



TOWER CHIMES

January 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be celebrated on **January 4**. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

EPIPHANY STAR WORDS

On Sunday, **January 4**, we begin the season of Epiphany, remembering the star that led the wise ones to Jesus. God's presence is breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness! This can bring comfort to those weary from grief and the stress of the holidays.

First United Methodist Church will be offering Epiphany STAR WORDS to any who would like to begin the new year with an intentional focus. Over 300 different words are printed on gold stars, words such as affirmation, blessing, encouragement, obedience, service, etc. Those in worship will pick a star word from a basket. Those online are encouraged to reach out to the church office to have a star word mailed to them (262.542.4256, office@fumcwaukesha.org).

When receiving a star gift:

- Let the word pick YOU. This is your word of the year. Ponder what significance this word has in your life and how God might be speaking to you through the power of one word. (If requesting a star word through the mail, the office staff will randomly draw a star for you.)
- You may find that the word fits you perfectly. If so, celebrate that, and see how you can be more intentional about sharing your star gift with the world.
- You may find it is a word that offers you the encouragement or challenge you need. If so, receive that gift and let it shape you in the days, weeks, and months ahead.
- If unsure as to the meaning of the word, look it up. You might even search for synonymous words, to help you discover even more about your potential focus. Refrain from getting stuck with one definition. Allow it to broaden your understanding.
- You may find yourself resisting the word or even wanting to reject the word. If so, sit with it for a while, exploring the source of your resistance, and be open to what this word may have to teach you.
- Live with your word, reflect upon it, journal about it, pray about it. Place it in a location where you will see it every day: bathroom mirror, car visor, in the pages of your Bible, tacked above your computer or kitchen sink.

The wise one traveled a great distance to offer their gifts to the Christ-child when responding to the gift first given to them. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. This will be our Epiphany practice: receiving God's gift and then offering the gift in service to God throughout the year.

Like any gift, a star gift can either be received with joy or discarded and forgotten. You are encouraged to be intentional about your response to your star word.

Epiphany is the celebration of God's presence breaking through to shine as a light in the darkness. Let us rejoice in the presence of our generous, giving God, one star gift at a time.

DE-DECORATING THE SANCTUARY

We will be looking for help to pack up Christmas decorations. Please consider helping after the worship service on **January 4**.

FORMING FAITH - CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Happy New Year! We want to thank everyone who helped and participated in our intergenerational Christmas pageant. It was a wonderful embodiment of the Christmas story.

We return to our regular Sunday programing following worship on **January 4**.

This month the "littles" (grade prek-4) will be engaging in the story of Noah and the promises that God makes to Noah and his family.

Our Confirmation Youth will continue with their discussions about our life of faith within the United Methodist Church.

Our Post-Confirmation Youth will meet for food, activities, and deep discussions as we extend the messages of worship into our daily lives.

We look forward to seeing our friends on Sunday mornings!

Contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) if you have any questions.

SPECIAL BOOK DISCUSSION FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

No Fear In Love - **January 6 - February 3**, 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Zoom

1 John 4:18 "perfect love casts out fear"

As William Willimon notes in his book "Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love," this passage is easy to read but hard to live. During the month of January, we are offering a class to look at how we define "the other," how we respond to people we see as "different," and how we can work at applying the kind of Christian love John is asking of us. This class will be offered on Zoom so no one has to worry about driving in the dark or coming out in the snow and bad weather.

Books are \$12. Please sign up on the sheet in the Asbury Room, online through the website or by contacting the office so we can make sure you have a book. As soon as we have a list of emails, we will send out the Zoom link. For those who want to get started reading, the first class will cover the Introduction and Chapter 1.

Contact JoAnn Wright (giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net) or Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org).

XYZ (XTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

The XYZ Potluck and Program will be on **Thursday, January 8**. Our theme will be "Happy Winter New Year" and we will meet in the Asbury Room beginning at 11:15am with serving starting at 11:45am. Bring a friend and come to enjoy a wonderful time of fun and fellowship.

XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) is a group designed for the 50+ crowd yet open to everyone. XYZ meets the second Thursday of the month from September to June with a potluck lunch and program. Contact Veronica Radowicz with any questions (vradowicz@gmail.com).

ANNUAL WINTER WEEKEND AT PINE LATE METHODIST CAMP Celebrating 26 years of fun!!

WHAT: Sledding, Downhill and Cross Country Skiing, Board Games, Snowshoeing, Card Games, Skit Night, Winter Hikes, Singing by the Fire, and MORE

WHEN: **January 9-11, 2026**...staying Friday and/or Saturday nights.

WHERE: Pine Lake Camp Bishop Rader Retreat Center, individual rooms with private bathrooms

COST: Lodging: \$90 per room (double occupancy) per night, \$20 per extra person.

FOOD: We do our own family style cooking, so the cost is about \$12 per person for the weekend.

HOW TO SIGN UP: There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Call or text Deb Koller (262-930-0907) or Cindy Peterson (262-853-5522) with questions.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for remembering the FUMC staff with all the gifts of cookies, candy, well-wishes, prayers and goodies during the busy Advent and Christmas season. We appreciate the love and care.

– FUMC Staff: Pastors Susan & Amy, Jennifer, Jenny, Cheryl P, Cheryl M, Kathy, Margie, Greg, John and Tom

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN GRATITUDE

To the Community of Faith at First United Methodist Church: We extend our deepest appreciation for your faithful support during our Fall Stewardship Campaign. Through your generosity and commitment, you have demonstrated true *love in action*. Your prayers, gifts, and dedication strengthen our ministry, enabling us to continue serving our congregation and community with compassion and purpose. Together, we embody the mission of Christ and affirm the values that unite us as a church family. *Thank you for showing love in action and helping to strengthen our mission together.* There is still time to complete a 2026 GIVING COMMITMENT FORM (pledge form) if you haven't already done so. THANK YOU!

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, CHOCOLATE & OLIVE OIL

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil, on Sunday, **January 11** after worship in the Asbury Room. Please stop by to check out our inventory. We accept cash or checks made out to FUMC with "Fair Trade" in the memo line.

Dear Fair Trade Supporters: *Equal Exchange, FUMC's chocolate bar, coffee, and olive oil supplier, was forced to raise their prices due to increased cost of production as well as geopolitical factors. Unfortunately, we must pass some of the cost increase along to our loyal patrons. Therefore, starting in **February** of 2026, the price for all roasts and types of coffee will be \$10 per bag. This is an increase of \$1 per bag, except for decaffeinated, which remains at \$10. Also, single quantity chocolate bars will continue to be priced at \$4, but the price of two purchased bars increases to \$7 per pair, which is still a deal. While these changes do challenge us, we believe the products are fairly priced, especially in comparison to other outlets where Fair Trade products are sold. We hope that you will continue to support our mission to build economically just and environmentally sound trade partnerships with small-scale farmers, fostering fair, democratic, and sustainable relationships between producers and consumers by championing Fair Trade principles, worker cooperatives, and organic practices for a more equitable world.*

PATHFINDERS – LUNCH MAKING

There is room at the table for all as we make lunches for Pathfinders of Milwaukee on **Tuesday, January 13** at 9:00am in the Asbury Room. 40 bagged lunches will be prepared, packed, and ready for delivery to feed the young people served by Pathfinders. Also, beginning in February watch for more info and signups for a monthly Dinner With Pathfinders event! We have the opportunity to provide dinners to this Milwaukee non-profit serving teens and young adults experiencing homelessness, trauma, and exploitation. Curious & want more info? Contact Kristi Magoon (kristimagoon@prodigy.net) for more info!

CREATIVE PALS

Creative Pals is a monthly gathering of people who take dedicated time to work on a variety of projects together. Whether your project is scrapbooking, crochet, organizing, crafting, or something else, this is a place where you can get away and work on it. The group meets monthly on a Saturday from 10:00 AM - 4:00PM. Our next date is **January 17** in room 209. If you would like more information, please contact the office, JoAnn Wright (giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net), or Lori Tompkins (lorirtompkins@gmail.com).

UNDIE SUNDAY

Once again FUMC will support the guests of the Hope Center by providing NEW undergarments to keep their bottoms and tops warm and cozy through this winter. Underwear, undershirts, tights and socks can all be donated **starting January 25** and placed in the bins in the church hallway. The items will be consecrated on February 22. The Mission Team appreciates all you do to support our neighbors in need. Thank you!

SUNDAY SUPPERS – NEW MONTHLY EVENT

Join together the last Sunday of a month to break bread together. Each month there will be a cuisine (Italian, Mexican, German, etc.) and we will share dishes and conversation. We will meet at 5pm in the Asbury Room. Sign up is available in the hallway. Our first Sunday Supper will be **January 25, 5pm**. If you have questions, contact Jenny D (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org). All are welcome!

YOUTH ADVENTURE!

Calling all youth to join us in the Quest for El Dorado on January 25 at noon. The legendary explorer, Dr. Rich Hunt has selected our team for an epic adventure searching for El Dorado. With only a sliver of the map to start, we will venture towards a cave deep in the Amazon Forest. A rival exploration team is sixty minutes behind you. To claim the fame and glory of discovering the lost "City of Gold" our team must find the city of El Dorado before the other group reaches our location. Let's do this! We will leave the church at noon and make our way to Escape Waukesha. You MUST reserve your spot on the team by **January 22** here:

<https://fumcwaukesha.org/sign-ups>

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

Circle of Sisters is meeting **January 26, 2026** with our next book, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May. The book is available in the narthex for \$13. If writing a check, please add to the note "Circle of Sisters". Please do not let the cost of the book prohibit you from attending... help is available. For questions, contact Cheryl Printz (cheryl.printz@fumcwaukesha.org) or Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org).

Circle of Sisters is a monthly women's ministry to meet the unique needs of women within a small group setting. We meet on the **fourth Monday of each month** in a hybrid format to engage in a time of worship, prayer, book study, and fellowship.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION EXPERIENCE 2026

As we enter 2026, our focus on next summer's intergenerational mission trip comes into sharper focus. The details for the **2026 mission trip in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota on July 12-July 16** are now available. Our experience in the Twin Cities is being coordinated by Youthworks, a Christian non-profit who has been doing this work for more than 30 years. Our experience is customized for our group to allow both youth (ages 13+) and adults to serve during our 4 night/5-day trip. During each service day, our group may be involved in clothing distribution, painting, yard work, work at food pantries, relational ministry or more. Lodging will be in a local church, school or community building. Cost of the trip is \$250 per person.

All who would like to join us on the trip need to contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daughtery (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) by **Feb 8**.

13 FOOD PANTRY BARRELS

THE BIG 8 TO DONATE:	THE BIG 8 CARE:
Peanut Butter	Toothpaste
Cereal	Toothbrushes
Canned Fruit	Deodorant
Canned Veggies	Shampoo
Whole Grains (pasta, rice)	Body Wash
Canned Protein (tuna, chicken, salmon)	Hand Soap
Canned Beans (pinto, kidney)	Dish Soap
Baby Items (diapers, wipes, formula)	Laundry Detergent

There are two barrels located in the hallway of FUMC, ready to collect your donations for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

Let us love our neighbors by providing food, hope, and dignity. Please share abundantly.

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please contact the Food Pantry of Waukesha County (262-542-5300), Friends with Food (262-409-9282), the Waukesha Salvation Army (262-547-7367), or reach out to Pastors Amy or Susan.

FUMC FOUNDATION FACT

Did you know that First United Methodist Church has a Memorial Foundation, overseen by a volunteer committee? The Memorial Foundation was established in 1971 to support the mission and ministry of FUMC. It takes in memorial gifts, bequests, and estate gifts and then conservatively invests the funds until the church has a need that can't be met through other means. This year, 2026, is the 55th anniversary of our Memorial Foundation (our 50th anniversary occurred during covid) and to celebrate this, the committee will present a Foundation-Fact-of-the-Month for each month of 2026. If you have questions, please contact FUMC's business manager at fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org.

HEALING HEARTS GRANT AWARD!

Healing Hearts, a building partner of FUMC, recently applied for a grant through Potawatomi Casino Heart on Canal Street. This grant is only available to nonprofits that primarily serve children. After an application process, nonprofit organizations are selected to be invited to the event, but no winners are announced until the event "lottery drawing". Potawatomi selects 30 winning nonprofits and each is awarded \$24,000.00. Healing Hearts was one of the winners this year! We are truly grateful for this gift.

Potawatomi also raised \$722,380.00 from this event. The money is raised from the community playing Heart on Canal Street Bingo. This year, the Potawatomi celebrated its 30th anniversary awarding these grants. As a community, we are truly blessed to have companies in the area that give back to those in need.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Did you know that the Wisconsin state prison system uses torture as a form of discipline? It's true. According to the United Nations, keeping people in solitary confinement for longer than 14 days is considered torture.

On **February 3** at 6:00 p.m., SOPHIA is hosting speaker, Talib Akbar, who will share his experiences while incarcerated and discuss what we, as people of faith, can do to protect incarcerated individuals from this inhumane practice.

This is a hybrid event. You can register by visiting SOPHIA Waukesha, or you may see Susan Mingesz, who can register for you.

If you would like to get involved in social justice work, please see Susan Mingesz.

The Church and Society team meets the **fourth Monday of every month** at 2pm, room 216. For more information, contact Susan Mingesz at smingesz@gmail.com.

PIECEMAKERS

Join this quilting group on the **1st Tuesday** and **3rd Thursday of each month**, from 9am-12pm, room 123, creating quilted items from donated fabric while enjoying the camaraderie of each other's company. No particular skills needed. There are tasks for everyone. For more information, contact Judy Patti (judypatti@wi.rr.com).

YARN TWISTERS

Yarn Twisters meet **every Tuesday**, 9:30am, room 209, to knit and crochet, making gifts of comfort and warmth for our church family and community. All are welcome. We will teach you how to knit and crochet. We have supplies to get you started. For more information, contact Joyce Collins (jac1977@wi.rr.com).

LIVING FAITH TODAY

Living Faith Today is a discussion group for adults each Sunday after worship in room 216, exploring current events through the lens of faith and how it relates to the world around us. Each week a new topic is discussed. Members of the class come and go as their life allows. This is a hybrid class. Contact Jenny (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) for a Zoom link.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Calling all fellas! The Men's Breakfast group meets every **second Sunday of the month**, 10:45-11:45am. This ongoing group offers fellowship with other men, good food, and good discussions about being a man of faith in today's society. Each month a different discussion leader brings a topic for the group to discuss.

STAYING CONNECTED

We are blessed with a dedicated, giving, and active community so there is always a lot going on!

Did you know there are multiple ways to keep updated on FUMC happenings?

- The back of the weekly bulletin lists upcoming opportunities and linked to our homepage during the weekend of service and for several days after (<https://fumcwaukesha.org/>).
- We also keep the homepage updated with a snapshot of activities and opportunities to serve. And the ENGAGE tab (<https://fumcwaukesha.org/engage>) lists all of the current opportunities.
- If you would like to "follow us" we post almost every day (sometimes a couple times a day).

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha/>

Instagram (<https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha/>,

In order for our posts to make it into your feed, first follow our page and then regularly like, comment, or share our posts. Or you can visit our page and see all of the recent posts.

- We post our live services and clips to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@fumcwaukesha6341>). And past services and clips are linked on our website: <https://fumcwaukesha.org/services>.

If you like to be online less:

- We post opportunities on the large bulletin board in the church hallway and run announcements during Sunday mornings on the TV screens in the hallway.
- And of course, if you have a question or cannot locate the information you need, contact the church office.

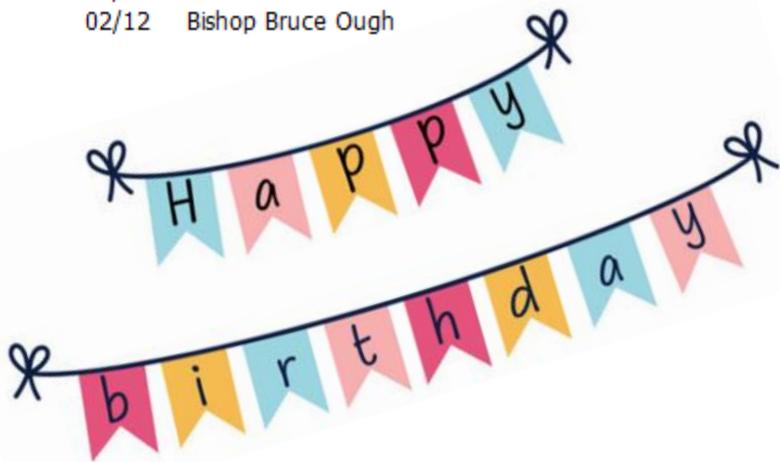
BIRTHDAYS

January Birthdays

01/01	Jeff Burrie	01/13	Wayne Dowling
01/01	Chris Hansen	01/14	Mike Jipson
01/02	Dean Sossaman	01/15	Sherrie Evans
01/03	Dave Greenwald	01/15	Colin Brady
01/04	Dan Corrie	01/15	Liz Foley
01/05	Lizzy Venes	01/15	Jan Radabaugh
01/05	Noah Fleetwood	01/16	Cathy Boyler
01/06	Kayleen Kauffman	01/21	Elizabeth Ross
01/07	Dorothea Honn	01/21	Anjana Jones
01/07	Kurt Eisenmann	01/21	Paul Carpenter
01/07	John Gergen	01/22	Sarah Meyrose
01/07	Grayson Shook	01/25	Theo Johnson
01/08	Wendy Muller	01/27	Mary Lou Farmer
01/12	Mary Geiser	01/29	Gary Stevens
01/12	Andrew Mills	01/31	Andy Roberts
01/13	Carl Stebbins	01/31	Steve Byrne

Early February Birthdays

02/01	Katy Monroe
02/01	Janet Frantz
02/01	Cory Campbell
02/01	Patti Fortner
02/03	Melanie Jipson
02/04	Wayne Radabaugh
02/05	Pauline Jaske
02/05	Kristi Magoon
02/06	Don Carpenter
02/09	Mike Tompkins
02/09	Brian Kost Sr.
02/09	Ev Hewitt
02/09	Bud Jaske
02/11	Delilah McMillan
02/11	Pat Gregory
02/12	Clare Lincoln Lewis
02/12	Bishop Bruce Ough



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by **Tuesday, January 27**. Late submissions may not be featured. You can email articles to: Office@fumcwaukesha.org

No email?

Feel free to drop off the information or call the church. 262.542.4256