



First United Methodist Church

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



TOWER CHIMES

July 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be celebrated on **July 5**. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

FUMC STAFF CHANGES

Celebrating Cheryl Minor

The church staff will continue to transition as we recognize the retirement of Cheryl Minor, our Minister of Congregational Care, effective July 7. Cheryl and Barry will continue to be members of FUMC but will enjoy our community as new retirees! We will celebrate Cheryl's ministry on **Sunday, July 5**, honoring her faithful service and the strong emotional and spiritual support she has offered to our community for almost seven years. If you wish to offer congratulations, cards and notes can be mailed to the church or placed in the basket during our fellowship time on July 5.

Honoring Cheryl Minor

Please consider donating to Pine Lake Camp's *Everyone Gets to Touch the Water* fundraising campaign as a way of honoring both Cheryl Minor and Pastor Amy Celikay. The hope is to raise enough funds to increase accessibility to the beach and the waterfront, allowing EVERYONE to get to touch the water (making the boardwalk to the beach more accessible, expanding the deck near the lake, and providing a ramp/rollout mat on the sand to the water). You can place your gift in the offering plate during worship or mail to the church office. Checks can be made payable to FUMC, with 'Pine Lake Waterfront' on the memo line. You can also give safely online on the church website (<https://fumcwaukesha.org/>). Please make sure to designate your gift 'Pine Lake Waterfront.'

Welcoming Pastor Joel Mueller

Bishop Dan Schwerin has appointed Pastor Joel Mueller (*pronounced Miller*) as FUMC's new associate pastor, effective July 1. Pastor Joel will resume the responsibilities of the Minister of Discipleship. We will officially welcome Pastor Joel and family on **Sunday, July 12**, both in worship and during fellowship time.

Joel was born and raised in the greater Kansas City area. He graduated from Central Methodist University in Fayette, MO in 2017 with a degree in Religion and Church Leadership. For the past two years, he has served as pastor of three rural United Methodist Churches in southwest Wisconsin. This fall, he begins seminary at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He is pursuing ordination as an elder in The United Methodist Church.

Joel met his wife Candice in 2014, and they married in 2017. Candice was also raised in the Kansas City area and currently works for the Realtors Association of South-Central Wisconsin in Madison. Their 3-yr old daughter Peyton keeps them on their toes with her love of coloring, making messes, and helping clean up.

The Mueller family is excited to join the Waukesha community and looks forward to getting to know FUMC and her people.

If you have any questions regarding these staff changes, please contact Pastor Susan (susan.bresser@fumcwaukesha.org) or SPRC co-chairs, Melissa Freiberg (gmfreiberg@gmail.com) or Dana Meredith (danameredith3@gmail.com).

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, CHOCOLATE & OLIVE OIL

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil on **Sunday, July 12** 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.

PATHFINDERS

Join in the fun with the FUMC crew who make lunches every month for Pathfinders of Milwaukee - no experience necessary, just a caring heart. We'll meet in the Asbury Room on **Wednesday, July 15, 9am** to make and pack 40 bagged lunches to be delivered that day. Also, watch for a dinner service opportunity to return in August!

Pathfinders History Moment: Pathfinders formed in 1970 as a shelter for homeless youth on Milwaukee's East side by members of Plymouth Church and UWM faculty and students. They provide critical services to a very vulnerable population including a safe space to study, assistance in finding safe housing, clinical services for those with mental health and drug issues, clothing and food. Please contact Kristi Magoon (krisitmagoon@prodigy.net) or Susan Unger (skunger51@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning more.

FUMC SUMMER BOOK CLUB

The July Faith in Fiction book selection is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. This beautiful book is a quiet but deeply moving novel told as a letter from an aging Iowa pastor, John Ames, to his young son. Knowing he may not live long enough to see his son grow up, Ames reflects on family history, faith, love, forgiveness, and the mysteries of everyday life. Thoughtful, lyrical, and rich with spiritual insight, *Gilead* invites readers to find beauty and meaning in ordinary moments. Sign up to join us at Cafe De Arts for a rich discussion **July 23, 10am - or online at 7pm**. Sign up for either discussion on our website [First United Methodist Church of Waukesha: Summer Book Club July 2026](#)

XYZ ANNUAL RETREAT

Though XYZ potlucks are on summer holiday, we do want you to mark your calendars for the annual XYZ Retreat, **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?* Join us for this fun, relaxing and informative time of fellowship. For registration forms and more information contact Veronica Radowicz (vradowicz@gmail.com).

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Sunday Suppers will resume on September 27. Join us then for a delightful Greek feast!

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP 2026

Prayers and love and blessings to all in our Intergenerational Mission Team who are serving in Minnesota! We look forward to their safe return, their stories of beautifully shared experiences with one another and the community they served, and the understanding that these experiences change lives. For all stockholders, keep the **September 27** Stockholder's Lunch on your calendars as a thank-you for your support and partnership in ministry. Contact Jenny (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) for more information.

FUMC CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendars. Plan to join us for our annual Church Picnic on **Saturday, August 9**, at Bethesda Park! Come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, food, fun, and friendship with our church family. We look forward to spending this special time together and welcoming friends and guests. More details coming soon!

BILL PETERSON'S UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF GIG

Saturday, August 22, 11am-1pm - Bill is teaming up with Mama D's Coffee in Wales (104 W. Main St) to raise awareness and collect financial support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

FUMC "FOUNDATION FACT" FOR JULY

Happy 55th Anniversary FUMC Memorial Foundation! The Foundation accepts memorial gifts, bequests and estate gifts which enable our church to cover unexpected expenses or support mission and ministry opportunities. Bequests are when the church or Memorial Foundation is added to a Will with either a dollar amount or percentage of an estate. Bequests can be undesignated, which enables the Memorial Foundation to invest the funds until needed. Designated bequests are for specific purposes, such as the Dancey Scholarship, supporting music ministry. Judge David Dancey cared deeply about youth and music ministries during his long membership at FUMC. His legacy is a music scholarship that area youth can audition to receive. A group of dedicated volunteers runs this audition process, and we are blessed to enjoy the music of these scholarship recipients during summer worship. If you want more information about naming the Foundation in your Will, please contact Kathy Person, FUMC's business manager, at fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org

BIRTHDAYS

July Birthdays

07/01	Ella Ozier
07/01	Carly Majerus
07/03	Aaron Erkman
07/03	Andy Thelke
07/05	Steve Jensen
07/08	Chris Geiser
07/09	Jan Brady
07/12	Dave Matthias
07/13	Jim Wiegand
07/14	Tina Melzl
07/15	Pat Westphal
07/16	Cindy Peterson
07/16	Tom Riese
07/17	Rev John Farmer
07/18	Sydney Loehrl
07/18	Terry Hernesman
07/19	Joyce Collins
07/21	JoAnn Wright
07/24	Colin Haskey
07/26	Rob Geissler
07/26	Kelsey Campbell
07/27	Russ Brown
07/27	Marj Thien
07/27	Rick Miller
07/28	Kathy Greenwald
07/28	Cindie Joers
07/30	Shirley Gugin

Early August Birthdays

08/01	Karen McCloud
08/03	Daisy Luczak
08/04	Aidan Lincicum
08/05	Laurie Freund
08/05	Gary Ebert
08/07	Carsen Davis
08/07	Ruth Greenwood
08/08	Leon Schwerin
08/09	Raymond Masiakowski
08/09	Leah Trovato
08/09	Rose Andersen
08/09	Greta Hietpas
08/10	Shannon Blum
08/10	Nanc Ihrcke
08/11	Darlene Weiland
08/11	Bob Pelikan
08/13	Chris Gerovac
08/14	Jenny Daugherty
08/15	Alex Guenther
08/15	Sherri Haynes
08/15	Julia Loehrl



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by Tuesday, August 25. 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 - **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

Every second and fourth Tuesday 9:30am – see location below

contact Joyce jac1977@wi.rr.com

Yarn Twister summer schedule begins June 9. We will be meeting on the *second and fourth Tuesday of each month June, July and August*. The second Tuesday we meet in room 209 at church, from 9:30-11:30am. The fourth Tuesday of the month we will meet off site at members' homes. Contact Joyce Collins for those locations if you wish to join us.

We are a fun group of knitter and crocheters who love to meet new people. We can provide help with projects and even enjoy teaching beginners. Contact Joyce Collins jac1977@wi.rr.com

LIVING FAITH TODAY

Every Sunday after worship, room 216

contact JoAnn giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net

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 everyone. Bring a dish to pass by 11:15am. Potluck lunch begins at 11:30am with a program to follow.

CREATIVE PALS

3rd Saturday each month, 10am-4pm, room 209

contact JoAnn giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net 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.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 HAPPENING

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>
- **"Follow Us"** we post almost every day (sometimes a couple of times a day)
- **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.