

Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
323 S Fifth Ave
West Bend, WI 53095-3391

August 2025

The Fifth Avenue Family Connection
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Trustees Co-Chair: Dean Pok dean@heartlandconstruction.net

Wills & Memorials Chair: Thomas L. Thomas tltwb@hotmail.com

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Handbell Choir Director: Kathy Schneider schneka99@gmail.com

Office Manager: Aimee Liepert church@faumc.org

Property Custodian: Michael Lewis heylewis1979.ml@gmail.com

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Communion First Sunday of Each Month

Church Service can be watched on our
YouTube Channel: FAUMC WEST BEND WI

Instagram: 5thavefaumc
Facebook: Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
Website: www.faumc.org

Office Hours M-F 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Office: 262-334-2059 Fax: 262-334-6117



FAMILY CONNECTION

“Making Christian Disciples”

Published Monthly by
Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church—West Bend, Wisconsin

August 2025 Volume 30, No. 8



When I began my ministry in Susanville, CA, there was a man among the church members who resided in a nursing home two hours away. One day, I decided to visit him. As I drove through the woods and mountains, I arrived at the nursing home. When he met me, he requested that I would sing songs because he had heard that my voice was beautiful. I was delighted to accept his invitation!

The nursing home had a large, open space that resembled a concert hall. There was a grand piano on a raised stage, and from the round balcony on the second floor, people in wheelchairs could sit and watch the performance.

I walked to the grand piano, opened the lid, and began to sing for him. As I sang, people who were coming and going stopped and listened attentively. From the upper floor, people emerged from their rooms and looked down at the piano and me, captivated by the music. Soon, the entire space was filled with people in wheelchairs.

After singing several songs, I talked to them, “Hello everyone, it’s wonderful to meet you. Now, I’ll receive song requests. If you’d like to sing with me, please let me know your favorite song.” People began to engage with me and the music, and it quickly became an instant concert collaboration with the nursing home residents. Some of them responded to the refrains of the songs, and we sang together, especially the refrain parts. It seemed that their minds were awakened, and something profound was happening. It was truly a beautiful moment.

At the end of my performance, I briefly spoke about the continuous journey of life. For those who love God, there is no death; it’s merely a gateway to the incredible life God has prepared for us. As I left the nursing home, I reflected on the events that had transpired. I felt the laughter of God in my heart, and I was filled with gratitude for the unexpected gift that had come my way. It was clear that this experience was a call to ministry at the nursing home.

I feel God is guiding me towards the nursing home ministry in West Bend, too. So, I reached out to Sarah, the Activity Manager at the Samaritan Health Center Nursing Home. Our meeting was incredibly encouraging and positive. I’ll begin the ministry at the end of July and Sarah kindly provided me with the best time slot, every last Monday at 10:30 am. I’m now on the lookout for three more nursing homes to visit monthly.

One thing I got to know was that many residents do not have family members or regular visitors. If you’re passionate about holding the hands of the lonely, offering prayers, and becoming their friends, please let me know. My heart goes out to the residents there who need our support, listening ears, and loving presence. Would you be willing to join me on this journey?

Grace and Love—Pastor Hae-Jeong



Our Vision:

A welcoming faith community that makes devoted followers of Jesus freely sharing their belief.



August 3	Theme:	Be Rich Toward God, Your Treasure
	Scripture:	Luke 12:13-21
August 10	Theme:	Clothed in Christ
	Scripture:	Colossians 3:1-11
August 17	Theme:	Worship the Lord
	Scripture:	Psalms 95:1-7
August 24	Theme:	Renewing Mind
	Scripture:	Romans 12:1-2
August 31	Theme:	The Righteous are Merciful
	Scripture:	Psalms 112

AUGUST MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.."

5 WAYS TO GIVE TO FIFTH AVE UMC



IN-PERSON BY
CASH OR CHECK



BY MAIL



AUTOMATIC
DEDUCTION



ONLINE AT
FAUMC.ORG/GIVE



VANCO
MOBILE APP

August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30a Worship Service Communion, Kids Service 10:30a Fellowship Time	4 7p Scouts Ron's Landscaping Project South Lawn	5 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg Ron's Landscaping Project South Lawn	6 5p FANT Ron's Landscaping Project South Lawn	7 6p Trustees 7p AA Mtg	8 Ron's Landscaping Project South Lawn	9 9a SA Mtg
10 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship Time	11 7p Scouts	12 1p Prayer Shawl 6p ALB Mtg 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	13 9a Investment Club	14 7p AA Mtg	15	16 9a SA Mtg
17 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship Time	18 7p Vision Meeting 7p Scouts	19 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	20 6p Intergenerational Family Night with Spaghetti Dinner & Games 7p Ecumen	21 7p AA Mtg	22	23 9a SA Mtg
24 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship Time	25 7p Scouts	26 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	27	28 7p AA Mtg	29	30 9a SA Mtg
31 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship Time						

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 8, 2025—Page 2 of 2

Technology Team: (Reported by Kaonou Latham)

- a) The new Network rack was installed by Carol Pok with lines punched down and old server moved into cabinet. The new tower-style server is ready and was installed.
- b) Ron’s Landscaping was given permission to start the landscaping project. They will begin the end of July. Cost will be no more than \$7,000. Cost to be taken from the Elaine Gust Fund.

Memorials & Missions: Thomas Thomas

There hasn’t been a meeting since the June ALB gathering. The July 21st meeting was canceled and the next meeting is to be determined.

Christian Education: Kathy Schneider

- a) Fall Sunday School curriculum has been ordered.
- b) The 1st Sunday of each month will be a “Family Service” – kids will stay in church.
- c) Three (3) adults have been asked to teach one (1) Sunday a month. Kathy is waiting for responses from them. After she gets their responses, three (3) assistants will be asked. Sunday School will be upstairs in Youth Room.
- d) Rally Sunday, Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck – September 7th.
- e) Youth Fellowship will be the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting in October.
- f) Sunday School will start September 14th.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Kaonou Latham

- a) Background checks continue to be done.
- b) Tom and Kaonou Latham will cut the bushes and spray for weeds before Ron’s Landscaping comes in to start the project.

Pastoral Report:

- a) A Reception for New Members will be held on Sunday, July 27th. Cake will be served in the Lounge.
- b) A Study Book for ALB will be gin in August.
- c) Pastor Hae-Jeong will focus the remainder of the summer making visits to community nursing homes with low-income residents.
- d) FANT (Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table) has had good attendance. Sandwich boards will be placed at the entrances the day of the meal. Attendance in July was 20 members and 22 visitors from the community.



Coming Soon to a Pew, Fellowship Hall, or Feeding Site Near You!
By Tom and Sandy Blumenberg

You may remember the Women in Faith initiative from 2023, which shared tips on reducing plastic use and recycling basics. One standout success is the T-shirt tote bag program.

Now, Fifth Avenue UMC has an opportunity to take the next step in reducing, reusing, and recycling. Many of you may have read the Lenten devotional ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, which offered 50 ways to care for creation. While it didn’t focus on recycling specifically, this practice can be both a personal and communal act of faith that helps create a more livable planet.

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved!

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY

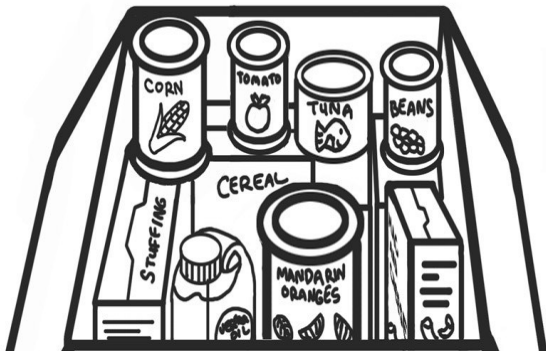
As your Lay Leader, I want to introduce you to a newly established ministry called Connectional Ministry. This ministry was started in order to connect the work of our church’s ministries to those who would benefit from your God-given skills and gifts.

Our Mission is to love and care for our church family and friends through the love of Christ. Connectional Ministry will play a role to link various levels of skills. We ask for your support to make this vision real. We would like to learn more about your skills and gifts and how to best connect you with those in need.

On pages 7-8 in this August Family Connection are forms so that every member of our congregation may share their skills, gifts, and needs. Please fill out the forms and return to the Church Office by the end of August. Thank you for sharing your love with others.

In Christ's Love,

Alana Dalton, Lay Leader



Food Donations - August 3

On the **first Sunday** of every month, our church collects **nonperishables** for the Full Shelf Food Pantry in West Bend. Please bring your items and place in the **baskets in the North Entrance**. You may also write a **check** payable to Fifth Ave UMC and indicate Food Pantry on the memo line.



Intergenerational Family Night & Spaghetti Dinner FUN & GAMES



Wednesday, August 20th
6:00 pm
FAUMC, 323 S 5th Ave
Fellowship Hall

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING July 8, 2025

Finance Report: Doug Fitzgerald

Doug Fitzgerald made a motion to transfer the remaining amount of \$60,423.79 of the Elaine Gust Fund from the Foundation for upcoming improvements. approved. Seconded by Thomas Thomas.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Peters

Income: The YTD (2025) total income gain is \$110,438 with a budgeted amount for the entire year of \$395,825. This is 27.9% of the budgeted amount for the current year. June 2025 pledged/unpledged amounts are down \$1,214 compared to May 2025.

Expenses. Total YTD (2025) expenses are \$196,591 with a budgeted amount for the year of \$395,825. This is 49.67% of the budgeted amount for the current year.

Booked Income: The booked income YTD (2025) loss is -\$86,154.

Investment Income: YTD foundation withdrawal is \$150,000. YTD foundation Deposits are \$0. Current checking has \$47,315 balance as of June 30, 2025.

Parsonage Fund: YTD Parsonage withdrawal is \$3,000. YTD parsonage total deposits \$0.00. We are using money to pay utilities & maintenance with this fund. Current balance in 40213 is \$559.00. June 2025 Utilities/Maintenance amount for parsonage was \$1818.00.

Notes from Eric:

- *Stock Market was up for June 2025
- *Unpledged/Pledged amounts are up compared to May 2025
- *Expenses are up for June, mostly in Payroll and Maintenance.
- *Focus on more income & continue to use cautionary measures for our expenses

Motion was made by Brett Barnett, seconded by Doug Fitzgerald, to approve the report. **Motion Carried.**

Trustees: Brett Barnett

- a) **Sanctuary Air Conditioning:** Albiero was called for a service call but were unable to repair the A/C. It was suggested by them to replace the unit. Brett called Mid-City Plumbing and they were able to repair it with a new digital thermostat and repair to compressor. It may last the rest of the season but will need replacing soon. Quotes will be coming from both companies.
- b) **Roof:** Brett found info from the roof replacement from 2006. A loan was taken out for the roof in the amount of \$60,000 and repaid in 2 years. No decision made yet about replacement.
- c) **Parsonage Garage door:** The door came down on Pastor Hae-Jeong's car while backing out. Brett called for repairs. Cost was \$1100.00. No damage done to her car.
- d) **Parsonage Lawn Care:** An electric lawn mower was purchased and Michael Lewis, custodian, has been cutting the grass.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Meetings, 9:30 a.m., Fireside Room

No August Meeting

September 3rd

Sewing Day, 1-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall

No August Gathering

September 17th



DEATHS

Leonard McGinnis
passed away on July 8th

Ronald Katchever
passed away on July 19th



ADDRESS/PHONE UPDATES

Sue Fowell
monarchgarden52@gmail.com



We would like to remind our members who own Thrivent insurance or investments that Thrivent has a program called Action Teams. You can use this program to request up to \$250 to help with specific church projects or programs where you are volunteering such as the Community dinners. Please contact the office or call Thrivent Advisor Eileen Voigt – 262-668-7081–for further information.

What is a Thrivent Action Team?

A Thrivent Action Team is a project that you organize to meet a community need and fund with Thrivent money. The main goal is to bring people together to make an impact. The need can be a service project, an educational event, or a fund raiser. The Thrivent member can request up to \$250 to use for items such as project supplies, food for the team, a raffle prize or Sunday school materials. The member will receive a gift card to make the needed purchases. You can find examples of Action Teams at Thrivent.com under “About Us” – “Giving and Generosity”.

To apply for an Action Team, follow the directions below or call Thrivent Customer Service 800-847-4836 and say “Action Teams”. Apply at least 2 weeks before an event, preferably sooner.

How to Apply for a Thrivent Action Team

1. **Go to:** **Thrivent.com**
2. **Log in** with your User ID and password that you set up with Thrivent OR if this is your first time logging on as a user, set up your user name and password (You need your Thrivent ID for the set up process).
3. Click on "Membership Overview".
4. Go to the Action team area of the page and click on "Learn More and Apply Now".

You can begin filling in the on-line form. Answers below are one example. Customize the answers for your project.

Project date: *Choose the earliest project date possible on the calendar provided by Thrivent

Project name: XYZ Christian Church Youth Camp (THIS IS AN EXAMPLE – CHANGE THE DIRECTIONS TO REFLECT YOUR SPECIFIC PROJECT)

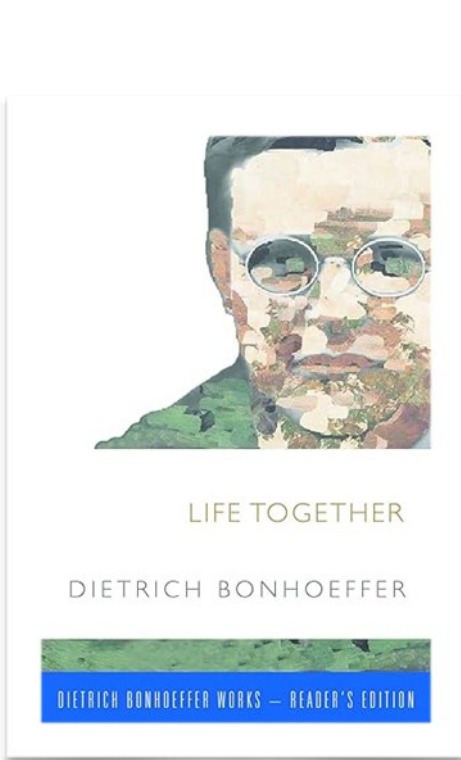
What kind of project will you be doing? Service Project/Educational Materials or Fundraiser

Tell us what causes your team will be impacting: Camps/Outdoor Ministries/Retreat centers; Children/ Youth.

Tell us how you will be involved in leading your project?
Example: Organizing and Leading / Participating / Recruiting Volunteers

August Prayer

"Dear God, we thank you for the gift of this new month, August. We are grateful for your love, your faithfulness, and your provision. We ask for your guidance and strength as we face the challenges and opportunities of this month. Protect us from evil and help us to live according to your will. Bless us with your peace, your joy, and your favor. We trust in your goodness and your power to lead us through every situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Life Together

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most influential Christian martyrs in history, bequeathed to humanity a legacy of theological creativity and spirituality that continues to intrigue people from a variety of backgrounds. **Life Together** gathers Bonhoeffer's 1938 reflections on the character of Christian community, based on the common life that he and his seminarians experienced at the Finkenwalde Seminary and in the Brothers House there. The stimulus for the writing of **Life Together** was the closing of the preacher's seminary at Finkenwalde by the Nazis.

While Bonhoeffer wrote with his own seminary community in mind, he intended **Life Together** to have a more universal impact and spoke of a mission and responsibility of the church as a whole.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY



At the Annual Conference Constitutional Amendments were discussed. There were 2025 Finance and Budget Reports and the 2026 Proposed Budget. There were also youth, young adult reports, Midwest Mission reports, and a Memorial Service for retired clergy and their spouses who have passed on. Here are some highlights from the Conference.

Opening Devotion & Bible Study



Led by Rev. Dr. Ahyun Lee, associate professor of pastoral theology, care and psychotherapy at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, the powerful message titled “Grace is Sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:7b-10) invited deep reflection on vulnerability, healing and community.



Pastor's Fund

We have a Pastor's Fund that can financially help church members or other residents in Washington County. If you are in need of such assistance, please contact Pastor Hae-Jeong in the church office, 262-334-2059.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make check payable to FAUMC and mark "Pastor's Fund" in the memo section. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

For the September Newsletter

All Articles

Are Due By August 15th

THANK YOU!

AUGUST

If your name is not on this list, please call the church office at 262-334-2059.

BIRTHDAYS



1 Jack Downer	17 Linda Bodden	21 Mystique Thompson
2 Susan Weston	18 Steve Erdmann	24 Tom Bast
4 Barb Johnson	18 Jack Murray	24 Janet Scharenbrock
8 Nancy Skinner	19 Dorthy Dahlen	25 Linda Childers
10 Mary Barnett	19 Tait Mauland	29 Michael Klein
12 Ellen Johnson	20 Brookelynn Bodden	29 Aleah Latham
15 JoAnn Liska	20 Jeff Louk	29 Lorelei Pusateri



ANNIVERSARIES

11 Wade & Tami Mauland	25 Tony & Michelle Harrington
15 Eric & Jennifer Peters	29 Walter & Joan Teague

Gifts & Talents

Each of us has gifts from God and our combination of gifts is unique. Our gifts were given to us so that we may be partners in God's work. Please select the following gifts that you want to share with others.

	Visiting Others
	Making Phone Calls
	Lay Leader Training
	Environment
	Social Justice
	Medical / Nursing
	Audio Systems



	Plumbing
	Electrical
	Painting
	Creating Publicity
	Gardening
	Fellowship Time
	Decorating

	Teaching Sunday School / Youth Flwshp.		Helping Elderly with Home Mtnce.
	Mentoring / Tutoring New Members		Party / Event Planning
	Acting		Set-up for Events
	Singing		Sewing
	Musical Instruments		Hospitality
	Photography		Office Support
	Artwork / Crafts		Bookkeeping / Accounting
	Dancing		Legal Services
	Foreign Language		Listening
	Computer		Public Speaking
	Webmaster		Cooking
	Visioning		Praying
	General Maintenance		Knitting & Crocheting
Please let us know whenever your schedule allows what you are interested in:		What would you like to learn to do?	
	One-Time Commitments		
	Short-term Commitments		
	On-Going Commitments		
			Giving of your time whenever possible
What else would you like to do?		# of Hours:_____	
Name:		Address:	
Cell/Phone:			
Email:		City:	Zip Code:

BISHOP DAN SCHWERIN State of the Church Address



“The UMC is a sanctuary church—affirming the sacred worth of all. Our resistance is nonviolent love. We will not be neutral about loving our neighbor.

The U.S. Constitution applies to all people in the U.S.—not just citizens.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the Body of Christ.”

In his State of the Church Address, Bishop Schwerin reflected on the feeling of rootlessness many experience today, contrasting it with the rootedness the Church once represented. Drawing on the story from Acts 27, where Paul and the centurion Julius faced a storm at sea, he asked, “What good is Eucharist in a storm?” and reminded us: we are the body of Christ *in* the storm. Leaders are called to name the moment we’re in, listen for the Spirit, and point toward the shore ahead. He emphasized the importance of a renewed focus on ¶601—the annual conference’s mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—through efforts like leadership cohorts, MCCI, ICD, Fresh Expressions, and partnerships with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He encouraged experimentation, innovation, and reading *How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going* by Susan Beaumont.

Ordination Worship Service—Rev. Jerry Devine



- Three (3) Deacons and six (6) Elders were ordained
- Three (3) transfers from other conferences/denominations
- Eight (8) people licensed for ministry
- Seventeen (17) Elders retired
- Seven (7) licensed local Pastors retired
- Three (3) Retirees recognized from other denominations serving among us

A FREE DINNER



FIFTH AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE

323 S 5th Ave, West Bend 53095

AUGUST 6

5:00-5:30 p.m. Food Served
6:30 p.m. Evening Ends

MAIN COURSE

Oven-Roasted BBQ Chicken
Baked Beans
Coleslaw & Dinner Rolls

DESSERT

Strawberry Shortcake



I Need More Information on Emergency & Communication Resources:

① Possible Assistance

(Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Need a Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery Shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Struggles | <input type="checkbox"/> Connection with Others | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Home Repairs |

Other Needs _____

② Medical

The Following Information is Available in the Church Office:

- Medical Resources
- Mental Health Resources

③ Urgent Financial

The Following Information is Available in the Church Office:

- Bill, Utility, and Rent Assistance
- Affordable Housing and Low-Income Apartments

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ City, Zip Code _____