

JANUARY 2024

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Wishing You a Happy & Blessed New Year with a prayer for all of us:

Dear God,

In the year 2024, we seek the abundance of joy and happiness. Let laughter fill our days and may our hearts overflow with contentment. Help us find joy in simple moments, in the beauty of nature, and in the love of those around us. May our lives be a testament to the happiness that faith and gratitude can bring.

With gratitude for the gift of joy, we say, Amen.

Upcoming Events & News

- ✦ NO MESSY CHURCH in January.
Messy Church will resume on February 7th at 6pm!
- ✦ Sunday School Resumes
January 7th, 2024 for all grades and classes.
- ✦ Youth Snow Tubing
January 14th at Sunburst
- ✦ Uno Tournament 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall

As of January 1, 2024, Connie Speiser and Emilee Mooney will serve in the front office, each covering both reception and administrative duties. Beyond that, Connie will specialize in the Accounts Payable area, and Emilee will specialize in Communications while also continuing in her half-time role as Christian and Family Ministries Director. Exact office administration duties are still being reconfigured, but know that familiar faces will be there to greet you. Robin will continue to be involved as a volunteer in various roles.



JANUARY 2024

New Year, New You!???

It's the time of year when we put all the twinkling lights away and turn our attention to resolving (I made that word up)! Some of us make resolutions (which means "a firm decision to do or not to do something"). Interesting. Maybe, like me, you thought resolutions needed to be positive? As in, "to do" something that will positively affect your health. Lose 10 pounds is a favorite of mine. And to be honest, I haven't lost those 10 pounds in years! But they can also be refraining from doing something that harms you or other people.

It is no secret that our church is in a time of transition. We have come through COVID, we have entered into the MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative), I will be leaving at some point in the first half of the year and a new pastor will come in, and we are taking a very close look at our budget. A lot of things may change, and change is never easy for anyone. But we are a people of faith- that is not only our "tagline" it should be our way of life. So, with a new year comes new opportunities. I ask that you write this verse on your heart, Galatians 5:22:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

In all things, let us be a community of faith that resolves (there's my word again) to be a living example of the fruit of the Spirit as we navigate the changing times in our church in 2024. Blessings in the New Year,
Pastor Cheyrl

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 NO Messy Church 7pm Chancel Choir	4	5	6
7 8:30 Worship Sun School 10:45 Worship 9:45 Budget Mtg	8 6:30pm Finance Team	9 9am TOPS 6:30 Bells	10 6-9pm ALB Plan Mtg 7pm Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 8:30 Worship Sun School 9:45 Budget Mtg 10:45 Worship 5-7 Game Night Youth Tubing	15	16 9am TOPS 6:30 Bells	17 7pm Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 8:30 Worship 9:45 Budget Vote Sun School 10:45 Worship	22	23 9am TOPS 10:30 Prayer Shawl 6:30 Bells	24 7pm Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 8:30 Worship Sun School 10:45 Worship	29	30 9am TOPS 6:30 Bells	31 7pm Chancel Choir			



John Wesley on Personal Finances

We are embarking on a new year. Many people follow the practice of making resolutions. Often the resolutions revolve around personal finances. Perhaps you spent more than planned on Christmas presents. Maybe you want to be sure that you have enough for a comfortable retirement.

I can't offer specific advice. Everyone's situation is different. Let's go back to our Methodist roots and see where that leads us. Remember John Wesley's three plain rules.

Gain all you can. Great. We are to make as much money as possible. But, Wesley cautioned not to engage in employment that wrecks your health or damages your neighbor. Avoid occupations that could lead people down a bad path. Of course, we should not do anything to earn money that is contrary to God's teaching or civil law.

Save all you can. Don't throw away your earnings on idle expenses. Wesley says we should meet all our needs without living extravagantly. This allows us to save.

Why do we save? Wesley doesn't give us a list, but we can assume the need in Wesley's time was similar to today. We save for unexpected expenses, ours or our children's education, retirement, and something to leave our children. Wesley cautions on the last one to leave enough that your heirs can avoid poverty, but not so much that they will avoid working.

Give all you can. Everything we have comes from God. We are stewards of it while we are here. He quotes Galatians 6:10 saying first "do good to them that are of the household of faith." Then give to wherever you find need. By doing this we establish we are good stewards of what God has given us.

	2023		2022		2023 Budget
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	
Nov	\$22,366	\$21,441	\$26,247	\$23,908	\$28,420
YTD	\$267,767	\$293,293	\$252,916	\$279,505	\$312,623



JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year!

2024 – how did we get here?! It never ceases to amaze me how quickly time flies, especially because I have the privilege of working with our awesome youth. It is said that, “time flies when you’re having fun!”

During the month of December, you might have seen some of our talented youth participate in the Children’s Christmas Program by playing the roles of narrator. As a Youth Group activity, we sang Christmas Carols at local Nursing Homes to spread Christmas Cheer. Sending a special “thank you” to Rob Bush for being a co-leader during our caroling outing – we can’t wait for next year! We sure did have a lot of illness over the past month, but we powered through and ended the month with a Christmas Party –complete with many rounds of BINGO and Christmas treats.

As a Youth Group (both Middle and High School) we will be going Snow Tubing at Sunburst in Kewaskum on Sunday afternoon January 14th. I will send more information out via email regarding time, waivers, parent signatures, etc. If you are interested in joining Harrison and I as an adult chaperone, please get in touch with me (contact information listed below). As a Youth Group, we will also be hosting Coffee Hour on January 14th. We look forward to seeing you in between first and second worship services.

Middle and High School Sunday School are held down in the Youth Room, after first service. 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!

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

Sunday, January 14th: Middle and High School Youth Group – Host Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 14th: Middle and High School Youth Groups – Snow Tubing at Sunburst. Meeting time is TBD.

Peace and Joy,
Brittany

Brittany Hahn
Youth Ministry Coordinator (6-12 Grade)
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·Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
·2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Happy New Year! I know many of us have tried new years resolution, but generally we fail. This year let's try focusing on the "new" that is given to us in Christ. Maybe this year our resolution could be to work on our relationship with Christ and our other resolutions may just fall in place. Christ makes all things new, forget the past and take a new path with Christ, who knows where it may lead you.

Past Events:

Advent Luncheon - Advent December 2nd, was a success again. We had 14 hosted tables and one for the Treble Makers, whose performance was amazing. We served 120 diners, many from outside our church community. This event was originally designed to offer, an opportunity to invite others in our church and share our Christian faith. There were a lot of faces I didn't recognize this year and that is a great thing. If you ever want to attend and have not been invited by a hostess, contact Shari Purman she keeps track of all available seating or seats that open unexpectedly.

I want to thank those who hosted and decorated all the beautiful tables, and everyone who helped prep the food on Friday night and ran the kitchen on Saturday. I special thanks to Shari Purman for organizing the event and our amazing men's group who performed. We couldn't do this event without everyone's help.

Hospitality Updates:

Friends and Family Game Night-Game night will resume January 14th, 2024, from 5-7pm. Chris Weed will be leading, and an Uno Tournament is planned. He is reaching out to several community groups and senior centers to attend the event. It will be a tournament with posted rules. Simple prizes for longest run, most cards loss, most wins. 4-6 people per game with matchup changing every round. Emphasis on social gaming. Mark your calendars, it sounds like a great event!

No Messy Church in January! Resuming February.

Let's Get Connected

Remember to wear your name badges on the first Sunday of each month.

Blessings,

Victoria Triick and the Hospitality Ministry Team

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Happy New Year, Everyone! My wish for you in 2024 is health, joy, peace and contentment. I know of so many people that don't enjoy celebrating the new year, but I'm excited to see what this year has to hold. I hope you will join me in welcoming 2024 with open arms.

I would like to start out by saying, a very big thank you to every single person that contributed in some way to the Children's Christmas Program on December 10th. I thought the children did wonderfully and I am so proud of them. Check out our Facebook page or website to see photos (or ask me, I have a lot of photos!).

I know it's mentioned in various points of this newsletter, but I have to do my part, too. Please note, Messy Church will not take place in January. We will resume on February 7, 2024. I am looking forward to it & I hope you will join us; invite a friend to come, too!

Sunday School will resume on January 7th. If you or someone you know, is interested in enrolling your child for Sunday School, you are free to do that at any point. Everyone is welcome to join the fun! Thank you to our amazing Sunday School teachers...I mean, really, you ALL are simply fantastic. I appreciate each of you so much!

Also, looks like I'll be seeing more of your faces very soon when I take on the role of office administrator in January. Stop in on Mondays and Tuesdays, and you will see me at the front desk. I know I'll get to see more of you face-to-face!

Peace & Blessings,
Emilee Mooney

Hey Kids! My office door could use a little love! Would you be willing to draw me a picture or color a picture for me?

I'd love to hang them up and showcase all your artistic talents.

Just give me your picture and I will proudly put it on display!

Thank you so much



The FUMC Mission team would like to Thank you-the congregation for your generous giving and continued support for all missions that are offered for the church to participate in!!!!

We challenged you and you responded...

You made 2023 a giving year by blessing families around the World by...

- initially giving to The Ukraine people in early 2023...over \$5,000
- Being present and participating in our 3rd Annual Mealpack for Midwest Missions...packing over 15,000 meals
- Providing needed washcloths and other items (Dignity kits) for our Annual Conference to be distributed by Midwest Mission
- Bringing in school supplies for Milwaukee Rescue to support families in need...bins full
- Answering the call to shop by selecting a tag from the giving tree or just bringing in "extra" gifts for families this holiday season
 - Gingerbread Project was able to support over 600 families this year along with hundreds of people supported by Hartford Christmas Project
- Additional challenge...Albrecht Free Clinic

2024 Quarterly Focused Missions

1st Qtr- Human Trafficking

2nd Qtr- 4th Annual Meal pack-April 20,2024

3rd Qtr- Back to School support

4th Qtr- Gingerbread House of Washington County and Hartford Christmas Project

- Reminder, we are looking for someone to step forward by April 1 to lead the Mission Team for the remainder of 2024 and beyond...please pray and consider if you feel called to answer this call to serve!

The Mission Team,

George, Chris, Michelle and Mark

We would like to wish each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!