

# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

## MAY 2024

### *A Note From The Pastor*

Grace and peace to you, the people of Tuscola,

The month of April and the beginning of May have been a very active time in the life of the Church, Both globally and locally. This is why this newsletter was not out on the First of May, the church has been working and I wanted to get you all the information I was able to. This note for your pastor will be split into two sections local church news and the Global news from our postponed 2020 General Conference being held in 2024.

The first news I wanted to bring to you is that starting May 15, 2024, the Rev. Kim Woods will be our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Pastor Kim is a provisional deacon in our Conference. She has a Bachelor's degree in English and a Masters in Christian education, as well as an extensive history working with children, youth, and young adults in a variety of churches and communities. The congregation will be able to meet Pastor Kim on May 12th .

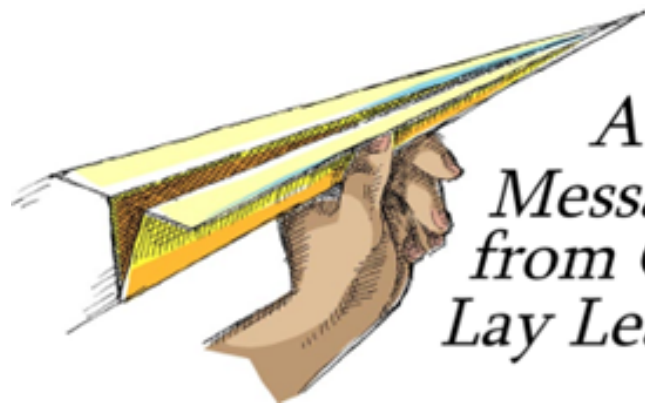
The second news is about some of the decisions made at the postponed 2020 General Conference. The General Conference spent two weeks making changes and updates to the Book of Discipline, as well as nominations for the global boards and agencies, and setting a budget for the next quadrennium. Because of the changes in the makeup of the church, the global budgets will shrink for this next quadrennium, saving local churches money in their apportionments and allowing more funds to stay in local churches and in the annual conferences. One of the biggest changes that is currently in the public new cycle is the long-time ban on LGBTQ clergy has been removed, as well as many passages containing harmful language to LGBTQ groups and persons. In addition, weddings are now left up to the individual clergy and congregation whether to perform or not in their local context. Also of note is that the language of disaffiliations had been removed from the Book of Discipline and will no longer be an option for congregations to pursue, however any church that has disaffiliated can be reincorporated with permission from the annual conference in which they would reside.

It is often said that the only two things that are certain is death and taxes, but I think there is one more, change. One of the most important things about change is not just that it happened but also what we do once it has happened. These changes in the local and global church, we hope and pray, will help us to fulfill God calling on our lives found in John 15:12 in a command Jesus gives to the disciples "love one another as I have loved you."

Blessings

Pastor Bennett Woods

As I write this, the wind is blowing ferociously. This is nothing new out on the prairie in the spring. The trees in our yard that were impacted by the derecho last summer still have branches coming down when the wind blows this hard. You almost need a hard hat before going outside! The wind reminded of these verses this morning from James



## A Message from Our Lay Leader

1:5-6;

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

We all need wisdom in these times of divide in our church, our nation and the world. Ask God for discernment and wisdom as you grapple with questions you are facing. Many of you will remember the hymn “Standing on the Promises of God “. This is verse 2.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Stand on God’s promise that He will give you the wisdom you need if you do not let yourself be buffeted by the wind of doubt. Stand firm in your faith!

The program presented by the Christian Justice team and the TUMC Women United in Faith regarding the “School to Prison Pipeline” held on 4/21 was interesting and informative. There was discussion afterward. I urge any of you who can to attend these presentations by the Christian Justice team. It is our duty as Christians to learn of the injustices in the world and in our community. Who knows. A movement may start because we become informed people.

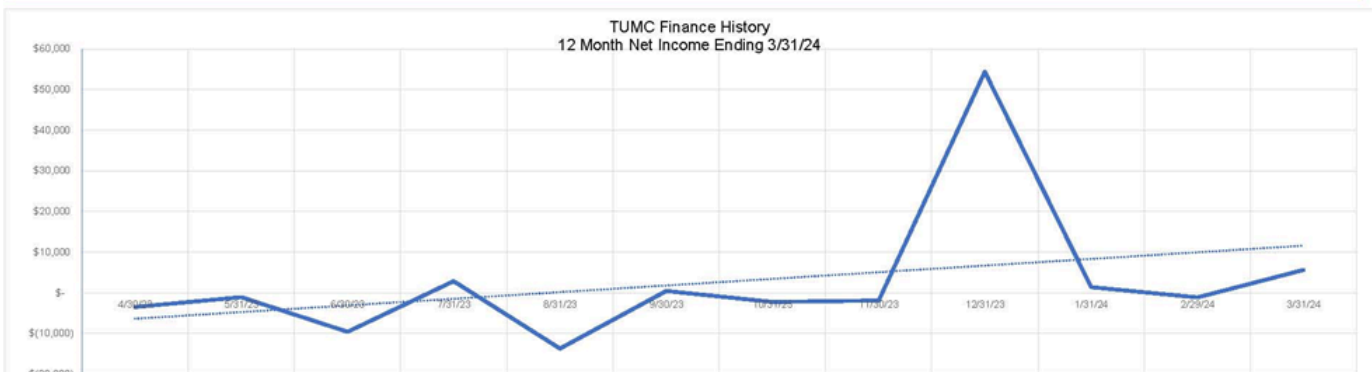
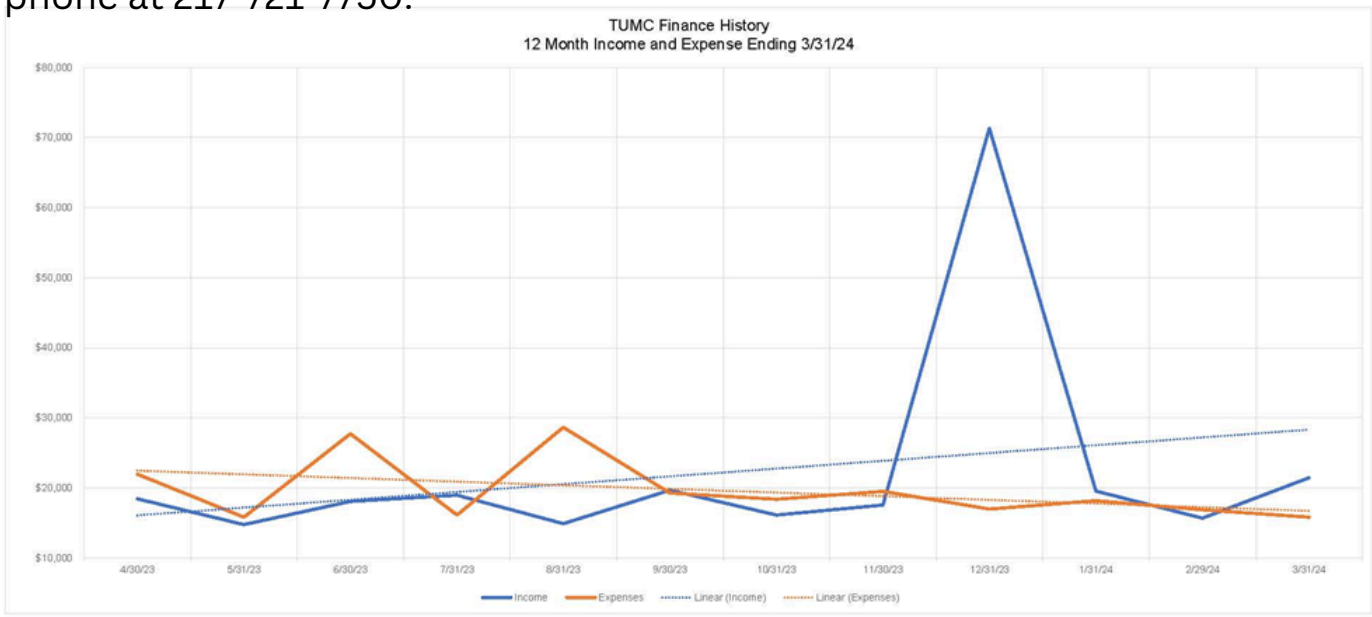
**SPRC** met on April 9 and approved the Lay Employee Policy Manual with some minor changes. It went into effect on 4/15 and once the individual staff members it applies to have signed it. Pastor Bennett reported that plans are in the works for a 3-day VBS. Delegates to Annual Conference will be Janet Butler and Diane Zell.

**Trustees** approved a motion to have All-Pro replace the leaking faucets in the church kitchen at their meeting on April 11. They also approved a motion for Pastor Bennett to

purchase and install track lighting in the downstairs bath in the parsonage. In addition, the Trustees voted to approve the amended PASS agreement regarding their use of the building. The PASS board of directors has approved the expansion of PASS to include a before school program for the 2024-2025 school year. Mowing teams were discussed as that time of the year has come. The tree by the fire pit will be cut down in May and the Youth Group will help with cleanup. We are looking for more volunteers to keep the beds around the perimeter of the church weed-free. See Bruce Wood or myself if you are interested.

The **Finance** committee met on April 22. Treasurer, Dave Butler, gave an update on the financial reports. The good news is that the church’s finances are still in the black. Beginning in April, the insurance premium will be paid monthly so the “prepaid insurance” account will no longer be needed. Dave pointed out that the spike in income in December, as seen in the graph below, was due to giving by multiple attendees not a large donation by one member. Chair Dick Berg will meet with SPRC in May regarding the need for a financial secretary. Pastor Bennett will look for two church members to perform the audit.

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.







Some members of the TUMC Congregational Team made and delivered May Day baskets to our local homebound and assisted living members on May 1. Pictured are Cheryl Bozarth, Jean Leonard and Georgia Wilkinson

# Class of 2024

Please join us on Sunday May 19 for Senior Sunday as we recognize our 3 High School Seniors that will be graduating this year. Congratulations Addy Ring, Nathan Hudson, and Lauren Woods! Best of luck!

## April Attendance & Offerings

	Attendance	Offerings
April 7	87	\$5,015
April 14	96	\$4,382
April 21	58	\$656
April 28	103	\$3,234
<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!*

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### May Worship at Brookstone

- May 5 : Speaker — Mary Ann Dier-Zimmerman
- May 12 : Speaker — Bruce Wood
- May 19 : Speaker — Karen Benner
- May 26 : Speaker — Cindy Pringle

*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)*



COKESBURY  
KIDS



# Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP

*Psalm 56:3*

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**VBS IS COMING!**

**JUNE 27-29TH**

**5:30-7:30PM**

**WATCH YOUR EMAILS**

**FOR SIGNUPS!**



TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CONNECT.

OUR STAFF

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ASSISTANT CHILDREN &  
YOUTH MINISTRIES  
DIRECTOR

CATHY MANNEN  
SERVICE MUSICIAN

MAY  
2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>01</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 3pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>
<u>05</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Youth Group - 5pm	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>08</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 2pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>09</u> MOPS - 9am Trustees - 5pm	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>15</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Kids Club - 3pm Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> USPS Food Drive 	<u>18</u> USPS Food Drive 
<u>19</u> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SENIOR SUNDAY Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Youth Group - 5pm	<u>20</u> Congregational Care Team - 1pm Missions & Evangelism - 4pm Finance Committee - 5pm Church Council - 6pm	<u>21</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>22</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Choir - 6pm Handbells - 7pm	<u>23</u> NAMI - 7pm	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> TCHS Graduation  - 7pm @ TCHS
<u>26</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am Trauma & Resilience Talk - 2pm	<u>27</u> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<u>28</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>29</u> SAM Pantry - 7am Private Event - 5-8pm	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	