



First United Methodist Church

Waukesha, Wisconsin • Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



TOWER CHIMES

September 2025

KICKOFF SUNDAY

Touchdown!!! Sunday, **September 7** is KICKOFF SUNDAY! This will be a time to celebrate our community and gear up for our program year! Wear your favorite team colors or jersey. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated during worship. If you are interested in serving, please sign up on the website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

During worship we will also be blessing back-to-school backpacks, briefcases, calendars, and phones. This is not just a blessing for children, but for the whole family of God for this new school year and season of change. There is nothing that should not be blessed. (For those who carry their entire lives on their cell phones, your electronic briefcase is surely worthy of a blessing!)

The celebration continues following worship! You will receive a playbook and be invited to tour the "stadium" to learn more about FUMC's ministry teams. Your favorite tailgating foods will be served! Kickoff Sunday – you won't want to miss it!

UMCOR IS HERE AT FUMC!

In partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), FUMC is serving as a check-in center for the UMCOR emergency response volunteers assisting those impacted by flooding in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties.

This multi-county area suffered two days of heavy rain, measuring 6-10 inches, leading to the worst flash flooding in the region since 2008. To date, 211 helpline phone number has received over 16,000 calls for assistance in Milwaukee alone. The outlying counties are reporting over 3,000 calls.

The WI Conference Disaster Response Coordinators, Alice Franks-Gray and Lynne Blinkenberg, will be using FUMC as a welcome and informational hub for incoming volunteers. While volunteers will not be housed at FUMC, a lead UMCOR facilitator is staying in his RV in our west parking lot. UMCOR's presence will be with us through the month of September but could be here longer, depending on the need.

UMCOR's need for volunteers is constantly evolving. At this time, they are looking for individuals interested in joining trained UMCOR leaders to go out into the field for disaster cleanup. Additional support may be needed at FUMC to greet volunteers and possibly supply and/or serve meals to teams at the end of their workday.

If you are able to share your time with UMCOR in this important relief effort, please contact the church office at (262) 542-4256. Pastor Amy will be coordinating these volunteer efforts.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Rev. Kelly Fowler Liebenstein is celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry in the WI Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Kelly served FUMC for 6 years, 2001-2007.

Her current charges – Our Lord's UMC (New Berlin) and Caldwell UMC (Mukwonago) – will be celebrating Pastor Kelly's ministry at a church picnic at Caldwell UMC on Saturday, **September 20**, 11am – 1pm. All are invited to join in the celebration.

Our Lord's UMC is compiling photos, cards and notes to place in a Memory Box to give to Pastor Kelly. They would like to include heartfelt wishes, words of thanks, and joyful memories from FUMC-Waukesha. Well-wishes can be mailed to Our Lord's UMC, 5000 S. Sunnyslope Rd, New Berlin, 53151 or sent via email to office@ourlordsumc.org. The deadline is **September 10**.

Let us remember Pastor Kelly and her ministry of grace and presence and offer our gratitude for her service.

FORMING FAITH GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

September brings the return to school and the return to our Sunday Forming Faith programs! We hope everyone will be able to join us for Kickoff Sunday on **September 7**. The children and youth will be room 215 where we will have snacks and an activity and all God's children from all ages can participate.

On **September 14**, we will begin to meet in our children and youth groups for lessons, reflections, and activities. Children in grades Preschool-5 will meet teachers and shepherds in room 215, and youth in grades 6-12 not involved with the confirmation program will gather in the room 211 (aka the "youth" or "gathering" room).

This season, the children will engage deeper with the Bible passages that we explore in worship through stories, games, and activities, focusing on *Joy in the Journey*. We will explore all the different types of journeys we may encounter in life: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Join us **September 28** for a youth walking tour of downtown Waukesha to learn some local history and then get some ice cream during the Forming Faith hour!

If you have any questions regarding the children and youth Forming Faith programs, please contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org).

CONFIRMATION

The FUMC confirmation program will be starting soon. This 8-month youth ministry program incorporates Christian education, worship, service, fellowship, and discipleship to help young people grow in faith and experience God's gift of community. An invitation to participate in the program was mailed to FUMC 7th and 8th graders and those youth who haven't yet been confirmed.

There will be an introductory informational meeting for the confirmation program on Sunday, **September 14** in Room 213, following worship. We will discuss the confirmation curriculum, schedule, and expectations. After this meeting, parents and youth can decide if completing confirmation this year is right for you or if you'd like to participate at a later date.

As part of the confirmation program, each student will work with an adult mentor for every step of the confirmation journey. We use adult mentors to help build intergenerational relationships and help our young people develop a vocabulary of faith.

Finding a mentor: We encourage the confirmation student (with the help of a parent, if needed) to ask an adult in the church if they are interested in serving as a confirmation mentor. Mentors should be active participants in the life of the ministry of FUMC. MENTORS WILL BE TRAINED, but really only need to know/do three things: 1. Love God. 2. Love youth. 3. Show up.

Mentors can be relatives (aunt, uncle, grandparent) as long as they are active participants of FUMC. A parent cannot serve as a mentor for their child, but they can be a mentor for someone else's child.

Confirmation will begin on Sunday, **September 28**, following the 9:30am worship service, during the Forming Faith time in Room 213. The class will end at 1pm and will include a light lunch.

The Rite of Confirmation worship service will be Sunday, **May 17, 2026**, during the 9:30am worship service. Before that time, confirmation students will make the decision about their next steps of discipleship and if that will include official membership in The United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact Rev. Susan (susan.bresser@fumcwaukesha.org).

FORMING FAITH GROUPS FOR ADULTS

Forming Faith is a life-long journey. We have opportunities for adults to engage in study and reflect on our life of faith. We will continue to offer the *Living Faith Today* 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.

We will also be offering a three-week book study on stewardship in October. More information will be posted on that soon. In addition, the Men's Breakfast group meets every 2nd Sunday of the month, following worship. If you are looking for a weekday option, we offer a Wednesday morning Bible Study that meets every Wednesday, 9:30-11am, in room 216. The Circle of Sisters, a monthly women's ministry, meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

We pray that these opportunities will enrich our faith community and strengthen us to be the church in the world. If you have any questions about our adult groups or are interested in studying a specific biblical or Christian life topic, please contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or JoAnn Wright (giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net).

"RUNNING FOR WATER"

Dust off your running/walking shoes and sign up for a good cause! The "Running for Water" walk/run event, **September 6**, 10am at Frame Park, is a fundraiser for the Navajo Water Project. This project is dedicated to bringing clean, running hot and cold water, along with solar power, to families on the Navajo Nation. For more information visit communitylivingspirit.com/running-for-water-walk-run or contact Susan Mingesz (smingesz@gmail.com).

PATHFINDERS – TWO SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Pathfinders of Milwaukee brings safety, hope and healing to youth facing homelessness, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, crisis and other trauma through innovative and transformational services. FUMC's Missions Team is coordinating the preparation and serving 20 guests for a Pathfinders dinner. We need help preparing and delivering dishes that will be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, **September 10**, by 3:30pm. We also need 3-4 individuals to serve the meal at Pathfinders (4200 N Holton St., Unit 405, Milwaukee, WI). The serving team will meet at the church at 3:45pm for carpooling. More information and sign-up are available in the church hallway. For more information, contact Susan Unger (skunger51@gmail.com).

Additionally, we will make lunches for Pathfinders from 9-10am on Friday, **September 26** in the Asbury Room. Thanks to the 14 people who created lunches for the youth and young adults in a record-breaking 15 minutes at our August event! Can we do it again in September? For more information, contact Kristi Magoon (kristimagoon@prodigy.net).

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

There will be a mandatory Safe Sanctuaries training on Thursday, **September 11** or Tuesday, **October 7**. Volunteers working with children and youth will review FUMC's policies intended to keep all children and youth safe from harm. *You are required to attend only one of the two dates offered.* The first meeting is a **hybrid meeting, Thursday, September 11, 6:30-8pm** in room 216. The second option is **online only Tuesday, October 7, 6:30-8pm**. Sign-up on the church website or by contacting Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org).

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CHOCOLATE

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil, on Sunday, **September 14** 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.

XYZ (XTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

XYZ provides fun social activities, educational engagement, spiritual growth, trips, retreats, concerts, and opportunities for service. Both members of FUMC and the wider community are welcome to participate! Our XYZ retreat is upon us! Philip Chard is returning as the retreat leader September 14-16 at Pine Lake. His topic will be *Healing Ourselves: Pathways to Emotional Wellbeing and Spiritual Renewal*.

Also note that the regular XYZ potluck/programming will resume on Thursday, **October 9**. Contact Veronica Radowicz with any questions (vradowicz@gmail.com).

STOCKHOLDERS LUNCH 2025

Thank you to all the people who supported this year's Mission Lock-In by purchasing shares of stock. The Stockholders' Lunch will take place on Sunday, **September 21**, 12pm, Dining Room. RSVP by **September 7** to Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) or Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org). Stories, witnessing, and photos will be shared.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

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.

Circle of Sisters will begin a new book study on Monday, **September 22**, in the Asbury Room, 7pm, discussing *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Books are \$12 and available in the church hallway. Don't let the cost prohibit you from participating, financial assistance is available. No worries if you haven't had a chance to read the chapter or have not attended prior discussions, ALL sisters are welcome. Contact Cheryl Printz (cheryl.printz@fumcwaukesha.org) or Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) if you have any questions.

CREATIVE PALS

Creative Pals, a monthly gathering of people taking dedicated time to work on a variety of projects, will meet on Saturday, **September 27**, 10am–4pm, Room 209. Whether your project is scrapbooking, crocheting, organizing, or crafting, this is a place where you can get away and work on it. If you would like more information, please contact JoAnn Wright (giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net) or Lori Tompkins (lori.tompkins@centurytel.net).

FUN & FELLOWSHIP AT THE FIRESIDE THEATRE

Do you love musical theatre and great food? Join a group to see *Oklahoma!* on Saturday, **October 25**. Tickets are \$90.29 (which includes a meal, the performance, and gratuity). If you are interested, please contact Edith (edieconnor@hotmail.com) or Katie (curlyhairkatie@gmail.com) by **September 15**. It is sure to be a good time!

PIECEMAKERS

Join this quilting group on the **1st Tuesday** and **3rd Thursday** of each month, from 9am-noon, room 123, creating quilted items from donated fabric while enjoying the camaraderie of each other's company. No particular skills involved. 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. Join us for conversation and fun. For more information, contact Joyce Collins (jac1977@wi.rr.com).

FUMC GARDEN MINISTRY

Thank you to the group of dedicated volunteers who watered and weeded FUMC garden beds this summer! *We are still looking for volunteers to help when they are able.* Contact Betty Mulloy (bettymulloy@gmail.com) to be a part of caring for God's creation at our beautiful location.

LOAVES & FISHES

Great news! The Loaves & Fishes Coordinator position at the Hope Center has been filled! Thank you to all who expressed interest. The Missions Team will continue FUMC's involvement in the Loaves & Fishes program, so look out for opportunities to contribute to those meals in the future.

FUMC PICNIC RECAP

Our FUMC August picnic was a great success! Close to 100 folks joined together at Bethesda Park for a wonderful time of good food, great music, and joyful fellowship. The FUMC picnic planning team would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the picnic. Special shout-out to Bill Peterson for serenading us! Mark your calendars for **August 2, 2026**, for next year's picnic!


SUMMER STUDY RECAP

Our hybrid Summer Study Series focused on a Biblical Perspective on Immigration ended in August after rich discussion and exploration of several Bible passages. Thank you to the co-facilitators Jenny Daugherty, Dorothea Honn, JoAnn Wright, and Jim Bickel for their energy and preparation for each session. The class used the curriculum provided by the UMC General Board of Church & Society as a guide to structure the discussions. The first two classes focused on Old Testament passages from Genesis, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Ezekiel, and Ruth. Topics included radical hospitality, love for the sojourner, and the church's role in immigration justice. The final class explored the New Testament focusing on Matthew, 1 Peter, and Romans. We discussed Jesus as the refugee and Jesus as the outsider. And we looked closely at focusing solely on legal status as the metric for our morality. We closed with considering migration as an important metaphor for what it means to be a Christian and readily embracing the foreigner, sojourner, and stranger.

OFFERING REMINDER!

Some gentle reminders that will help our finance team regarding donations, please:

- Please put your envelope number on your check. Your envelope number can be found on the statement recently mailed to you.
- Be sure to indicate where you'd like your donation to go; if not indicated we default to the FUMC Operating Budget. If you are giving to Capital Campaign, Mission Trip, Hope Center, or other specific need, please note this on your check or enclose a note (if your check is drawn from a retirement or brokerage account let your trustee/broker know, they should be able to do this.)
- *Your checks must always be made to First United Methodist for us to deposit it* (regardless of the entity you are donating to). Checks made to UMCOR, Hope Center, Pathfinders and others cannot be deposited by us!
- The year you donate is the year you can deduct the donation! If you donate in 2025 for 2026 the donation will show on your 2025 statement; if you intend to deduct the donation on your taxes it must be taken in 2025! Our accounting system will note that the donation is for pledge year 2026 if you have noted that.
- See envelope example below – *thank you!*

		ENVELOPE #	
MY LORD'S SHARE <small>of that which HE first gave me</small>		Budget	\$ <u>AMOUNT</u>
		Other:	
		<u>SPECIAL FUND 1</u>	\$ <u>AMOUNT</u>
		<u>SPECIAL FUND 2</u>	\$ <u>AMOUNT</u>
			\$ _____
			\$ _____
Name <u>YOUR NAME</u>			
First United Methodist Church			TOTAL
WAUKESHA, WI		TOTAL	\$ <u>AMOUNT</u>

FUMC WEBSITE

Don't have social media but want to check out upcoming events and pictures from previous events? Check out our website and the ENGAGE tab: <https://fumcwaukesha.org/engage>.

September Birthdays

09/01	Pam Shook	09/19	Marion Eales
09/01	Todd Loehrl	09/21	Bill Belmer Sr.
09/02	Mae Luczak	09/22	David Jensen
09/02	Erin Blum	09/22	Shirley Chilson
09/04	Sydney Gergen	09/23	Kevin Hinshelwood
09/05	Emmi Lien	09/23	Linda Howitt
09/06	Sharon Bloss	09/24	Steve Carpenter
09/06	Lou Schneckloth	09/25	Mark Blum
09/06	Chris Nesbitt	09/26	Mary Taft
09/06	Lenora Venes	09/27	Susan Salmins
09/07	Arlo Corrie	09/27	Brad Thornton
09/07	Rich Nickels	09/28	Kate Trovato
09/10	Anita Richardson	09/28	Brian Lenz
09/12	Kent Johnson	09/29	Sadie Byrne
09/14	Rob Raasch	09/29	Teddy Celikay
09/15	Mary Kost	09/30	Cheryl Minor
09/17	Heidi Zimmermann	09/30	Joe Trovato
09/18	Emma Mayer	09/30	Betty Moore
09/18	Chris Ramsey		

Early October Birthdays

10/01	Jon Fingland
10/02	Courtney Klepp
10/02	Judah Masiakowski
10/03	Terri Woerpel
10/04	Tom Bentley
10/04	Mailen Fingland
10/04	Debbie Ebert
10/06	Maverick Foley
10/07	Karen Burrie
10/07	Tyler Jones
10/09	Tami Haupt
10/10	Tim Sears
10/11	Evan Marcks
10/11	Kathleen Allison-Channing
10/12	Bonnie Marcks
10/12	Cynthia Stevens
10/12	Jana Otto
10/13	Nancy Guerrieri
10/14	Scott Meyrose
10/15	Jeff Ihrcke
10/15	Kate Theesfeld



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by **Tuesday, September 23**.
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