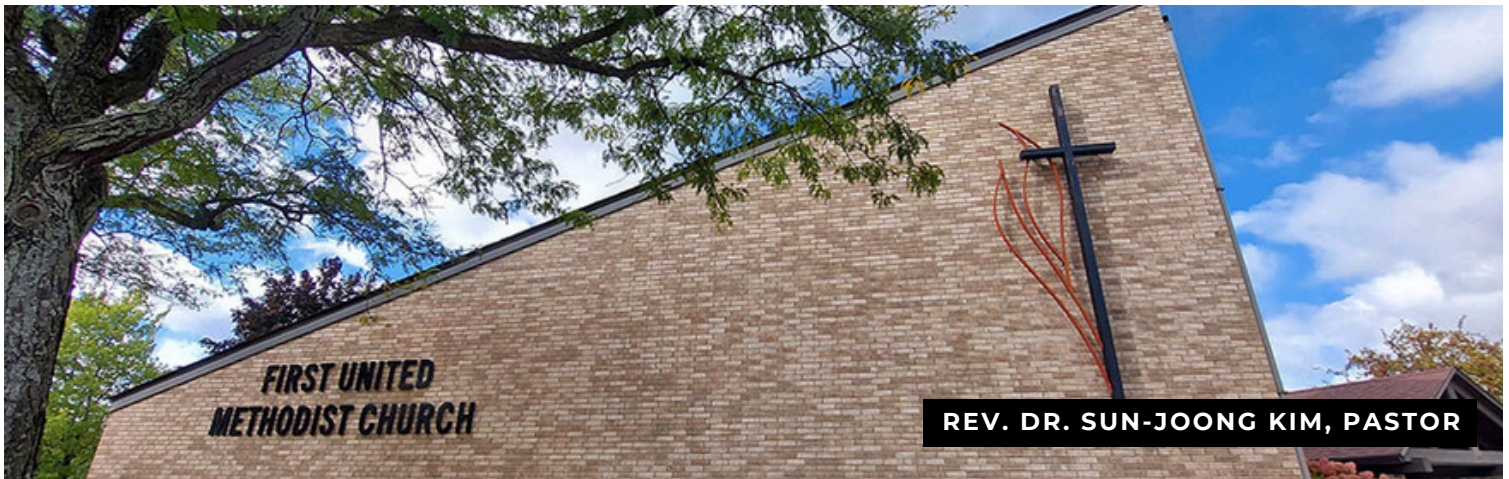


# Living By Faith

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF HARTFORD  
MARCH/APRIL 2025



## NEW ORGAN UPDATE

### ***Kathy Hack, ALB Chair***

Our beloved pipe organ is at the end of its useful life—many parts have failed or are failing, it is becoming unplayable, and the cost to repair it far exceeds the cost of replacing it, with no guarantee that more parts wouldn't fail once that was done. A committee was formed last fall under the leadership of Jim Gottfried, FUMC's Director of Music, and after investigating our options and visiting several other churches to hear their organs, it has recommended we purchase a new electronic organ to replace our pipe organ. Electronic organs have come a long way since they first appeared on the marketplace and for the vast majority of people, their sound is as good as or better than what we currently have. And the cost to buy and maintain them is significantly lower.



Whenever our pipe organ is removed, the pipes and the wall at the front of the sanctuary covering them will also need to be removed, and repairs made to the newly exposed area BEFORE the new organ and speakers are installed. Electrical equipment is very sensitive to dust and even with extra precautions to keep dust and debris to a minimum, fine particles would be kicked up into the air during this process. Especially worrisome is all the dust that's been sitting in the pipe chase for over 50 years.

To fill the empty space that will be created, the proposed plan is to update the choir loft by replacing the pews with raised and carpeted risers and chairs. This update will allow the space to be multifunctional and used for much more than just Sunday-morning choirs. *(cont'd pg 2)*

### *Organ Update Cont'd*

Jim Gottfried has been working hard to find possible sources of funding for this project. He put together an extensive proposal for the Schauer Foundation and we were awarded \$50,000 from them as a result. In addition to that, we have received \$27,000 from members of our congregation and \$30,000 from Ruth Knoll's estate. That \$107,000 will more than cover the cost of the organ and its speakers, but we need to continue to raise funds for the repairs and improvements to the sanctuary. Fred Hack has volunteered his time to be our general contractor for this project and while much of the demo can be done by volunteers, the rest of the work will need to be done by professionals. He is working to get quotes for this work and will report back to us as those numbers come in, but in all likelihood we will need an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 more.

If you are interested in joining the team working on this project or if you have any questions about it, please contact:

Jim Gottfried, 262-224-0492, james.gottfried@gmail.com

Kathy Hack, 262-623-1122, kathytriick@gmail.com

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## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The technology committee has been busy this last quarter. Activities we have undertaken include:

1. Installation of an additional security camera at the back of the church to monitor unauthorized use of our new garbage dumpsters.
2. Upgrade of our WIFI system to both a public and private networks. The private WIFI network is for church staff use. The public WIFI network is for member and guest use. The password for our guest network is: **Hartford**
3. Upgrades to the tech booth in the sanctuary to make it easier to use for members who staff it on Sunday mornings.
4. Implementation of closed captioning on the sanctuary screen.
5. Addition of a handheld microphone to make it easier to hear when congregation members speak during Sunday service
6. Replacement of computer in basement youth room.
7. Coordinating with a company to help us improve the quality of our music ministry on our Facebook Live feed on Sunday mornings.
8. Hosting a training session for members who operate the sanctuary tech booth to improve the quality of our Sunday morning services.
9. Fixing of speakers in narthex and nursery so that Sunday service can be heard thru them.



If you have suggestions and recommendations for the technology committee, please reach out to the office.

# Children and Family Ministries

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

How can it possibly be March already?! Our Elementary Sunday School Group is finishing up their Fall/Winter Session that has focused on learning about the amazing life of Moses and the Israelites. In order to cap off these important lessons, we are ending this session with a showing of "The Prince of Egypt"

As we head into the Lenten Season, the Sunday School students are shifting gears! During this new session, the students will hear stories based on the Parables of Jesus and learn how to "Walk in His Ways." We also have many fun events coming up geared towards kids and their families including the Ecumenical Lenten Soup and Salad Dinner, a Rice Meal Packing Event, an Easter Egg Hunt, our Sunday School Summer Celebration in June, and last, but certainly not least, True North VBS 2025 in August! Watch for more information to come on these events!

## Important Upcoming Dates

~~No Sunday School~~

March 23rd

April 20th

~~Noisy Can Collection~~

March 16th

April 27th

~~Save the Date!~~

June 1st - Sunday School Summer Celebration



**JOIN US FOR TRUE NORTH VBS 2025**

**AUGUST 3RD-7TH ~ 4:30-7PM**

**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**

**Participants ~ 3yo-5th grade**

**Youth/Adult Volunteers ~ 6th grade +**

Youth Participant Registration:  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/hj2vxwk>

Youth/Adult Volunteer Registration:  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bhm8qg4>



Youth Participants



Youth/Adult Volunteers





## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

March Greetings to you all. As renovation work wraps up downstairs in the Youth Room, we are feeling very happy and fortunate to be settling back into our updated space.

Our Middle and High School Sunday School lessons for March will focus on the theme "Rooted." We will study how when you are planted in God's Word, He will produce growth in your life. In April, our Sunday School lessons will focus on the theme, "I Am." We will learn how Jesus' light expels the darkness in our lives and our world.

Our Confirmation classes started the last week of February. These classes were offered to our 7th and 8th grade students. We have five youth enrolled. They will meet with Pastor Kim and myself once a week for an hour. They will complete 8 classes before being confirmed on **Sunday, May 11th**. Pastor Kim's teachings will be based on the book, "Creed – What Christians Believe and Why" by Adam Hamilton.

Our Youth will be hosting our annual Easter Breakfast after the first worship service on Sunday, April 20. Donations will go towards supporting our Youth Group and Youth Room.

*Brittany Hahn*

Youth Ministry Coordinator  
Brittany.fumc@gmail.com  
262-707-7944

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**LENTEN SEASON SPECIAL SERVICES**

**ASH WEDNESDAY ~ MARCH 5TH**  
1 PM & 6:30 PM SERVICES

**ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE AND DINNER ~ APRIL 9TH**  
DINNER 5 PM ~ 6:15 PM ~ SERVICE 6:30 PM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 17TH**  
6:30 PM SERVICE

**GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 18TH**  
1 PM & 6:30 PM SERVICES

The poster features a silhouette of a wooden cross on a hill against a sunset background.



JOIN US FOR

**EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST**

APRIL 20TH | AFTER 1ST SERVICE

HOSTED BY:  
FUMC  
YOUTH GROUP

The poster features a wooden cross and a palm frond on a dark wood background.

# HOSPITALITY TEAM UPDATE

Spring cleaning, I don't know about you, but I am not much a spring cleaner, Once spring hits I am ready for flowers and gardening and the last thing I want to do clean indoors. I think that is way it is with our spirits as well. We find it hard to do the work it takes to clean up our hearts and open them to others. Hospitality is all about opening our hearts to others, so they can feel the love of Christ. I read an article written by Elizabeth Peale Allen (Guideposts) where she outlines 4 steps for spiritual spring cleaning. If you want to read the entire article, just google:

## 4 Steps for a Spiritual Spring Cleaning - Guideposts

Here is a brief outline of the article:

- 1. Scan for the big problems we may have overlooked-Think of the ten commandments, are there any you aren't living out fully?
- 2. Dust off your irritations-Think of people or things that irritate you regularly, is there something in your own heart that is contributing to the problem?
- 3. Consider the clutter of your days-What could you clear from your life that is cluttering you relationship with God? (TV, gossip, indulgence)?
- 4. Contemplate what's lacking-Think of what you could be doing to help others and live with spiritual wellbeing?

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)*

*Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup so that the outside of the cup will be clean too. (Matthew 23:26)*

## Upcoming Events

- Captain's Chocolate of Neosho WI Tasting, Education and sharing of their mission. A perfectly tasty event to invite someone new or someone who has been attending recently to a fun, no pressure event at FUMC. Please feel free to join us on **Monday, April 28, 6:30pm**



- **April 9th** The next scheduled event we will sponsor is the Soup and Salad Supper for the Ecumenical Lenten Service. Watch for sign up sheets closer to that date.

Blessings,

*Victoria Trück*

Hospitality Ministry Team Leader



Ecumenical Lenten Soup and Salad Dinner

Wednesday April 9th, 2025



Dinner Served  
5 PM - 6:15 PM

Lenten Service  
6:30 PM





# WOMEN IN FAITH

## MONDAY, MARCH 3 - 6:30 PM

Join us to learn about the history and contributions of the Hartford Lions Club from our speakers Lion Chuck Steinmetz (Club President) and Lion Kim Steinmetz. Refreshments will be provided by Cheryl Malko.

## MONDAY, APRIL 7 - 6:30 PM

Our speaker will be church member Tony Andreck who will be talking about Fraud — what it is, who it affects, how to prevent it and what to do if we become victims of fraud. Refreshments will be provided by Barbara Klockow and Twyla Gartzke.

Recent gatherings for WIF included a January night of creativity! It's always a great idea to share your ideas and laughter with other like-minded people! Come join us - you will enjoy and likely learn something new.



At our February meeting we were happy to learn about an important community resource, **Horizon Home Care & Hospice**.

