

The Messenger



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COME AND
CELEBRATE
50 YEARS OF
HANDBELLS AT
FIRST CHURCH!

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH,
AT 3PM

The Asbury Bell Choir will present a handbell concert in our sanctuary. Special guests will be the Celebration Ringers and the Chapel Chimes. Please come and hear some of our old favorite bell pieces and experience a few new ones, as well. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken to go towards the handbell maintenance fund. A light reception will take place in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the concert.

Our Staff

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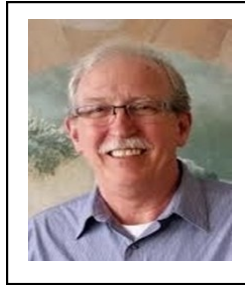
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Michele Tegen

Director of Family Ministries

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Pastor's Column



Brett Blair tells a true story that happened some time ago: A young boy's father died in a car wreck when he was twelve years old. He read it in the newspaper before anyone got word to him to tell him about it.

When he saw that picture of the family car smashed-up on the front page of the newspaper...and read that his dad had died in that accident, he was thrust immediately and painfully into the shocked numbness of deep grief.

Strangely, one of his very first feelings were those of guilt. He had remembered how some months before at a family picnic he was showing off with a baseball. At one point he got careless and threw wildly; it hit his dad in the hand and broke his thumb. The young boy felt horrible. He said to himself, "What a terrible son I am! I have caused my dad great pain." It seemed that was all he could remember after his father's death—the pain he caused his dad.

Finally, the young boy went to see his pastor and told him about the deep feelings of guilt and about breaking his dad's thumb. Years later he described their meeting: "I'll never forget how my pastor handled that. He was so great. He came around the desk with tears in his eyes. He sat down across from me and said: "Now, Jim, you listen to me. If your dad could come back to life for five minutes and be right here with us...and if he knew you were worried about that, what would he say to you?" "He would tell me to quit worrying about that," the boy said. "Well, all right," the minister said, "then you quit worrying about that right now. Do you understand me?" "Yes sir," he said...and he did.

That minister was saying: "You are forgiven. Accept the forgiveness...and make a new start with your life." The young boy did make a new start. And today, many years later, he is the pastor of a 9,000 member church: St Luke's in Houston. The young boy? James W. Moore, the author of over 30 books on Christian living. That's Easter. The Risen Lord comes back to life...and assures the disciples that they are forgiven. Peter had denied his Lord three times. Thomas had doubted.

All the disciples had forsaken Him. But, Christ came back, forgave them and resurrected them. He came back to share with them, and He comes to share with you, the joy, the encouragement, and the forgiveness of Easter. Let's celebrate God's forgiveness!

Missing King Kong

Why do some people see opportunities others miss? In his book *Did You Spot the Gorilla?* Psychologist Richard Wiseman describes an experiment that provides a clue:

Volunteers watched a 30-second video of two teams playing basketball. They were asked to count the number of times one of the teams passed the ball. What they weren't told was that halfway through the video, a man dressed in a gorilla suit would run onto the court, stand in front of the camera, and beat his chest. Amazingly, only a few of the volunteers spotted the man in the gorilla suit. Most were so intent on counting passes that they completely missed the gorilla.

Wiseman concluded that most people go through life so focused on the task at hand they miss "gorilla" opportunities.

He gives the example of a team of 3M researchers who were trying to develop a high-strength adhesive. One of their attempts produced a product that was actually the opposite—a very low-strength adhesive. Most of the team thought the result was a failure, but one saw it as an opportunity. That failure became the glue on one of the company's most profitable products, 3M Post-It Notes.

If we aren't careful, we can be so fixated on the mundane that we miss God-given opportunities of significance. Unfortunately, I believe that happens in churches, even great churches like ours. As we seek God's vision for First United Methodist Church the most important things are likely to be the things that are present but which we do not see. What great things can we do with God's help? Please spend time in prayer this month asking God to lead us and our vision team as we seek his will.

Pastor Gary



Confirmation Retreat

There will be a two-day retreat for our confirmation students on Friday, April 22 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00am to 3:30pm.

Pastor Gary needs three chaperones: one for Friday evening and a second one for Saturday morning, and a third chaperone for Saturday afternoon. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Gary.

Confirmation Sunday will be on May 15 at the 11:00 service. Our students are Phillip Harper and Andrew Glass.

Easter Offering

We are still receiving gifts for our Easter offering if you would like to contribute.

SERMON SERIES

“Bible Heroes”

April 10 – May 8

On April 10 Pastor Gary will begin a series of five sermons called “Bible Heroes.” The heroes will be Rahab, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jonah, Gideon, and Jochebed. The theme of the series is “God Uses People with Simple Faith to Accomplish Extraordinary Things.” Come and learn how God used each of these ordinary men and women for a special task.

Lifetouch Directories

We had hoped the pictorial directories would be in your hands before Easter. But instead it will be some point in April. The proof has been returned to the printer and will soon be printed. Thank you for your patience.

Pentecost Sunday

As a part of the scripture lesson on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, Pastor Gary needs persons who can read a foreign language version of Acts 2:4-8. All will be reading simultaneously in order to duplicate the many languages all spoken at once by the apostles on the first Pentecost celebration after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pastor Gary is able to provide the scripture in several languages. Some of the ones he has available are French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Ojibwe, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, and Ukrainian. If you are able to read one of these languages at one of the two services please let Pastor Gary know. If you can read a language not included above, please check with Pastor Gary for a copy of Acts 2:4-8.

Rummage Sale

Friday, July 15th and
Saturday, July 16th



Bring items the week of July 10th. NO CLOTHING PLEASE!! We will accept shoes and purses. We will hold a **separate holiday sale** on Saturday, October 15th, so please do not bring holiday decorations to the rummage sale. More info will come in the coming months about both events.



New Members Welcome

“As members of First United Methodist Church of West Allis, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?”

Persons interested in church membership should contact Pastor Gary: Church: 414-774-5500



United Methodist Women

Annette Intravaia, President

We have been collecting plastic bags for the last several months and are starting to cut them into strips so that they will be ready to be made into sleeping mats for the homeless. Please come to our Unit Meeting on May 4th. We will begin at 5:30 in the Small Dining Room with a salad buffet. Please bring a salad to share. All men and women are invited! Following our salad buffet we will begin making mats for the homeless. The more helpers we have the more mats will be made! Please join us for this worthwhile project!!

Unity Circle meets Monday, April 11 at 1:30pm in the Fireside Room. We would love to have you join us!

UWM Sunday is April 24th - Pastor Gary preaching.

Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, July 15th and Saturday, July 16th. Please save your rummage!

Prayer for the Month



The Spiritual Formation Resource Team of the General Conference invites all Wisconsin United Methodists to a year of prayer for and about the work of our General Church. General Conference will meet May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. The North Central Jurisdictional Conference will meet July 13-16, 2016 in Peoria, Illinois, where they will elect four new bishops for our jurisdiction.

April: Pray for Patience in Preparation

PRAYER: Dear Lord, guide us as we prepare for a new season in the life of our conference and our church. Strengthen our faith and grant us the patience to wait upon your reveal. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: *Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Milestones in the Lives of our Church Family

We are remembering...

Rev. Wallace Spielman

September 15, 1924 - March 15, 2016

Retired Pastor and Founder of Calvary UMC in West Allis and Pastor of First United Methodist in Racine

Survived by Shirley, and children, Nathan, Stephanie and Mark

The Rev. Dr. Earl Lindsay

November 20, 1930 - March 26, 2016

Pastor Emeritus of First Church since November, 2011

Survived by his wife, Eleanor and 1 daughter, 3 sons, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren

MISSIONS NEWS

COINS OF LOVE

for April

Vacation Bible School

The Coins of Love will go to help cover program materials as well as help support the VBS mission project. This year's Vacation Bible School will be held from August 25 through August 29th at our church.



Second Saturday Servants

A monthly opportunity for
hands-on service!



Saturday, April 9

The servants will meet at Church at 8:00 to pray, before making twenty lunches for Larry Under the Bridge and sending a team to serve breakfast at Morning Glory. We also need five casseroles for the 9th. We currently have three promised.

SCRIP Fundraising

See Becky Pranghofer or Kathy Brengosz in the Gathering Room following worship each Sunday. They will take your orders and will be there on the date they are available for pickup. All proceeds go to help the ministries of Second Saturday Servants.

The dates for March are to place your order by the second Sunday, April 10 and will be available to pick up on the fourth Sunday, April 24.

THE BERNICE NAILEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Tilly: a Story of Hope and Resilience by Monique Gray Smith (F G79)

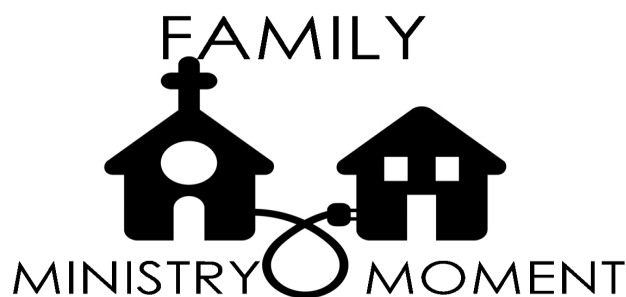
Author Monique Gray Smith loosely bases this novel on her own life. The author is a mixed heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish heritage. The characters demonstrate many aspects of Indigenous lives in Canada. Tilly is a survivor. The traumas in her life have continued through the generations in her family largely due to the challenges that her grandparents endured. The author hopes that Native Peoples and all people will have the "hope and resilience" shown by Tilly.

Tilly grew up knowing the ways of the Lakota ancestors through the teachings of her Grandmother. She knew that her dad was part Lakota, but it isn't until her mother is called a derogatory name by a stranger that Tilly finds out that her mother is Cree. Her mother was taken away from her parents as a baby and has never known her birth parents. Tilly has never felt that she "fits in" with other students at her school. After Grandmother dies, Tilly misses her stabilizing influence. When a seventh grade classmate invites her to share in a lunch that includes a special beverage, Tilly enjoys the buzzing, tingling and a feeling of invulnerability that the alcohol provides. Alcohol continues to release Tilly from her insecurities. It is finally through the influence of strangers, that Tilly realizes the importance of finding her life through the teachings and practices of her ancestors.

"*Tilly: a Story of Hope and Resilience*" is available in the Bernice Nailen Memorial Library and is included in the 2016 United Methodist Women's Reading Program in the Spiritual Growth category.

Magazine Exchange – Be sure to pick up a magazine from the magazine exchange basket. Magazines from this basket do not need to be returned. During the month of April, the exchange basket will be located in various places around the church on Sunday mornings. Be sure to look for this basket.

National Library Week is April 10 – 16. Special bookmarks designed by children in our Sunday School classes will be distributed to remind us to celebrate reading.



*Building Relationships
Celebrating Fellowship
Serving Together
Praying For One Another*

Michele Tegen, Director of Family Ministries

Global Youth Service Day April 15 -17th

Planning is in the works for our older youth to participate in GYSD. We have a couple options lined up for them to serve in our local community. Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities through service. GYSD is the largest service event in the world and the only one dedicated to the contributions that children and youth make 365 days of the year.

GYSD is celebrated each year in more than 135 countries, with young people working together—and with schools, youth organizations, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, national service programs, government agencies, and adult mentors—to address the world's most critical issues and change their communities.

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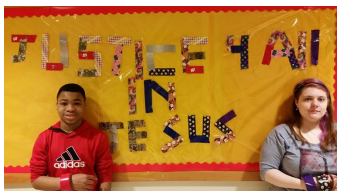
Easter Eggs – FOUND!

Thank you to everyone that organized and attended the Easter Egg Search! A great time was had by all and our youth were gleefully led by the Easter Bunny's special helper (Ken & Carmen Ilseman's grandson, Luke) to search for eggs. Bill Winston's Monkey Organ provided music for the games and everyone enjoyed lunch, crafts and Easter themed videos.

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UNPLUGGED

Four of our older youth "unplugged" and attended a spring youth retreat in East Troy over Palm Sunday weekend. The weekend included lots of activities, music, devotion time and worship in the beautiful Kettle Moraine at Camp Timber-lee. Thank you to Matt Schmeling for helping to chaperone and to Jakob, Konnor, Mykayla and Victoria for bravely unplugging their phones and plugging into deepening their spiritual journey.



Mission Trip to Greeneville, TN

July 16th – 23rd

We are collaborating with Elm Grove UMC and Gethsemane UMC. Kellen Roggenbuck, the youth leader at Elm Grove UMC, has been taking youth groups to this location for eight years. This gives our youth the opportunity to serve, learn about the culture, make life-long friendships and grow closer to God.

Please contact Michele Tegen, Director of Family Ministries, if you are interested in registering or more information, at 414-774-5500 or mtegen@fumcwa.org.

SAVE THE DATES:

Vacation Bible School - July 25th-29th

We are excited to be partnering with our friends from Apostle Presbyterian Church again and so happy to announce that Mt. Hope Lutheran will also be joining us! VBS will be held here at First Church in the Surf Shack. Our coins of love during this time will be donated to the Wisconsin Humane Society's PAL Program which seeks to increase self-esteem and pro-social skills like empathy and conflict resolution, which research shows decreases a child's likelihood of becoming involved in violence.

Church Picnic - Sunday, August 21st

at McCarty Park - Picnic Area #3
Picnic 3:30 to 7:30pm (Pool from 5:30-7:30pm)



Summer Church Camps

Check out the brochures in the Narthex...

Swim, fish, hike, campfire, meet new friends...

Scholarships are available...

Contact Michele Tegen if you would like to go!

www.WIUMCamps

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE PARISH NURSE

By Pat Shapiro, R.N.



April in Child Abuse Prevention Month

Tips to improve parent/child communication. "In all thy ways acknowledge God and He shall direct your path."

- Enter into the conversation with an open heart and mind
- Be enthusiastic
- Be willing to listen more than talk
- Avoid overreacting or jumping to conclusions
- Pay attention to your tone. Remember it's not what you say BUT how you say it!

The Diabetes Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. at Library Square. Topic: "Highs, Lows, Causes and Your Action Plan." All are welcome!

I will be facilitating a "Living Well with Chronic Conditions." A 6-week course at Aurora West Allis starting on Tuesday, May 10th from 1:30-4 p.m. Call 1-888-863-5502 to register.

THE SENIOR LEAGUE! SCOOP ON THE GROUP

by Laurie Halvorsen, director

Spring has sprung and on March 16th, 34 happy Senior Leaguer's took a coach trip to Joliet, Illinois to see Three Men in Kilts, a "St. Patrick's Outing." Everyone had a delightful time. Thanks for coming along!

Our next meeting dates:

April 6th: 12 Noon

Lunch: Baked Potato Bar, Brownie with Ice Cream
Program: Travelogue Antarctica with John Harrits
Devotions: Val Holzman

April 20th: 12 Noon

Lunch: Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Spumoni
Program: Air Over Wisconsin
Devotions: Jessie Franz

Extended Coach Trip – May 16th-20th

Springtime in Branson & St. Louis- 5 day/4 night
Reservations Required – discount given of \$25.00
Space Available!!

See Laurie Halvorsen for a promotional brochure.
This is a great trip!

Day Trips:

June 22 - Wisconsin Trail's Kohler to Two Rivers
Adult \$79 / Youth \$69

August 3rd - Chicago: Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier, Cruise. Adult: \$98 / Youth \$78 - Inclusive

Extended Coach Trip- September 26-30th

Michigan's Gold Coast & Frankenmuth - A 5 day/4 night fall adventure!

Come and join the wonderful fellowship group for seniors in 2016!!



To the Board of Trustees...

Thank you for your informative and comprehensive update in the March Messenger. Our church is blessed to have you caring for our building as you utilize the 2014 Appeal funding.

Carmen Ilseman
Stewardship Chair

Thank you to everyone last month for all your prayers, cards and get well wishes during my hip replacement surgery and recovery last month. I am healing slowly and am doing well and most appreciative of your faithful prayers.

Laurie Halvorsen

VISITATION EASTER BASKETS

Thank you to Marsha Banyai, Val Holzman and Donna Wood for assembling our Easter baskets for our visitation members of First Church this year. My special thanks to Jean Molitor and Bridget Winston for creating our craft project, the Easter chick pins. Thanks go to our Visitation team members for the distribution of the baskets: Karen Bolton, Bonnie Chesky, Pastor Gary, Val Holzman, Carmen Ilseman, Nurse Pat Shapiro, Donna Wood and Bridget Winston. Many hands make light work, thanks everyone!

Laurie Halvorsen
Minister of Visitation



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Time Sensitive Material

APRIL, 2016

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 4726
Milwaukee, WI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

8am Worship AND 11am Worship

9:00am Coffee Fellowship

9:15am Music and Sunday School
for Children and Youth

9:30am Adult Christian Education

7:45am to 12:15am Nursery Care through Age 4

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday - 9:00am to 1:00pm

CLOSED—Friday - Saturday - Sunday

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Elevator Large Print Bulletins

Hearing Enhancement Aids



Are you moving?

Please contact the church office
with your new address!!

Ecumenical Service with St. Augustine Catholic Church and Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

Usually we share in a Wednesday night ecumenical service during lent with the congregations of St. Augustine Catholic Church and Mt. Hope Lutheran Church. With an early Easter this year and new pastors at First United Methodist Church and Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, the ecumenical service has been scheduled at 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 13, at Mt. Hope (8633 West Becher Street, West Allis). The host pastor, Rev. Brian Halverson, is planning the service and the after service refreshments. Pastor Gary will share a sermon. The offering will be designated to a community charity by the host church. The choir directors are planning special music. All are invited to attend.

