

connect.

Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church

August
2023



Grace and peace to the People of Tuscola,

As we enter August, we will talk about in Sunday worship making Goals in our Christian journey, how we will get there, and the framework in which we can work as members of this church. All of this will come from the scriptures of Matthew 14-16. It is the last subject that will be the subject of my sermon on August 27, which I would like to expand on today.

For all United Methodists around the world when we are baptized, confirmed, or make a profession of Faith and decide to become a member of the church there are few questions we answer and a covenant we agree to. All of this can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) based on the United Methodist Book of Worship (UMBOW). The UMH is for congregational use the UMBOW goes into much more detail for the information and use of the pastor and congregation leader to be able to guide the service.

The Questions ask us to publicly proclaim what we believe and renounce evil. For example, “Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil power of this world and repent of your sins?” “Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?” and “Do you confess Jesus Christ as your savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your lord...?” (UMBOW p.88) This is so that all of us start with the same basic beliefs and understandings. After we publicly proclaim this is where we would baptize you or have you remember your baptism, we ask you to make a commitment if you want to become a member of the United Methodist Church and of this Congregation. “As members of Christ’s universal Church will you be Loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your powers to Strengthen its Ministries? And as members of this Congregation with you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your Witness? (UMBOW p.93”

It is not a long list of things we promise to do. The Church is not asking you or telling you, “You have to do these things,” but rather, we remind ourselves that this is what we committed ourselves to do. We take these vows to tell the world this is how we are going to witness what God is doing in our lives.

Somewhere along the way, we forget these commitments we have made. We forget to pray, we may be here on Sundays but are not actually present, we give our gifts and service when it is convenient, not when it is needed, and we witness as little as possible. My question for you to think about this month is, what if we did all of this to our full potential? What wonderful things could this Church do if we put that commitment at the heart of our daily lives?

Also, this is a question only for us to ask ourselves. We don’t get to measure others’ commitments to this membership, only our own.

Proverbs 16:3 - Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Blessings
Pastor Bennett A. Woods



Sermons

August 6th— Setting our Goals Higher

August 13th— One Step at a Time

August 20th— What Are We Saying

August 27th— Who Are We as United Methodists

In May, the Christian Social Justice committee and United Women in Faith worked together to provide a program about Human Trafficking in Illinois. Several million people worldwide are victims making the traffickers billions of dollars per year. As an action to assist the Restoration 61 nonprofit organization, our UWF collected items for Bags of Hope to be distributed to the victimized women. As usual, our women answered the call with great generosity. Eight women met and placed personal care items in the bags which now total 29 with several items left over for future work of Restoration 61. Thank you so much to everyone who donated and helped to support this important mission. It is vital to minister to our sisters in trouble.

Christian Social Action will next focus on Native Americans. There will be a speaker who works on a Reservation in Wisconsin. At the September UWF Iroquois River District meeting in our church, there will be a session about the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in the United States with a follow up project. More information to follow in the September newsletter.

Patty Russell
 United Women in Faith
 Social Action

June Finance Snapshot

June Income:
\$18,548.29

June Expense:
\$27,717.94

We also offer electronic giving that is safe and easy from your checking or savings, Call the church office, at 217-253-4232 or email Sarah to get started today!

July Attendance & Offerings

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
July 2	87	\$4,864
July 9	99	\$3,524
July 16	116	\$3,181
July 23	82	\$1,130
July 30	96	\$1,903

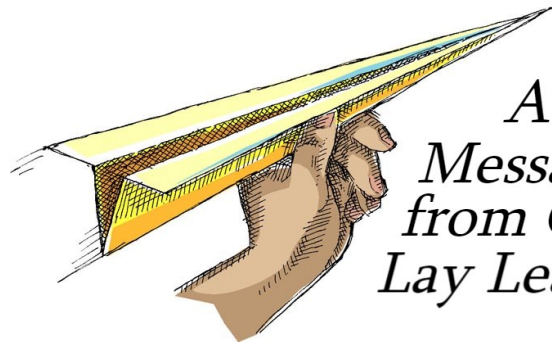
(The offerings above are what is collected on Sunday in the plate.)

August Worship at Brookstone

Aug. 6 : Speaker— Karen Benner
Aug 13: Speaker— John Watson
Aug 20: Speaker— TBD
Aug 27: Speaker— Darcy Sementi

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

To my fellow Christians at TUMC, Before my granddaughter was born, I told my son-in-law that I would not dote on her like so many other grandparents. He reminded me of that statement after they had spent the weekend with us. We love her so much. We do not buy her many things but we do spend as much time with her as we can. We want to watch her grow and learn. We give her our time so if that is doting, my husband and I are guilty! Is that the way God treats us? He does not give us all the things we “desire” instead he wants to spend time with us so he can dote in that way. In 1 John 3:1 we are told “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are”! We are God’s children! Let your father in Heaven dote on you. Spend some time with him. He loves you!



A Message from Our Lay Leader

The **Trustees** had their first meeting with Pastor Bennett on July 13 and many items were discussed. Foremost was damage to the parsonage and the church from the wind and hail. An adjuster from the insurance company will be coming to do an assessment but there does appear to be damage to the roof of the church building and the parsonage. Our insurance policy has a deductible for wind and hail damage of \$5000 total. There is not a deductible for each building since all the damage occurred during one storm. A motion was passed to cut down the tree by the fire pit because of the damage it sustained. Davis-Houk Mechanical was called in to fix the air conditioner. Maintenance had not been done to the unit for some time and this was completed in addition to some repairs to the motor on the circulating pump. Trustees passed a motion to set the temperatures on the programmable thermostats to 78 degrees when the room/area is unoccupied and 72 degrees when occupied. Another motion was passed to sell the Husqvarna lawn mower for \$300. Pastor Bennett has discovered items at the parsonage which need addressed moving forward. The broken windows and a replacement for the back storm door will be done first. The next item is the water heater which appears to have been installed in 1994. TUWF requested the paint in the hallway to the fellowship hall be touched up and the carpet cleaned in readiness for their district meeting and this was approved. Trustees also approved the use of the building for clergy consultations on August 8 and for the cluster charge conference on October 29.

SPRC was saddened to learn that Cheryl Warren, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries resigned her position effective July 6. An email was sent to parents informing them of her resignation and an announcement was made in church. The search for a new director will begin soon. In the meantime, children’s church will be staffed by volunteers until the end of August. Seven youth attended camp the week of July 17.

The **Finance** committee met on July 18. Pastor Bennett will contact other United Methodist churches to inquire about their payroll administrative policy. The financial secretary, Sarah Evans; treasurer, Dave Butler, and the chair of the finance committee, Dick Berg, are working on making the financial reports more readable and understandable for the members of the committee.

Pastor Bennett attended his first **Church Council** meeting on July 17 where each member introduced themselves. The following information was shared to **Church Council** from each of the committee representatives. The reports from Trustees, Finance and SPRC can be read in the previous paragraphs.

After some questions regarding the playground, the council passed a motion to place the playground project back into the hands of the **Trustees**.

TUWF volunteers packed 24 bags to be given to trafficked women for Restoration61. This is the human trafficking organization whose founder, Cara Doan, gave a most interesting presentation to members of the church at an event hosted by the Christian Justice committee and TUWF. The annual salad supper is being planned and our church will host the district officer's meeting on September 9 reported Georgia Wilkinson.

Jerry Leonard shared that Chili for Chaddock will be held again this year as **UMM** continues to look for ways to attract the men of the church to join the organization.

The **SAM pantry** board has been formed and the job description for the coordinator is complete. The **Christian Justice** committee will be presenting a program at the end of September or first of October regarding indigenous peoples. The exact date depends on when the speaker is free to come.

The **Worship** committee will be discussing the CCLI license renewal and purchasing a microphone to be used in worship. The microphone will be especially helpful for the children's choir.

Thank you notes will be sent to Mike Ovca for his work with the church audit and to Alvie Jess who corrected the worship times on the signs by the driveway entrances to the church.

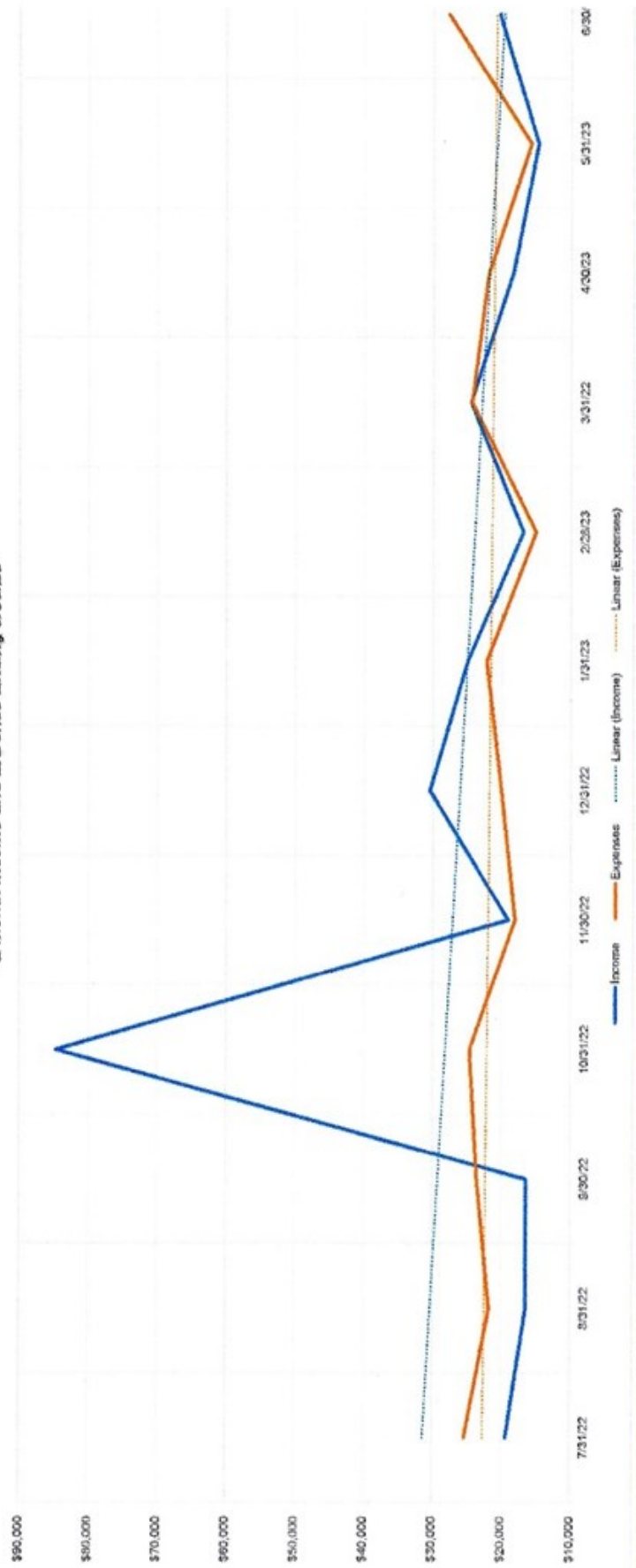
The invoice from Meinhold Construction, now called Blue Sky Restoration, for repairs to the parsonage that were needed when a water pipe broke over two years ago, will be addressed. The initial statement had been misdirected and not submitted to the insurance company. Pastor Bennett will consult a lawyer for the church's next step. The consensus of the members of Church Council was that we should pay the initial billing amount.

The church's checking account has always had three signers one of which has been the pastor. Pastor Bennett does not feel it is appropriate for the pastor to be included as one of these so a motion was passed to add the position of Lay Leader as the third signer on all accounts and the lock box. This will be used only in an emergency when the treasurer and Church Council chair are unavailable.

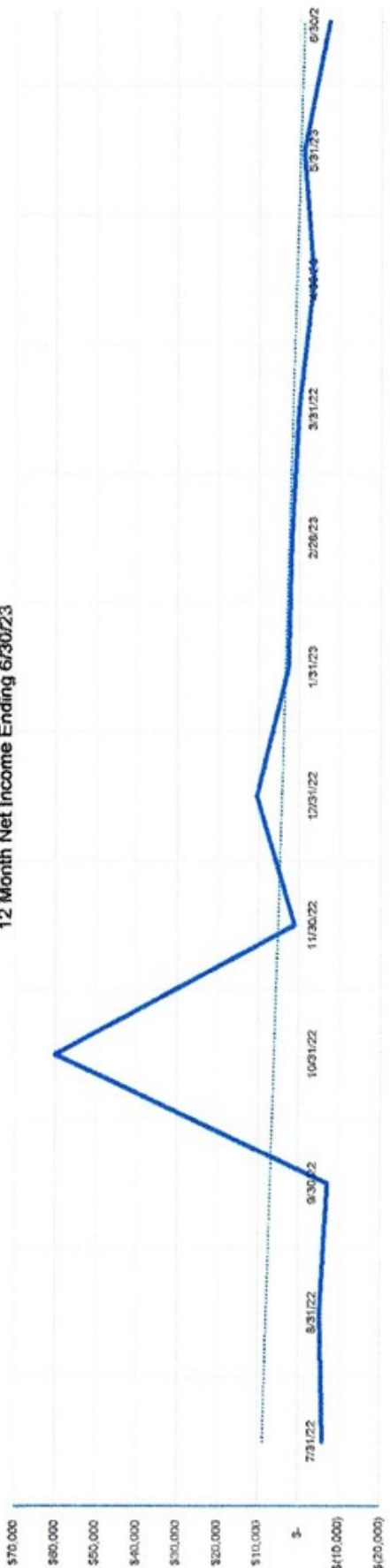
Pastor Bennett reported that he is looking at the copier expenses. Also, there are light fixtures near his office that need either new ballasts or bulbs. Pastor Bennett stated that communication between all the committees and the congregation will be important to him moving forward.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at kbbenner@gmail.com or by phone at 217-721-7750.

TUMC Finance History
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 6/30/23



TUMC Finance History
12 Month Net Income Ending 6/30/23



Tuscola United Women in Faith

In 2023, we are highlighting the two Tuscola United Women in Faith (TUWF) Circles that make up the Tuscola UWF unit. The two Circles are named Rachel and Rebekah for strong women in the Bible. This month, we are featuring **Rebekah Circle** which is chaired by Carolyn McIntyre with assistance from Cammy Seguin. This group meets generally at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Monday, September through May.

The Circle agenda for their meetings includes Carolyn generally beginning the meeting with information on the most recent TUWF Board Meeting and TUMC topics. This is followed by a program volunteered by one of the Circle members. At the January meeting the past few years, Carolyn has invited Rebekah Circle members to her home for a delicious soup supper.

Usually in May or early June, the Circle will visit a business or organization to learn more about their establishments. Recent visits include Midwest Mission (Pawnee, IL) and Cunningham Children's Home Quilt Show. There are special events that the TUWF unit hosts during the year, i.e., Mother-Daughter dinner, Salad Supper, and a Fundraiser event, and both Circles are an integral part of these events.

Any woman of the Tuscola United Methodist Church and from our community may become a United Woman in Faith. If you have an interest in learning more about this Circle, please contact Carolyn McIntyre (Phone: 217-417-1849), Email: mcintyre.newman@gmail.com). General information on TUWF may be obtained by contacting Georgia Wilkinson, President (Phone: 217-253-4407; Email: gwilkins_2000@yahoo.com), or Judy Schenkel, Membership Chair, (Phone: 217-253-3658; Email: jkschenkel@frontier.com).



For those that like to send birthday cards or anniversary cards, please make sure to sign up for the online church directory! All of this information is available to you through our church directory. If you need any help at all, please stop by the office and Sarah would be glad to help you out!

It would also be a big help if everyone could login and make sure that all information is correct. Information was taken from one system to the other, and sometimes mistakes can happen. And we don't want the wrong information with the wrong families. This is the other benefit of the online church directory. It allows you to make any needed changes, from updating your address, to adding family members, and changing your family picture. We wanted to make sure that this was something that was able to be contently updated with everyone's correct information, as we know that physical books can easily become outdated. Now, if you would prefer a printed version, please let Sarah in the office know, and she can get you a printed version of the directory.

There will be more instructional information posted on our website in the coming weeks.



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on you Android device

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!



FREE App for iPhone,
iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool 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.





We hope to get our UMM program re-organized in the coming months. To get started we are planning a breakfast get together to begin at 7:30 AM, Thursday, September 22, 2023. This will be at Flessors Candy Kitchen where we will each order our breakfast from the menu. We invite all men who have a connection to our church to come and enjoy the fellowship with one another as we will share thoughts and ideas about what we can accomplish as our United Methodist Men's group. Please come and share your inputs as to what activities, projects, programs and events would help to make our function a valuable mission of our church.

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CHOICE OF A GIFT CARD
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SUPPORT LOCAL TEACHERS.**
Learn more at bloodcenter.org/teach.

Tuscola United Methodist Church

Thursday, August 24 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall 901 N. Prairie St.

Masks optional. Appointments required.
To schedule an appointment, **scan QR code**
call ImpactLife at 800.747.5401
or go to bloodcenter.org/group, grp #71203





FALL VENDOR & CRAFT FAIR

OCTOBER 7, 2023

ENJOY THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

9:00AM - 4:00PM



**MORE INFORMATION
COMING SOON!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: sevans@tuscolaumc.com

connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church
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Tuscola, IL 61953

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Kathleen Dyer
Custodian

August 2023

What's

Happening

Here

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
			SAM Pantry 7am			
<u>6</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Clergy Consultations - All Day Bible Study 11am SPRC 6pm	<u>9</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>10</u> Trustees 5pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Bible Study 11am All Staff Meeting 5:30pm	<u>16</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> Coffee Hour 9:30 Worship 10am	<u>21</u> Finance 5pm	<u>22</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>23</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>24</u> Impact Life Blood Drive 9am - 1pm	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> Worship 10am Coffee Hour 9:30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>28</u> Christian Justice 1pm Missions & Evangelism 5pm	<u>29</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>30</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>31</u>		