

connect.

Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church

July
2023



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

Grace and peace to the People of Tuscola, I, Pastor Bennett Woods, am so excited to be appointed to serve among you all. Like all moves, this appointment is a change in my life as well as all of yours. On my desk in the office is a sign that sat on my pastor's desk in the Clinton United Methodist Church for many years, and when she, Rev. Leah Pogemiller, was cleaning her office before her medical leave, she gifted it to me. It says, "Please be patient; God isn't finished with me yet." I have always wished that this phrase was sent to all churches and pastors experiencing a move. It would remind us that we are all imperfect people trying to do our best.

The Church needs to be reminded of this. Pastors are not perfect. I know, it is hard to believe, but it is true. I am just seeking to do the best I can with all God has given me, but I know I may fail, and it is in this realization that we can truly grow. As I write this, I realize that the parsonage is still partly in boxes, as well as my office here at the church, but that I need to be patient. It will all be where it belongs soon enough.

This is also true for the Church and Christians. There is no perfect church, and there is no perfect Christian. A Church may grow and do a good ministry while simultaneously missing the new opportunity for ministry, staring them in the face. A Christian may go to church on Sunday and forget by Monday that they are called to feed the hungry and cloth the naked. (Matthew 25:35-45) God does not give up on Christians or the church, nor can we as the Church.

All of this is the basis of Grace. The United Methodist Governing Book of Discipline defines grace as "the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit." (BOD 2016 Par. 102) I think that the little sign sitting on my desk is a great recognition of this. I am asking you all to remember that the grace you give me is not deserved or earned but instead given to me out of love from God and all of you, and more importantly, it is a reminder to me to be patient with myself and everyone else. That same patience I am asking you for, I should freely give to everyone, not just in my office but all I meet.

Let this be our goal as we start this new relationship together, and maybe we should revisit some old relationships that may need some patience.

"Please be Patient; God isn't finished with me yet!"

God's Blessings be to all,
Pastor Bennett Woods



Sermons

- July 2nd – “Who Am I”
- July 9th – “Why We Are Here”
- July 16th – “The Garden for the Community”
- July 23rd – “Living with Hope, Not Fear”
- July 30th – “The Love we GET to Share”

June Attendance & Offerings

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
June 4	71	\$3,716
June 11	65	\$2,255
June 18	37	\$3,635
June 25	49	\$1,834

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

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Our church directory is available to view on your computer! Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a member website.

Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, please fill out the form on the next page and give to Sarah be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on-screen to complete the create log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made, they will show on the Online Members' Website, too.

For more information about the members' website, go here: <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/638-navigating-the-online-member-directory>

For those that do not have access to a smartphone or computer, please contact the office, and a printed version can be made for you.

July Worship at Brookstone

July 2 : Speaker— Kate Watson
July 9: Speaker— Cindy Pringle
July 16: Speaker— Mary Ann

Dier-Zimmerman

July 23: Speaker— Bruce Wood
July 30: Speaker—Kate Watson

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

FROM the Youth director

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is having a great summer. I just have a couple things to say this month. VBS went well this year. Thank you to the Walker's for all the decorating and ideas. They are truly a blessing to our church. We did not have the numbers we wanted but we were able to reach the children that we had sports and the pool opening took away a lot of our children this year. Our new playground is being installed July 5 and sixth. We are all very excited. Thank you to everyone who donated funds to this dream for our children. You have no idea how much it is appreciated. Camp is coming up in two weeks for youth group and myself will be gone from July 17 to the 21st. We are very excited. Thank you to everyone who donated to send a child or staff member to camp. Blessings to all Cheryl.



Church Directory Information

Family Last Name _____ Birthdate _____
Adult Name(s) _____ Birthdate _____
_____ Birthdate _____
_____ Birthdate _____
Children's Name(s) _____ Birthdate _____
_____ Birthdate _____
_____ Birthdate _____
_____ Birthdate _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Family Phone # _____ *Allow txt msg ___ Y ___ N
Family Email _____ *Allow email ___ Y ___ N
Phone (each person) _____ *Allow txt msg ___ Y ___ N
_____ *Allow txt msg ___ Y ___ N
_____ *Allow txt msg ___ Y ___ N
_____ *Allow email ___ Y ___ N
Email (each person) _____ *Allow email ___ Y ___ N
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Anniversary _____

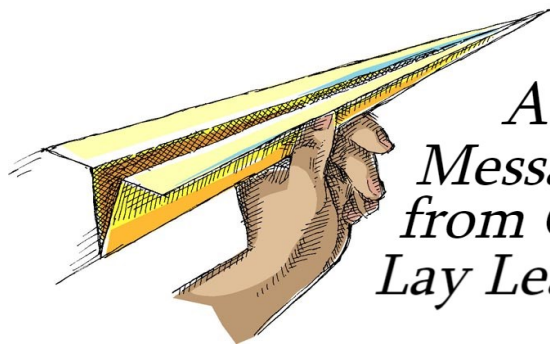
**From time to time we may send texts or emails to you from the church with news for upcoming events. If you do not wish to receive them, please indicate next to each phone or email listed.*

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Anniversary _____

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Greetings! At last, summer is here in full swing. Vacations are happening and my brain has decided to take one also! My mini-lessons will return next month.



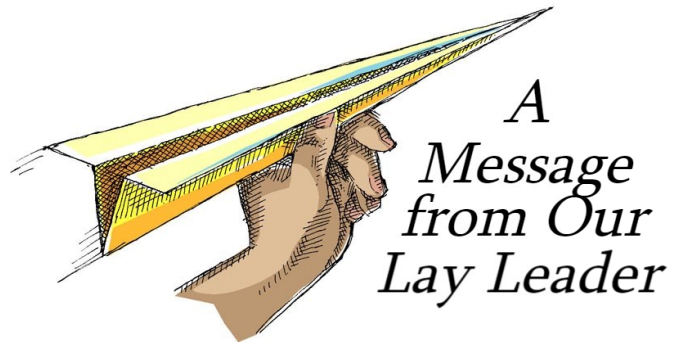
A Message from Our Lay Leader

SPRC met on June 6 for their last meeting with Pastor Terri. There was discussion regarding who was covering the last Sundays in June and personnel matters. She reported that she and Pastor Bennett had been in conversation quite often. At the time, the website was still being constructed but I see progress has been made. Ellen and Les Hall hosted a welcome supper on June 21 for Pastor Bennett and Kim with SPRC members in attendance also. Thank you to Ellen!

The regular trustee meeting was held on June 8 where there were many items to discuss. The purchase of a robotic vacuum, the uneven sidewalks in the front and a new copier were tabled until the August meeting. The insurance for the contents of the mower shed will be raised from \$1700 to \$40,000 because of the three zero-turn mowers housed in the shed. Liability and the umbrella policy amounts will be increased but by how much will be discussed at the next meeting. New door sweeps on the kitchen doors were installed. There was discussion regarding the fencing to be placed around the new playground area. It was decided that there will be one door into the playground area accessible from the south door of the education wing and one side of the fence will be the church building. Currently, the church has no fire monitoring. A motion was passed to employ a company called EM24, which took over monitoring the Securitas lines, at a cost of \$45 per month. Securitas was the fire monitoring company used prior to the installation of the Ring burglary system. The family of Doc and Mary Smith wish to purchase a living memorial to Joan Cross to be placed on the church grounds. The trustees will advise them that a tree placed on the west side of the church would be a welcome addition. There is a blockage in the drainage between the parking lot by the education wing and Prairie Street according to the city. This is the reason the parking lot will not drain after a heavy rain.

Trustees had from the afternoon of June 13 until Pastor Bennett arrived on June 19 around 5:30 PM to ready the parsonage. In addition to the installation of new flooring in the downstairs and the entire upstairs by Helmwood Construction, there were many other projects being completed at the same time. Before the flooring installation could begin, all the parquet floor was removed in the downstairs hallway and all the carpeting and peel and stick flooring in the upstairs was removed. A carpenter was employed to sand one flight of stairs and paint them and to replace the kitchen sink cabinet bottom. The wallpaper in the downstairs bedroom was removed and the walls were repainted. A big thanks to Jim Pattenau for the steamer. The wallpaper would still be there if we had to scrape it and that layer of paint off! The upstairs master bedroom and the bathroom were repainted also. The electrical outlets, switches and cover plates were replaced in these rooms. A new vanity and sink were purchased and installed in the upstairs bathroom. Walls and kitchen cabinets were washed, floors were vacuumed and mopped, and appliances cleaned. The basement was swept. Windows were washed. Patching was done on some of the walls and the paint touched up. All the broken window weights were repaired. The light in the front yard was fixed as was the light in the upstairs closet and there is now electric power to the doorbell. The dryer in the basement

was completely cleaned out. The door jamb to the back door was repaired as was one of the cabinet doors that had been broken. The filters in the furnace and air conditioner were cleaned and/or replaced as needed. The door handle to the walk-in door of the garage was replaced. The back door to the house was repainted. The gutters were cleaned and tree branches that were touching the roof were trimmed. The entire yard was weeded and cleaned up. New blinds were purchased by a church member and many, if not most, of the supplies required for the repairs mentioned above were donated by other members. **It was a group effort to get all this done in such a short time. This project could not have been completed without the generous help and support of so many of our members. THANKYOU from the bottom of my heart. I know the trustees feel the same way.**

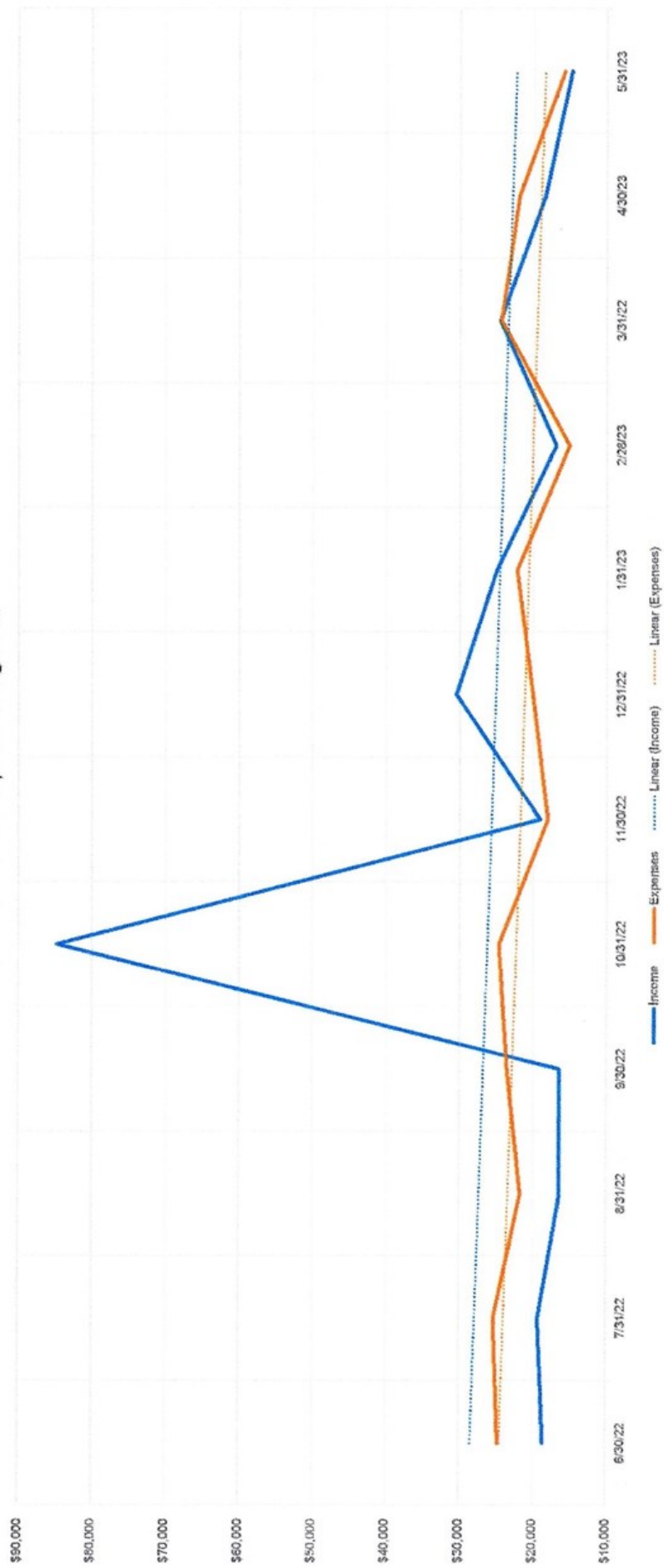


A Message from Our Lay Leader

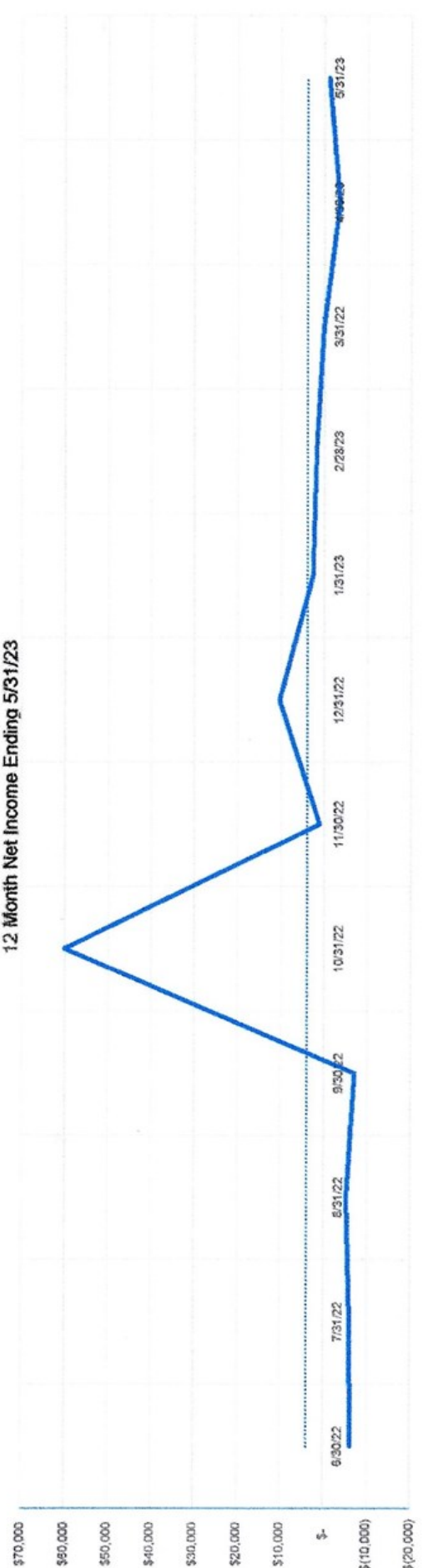
The Finance committee met on June 18 and there was continued discussion of the mistakes in the reports. The audit, conducted by Mike Ovca, was the main point of discussion. Overall, Mike was pleased with what he saw. However, there were a few points that he brought out. Mike felt that the financial policy of the church needs to be updated. He said there should be reporting on the usage of the debit cards. Overtime hours are not approved prior to working. There needs to be an update to the inventory of the church. The last one was a video completed in March, 2018. He thought it was good that we are updating our insurance coverage. In other business, the committee approved closing the checking account at First Bank (formally First Federal Bank of Tuscola).



TUMC Finance History
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 5/3/23



TUMC Finance History
12 Month Net Income Ending 5/31/23



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

Our Staff

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Pastor
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Jeannie Craddock,
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Cheryl Warren
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Kathleen Dyer
Custodian

Sarah Evans
Financial & Administrative Secretary
sevans@tuscolaumc.com



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

July 2023

What's

Happening

Here

July 2023		What's	Happening	Here		
				<u>1</u>		
<u>2</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>  OFFICE CLOSED	<u>5</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>6</u> Camp Youth Church Yard Clean Up 9am-2pm	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>10</u> All Staff Meeting 10am	<u>11</u> Bible Study 11am SPRC 6pm	<u>12</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>13</u> Trustees 5pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>17</u> Finance 5pm Church Council 6pm	<u>18</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>19</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>20</u> SAM Pantry Board 4pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
 Youth to Camp Epworth						
<u>23</u> Worship 10am Coffee Hour 9:30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>24</u> Congregational Care 1pm Missions & Evangelism 5pm	<u>25</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>26</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>27</u> Worship Team 3pm NAMI 7pm	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>31</u> Children's Council 7pm					