty tips, essential oils, candles, jewelry, and face painting. Some items will be available for purchase. You can get a neck massage, too, and the girls can have their nails polished by our Tuscola Royalty – 2022 Miss Tuscola, Jr. Miss Tuscola and Little Miss Tuscola!

Reservations for this dinner will be taken at the church each Sunday starting March 26th and the deadline for turning in your reservation is April 16th. Checks should be made payable to TUWF. All women are welcome and feel free to bring guests! Join us for Christian fellowship and fun!

DOOR PRIZES!

To the Laity of TUMC

Psalm 28:6-9

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

I read this uplifting Psalm as part of a devotion in the Upper Room this week.

Do our hearts leap for joy when we think of God? Do we praise God as we should? Do we trust God's provision for us? If each of us would hold this promise of God's help in our hearts as we trust in him, there is nothing we cannot accomplish or face. This includes whatever is in store for the Methodist church world-wide and even for TUMC.

Trustees met on March 16. Jason Swearingen reported on the SAM pantry open house. The purpose of the open house was to introduce the pantry to members of the community who do not know of its existence or its purpose. The church's farm ground is currently farmed by Toby Ring for \$300/acre cash rent. The lease will be offered to Mr. Ring for the coming year at the same rate. Leon Kinney will contact the city regarding the water that does not drain from the parking lot by the education wing. Karen Benner will research the possibility of obtaining a commercial grade robot vacuum. A motion was passed allowing TUWF to fundraise for the purchase of a new commercial refrigerator and/or ice maker contingent on approval by trustees. Kiwanis were given permission to use the church grounds for their tables for the Easter egg hunt on April 1. They will also be allowed to use the fellowship hall for a trauma doll workshop on a date to be determined. Leon Kinney has volunteered to be the point person for the columbarium. Currently, there are only two mowing teams for the summer. The ideal number of teams would be four so each team would only mow once a month. Mowing takes around 2 to 2-1/2 hours to complete. If you would like to be part of a team, please let Pastor Terri or Bruce Wood know.

Church Council met on 3/20. A special charge conference was held before the regular meeting to approve the following committee memberships:

Amy Griffith - SPRC Committee, serving 2023-2025

Karen Benner – Trustees Committee, serving 2023-2025

Les Hall – Finance Committee, serving 2023-2025

In addition, on behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was approved to change the budget line item for Insurance Expense from \$12,500.00 to \$17,000.00 to more accurately estimate 2023 insurance expense. The charge conference was adjourned and the Council moved into their regular meeting. The following reports were made.

For **SAM pantry**, Margie Delheimer reported that she will retire as pantry coordinator effective March 31, 2023. In 2022, Margie put in 504 service hours and put around 2000 miles on her car for the benefit of pantry. The Council members thanked Margie for her many years of service. Pastor Terri will be meeting with key pantry volunteers and pantry board members to find a new coordinator. A motion was made and passed stipulating that the monthly fee for SAM pantry's use of the building be \$800, retroactive to January 1, 2023.

The **Missions and Evangelism** team is working on a plan for reaching out to the parents and the children who are picked up from North Ward. A second Fall Festival is in the planning stages and will most likely be held in October.

The **Worship** team will be meeting in two weeks for the final planning for Easter. The Good Friday service will be April 7 at 6:00 PM. On Easter Day, April 9, there will be a Sunrise service at 6:30 AM followed by a breakfast.

Children, Youth and Families committee is planning for VBS to be held on June 20-22. The theme this year is "Pets Unleashed- Where Jesus Cares for You."

SPRC reported that Kathleen Dyer is back to work as janitor. Shelbi Fleener has been hired to do the vacuuming for Kathleen.

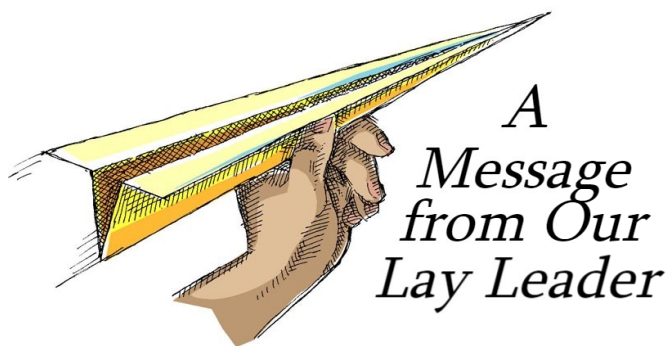
Finance recommended that a smaller scanner/copier be purchased to replace the current one. In an attempt to curb the color printing charges, only Pastor Terri, Cheryl Warren and Sarah Evans can print color copies. Dave Butler reported that the financial secretary has been advised to post interest from Edward Jones on the financial reports retroactive to January 1, 2023.

In **TUWF** news, the Mother-Daughter banquet will be held on April 20. The group will also be fundraising for a refrigerator and ice maker for the kitchen. An anonymous donor will match the funds raised up to \$3500.

The **Christian Justice** team screened the PBS Frontline documentary "Growing Up Trans" on February 26. There was a good discussion afterward as we talked through varying opinions on how to care for transgender children.

The **Congregational Care** team packed and delivered eighteen bags containing various items such as toiletries, reading material, and cookies to home-bound members.

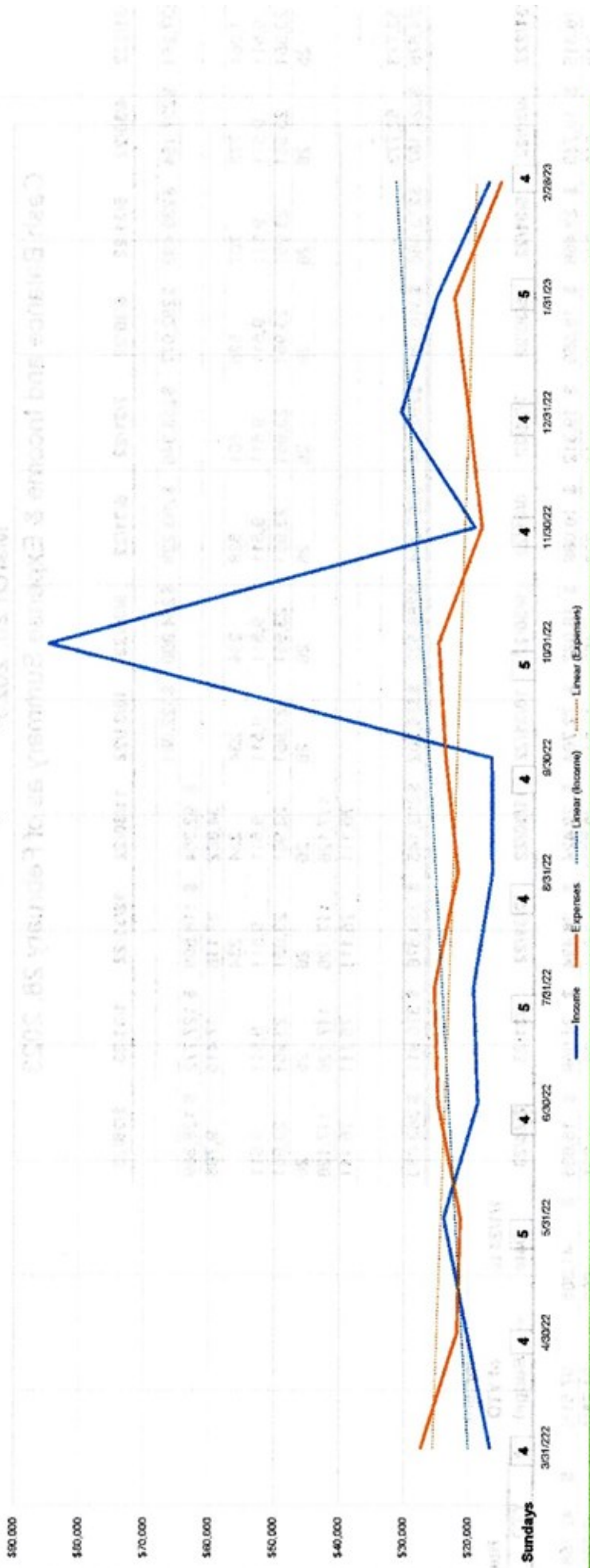
The next Church Council meeting is May 15 at 6:00 PM.



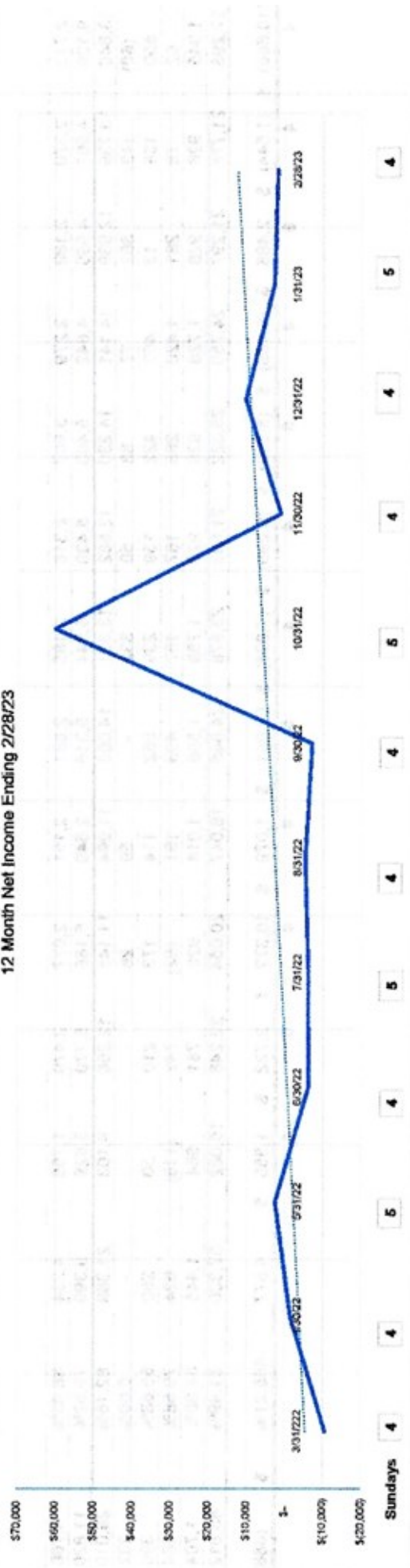
A Message from Our Lay Leader

As always, if you have questions or comments, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at kbbenner@gmail.com or by phone at 217-721-7750.

TUMC Finance History
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 2/28/23



TUMC Finance History
12 Month Net Income Ending 2/28/23



Sundays 4 4 5 4 4 4 4 5 4 4 4

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of white flowers, likely baby's breath, arranged in a clear glass vase. The flowers are densely packed and fill most of the frame. The background is a soft, light blue color. The text 'Happy Easter' is overlaid in a blue, cursive font.

Happy
Easter



connect.

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

Our Staff

Rev. Terri Haas,
Pastor
thaas@tuscolaumc.org

Jeannie Craddock,
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sevans@tuscolaumc.org

Ingrid Minger
Children's Choir Director
ingridminger@gmail.com

April 2023

What's

Happening

Here

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm			
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am 2	Staff Meeting 10am 3	Bible Study 11am 4	SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm 5		OFFICE CLOSED Tenebrae Service 6pm GOOD FRIDAY 7	
Sunrise Service 6:30am (Easter Breakfast following) Worship 9am Easter Egg Hunt 10am Coffee Hour 10am 4	Staff Meeting 10am 10	Bible Study 11am SPRC 6pm 11	SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm 12	MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm 13		
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am 16	Staff Meeting 10am Finance 5pm 17	Bible Study 11am 18	SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm 19	TUWF Mother-Daughter Dinner 6:30pm NAMI 7pm 20		
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 23	Staff Meeting 10am 24	Bible Study 11am 25	SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm 26			
30						