

# TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECT

## JUNE 2024



### *From the Pastors Pen...*

As I write this note today, I am sitting at Flesor's enjoying the atmosphere, food, and the community we have together here in Tuscola. I want to share some of the changes that have taken place over the last month and changes coming in the future for the church and how those changes represent how we as a church can grow into the call on our life that is celebrated at Pentecost. We are called to be the church, not just attend a church.

One of the biggest changes in our local church is the hiring of Pastor Kim Woods as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Pastor Kim has started leading the programs and getting ready for VBS this month. We have been honored with a gift this year by one of our members in covering the salary and benefits for Pastor Kim's position for this year. When the church was working on the budget last year for this year we knew of the gift being given for this purpose only and this is one of the reasons we had a balanced budget. This gift is for one year and so at the church, we will have to work hard to increase giving next year to make sure we can continue this ministry that Pastor Kim is leading. On top of the part-time duties as Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Pastor Kim met with the SAM pantry board and has volunteered as the new part-time Coordinator for the pantry. As the coordinator, Pastor Kim would be the public face of the pantry as well as doing a lot of work behind the scenes. The SAM pantry has been a ministry of Tuscola UMC for over thirty years. We want the SAM pantry to serve the people in need in Douglas County and to continue to do so for a long time.

One of the changes coming in the future that we are already working on is what is called a Simplified Accountability Structure. This will change how the boards for the church are organized. SAS is also often called the one-board model. At the basic level, it is one primary board making big decisions and setting the mission and vision for the church and has small teams of members doing specific things that need to be done. Under Pastor Terri, the church began this work, in teams like Christian Justice, NOW, and worship teams. We are now working with the conference to get all of what we need to move to this model. There will be town hall meetings this summer and fall to talk with the congregation about what this means how it can help us to become better at the administration of the church and how it can help the ministries of the church continue to grow

I know there are times we as a church have to talk about the business of the church, but if we talk about the business side of the church and make it work well, then we can focus on the reason God has called us to be the Church and help all that we can.

Blessings

Pastor Bennett Woods

# WELCOME TO TUMC!

## Pastor Kim Woods

Director of Children & Youth  
Ministries

Pastor Kim Woods is a provisional  
deacon.

Pastor Kim graduated from Garrett-  
Evangelical Theological Seminary in  
2016 with a Master's in Christian Ed.

Previously, Rev. Kim served as the  
Director of Children and Youth  
Ministries at Wesley UMC in Urbana.



## JUNE YOUTH GROUP



**JUNE 9TH:** 5-7 PM

**JUNE 16TH: NO YOUTH GROUP**

Happy Father's Day (to all who celebrate)

**JUNE 23RD:** 5-7 PM

JUNE 27TH, 28TH, & 29TH:

CAMP FIRELIGHT VBS, 5:30-7:30PM

All Youth are welcome to sign up to help!

**JUNE 30TH: NO YOUTH GROUP**





## *From The Deacons Desk.....*

From the Deacon's Desk

Greetings TUMC from your resident deacon, Rev. Kim Woods.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to join the ministry team at Tuscola UMC and look forward to working with our children, youth, and their families. I've had the opportunity to interact with many of our young people already by being a part of our last two Kid's Club sessions for the school year as well as meeting with the youth for their last session of the school year. The youth will be meeting periodically throughout the summer, so I hope to get them better as we continue to meet to learn about one another on our walk with God.

Some of you may wonder "what is a deacon?" Deacons are an ordained order in the United Methodist Church. While we are equal to the order of elder, deacons often serve in more specialized ministries, such as my work with children and youth ministries. Deacons are commonly described as a "bridge", which is to say that we often work within the community and the congregation equally, connecting the church and the world as well as connecting the world to our church. So if you see me out and about at community events, that is as much a part of my ministry as if you see me in the church office or service on Sunday mornings.

I am the type of person who believes that ministry is collaborative. That said, if you have ideas, suggestions, or just want to know more about my ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out! My email is [kwoods@tuscolaumc.com](mailto:kwoods@tuscolaumc.com) and you are always welcome to stop by my office on Mondays or Wednesdays this summer to chat during my office hours.

Blessings,

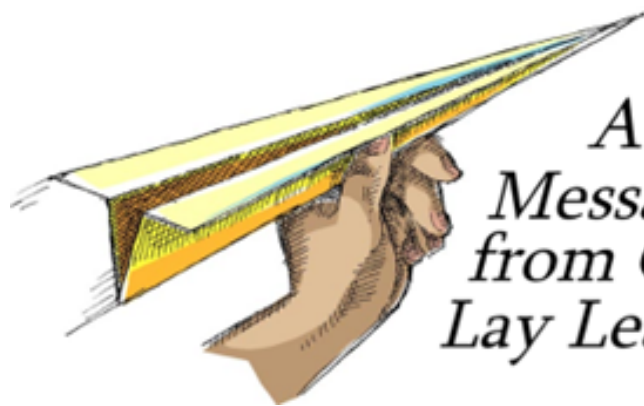
*Rev. Kim Woods*

Rev. Kim Woods



Greetings!

Last Christmas, I served a dessert that had an Oreo crust with a cream cheese, white chocolate and peppermint filling topped with Cool Whip. It was “delish” as my two-year-old granddaughter pronounced. Every time she ate some, she would throw back her head, close her eyes and get such a look of joy on her face. In that moment, her happiness was complete.



## A Message from Our Lay Leader

How often do we adults savor joy such as that? Too often we get caught up in the cares of each day and joy is the last thing we think about. Jesus spoke these words in John 15:9-12.

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

May the joy of knowing Jesus’ love fill our hearts this day and always! And show on our faces!

**SPRC** met on 5/14 and learned the following. Employees have received the revised Lay Employee manual. Our custodian, Kathleen Dyer, will return to work on June 1. We thank Tina Kestner for her hard work as she filled in for Kathleen during her absence. Pastor Kim Woods will be in attendance every Sunday as Director of Children and Youth Ministries beginning June 1. Pastor Bennett reported that he has eight people interested in becoming new members of the church and will be holding new member classes soon.

The **Finance** committee met on 5/20 and treasurer, Dave Butler, reported that though we are slightly in the red, income has been trending upward and expenses are down. The Lee scholarship recipient received \$500 and the McCumber scholarship recipient received \$1000. There was discussion regarding the audit committee. We have one member willing to serve and a suggestion was made to look to an area United Methodist church for another person to serve. At least, two people are needed for this committee. Chair, Dick Berg, and Pastor Bennett will work on a financial report to present to the congregation after July 1.

The **Church Council** met on 5/20 also. The following reports were given at the meeting. Members heard from our new **Director of Children and Youth Ministries**, Pastor Kim Woods, for the first time. She reported that the youth group will meet periodically during the summer. Pastor Kim will preach once a quarter in addition to doing the children’s moments each Sunday. This will allow Pastor Bennett to speak at Brookstone.

**Finance** reported that so far this year \$3000 has been earned in interest from the funds in CDs at Edward Jones. The church budget is in the red by \$1600.

Cheryl Bozarth, **SPRC** chair, was pleased to report that Pastor Kim had been interviewed by SPRC members and, in a separate interview, she spoke with a high schooler and two mothers of children who attend our programs. All were pleased with the interview process and the decision was made to hire her as Director of Children and Youth Ministries. In other news from SPRC, the revised Lay Employee

manual is complete.

The Missions and Evangelism team and the Congregational Care Team have combined to form the **Nurture, Outreach and Witness team**. This new team plans to have a presence at the Sparks in the Parks celebration and at the library's movie nights. May baskets were made and delivered to shut-ins and to Brookstone. They also plan to have the sheriff give a talk on scams, especially those perpetrated on the elderly, in June.

The **Christian Justice** team is working on a program regarding trauma and resiliency to be presented in June. In October, they plan to have a program on domestic violence.

Pastor Bennett reported for the **Worship team**. He stated that the middle hymn in the church service will be replaced with a contemporary song this summer.

Jerry Leonard is still attempting to get **United Methodist Men** re-established. He says they will continue to do Chili for Chaddock.

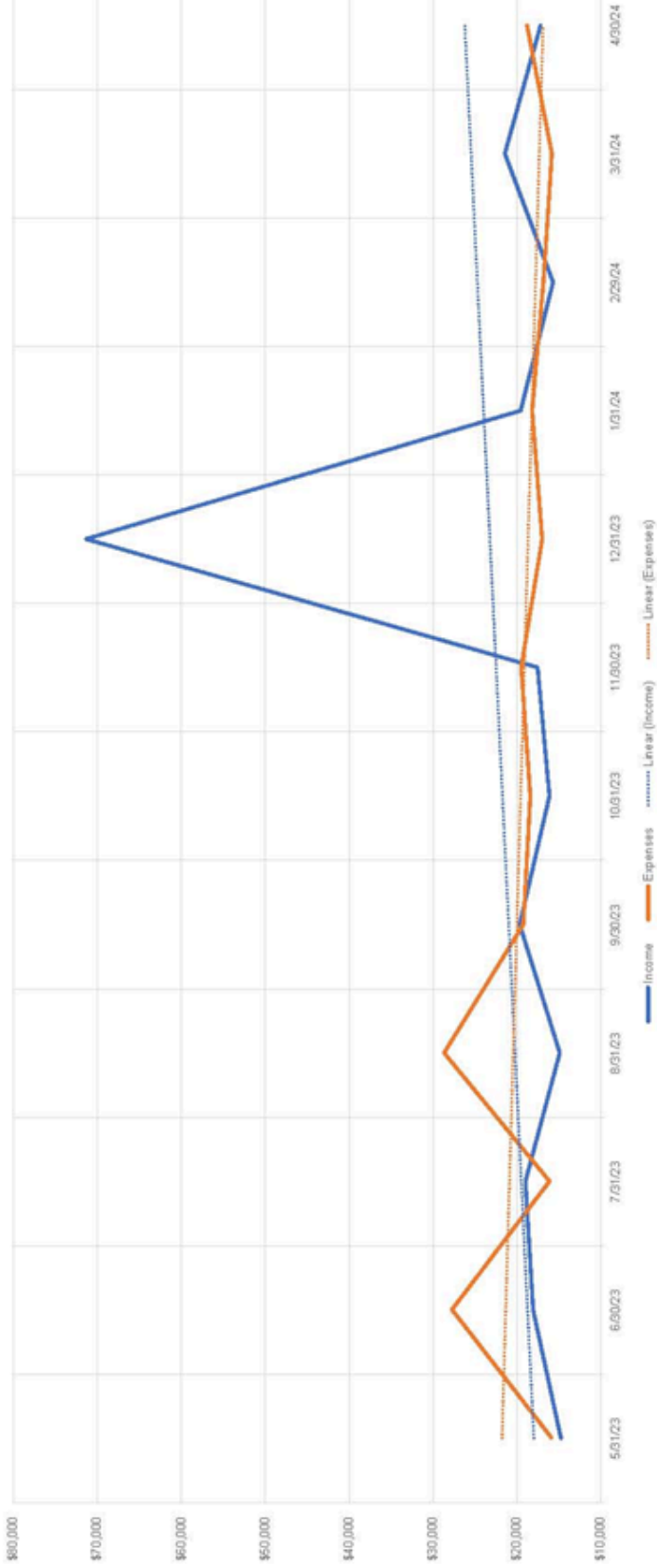
The **United Women in Faith** provided sandwiches and cookies for a program at the Atwood Baptist church on May 13 regarding drug endangered children reported President Jan Mann. The East District will hold its fall meeting on September 14 in Sullivan. The annual salad supper will be held September 19. There will not be a fall fundraiser this year. In exciting news, they may have a new circle starting soon.

The **SAM Pantry** board reported the number of people they have been serving has decreased.

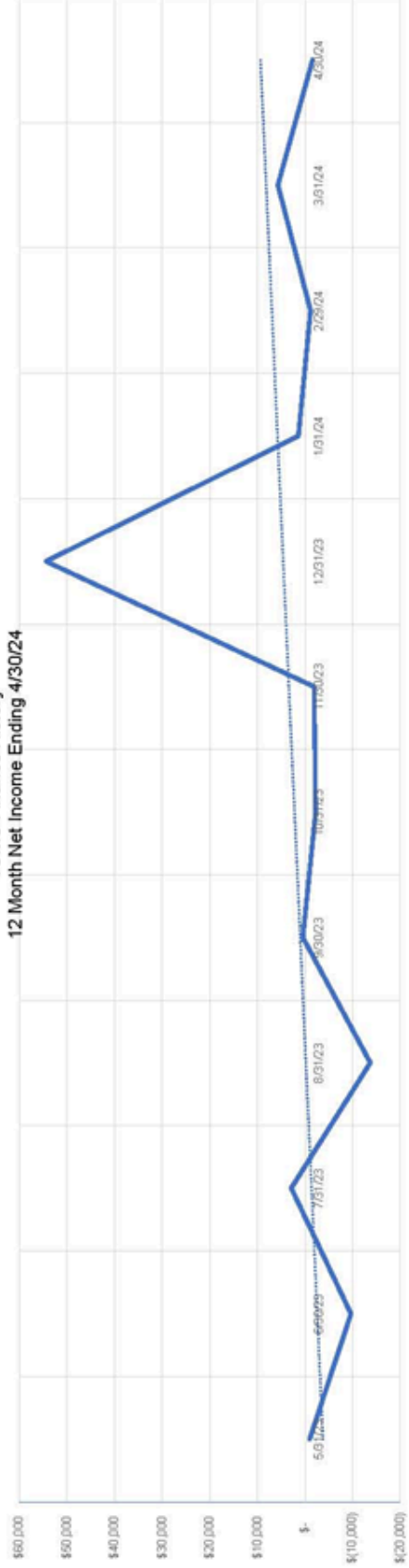
Pastor Bennett told the Council in the **Pastor's Report** that he will speak once a quarter at Brookstone. He will begin the task of bringing the Strategic Accountable Structure (SAS) to TUMC. According to the IGRC (Illinois Great Rivers Conference) website the purpose of the SAS is to provide streamlined decision-making for the administrative ministries of the church in order to free up people to serve in ministry with their community. A coach will be working with Pastor Bennett and the congregation to implement this new church structure. Pastor Bennett will do a town hall type of meeting to bring more information to the congregation. Because Pastor Kim is a Deacon in the United Methodist Church, she has been appointed to serve TUMC by the Bishop effective officially June 1. Here is the official definition of a deacon from the UMC website: *Deacons are ordained United Methodist clergy who lead the church in relating Christians to their ministries in the world through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, nurturing spiritual vitality and leading ministries of service, love, and justice.* In order to meet some of these criteria, Pastor Kim will serve on the Christian Justice team.

If you have questions or comments regarding any of the information in this newsletter article or just in general, you may contact me, Karen Benner, at [kbbenner@gmail.com](mailto:kbbenner@gmail.com) or by phone at 217-721-7750.

TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Income and Expense Ending 4/30/24



TUMC Finance History  
12 Month Net Income Ending 4/30/24



THE FUTURE IS  
**N.O.W!**

OUR MISSIONS & EVANGELISM TEAM AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM HAVE MERGED TO BECOME THE NOW TEAM. NOW IS AN ACRONYM FOR NURTURE OUTREACH AND WITNESS. WE ARE EXCITED TO BRING THESE TEAMS TOGETHER SO THAT THEY CAN WORK ON MORE MINISTRY PROJECTS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
BLOODCENTER.ORG

**Tuscola United Methodist Church**

Thursday, June 27      9 am – 12 pm

Donate in Fellowship Hall 901 N. Prairie St.

To schedule call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401, visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org), or scan the QR code below. Appointments requested.

SCAN ME

Give & get choice of gift card, a donation to Best Friends Animal Society, or bonus points to the rewards store that can be redeemed for a pool towel!

Gift card (\$20 whole blood, \$25 double red)

**ImpactLife**  
50 Years of Saving Lives

Please eat before donating and bring photo ID.  
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 5/2/2024  
Group Sponsor Code: 71205

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to: Karen Benner, Dave Butler, Janet Butler, Cheryl Bozarth, Tina Hall Kestner, Susan Hall, Leon Kinney, Carol Morris, Debbie Nivens, Mary Ann Pattenau, Cindy Pringle, Darcy Sementi, Lenny Sementi, Patty Slaughter, Steve Slaughter, John Waldrop, Kyle Walker, Stephanie Walker, Clark Wilkinson and Georgia Wilkinson for delivering Peace Meals in May for our church! We appreciate all your help!!

**May Attendance & Offerings**

	Attendance	Offerings
May 5	78	\$7,351
May 12	65	\$3,103
May 19	88	\$2,969
May 26	98	\$4,120
<b>Digital Giving Total</b>		<b>\$4,559</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!*

**June Worship at Brookstone**

**June 2 : Speaker — John Watson**

**June 9 : Speaker — TBD**

**June 16 : Speaker — Darcy Sementi**

**June 23 : Speaker — Bruce Wood**

**June 30 : Speaker - Karen Benner**

**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)**

# Scam Prevention



Presentation by  
Sheriff Nate Chaplin

- Spot scams
- Prevent fraud
- Protect your identity

TUMC Fellowship Hall  
June 19th @6:30pm

Sponsored by NOW Team



# JOIN US



## Trauma & Resilience Initiative Presentation

Presented by TUMC Christian Justice Team

June 23rd  
2pm-4pm

TUMC Fellowship Hall

- What is trauma?
- Who has it?
- What can we do about it?



**Karen Sims**  
Program Director

Join us for a conversation about the Trauma & Resilience Initiative from program director, Karen Sims.

Learn how understanding trauma's impact on lives of individuals & communities and how practices of trauma-informed care can help to "create beloved, well & just community".

Light refreshments provided by TUMC UWF

# JOIN US



COKESBURY  
KIDS



# Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP

*Psalm 56:3*

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**VBS IS COMING!**

**JUNE 27-29TH**

**5:30-7:30PM**

**SIGN UP ONLINE OR**

**IN THE OFFICE!**



TUSCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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TUSCOLA, IL 61953

CONNECT.

OUR STAFF

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BRITTANY PATTON  
ASSISTANT CHILDREN &  
YOUTH MINISTRIES  
DIRECTOR

CATHY MANNEN  
SERVICE MUSICIAN

JUNE  
2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<u>01</u>
<u>02</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am New Member Course - 2pm Youth Group - 5pm	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u> Bible Study 11am New Member Course - 5pm	<u>05</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>08</u>
<u>09</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am New Member Course - 2pm Youth Group - 5pm	<u>10</u> Finance Committee - 5pm	<u>11</u> New Member Course - 5pm	<u>12</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Bible Study 11am New Member Course - 5pm	<u>19</u> SAM Pantry 7am Scam Prevention 6:30pm	<u>20</u> Trustees - 5pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am New Member Course - 2pm TRI Presentation - 2pm Youth Group - 5pm	<u>24</u> Christian Justice Team - 1pm	<u>25</u> Bible Study 11am New Member Course - 5pm	<u>26</u> SAM Pantry 7am	<u>27</u> Blood Drive 9am - 12pm VBS - 5:30pm - 7pm NAMI - 7pm	<u>28</u> VBS - 5:30pm - 7pm	<u>29</u> VBS - 5:30pm - 7pm
<u>30</u> Coffee Hour - 9:30am Worship - 10am Brookstone Worship - 10:30am New Member Course - 2pm Youth Group - 5pm						