



# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

## NOVEMBER 2023

### *A Note From The Pastor*

Grace and peace to the People of Tuscola,

This should be a shorter newsletter than last month and thank you all who read it. Just because it is shorter doesn't mean that it will be less important. On the contrary, this note will ask us all a very important question: Why are we here? This will be the sermon series for the month of November. November is a rather interesting month in the life of the church because it starts and ends with special holidays—no, not Halloween and Thanksgiving, but rather All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday. All Saints Day is when we celebrate all persons in the church's life who have gone to the church triumphant, and Christ the King Sunday celebrates the end of the church's preaching year. The Preaching year, or the Lectionary year, starts with the first Sunday of Advent. Both holidays help us see that we are here for a time and that the life of the church goes on past us.

We as Christians should take time to think about why we are here in the church, why this church, and what it is that this church needs and should be doing to build the Kingdom of heaven here on the earth. This is my challenge for you this month. I do not seek to give you these answers in my sermon series but to help you ask them of yourself and of the Church. That is what the church as a whole will be asking itself as well. We, as the Tuscola United Methodist Church, also need to ask why we are here, what we need to do, and what it is that God is Calling us to do.

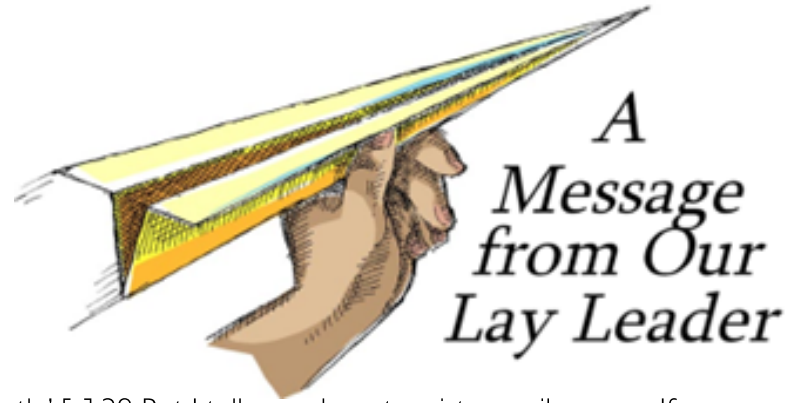
Blessings

Pastor Bennett A. Woods





I am writing this very early on 10/23. Who knows what the world will be like when you read it but right now the situation in the Middle East seems insurmountable. But I know that God is in control and we must pray that those involved in making decisions listen for God's voice. My Sunday School class is reading through Matthew and in chapter 5 Jesus gives us a new perspective on retaliation which seems appropriate for these times. As followers of Christ, we are called to live our lives differently. Read Jesus' words on retaliation from chapter 5 of Matthew 38.



“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ [a] 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**Finance** committee met on October 9 to discuss the financial picture for the remainder of this year and the coming year. The first order of business was to determine how to encourage members to contribute what remains of their 2023 estimates of giving. It was decided that Dick Berg would speak to the congregation on 10/15. The proposed budget for 2024 showed a deficit of \$78,552. Pastor Bennett said that he would speak at Consecration Sunday on 10/22. He also stated that he would not continue the youth programs after the first of the year if no one is hired for the position of Children and Youth director. He feels he cannot devote the hours needed to fulfill the duties of pastor if he is also the youth director. There was discussion regarding where and how to find the money to hire someone for the position and, also, how to reduce the deficit for the coming year. The options discussed were to cut staff positions, reduce salaries, do a fundraiser and have faith that the estimates of giving will be enough. Ultimately, a motion was passed by the committee to reject the budget as presented and to convey to SPRC that the consensus of the committee was the pastor's salary should remain at the amount submitted in the SPRC budget.

**SPRC** met on 10/10 and discussed the open children and youth director position. They also discussed their portion of the budget returned by the finance committee for SPRC's review.

**Trustees** met on 10/12. Pastor Bennett reported that SAM pantry may need more storage space. The parsonage was the next point of discussion. Jerry Reynolds will arrange for the broken storm windows to be repaired. Pastor Bennett will look at purchasing a storm door for the back door. He will also contact All-Pro to set up an appointment to perform maintenance on the furnaces at the parsonage. A motion was passed to sell the bricks that had been purchased over 20 years ago for the sanctuary. They had been stored locally and there were costs associated with the storage. The sale of the organ to the church in Wisconsin fell through because they want to hear it being played before purchasing. Pastor Bennett will call them to see if they will take it, as is, for free. The space that will be freed up if the organ is gone can be used for MOPS or SAM. The committee decided that gutter guards should be installed at the parsonage. Pastor Bennett will contact Roofs by Rodger for an estimate of the cost. Ameren completed the upgrade of the lights at the church at a total cost of \$5900 which should be recovered in a year. The dispute with BluSky Restoration over repairs at the parsonage related to a water leak was successfully closed with help from John Watson. The church paid the insurance deductible of \$2500 and our insurance company, Church Mutual, reopened the case and paid the remainder. The church owns three snowblowers which are stored in the parsonage garage so it was decided that two should be sold. The small lawn mower that has been listed for sale on Facebook and needs some work has not been purchased so the trustees decided to offer it for free to anyone who wants it. The trustees also discussed their portion of the budget for 2024 that was rejected by the finance committee.

A special **Church Council** meeting was held on 10/16 to discuss only the 2024 budget. The members of SPRC, trustees, finance and church council were present and were seated at tables with a mix of members so that ideas could be discussed with each other to get a new perspective on how to approach reducing the budget deficit of \$78, 552. There was discussion on which items in the budget could be reduced and then an error was discovered in an Excel spreadsheet so the 2024 deficit was determined to be \$59,218. The only item in the budget that must be approved before the Charge Conference on 10/29 is the pastor compensation package. Therefore, a motion was made and passed to accept that package of \$80,899 as put forth by SPRC. The remainder of the 2024 budget must be accepted by Church Council before December 31. It was agreed that the 2024 deficit would be addressed after the estimates of giving are in. Below you will find the budget numbers.

**Tuscola United Methodist Church**  
2024 Proposed Budget

Account #	Account Name	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Corrections	Amount Difference	Percent Difference
<b>Income</b>						
400.100	Estimates of Giving	141,940.00	141,940.00		0.00	0.00%
400.150	Identifiable Giving	80,000.00	80,000.00		0.00	0.00%
400.200	Plate Offering	4,000.00	4,000.00		0.00	0.00%
400.300	Sunday School Offering	1,200.00	1,200.00		0.00	0.00%
400.425	Interest-1st Fed Checking	100.00	100.00		0.00	0.00%
400.500	Other Income	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
400.550	Building Usage Funds	15,500.00	3,000.00		12,500.00	80.65%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>243,740.00</b>	<b>231,240.00</b>		<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>5.13%</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
500.100	Committee on Finance	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
500.110	EFT Charges	1,300.00	1,300.00		0.00	0.00%
500.200	Moving Expense	800.00	1,000.00		200.00	25.00%
500.300	Annual Conference Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
500.500	Office Supplies	3,000.00	3,000.00		0.00	0.00%
500.550	Postage	1,500.00	700.00		(800.00)	-53.33%
500.600	Kitchen supplies	300.00	500.00		200.00	66.67%
500.700	Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Admin Expenses</b>	<b>9,100.00</b>	<b>8,700.00</b>		<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>-4.40%</b>
501.150	Electricity	25,000.00	25,000.00		0.00	0.00%
501.250	Gas	7,000.00	7,000.00		0.00	0.00%
501.350	Water & Sewer	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	0.00%
501.400	Office Phone Lines	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	0.00%
501.550	Trash Removal	1,100.00	1,100.00		0.00	0.00%
502.100	Insurance - Building	12,500.00	20,000.00		7,500.00	60.00%
502.150	Maintenance - Building	10,000.00	10,000.00		0.00	0.00%
	Maintenance - Parsonage	0.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	#DIV/0!
502.200	Acquisition - Equipment	2,000.00	2,000.00		0.00	0.00%
502.250	Maintenance - Equipment	5,000.00	5,000.00		0.00	0.00%
502.300	Internet services	1,920.00	1,920.00		0.00	0.00%
502.350	Tech Support	550.00	550.00		0.00	0.00%
502.400	Church Website	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Bldg/Equip Operations</b>	<b>70,070.00</b>	<b>78,570.00</b>		<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>12.13%</b>
	<b>Pastor Compensation</b>	<b>79,981.00</b>	<b>80,899.00</b>		<b>918.00</b>	<b>1.15%</b>
	Pastor BW - Salary	58,467.00	52,200.00		(6,267.00)	-10.72%
	Pastor Healthcare Stipend	0.00	15,225.00		15,225.00	#DIV/0!
	Pastor BW - travel	2,300.00	2,200.00		(100.00)	-4.35%
	Pastor BW - Professional Exp	600.00	700.00		100.00	16.67%
	Pastor education	400.00	500.00		100.00	25.00%
	Parsonage Phone Line/Cable	840.00	1,200.00		360.00	42.86%
	Direct Billing Confer Pension #1	3,674.00	3,915.00		241.00	6.56%
	Direct Billing Confer Pension #2	5,700.00	4,959.00		(741.00)	-13.00%
	Pastor TH Pension Contribution	8,000.00	0.00		(8,000.00)	-100.00%
503.200	Service Musician	3,300.00	3,300.00		0.00	0.00%
503.210	Sanctuary Choir Director	2,800.00	2,800.00		0.00	0.00%
503.220	Handbell Choir Director	1,575.00	1,575.00		0.00	0.00%
503.230	Children's Choir Director	1,575.00	1,575.00		0.00	0.00%
503.250	Family Ministry Director	20,800.00	25,000.00		4,200.00	20.19%
503.255	Youth Director Assistant	4,368.00	4,368.00		0.00	NEW
503.400	Secretary	25,350.00	27,040.00		1,690.00	6.67%
503.500	Custodian	9,360.00	9,360.00		0.00	0.00%

<i>Account #</i>	<i>Account Name</i>	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Corrections	Amount Difference	Percent Difference
503.700	Staff Continuing Education	300.00	300.00		0.00	0.00%
503.800	FICA - taxes	6,500.00	6,500.00		0.00	0.00%
503.850	Insurance - Workman's Comp	1,000.00	600.00		(400.00)	-40.00%
	<b>Subtotal Staff Parish Expense</b>	<b>156,909.00</b>	<b>163,317.00</b>		<b>6,408.00</b>	<b>4.08%</b>
504.200	Evangelism	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
504.600	Advertising	400.00	400.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Evangelism Expense</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
505.100	Choir Music Materials	150.00	150.00		0.00	0.00%
505.105	Bell Choir Music Materials	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
505.110	Children's Choir Music Materials	75.00	75.00		0.00	0.00%
505.200	Bulletins	600.00	600.00		0.00	0.00%
505.300	Devotional Literature	350.00	300.00		(50.00)	-14.29%
505.900	Worship Supplies & Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Worship Expense</b>	<b>2,375.00</b>	<b>2,325.00</b>		<b>(50.00)</b>	<b>-2.11%</b>
506.210	Teacher/Leadership Resources	200.00	200.00		0.00	0.00%
506.300	Children's Ministries	2,500.00	2,500.00		0.00	0.00%
506.400	Adult Ministries	750.00	750.00		0.00	0.00%
506.800	Library acquisitions	350.00	350.00		0.00	0.00%
507.000	Youth Ministries	1,500.00	1,500.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Education Expense</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
	Clergy Support/Admin Apportion	19,500.00	16,812.00		(2,688.00)	-13.78%
508.100	Benevolences/Connectional	7,968.00	11,784.00		3,816.00	47.89%
	<b>Subtotal Apportionments</b>	<b>27,468.00</b>	<b>28,596.00</b>		<b>1,128.00</b>	<b>4.11%</b>
509.100	Mission Support	850.00	850.00		0.00	0.00%
509.200	Glabe Salary Support	1,400.00	1,400.00		0.00	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Other Expense</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>274,872.00</b>	<b>290,458.00</b>		<b>14,458.00</b>	<b>5.26%</b>
	<b>Net \$</b>	<b>(31,132.00)</b>	<b>(59,218.00)</b>		<b>\$ (1,958.00)</b>	<b>6.29%</b>

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, YOU MAY CONTACT ME, KAREN BENNER, AT [KBBENNER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KBBENNER@GMAIL.COM) OR BY PHONE AT 217-721-7750.

You still have time to get your Estimate Of Giving Cards into the office. Please turn them in as soon as you can. You can drop them off during the week to Sarah, mail them in, or drop them in the offering plate on Sunday. There is also a copy of a giving card below if you haven't received your card yet or need a new one. You can fill it out, detach it and mail it back to the church or drop it off. Which ever is convenient for you. Also, if you would like to sign up for automatic giving, the form for that is also included this month as well.



## TAKE ONE STEP UP . . . FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving.

- STEP UP BEYOND TITHING**  
My desire is to do more than God's minimum.
- STEP UP TO TITHING**  
I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.
- STEP UP TOWARD TITHING**  
I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.
- MY COMMITMENT IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week**
- This represents an increase over last year.

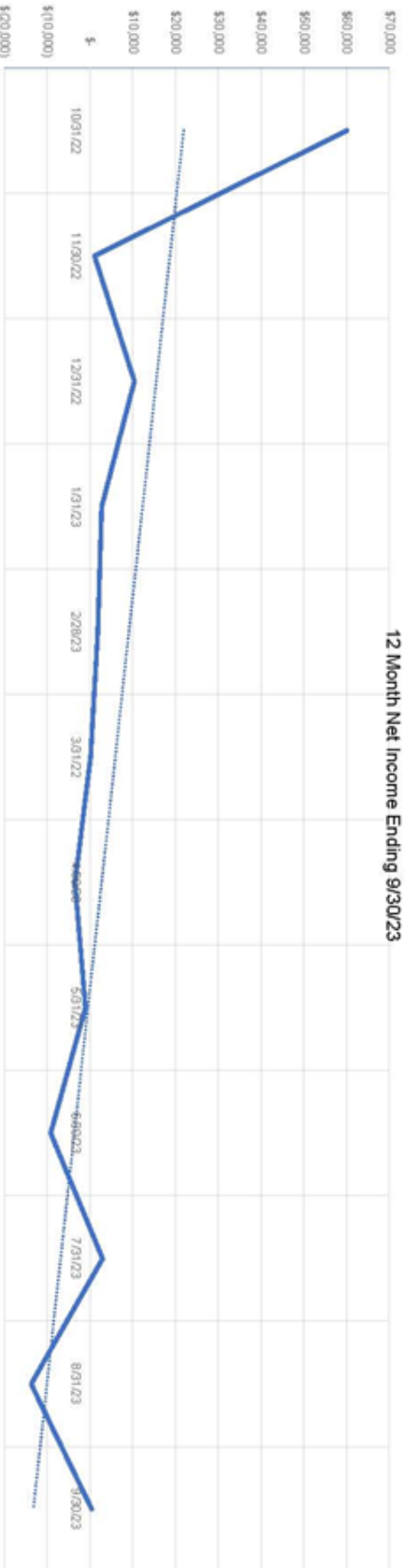
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my request.  
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TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 9/30/23



TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Net Income Ending 9/30/23



THE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S CHILI FOR  
CHADDOCK SUPPER IS

COMING UP ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023. WE  
HOPE TO

HAVE A GOOD TURN-OUT TO RAISE FUNDS TO  
SUPPORT THE EXCELLENT  
WORK CHADDOCK CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION DOES  
FOR CHILDREN FROM  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR SUPPORT AND ARE ASKING  
THAT ANYONE

WHO IS ABLE AND WILLING TO PROVIDE A DESERT  
FOR THIS EVENT. A SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE  
AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE HALL OPPOSITE  
THE KITCHEN SERVING WINDOW ON OR ABOUT  
OCTOBER 29, 2023 FOR THOSE PLANNING TO PROVIDE  
A DESERT.

PLEASE COME (INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND  
NEIGHBORS) AND ENJOY CHILI OR  
VEGETABLE SOUP STARTING AT 5:00 PM ON THE 15 TH  
OF NOVEMBER.



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CHADDOCK CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION HAS SERVED  
CHILDREN FOR 170 YEARS. SUPERINTENDENT EVA  
FIELDS LED THE HOME DURING VERY TRYING TIMES  
(1912-1946), MADE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS, AND ADDED  
SERVICES TO ASSIST THE 70 STUDENTS.

CHADDOCK IS A "MINISTRY FOR MISSION-MINDED  
PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS". THE CHURCH OF JESUS  
CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS DELIVERED 100  
TOWELS, 800 BIRTHDAY GIFTS CAME FROM  
SPRINGFIELD FIRST UMC, QUINCY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
DONATED SUPPLIES TO GRANDMA'S CLOSET  
(PERSONAL ITEMS, CLOTHING, ETC.), EASTER  
BASKETS, AND BALL CAPS. FIRST BAPTIST INVITED  
YOUNG LADIES TO A "PAINT AND PRAISE" AFTERNOON  
EMPHASIZING GOOD SELF-ESTEEM AND MADE THEM  
FEEL LIKE QUEENS.

THE HIGHLY QUALIFIED, PASSIONATE STAFF  
MINISTERS TO CHILDREN AGES 6-21. MANY CHILDREN  
HAVE EXPERIENCED PAIN, ABUSE, TRAUMA,  
ABANDONMENT, SEPARATION, FAMILY TRAGEDY OR A  
COMBINATION OF EVENTS. INTENSE THERAPY IS  
REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN TO TRUST, FIND  
ACCEPTANCE, AND KNOW THEY ARE LOVED. PLEASE  
SUPPORT CHILI FOR CHADDOCK BY OUR UNITED  
METHODIST MEN ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

**September Attendance &  
Offerings**

	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offerings</b>
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>\$4,925</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>\$4,730</b>
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>\$2,656</b>
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>\$2,673</b>
<b>Digital Giving Total</b>		<b>\$3,751</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!*

**November Worship at Brookstone**

**Nov. 5 : Speaker — Karen Benner**

**Nov. 12 : Speaker — Mary Ann  
Dier-Zimmermann**

**Nov. 19 : Speaker — Darcy  
Sementi**

**Nov. 26 : Speaker — TBD**

*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)*





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.





HAPPY  
THANKS  
GIVING



# CONNECT.

## TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

901 N. PRAIRIE ST.

TUSCOLA, IL 61953

PASTOR BENNETT WOODS  
PASTOR  
BWOODS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

SARAH EVANS  
FINANCIAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SECRETARY  
SEVANS@TUSCOLAUMC.COM

JEANNIE CRADDOCK,  
DIR. SANCTUARY CHOIR,  
CELEBRATION RINGERS HAND  
BELL CHOIR  
DCJC91@GMAIL.COM

INGRID MINGER  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR  
INGRIDMINGER@GMAIL.COM

KATHLEEN DYER  
CUSTODIAN

### OUR STAFF

### NOVEMBER 2023

### WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

			1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<b>6</b> Hospice Program Speaker 10am All Staff Meeting 5pm	<b>7</b> TUWF Board 10am Bible Study 11am	<b>8</b> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 3pm	<b>9</b> MOPS 9am Trustees 5pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<b>13</b> Bible Study 1pm	<b>14</b> Bible Study 11am	<b>15</b> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 2pm Sanctuary Choir 6pm Celebration Ringers 7pm Chili for Chaddock	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr. High Youth Group 5pm Sr. High Youth Group 5:45pm	<b>20</b> Finance 5pm Church Council 6pm	<b>21</b> Bible Study 11am MOPS Cinnamon Roll Pick-Up 5:30pm Sanctuary Choir 6pm Celebration Ringers 7pm	<b>22</b> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am	<b>23</b> Office Closed 	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am Jr & Sr High Youth Group 5pm <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>27</b> Bible Study 1pm Christian Justice 1pm Rebekah Circle 7pm	<b>28</b> Bible Study 11am Rachel Circle 1pm	<b>29</b> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am Kids Club 2pm Sanctuary Choir 6pm Celebration Ringers 7pm	<b>30</b>		