

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

March  
2023



THEY  
DIVIDE  
MY CLOTHES  
AMONG THEM  
AND  
CAST LOTS  
FOR MY  
GARMENT.

PSALM 22:18, NIV

Dear Church Family,

Can you image stepping out of bed on Christmas morning and realizing that you've done nothing to prepare for it? There are no lights. No Christmas tree. No special trip to the grocery store to buy food for an amazing dinner. No invitations issued to family and friends, and no invitations accepted either. There are no presents. No trips to church for Christmas Eve service.

You haven't even sung one Christmas carol.

That is an impossible thought for most of us! Even the secular world can't imagine Christmas with no preparation. And yet, most of us slide into Easter with no preparation at all. We might dye some eggs for an hour one afternoon. Maybe buy our favorite chocolate (Reece's Peanut Butter Eggs anyone?). But compared to Christmas, there is almost no time given to the most important holiday in the Christian year.

It's easy to understand why. We like joyful celebrations. We don't want the suffering Savior on the cross. We don't want to examine our own lives too closely looking for sin. We don't want the darkness. We just want to wake up and celebrate the true joy of Easter morning. Little girls in fancy dresses. Up tempo music. Chocolate. Children dashing around the lawn looking for eggs. Ham dinners.

But let me ask you this. Could you ever really experience joy if you didn't know what sorrow was? Could you understand the concept of light if you had never stood in darkness?

It's the same for Easter. We rejoice on Easter morning because we have examined what the world would have been like if Jesus had not risen from the dead. We celebrate our relationship with God because we have spent time remembering the times we have wandered away from God.

This Lent, I encourage you to really embrace the practice of Lent. Take time to be still and reflect on what God really did for us that dark Friday thousands of years ago. Take time to, as Sarah Phillips states: "open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer."

Perhaps consider giving something up for Lent or add something in such as a daily time of prayer or hymn singing. Use the opening meditation time in church to prepare your heart. Just like Christmas, the joy of Easter is increased when we better understand why we're celebrating, and when we take time to truly prepare.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Terri

# A Call to Love



## Sermons

**My Lenten Playlist** – February 26<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup> – In the same way that we find beautiful truths about the birth of Jesus through Christmas music, other hymns teach us about the power of sacrifice and God's deep love. This Lent, we will examine the theological truths in hymns such as *Holy, Holy, Holy, Fairest Lord Jesus, Come Thou Fount, Be Thou My Vision, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, and Christ the Lord is Risen Today.*

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 27:1-6 – Beautiful Savior (Fairest Lord Jesus)

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 23 – Prone to Wander (Come Thou Fount)

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:1-9 – Thy Presence My Light (Be Thou My Vision)

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 6:28-32 – With Joy Surround You (Joyful, Joyful)

*Come Thou Fount, Be Thou My Vision, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, and Christ the Lord is Risen Today.*

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Isaiah 6:1-8 – My Lenten Playlist: Merciful and Mighty



## Help Needed!

The church is looking for someone to shovel/blow snow at the front of the church and at the PASS entrance as needed. The salary is \$15/hour. If you or someone you know is interested in helping, please contact the church office.

There is also a spot open for a soundboard operator for the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact the church office if you are interested. We will also help you learn the soundboard if you do not know it, but would like to do so.

## SAMS Pantry Open House

Please join SAMS Pantry here at the church on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM to learn more about what SAMS Pantry does for the community and how your gifts and service can impact those around you. There will be a speaker from the Illinois Food Bank and light snacks will be served.



## January Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of  
12/30/2022:  
\$33,007.06

January Income:  
\$24,970.29

January Expense:  
\$22,248.31

Balance as of  
1/31/2023:  
\$35,729.04

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!

## February Attendance & Offerings

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
Feb 5	87	\$3,955
Feb 12	80	\$5,137
Feb 19	77	\$2,589
Feb 26	61	\$819

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

## March Worship at Brookstone

**Mar 5** | Speaker— Karen Benner

**Mar 12**: Speaker— Darcy Sementi

**Mar 19**: Speaker— Kate Watson

**Mar 26**: Speaker— Bruce Wood

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)



# FROM the Youth director

Hello All,

The Children's Ministry will be having 2 Easter Egg Hunts this year again. One during Kids Club on Wednesday March 29 and one on Easter Sunday after the church service at 10am. We are in need of lots of candy again for all these kiddos. Good thing is we do not need any plastic eggs at all. I recycled them all from last year. We have 2 totes of eggs. I am going to request not so much chocolate because it melts so easy. The blue bucket is set up in the lobby area for donations. If you want to do a money donation for candy, please put in sealed envelope marked Easter Candy and bring to church office.

I am so excited for our egg hunts. The kids just love it.

On Sunday, April 2 the kids will be doing a Palm Sunday Palm Parade through the Sanctuary like last year. The kids absolutely loved this and its so fun to walk around with their Palm branches.

Youth Group News

On March 22 and March 29 Game Nights we will be stuffing eggs for the Egg Hunts before our normal tag sessions running all around ☐. The Youth Group is also collecting items for the Douglas County Animal Shelter. They can start bringing items immediately each game night till April 26th. We will deliver them in May.

The Harvest Ministry Kids Light Conference did very well February 11. Thank you to Ingrid for taking over for me that weekend to help Tim Price and his team. I unfortunately had Covid that week. We had over 60 children from other churches come for a day of Fellowship and Faith. It was a great event.

The Children's Ministry is also still collecting for Heifer International for the rest of the year. We are using funds from our turn at coffee hour and other little fundraisers to buy Bees, Flocks of Chicks and Goats. So far we have purchased 2 flocks of chicks.

Thank you for all your help and supporting our Children's Ministry,

Cheryl



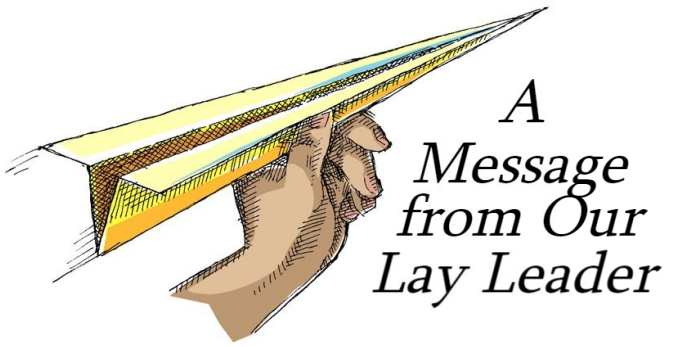
## **Greetings fellow Christians at TUMC!**

The season of Lent is with us the entire month of March. It began February 22 on Ash Wednesday and ends on April 9, the Saturday before Easter. Lent offers us a time to reflect and examine our souls as we approach Easter. We hear people talking about giving up a favorite food or a bad habit for Lent but I encourage you to add something to your life as a child of God!

Read your Bible more, join a Sunday school class, make time to pray and commune with God or volunteer to serve others. Focus on your relationship with God. Lent should be a period of time where we think about what Jesus did for us and repent of those things which separate us from God. Remember John 3:16

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

God deserves our full devotion for the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins, not his.



The **Finance** committee did not meet in February due to illness and lack of financial reports and **Church Council** does not meet again until March 20 at 6:00 PM. As always, anyone may bring an issue to the attention of the Church Council without being on the agenda. You are allowed five minutes at the beginning of the meeting to state your case.

**SPRC** met on 2/20 and welcomed new members Carolyn McIntyre and Cheryl Bozarth. Amy Griffith has been gracious enough to accept another 3-year term on the committee. Both Cheryl and Carolyn attended SPRC training in Tolono and reported that they were glad for the information they received there. Shelbi Fleener has been employed to vacuum the church to assist custodian Kathleen Dyer.

**Trustees** are still looking for someone to do snow removal. If you are interested, please contact Bruce Wood or Pastor Terri. The issues with the thermostat were discussed along with possible solutions. The leak under the sink in the Preschool room was fixed by All-Pro. The committee voted to purchase a new copier instead of leasing and this recommendation will go to Church Council for the final decision. SAM pantry reported they are having some storage issues due to the smaller refrigerator in the kitchen that replaced the broken commercial refrigerator. A built-in riser is going to be added to the organ so that it will be easier to get seated. It should be simple to move when necessary.

As always, 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.



## **TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MOTHER-DAUGHTER DINNER**

- WHEN:** April 20, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
- WHERE:** TUMC Fellowship Hall
- PROGRAM:** *"It's A Girls Spa Night"*
- COST:** \$15.00/adult; \$7.50/children ages 6-12; Free/children 5 and under

A delightful evening is planned for the Mother-Daughter event! First, enjoy an array of food items during our dinner. Immediately following the meal, you may step into our spa area where you can visit vendors who will show you a variety of items such as health and beauty tips, essential oils, candles, jewelry, and face painting. Some items will be available for purchase. You can get a neck massage, too, and the girls can have their nails polished by our Tuscola Royalty – 2022 Miss Tuscola, Jr. Miss Tuscola and Little Miss Tuscola!

Reservations for this dinner will be taken at the church each Sunday starting March 26<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for turning in your reservation is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made payable to TUWF. All women are welcome and feel free to bring guests! Join us for Christian fellowship and fun!

**DOOR PRIZES!**

# connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
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## Our Staff

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Ingrid Minger  
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## March 2023

## What's

## Happening

## Here

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