

connect.

Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church



From Pastor Terri Haas

Dear Church Family,

While I had hoped to be telling all of you about The Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve services in this newsletter, instead we are again at a difficult time of more closings and facing the possibility that our Christmas services will be virtual this year. Like you, I am broken hearted at the idea of welcoming our Lord and Savior into **this** particular mess of a world.

However, isn't **this** the exact world that Jesus chose to be born into? God did not send his son to earth to be born in a palace or a mansion. God sent his son to be born into an imperfect world in an imperfect, dirty stable because it was the world that needed him the most!

I'm writing this letter just after having a conversation with my mother about probably not being able to see her and my father this year for Christmas. My heart, like all of yours, is heavy. And is there any better time to recognize the beauty and wonder that is the Christ-child being born to us than during the darkness of a pandemic?

This morning, I read some of the Old Testament passages that predict Jesus' coming such as Isaiah 9:2 which states: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them, light has shined." This passage was written to those in Jerusalem just before the Babylonian siege. It was a terrible time to be alive.

And yet, that is when Isaiah predicted the great light that was coming – maybe because Isaiah knew that, when we're walking in great darkness is when we most need a great light.

So, this year, let's celebrate that light even as we stay safe. Let's praise our God even as our faces are covered in masks. And let's hold each other close in our hearts even as we socially distance. Because the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light, and that light is Jesus Christ.

God bless and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Terri



TAMA's Live Nativity

Join us at Ervin Park on December 6th from 5 pm to 7 pm for a drive-thru nativity hosted by the Tuscola Area Ministerial Alliance.

See the Christmas story brought to life with scenes of the first Christmas. Live animals!



Sermon Series: The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton

Join us this Christmas as we walk the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Adam Hamilton's now famous book. We will learn new historical information that will take the familiar story and turn it on its head! Consider reading the book along with the sermon series to get even more information.

November 29th – Luke 1:26-39 – Mary of Nazareth

December 6th – Matthew 1:18-25 – Joseph of Bethlehem

December 13th – Luke 1:39-45 – Elizabeth and Mary

December 20th – Isaiah 7:10-16 – The Manger

Christmas Eve – How the Covid Stole Christmas

December 27th – Isaiah 63:7-9 – When God Walked the Earth



United Methodist Women News

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR GRATITUDE FUNDRAISER EVENT IS STILL WELCOME!

Update:

You may still participate in the Tuscola United Methodist Women Gratitude Calendar Fundraiser! For a minimum donation of \$25 payable to TUMW, you may honor or memorialize:

- A relative, friend, or loved one
- A group, business, or organization
- Special event (anniversary, birthday, graduation, etc.)

Spots are still available for each month from December 2020 to September 2021.

What you will need to do:

- Write a check to TUMW
- Designate the month

- Include a brief informational write-up (handwritten is OK)
- Provide a photo or two (Hard copy will be returned)

For your gratitude recognition to be included on the table the following month, you must provide your check of \$25 (or more) to Janet Butler with a photo(s) and write-up by the last Sunday of the month. You can give Janet your pictures at any church service, leave an envelope with Janet's name in the church office, or you can drop off at her home at 114 W. Van Allen, Tuscola. Alternatively, you may email your photos and write up to jbutler@tibbie.net. Questions-contact Georgia Wilkinson at 217-253-4407 or Janet Butler at 217-253-5107. Regular donations to TUMW are welcome, too. Thank you for your support!

October Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of 9/30/20: \$7,251.04

October Income: \$17,180.55

October Expense: \$19,815.97

Balance as of 10/31/20: \$4,615.62

Your giving statements for January through November will be hitting your email inboxes or mailboxes in early December. Please remember to check your giving record carefully and let Lora Zimmer know if you have any questions. If you have not yet turned your 2021 Commitment Card, please mail it to the church office at 901 N. Prairie St, Tuscola, IL 61953

Church Office Hours are by appointment only. Please leave a message on the answering machine, 217-253-4232.

Virtual Lessons—K-12

- YouTube Family Ministry TUMC
- The lessons will also be posted on the Facebook page.
- Zoom? Please let Taylor know at taylorradtker.youth@gmail.com if your children are interested in doing Zoom. If we have enough kids interested, we will do Zoom Lessons.

5 Minute Jesus

- Challenges posted on the Facebook page and uploaded in the Word December document to print out
 - ⇒ **Monday** Family Activity Challenge
 - ⇒ **Tuesday** Dig Deeper Questions
 - ⇒ **Wednesday** Bible Verse of the Week
 - ⇒ **Thursday** Praise and Prayer
 - ⇒ **Friday** Highs and Low
 - ⇒ **Saturday** Faith in Action
 - ⇒ **Sunday** -Lesson

Youth Groups

- Dig deeper into their bibles along with the lessons
- Please contact taylorradtker.youth@gmail.com for a phone number to create a youth group (Groupme) text challenge going for the kids.
- If your youth doesn't have a Bible, please contact Taylor
- If your child is not enrolled and is interested in getting enrolled into our youth programs please contact taylorradtker.youth@gmail.com

Congregation Assistance

- Sponsor a Youth -Quest Youth Bibles for all the Youth Group(s) participants.
- They are on sale right now for around \$20
- The Quest Bible has commonly asked questions answered alongside the scripture on each page.
- If you would like to know information about the Bibles, contact Taylor Radtke at taylorradtker.youth@gmail.com



Youth Hiking at Fox Ridge, Charleston



connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church
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Dec. 2020

What's

6
Angel Tree distribution—
2:00 pm

8
Staff Parish Relations Cmte.
—7:00 pm (via Zoom)

Happening

14
Finance—6:00 pm (via
Zoom)
Trustees—7:00 pm (via
Zoom)

15
Staff Meeting—4:30 pm (via
Zoom)

Here

17
Handbell Choir—6:00 pm
NAMI—7:00 pm

24
Christmas Eve Worship—
7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Worship—
11:00 pm

STAY SAFE

