



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF HARTFORD

November/December 2025

Living By Faith



The Pastor's Corner

FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As the cool winds of November arrive, we find ourselves entering a busy and beautiful season — one filled with gatherings, gratitude, and preparation. Both at home and in the church, this time of year reminds us that another year is drawing to a close. Yet in the midst of our many activities and responsibilities, Scripture invites us to pause and remember:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” (Psalm 103:2)

The psalmist calls us to remember — not because God forgets, but because we often do. We move quickly from one task to the next, from one concern to another, and sometimes lose sight of the quiet, steady grace that has carried us this far. But when we stop and reflect, we begin to see it everywhere: in moments of joy and sorrow, in answered prayers and in patient waiting, in the faithfulness that has held this church through fifty years of ministry.



The Pastor's Corner

This November, our congregation will gather for several important and meaningful occasions.

- On **November 2**, we will celebrate **Stewardship Sunday**. We are honored to welcome Rev. Krystal Goodger, Chair of the WI Conference Foundation, who will be preaching that day. As United Methodists, we are called to practice five spiritual commitments: our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Stewardship is not simply about finances — it is about faithfulness. It is our way of saying, “All that I have and all that I am belong to God.” On that Sunday, we will dedicate our pledge offerings as an expression of gratitude and trust in God’s continuing work among us.

- Then, on **November 9, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.**, we will host a **special information session** with our new District Superintendent, Rev. InSun Lee, and the Conference Treasurer. They will provide updates and explanations regarding apportionments — a topic that many of you have asked about. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn, ask questions, and gain a clearer understanding of how our giving connects us to the broader ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- A few days later, on **November 18 at 6:30 p.m.**, we will gather for our **Church Conference**, an important moment in our shared ministry. Together, we will reflect on the past year, approve leadership nominations, celebrate the ministries that have borne fruit, and prayerfully prepare for the year ahead. I hope many of you will join us for this time of discernment and thanksgiving.



The Pastor's Corner

And then, looking ahead, we approach one of the most anticipated celebrations in our church's history — our **50th Anniversary Worship Service** on **December 7, 10am**

We are preparing a worship service filled with thanksgiving and joy, remembering God's faithfulness through the decades. We will be joined by our Bishop, District Superintendent, conference leaders, and several pastors who have previously served this congregation.

What a joy it will be to gather together — generations of faith, united in praise — to declare that ***"All this has been God's grace."***

Our Youth Group will also be hosting a Pie Auction as part of the celebration, with proceeds supporting their future ministries and mission work. We encourage everyone to support and cheer them on as they share their gifts with the congregation!

As we journey through this season of thanksgiving, may we not overlook the quiet miracles that surround us every day — the kindness of a friend, the faithfulness of volunteers, the laughter of children, the beauty of worship. These, too, are God's gifts. Grace is not always loud; sometimes it comes in whispers, reminding us that we are never alone.

My prayer for you is that this autumn will be a season of deep gratitude and renewed awareness of God's abundant grace. May the same God who has sustained us for the past fifty years continue to bless and guide us for the next fifty — and beyond.

With thanksgiving and hope,

Rev. Hyunmin Lee



Hello Church Family, You are invited to join a new discussion group between services on Sunday mornings. We're calling it SUNDAY MORNING REFLECTION. During our time together we'll all be given an opportunity to share our thoughts about that morning's scripture and Pastor Hyunmin's message.....for example, what did we think about during the scripture reading and message, how did it make us feel, what clarification might we need. So, when the Sunday School bell rings on Sundays, bring a copy of Pastor's sermon, your coffee & snack and join us in the former Adult Sunday School room. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Mary Beth Stevenson or Cheryl Malko.

Serving One Another

Hospitality Ministry



"A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:7-9:

*Fall is a time for change and for harvest. Here in Wisconsin, as fall arrives, some of us begin to slow down a bit, and snuggle in with a warm cup of coffee and a roaring fire. While others are in the heat of harvest. Either way it is a time of change and renewing of our spirits. For Hospitality it is time to ramp up and start rolling out the events. Our harvest time is here. Our hope always is to make our members feel loved and cared for and to reach out with that same love and care for those who do not have a home church or maybe even faith. Let us all feel the energy of the harvest and reach out to those in need of God's love and care. Let us be the warm cup of coffee and the roaring fire that brings comfort and peace. **Don't give up, keep inviting those who need God's love and maybe next fall we will all reap in the harvest.***

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

10/25/25 2:30-4:30pm Halloween event. Hospitality provided hot chocolate, chili and popcorn for the event. (It was a wonderful, successful event for our church and community.)

11/6/25 6:30 pm Pumpkin Craft night. Please invite your friends, neighbors and coworkers. This is a great opportunity to show them the lighter side of church life. Bring a bag of poly fiber fill- 16oz or 32oz, depending on how big a pumpkin you want, and an old sweater or one you purchase 2nd-hand that you think would make a good pumpkin. We have the rest of the supplies and some extra sweaters and filling. Make sure to sign up on the list so we can make sure to have enough supplies. Refreshments will be served as well. Men, women and age-appropriate children are welcome to make pumpkins.

11/8/25 3:00-5:00 pm Hartford Christmas Parade – Hospitality is hosting a float for FUMC.

We usually need to be at our starting line by 2:30pm.

1. We are looking for a couple of people to help put it together the week before, mostly lifting some hay bales, artificial trees, making sure the lights and music work.
2. On the day of the parade, we need a minimum of the following - these can be adults and children:
 - 3 wisemen (or wisewomen)
 - 1-2 shepherds
 - A few sheep or I can use the fake sheep
 - An angel
 - 2 people to carry the church banner
 - 2 people to hand out candy
 - 2 people to hand out flyers with our Pizza with Santa and Christmas Eve hours on it.

12/6/25 Advent Luncheon- We are looking for hostesses, please contact Shari Purman if interested in decorating and hosting a table.

- This year's theme is Away in the Manger
- Meal- Stuffed Pork loin, Parisian carrots, dinner rolls, and salad served family style. For dessert we will have vanilla ice cream with homemade fudge by our very own Ellie Mack and a candy cane.
- Entertainment is still being determined.

1/25/26, 12Noon: Chili Cook-Off- looking forward to 2026 - more information to follow.

If you have any questions about any of the events listed, please feel free to call, text or email me. 262-224-2442 victoriatriick@gmail.com.

Blessings and Happy Fall,

Victoria Trick

Hospitality Ministry Team Leader



First United Methodist Men of Faith **Brotherhood. Service. Spiritual Growth**

Are you looking for a place to grow in faith, serve your community, and build lasting friendships? The First United Methodist Men of Faith is more than just a group — it's a movement of men committed to living out their faith with purpose and action.

What We Do

- Monthly Meetings – great company, and inspiring conversations.
- Community Service Projects and Outings
- Bible Study – Deepen your spiritual walk with brothers who support and challenge you. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7:30pm in the Chapel.

Why Join?

- Grow in your relationship with Christ
- Build meaningful friendships
- Make a lasting impact in your church and community
- Discover your purpose and gifts
- Be part of something bigger than yourself
- Have fun!

You're Invited!

Whether you're new to the church or a longtime member, we welcome you to join us. No matter your age or background, there's a place for you in the United Methodist Men of Faith. Come to our next meeting and see what we're all about. Let's walk together in faith, serve with compassion, and lead with integrity.

UPCOMING MEN OF FAITH EVENTS

NOVEMBER TOUR

Amazon Fulfillment Center
Oak Creek, WI
Thursday, Nov. 13th at 9:30 am
Limit 25, Contact Brian Swenson
bswenson1330@gmail.com
(414) 378-1330

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, Nov 24th at 6:30 pm
FUMC Fellowship Hall
Spiritual content provided by
Jay Triick

DECEMBER – NO MONTHLY MEETING

“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL”

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 26th at 9:30
FUMC Fellowship Hall
Spiritual content provided by
- David Schotthaer
We will plan our 2026 group
activities at this meeting



MEN OF FAITH

honoring God in all we do



**HUSTISFORD ROD AND GUN CLUB
THURSDAY, OCT 8TH
20 MEMBERS OF MEN OF FAITH ATTENDED THIS OUTING**



**BRAT FRY
M.J. MEAT AND CATERING
HARTFORD, WI
SATURDAY, OCT 18TH
8 MEMBERS OF THE MEN OF FAITH HELPED OUT AT THIS EVENT**



Children and Family Ministries

Brianna Lee - Children and Family Ministries Director
brianna.fumc@gmail.com
(262)673-3290 - (262)709-6071

The air has finally turned crisp and I can't believe we'll be hearing Christmas Bells Soon!

Sunday School has been off to a great start so far! The kids have really been enjoying digging into their Bibles and reading the Scripture. We have been focusing on Genesis and the Beginning of the Heavens and Earth. The children learned about Adam and Eve and how sin came into the world.

They learned of the great flood that Noah escaped with his family and the animals on the Ark. Children also learned about the rainbow and how it is a symbol of God's promise to all living creature that there would never another worldwide flood.

For our Fall Sunday School Lesson, the kids dove into John 15:1-8 and John 15:16. They learned that we must remain on the vine of God's love in order to prosper and that God chose each and every one of us!

What an amazing feeling to know you have been chosen!

We started wrapping up fall with an amazing Fallween Event at FUMC that was well attended and enjoyed by all ages! A huge THANK YOU to everyone that contributed in any way to this incredible event! It was so fun to see so many fun costumes and smiling faces!

FALLOWEEN 2025



It's not too late to get your children and grandchildren involved with Sunday School!

Open to all children 3 years old - 12th grade

Here is our Sunday School Registration for 2025/2026

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/azqht84/lp/c08b9466-f a47-461f-9374-96d5a6148b58>

**No Sunday School
November 30th
December 7th and December 28th**



JOIN US Youth Ministry *get involved*



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS NOVEMBER-DECEMBER UPDATES

Greetings, Church Family!

We are excited to share the latest happenings with our 6th-12th grade youth! Our students are settling into a great rhythm with both Sunday School and Youth Group, and we have a lot of fun activities planned for the coming months.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Our first Youth Group meeting of the year kicked off with some good food and great fellowship! We gathered last month to enjoy “Walking Tacos” (jury’s still out on whether Doritos or Fritos are the best base), listen to contemporary praise and worship music, share a devotion, and play some fun games. The fan favorite game was Underground Church, which always sparks a lot of laughter and good conversation. We had around 10 youth in attendance, and we would love to see that number grow! If you know any students in 6th-12th grade who love to have fun and make new friends, please send them our way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: EXPLORING THE WORD

In Sunday School, we’ve been diving deep into the Book of John and becoming more familiar with our Bibles. We are averaging about 10 youth each Sunday, but we’re hoping to increase that number even more. Encourage your youth to come, and don’t forget, bringing a friend is always welcome! The more, the merrier as we continue to grow in our faith together.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NOVEMBER: FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION & SCAVENGER HUNT

On an exciting note, on Sunday, November 16, we'll be participating in our Annual Food Pantry Collection and Scavenger Hunt! This is always a highlight for our youth. The evening will include a fun scavenger hunt with a pizza party to start. This is a great opportunity for our youth to volunteer and give back to the community, so be sure to encourage your child to participate. Prizes will be awarded for the most items collected and the most points earned during the hunt. Don't forget to wear warm clothes and bring a bag for collecting items!

DECEMBER: 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

In December, we'll be celebrating a special milestone—**our church's 50th Anniversary!** Join us on Sunday, **December 7**, as we celebrate with one special service. During this time, we will also be hosting our **Pie Auction**, which is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We invite you to consider donating a pie to the auction, or if baking isn't your thing, come and bid on a pie!

We will also be participating in one of our favorite traditions—**Christmas Caroling!** On Sunday, **December 14**, we'll visit some of our local assisted living facilities to spread holiday cheer with carols, and we would love for families to join us for this special service project. Afterward, we'll gather for dinner at Culver's to wrap up the evening together.

Get Involved

As always, we're looking for ways to grow and encourage our youth in their faith and service. If you know any 6th-12th graders who could benefit from these experiences, please invite them to join us!

We are looking forward to an exciting and busy end to the year, and we hope to see you and your youth involved in all these wonderful opportunities.

Blessings,

Brittany Prange

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Faith and Trust
in
God

WOMEN IN FAITH



Pictured above is a photo from our October 6th Women in Faith meeting where we learned more about our Youth Program from current and former participants and leaders — Brittany Prange, Aiden Pezzino, Harrison Gottfried, Bob Klockow and David Schlotthauer

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Monday, November 3rd at 6:30pm— in honor of Veterans Day, we will be featuring information about and experiences in the Stars and Stripes Honor Flights program and learn about volunteer opportunities in the American Legion Auxiliary and Hartford American Legion and VFW posts. Our speakers will be Amy Luft, American Legion Auxiliary National Legislative Vice Chair and Department of Wisconsin Senior Vice President, Larry Thomas representing Hartford American Legion/VFW and none other than our own FUMC member, Tom Paine, who recently flew on an Honor Flight to and from Washington DC.

Refreshments courtesy of Judy Bartlow and Joan Hove.

Monday, December 1st at 6:30 — it's a dual Christmas celebration! We'll start with Brian Swenson sharing information about his dream project and letting us know everything we wanted to ask starting and maintaining a Christmas Tree Farm. Brian will be followed by a Christmas Carol Sing Along with Jim Gottfried and Friends.

Refreshments courtesy of Lisa DuPont and Pat Swenson.



FUMC Mission Team

KEEPING HEAD START KIDS WARM

The Mission Team is dedicating its efforts to the Head Start program in Washington County – a vital initiative giving children, many from low-income families, the chance to get a real “head start” before they enter regular school. Head Start is present in many nearby communities, including right here in Hartford.

When we asked the program’s social worker about their most pressing needs, the answer came quickly: **winter clothing**. Most children ride the bus to their Head Start center, and too often they arrive without warm gear for Wisconsin’s frigid months.

Here’s how you can help:

- Check your closets for gently used winter items.
- Consider visiting Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, or another local shop to purchase something new or gently worn.

Most Needed Items (sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6):

- **Waterproof mittens** 🧤
- **Waterproof snow pants**
- **Boots**
- **Winter coats** 🧥
- **Sweatpants**
- **Socks** 🧦
- **Underwear (new)**



We’re collecting items starting now - please join in.

Every coat, mitten, and pair of boots is a step toward keeping a child warm, safe, and ready to learn. Thank you for helping us show Christ’s love in a practical way.

– **The Mission Team at FUMC**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

UPDATE: HARTFORD SHOEBOX NEWS (FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD)

Remember the Shoebox Project when out shopping. Many "end of Summer" sales can be found. Items needed as the boxes get packed are:

School supplies

Washcloths

Balls

Coloring books (new or used, pages get cut out)

Playdough

Remember: no war, violent, or spooky items.

Don't hesitate to purchase any kids toy or clothing (age 4-14). If not needed for this year's packing it will be saved for next year. Remember the boxes are 11x6x4. Lunch size zip lock bags are needed for craft kits.

Want to help? Help pack and ship boxes November 8th from 10am to 5pm at Hartford's Schubert Theater.

In the New Year, we hope to get a group of helpers here at FUMC to work on special projects. More to come on this later.

Let's put a smile on a child's face and share His word.

Barbara Klockow

262-397-6338

