First United Methodist Church
Waukesha, Wisconsin • Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER CHIMES November 2026

Holy Communion and All Saints Recognition

On **Sunday, November 1**, we will recognize All Saints Sunday, reading the names of those with a connection to FUMC who have died in the past year. You will also have the opportunity to name the saints in your life who have gone on to be with God. This is a day of remembrance, thanking God for all the servants who, having finished their course on earth, now rest from their labors.We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are invited to receive the grace of God. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website.

For those worshipping online: Before viewing the worship service, please have your elements ready in preparation for the sharing of the Sacrament. Look through your kitchen to find representation of bread and beverage, remembering that God always takes what is ordinary and makes it extraordinary.

FUMC Stewardship Update

As God's beloved community, we are called to create **and** steward healthy, hopeful, vibrant and light-filled neighborhoods; in the life of FUMC and beyond. Your faithful support helps make this happen.

In this season of stewardship, we have been reminded to share God's Light with our time, talents and financial gifts. We have been encouraged to consider our responsibilities as people of faith in learning, listening, and discerning what's being asked of us: 1) be a neighbor, 2) participate in reflecting the light of Christ, and 3) share our abundance. Doing all this matters. It matters in the life of our ministry together, it matters in our communities, and it matters to God.

Why give?

Because God first gave to us. Because Jesus invites us to give generously. Because it makes a difference. Giving is not paying a church membership fee; it is a joyful, heartfelt response to God's grace and love in your life. This presence is made known in and through our gifts and acts of sharing. Your financial gifts fund real, life-changing ministry: feeding the hungry, comforting the broken, supporting families and sharing God's love locally and globally.

There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible inviting us to be generous and good stewards of God's resources. Jesus noted that where you treasure is, your heart will be also. Generosity frees us from the grip of materialism and deepens our trust in God. The presence of God's Love is made known in and through our gifts and our act of sharing.

What is expected of me?

The Bible encourages us to give a tithe or the first 10% of what we earn to God and the church's work. For some, giving 1/10 is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10%. The important thing is that you start somewhere. If you are not yet tithing, consider an annual increase in your giving until you reach your tithing goal. Do not let your inability to give keep you from participating and serving in the church. God honors your faithfulness and your presence. Your acceptance at FUMC is not based on your capacity to give. But if you are able, every little bit helps. We grow the Kingdom of God together.

Why do I need to return a Giving (pledge) Commitment Form?

1. The process of prayerfully asking God to guide your decision and then making a commitment to share your financial resources is an act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God. Filling out a Giving Form is a spiritual discipline for ***you***, turning a vague intention ("I'll give what I can") into a concrete, prayerful commitment before God.

2. On a more practical note, your commitment allows FUMC to budget and better plan for our ministries and our mission.

Please return your Giving Form by **November 8** even if it is a limited financial commitment at this time. *Commitments (pledges) are always confidential and can be adjusted if your financial circumstances change.*

How do I give?

1. Check/Cash using your offering envelope. If giving cash, it's important that we know who the giver is, so please make sure to use your offering envelope or clearly mark on the offering who it's from.
2. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
3. On the website

Should you need a Giving Commitment Form, please contact the church office. Should you have any questions about ways to give or making a commitment, please contact Kathy Person, FUMC's business manager, fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org.

As you pray about your annual giving commitment, please consider the role First United Methodist Church plays in not just keeping the lights on, but in keeping Christ's Light shining. Your gifts and support make the mission and ministries of FUMC possible. As we've all experienced, operating costs continue to rise, so please consider increasing your giving in 2027 if financially able. Thank you for the light you bear. It all matters and it all makes a difference. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Thelke, Stewardship Chair (annethelke@gmail.com).

Secret Angel Gift Shop 2026!

It's time for the Secret Angel Gift Shop! The shop will be stocked with gifts priced from 25-cents to $5. FUMC youth and ACAP will have the opportunity to shop for gifts for their loved ones, Healing Hearts shop for free. To donate, please drop off new or gently used items in the main hallway **beginning Sunday, November 1**. High-priority items include gift bags/tissue paper, teenage girl and boy items, crafting sets, lotions/makeup, kitchen items, tools, sports items, men's and pet items. Contact Debbie Blum with any questions (blumde58@gmail.com or 262-370-9712). Please also consider taking part in this season of giving through your donation of time. We are looking for help to set up the room, guide children, and/or wrap presents. Sign-up sheets are on the church website FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - WI - Secret Angel Gift Shop

November 3, 2026 Partisan Primary Election

Voting and being an informed voter is fundamental for a healthy democracy. Church and Society urges you to vote in the election **Tuesday, November 3.** Information about voting can be found at https://myvote.wi.gov. You can find your voting place, registration information, view your ballot, and learn what documents are required to vote. **Be sure to check your polling location before you go to vote.** You can also call (608) 266-8005 or email elections@wi.gov.

If you are disabled and need help returning your ballot, you can call the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline at (844) 347-8683 or you can email them at info@disabilityvote.org. Thank you for Voting!!

Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate & Olive Oil

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

Pathfinders - two opportunities

Wednesday, November 11, FUMC Waukesha will serve dinner for the young adults at Pathfinders, 4200 N. Holton Street in Milwaukee. BBQ and all the fixings are on the menu. This is a great opportunity to meet and support the people Tim Baack spoke about on Oct 11 during worship. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, and helpers are needed to donate supplies and serve the meal, carpooling available or arrive separately. Sign up in the Asbury room.

Tuesday, November 24, FUMC will make lunches for Pathfinders' Drop-In Center, 9am in the Asbury Room. Come see how fast we can prepare 40 bag lunches! Can we break our previous 15-minute record? For more info contact Kristi Magoon (kristimagoon@prodigy.net)

XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest)

Thanks to Carl and Mary Klein, our **November 12** program will be one not to miss; we're going to have a very special visitor…*Ben Franklin*! Mr. Franklin, played by impressionist Terry Kunz, will join us for our potluck luncheon as well as telling us about his many useful inventions, some of which we still use today. Potluck begins at 11:15am with social time and serving starts at 11:45am. Bring your favorite dish and join us in the Asbury Room for a delicious meal and an entertaining program. Hope to see you there! Contact Veronica Radowicz (vradowicz@gmail.com) with any XYZ questions.

Gifts of Warmth

Winter is coming! Yarn Twisters are collecting gifts of warmth through **November 15** (purchased or hand-crafted): gloves, hats and scarves for adults and children. Drop off donations in room 209 or leave in designated basket in the church hallway.

Memorial Service for Rev. Don Fenner

Rev. Don Fenner's memorial service will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2pm**, at the Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church. There will be time for visitation, fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. Rev. Fenner served FUMC-Waukesha from 1979 to 1986, one chapter in a lifetime of ministry across Wisconsin. After retirement, he returned to FUMC as Minister of Seniors, 2009-2012. Rev. Fenner passed away on July 31, 2026, at the age of 97.

Hanging of the Greens

Join us **November 22** after worship as we prepare our church for the Advent season! Come lend a hand decorating the church and enjoy a slice or two of pizza with friends. There will be no Youth Forming Faith so they can help. All are welcome - we hope to see you there!

FUMC Giving Tree

The FUMC Giving Tree will be ready on **November 29.** This year's Giving Tree will support The Women's Center, our neighbor across the street, whose mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to all who have been impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse and trafficking. Thank you in advance for supporting this critical mission.

Grab a tag, purchase an item (or several) and place the gifts under the tree. The Mission Team will deliver the gifts to the Women's Center in mid-December. Watch the announcements for a list of items that are needed for both children and adults!

Thanksgiving Offering

The 2026 Thanksgiving offering will support UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Our gifts will specifically support UMCOR's US Disaster Response for the Fox Valley region of Eastern Wisconsin, hit by a destructive tornado in late-July, causing widespread damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure in Appleton, Menasha, and the surrounding communities.

When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR.

UMCOR's mission is to alleviate suffering. Through UMCOR, we extend God's loving care. A Thanksgiving letter will be mailed in mid-November and will include an offering envelope. When giving, please designate your gifts as 'Thanksgiving Offering.' Thank you for sharing God's abundance and love with those who need it.

ADVENT: A Season to Savor

Advent begins **Sunday, November 29**. This four-week season will be a time to savor, moving away from a frantic countdown to Christmas into a holy practice of slowing down, tasting God's goodness, and relishing the presence of Christ.

To savor is to linger over something good. It means paying attention, receiving rather than rushing, and allowing a moment to nourish us instead of immediately moving on to the next thing. Savoring invites us to slow down, become attentive to God, and receive the gift of Christ with open hearts.

This year's FUMC Advent Devotional will include recipes and memories from those in our congregation. We know that recipes include more than just ingredients. They carry names, stories, and celebrations we savor. They invite us to linger over the kitchen table and stay a little longer. When we prepare these recipes, we remember that we belong to a story larger than ourselves. Advent is a time of remembering and lingering, savoring and relishing.

Join us for four weeks of savoring the promise, God's presence, God's goodness, and the gift of Jesus. Advent devotionals/recipe books will be available Sunday, November 29.

Sunday Suppers – Fall Favorites

There's nothing like the cozy flavors of fall! Join us for Sunday Supper, **November 29, 5pm,** as we gather around the table to enjoy our favorite fall dishes, warm fellowship, and a little autumn cheer. Bring a dish you love, bring your appetite, and bring a friend! Let's celebrate the season with good food and great company. RSVP in the Asbury Room. We look forward to gathering around the table with you!

New Busy Boxes for Our Youngest Worshipers

Our busy bags are retiring. In their place, we've put together new busy boxes for kids to use during worship! Each box has a magnetic drawing board, wooden lacing panels, a look-and-find book, two bendable wooden animals, a couple of quiet fidget toys, and a clipboard with coloring pages and colored pencils. They're made for kids 2 to 6. Parents, please use your judgment with the littlest ones. Grab a box before worship, and when worship is over, please put everything back in the box and return it so it's ready for the next family.

Forming Faith – November Is All About David

Our elementary kids spent the fall with a baby in a basket, and now they get five Sundays with David! Kids 4-8 will make fabric envelopes with a see-through heart tucked inside (God knows us inside and out), act out scenes from David's story, try to line up by height while blindfolded, build their own banana pudding cups and talk about choosing fruit by what's inside. Our 9-12 crew spend Sundays with David in Room 212. The nursery has a big month too: Hannah and Samuel, David and Goliath, Daniel and Jonah, with motions for every story (roaring lions included!). **New this fall:** our check-in station is the first stop every Sunday. Sign your kids in before class and they're off to Room 221, 215 or 212. Have feedback on Forming Faith? Send it to Discipleship@fumcwaukesha.org.

Church Conference

FUMC's annual Church Conference will be held on **Thursday, December 3**, beginning at 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.

FUMC Cookie Walk

'Twas weeks before Christmas and all through the church,
The Cookie Walk Team was out on a search.
The women cried, 'Bakers! We need your support!
The Cookie Walk's coming. We don't want to be short.
Cookies need to be baked for the public to sample.
Please help with the Walk—our supplies must be ample.
The money we raise will help a great mission
Aiding women and children in stressful transitions.
So, gather the butter, the flour and make dough.
Together, we'll make the Cookie Walk go!"

Mark your calendars! First United Methodist Church Christmas Cookie Walk will be held on **Saturday**, **December 5, 9am-until all cookies are sold.** Cost of cookies is $12 per pound and all proceeds are donated to the Waukesha Women's Center, supporting women and children in crisis. Start looking through your recipes and plan on donating family favorites! *Cookie donations can be brought to the Dining Room starting Friday, December 4, 8:30am-3pm or Saturday, December 5 before 8am.* Please plan to contribute cookies to make this All-Church event a success. Call Lynn Cummisford (262-549-1431) to volunteer to help on Friday, December 4 or Saturday, December 5 or if you have any questions.

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

We need your help! On **Sunday, December 6,** we're having the Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. Pastor Joel is looking for a few adult helpers to get it off the ground. If you're interested, email discipleship@fumcwaukesha.org or text Pastor Joel, 608-642-1255.

Quilt Exhibit

FUMC Piecemakers will have an exhibit with quilts for sale on **Sunday, December 6**, before and after worship, in the Asbury Room. Cash or checks are accepted! The beautiful creations make wonderful gifts. Remaining quilted items will be donated to the Christmas Clearing House.

Kansas City, Here We Come!

Our 2027 mission trip is official, scheduled in Kansas City, **June 27 - July 2**. This year's theme is "*Neighbor is an action word*." Our team will work alongside local groups doing justice work in the city. Anyone in middle school or older can participate. We'll drive ourselves, and every adult 18 and older needs a background check. Spots are limited. Contact Pastor Joel for more information (Discipleship@fumcwaukesha.org).

Poinsettia Orders – Deadline Nov 30th

If you would like to order Poinsettias for this season in honor or memory of a loved one, please do so quickly! Your last chance to submit your order form to the office is **Monday, November 30**. You can get the form in the hallway or on our website. Orders submitted after Monday cannot be counted.

FUMC "Foundation Fact" For November

Happy 55th anniversary UMC Memorial Foundation! The Foundation accepts memorial gifts, bequests and estate gifts which enable FUMC to cover unexpected expenses and support mission and ministry opportunities. November 1, All Saint's Sunday, we remember those who have meant so much to our community and the legacy each has left in our hearts. Many in our congregation have remembered family and friends with gifts to the Memorial Foundation. In 2026, more than 70 gifts in memory of loved ones were contributed. The generosity of this congregation will ensure the doors remain open and welcoming for the next generation. For more information on giving through your estate or Will to the Memorial Foundation, contact Kathy Person, fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org.

Birthdays

November Birthdays

11/1	Brianna Masiakowski	11/16	Alexandra Linz
11/1	Bill Zickau, Sr.	11/16	Carol Stowe
11/5	Peter Marcks	11/17	Cadee Campbell
11/6	Bruce Steinert	11/18	JJ Klein, Jr.
11/7	Avery Ainsworth	11/19	Jeff Cummisford
11/9	Al Epton	11/19	Sam Harrop
11/9	Rodney Rexroth	11/20	Gemma Venes
11/9	Kitrek Riese	11/20	Cheryl Wolfe
11/10	Chris Greene	11/22	Jackie Zimmermann
11/12	John Sheaffer, Jr.	11/24	Renee Dowling
11/13	Tyler Haskey	11/24	Polly Walgren
11/13	Damon Klepp	11/25	Grace Abbas
11/14	Don Johnson	11/26	Jeri Campbell
11/15	John Maynard	11/26	Mark Greene
11/16	Bill Guerrieri	11/28	Edith Connor

Early December Birthdays

12/1	Claudia Byrne	12/9	Robert Raasch, Jr.
12/1	Quinn Lincicum	12/9	Morgan Roberts
12/2	Sandy Schroederus	12/10	Chris Ainsworth
12/3	Peyton Muiller	12/10	Rebecca Bhanpuri
12/3	Kami Riese	12/13	Janie Riese
12/3	Ian Roberts	12/14	Louis Roso
12/3	Gordon Telford	12/15	Mary Scharbach
12/5	Cherrie Hartley		
12/6	Zach Harrop		
12/6	Janet Perrin		
12/6	Kim Steinert		
12/7	Kay Fahl		
12/8	Nichole Ainsworth		
12/8	Harry Lewis		
12/9	Ken Hietala		



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by Tuesday, November 24. 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, ebmarlu64@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, 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 Betty, bettymulloy@gmail.com*
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://instagram.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 monitors in the hallways.