



Prairie Wind

OUR MISSION: MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST

FEBRUARY
2019

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Fellowship Opportunities

I've been promising, and it's finally here! On Sunday, February 3rd and beyond, you will be able to sign up for a variety of Fellowship Groups including Book Club, Fitness (Work Out), Arts and Crafts, Knitting/Crocheting, Get Healthy (Weight Loss), Baking and Decorating, Games, and Walking Club. You may sign up to participate or to be a leader. If no one signs up to lead a particular group, then you'll simply work together to create your meeting time, location, and project. Also, each group can have multiple leaders because groups might want to have different meeting times or work on different projects. This is a great way to get closer to your church members and your

community while having fun. Anyone can be involved. Bring your friends. No membership or TUMC affiliation required!



Game Night Rescheduled

The Evangelism Team will be hosting Game Night on Saturday, February 9th at 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We invite anyone of any age to bring their favorite games or a deck of cards, a card table if you have it, and a favorite snack food. This should be a great time of fellowship and fun!



Note
from the
pastor



Pastor's Letter

This month is a very important month in the life of The United Methodist Church. As many of you know by now, the Council of Bishops called for a special General Conference to be held February 23-26 in our own backyard of St. Louis. This is a global event called to handle one question: how will United Methodists deal with issues of human sexuality and LGBTQ rights? Primarily, this affects questions of will we ordain those who identify as homosexual and will United Methodist ministers be allowed to perform marriages for same sex couples. One of the difficulties with this question lies in Biblical interpretation. Both sides feel that the Bible is telling them that their point of view is correct.

This isn't the first time this has happened. In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church, our ancestors, split over the issue of slavery. Those who were opposed to slavery used the story of the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt to back their beliefs. Those who believed that slavery was ordained by God quoted 1 Corinthians 7:20-21 which states: ²⁰ Let each of you remain in the condition in which you were called. ²¹ Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. Even if you can gain your freedom, make use of your present condition now more than ever."

Because each side believes that they have God on their side, this will be a contentious meeting; however, I want to give you some information on the way it is handled and what the possible outcomes might be. To begin with, the General Conference is the legislative body of The UMC in the same way that the House is the legislative body of the United States. It contains 864 delegates elected by annual conferences from all over the world. Only 40% of these delegates are from the United States. Illinois Great Rivers Conference has 10 delegates – 5 clergy and 5 laity. While they cannot share how they are voting, if you would like their email addresses or physical addresses, you are more than welcome to write them a letter explaining how you feel.

There are three plans that have been proposed to the General Conference, and although these may change slightly, we will most likely choose something similar to one of these.

The first plan is the One Church Plan. If this plan is selected, each conference, church, and pastor will be able to state for themselves what it is that they believe. In this plan, the Book of Discipline would define marriage as between "two adults" and take out the statement that The United Methodist Church does not condone homosexuality. Each church would be able to decide for themselves whether or not to allow same-sex marriages during a vote at Charge Conference. The Annual Conference would decide whether or not they will ordain practicing LGBTQ persons. This plan gives the most flexibility to each local church.

The second plan is the Connectional Conference Plan. In this plan, there would be three connectional conferences in the United States: the progressive, the unity, and the traditional. Each conference would have its own Book of Discipline and its own rules, but we would still all be part of The United Methodist Church. Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference would vote on which conference we would want to be a part of. If Tuscola UMC disagreed with their decision, we could call for our own vote to change conferences.

The final plan is the Traditionalist Plan which would continue with our current state in which The Book of Discipline continues to define marriage as between a man and a woman, states that it does not condone homosexuality, and does not ordain practicing LGBTQ persons.

In each of these plans, there is the possibility that many churches will be unhappy and will choose to split. The General Conference will set up a system for churches wishing to leave, including how much they will need to pay into the pension funds for their former pastors and what the cost of their church property would be if The UMC decided to sell it to them.

Regardless of what is chosen, this is going to be an incredibly stressful time for all of us who are United Methodists. Our prayers need to be for unity and for all of us to listen without anger. If you have more questions or concerns about this, I will be holding a Q&A session on Thursday, February 7th at 6 PM, or you can feel free to make an appointment with me if you'd prefer to speak privately.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Terri

Manna Café News

The next Manna Café will be Wednesday, February 6, serving from 5-6:30 p.m. Sharon Corum will be cooking. If you would like to volunteer to cook, help serve, scrape/wash

dishes, bake desserts, etc., please contact Sharon Corum at 217-474-7738 or the church office.



United Methodist Men News

The **Tuscola United Methodist Men** have started a new year with Jerry Leonard serving as President, Jim Pattenaude as Vice President and Wayne Ward as Secretary.

Please Note - February 20th we will host our **Annual Valentine Dinner at 6 PM.**

Anyone who attends TUMC (men, women, singles, couples) and their guests are invited and welcome to attend the Valentine Dinner. However, in order to have a count for meal preparation, we will need you to, **on or before February 12th, sign up on the sheet in the visitor's center or contact Jerry Leonard if you plan to attend that event.** You will hear more about this in the next few weeks.

We have endeavored to contact by letter every man who attends church here with a welcome to join in our fellowship this year. If you haven't received a welcoming letter about our program this year, we apologize and would ask that you contact one of us.



A season ticket cost for meals and meetings is \$85 and the cost for an individual meal at our regular meetings is \$13. However, the **cost for guests at the February Valentines meeting will be \$10.**

United Methodist Women News

Let us continue to pray for our church, members, and leaders as the February General Conference draws near. Decisions will be made that will affect all of us, and we pray God will be in control.

Let us continue our commitment to women, children, and youth and try to strengthen and expand our work while reflecting God's call. Let us commit to all women of the UMC, as well as neighbors, friends, and family outside our denomination who would benefit as part of a creative, supportive fellowship of Christian sisterhood. We are committed to growing in faith together, supporting justice for all, breaking down barriers of racial divide, improving maternal health, and striving for economic equality. Our work is never done!

Frances Willard, one of our early members, was president of the Woman's Christian Temperance

Union in the early 1900s. It was the largest women's organization in the United States at that time (150,000 members). While working for Prohibition, WCTU also advocated for an eight-hour work day, to raise the age of consent for girls from an average of 10-12, and for women to have the right to vote in the United States. Today UMW continues working for rights of women and girls, health care, education, fair wages, and against Human Trafficking, discrimination of people of color, and many injustices. Our 2016-2020 Issue Priorities are Criminalization of Communities of Color (interrupt the school to prison pipeline), Economic Inequality (work for living wage), Climate Justice (reduce carbon footprint), and Maternal and Child Health.

Great accomplishments will occur when we work together and "do not give up doing good" for God's kingdom.



FINANCIAL
REPORT

December Income/Expense Report

Balance as of 11/30/18	\$ 2,001.24
December income	\$31,641.39
December expense	(\$23,833.70)
Balance as of 12/31/18	\$ 9,808.93

Together we did it! We started 2018 with a deficit in the general fund. We had a -\$13,453.32 beginning balance in January 2018 and we ended 2018 erasing this deficit and leaving a positive balance! Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for helping with this!

Thank You!



Leona Steven would like to thank everyone for the Christmas cards and well wishes. She enjoyed hearing from her church family!

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Thank you, church family, for the Christmas cards, visits, and calls. Thanks to Janice and Jim for the iced sugar cookies. Thanks Kay and daughter Tiffany for the surprise Christmas Eve supper and Kay for many meals since then. We Residents, thank

Wilma, Jean, and Mark for those delicious cookies the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. May you all be blessed by God for good health in 2019.

With Christian love,  
Helen Wirth

## Church Library News by Ingrid Minger



I am super excited to begin the journey as the librarian for our church! I have added over 20 titles to the library so far, and have been cleaning out the library and rearranging things. This will be a process, so it will take some time, but each step towards the goal is a step in the right direction!

A few things I wanted to let you all know about – we have a library loan system through the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. They will ship books and materials to you for FREE!! You pay to mail them back/and or return them to United Methodist Resource Center in person for no cost! The website to search the catalog is: <https://www.igrc.org/UMRC>.

We also have lots of new titles in the library. To check out a book, please sign your name, the title of the book, and the check-out date on the clipboard (it's a new form). When you return it, simply write the date it was returned, and place it in our new wooden drop box.

One of our new titles we have added is *Present Over Perfect* by: Shauna Niequist. Here is a tidbit about the book: "In these pages, *New York Times* bestselling author Shauna Niequist invites you to consider the landscape of your own life, and what it might look like to leave behind the pressure to be perfect and begin the life-changing practice of simply being present, in the middle of the mess and the ordinariness of life."

Another new title is *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven* by: Mitch Albom. This is the sequel to the best-selling book *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, and tells the story of Eddie's heavenly reunion with Annie—the little girl he saved on earth—in an unforgettable novel of how our lives and losses intersect.

Each month, I will highlight a new book, or two, we have in our library to let you know what to expect!



## **Worship Preview**

Sermon Series – A Light to Enlighten Nations (continued)

When we look at the first stories of Jesus: born in Bethlehem, dedicated at the temple, baptized in the River Jordan, it's easy to focus on his life as a first-century Jew. But the amazing part of the gospel is that the light shining in Jesus shone far beyond Israel to illuminate the whole world! Join us this month and the first part of February as we see how the light of Christ reached outsiders from the beginning and continues to grow, lighting the dark places throughout our world and in our own hearts.

February 3 – Luke 4:21-30 – Hometown Boy

February 10 – Luke 5:1-11 – Called and Sent

February 17 – Luke 6:17-26 – Fullness and Emptiness

February 24 – Guest Pastor

# 8:15 a.m. Worship Leaders

**February 3** – Liturgist – Jan Thurn; Ushers – Bob Smith, Jerry Jones, Todd Kresin, Colter Lewis; Greeters – Mary Smith, Don & Dorris Thode; PowerPoint – Jim & Mary Ann Pattenau

**February 10** – Liturgist – Kate Watson; Ushers – Ray Lamb, Lenny Sementi, Mark Randell; Greeters – Jerry & Jean Leonard, Barb Wills; PowerPoint – Darcy Sementi

**February 17** – Liturgist – Ray Lamb; Ushers – Paul Wisovaty, Alan Michener, Jack Allen, Jerry Reynolds; Greeters – Sue Wisovaty, Doris Young; PowerPoint – Colin Lewis

**February 24** – Liturgist – Cammy Seguin; Ushers – Debbie & Jeff Marker, Jan Mann; Greeters – Pat & Butch Janusik; PowerPoint -



# 10:45 a.m. Worship Leaders

**February 3** – Liturgist – Rodney Zimmer; Ushers – Brian Beachy, Kristine Kerns; Greeter – Kathryn McCumber; Acolyte – Reegan Willoughby; PowerPoint – Dwight Vaught

**February 10** – Liturgist – Alan Patton; Ushers – Dan Craddock, Dale Phillips, Andy & Cindy Wood; Greeters – Jan Boyer, Vicki Jones; Acolyte – Addie Presson; PowerPoint – Noah Woods

**February 17** – Liturgist – Christy Hoel; Ushers – Mark & Kim Kemp, Lora & Emma Zimmer; Greeter – Alan Patton; Acolyte – Hayden/Hunter Smith; PowerPoint – Rodney Zimmer

**February 24** – Liturgist – Diane Zell; Ushers – Wayne & Joann Ward, Rhonda McCumber; Greeter – Cheryl Bozarth; Acolyte – Taylor Wilson; PowerPoint – Jackie/Sidney Watson



## Tuscola United Methodist Church

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### Tuscola United Methodist Church

|                                           |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Pastor                                    | Rev. Terri Haas  |
| Secretary                                 | Lora Zimmer      |
| Custodian                                 | Jody Patton      |
| Nursery Attendant                         | Janice Benner    |
| Sanctuary Choir & Praise Band<br>Director | Jeannie Craddock |
| Handbell Choir Director                   | Dwight Vaught    |
| Children's Choir Director                 | Johanna Steffens |
| Lay Leader                                | Jim Pattenaude   |
| Church Council Chair                      | Wayne Ward       |
| Parish Nurse                              | Donna Lamb       |

***Prairie Wind*** is the monthly newsletter of the Tuscola United Methodist Church. We meet for worship at 901 N. Prairie Street in Tuscola, Illinois.

We invite you to worship with us and to experience the joy of having fellowship with people who believe in God's love and Christ's teachings.

Our worship services are Sunday at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., Jarman Center at 9:30 a.m. and Brookstone Estates at 10:10 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages begin at 9:30 a.m.

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
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Office Hours 8 a.m. - noon; 1 - 3:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday