

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

May  
2023

*Thus says  
the LORD:*

**“Heaven is my throne,  
AND THE EARTH IS MY FOOTSTOOL.”**

*Isaiah 66:1, ESV*

Dear Church Family:

This month is the 285th anniversary one of the most important events in our denomination's history: Aldersgate. It's possible that many of you have never heard this term before, but perhaps you've noticed that there are a lot of United Methodist Churches named Aldersgate UMC. This isn't by accident. It's a reference to the true beginning of the Methodist religion.

John Wesley, our denomination's founding father, was an Anglican priest in England in the 1720s. After he was ordained, he became a Fellow at Oxford University where his brother Charles still attended. Charles and several of his friends approached John at some point because they no longer felt connected to God through the Church of England. John and Charles formed the "Holy Club", a club for members who wanted to better connect to God through prayer, fasting, and reading scripture. Many people mocked them for their "methodical" approach to church – hence the name Methodists!

Like so many pastors, John felt called to change the world, but he got off to a rocky start. He decided that his call was in America – Georgia specifically – working with Native Americans. While traveling across the Atlantic, a huge storm began to pummel the ship. John was terrified, but he noticed one group of people – a religious order called the Moravians – continued to pray and sing joyfully through the danger. John was so impressed with their faith and the Holy Spirit that seemed to pour out from them, that he began to study under this religion. After just over two years in Georgia, John Wesley fled back to England in disgrace. He had been unable to minister to the Native population as more and more European settlers arrived and more clergy was needed. But the worst thing that happened to John Wesley was falling in love with the wrong woman. After his sweetheart married another man, he refused to serve communion to her, and legal proceedings were filed. He was forced to leave America without making the changes he so desperately wanted to make.

John was at one of the lowest moments of his life. He continued to study under the Moravians, but he never felt God's Holy Spirit the way they did. He so longed for a powerful, spiritual experience, but the more he tried to find it, the more elusive it was.

On May 24, 1738, John found himself at a Moravian worship service. He later wrote:

*"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

This moment changed Wesley's entire spiritual outlook, and one week later, he preached one of his most powerful sermons on faith. John Wesley dedicated his life to preaching to those who couldn't come to church because they worked in mines or factories. He spent his days working with the poor in the darkest parts of London. And when he died, the founder of the United Methodist Church was described as "the best-loved man in England."

On Sunday, May 21st, we will celebrate our Methodist heritage and founding father John Wesley. I hope that knowing more about our leader will help you better understand what United Methodism is all about.

God bless,  
Pastor Terri



**National Day of Prayer**

2 Chronicles 7:14: If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Please join us for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4 at 12:05 PM at Forty Martyrs Catholic Church for a powerful service of prayer. We will enjoy a soup luncheon following.

Our church has been assigned desserts, and so we will need enough desserts for 70 people! If you're interested in helping with this, please sign up in church on Sunday.

**Sermons**

**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 write ourselves.

May 7<sup>th</sup> – James 1:5-8; 3:13-18 – The Power of Borrowed Prayers: The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Exodus 13:17-18; 20-22 – The Power of Borrowed Prayers: Lead Me by Thomas Merton

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Aldersgate Sunday – Mark 12:28-34a; Romans 5:1-11 – The Cross or The Flame?

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday - John 20:19-23 – The Power of Borrowed Prayers: Indwelling of the Spirit by St. Augustine of Hippo

**March Finance at a Glance:**

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

March Income: \$24,533.12

March Expense: \$24,939.37

Balance as of 3/31/2023: \$40,258.25

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!

**April Attendance & Offerings**

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
April 2	91	\$2,836
April 9	113	\$2,561
April 16	85	\$3,418
April 23	76	\$2,468
April 30	94	\$1,576

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

**Worship at Brookstone**

- May 7 :** Speaker— Mary Ann Dier-Zimmermann
- May 14** Speaker— Bruce Wood
- May 21:** Speaker— Terri Haas
- May 28:** 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)

# FUNDRAISER

Hello Everyone!!!!

How exciting is this!!!! Our church is getting a playground set for our children. Should be installed in 6-8weeks. Our Children's Ministry is fundraising for the rubber mulch and the fencing to go around it. We have waited for years to be able to provide our church families with a playground. Our goal is \$10,000 for the cost of 4 tons of rubber mulch and the black chain link fence with 2 gates. If there is anything left, a possible concrete slab could be added for a picnic area. Your donation will make many children happy and safe for years to come.

Please consider donating. Checks addressed to TUMC Playground Fund.

Thank you

Cheryl Warren ☐

Director of Children Youth and Family Ministry





# Be a VBS Volunteer!

## VBS News Update:

VBS is June 20-22. 6p-730p Volunteers report at 530pm.

Our theme is Pets Unleashed. I am still needing volunteers for set up, clean up and Teachers. Sign ups are right outside the Sanctuary. Youth Group kids...I will need you to help and sign up for filler jobs and taking kids around to their stations during the evening. We are really going to have an awesome 3 nights!!!! Harvest Ministry Praise Band are coming on the last night

For our concert and Pauly's BBQ Food Truck.

Our Bible story will be about Daniel and the Lions Den.



You can now sign up. Follow the instructions on the website. **DO NOT PAY** for your child. We have scholarships for every child. Camp is July 17-22

Register here

[www.igrc.campbrainregistration.com](http://www.igrc.campbrainregistration.com)



For those of you who give automatically each month from your checking or savings account, the church is making a change in our banking system. This means that we need you to fill out a new authorization form (see page 9 in the newsletter) and drop it off in the offering plate or in the office by May 22nd. All withdraws from any checking or savings accounts will have to go through the church office beginning June 1st, as the new process does not have a website to go through. These can be one-time withdraws, or recurring. Please contact the office with any questions. Forms will also be available outside the fellowship hall. Thanks!

### **THANK YOU!**

The commercial refrigerator and ice maker fundraising goal has been reached! The \$7,000 has been raised! The Tuscola United Women in Faith wish to thank all who contributed to this fundraiser. Your donations will permit the purchase of the new kitchen appliances in a timely manner and make future events at the church easier.

Again, thank you for your donations!

Tuscola United Women in Faith



# YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!



## BRUNCH

SPONSORED BY THE TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**WHEN:** June 11, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Smith House – Tuscola

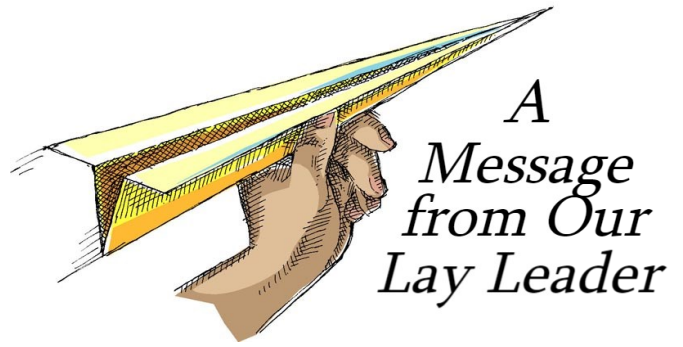
**COST:** \$20/per person

The Tuscola United Women in Faith are hosting this brunch as a fundraiser, and the proceeds will be used to support local missions. Brunch food items will be provided by the Smith House. A fifty-fifty raffle will also be held at the event.

Reservations for the brunch will be taken at the church each Sunday starting **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, and the deadline for turning in reservations will be **June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Checks should be made payable to TUWF. Space is limited for church members and guests for this event, and reservations will be taken in order received. Join us for Christian fellowship and a delicious meal!

## Good morning!

As I write this, the sun is shining and it is calm and beautiful outside my window but shortly the weather is to change. Tomorrow calls for storms and even today the wind is to pick up once more. Extreme weather seems to be rampant nowadays. We wonder where God is in all the weather chaos of this world. But it is not just the weather that seems to be in chaos. Just a few days ago there was another mass shooting of young people in our country. Political division in our nation threatens to tear us apart. There has been an overthrow of another government in an overseas country. Where is the love that Jesus preached so long ago? Have we forgotten His admonition to “love your neighbor as yourself”? We cry out to God as we wonder how we have arrived at this place in our history. But is it God’s fault? No, we must look inwardly at our own motivations. If we are truly the Christians we profess to be, we would be following Jesus’ teachings and example not our own desires. Jesus tells us this in **John 14:15**, “**If you love me, keep my commands.**”

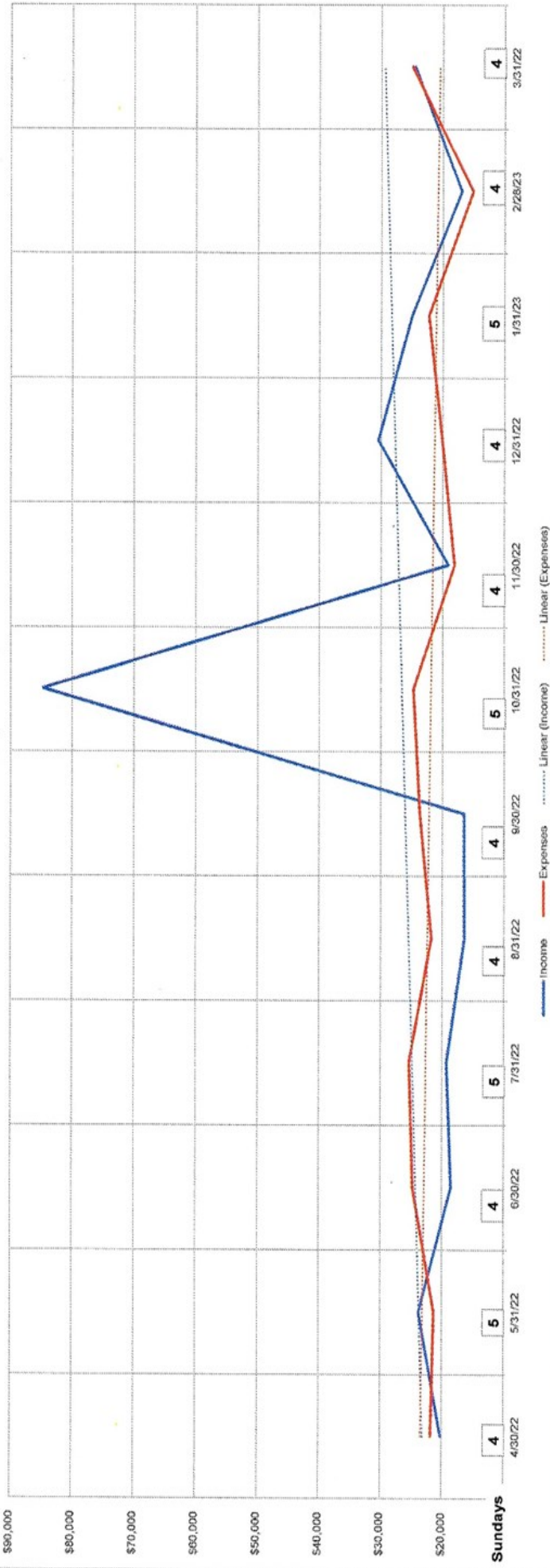


**Trustees** met and, as usual, had many items to discuss. SAM pantry had 61 participants which equates to 20 families. The search for an individual or individuals to replace Margie Delheimer as coordinator of the pantry continues. Pastor Terri reported that the church is in the process of becoming a Narcan (generic name Naloxone) distribution site. Narcan can block or reverse the effects of an opioid overdose which can occur from an illegal drug such as heroin or from prescription medicines such as OxyContin or Percocet. Information regarding this state-funded initiative is being passed out when SAM pantry is open. The farm rental lease has been signed with Toby Ring at \$290/acre (In April’s newsletter, I erroneously reported the rent was \$300/acre). The ropes around the parking lot will be removed to facilitate mowing. After discussion of the merits of several different robot vacuums, it was decided to test the concept before purchase with an unused vacuum belonging to a member of the trustees. TUWF’s goal for the purchase of a commercial refrigerator and ice maker has been met! Research by a subcommittee of that group will be done to determine the best appliances for their needs and their recommendations will be sent to trustees. The number of color copies has been reduced so no action on purchasing a new copier will be made at this time. Parts of the sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the portico are uneven and are a tripping hazard. Bruce Wood will explore the cost of having those sections jacked up. It was noted that many shingles have blown off the roof recently due to the strong winds and must be replaced. Interest has been expressed in using some of the church grounds for gardens for individuals. If this is something you are curious about, please contact Bruce Wood or Karen Benner. The church now has four mowing teams! However, we can always use substitutes and even another team so talk to Bruce if you are available. As trustees search for ways to increase the number of individuals participating in spring clean-up and the weeding of the beds around the church in general, we are considering dividing the beds into small plots that can be “adopted” by individuals or families. We hope this will make the weeding more manageable and create healthy competition amongst the participants. Who can keep their bed the cleanest! This could be an opportunity to teach your children about stewardship. Please let Bruce or Karen know what you think of this approach.

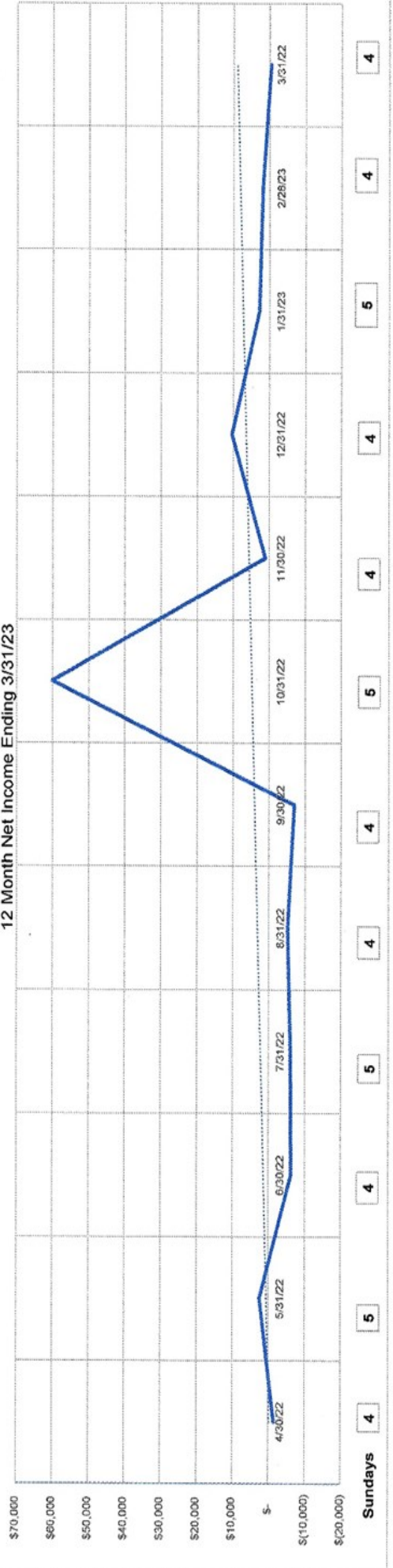
Treasurer Dave Butler reported to the **Finance** committee that income kept pace with expenses during March. The income/expense graph is below.

**SPRC** met this month and discussed personnel issues.

TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 3/31/23



TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Net Income Ending 3/31/23





Automatic Withdrawal (ACH) Authorization Form for Tuscola United Methodist Church

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
 901 N Prairie St  
 Tuscola, IL 61953  
 217-253-4232

Authorization for Direct Payment

I (we) \_\_\_\_\_ authorize Tuscola United Methodist Church to  
 initiate a withdrawal from

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) on the account \_\_\_\_\_

Checking  Savings

Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Schedule

Please indicate your contributions below

Amount	Account	One Time	Reaccuring	Proc. Date (please circle one)	Start Date
\$	Estimates of Giving			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	General Fund			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Advent/Christmas			<del>1st</del> 15th <del>EOM</del>	
\$	Easter/Lenten Offering			<del>1st</del> 15th <del>EOM</del>	
\$	SAM Food Pantry			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Mission Field Fund			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Memorials			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Building Fund			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Maintenance Fund			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Youth Group			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Kids Club			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Childrens Ministries			1st - 15th - EOM	
\$	Total				

I authorize the above-named church to debit from the account specified on this form. This authorization will remain in effect until I give reasonable change or cancellation notice to terminate authorization. I understand there will be a **\$25** nonsufficient funds (NSF) fee charged to my account for NSF debits.

If a contribution day falls on a non-business day, the withdrawal will take place on the next business day. All holiday based givings will be processed on the 15th of the month.



GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN

THIS, THAN TO LAY

DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.



... JOHN 15:13, NKJV ...

# connect.

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

## Our Staff

Rev. Terri Haas,  
Pastor  
thaas@tuscolaumc.org

Jeannie Craddock,  
Dir. Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Ringers Hand Bell Choir  
dcjc91@gmail.com

Cheryl Warren  
Children, Youth & Family Director  
cwarren@tuscolaumc.org

Kathleen Dyer  
Custodian

Sarah Evans  
Financial & Administrative Secretary  
sevans@tuscolaumc.org

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

## May 2023

## What's

## Happening

## Here

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm	4	5	6
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am 7	Staff Meeting 10am 8	Bible Study 11am 9	10 SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm Choir/Handbells 6pm Youth Group 7pm	MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm 11	12	13
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am 14	Staff Meeting 10am Finance 5pm Church Council 6pm 15	Bible Study 11am 16	17 SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Choir/Handbells 6pm	18	19	20
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am 21	Staff Meeting 10am 22	Bible Study 11am 23	24 SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Choir/Handbells 6pm	NAMI 7pm 25	26	27
Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 28	<b>Office Closed</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 29	Bible Study 11am 30	31 SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Choir/Handbells 6pm			