

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

June  
2021



## From Pastor Terri Haas

Dear Church Family:

One of my happiest moments of 2021 occurred on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> when I stood at the pulpit and looked out at a (mostly) unmasked crowd. Like so many of us, I was beginning to wonder if things would ever go back to any semblance of normality! For the first time that morning, I saw that we would.

The very next night, Church Council met to discuss the new CDC guidelines and what that means for us as a church. Here's what we decided:

**Masks** – We are accepting of the CDC guideline that all people who are two weeks post vaccination may be unmasked inside the building. If you haven't received the vaccine yet, we ask that you remain masked. Right now, that includes our children who aren't yet vaccinated, but we are closely monitoring the situation, and we will probably choose to follow the lead of the local schools.

**Food** – We are ready to eat in our church again! Starting June 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding

Coffee Hour immediately following the service. The church will remain open through noon for you to sit and fellowship with each other. Lora will be contacting Sunday School classes and other groups that served coffee hour in the past to see if they are willing to continue serving. In addition, we will be holding a Church Potluck Dinner on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. We have plans to return to Manna Café, but those have not been solidified yet. Keep watching for updates!

**Singing** – If you are vaccinated, you may sing without a mask. This includes the choir!

**Services** – I know many of you have asked when we will go back to our traditional two service model. The difficult answer is, we still don't know. We currently employ two wonderful pianists – Cathy Mannen and Jeannie Craddock. At this point, both of them play for other services that begin at 10:30 AM, so we do not have a church musician for a later service. Another reason that church council decided to only hold one service for the foreseeable future is that even with our newly increased

post-Covid attendance, we still feel that the church would be too empty to comfortably have two services. Finally, after a difficult year, Church Council made the decision that unity is one of our most important goals. Having one service where we can all be together was important to us. Keep an eye on the newsletters for information on special unity services that will occur throughout the next year. That being said, we plan to revisit this conversation briefly at every church council meeting while we wait to see what will happen.

The staff and I want to thank you all so much for your patience and commitment to safety over the past year. Jeremiah 30:7 says: "For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds", says the Lord." God has fulfilled that promise to us, and we now ask that God will continue to heal our emotional health after this difficult year.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Terri



## Sermon Series: Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

We usually examine the Bible carefully to determine what it tells us, so we know how to live our lives. In this sermon series, though, we're going to flip that concept upside down! We're going to look at popular sentiments that Christians often have about the Bible, and we'll learn that while there's often an element of truth in them, when compared to the wisdom found in the Scripture, they're really just popular statements. Join us for this fascinating look at what the Bible **doesn't** say!

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** – Psalm 46 – Half Truths: God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** – Deuteronomy 23:12-14 – Half Truths: God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Matthew 7:1-5 – Half Truths: Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Guest Speaker: Mike Crawford

## Theology Corner by Pastor Terri

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? Do you have questions about what we believe as United Methodists? Do you wonder about a particular scripture passage? During the next few months, I will be encouraging you to write your questions

down and place them in the offering. I will pick one or two questions to answer in the newsletter every month. I look forward to hearing what you're wondering about!

## Book Club

Join us on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM via Zoom (ask Pastor Terri for a link) for our next Book Club meeting. This month, we will be reading *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. While Eva Traube Adams is working as a semi-retired librarian in Florida, she sees a picture of a book that has been lost since the Nazi regime. In 1942, Eva was forced to flee Paris after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. Finding refuge in a small mountain

town in the Free Zone, she begins forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in *The Book of Lost Names* will become even more vital when the resistance cell she works for is betrayed.

## April Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of  
3/31/21: \$9,833.28

April Income:  
\$17,888.19

April Expense:  
\$19,474.44

Balance as of  
4/30/21: \$8,247.03

## New Member Classes

We will be holding new member classes on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am – 11:30 am with new members joining on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you are considering joining the TUMC family officially, please let Pastor Terri know. There are a variety of ways you can join. You can transfer your membership from another church, you can join a church for the first time, or you can hold an associate membership where you are still connected with another church of any denomination.

Please contact Pastor Terri if you have any questions.

## Church Office Hours are:

Mon-Thur – 8-Noon,  
1-3:30 p.m.

Fri – 8-Noon

## Family Adventure Ministry

### June

Children's Church, Children's Choir, and K.Y C.R.E.W

- Meet after children's moment during worship on June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation Sunday is June 20<sup>th</sup>. Teens will also be speaking about their experiences on the mission trip.



June 20<sup>th</sup> is also Children's Church and K.Y C.R.E.W volunteer day! The kids will have the opportunity to volunteer to serve as greeters, ushers, and liturgists.

### Teen Youth Group

Mission Trip – June 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>



## Volunteer Opportunities

They say “many hands make light work” and we need YOU (and your hands)! As our worship service is beginning to get back to “normal”, we are needing people to serve as liturgists, greeters, ushers, and soundboard.

We currently have a great group of dedicated and faithful volunteers, but we could

always use a few more helping hands to add to our worship experience. If you have questions about what each “job” entails, please contact Lora Zimmer or Pastor Terri in the church office.

## Church Dinner

It's finally time! Wash out your big cookware and prepare for a potluck dinner at 11 AM on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the weather, we will have both outdoor and indoor seating available. If you are willing to

help in the kitchen or with clean up, please sign up at the front desk in the church entryway. Come and fellowship with us!

## Hymns

Doesn't it feel great to sing again in church? After such a long break, I want to make sure you're getting to sing some of your favorites. Over the next month, please fill out a hymn request sheet and drop it in the offering

plate. It doesn't have to be in our hymnal, but if it's not in the hymnal, please try and note who it's by or a few of the words, so I make sure I have the right song!

# connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
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## Our Staff

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## June 2021

### What's

- 1**  
Staff Zoom—10:00 am  
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm
- 2**  
Sanctuary Choir—6:30 pm
- 5**  
Private gathering—2:00 pm
- 8**  
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm  
SPRC—7:00 pm
- 9**  
Sanctuary Choir—6:30 pm

### Happening

- 14**  
Finance—6:00 pm  
Trustees—7:00 pm
- 15**  
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm
- 16**  
Sanctuary Choir—6:30 pm
- 17**  
Book Club—6:30 pm
- 22**  
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm

### Here

- 24**  
NAMI—7:00 pm
- 26**  
Private gathering—1:00 pm
- 27**  
Newsletter Deadline  
Church potluck—11:00 am
- 29**  
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm