



First United Methodist Church

Waukesha, Wisconsin • Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



TOWER CHIMES

February 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be celebrated on **February 1**. If you are willing to serve, please sign up on the church website. For those worshipping online, please have your communion elements ready.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Did you know that the Wisconsin state prison system uses torture as a form of discipline? It's true. According to the United Nations, keeping people in solitary confinement for longer than 14 days is considered torture. On **February 3**, 6pm, SOPHIA is hosting speaker, Talib Akbar, who will share his experiences while incarcerated and discuss what we, as people of faith, can do to protect incarcerated individuals from this inhumane practice. This is a hybrid event. You can register by visiting SOPHIA Waukesha, SOPHIAwaukesha.org.

Lake County Unitarian Universalist Church Social Action Committee and Sophia are offering an ICE Verifier Training on **Saturday, February 28**, 10am-noon, FUMC. Adam Foxman, a volunteer from Voces De La Frontera volunteer and Bilingual teacher, will help us understand our rights and how we can help immigrants through legal ICE verification. Register at SOPHIAwaukesha.org.

The Church and Society team meets the **fourth Monday of every month**, 2pm, room 216. For more information, contact Susan Mingesz at smingesz@gmail.com.

FORMING FAITH - CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This month the "littles" (PreK-4) will be engaging in the story of King David as a child exploring his anointing by Samuel, how he served King Saul, and took on the giant Goliath.

Our Confirmation Youth will build community and serve our neighbors in Dubuque, IA during their retreat, Feb 6-8. Please keep the confirmands, mentors, Pastor Susan, and Pastor Amy in your prayers.

Our post-Confirmation Youth will meet for crafts, games, and deep discussions as we extend the messages of worship into our daily lives. Note: There will be no children & youth Forming Faith classes on **Feb 15**, as we set up for the Chili Cookoff and Talent Show. We look forward to seeing our friends on Sunday mornings! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org).

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, CHOCOLATE & OLIVE OIL

Church and Society will sell Fair Trade and organic coffee, chocolate, and extra virgin olive oil, on Sunday, **February 8** after worship in the Asbury Room. Please stop by to check out our inventory. We accept cash or checks made out to FUMC with "Fair Trade" in the memo line.

New pricing, starting in February:

- All roasts and types of coffee will be \$10 per bag (*except for decaffeinated*).
- Single chocolate bars still \$4, but the price of two increases to \$7 per pair.

Dear Fair Trade Supporters: Equal Exchange was forced to raise prices due to increased production cost as well as geopolitical factors. Unfortunately, we must pass some of the cost increase along. While these changes do challenge us, we believe the products are fairly priced, especially in comparison to other outlets where Fair Trade products are sold. We hope that you will continue to support our mission to build economically just

and environmentally sound trade partnerships with small-scale farmers, fostering fair, democratic, and sustainable relationships between producers and consumers by championing Fair Trade principles, worker cooperatives, and organic practices for a more equitable world.

XYZ (XTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

The XYZ Potluck and Program will be on **Thursday, February 12** starting at 11:15am with lunch service beginning at 11:45am. Our theme for February is "Reaching Out in Love". XYZ will remember Black History Month with a video on the Secret Codes of Quilts of the Underground Railroad. As many know, our church was one of the stops on the Underground Railroad and all quilters may really enjoy the opportunity to learn as well! Come and enjoy the time of fellowship.

XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) is a group designed for the 50+ crowd yet open to everyone. XYZ meets the second Thursday of the month from September to June with a potluck lunch and program. Contact Veronica Radowicz with any questions (vradowicz@gmail.com).

LENT 2026

The season of Lent is a time of walking into the wild, a 40-day journey filled with wild beasts, wild love, beauty, and challenge; a journey that begins with ashes and ends with joy; a journey that follows Jesus from the depth of the wilderness into the dance of resurrection and new life. The season begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. We will worship at 7pm in the sanctuary with the Imposition of Ashes. The service will be livestreamed.

This is a journey through color: from ashen gray to glorious purple, charcoal shadow to wilderness green, deep crimson to the rainbow of petals in a springtime garden. The word "Lent" refers to the lengthening of sunlight each day, drawing out the colors from the earth. What better guide to this array of color than the artist Henri Matisse, one of the most innovative and influential artists in modern history, celebrated above all as a master colorist.

From his childhood growing up in a small village in France to what he called his 'masterpiece' (the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence), Matisse explored faith and wilderness throughout his life. He once said he liked to pray with a pencil: "At the moment I go every morning to say my prayers, pencil in hand; I stand in front of a pomegranate tree covered in blossom, each flower at a different stage, and I watch their transformation ... filled with admiration for the work of God. Is that not a way of praying?"

FUMC will coordinate and host nine worship services during the season of Lent: Ash Wednesday, six Sundays, Holy Thursday and Good Friday. At each of these services, the congregation will be invited to share how God brings out the colors in our world. Come Easter morning, our sanctuary will be a brilliant display of colors, resembling an impressive and energetic Matisse composition.

With the words of Scripture and the art of Henri Matisse, we'll head into the wild, journeying all the way to the beautiful, joyful dance of Easter morning, **April 5**.

Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday, 7pm

Sundays – Feb 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30am

March 29 – Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:30am

April 2 – Holy Thursday, 7pm

April 3 – Good Friday, 12noon

April 5 – Easter Sunday, 9:30am

4th ANNUAL FUMC CHILI COOKOFF AND TALENT SHOW

Join us **Sunday, February 15**, 5:30pm, Dining Room, for our Chili Cookoff and Talent Show. Let's find out who can dethrone the 2-year reigning chili champion duo, Greg Carpenter & Noah Totzke, and be immortalized on the Silver Ladle plaque. And we want to see your talents! Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Asbury Room or on the church website. This is a fun evening for everyone! You don't have to bring chili and you don't have to share a talent; you can still join in the fun and fellowship, as we build intentional and active community.

"SOUPER" SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING

The missions' team will be taking a NOISY Offering **Sunday, February 15** during worship to financially support our ongoing food collection for the Waukesha County Food Pantry. Bring your coins as we make a loud noise to fight against food insecurity in our area. Quiet financial offerings (cash, checks, or designated online gifts) are also welcome.

UNDIE SUNDAY

FUMC will support the guests of the Hope Center by providing NEW undergarments to keep their bottoms and tops warm and cozy through this winter. Donations of underwear, undershirts, tights and socks can all be placed in the bins in the church hallway. The items will be consecrated on Undie Sunday, **February 22**. The Mission Team appreciates all you do to support our neighbors in need. Thank you!

SUNDAY SUPPERS

We all need a little extra comfort these days! Join us for **Sunday Supper, February 22**, 5pm in the Asbury Room. The theme for this supper is Comfort Foods: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, stew, mac and cheese, buttered rolls...yum! And of course, dessert. Sign up in the church hallway. And if you don't have time to prepare something, come anyway. It is a great opportunity to eat a good meal and meet new church friends. If you have questions, contact Jenny D (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org). All are welcome!

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

Circle of Sisters is meeting **February 23, 2026** with our book, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May. For questions, contact Cheryl Printz (cheryl.printz@fumcwaukesha.org) or Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org).

PATHFINDERS – LUNCH MAKING

No experience necessary to help make lunches -- Meet in the Asbury Room at 9a, **Friday, February 27**. All are welcome to help prepare and bag 40 lunches to be delivered to Pathfinders of Milwaukee. Beginning in March, the Missions team will also offer a Dinner With Pathfinders event, providing dinners to this Milwaukee non-profit serving teens and young adults experiencing homelessness, trauma, and exploitation. Curious & want more info? Contact Kristi Magoon (kristimagoon@prodigy.net) for more info!

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION EXPERIENCE 2026

Last call to sign up for the **2026 mission trip in Minneapolis/St. Paul, July 12-16!** Our experience in the Twin Cities is customized for our group to allow both youth (ages 13+) and adults to serve during our 4 nights/5-day trip. Youthworks, based in Minneapolis, is coordinating the service experience with local non-profits and missions. Our group may be involved in clothing distribution, painting, yard work, work at food pantries, relational ministry or more. Lodging will be at Calvary Church, Golden Valley, MN. Sign up on our website or the list outside the Asbury Room. Deadline to sign up has been extended to **March 1**. Cost of the trip is \$250 per person. For information contact Pastor Amy (amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org) or Jenny Daugherty (jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org)

BISHOP'S CONVOCAATION INVITATION

Practicing hope! That is the theme of the 2026 Bishop's Convocation of Laity, Saturday, **March 7**, 9am-2pm, Portage UMC. Join laity from across the conference as we connect with conference leadership and come together in worship, learning, and fellowship. Interested in attending with a group from FUMC? Information about registration and carpooling is available on the flyer in the church hallway.

Pi/e DAY & Mission Trip Fundraiser

Dust off your best pie recipe, sign up to bring a pie or two, and plan to attend the live auction on Pi/e Day, **Sunday, March 15**, immediately following worship in the Asbury Room. Whole pies will be available for purchase, as well as slices of pie and ice cream to enjoy during the spirited auction. The organization receiving the funds from the auction will be finalized this month. Look for that information in upcoming announcements. Proceeds from the ice cream sales will support this year's Twin Cities Mission Trip. For more information, contact Anjana Jones and Mira Jones (akjones6@gmail.com).

FOOD PANTRY BARRELS

There are two barrels located in the hallway of FUMC, ready to collect your donations for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

Let us love our neighbors by providing food, hope, and dignity. Please share abundantly.

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please contact the Food Pantry of Waukesha County (262-542-5300), Friends with Food (262-409-9282), the Waukesha Salvation Army (262-547-7367), or reach out to Pastors Amy or Susan.

THE BIG 8 TO DONATE:

Peanut Butter
Cereal
Canned Fruit
Canned Veggies
Whole Grains
(pasta, rice)
Canned Protein
(tuna, chicken, salmon)
Canned Beans
(pinto, kidney)
Baby Items
(diapers, wipes, formula)

THE BIG 8 CARE:

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Shampoo
Body Wash
Hand Soap
Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent

FUMC FOUNDATION FACT FOR FEBRUARY

FUMC Memorial Foundation: Each month we are highlighting fun facts about the FUMC Memorial Foundation during its 55th year anniversary. The Foundation is here to accept memorial gifts, bequests and estate gifts which enable our church to cover unexpected expenses or support mission and ministry opportunities. In recent years, the Foundation supported ministry through the purchase of a "loop system" to help those with hearing loss better hear in our sanctuary worship services. As technology has improved, the Foundation has also assisted the church in starting its digital ministry that now reaches hundreds of people beyond our walls. For more information, please contact FUMC's business manager at fumcfinance@fumcwaukesha.org

KEEPING WARM WITH SUPPORT FROM SOPHIA

SOPHIA has provided several emergency blankets across the community for those in need. We have placed them in a large envelope attached to each of the bulletin boards at the North and West entrances. If anyone is in need, please let them know of the blankets. You may also want to take one to give as you are out and about in the community. Thank you to SOPHIA for providing extra warmth this season.

DIGITAL DOOR BELL INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions for Digital Doorbell

Contacting Church staff during office hours:

- (1) Hold Bell image. Swipe up.
It is a continuous motion. See image. You will hear a bell ring.
- (2) Once Bell sounds, a two-way intercom is activated to talk.
- (3) Door will be unlocked when you hear "Welcome".



Our new security system has enabled us to grant more precise access to the church as well as the benefit of video surveillance. You will find posted at each entrance the following instructions.

Please reach out to the office if you need to add a scheduled access to your phone.

MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS

ALL ARE WELCOME !

PIECEMAKERS 1st Tues & 3rd Thurs 9am-12pm, room 123

contact Judy, judypatti@wi.rr.com

Join this quilting group. We utilize donated fabric while enjoying the camaraderie of each other's company. No particular skills needed. There are tasks for everyone.

YARN TWISTERS Every Tues 9:30am, room 209

contact Joyce, jac1977@wi.rr.com

Knit and crochet activities, making gifts of comfort and warmth for our church family and community. We will teach you how to knit and crochet. We have supplies to get you started.

LIVING FAITH TODAY Every Sun, after worship, room 216

contact JoAnn, giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net

A discussion group for adults, exploring current events through the lens of faith and how it relates to the world around us. Each week a new topic is discussed. Members of the class come and go as their life allows. This is a hybrid class.

For Zoom link jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP 2nd Sun of the month, 10:45-11:45am

Contact Dirk, dwilken1@wi.rr.com

Calling all fellas! This ongoing group offers fellowship with other men, good food, and good discussions about being a man of faith in today's society. Each month a different discussion leader brings a topic for the group to discuss.

XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) 2nd Thurs each month, Asbury Room

Contact Veronica, vradowicz@gmail.com

Designed for the 50+ crowd yet open to everyone. From Sept through June we meet. Bring a dish to pass by 11:15am. Potluck lunch begins at 11:30am with a program to follow.

SUNDAY SUPPERS Every last Sun of the month 5pm, Asbury Room

contact jenny.daugherty@fumcwaukesha.org

Each month a different cuisine (Italian, Mexican, German, etc.) shared - dishes and conversation. Sign up in the hallway.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY 4th Mon of every month 2pm, room 216

contact Susan, smingesz@gmail.com

Each month a different topic is discussed that centers around Social Justice Action.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS 4th Mon of every month

contact Pastor Amy, amy.celikay@fumcwaukesha.org

A women's ministry to meet the unique needs of women within a small group

CREATIVE PALS a Sat during the month 10am-4pm, room 209

JoAnn, giovanna.wright@sbcglobal.net

or Lori lorirtompkins@gmail.com

A monthly gathering (Saturdays) of individuals dedicating time to work on a variety of projects together. Whether your project is scrapbooking, crochet, organizing, crafting, or something else, this is a place where you can get away and work on it. The group meets monthly 10am – 4pm. Our next date is February 21

STAYING CONNECTED WITH FUMC

ONLINE OPTIONS:

Weekly worship bulletin lists upcoming opportunities and linked to our homepage during the weekend of service and for several days after (<https://fumcwaukesha.org/>).

FUMC homepage updated with a snapshot of activities and opportunities to serve. And the ENGAGE tab (<https://fumcwaukesha.org/engage>) lists all of the current opportunities.

Social Media "follow us" we post almost every day (sometimes a couple times a day).

HINT: For FUMC posts to make it into your feed, first follow our page and then regularly like, comment, or share our posts. Or you can visit our page and see all of the recent posts.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha/>

Instagram (<https://www.facebook.com/fumcwaukesha/>)

Worship services online (live services 930am) (<https://www.youtube.com/@fumcwaukesha6341>). Past services and clips are linked on our website: <https://fumcwaukesha.org/services>.

NOT ONLINE:

We post opportunities on the large bulletin board in the church hallway and run announcements during Sunday mornings on the monitors in the hallway.

BIRTHDAYS

February Birthdays

02/01 Cory Campbell
 02/01 Patti Fortner
 02/01 Janet Frantz
 02/01 Katy Monroe
 02/03 Melanie Jipson
 02/04 Wayne Radabaugh
 02/05 Pauline Jaske
 02/05 Kristi Magoon
 02/06 Don Carpenter
 02/07 Frank Briscoe
 02/09 Ev Hewitt
 02/09 Bud Jaske
 02/09 Brian Kost Sr.
 02/09 Mike Tompkins
 02/11 Pat Gregory
 02/11 Delilah McMillan
 02/12 Clare Lincoln Lewis
 02/12 Bishop Bruce Ough

02/13 Walt Smith
 02/14 Paxton Sheskey
 02/15 Henry Melzl
 02/16 Martha Kelpin
 02/16 Kate Sheskey
 02/17 Lori Tompkins
 02/18 Christine Marcks
 02/20 Shirley Wald
 02/21 Dan Connor
 02/21 Matt Klowak
 02/22 Mary Hedgcock
 02/22 Turner Shook
 02/24 Heather Blum
 02/25 Mary Crown
 02/25 David Doerfert
 02/26 Audrey Lembke
 02/27 Caroline Gerovac
 02/29 Nancy Hietala

Early March Birthdays

03/02 Tanya Katzman
 03/04 Betty Mulloy
 03/04 Benjamin Ross
 03/05 Emily Blum
 03/05 Jeff Otto
 03/05 Melissa Theesfeld
 03/05 Karen Wilken
 03/06 John Hebert
 03/06 Dave Woerpel
 03/08 Ruth Bentley
 03/08 Aaron Haas
 03/09 Art Collins
 03/09 Melissa Freiberg
 03/09 Judy Johansen
 03/10 Dennis Boehm
 03/10 Cynthia Eisenmann
 03/11 Jim Klein
 03/13 Bob Vrakas
 03/15 Cynthia Matthias



Have an announcement to feature in the Chimes?

Articles for the next Tower Chimes are due by **Tuesday, February 24**. Late submissions may not be featured. You can email articles to: Office@fumcwaukesha.org

No email ? Feel free to drop off the information or call the church. 262.542.4256