

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

June  
2023

We'll  
miss  
you!



Dear Church Family:

There's something so sad about goodbyes. Last hugs. Last laughs. Last sermon prep. Last newsletter.

Goodbyes are a part of our lives in so many different ways. We live with those who love us most as children only to grow up, move out, and say a goodbye to that way of life. We raise our own children who also grow up, move out, and say goodbye. These types of goodbyes are both joyful and sad because they are the natural order of things.

We wish we could hold our little ones back from growing up. When I came here, my niece was a gawky ten-year-old who still rode a pink sparkly bike and played with toys. She is now a young woman of 15, almost 16. I know that the amount of time I get to see her has already decreased. She wants to spend time in the summer with Aunt Terri, but she has dance camp and church camp and friends with new drivers' licenses begging to drive her to the beach.

My heart both grieves for the loss of her company and rejoices that she is a normal, healthy, active young woman!

Ecclesiastes 3 (and The Byrds!) remind us that there is a time for everything. Everything has its season. So it is with children and so it is with United Methodist ministers.

However – to only grieve is to ignore that change can mean growth, excitement, and the simple natural order of things.

And so, it's my turn to leave. It's my turn to embark on a new adventure that can mean growth and change for me, and it's your turn to experience growth and change through working with Pastor Bennett.

I've told you since my first Sunday that my favorite books of the Bible are 1 and 2 Corinthians. That's because to me, the church in Corinth was the most corrupt, gossipy, in-fighting church in the Bible. And yet God used them for God's glory!

One of my favorite verses in Corinthians comes from 1 Corinthians 3:5-9: "What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

You are in good hands going forward. Not just Pastor Bennett although, yes – you are in good hands with him! But you are in God's hands. Allow yourself to continue growing in numbers, in discipleship, in personal, spiritual growth.

You have been a blessing.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Terri

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said,

*rivers*  
of  
*living water*  
will flow from within them.”

JOHN 7:38, NIV

### Sermons

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Genesis 1:1-31, John 1:1-18, Acts 1:1-8 – The Trinity Prayer by St. Ethelwold  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – Last Words from Pastor Terri  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – Hymn Sing Celebrational  
June 25<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Ward



Just a reminder that there were some changes to the website and staff emails. They are listed below. If you have sent us emails, and received bounce back emails, please forward or resend the emails to the new emails.

With the new website, please be patient as we get things loaded. We are getting everything back up and loaded as quickly as we can.

New Website - [www.tuscolaumc.com](http://www.tuscolaumc.com)  
Sarah – [sevans@tuscolaumc.com](mailto:sevans@tuscolaumc.com)  
Cheryl – [cwarren@tuscolaumc.com](mailto:cwarren@tuscolaumc.com)  
Pastor Terri – [pastor.terri.haas@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.terri.haas@gmail.com) (beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for your continued support and prayers for Kyle! He is slowly getting better. He's working on how to feed himself, get dressed and trying to walk. Its going to take a while, but he will eventually recover. Thanks again for everything. We are truly humbled.

Love,

Lora, Rodney, Kyle, Emma

Address for Kyle Zimmer:

Kyle Zimmer  
C/O Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, Room 2029  
355 E. Erie St  
Chicago, IL 60611

## In The Mailbag



### May Attendance & Offerings

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
May 7	87	\$3,226
May 14	80	\$3,043
May 21	77	\$1,829
May 28	61	\$1,567

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

### June Worship at Brookstone

June 4 : Speaker— John Watson

June 11: Speaker— TBD

June 18: Speaker— Karen Benner

June 25: 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](mailto:jfw@craiglaw.net)

# FROM the Youth director

Happy Summer Everyone!

The month of June will be exciting in the Children's Ministry Area. First will be VBS Pets Unleashed Where Jesus Cares "FUR" You!" June 20-22 6pm-730pm. If you would like to volunteer to help the clean up crew each night at 730-8pm contact me. I desperately need volunteers for this.

:::::Playground Update:::::

We have reached our goal for the rubber mulch, landscape fabric and edging for the playground. Thank you to everyone who has donated for this huge project. We are now in the final stage of our fundraising campaign for the black chain link fencing and gates to protect our investment and to keep our children safe while playing.

We need \$5200 to get our fencing purchased and installed by SK Fencing Champaign. Please mark your check Playground Fund.

On Sunday, June 18 the Children and Youth Group will be hosting a car wash after church during coffee hour. Car wash will be by donation for our Fence Project. We will be washing cars in the parking lot.

Rain date will be June 25.

I want to personally thank Ingrid Minger and Shelbi Fleener for covering my Sundays while I was on vacation. I am refreshed and recharged for going to Camp Epworth with Youth Group July 17-21. If anyone would like to Sponsor a staff member or child going to camp please see Sarah in the office.

My office hours are different in the Summer. I should be in the office most Mondays 10-2pm.

Thank you for letting me work with our children.

Have a great June,  
Cheryl



## **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**



### **BRUNCH**

**SPONSORED BY THE TUSCOLA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**WHEN: June 11, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**

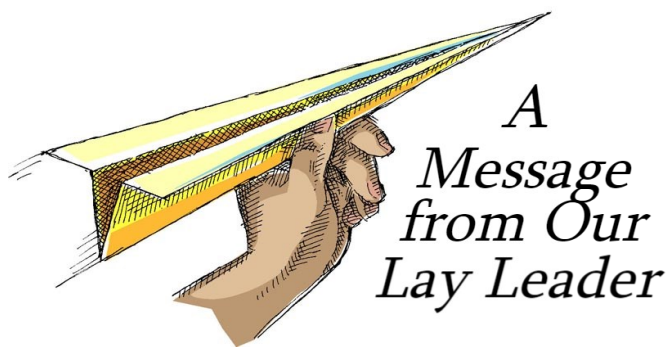
**WHERE: The Smith House – Tuscola**

**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!

Many moons ago when I first started working as a computer systems engineer, I had to read numerous IBM manuals. Quite often I would come across a page that said “this page left intentionally blank.” I often wondered why IBM did this. Would I need that deleted information in the future? What had been there? Our lives are like that blank page when we accept Jesus as our savior. God wipes away our sins and we have a clean slate, a “blank” page, with which to start anew. We have the assurance that God no longer holds those sins against us. Paul states this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” Those words give such comfort! We are a new person when we follow Christ! IBM no longer needed the information on the blank page and we no longer need or have our sins listed on the “page” of our lives. Thank you, Jesus!



## A Message from Our Lay Leader

Throughout May, **Trustees** have been planning the work required to ready the parsonage for Pastor Bennett’s arrival. Repairs will be made the week between Pastor Terri’s departure on June 12 and Pastor Bennett’s arrival on June 19. The flooring in the kitchen, hallway and downstairs bathroom will be replaced with rigid core, waterproof vinyl flooring for just under \$3000. This was required because some of the parquet floor in the hallway had been damaged beyond repair. The broken dishwasher was replaced and paid for by a very generous member of our congregation. The upstairs banks of windows on the east and west will be replaced during the summer by Roofs by Rodger at a cost of \$5200. The stairway to the second story will be sanded and sealed and the upstairs carpeting cleaned at a cost of \$150. Some of the downstairs windows need their weights fixed so the windows will open properly. A new Illinois law that went into effect in 2023 requires sealed smoke alarms with 10-year batteries so those will be installed. These last two items along with some others minor fixes will be completed by trustee members. These expenses are absolutely needed and more could and should be done to keep the parsonage in better repair. Going forward, we need to consider that the parsonage needs new windows and is not ADA-compliant. A big thank you to Leon Kinney for replacing the missing shingles on the southeast slope of the fellowship hall of the church.

**Church Council** met on 5/15 and the following committees made their reports.

**Pastor Terri** reported that the website and email addresses for staff had to change from using .org to .com. **Children, family and youth** director, Cheryl Warren, is looking for volunteers for VBS which will be June 20-22 in the evenings. Kid’s Club met for the last time this school year on 5/10 and will resume when school starts in the fall.

The audit is still being worked on and should be ready for the **Finance** committee’s June meeting. **Trustees** requested that money from Manna Café be moved to the trustees’ account for use on the parsonage repairs. This was approved by the council. Once again, it was suggested that the organ be sold. Some time ago, there had been a buyer for the organ but due to some resistance, the plan was abandoned. This will be brought up with trustees for consideration again. There was discussion regarding the location of the brick that had been purchased for the sanctuary at the time the church was built.

**United Women in Faith** will be hosting a fundraiser brunch at the Smith House on June 11 at 10:30. A funeral dinner was served on 5/15 and the new refrigerator and ice maker were greatly

appreciated.

The new **SAM pantry** board consisting of Jerry Reynolds, Darcy Sementi, Dorothy Voyles, Jerry Leonard and Dave Butler met and created vision and mission statements, determined the composition of the board and assigned individual responsibilities within the pantry. They continue to work on a job description for the pantry coordinator position. The board will assess the way thank-you notes are handled at their next meeting.

**SPRC** questioned whether there are enough funds to cover the moving expense for the new pastor. A portion of the estimated cost is supposed to be set aside each year in the budget. The moving expense is expected to be approximately \$5000.

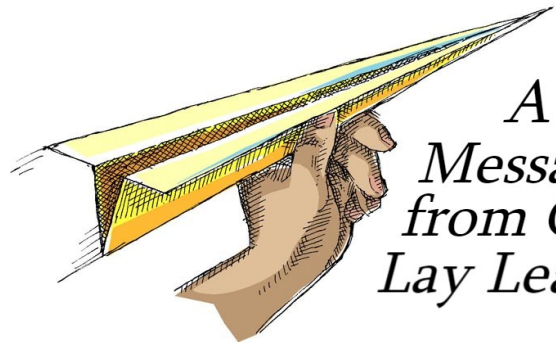
The **Christian Justice** committee reported Cara and Paul Doan from Restoration61 would be giving a presentation about their work in helping victims of human trafficking on May 21.

The Council voted to move **coffee hour** to 9:30 AM beginning on July 2 when our new pastor arrives. The church service will begin at 10:00.

**Finance Committee** met on 5/22. Financial secretary, Sarah Evans, and Mike Ovca have been working on the audit. There was discussion regarding the differences in the two Treasurer's reports and whether both are necessary. Insurance on the buildings owned by the church was discussed and Trustees will be asked to increase the liability and umbrella insurance on the church building and the insurance on the contents of the mower shed. Chairman, Dick Berg, created a report to explain how the funds invested with Edward Jones are allocated. Church treasurer, Dave Butler, will be stepping down in a few months.

**SPRC** met on 5/23 to discuss the brunch in Pastor Terri's honor. Pastor Bennett requested someone introduce him to the shut-ins and nursing home residents when he arrives and Patty Russell volunteered to do this. Chair, Mary Ann Pattenaude, reported that the moving company will bill the church instead of requiring payment on the moving day.

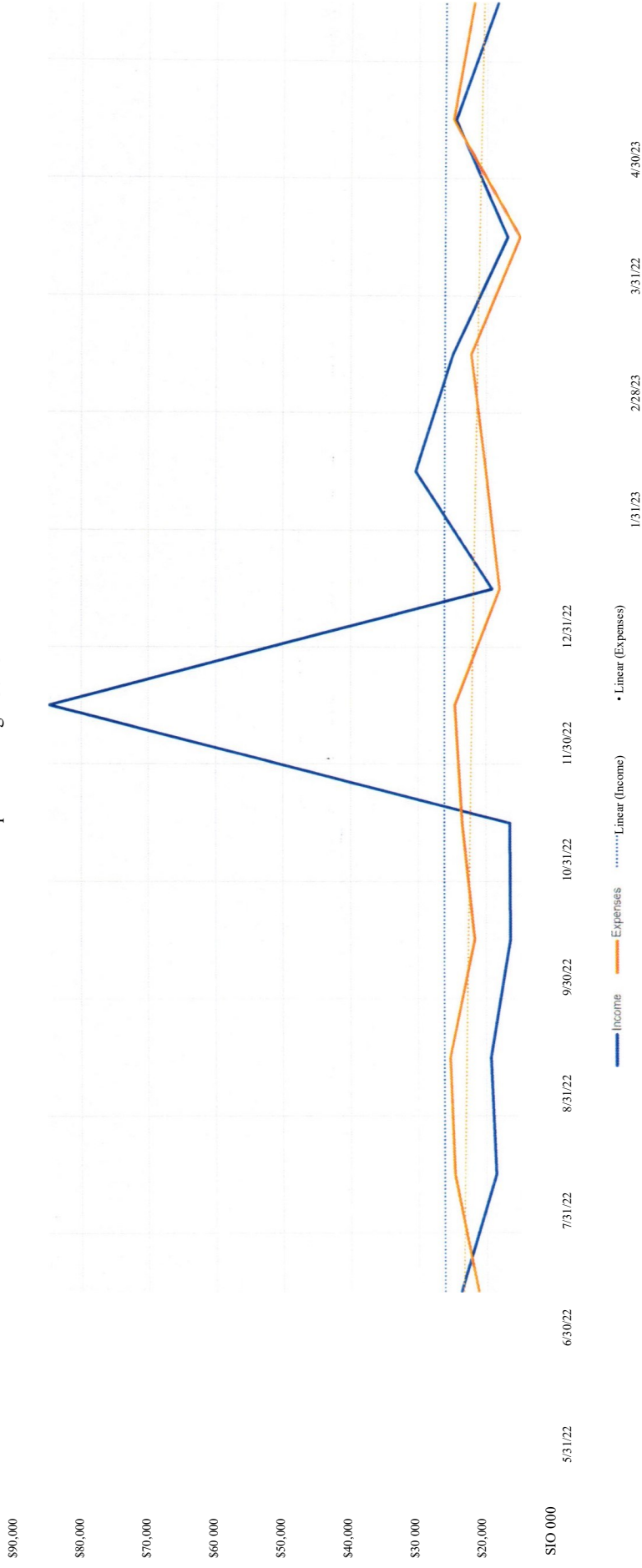
As always, if you have any questions or comments, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at [kbbenner@gmail.com](mailto:kbbenner@gmail.com) or by phone at 217-721-7750.



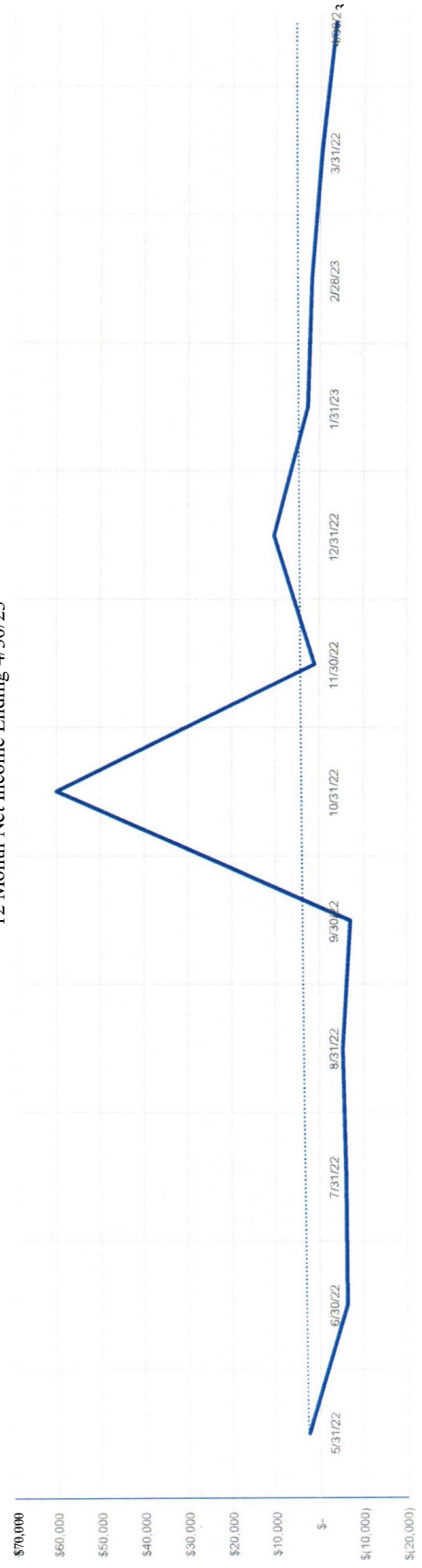
## A Message from Our Lay Leader



TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 4/30/23



TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Net Income Ending 4/30/23



# connect.

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

## Our Staff

Rev. Terri Haas,  
 Pastor  
 Pastor.terri.haas@gmail.com

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

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

Kathleen Dyer  
 Custodian

Sarah Evans  
 Financial & Administrative Secretary  
 sevans@tuscolaumc.com

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

## June 2023

## What's

## Happening

## Here

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>7</u> SAM Pantry 7am Bible Study 11am	<u>8</u> Trustees 5pm	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am TUWF Brunch 11am	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Bible Study 11am VBS 6PM	<u>14</u> SAM Pantry 7am VBS 6PM	<u>15</u> VBS 6PM	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am	<u>19</u> Finance 5pm	<u>20</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>21</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>22</u> NAMI 7pm	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> Worship 9am Coffee Hour 10am <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Bible Study 11am	<u>28</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	