



# AT THE CROSS

## TAKE A LOOK . . .

Youth News, Sunday  
Worship News, Faith  
Groups, Mission Update,  
Hospitality News and SO  
MUCH MORE!

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**First United Methodist Church**  
738 West Monroe Avenue  
Hartford, 53027  
262.673.3290

### Pastor

Rev. Cheryl Weaver  
Mon., Tues., Wed. morning office hours  
pastorcweaver@yahoo.com

### Director of Children's & Family Ministries and Communications Coordinator

Emilee Mooney  
Emilee.fumc@gmail.com  
Office Hours: M-Th 8:30-12:30

### Technology Coordinator

Guy Tuxhorn  
gtuxhorn@sbcglobal.net

### Office Managers

Robin Pfothenhauer & Connie Speiser  
office@fumchartford.com  
Office Hours: M-TH 8:30-3:30

### Custodian

Josh Thompson

### District Superintendent

Rev. Ebenezer Insor

## FUMC Mission Statement

"Making Disciples of Christ"

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun. Dec. 4 8:30 and 10:45 Worship Service

Wed. Dec. 7: 6PM "MESSY Christmas!" Fellowship Hall

Sun. Dec. 11: 8:30 AM - Children's Christmas Program  
10:45 AM - Worship

Wed. Dec. 14: 7PM Midweek Advent Worship

Sun. Dec.18: 8:30 and 10:45 Worship Service (Noisy can)

Wed. Dec. 21: 7PM Longest Night/Blue Christmas

Sat. Dec. 24 Christmas eve 4:00 Family Service  
7:00 Traditional Candle Light Service4

Sunday Dec. 25th Christmas Day 9:30 Service

## Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone at Christmas, please bring own plant here by the 15th of December and let us know who you are honoring. The church is not purchasing them for you.

## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up! This year in addition to purchasing gifts through the Hartford Christmas Committee, we will be providing gifts to three families from the Gingerbread House (an organization in West Bend that helps local families). The tree is in the Hearth Room.

Please choose a tag(s), purchase one or more gifts and bring **unwrapped** with the tags(s) attached by the 9th. The Christmas Committee will be organizing everything on the weekend of December 9th-11th so we must have the gifts to them on the 10th. The church is not open on the 10th so drop off should be by the 9th. Thank you for your donations!

# From the desk of Pastor Cheryl...



Happy Advent and Christmas!

It's the best time of the year (I can hear Burl Ives singing that in my head!). It's also the busiest time of the year for so many reasons. I think we come to the end of the year and wonder sometimes, "have we done enough?" The good news is that yes, you have done enough just to make it through the year! I'm not sure why the connection to nostalgia at this time, but it can be strong for many of us. We remember.

We remember when Christmas decorations weren't even out in the store until the day after Thanksgiving. We remember the downtown retail stores with their elaborate window dressings and Santa visits. I grew up 30 miles West of Appleton and I loved it when we would make our annual trip downtown to College Avenue to see the H.C. Prange and the Gimbel's stores window displays. It was a magical time of the year. Sometimes in the church we try to poo-poo (is that even a word?) the cultural, commercialized celebration of Christmas. We get out our "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" signs and disparage all the early hoopla surrounding the season. I used to be one of them. I don't bemoan anyone an early celebration of Christmas any longer. If anything, as I get older, I realize how fragile and precious and short life is here on earth and that JOY is so much a part of our life as Christians. There are many hard things about following Jesus, but I want to remember that joy is there as well. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly. He came to seek and save the lost, he died that we might have eternal life. His birth is worth all the hoopla. Even if some folks don't fully grasp the meaning of the season, they at least know that Christmas is when we celebrate love, joy, wonder, and peace. They see the light in the windows and wrapped all around the tree, many give to extra charities not knowing that they are simply doing what Jesus would have us do. So, I encourage you not to get distracted this holiday season judging how others are celebrating, and make sure that you are living your life as a disciple of the one at whose birth in a lowly manger we joyfully proclaim! (And maybe reach out and invite a friend or two to join you in worship this Advent/Christmas season)!!

See you in church,

*Pastor Cheryl Weaver*

## Advent Wednesday Worship

The past couple of years we have met on the Wednesdays during Advent at 7PM. This year we are incorporating Messy Christmas into our worship. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, December 7, 6PM    Messy Church (no additional worship service- NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Wednesday, December 14, 7PM    Contemplative Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 21, 7PM    Winter Solstice - Longest Night Worship 7PM

# ALB NEWS & NOTES

## Accountable Leadership Board Meeting Summary October 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order with a prayer.

### Pastoral Updates

Our **new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Ebenezer K. Insor, is being installed at Brown Deer UMC on 11/22/22. Stewardship letters will be going out next month.**

Pastor led a discussion about what is happening in the UMC regarding disaffiliation. The primary issue is how the UMC is addressing the LBGQT issue. Pastor Cheryl is planning a listening session on this topic for the congregation in November.

### Finance Team

Receipts in September are down compared to previous years, but overall YTD receipts are above previous years so they are not concerned.

The 2023 budget is being developed.

### ALB Positions

In 2023, Amanda Lichtensteiger will assume the position of Recording Secretary and John Moscicki will become the SPRC Chair.

Kathy Hack is currently our interim ALB Chair and will remain in that position in 2023.

### MCCI Team

They are meeting on Monday, 10/24/22, to share what was covered in Stevens Point and to discuss next steps.

### Technology Team

All the equipment for the AV corner is in.

Lifeline AV is coming back in November to install the remaining equipment, including the speaker system in Fellowship Hall. The security camera system and Wi-Fi switches are on order. Will be looking at the telephone system next.

### Organ Status

The organ is in need of some repairs. Linda Thompson has been able to work around the problems so far. A cost-of-repair estimate has been requested but the need is not immediate.

Jim Gottfried will be forming a committee to review future possibilities.

### Trustees

The project to repair downspouts and gutters is progressing. A construction firm has been hired to repair the fascia; then the gutter people will come back and to complete their work.

### Ministry Teams

Missions: Working on a \$2,000 fundraising challenge, there will be a Rice Meal Pack event in the spring, and planning is underway to support poor families at Christmas.

Hospitality: Needs more help in the kitchen and is having difficulty getting people to sign up for coffee hour.

Faith Groups: On 11/20/22, we will have a "Bring your favorite Thanksgiving treat" event during coffee hour. The Youth Group will be selling pies.

### Staff Parish Relations

Emilee Mooney has accepted the Communications Coordinator position and has started working in this role as well as continuing as our Christian Education & Family Ministry Director.

### FUMC ALB MEMBERS

The meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Kathy Hack—Chair  
John Moscicki—Recording Secretary  
Brian Swenson—Lay Leader  
Steve Alsum Lay Member to AC  
Kathy Hack—SPRC Chair  
Tim Kramoris SPRC Rep.

Glenn Lepein—Trustee Chair  
Rob Bush—Trustee Rep.  
Carol Staus—Finance Rep.  
Mary Jo Langenecker—At Large  
David Schlotthauer—At Large  
Amanda Lichtensteiger—At Large

Next Meeting: Monday, November 28, 2022.

# Youth Ministry

Warmest Greetings to you this December,

As I sit writing this, I am watching the snow fall on my pumpkins sitting outside on my porch. I sure hope that does not mean we are in for a long winter – burr!

November was a busy month for the Youth as we focused on serving. The Youth helped to make and pack sandwiches with Carla Kramoris to take down to Summerfield Methodist Church. A few of our Youth even went along with Carla and Tim to help serve a warm meal and bag lunch to those in need. Next, the Youth walked around our local neighborhoods collecting canned food donations for the local food pantry. You may have noticed the fruits of their labor on display on the alter in the Sanctuary throughout the month. We finished November with a Pie Auction; the proceeds being divided between the food pantry and the Youth Group. Thank you to all who participated by donating and purchasing a pie!

During the month of December, we will continue to meet for Sunday School, except for Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1 (see below). On Sunday, December 11, from 5:30 – 8pm, we will take the Youth to a few Assisted Living Facilities to sing Christmas Carols to the residents. Please feel free to join us, if you wish!! I know it will bring joy to the residents' faces and warmth to their hearts. This activity has also been known to bring a tear or two to the caroler's eye

Middle and High School Sunday School will continue to be held down in our Youth Room, after first service. Please encourage all Middle and High School students/family/friends to join!

Middle and High School Youth Group meet as one group - this gathering takes place once a month. We have many regular middle school attendees and would love to welcome more high school students to join us! We've created a very casual and inviting environment and would love to have more students join!

If you are an adult and have any interest in assisting with leading either Sunday School and/or Youth Group, please contact me (see my information below)! We are always looking for additional volunteers as the Youth have expressed interest in meeting for Youth Group more than once a month.

## Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

**Sunday, December 11:** Middle/High School Youth Group from 5:30-8 pm; Meet in Youth Room. We will be traveling to local Assisted Living Facilities to sing Christmas Carols to the residents.

**Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1:** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Peace and Joy,

*Brittany*

Brittany Hahn  
Youth Ministry Coordinator (6-12 Grade)  
262-707-7944  
Brittany.fumc@gmail.com



# News from Emilee...

Well, here we are in the last month of 2022. I feel like I blinked, and this year has come to an end. We certainly had a lot of fun in 2022, BUT the fun is not even close to being over. Take a look to see what is coming up in the most MAGICAL month of the year!

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**: We will be hosting a Christmas movie night! It will be downstairs in the youth room, starting at 6pm. All are welcome to join us, invite a friend!! We will have popcorn & snacks, but please bring your own beverages from home. Cozy pajamas and blankets are encouraged! The Sunday School kids will be voting on what movie we will show, so you will have to stay tuned!

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**: Messy Church! The last one of 2022. We will be having chili, so bring your appetite! The event runs from 6pm - 7:30pm. We will have crafts, fellowship & a story to share. We may even have a special guest arriving in a red suit! Bring friends and neighbors for this fun community event!

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**: The Children Christmas Program will be during first service. We will have more details about how your child can participate. Just know this is going to be fun for everyone!

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**: The Sunday School 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders will be having a Christmas Party during their scheduled Sunday School time.

**December 25<sup>th</sup> AND January 1<sup>st</sup>**: Please note, there are no Sunday School classes for any of the ages these days. We will resume all Sunday School classes on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023!

I can't wait to see what 2023 brings for all of us. I am excited to finish out the year with more fun & fellowship. My hope for you this month is that you can enjoy a moment of peace (and a lot of JOY) in all the hustle & bustle!

Merry Christmas,

*Emilee Mooney*

[Emilee.fumc@gmail.com](mailto:Emilee.fumc@gmail.com)



# Ministry Schedule for December

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	LITURGISTS	USHERS	ACOLYTES	NURSERY
December 4	8:30		Dan Mooney	Marty Gienke Drew Lichtensteiger Jay Triick		
	10:45	Bob and Marsha Gabel	Tonyn Andereck			
December 11	8:30	Barb Klockow Dorothy Park	Kathy Hack	Vicki Ward Carol and Jerry Staus		
	10:45		Deanna Lang	Sterman Family		
December 18	8:30	Brad Hahn Family		Drew Lichtensteiger Rob Bartlow Joe Pfothenhauer		
	10:45					
December 24	4:30			Dave Hoxworth Chris Hoxworth Jay Triick		
	7:00			Purman and Schlotthauer Men		
December 25	9:30	Robin Pfothenhauer	Mark Weaver	Brian, Becki Swenson Connie Speiser		

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# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 11:00 Christmas Luncheon
4 8:30-worship 10:45-worship	5	6 TOPS 9:30	7 6:00 Messy church Christmas	8	9	10
11 8:30 -Christmas Program 10:45 worship	12	13 TOPS 9:30	14 7:00 Advent Wor- ship	15	16	17
18 8:30-worship- Noisy Can 10:45-worship	19	20 TOPS 9:30	21 7:00 Advent Wor- ship	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 SERVICE 7:00 SERVICE
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 9:30 Worship	26	27 TOPS 9:30	28	29	30	31

# News from Hospitality...

Advent is upon us, the commercials for Christmas, started before Halloween was even over. I pray that we may all have that kind of enthusiasm for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Could you image what it would be like, if all the ads weren't selling anything, but the impending birth of a King. No Grinch, no Santa, no Hallmark Christmas movies, (not sure I could survive that). It is a wonderful thought, but it is not real life, we are bombarded with the commercialism of Christmas from end of October until the New Year. We just have to keep our heads about us and try to keep focus on the reason we celebrate Christmas and that doesn't mean you can't indulge in some of the commercialism, you just have to make sure it is balanced with the real reason for the season, yes, it may be a very cliché phrase, but it is also very practical. So enjoy your hot cocoa and Grinchy wear, but always keep Christ in the forefront of your celebrations and remember to be kind to everyone.

## Past Event Update

Christmas Parade Float- A huge thank you to those who worked, so hard on making the float- Greg and Karen Bidwell, Ethan Bidwell for driving all the volunteers that showed up on Saturday! You made our float great, and we tied for first place with Peace Lutheran. Great job everyone!!!

## Hospitality Happenings

Advent Luncheon—Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Our theme this year is "Hark the Herold Angels Sing." The meal plan is chicken breast, bowtie pasta with alfredo sauce, Caesar salad, bread, and angel food cake with berries for dessert. We have 13 tables and tickets will go on sale on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Coffee Hour- Thank you to all those who have signed up for December. Christmas day we will not have coffee hour. If you feel we really need to have one on Christmas day, please contact myself or the office. January will be posted soon. New Years Day will be simple coffee and purchased treats.

## Let's Get Connected

We would like to try something new that will typically occur the first Sunday of each month, let's make sure to wear our name badges. We have so many new faces, and we feel it would be beneficial for everyone to be able to put a name to a face. Even if you have been coming to FUMC for many years and figure everyone knows you, please wear a name badge or nametag for the newcomers. Thank you so much for your cooperation in our effort to get everyone connected!

Game Night—No Game night for December- Returning in January date TBD.

We are going to start a Game Night series. We will meet once a month on a Friday evening for game night. All ages are welcome. We will have games available in Fellowship Hall, or you are welcome to bring a favorite game. This is great low-pressure opportunity to invite friends, co-workers, or neighbors, who may not have a home church, to interact with our amazing church family at FUMC. Hospitality will supply drinks. Participants are asked to bring a snack to share, a favorite game (if you like), and your "game face."

## How Can YOU Help Hospitality?

Looking for Messy Church Volunteers- Need volunteers for precook on Tuesday and for clean up starting in January again

Hospitality prepares the meal for Messy Church the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month from September through May. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal with me the day before and the evening of the event. It can be a one-month commitment for the season. A signup sheet will be posted near the front entrance. We are also looking for a team to assist in cleaning up after the meal—washing pots and pans, wiping tables, etc. There will be a sign up sheet posted for these positions as well.

Blessings,

Victoria Triick and the Hospitality Ministry Team  
(262) 224-2442; [victoriatriick@gmail.com](mailto:victoriatriick@gmail.com)



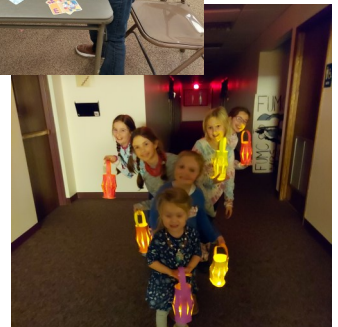
# DECEMBER BIRTHDAY   HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/1      Myra Lightt  
12/2      JaLaya Montgomery  
12/4      Evelyn Antonopoulos  
12/4      Sandra Mampe  
12/6      Michael O'Kroley  
12/7      RoGene McKeithen  
12/7      David Hoxworth  
12/8      Judy Bartlow  
12/9      Roland Garlock  
12/9      Irene Wilson  
12/10     Zackary Kohlman  
12/11     Jenna Marti  
12/12     Susan Roemer  
12/12     Richard Purman  
12/13     Sylvia Myers  
12/14     Stephanie Lane  
12/14     Brady Precord  
12/17     Donna Breselow  
12/17     Tom Lepien  
12/18     Gerald Staus  
12/19     Brittany Held  
12/20     Wayne Breselow  
12/21     Vivianne Hahn  
12/22     Alex Jordan  
12/23     Benjamin Purman  
12/24     Stephanie Klockow  
12/25     Phyllis Cueller  
12/25     Joyce Scadden  
12/26     Angelo Pezzino  
12/27     Michelle Baumgartner  
12/28     Katie Bush  
12/31     Dawn Schauer

12/14 Kurt & Mary Jo Langenecker  
12/23 Kenneth & Kathy Lamb  
12/23 Bob & Laura Wesner  
12/29 Lee & Kim Morris



# FUMC Year in Review Jan-June 2022



# FUMC Year in Review July–Nov 2022



738 West Monroe  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

First United Methodist Church - Hartford, Wisconsin

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# **DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER**

