

# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

## JULY 2024

### *From the Pastors Pen...*

Grace and peace to you, the people of Tuscola,

Summer is flying by. June has been full of VBS, vacations, busy food pantry days, family gatherings, and many different group meetings in the church. As we step into July, we continue to be a beacon of hope and love, doing God's work. Check out Pastor Kim's Deacon desk in this newsletter to learn more about how VBS went. In this pastor's pen, I wanted to talk about the inspiration we find in doing God's work, not just in our successes but also in our failures.

The church's history has ups and downs baked into our DNA as a faith community. Even the disciples had several ups and downs, not just before the resurrection but as they planned churches and helped them grow. There were so many times that the church had successes and failures. I am reminded of the adage, "A mistake is only a mistake if you don't learn from it." This is a combination of quotes attributed often to the likes of Henry Ford and Albert Einstein. This sentiment is reinforced through this scripture. I love to quote, at times, that we are now in the life of this congregation: "All of this is but the beginning of the birth pains." Matthew 24:8

This Congregation has had ups and downs; I don't need to go through them all because I bet you all could tell me three or four more, I know nothing about. This newsletter article comes on the one-year anniversary of the start of my ministry here in Tuscola. Within the last year, we have had many ups and downs. Here in the church, some have public that everyone knows about, and some have been private and on a more internal level. Some have been proclaimed loudly, while others have been behind the scenes. All of this goes to the building of the church that we are called to be. Sometimes, we see the things happening around us and don't realize how they may affect one thing or another, how they connect on a deeper level, and yet they do. Further still, how we interact with one another and how our ministries interact helps us continue to grow. They may not all be perfect yet and my belief, in the words of John Wesley, we have not yet reached that Christian perfection. Still we work to proclaim a message that goes forth into the world of the work of God.

Now as we reach this midpoint in the year, we're going to be talking about the church finances and where we're at, as well as the many programs that have been taking place over the past year or so and how we continue to invest in them will help us to grow. My hope is that, like the scripture, like this adage that we have mentioned earlier, and from the history and tradition of the church, we may be able to see all that we are doing as simply growing pains in the life of this church. When we start to put things into that perspective, we are able to see more things as positives than as negatives. We see how we can turn negatives into positives and how

we can help one another to grow. The life of the church is changing, even now. We may have small problems that can sometimes look like big problems, but we can tackle each and every one of them together as a church. I hope that is what we will be doing over the July month. While that may feel a little slower for some, but in the life of the church, we have many other activities, and I hope that you continue to read this newsletter to see all of them.

That is my prayer for the next couple of months, that we will proclaim a message that shares God's love to the world. That we may view the rest simply as growing pains. These growing pains we experience will bring us into a new relationship with God and help others to grow in that same relationships with God and with one another.

Blessings

Pastor Bennett Woods



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
2 GROUPS/ FAMILIES  
TO DO COFFEE HOUR  
ON THE 1ST AND 4TH  
SUNDAYS. PLEASE LET  
THE OFFICE KNOW IF  
YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN ONE OF THESE 2  
SPOTS. WE  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO  
SIGN UP SO THAT THIS  
MINISTRY CAN  
CONTINUE WITHOUT  
INTERRUPTION.**

# *General & Annual Conference Wrap-Up*

Sunday July 21, 2024  
2-4pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Bennett will go over everything  
that happened within the General &  
Annual Conference's as well as answer any  
questions you may have.



## *From The Deacons Desk.....*

It's hard to believe we are already one month into the summer. My first month on staff has been one of the busiest, starting with the end of the school year and concluding with one of our biggest children's ministry events, Vacation Bible School! I'm not much of a runner, but the phrase "hitting the ground running" certainly applies here!

Camp Firelight VBS took place June 27th-29th in the evening at TUMC. We were blessed to have 35 kids served throughout the 3-day event and we had almost as many volunteers and staff helping to make the event an amazing success. As many may have heard in my sermon on June 30th (if not, it's online to watch whenever you have the time), our focus verse for this summer camp adventure was Psalm 56:3, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." The world can be a scary place, for kids and adults alike, but no matter what we are going through, God is with us every step of the journey! Our adventures together at VBS consisted of crafts, games, Bible stories around the campfire, snacks, music, and skits from Counselor Kim, portrayed by myself, and our fearless friend, Lu the lightning bug. I once again must thank all of the volunteers and staff who dedicated their time to reimagining our church as a campground and creating an atmosphere indicative of God's love and trust for all the children and families in our community.

In other Christian education news, our youth group met for a few Sundays this June and is taking a break for July so families can focus on travel, sports, and other events. We hope to meet for an outing in July, so youth families should stay tuned for that announcement and we will resume meeting as a youth group after the school year kicks off in August!

July is a bit of a quieter month for my ministry area, but it doesn't there's no work to be done! I'll be prepping for the coming school year, cleaning out some cluttered storage areas, and even starting plans for next year's VBS! I also will be continuing to work and serve neighbors in the Douglas County area with SAM food pantry, as we operate every Wednesday from 7:30-10:15 am. So if you stop by the church to say hi this summer, you can find me in my office, helping with the pantry, organizing down in the education wing, or at a committee meeting or two, depending on the day. The best way to reach me is via email, [kwoods@tuscolaumc.com](mailto:kwoods@tuscolaumc.com), so don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions this summer or any time of year!

Blessings,

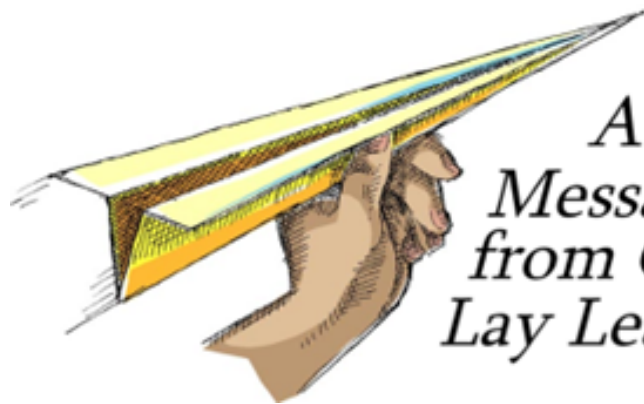
*Rev. Kim Woods*

Rev. Kim Woods





Are you keeping cool? As I write this morning, the temperature is projected to reach 93 degrees! Already we are having to water our garden. Because the rains seem to come earlier in the spring and stop earlier due to climate change, Kenny and I catch water from the roofs of the buildings on our property and save it to four big tanks to use for watering our plants and trees.



## A Message from Our Lay Leader

I am reminded of the story from 1Kings 17 where God does not send rain to Israel for three years because they were worshiping false gods. Are we worshiping the false gods? Are we more concerned with money, power, status, etc.? Are our wants, not our needs, getting in the way of our worship of God and our care of this world. God gave us dominion over the earth and it is our duty to take care of it. Genesis 1:26 says this:

*Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth."*

Might our rain stop, too, if we do not change our ways and give God, and the world he gave us, priority over all else?

On the afternoon of June 23, I attended the program on Trauma and Resiliency held at the church. Did you know that the top ten causes of death in the young are related to trauma? Not all bad things that happen to us cause trauma but not having the coping skills can. Did you know trauma is passed through the DNA due to a change in a particular body chemical and this change can pass through three generations? Those are just some of the things I learned! I urge you to attend these programs hosted by the Christian Justice team and the United Women in Faith. Each one of them has informed and caused me to think about my world and myself in a new light. These programs are one way we can learn how to be in conversation with each other and the more we are in conversation, the more the divisions in this world will disappear.

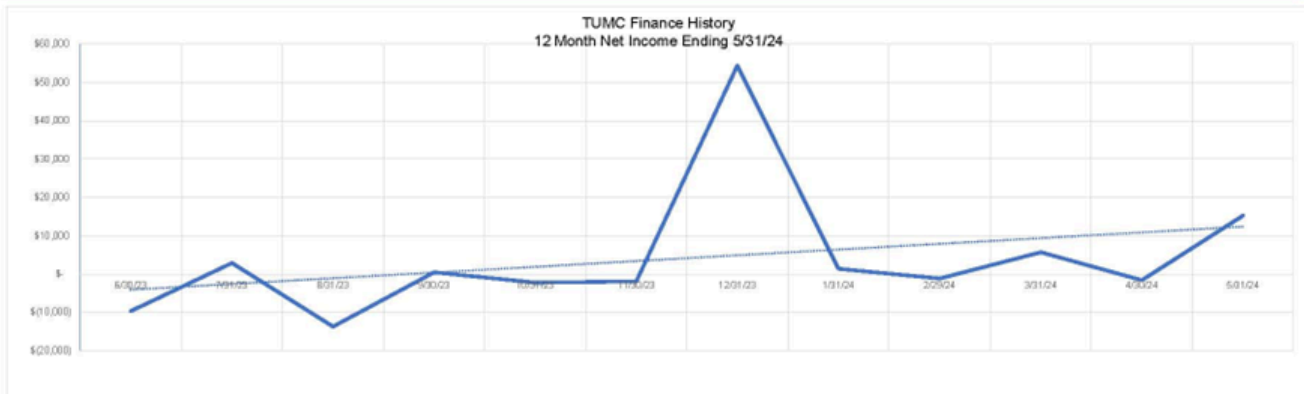
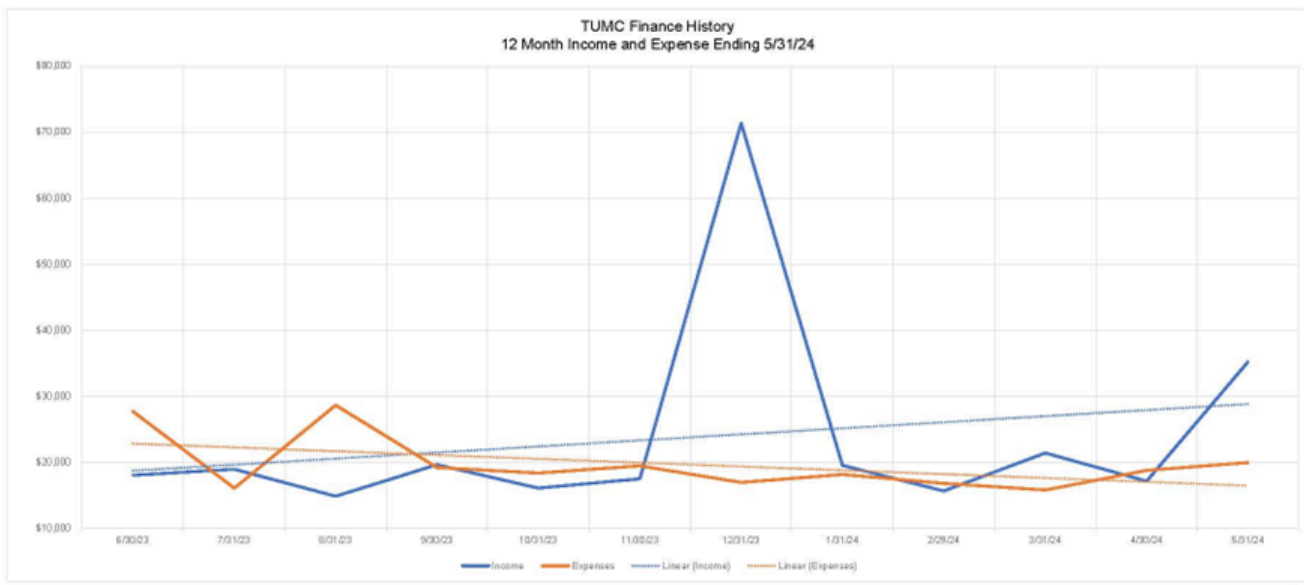
The **Finance** committee met on 6/17/2024 and Dave Butler, treasurer, reported that we are now in the black by \$203. The net income and expense trends are still good. Pastor Bennett contacted some other churches to look for another individual to help with the audit but with no luck yet. Dick Berg, chair, requested that a report be generated with the previous year's electricity payments by month so we can determine if the new lights have made a difference. SAM Pantry received a large donation during the month. Their board would like the ability to access their funds at Edward Jones more readily. Dave will make sure the CDs mature on a rotating basis every 90 days.

At the **Trustee** meeting on June 20, it was decided to contact Arrow Glass to look at the windows in the hall off the library to determine why they leaked during a driving rain. The new faucets have been installed in the church kitchen and seem to be working fine. An organization called "Faith in Place" helps churches to create teams to implement "green" practices such as doing energy efficient measures, reducing the need for mowing, etc. A representative will be coming to speak with us in July. The advantage to partnering with this organization is that we can receive free or major discounts on items or services. The faucet in the upstairs bath in the parsonage was replaced by Pastor Bennett.



Addy Ring and her grandparents, Steve and Patty Slaughter, did weeding, trimmed bushes, etc. around the parsonage. Addy hopes to go into landscaping and wanted some practical experience. The Trustees thank them for their work. The Fellowship hall has been rented for three weekends in July. Pastor Bennett reported there are issues with the sound system. The equalizer has failed, the sound board is losing channels and the microphones are outdated. It was thought a fundraiser might be a good way to pay for these upgrades. Pastor Kim is researching accessibility grants that would allow the church to install automatic doors for the front entrance. When school starts, the use of some rooms in the education wing will be shifted around. SAM Pantry would like to purchase an outdoor refrigerator and Pastor Kim will look for a grant to help with the purchase.

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.



ALL ARE INVITED TO  
A CELEBRATION FOR  
PATRICK WILLIS'  
50TH BIRTHDAY

JULY 13TH IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FROM 2-4 PM  
SNACKS PROVIDED



# SPARKS 2024 in the Park

**THURSDAY, JULY 4TH**  
11 am - VFW 4th of July Parade steps off from Ervin Park (10:30 line up)

**FRIDAY, JULY 5TH**  
Tuscola Public Library presents Movie Night Downtown at Festival Corner

**SATURDAY, JULY 6TH**

- 7:00am - American Legion Pancake Breakfast
- 7:30 - Firecracker 5K Walk/Run
- 9:00 - 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
- 8:45- Pickle Ball Tournament
- 10:00-1:00 - Balloon Artist
- 10:00 - Andrew the Magician
- 10:30-Ford of Tuscola Car Show
- 12:00 - 3 on 3 Soccer Tournament
- 12:00 Tuscola Women's Club Cake Walk
- 1:00 - Mud Volleyball
- 1:00-3:00 - Foam Party!
- 2:30 - Kitchen Band
- 3:30-8:30 - Kids Games - Inflatables
- Dusk - Fireworks

## June Attendance & Offerings

	Attendance	Offerings
June 2	89	\$4,805
June 9	75	\$4,222
June 16	69	\$3,375
June 23	88	\$4,120
June 30	78	\$7,456
<b>Digital Giving Total</b>		<b>\$4,559</b>

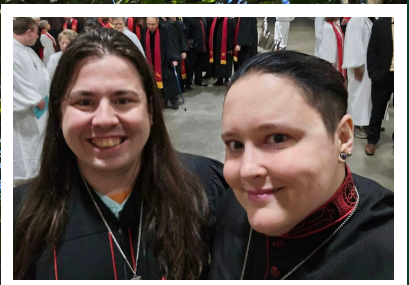
*(The offerings above are what is collected on Sunday in the plate and the electronic giving's)*

*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!*

## July Worship at Brookstone

- July 7: Speaker — Kate Watson
  - July 14: Speaker — Cindy Pringle
  - July 21: Speaker — Mary Ann Dier-Zimmerman
  - July 28: Speaker — John Watson
- 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)





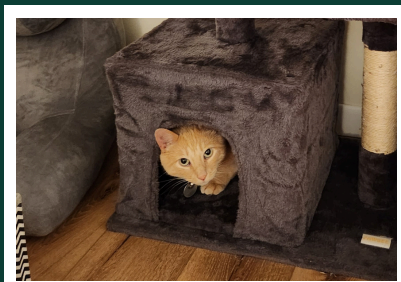
Pastor Bennett  
Pastor Kim

PARSONAGE

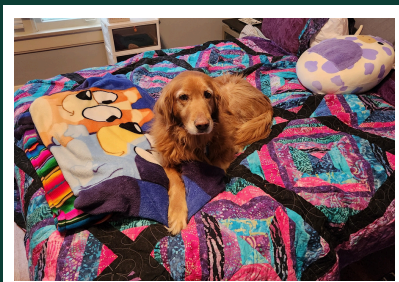
# OPEN HOUSE

308 E Sale St, Tuscola IL

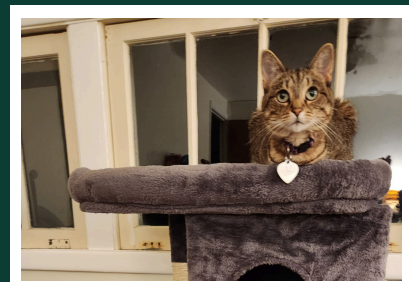
Tuesday, July 23rd | 5-7pm



Archer



CJ



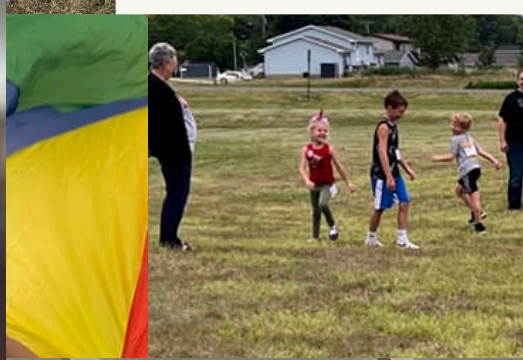
River

Drop in any time from 5-7 pm to see the parsonage and visit with our pastors & pets in their home





Whenever I'm afraid,  
I put my  
**trust**  
in **YOU.**  
Psalm 56:3





# CONNECT.

## TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

901 N. PRAIRIE ST.

TUSCOLA, IL 61953

### OUR STAFF

PASTOR BENNETT WOODS  
PASTOR  
BWOODS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

PASTOR KIMBERLY WOODS  
PASTOR OF CHILDREN &  
YOUTH MINISTRIES  
KWOODS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

SARAH EVANS  
FINANCIAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SECRETARY  
SEVANS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM


KATHLEEN DYER  
CUSTODIAN  
  
JEANNIE CRADDOCK,  
DIR. SANCTUARY CHOIR,  
CELEBRATION RINGERS HAND  
BELL CHOIR  
DCJC9I@GMAIL.COM

BRITTANY PATTON  
ASSISTANT CHILDREN &  
YOUTH MINISTRIES  
DIRECTOR

CATHY MANNEN  
SERVICE MUSICIAN

JULY  
2024

# WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> Bible Study 11am	<b>03</b> SAM Pantry 7am Praise Band - 6pm	<b>04</b> OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>05</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>06</b>
<b>07</b> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> Bible Study 11am	<b>10</b> SAM Pantry 7am Kiwanis - 11am Praise Band - 6pm	<b>11</b> SAM Pantry Board - 4pm Trustees - 5pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Open House for Patrick Willis' 50th Birthday 2-4 pm
<b>14</b> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am	<b>15</b> Finance Committee - 5pm Church Council - 6pm	<b>16</b> Bible Study 11am	<b>17</b> SAM Pantry 7am Kiwanis - 11am Praise Band - 6pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Private Gathering 12-4pm
<b>21</b> <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am General & Annual Conference Wrap-Up 2-4pm	<b>22</b> N.O.W - 1pm	<b>23</b> Bible Study 11am Parsonage Open House 5-7pm	<b>24</b> SAM Pantry 7am Kiwanis - 11am Praise Band - 6pm	<b>25</b> NAMI - 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Private Gathering 8am -5pm
<b>28</b> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am	<b>29</b> Christian Justice - 2pm All Staff Meeting - 5:30pm	<b>30</b> Bible Study 11am	<b>31</b> SAM Pantry 7am Kiwanis - 11am Praise Band - 6pm			