



First United Methodist Church

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



TOWER CHIMES

September 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be celebrated on **September 6**. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

FUMC'S NEW MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE!

Hello First United Methodist Church! This is Rev. Susan Haller, your soon to be Minister of Congregational Care! I am a deacon in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, and I have primarily been appointed to healthcare chaplain ministries since my ordination in 2012, though I have also served in a number of local congregations as well.

I served as a parish nurse while in seminary and I have been appointed to chaplain ministries in extended care facilities, hospices and hospital settings since 2009 when I graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. More recently, in 2022, I completed the Spiritual Guidance Certification Program at the Siena Retreat Center, and I am very excited to serve among you in a ministry that will allow me to integrate my chaplaincy skills with my spiritual sensibilities in this flourishing congregation. I am delighted to be appointed here as of September 21, 2026.



In a way, serving here feels a bit like coming home for me. My husband Tom and I lived in New England for about 10 years after we were married, and then a couple of years after our son was born, we decided to move back to our roots and family-life in Wisconsin. At that time, I took a job with the Waukesha Visiting Nurse Association, so I have traveled many roads and highways in this county, though much has changed since the early 1990's!

Tom and I currently live in Wauwatosa with our chocolate lab Mavis, and we are fortunate enough to have our son Rahn, his wife Kestrel, and our precious one-year-old grandson living nearby in Bay View. As you can imagine, our grandson Klip is the light of our lives, and we spend a good amount of our free time engaging with him. We also spend time reading, socializing with friends, enjoying time outside in nature, frequenting Green Lake during boating season and savoring good cups of coffee year-round.

I am grateful to be appointed to your congregation, and I look forward to getting to know all of you as we engage in ministry with one another. I am excited to discover the ways in which we can grow together spiritually and care for one another as siblings in Christ.

May God bless our ministry together,
Deacon Susan

ORGAN REPAIR

There is \$16,000 left to raise to make the organ fully functional! Please consider making a gift today by indicating 'organ repair' on your check, in any amount, and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. You can also give safely online. The deadline to participate is **September 20** when we will celebrate our fundraising efforts with CAKE following worship. Support this project by becoming an organ donor!

PATHFINDERS

Lunches will be prepared and delivered to Pathfinders of Milwaukee for 40 youth and young adults on **Friday, September 11**, Asbury Room, 9-10am. Join this fun crew to make and pack 40 lunches! For more information, please contact Kristi Magoon (krisitmagoon@prodigy.net).

COLLEGE CONNECTION

Do you remember heading off to college? The excitement? The nervousness? Do you remember how nice it was to have mail in your college mailbox? Real letters and cards delivered by the US Postal Service? It probably made you smile to know that someone from home was thinking about you. If you would like to send cards/notes to those in college from FUMC, please contact Kathy Sewell-Jensen (sewellaw@yahoo.com), who manages our college/young adult contacts. Let them know you're thinking of them, offering support and encouragement. If you don't think the church office has your college student's latest address, please send it to Kathy to help get our list up to date!

KICK-OFF SUNDAY: GAME ON!

Hut... hut... HIKE! It's that time of year again – KICK-OFF SUNDAY!!! It's time to kick off a brand-new program year at First United Methodist Church, and we're celebrating with a little football spirit!

Join us **Sunday, September 13** as we gather for worship and **bring your backpack for a special blessing**. And we do mean every backpack: preschoolers, students, teachers, and anyone else who carries one. This is a blessing for the whole family of God as we start a new school year, and there is nothing that should not be blessed. Everyone will receive a backpack tag: *You and me? We're neighbors*.

After worship we'll head into the Asbury Room for games, food, and fellowship. Whether you're a football fanatic or can't tell a touchdown from a first down, there's a place for you on our team! One church. One team. One great season ahead. So put on your favorite team colors, lace up your imaginary cleats, and join us for Kick-Off Sunday! Game on! 

(Worshipping online? Keep your backpack close while you watch. If you'd like a copy of the liturgy for an at-home blessing, contact the church office.)

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, CHOCOLATE & OLIVE OIL

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil on **Sunday, September 13** 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.

FIRESIDE MUSICAL – “COME FROM AWAY”

Join us on **Saturday, October 24** at The Fireside to see *Come from Away*, a beautiful musical based on a true story from 9/11. This show takes you into the heart of the remarkable story of 7,000 stranded airline passengers and the small town of Gander, Newfoundland that welcomed them. Contact Edith Connor (edieconnor@hotmail.com) or Katie Connor (curlyhairkatie@gmail.com) **before September 13** for more info.

XYZ

The annual XYZ Retreat is right around the corner, **September 13-15** at Pine Lake Methodist Camp. Our retreat leader is Philip Chard and the topic this year is *Happiness: What Is It and How Do We Grow It?*

The regular monthly Potluck and Program will resume on **Thursday, October 8** in the Asbury Room with a speaker from The Waukesha Public Library. You are welcome to arrive between 11:15-11:30am with serving beginning at 11:45am. Contact Veronica Radowicz (vradowicz@gmail.com) with any XYZ questions.

YARN TWISTERS - FALL STARTUP AND GIFTS OF WARMTH COLLECTION

Yarn Twisters will start again on **Tuesday, September 15**, 9:30am, room 209. We are an active group that make a variety of articles that we donate to the community. This fall we will start making gifts of warmth with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens of all sizes. If you are new to this craft we can teach you the basics of both crocheting and knitting! **Yarn Twisters is also collecting gifts of warmth, purchased or homemade.** Place your donations in the basket in the main hallway or bring to room 209. This collection will run through mid-November. Contact Joyce Collins with question at jac1977@wi.rr.com.

FORMING FAITH F.U.N.!

We are excited to begin Forming Faith this year, a weekly opportunity for children ages 0–18 to grow in their faith and discover how God's Word speaks into their everyday lives!

Beginning **September 20**, we'll have four classrooms every Sunday, with caring teachers ready to teach, encourage, and share God's Word with your children following the worship service. In every lesson, kids will interact with the Bible, helping them navigate the stories of scripture and begin connecting what they learn to their own lives.

Our hope is that as your children grow, they will have F.U.N. and become: **F**amiliar with God and the stories of the Bible; **U**nderstand the stories of scripture more deeply; and **N**avigate real life using scripture as their guide. We're excited to partner with you as we help the next generation know God and learn to navigate life with faith.

Please register your child before September 20 using the form available through the QR code (on the right) . If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Joel Joel.Muiller@FUMCWaukesha.org).



FALL WORSHIP

You are the Light of the World ... let your light shine before others. - Mt 5.14-16 We are not simply keeping the lights on; we're keeping Christ's Light shining.

Beginning **September 20**, our fall worship theme will be **We'll Keep the Light On**. Our 8-week series will begin by answering the question *who is our neighbor?* We'll listen to people from different faith traditions, different racial and cultural backgrounds, and different life experiences because every neighbor has a story and every neighbor shines a Light. Jesus teaches us that our neighbor is not simply the person who lives next door. Our neighbor is the person God places in our path. And when we encounter our neighbor, Jesus calls us to do more than tolerate our differences; he calls us to love. The second half of our series will focus on the stewardship of the Light that shines; including ours, as we aim the spotlight on our United Methodist connections, recognizing what we do to keep the Light on. We will be invited to respond to the question *what part of God's Light has been entrusted to FUMC?* All our conversations will take place on the 'front porch,' a place of hospitality and connection. During the 8-week series, we will consider our responsibilities as people of faith and participants in ministry at FUMC to 1) learn, 2) listen, and 3) discern what's being asked of us: be a neighbor, participate in love in action, and share our abundance.

OPA! SUNDAY SUPPERS ARE BACK!

Sunday Suppers are returning on **September 27**, 5pm! Our first supper of the season will take us on a trip to Greece with a Greek Feast - delicious food, great flavors, and time to fellowship. Everyone is invited to bring a Greek-inspired dish to share. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet coming soon so we can see what delicious dishes are making their way to our Greek feast. Good food. Good fellowship. Great fun. Opa!

CIRCLE OF SISTERS RETURNS SEPTEMBER 28

All sisters are invited to join the Circle as we share and connect in a small group setting. We will read and reflect on the book, *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline* by Lauren F. Winner. A charming, sometimes humorous, easy read, this book explores the rich traditions and spiritual practices of Judaism and looks to discover what both Judaism and Christianity might learn from each other. Come for a time of lively discussion, prayer, support, and fellowship. The first session begins **September 28**, 7pm, and sessions continue the fourth Monday of each month. Books available in the Asbury Room, \$7 each. For more information, contact Cindy Peterson (crexpeterson@gmail.com) or Betty Mulloy (bettymulloy@gmail.com).



BANNED BOOK CLUB IS BACK!

What happens when a book becomes too dangerous to read? Join for a lively discussion about the debate over book banning in the United States. Why are books being challenged? Who decides what we can read? And what stories are we at risk of losing? There are two options to join the discussion. The online discussion will take place **October 7**, 7pm and the in-person option is **October 8**, 7pm, room 216. Sign-ups to come on the FUMC website. Our featured book is *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo, currently #5 on the banned books list. Set in 1950s San Francisco, this powerful coming-of-age story follows Lily as she wrestles with her identity, her family, her Chinese-American heritage, and the fear and secrecy surrounding being gay in an era when simply being yourself could come at a tremendous cost. Bring your questions. Bring your opinions. And get ready for a conversation about what happens when someone else decides which stories are “too much” for us to read.

WAUKESHA UNLOCKED – WE NEED YOU!

Help us welcome visitors and share a little of our church’s story! We’re looking for two volunteers for each two-hour shift on **Saturday, October 10**, 10am–4pm. Your mission is simple: greet visitors, point them toward the timeline, and guide them to the sanctuary to enjoy a video about the history of our church. No church history or tour guide experience required—just a friendly smile and a willingness to help! Sign up online or in the Asbury Room. Come be part of making Waukesha Unlocked a fun and welcoming experience .

FUMC “FOUNDATION FACT” FOR SEPTEMBER

Happy 55th anniversary FUMC Memorial Foundation! The Foundation accepts memorial gifts, bequests and estate gifts which enable FUMC to cover unexpected expenses and support ministry opportunities. Ensuring First Church is here for the next generation motivates many to add FUMC Memorial Foundation to their Will or as a beneficiary to an IRA or life insurance policy. There are usually tax benefits to heirs when portions of an estate are designated to non-profits such as the church. Naming the Memorial Foundation in your Will, either as a percentage of the estate or a dollar amount, enables a potentially larger gift than can be made at any other time. FUMC has used these types of gifts for new ministries, transformative capital projects and missions. There is a legacy of generosity within our congregation! For more information on ways to give to the FUMC Memorial Foundation, contact FUMC’s business manager at fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org.

FUMC CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOW-UP

FUMC gathered on August 9 for our 2nd Annual Church Picnic, celebrating with good food, laughter, and fellowship. The rain changed our plans, but didn’t dampen the spirit of the day!

About 100 people gathered inside the church to enjoy an incredible feast prepared by some very dedicated pit masters. This year, a whopping 181 pounds of meat was smoked for more than 20 hours, including chicken breast, brisket, and pork . The result was a mouthwatering spread that had everyone coming back for more!

Our very own Pastor Joel took his commitment to barbecue to the next level, camping out in the church parking lot the night before to monitor his smoker. And Tim and Michele McCawley also brought their barbecue skills to the celebration. With two teams turning out delicious smoked meats and sauce, we may have witnessed the beginning of a First United Methodist Church barbecue rivalry. Only time will tell!

Of course, the picnic was about much more than barbecue. It was a wonderful opportunity for our church family to slow down, share a meal, catch up with one another, and simply enjoy being together. A big thank you to everyone who helped prepare the food, set up, and clean up, and to all who came out to make the Second Annual Picnic a success. A special thank you to the planning team: Katie Connor, Jenny Daugherty, Sarah Meyrose, Veronica Radowicz, and Susan Unger. Rain or shine, we know how to celebrate summer—and we’re already looking forward to next year’s picnic!

CHURCH CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATE

FUMC’s annual Church Conference will be held on **Thursday, December 3**, 6pm in the Dining Room. This will be a hybrid opportunity, but for those in person, a light supper will be served. Church reports will be received, salaries will be established for pastors and staff, the ministry of FUMC will be evaluated, and our faith community will be celebrated.

BIRTHDAYS

September Birthdays

09/01	Pam Shook	09/23	Kevin Hinshelwood
09/01	Todd Loehr	09/24	Steve Carpenter
09/02	Mae Luczak	09/25	Mark Blum
09/02	Erin Blum	09/27	Brad Thornton
09/04	Sydney Gergen	09/28	Kate Trovato
09/05	Emmi Roso	09/28	Brian Lenz
09/06	Lou Schneckloth	09/29	Teddy Celikay
09/06	Chris Nesbitt	09/29	Sadie Byrne
09/06	Lenora Venes	09/30	John Vitale
09/07	Rich Nickels	09/30	Cheryl Minor
09/07	Arlo Corrie	09/30	Joe Trovato
09/10	Anita Richardson	09/30	Betty Moore
09/12	Kent Johnson		
09/14	Lily Hodach		
09/15	Mary Kost		
09/16	Asher Venes		
09/17	Heidi Zimmermann		
09/18	Chris Ramsey		
09/18	Emma Mayer		
09/19	Pete Kreitzer		
09/19	Virginia Kreitzer		
09/22	Shirley Chilson		
09/22	David T Jensen		

Early October Birthdays

10/01	Erica Roberts
10/01	Jon Fingland
10/01	Allison Klage
10/02	Judah Masiakowski
10/02	Courtney Klepp
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	Tom Vigo
10/11	Kathleen Allison-Channing
10/11	Evan Marcks
10/12	Cynthia Stevens
10/12	Bonnie Marcks
10/12	Jana Otto
10/13	Nancy Guerrieri
10/14	Scott Meyrose
10/15	Kate Theesfeld
10/15	Jeff Ihrcke



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by **Tuesday, September 22**. Late submissions may not be featured. You can email articles to: Office@fumcwaukesha.org

No email? Feel free to drop off information or call the church office at 262.542.4256

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES @ FUMC

PIECEMAKERS

1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday, 9am-12pm, room 123

contact Judy judypatti@wi.rr.com

Join this quilting group. We utilize donated fabric while enjoying the camaraderie of each other's company. No particular skills needed. There are tasks for everyone.

YARN TWISTERS - **NEW SCHEDULE**

Every Tuesday 9:30am, 9:30-11:30am, room 209

contact Joyce jac1977@wi.rr.com

Yarn Twisters meets during the school year, starting September 15.

We are a fun group of knitters and crocheters who love to meet new people. We can provide help with projects and even enjoy teaching beginners.

LIVING FAITH TODAY

Every Sunday after worship, room 216

contact Tony tony.linz52@gmail.com

A discussion group for adults, 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.

For Zoom link jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

2nd Sunday of the month, 10:45-11:45am, room 123

contact Dirk dwilken1@wi.rr.com

Calling all fellas! 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.

XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest)

2nd Thursday each month (Sept. - June), Asbury Room

contact Veronica vradowicz@gmail.com

Designed for the 50+ crowd yet open to all. Bring a dish to pass anytime after 11:15am. Potluck lunch begins at 11:45am with a program to follow after lunch.

CREATIVE PALS

3rd Saturday each month, 10am-2pm, room 209 contact Debbie debmarlu64@gmail.com or Lori lorirtompkins@gmail.com

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.

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Every last Sunday of the month, 5pm, Asbury Room

contact jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org

Each month a different cuisine (Italian, Mexican, German, etc.) shared - dishes and conversation. Sign up in the hallway.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

4th Monday of every month, 2pm, room 216

contact Susan smingesz@gmail.com

Each month a different topic is discussed that centers around Social Justice Action.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

4th Monday of every month, room 216

contact Jenny jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org

A women's ministry of fellowship, discussion, and worship to meet the unique needs of women.

MULTIPLE WAYS TO KEEP UPDATED ON FUMC HAPPENINGS

ONLINE OPTIONS: FUMC WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Worship services online** (live services 9:30am) <https://www.youtube.com/@fumcwaukesha6341> or view past services <https://fumcwaukesha.org/services>
- **Weekly worship bulletin** is linked to **FUMC homepage** each week <https://fumcwaukesha.org/>
- **ENGAGE tab on website** contains snapshots of activities & opportunities to serve <https://fumcwaukesha.org/engage>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha> **Instagram:** <https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha/>
For FUMC posts to make it into your feed, first follow our page, then regularly like, comment, or share our posts.

EVENTS NOT POSTED ONLINE are on the large bulletin board in the church hallway and announcements during Sunday mornings on the TV screens in the hallway.