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Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church

March
2021



From Pastor Terri Haas

Dear Church Family:

One long year. As I sit down to write March's newsletter, all I can think about is closing the church doors after service on March 15, 2020. As I walked through the church that Sunday, just after noon, locking doors and turning off lights, I remember wondering how long the church would remain closed. One week? Two? As long as we were back by Easter, I remember musing, then all will be well.

Clearly, we weren't back by Easter. Instead, we remained closed for 15 Sundays from March 22nd through June 28th and a few extra Sundays in November and December.

While we're currently meeting, our services are nothing like they were one year ago today. There is no real singing, no choir, no two services, no coffee hour (oh, how I miss coffee hour and fellowship!), no Sunday School, no full Communion where we break bread together, and no hugging.

The funny thing is, if I had known on March 15, 2020 what was coming, I don't think I could have stood it. I would have thought that the church was over. That no one would ever come back from something like this. Instead, I'm pretty proud of all the church as a whole.

We have continued to be faithful to our

tithes which has caused the church to end 2020 in the black. We have a core 50 to 60 who faithfully attend service every week, even while wearing masks and social distancing. We murmur our songs of praise under our breath, but we are still praising God!

One long year, yes. A year of spiritual death? No. The Church is still the Church. It might look a bit different right now. We may not know what it will look like when this difficult time is over, but the Church is still the Church.

Praise God for God's infinite wisdom and love!

Pastor Terri

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Good Friday

Please mark your calendars for our Good Friday service of Darkness to be held on Friday, April 2nd at 6 PM. This is one of the most powerful services in the entire Christian year. Walk with Jesus towards the cross and

experience the drama, the sadness, and the loss.

Easter Sunrise

Join us on Easter morning at 6 AM to celebrate our risen Lord as we watch the sun rise. Weather permitting, we will hold this

service outdoors by the fire pit.

Easter Service

Our Easter service will be held at 9 AM on Sunday, April 4th. Please come and celebrate our risen Lord with music and scripture.



March Sermons: The Power of Sacrifice Series

March 7th - Guest Preacher: Pastor James Fielder

Lent has become a vain ritual where Christians give up small, often insignificant vices as they prepare themselves to contemplate the passion and resurrection of Christ. But what if Lent was meant to be much more radical and transformative than that? The fundamental call of Jesus to all who follow him is to sacrifice themselves and their lives for the good of their friends, neighbors, and even enemies. However, this call is far more easily preached than practiced! In this

Lenten series, we will examine the tangible ways that Jesus demonstrated sacrificial living in his day and age, and the powerful world-shaking ramifications that his sacrificial life had on his society in his day, while preparing ourselves to imitate Jesus in our day.

March 14th - John 3:14-21 – The Power of Sacrifice: The Spotlight of Grace

March 21st - John 12:20-33 - The Power of Sacrifice: Sacrificial Bravery

March 28th - Mark 11:1-11 - The Power of Sacrifice: Joy Before Sorrow



United Methodist Women News

You may still participate in the UMW 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 April 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. Or, 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.

Thank you for your support!

January Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of 12/31/20: \$5,577.33

January Income: \$30,524.69

January Expense: \$19,250.34

Balance as of 1/31/21: \$16,851.68

Did you know? TUMC offers electronic giving which is fast, easy, and safe!

Contact Lora Zimmer in the church office for more details at lzimmer@tuscolaumc.org or leave a message at 253-4232.

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

Children's Ministry

- Every Sunday in March after the Children's Moment during service.

K.Y-C.R.E.W Youth Group (5th-8th grade)

- 10am-11am on Sunday the 7th and 21st
- 3/7/2021 - Lets give thanks to our Soldiers
- 3/21/2021- (Fellowship) It's Not an Individual Thing

Teen Youth Group (9th - 12th grade)

- 10am-11am on Sunday the 14th and 28th
- 3/14/2021 -Why Should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?
- 3/28/2021- Re:Form

Parents

- Zoom Q&A March 4th @ 6:00pm



Topic: Parent Q&A

Time: Mar 4, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73038029188?pwd=UlowT01oaWNXbGpXdVVoTFY1RnZBQT09)

[us04web.zoom.us/j/73038029188?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73038029188?pwd=UlowT01oaWNXbGpXdVVoTFY1RnZBQT09)

[pwd=UlowT01oaWNXbGpXdVVoTFY1RnZBQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73038029188?pwd=UlowT01oaWNXbGpXdVVoTFY1RnZBQT09)

Meeting ID: 730 3802 9188

Passcode: dy2Y3z

- Current 8th - 12th graders wanting to go on a mission trip this summer please let Taylor know @ taylorradtke.youth@gmail.com by/on March 14th
- First Mission Trip Meeting @ 11am on March 14th right after Teen Youth Group

Church Meetings

The church is now able to host church meetings in person again. All official meetings (Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish, Church Council) will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to hold a small group meeting at the church, please contact Lora to schedule your meeting. Masks and social distancing are still required!

Vaccine Updates

Douglas County Health Department will be receiving 300 doses of vaccine for the next few weeks. In order to schedule an appointment to receive your vaccination, you will need to register online and print out your ticket or save it to your smart phone. If you are unable to do this, please contact the church, and we will take care of this for you. If you are willing to volunteer your time to help register those who are unable to register themselves, please contact Pastor Terri at thaas@tuscolaumc.org.

Book Club

Ingrid Minger will be holding the next book club meeting on Thursday, March 18th at 6:30 pm IN PERSON at the church. March's book will be *The Perfect Stranger* by Megan Miranda. Join us for a fun, no stress conversation about a great mystery.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all of the kindnesses and wishes that were shown to me, wishing me Happy 90th Birthday! I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much. May God bless you all!
Love, Betty Randell Wiekert

connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church
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Mar. 2021

What's

2
UMW Board—10:00 am
Staff Meeting— 4:30 pm
PASS Board—5:30 pm
Bible study—6:00 pm

4
Rahab Circle—6:30 pm

8
Finance—6:00 pm
Trustees—7:00 pm

9
Bible study—6:00 pm

Happening

15
Preschool screening—12:30
Church Council—7:00 pm

16
Preschool screening—12:30
Bible study—6:00 pm

17
Preschool screening—8:00
am

18
Blood Drive—8:30 am
Book Club—6:30 pm

Here

23
Rachel Circle—1:30 pm
Bible study—6:00 pm

25
NAMI—7:00 pm

28
Newsletter Deadline

30
Bible study—6:00 pm