



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

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### Custodian

Josh Thompson

### District Superintendent

Rev. Ebenezer Insor

## FUMC Mission Statement

“Making Disciples of Christ”

## JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1, 2023:

Worship Service at 9:30

No Sunday School

January 8, 2023:

8:30—Worship

10:45—Worship

Sunday School Resumes at 9:45AM

January 15, 2023:

8:30—Worship

10:45—Worship

Sunday School at 9:45AM

January 22, 2023:

8:30—Worship

10:45—Worship

Sunday School at 9:45AM

January 29, 2023:

8:30—Worship

10:45—Worship

Sunday School at 9:45AM

# From the Desk of Pastor Cheryl...



Happy 2023!

If you reached the end of 2022 and found yourself a little bit tired (or maybe a lot tired) and perhaps a little short on holiday spirit, you're not alone. Experts claim that after the past 2-1/2 years of dealing with a pandemic and all the political and cultural turmoil around us, we may just need some peace (and maybe a dose of hope, love, and joy on the side). The church is not immune to cultural struggles.

We do not operate in a vacuum; we are part and parcel of the same everyday experience of those we serve with. We are not unique and yet we are set apart. We deal with all the same issues and yet we are looking at them through the lens of our faith. As we end 2022 and begin 2023, we will be focusing on how we tell our story. A story that includes Immanuel (God-with-us) that was promised. Christmas is this amazing celebration of the Promise of God fulfilled. Despite or perhaps in spite of all of our humanness, God promised to be with us and we set apart time in our lives to thank God and to rejoice in this gift. My hope is that you celebrated in some way.

This year in January as we have done the past couple of years we will remember the gift of the Christ-child and the Wisemen who visited on Epiphany after following a star. We will have new "star words" for everyone to choose from and we are embarking on learning more about a process that our church has started and it's working title is the Missional Church Consultation Initiative or MCCI. Leadership is working on a new name for this and we will roll it out sometime in January or February. This initiative is one we were chosen for as a church by the Bishop and it's a resourcing tool for us to help us as we pray our 738 Prayer asking God to break through into our lives and our church. Watch for more on this in worship and in our other communications.

May the New Year dawn for you with all the joy and peace you need.  
See you in church,

*Pastor Cheryl*

# NEWS FROM YOUR ALB

Accountable Leadership Board Meeting Summary  
November 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order with a prayer.

## Pastoral Updates

Pastor Cheryl introduced the concept of 3 Primary Leadership Components. These components form what questions we ask, what we worry about, and what feeds our enthusiasm. Churches need to balance all three components in the makeup of their teams to move forward smoothly, ease tensions, and create a collaborative teamwork. Going forward, all of the ministry teams at FUMC will be trained on these components.

## Advent services

12/7/22 – Advent service incorporated into Messy Church

12/14/22 – Karen Bidwell is leading a service

12/21/22 – Longest Night service.

Katie Schlotthauer is starting Cherub's choir.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, 12/11/22.

## UMC Church Disaffiliation

Given the feedback we received at the 11/13/22 congregational meeting concerning the issue of disaffiliation, the board recognizes that going forward, we need to be more transparent.

A communication from the ALB will be going out to the congregation on this issue in the very near future. This is an ALB issue, not a Pastor issue, and we want to stress that if a member has a question about disaffiliation, they should talk to an ALB member.

## Finance Team

Overall receipts are in line with last year at this time. Finance sees no need for concern.

The plan is to continue to pay apportionments through the end of the year.

## 2023 Budget

Includes a 3% increase for salaried employees only. Two big changes are in the salary for Office Secretary and the salary for the Communications Coordinator.

The ALB reviewed the budget, made a number of adjustments, and then approved the 2023 budget as amended.

The 2023 budget will be presented to the congregation between services on Sunday, 12/4/22.

## ALB Positions 2023

Amanda Lichtensteiger will assume the position of Recording Secretary, John Moscicki will chair SPRC, and Kathy Hack will serve as ALB Chair.

The ALB gave consensus approval of the 4 very qualified people the Nominations Team put forward to serve on the 2023 ALB: Dana Osmanski, Chris Weed, Dave Hoxworth, and Brad Hahn.

## Charge Conference – December 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

The 2023 Budget as approved by the ALB will be presented.

The 4 new ALB members approved by the ALB will be presented.

## Technology Team

The security camera system and WIFI switches have been installed. (There is still an outstanding issue with ceiling tiles damaged during installation.)

Lifeline AV is coming in December to install the remaining equipment in the sanctuary and the speaker system in Fellowship Hall.

## Trustees

Electrical work in sanctuary is done.

Project to repair downspouts and gutters is done.

The next project will be to upgrade some badly deteriorated windows.

## Ministry Teams

Christian Education/Youth: Christmas Movie Night in the Youth Room. The Youth Group is going caroling on 12/11/22.

Missions: \$5,500 was sent to Midwest Missions. The next Rice Meal Pack will be in April 2023. All the tags are pulled from the Christmas Giving Tree.

Hospitality: The Advent Luncheon on Saturday 12/3/22 is sold out. The ALB will sponsor Coffee Hour on 12/18/22.

Worship: Looking for ideas for second service.

Faith Groups: The Saving Grace class led by Carol Staus has concluded and was a success. An Advent Bible Study is being led by Jay and Victoria Triick.

## Staff Parish Update

Staff performance reviews have been completed. All are good!

Brittany Hahn has assumed responsibility for both middle- and high-school Sunday School and Youth Groups.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 19, 2022

\*Please turn to page 8 for more from the ALB\*

## Quarterly Missions for 2023

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter-Pastors Emergency Fund and Ukraine Relief\*
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter- 3 Third Annual Meal pack April 22 (Increased from 2500 to 3000 bags)
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter-School supplies, Milwaukee Mission, Hartford
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter-Hartford Christmas Project/Gingerbread House

\*United for Ukraine: January Special Giving Mission

Since February 2022 when Ukraine was invaded by Russia, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has provided aid and assistance to nearly 400,000 Ukrainians. The support includes transportation, food, water, clothing, safe shelters, medical supplies, shelter winterization, and much more. As we get settled into the comfort of our homes for the winter, please keep the people of Ukraine in your continued prayers as they are also facing the same type of season, but many are without power or heat.

For the month of January, our FUMC Mission Team is establishing a special giving mission. Please prayerfully consider making a donation by writing a check to FUMC and designating UMCOR Advance #982450 in the memo. 100% of donations to UMCOR goes to its intended purpose. At the end of January, we will send all donations to UMCOR for direct assistance to those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled to neighboring nations.

If you would like to learn more about UMCOR's support of Ukraine, go to [umcmis-sion.org](http://umcmis-sion.org) and select "learn more" in the Ukraine Response box. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

**Your Mission Team...thanks you for your help and support in our churches ministries!**

## SUMMERFIELD MEALS FOR 2023

We will continue to partner with Summerfield United Methodist Church in Milwaukee and will prepare five meals over the year. Here are our tentative dates:

January 21, February 4 (youth), April 22, August 19 and November 4.

Please see Carla Kramoris after early service on January 15 if you can help with the January 21 meal.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

# News from Emilee...

New Year Greetings, FUMC Family! I know I'm not alone in my utter disbelief that we are in the year 2023, right? Why does this happen every single year? As I get older, it goes faster! How? Why?

Our Sunday School kids have had a pretty fantastic year thus far. I'm excited to announce that for the remainder of Sunday School in 2023, we will have two new teachers joining us! Amber Schauer and Crystal Odenwald have volunteered to teach Sunday School to the elementary age school children (1st-5th grades). Your children will be in led by these two amazing, faith-filled women. Thank you, Amber & Crystal, for joining the Sunday School team. We all appreciate you both!

I will be leading the Sunday School class after Christmas break on January 8th, while Amber & Crystal join me to meet your children. They will take over the teaching on January 15th.

Please add January 4th at 6pm to your calendars. It's our first Messy Church of 2023! If you have not been to Messy Church, please make a point of joining us. It is such a joy-filled, relaxing atmosphere, family & adult friendly! The food is always delicious and always plentiful. If you want to join us, but don't like to drive at night and/or don't have a ride, give me a call, I can help you figure out a way to join us!

## Dates at a Glance:

January 1st—No Sunday School

January 4th—Messy Church at 6pm in Fellowship Hall

January 8—Sunday School Resumes

January 15—Our new teachers begin teaching the 1st-5th graders

If you have any questions, comments or ideas, I'm all ears! Please reach out to me any time at 262.673.3290 or [Emilee.fumc@gmail.com](mailto:Emilee.fumc@gmail.com)

I hope your New Year is full of peace, joy and many blessings,

Emilee Mooney



What would **YOU** like to see happen at FUMC in 2023. Use this space to write ideas & drop it off in Emilee Mooney's mailbox. The possibilities are endless!



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# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:15 TOPS 6:30 Bells	<b>4</b> 6:00 Messy Church 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 9:45 Sunday school 10 Men's choir 10:45 Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:15 TOPS	<b>11</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 9:45 Sunday school 10 Men's choir 10:45 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:15 TOPS 6:30 Bells	<b>18</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 9:45 Sunday school 10 Men's choir 10:45 Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:15 TOPS 6:30 Bells	<b>25</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11:30- Community Lunch
<b>29</b> 8:30 worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 9:45 Sunday school 6:30 Bells	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:15 TOPS 6:30 Bells				

## Let's Meet Our Accountable Leadership Board Members:

Beginning this month, we are going to introduce you to the ALB members. There are 12 members of the board and 12 months of the year!

This month we are featuring ALB member, David Schlotthauer. David is a life-long member of FUMC. He, and his wife, Katie have two children, Elora (4) and Carver (1).

David volunteers on the Board, while also lending his voice to the chancel choir & being a cantor on Sunday mornings. David enjoys attending weekly worship services with his entire family.

David is always willing to talk about the happenings of FUMC. If you have a question about anything with the board, or FUMC in general, don't hesitate to chat with him.



### **FUMC ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Kathy Hack	Chair
Amanda Lichtensteiger	Recording Secretary
Dana Osmanski	Lay Leader
Steve Alsum	Lay Member to AC
John Moscicki	SPRC Chair
Brad Hahn	SPRC Rep.
Glenn Lepien	Trustee Chair
Rob Bush	Trustee Rep.
Carol Staus	Finance Representative
Chris Weed	At Large
David Schlotthauer	At Large
Dave Hoxworth	At Large



# Happy New Year!



2023 – 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, we continued with our lessons on “to give is better than to receive.” During Sunday School, we dug a bit deeper to define the true definition and meaning of a “gift,” especially with Christmas being right around the corner. We discovered, as a group, that a “gift,” does not necessarily need to be purchased in a store or online, that when we are given any kind of gift it is because that person/group of people mostly likely love and care about us and wanted us to know it (what a gift in itself!), and lastly it was a unanimous vote that we feel more of a warm fuzzy feeling (which we discovered is probably the love and JOY of God) inside our hearts when we give a gift over receiving a gift.

We took our gift giving a step further when we decided to put our findings into action and give the gift of our time and musical talents when we traveled to three Nursing Home locations to sing Christmas carols for their residents. At each location we had audience member participation and even a request for “one more song!” was made. A special “shout out” goes to Connie Speiser who joined Harrison and I with the youth that night.

As a Youth Group (both Middle and High School) we will be going Snow Tubing at Sunburst in Kewaskum on Sunday afternoon January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if your child plans on attending as we will be purchasing tickets ahead of time for this outing. If you are interested in joining Harrison and I as an adult chaperone, please get in touch with me (contact information listed below).

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 15<sup>th</sup>**: Middle and High School Youth Groups – Snow Tubing at Sunburst. Meeting time is TBD.

Peace and Joy,  
Brittany

## Birthdays

01/02 Ele Mack  
Joseph Thurmer  
Mitchell Sutter  
John Morin  
01/04 Deb Morgenstern  
01/05 Laura Wesner  
01/06 Quinn Albrecht  
Caylie Peters  
Jonathan Lang  
01/07 Doug Kissel  
Brian Sutheimer  
Shelly Wieting  
01/08 Rhiannon Pillsbury  
01/09 Leigh Ann Hass  
01/10 Abby Baumgarner  
01/11 Nick Martin  
01/13 Angela Lindgren  
01/15 Elisabeth Kappel  
01/16 Zoey Precord  
01/17 Fred Hack  
Dennis Carroll  
01/18 Cathi Wilson  
01/19 Carol Martin  
01/20 Bob Cleland  
Dina Lane  
01/21 Greg Bidwell  
Gary Koch  
01/22 Richard Rohde  
01/25 Camille Secola  
John Moscicki  
01/26 Jayla Buege  
01/28 Brian Wuest  
Andrew Alsum  
Jolene Sabel

Happy Birthday, Everyone!

## Anniversaries

01/07 Michael & Kim DeGroot  
01/21 James & Jennifer Buege  
01/27 Tom & Lynn Stephenson

Happy Anniversary!



Blessings to You in the New Year  
May peace fill your world,  
May love fill your home  
With contentment and happiness, too—  
In wonderful ways  
May This year of new days  
Be filled with sweet blessings for you.

Happy New Year

## Hospitality News...

It's a new year! I am probably one of the few who love snow. I am not saying that I couldn't do without the long cold months of winter, I just find snow so beautiful, in comparison to the dreary gray scenery of winter. It reminds me of how Jesus's blood washes away all our sin and blankets us in purity. Winter gives us, in our part of the world a time to rest, to hibernate and restore, so that once again everything will be new again.

### Past Event Update

Advent Luncheon- A huge thank you to those who helped to make the Advent Luncheon a success once again! Special shout out to Shari and Leigh Ann for organizing and all those in the kitchen crew who made the meal run smoothly. As usual, our table hostesses outdid themselves and each table was uniquely decorated with our Angel theme. A thank you to the group from the Hartford Union High School Concert Choir who provided us with a lovely concert. The hospitality committee will determine, at our next meeting, where the proceeds from this event will be donated.

### Hospitality Happenings

#### **Game Night-- Returning on January 13th , 2023 6-8pm**

We 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). From the reports I got back from November it appears we have quite a competitive and fun group attending. Hope you will give it a try!

**Soup Tasting Event-** Date to be determined. Start thinking about what kind of soup or dessert you are interested in sharing for our next soup tasting event.

**Coffee Hour** - Reminder New Year's Day will be simple coffee and purchased treats.

### Let's Get Connected

Please remember to wear your name badge on the first Sunday of each month. 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!

### How Can YOU Help Hospitality?

**Looking for Messy Church Volunteers-** Need volunteers for clean-up starting in January. Hospitality prepares the meal for Messy Church the 1st Wednesday of the Month from September through May. It can be a one-month commitment for the season. A signup sheet is posted near the front entrance.

We can always use new members or new ideas. If you have an idea for Hospitality, please feel free to contact me in person, via phone, text or email.

Blessings,

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

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

738 West Monroe  
Hartford, WI 53027  
262-673-3290

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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# January 2023 NEWSLETTER

