



First United Methodist Church

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



TOWER CHIMES

March 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be celebrated on **March 1**. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

LENT 2026

The season of Lent is a journey through color: from ashen gray to glorious purple, charcoal shadow to wilderness green, deep crimson to the rainbow of petals in a springtime garden. The word "Lent" refers to the lengthening of sunlight each day, drawing out the colors from the earth. What better guide to this array of color than the artist Henri Matisse, one of the most innovative and influential artists in modern history, celebrated above all as a master colorist.

From his childhood growing up in a small village in France to what he called his 'masterpiece' (the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence), Matisse explored faith and wilderness throughout his life. He once said he liked to pray with a pencil: "At the moment I go every morning to say my prayers, pencil in hand; I stand in front of a pomegranate tree covered in blossom, each flower at a different stage, and I watch their transformation ... filled with admiration for the work of God. Is that not a way of praying?"

We will pray through the season of Lent as the church's magnolia tree at the north entrance begins to blossom. The big, bold, beautiful, bright pink blossoms are so full of promise and such a testament to the belief that spring can break winter's hold. It fills us with admiration for the work of God. Is that not a way of praying?

At each of our Lenten worship services, we will be invited to share how God brings out the colors in our world. Come Easter morning, our sanctuary will be a brilliant display of colors, resembling an impressive and energetic Matisse composition.

With the words of Scripture and the art of Henri Matisse, we'll head into the wild, journeying all the way to the beautiful, joyful dance of Easter morning, **April 5**.

Holy Week Schedule

March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:30am

April 2 – Holy Thursday, 7pm

April 3 – Good Friday, 12noon

SUGGESTED LENTEN READING

The Secret Lives of Color by Kassia St. Clair is a wonderful accompaniment to our Lenten theme of bringing out the God Colors in the world. Available in the sanctuary hallway for \$10, this beautiful book tells the history of shades, dyes and hues and the vivid stories behind them. Every color has a story. Pick one up at church, visit your local library, or order from your favorite bookstore to complement your Lenten journey.

EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to provide flowers as a memorial for a loved one or to honor a special person for the sanctuary for Easter Sunday? Choose from lilies, daffodils, tulips, hyacinth or mums. \$20/each. Order forms are in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Order deadline: **Monday, March 16**.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HEALING HEARTS

Waukesha Area Symphonic Band is hosting a benefit concert for Healing Hearts, **Saturday, March 7**, 7pm, Shattuck Auditorium, Carroll University, showcasing film and television music. See Cheryl Printz for tickets, \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, CHOCOLATE & OLIVE OIL

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil on **Sunday, March 8** 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.

New pricing:

- All roasts and types of coffee will be \$10 per bag (*except for decaffeinated*).
- Single chocolate bars still \$4, but the price of two increased to \$7 per pair.

Dear Fair Trade Supporters: Equal Exchange was forced to raise prices due to increased production costs as well as geopolitical factors. Unfortunately, we must pass some of the cost increase along. We hope that you will continue to support our mission to build economically just and environmentally sound trade partnerships.

XYZ (XTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

The March XYZ Potluck and Program will take place on **Thursday, March 12**. Arrive as early as 11:15am, lunch service begins at 11:45am. Our program this month is **The Beer Barons of Geneva Lake and their Milwaukee Neighbors**. Our presenter will be Michael Rehberg. Michael is the curator of Black Point Estate and Gardens in Lake Geneva, WI. With Joseph Schlitz being one of those Milwaukee neighbors, and our own John Sheaffer and Tim Baack owning the Victor Schlitz Mansion, you will want to come and hear how these Beer Barons of their time interacted.

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).

UMCOR SUNDAY

On **Sunday, March 15**, we will recognize UMCOR Sunday with a special offering. This is an opportunity for FUMC to help underwrite the 'cost of doing business' for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, raising funds for all the administrative costs, making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative costs. Checks should be made payable to FUMC (UMCOR Sunday on the memo line). You can also give safely online. Please give generously to support the work of UMCOR.

PI/e DAY

Pie, pie and more pie – what a great way to start the week! Grab your recipe box, pull out your favorite pie recipes and sign up to bring a pie or two and plan to attend the live auction **Sunday, March 15** immediately following worship in the Asbury Room. Whole pies will be available to bid on as well as slices of pie and ice cream to enjoy while you bid against your friends for that pie you must have. *PIES MUST BE DELIVERED TO CHURCH FRIDAY, MARCH 13 OR SATURDAY, MARCH 14*, 9am-noon. Proceeds from the pie sales will go to support Lutheran Social Services. The organization is in dire need as it has lost most of its federal funding. To make the paying process easier, there will be two lines – one for cash and one for credit cards and checks. For more information, contact Anjana Jones akjones6@gmail.com.

MISSION TRIP ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER

What goes better with pie than ice cream? The mission trip team will be selling ice cream and lemonade during our Pi/e Day auction (**March 15**). Ice cream and lemonade sales will be cash only. Thank you for your continued support of all our missional activities.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

FUMC is collecting items and services for the SOPHIA Silent Auction to support the work of social justice. From a red knit hat to a vacation rental, food gifts (chocolate, coffee, etc.) to handmade items, all donations are welcome. Items are often combined into themed baskets, so we also need baskets. For more information, contact Susan Mingesz (smingesz@gmail.com) or Larilyn Carpenter (larcar293@sbcglobal.net). Donate through **Sunday, Mar 22**.

The Silent Auction takes place on **Saturday, Apr 18** at the SOPHIA Annual Community Breakfast, 8:30am-12:30pm, La Casa de Esperanza Charter School. This year's theme is "Solidarity as Resistance" with keynote speaker, Janan Najeeb, founder and executive director of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition. Tickets are available at sophiawaukesha.org or by contacting a member of the Church and Society committee.

SOPHIA is an organization made up of 13 Waukesha County faith-based congregations that have banded together to be more effective in working toward a more just society. FUMC is one of these congregations. We are SOPHIA, and every member of FUMC is also a member of SOPHIA. Let's gather together to support the important work of our church community.

Church and Society invites you to *Getting It Right: A Call to End Homelessness*. Waukesha's unhoused population has reached unprecedented levels. Shelters are full, and hotel vouchers are being used to protect people from extreme temperatures. Encampments have been cleared, and state legislators are proposing laws that would criminalize homelessness. SOPHIA has invited author and housing justice advocate Kevin Nye to help us better understand the complex issues surrounding homelessness and explore humane effective responses to our community's housing crisis. Join us on **Saturday, March 28**, 10am, Waukesha Public Library. Register online at sophiawaukesha.org or contact Susan Mingesz for more information.

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

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Ah now, gather you lads and lasses! 🍀 You're warmly invited to **Sunday Supper, Mar 29**, 5pm, Asbury Room, with an Irish theme: mashed potatoes, stew, cabbage. It will be a grand evening of hearty fare, cheerful chatter, and a wee bit of Irish mischief. There'll be good food to fill your belly, sweet fellowship to warm your heart, and perhaps a blessing or two to carry you home. Don your finest green and come ready for laughter that would make old Saint Patrick himself smile. Sign up is in the Asbury Room or contact Jenny D with any questions (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org). All are welcome!

FUMC'S GENEROSITY

FUMC's Mission Team has organized several drives in the past few weeks and once again, our congregation has been *extremely* generous. On Sunday February 22, we delivered the following to the Hope Center: 115 packages of underwear, 40 packages of socks plus 35 extra pairs, 42 pairs of children's underwear, along with tights, long underwear, tops and a few onesies. In addition, our congregation donated many pounds of food to the Waukesha Food Pantry along with the proceeds from the noisy offering in February.

PATHFINDERS

Lunchmaking will be held on **Friday, March 13**, 9-11am in the Asbury Room. All are welcome to make sandwiches and pack healthy, salty and sweet treats into 40 bagged lunches. These help feed teens and young adults in underserved communities of Milwaukee who are dealing with homelessness, mental health struggles and trauma. For more information, contact Kristi Magoon at kristimagoon@prodigy.net.

On **Wednesday, March 25**, the FUMC family will show love in action by delivering a meal to the youth and young adults served by Pathfinders in Milwaukee. Italian food is on the menu this month so pull out your favorite recipes and help provide dinner for up to 40 folks! Entrees, salads, and breads can be dropped off at the church office any time before 4pm on Wednesday, March 25. Arrangements can be made for other times if necessary. Please sign up in the Asbury Room. Contact Kristi Magoon for more info!

FORMING FAITH - CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As we journey through the season of Lent, the children and youth Forming Faith programs will dive into the stories of Jesus and some of his most impactful encounters with others. We will explore Jesus' night visit with Nicodemus, his conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well, and the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. We will have lots of fun learning and getting to know one another in the process.

On **March 29**, join us for an indoor Easter egg hunt in the sanctuary during the Forming Faith hour. All children and youth are invited to join in seeking out the elusive Golden Egg. There will be crafts and other activities to do in the Asbury Room after the hunt.

There will be NO children & youth Forming Faith classes on **March 15** for our community Pi/e Day auction and **April 5** for the Easter holiday. Contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org) for information.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION EXPERIENCE 2026

The 2026 Mission Trip team is beginning to fundraise for the trip this summer. Look for opportunities to purchase food and stocks to support the team financially. We are also looking for people to support us spiritually. If you would like to be part of the "ground control" crew for our mission by offering prayers and messages of encouragement from home during our trip, please contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org).

FOOD PANTRY BARRELS

THE BIG 8 TO DONATE:
Peanut Butter
Cereal
Canned Fruit
Canned Veggies
Whole Grains (pasta, rice)
Canned Protein (tuna, chicken, salmon)
Canned Beans (pinto, kidney)
Baby Items (diapers, wipes, formula)

THE BIG 8 CARE:
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Shampoo
Body Wash
Hand Soap
Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent

Barrels are 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 FOR MARCH

Each month we are highlighting fun facts about the FUMC Memorial Foundation during its 55th year anniversary. The Foundation is here to accept memorial gifts, bequests and estate gifts which enable our church to cover unexpected expenses or support mission and ministry opportunities. In 2022, the Foundation supported missions through matching gifts to special offerings for humanitarian aid to Ukraine and for refugee relocation services in Wisconsin. The generosity of our congregation, combined with the Foundation's matches, enabled FUMC to provide \$33,765 to these important missions. For more information, please contact FUMC's business manager at fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org

BIRTHDAYS

March Birthdays

03/02	Tanya Katzman	03/17	Gary Sampson
03/04	Betty Mulloy	03/17	Pat Spaulding
03/04	Benjamin Ross	03/18	Jim Bublitz
03/05	Emily Blum	03/18	Barry Minor
03/05	Jeff Otto	03/19	Franklin Abbas
03/05	Melissa Theesfeld	03/19	Trish Davis-Jumbeck
03/05	Karen Wilken	03/19	Zander Roberts
03/06	John Hebert	03/19	Izzie Ross
03/06	Dave Woerpel	03/21	Leah Rabe
03/08	Ruth Bentley	03/22	John Caven
03/08	Aaron Haas	03/22	Chelsea Riese
03/09	Art Collins	03/24	Judy Henry
03/09	Melissa Freiberg	03/24	Brian Hietpas
03/09	Judy Johansen	03/24	Alex Joers
03/10	Dennis Boehm	03/24	Layla Jones
03/10	Cynthia Eisenmann	03/25	Maya Jones
03/11	Jim Klein	03/26	Kate Heindl
03/13	Bob Vrakas	03/26	Mary Moore-Geissler
03/15	Cynthia Matthias	03/27	Becky Komp
03/16	Sharon Kerr	03/28	Jack Printz V
03/16	Diane Rediske	03/28	Beth Rees
03/17	Wendy Harrop	03/28	Barb Schindler
03/17	Scott Joers	03/30	Patty Meilicke
03/17	Christopher Rodriguez	03/30	Jill Whalen

Early April Birthdays

04/01	Bonnie Giese
04/01	Elle Luczak
04/02	Tron Melzl
04/04	Rev Joyce Rich
04/05	Pam Brown
04/06	Meredith Marcks
04/08	Scott Evans
04/08	Jordan Thompson
04/08	Tom Ajack
04/10	Tim McCawley
04/10	Ellen Graham
04/11	Isabella Ainsworth
04/12	Paul Schindler
04/14	Dale Evans
04/14	De Honn
04/15	Polly Mather



Instructions for Digital Doorbell

Contacting Church staff during office hours:

- (1) Hold Bell image. Swipe up.**
*It is a continuous motion. See image.
You will hear a bell ring.*
- (2) Once Bell sounds, a two-way intercom is activated to talk.**
- (3) Door will be unlocked when you hear "Welcome".**



DIGITAL DOOR BELL INSTRUCTIONS

Our "new" security system has enabled us to grant more precise access to the church as well as the benefit of video surveillance. You will find posted at each entrance the following instructions. Please reach out to the office if you need to add a scheduled access to your phone.

Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by **Tuesday, March 24**. 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

REOCCURRING EVENTS/MEETINGS - ALL ARE WELCOME !

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

Every Tuesday 9:30am, room 209

contact Joyce jac1977@wi.rr.com

Knit and crochet activities, making gifts of comfort and warmth for our church family and community. We will teach you how to knit and crochet. We have supplies to get you started.

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 Tompkins 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 Pastor Amy amy.celikay@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>
- **"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.