



FAMILY CONNECTION

“Making Christian Disciples”

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

November 2025 Volume 30, No. 11

Friends,

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Let's contemplate and explore the significance of Thanksgiving in our spiritual journey.

Picture this: you're standing before magnificent gates, ornate and beautiful, leading to the presence of the King of Kings. How do you enter? Psalm 100:4 gives us the key: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name." This isn't just poetic language—it's a divine invitation and instruction. It's our daily passport into God's presence, our pathway to authentic worship. When we approach God with grateful hearts, we're not just being polite—we're participating in the very rhythm of Heaven itself.



What could be simple ways of practice? Pause a little bit, and name three specific things you're grateful for. Rain on your roof, a text from a friend, or simply waking up with breath in your lungs? When we begin our day with gratitude, we're literally opening the gate to His presence. We're saying, "Lord, I see You. I recognize Your hand in my life."

Each day, record one blessing and connect it to God's character. For example: "I'm grateful for my neighbor's kindness today—it shows me God's love through others," or "I'm thankful for strength to get through a difficult conversation—God's grace is sufficient." This practice trains our spiritual eyes to see God's fingerprints everywhere. It will become a testimony of God's faithfulness you can return to during difficult seasons.

When you catch yourself complaining—about traffic, weather, circumstances—pause and ask: "How can I reframe this with gratitude?" When you get stuck in traffic, you can say, "Lord, thank you for increasing patience in me!" And thanksgiving multiplies when shared. Make gratitude a regular part of your conversations, prayers, and service to others. At dinner, share what you're thankful for. In prayer groups, begin with thanksgiving before moving to requests. When serving others, do it with a grateful heart, recognizing that we give because we've first received.

When we express gratitude to others, we're creating a culture of thanksgiving that draws everyone closer to God's heart. We become conduits of God's grace, opening gates of blessing wherever we go. Friends, thanksgiving isn't just a holiday or a feeling—it's a way of life, a spiritual discipline that keeps us connected to God's heart, thanksgiving is a window through which blessings of God flows in.

This November, I challenge you to live the gateway life. Let thanksgiving be your daily key to God's presence. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise. You'll discover that the God who created the universe is intimately involved in the details of your life, and that realization will transform not just your prayers, but your entire perspective on life itself.

Grace & Joy,

Pastor Hae-Jeong



Our Vision:

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



Speaker, Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

November 2	Theme: The Table of Love Scripture: Romans 13:8-14 & Matthew 18:15-20 (MSG)
November 9	Theme: The Table of Peace Scripture: Romans 14:1-12 & Matthew 18:21-35 (MSG)
November 16	Theme: The Table of Grace Scripture: Philippians 1:21-30 & Matthew 20:1-16 (MSG)
November 23	Theme: The Table of Joy Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13 & Matthew 21:23-32 (MSG)
November 30	Theme: King of Kings

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 100:4

*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and bless His name."*

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

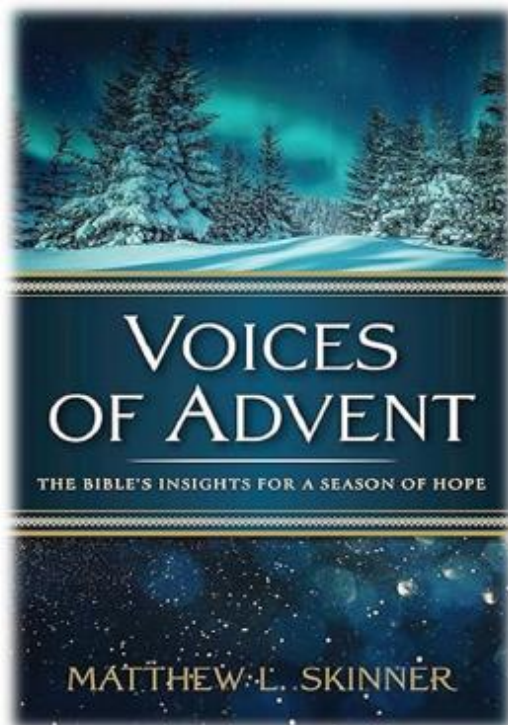
Winter Preparation Event

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

"Thank you for doing this for the community" was the sentiment heard during Winter Distribution. Numerous client families and individuals from Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Education Center, including recent Afghan refugees, received coats, boots, other clothing, blankets and food. Volunteers from Casa helped with setup and event, along with church members Barb Groth, Sandy Blumenberg, Jean Krell and Aimee Liepert. Thank you also to those who made the blankets-- clients were very pleased to receive new warm blankets.

With Appreciation—Linda Smeaton





Advent Book Study

Experience Advent with the Scriptures that inspire Christmas

Advent Wednesdays: December 3rd, 10th, 17th

11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.—Fireside Room

Facilitated by Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

In *Voices of Advent*, Matthew L. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus' birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear hope in all of them. *Voices of Advent* helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus.

Book cost: \$10—Sign-up sheet is on the table below the bulletin board.





Church News

BIRTHDAYS "AT HOME"

None in November



MEMBER UPDATES

John & Jackie Kocourek

Only Phone #: 262-808-6858



Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary will take place on Sunday, November 30th at 1:00 p.m. Many hands make for light work. We hope you can make it to help beautify the church for the Christmas Season.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Leadership will review the church's progress,
set goals, and make decisions about the future.**

Sunday, December 7th

1:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Fifth Avenue **WOMEN IN FAITH**

Throughout the history of Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church, women have served the congregation, supported agencies that help women and children and have nurtured deep friendships. That continues today even as our women's group grows smaller.

After discussions about how best we can serve, our group has decided to become independent of United Women in Faith. This will eliminate raising money for district pledges, allowing funds to be used for service projects and donated directly to organizations that help people in need.

Find an outlet for YOUR talent. Join us. — Shirley Simmons

UWF Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 5th
Fireside Room

Sewing Day, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 19th
Fellowship Hall



HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE **Sunday, December 14th** **After the Service**

Pre-packaged cookies and sweet breads will be offered for sale.

Cookies will also be packaged for our people-at-home.

We ask your help to bake. Watch for more information in the December Newsletter.



Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table Receives Grant Money

Our new ministry, Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table, received \$2,500 from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. This grant is issued for new ministries. Receipts were submitted for approval of expenses.

The cost per meal is \$250-\$300. If you would like to make a donation for this ministry, checks may be made payable to: FAUMC. In the memo section, list FANT. Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table meals are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Food is served from 5:00-5:30 p.m. So far there are about 20-25 community residents attending each meal plus the volunteers. Volunteers are also needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Hae-Jeong.

Alana Dalton,
FANT Treasurer

A FREE DINNER FIFTH AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE

323 S 5th Ave, West Bend 53095

NOVEMBER 5th:

- ♦ Meatloaf
- ♦ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- ♦ Green Beans
- ♦ Salad
- ♦ Dinner Rolls
- ♦ Bread Pudding

Doors Open: 4:30 p.m.
Food Served: 5:00-5:30 p.m.
Evening Ends: 6:30 p.m.



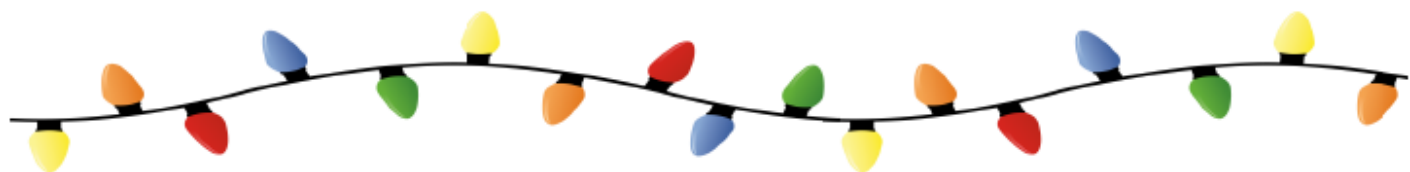
NOVEMBER 19th:

- ♦ Baked Turkey
- ♦ Sweet Potatoes
- ♦ Mashed Potatoes
- ♦ Dressing & Gravy
- ♦ Green Bean Casserole
- ♦ Salad & Cranberry Sauce
- ♦ Dinner Rolls
- ♦ Pumpkin Pie



Looking Forward to Seeing You There!





Poinsettias

Order Form



Please choose the color(s) you want:

☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Ice Crystal

Deadline to Order is Sunday, November 23rd:

Cost: \$13.00 for 6-1/2" pot

Please return this form to the Church Office with cash or check made payable to: FAUMC

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Please dedicate my Poinsettias:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

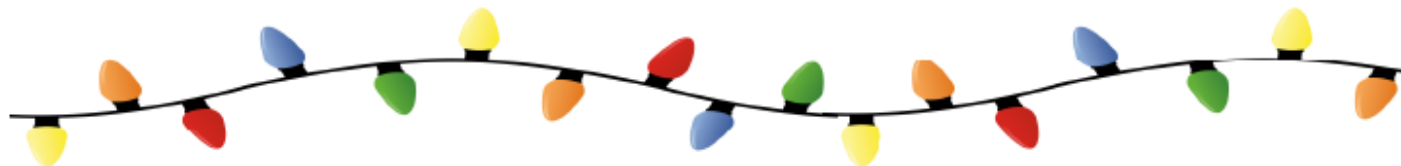
Other: _____

Poinsettias will be displayed on the Altar at both the 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Services. You may take your Poinsettias after the 7:00 p.m. service, or pick them up on Friday, December 26th between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Will you be picking up your plant(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

TOTAL ORDER: \$_____

Additional Copies of the Order Form are Available at Church



NOVEMBER

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

BIRTHDAYS



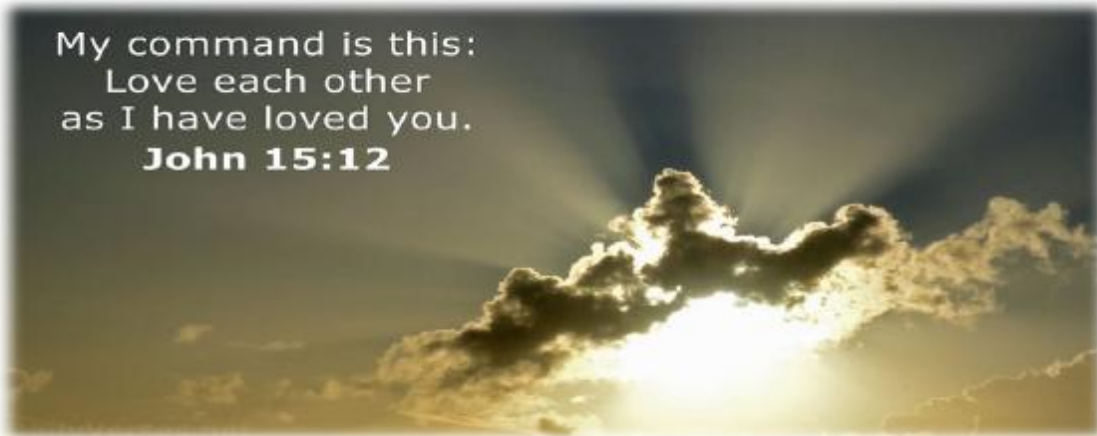
2	Pat Wamser	15	Mark Tschohl	23	Brett Barnett
5	Ed Fowell	16	David Loomans	23	Taylor Carrier
5	Larry Krueger	17	Kaitlyn Bossler	23	Larry Kritz
6	George Schroeder	18	Dave Hauser	25	Corey Bergman
8	Mandy Schemenauer	19	Caine Patasius	25	Zoe Donahou
10	Walter Teague	21	Randy Kirst	27	Geraldine Ritterbusch
11	Loralie Muehe	22	Clair Pok		



ANNIVERSARIES

No Wedding Anniversaries in November

My command is this:
Love each other
as I have loved you.
John 15:12

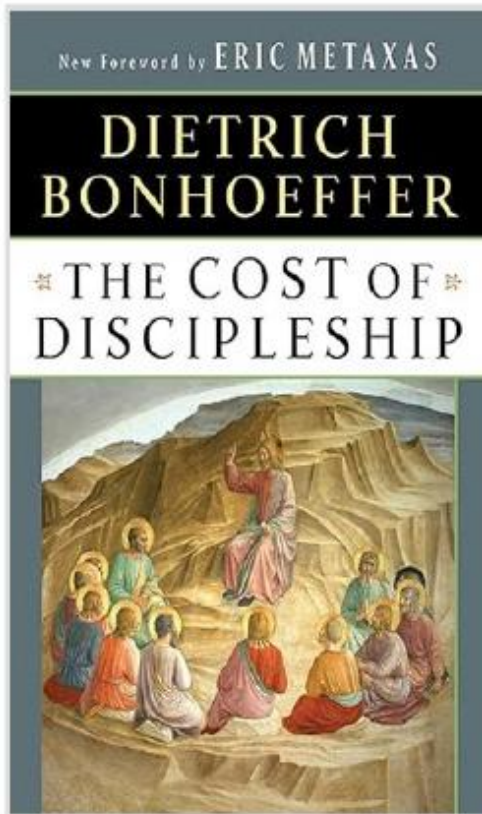


Food Donations - November 2

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.



FULL SHELF FOOD PANTRY
WEST BEND



One of the most important theologians of the twentieth century illuminates the relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus. What can the call to discipleship, the adherence to the word of Jesus, mean today to the businessman, the soldier, the laborer, or the aristocrat? What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is His will for us today? Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Dietrich Bonhoeffer answers these timeless questions by providing a seminal reading of the dichotomy between "cheap grace" and "costly grace." "Cheap grace," Bonhoeffer wrote, "is the grace we bestow on ourselves...grace without discipleship...Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must know...It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."



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 December Newsletter

All Articles

Are Due By November 15th

THANK YOU!

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING October 14, 2025

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Brett Barnett discussed Chapter 3 in the study book “Holy Currencies, 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries” by Eric H.F. Law. He talked about relationships and the attitudes of sharing – doing more with less. After the discussion, Pastor Hae-Jeong had members get into pairs. Each would ask for prayers for something in their lives, and the other would pray for that person. Pastor Hae-Jeong said a prayer for all.

Treasurer’s Report: Doug Fitzgerald for Eric Peters

Doug reviewed the Foundation Funds, Elaine Gust Fund, and Cash Reserve Accounts. The checkbook balance is \$3,100.

Trustees Report: Brett Barnett

- A. **Budget:** Doug Fitzgerald is working with Brett regarding the budget.
- B. **Capital Fundraiser:** A fundraiser will be established to provide funds for the roof, Air Conditioning, resealing the parking lot, redecorating the church, and any other issue that may arise.

Technology Team: Brett Barnett for the Technology Team

- A. There currently is an issue with the internet as Spectrum is doing a city-wide upgrade. Discussion was held regarding possible additional money to Spectrum for a static IP address to guarantee service (ALB questioned that would work). Technology felt there was room in the budget for it. The “Tom’s” will look into information from other providers (such as AT&T, etc.)
- B. Discussion was also held on the various phone and internet lines.
- C. Technology will get more information regarding an updated loop system (\$5,000-\$6,000). Carpet installers are questioning whether wiring is needed under the carpet. This is being reviewed.

Memorials & Missions: Thomas Thomas

There was a meeting on November 11th. Thomas will follow up with Tom Bast regarding having Wills & Memorials as a separate charge, not in the budget. The only account left is the Susan Haag account. The rest of the money was used for Outreach and Charities. Regarding the new carpeting, Wills & Memorials is waiting for the color selection. A group is coming in to give input on decorating, etc. Trustees will wait until that is done before having the carpeting installed.

Christian Education: Kathy Schneider

- A. Kids Ministry is progressing – teachers and aides are in place. They are working on a skit for the Christmas potluck on Sunday, December 14th.
- B. Youth Fellowship will be packing “Soles for Souls” shoes on Sunday, November 9th.

United Women in Faith: Jenny Korbar

UWF is down to six (6) true members. UWF would like to withdraw from umbrella of the Conference. They would still do fundraising for the community. The Cookie Bake Sale would be only for the congregation. After discussion, a **Motion** was made by Doug Fitzgerald, second by Kathy Schneider, to give permission for the FAUMC UWF to withdraw from the Conference. **Motion Carried.**

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2025—Page 2 of 2

Pastor's Report: Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon

- A. Charge Conference will be held at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 7th.
- B. The ALB meeting will be moved to December 2nd to enable review of the information and make any changes.
- C. Three (3) people from the community asked for some monetary support. Pastor provided funds from the Pastor's Fund, as well as her personal funds. Brett Barnett also helped to repair a car issue.
- D. Homeless Winter Event: Pastor used \$150 from Pastor's fund to purchase more jackets.
- E. Audio Devotions 40 days finished – need feedback whether it is useful or not.

Finance Report: Doug Fitzgerald

- A. Doug provided a summary of the 2026 budget requests and a memo highlighting some subjects related to the summary. Discussion was held and some budget amounts were amended.
- B. Kaonou Latham stated the Conference made some changes to the way the Pastor's pension is calculated. Also, the Apportionment has increased.
- C. Pastor Hae-Jeong discussed budget to include money needed for worship studies series.
- D. A Capital Campaign for Trustees needs was also discussed.
- E. Doug will amend the budget figures, and it will be presented to the Charge Conference for approval.
- F. Doug attached a memo regarding the status of the last fund transfer request to the United Methodist Foundation. A **Motion** was made by Kaonou Latham, second by Doug Fitzgerald, to approve the wording to the Memorandum of Understanding, Paragraph 4, "The Estates Fund of West Bend Fifth Ave UMC is a board designated account. Disbursements will be made to West Bend Fifth Ave UMC at the direction of the Accountable Leadership Board and used for purposes designated by the Accountable Leadership Board consistent with policies and rules adopted by the Accountable Leadership Board for management and use of the Estates Fund." **Motion Carried.**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.**

Don't forget to set your clocks back
one hour before you go to bed on Saturday 😊

All Saints Day will be observed during the Worship Service on **Sunday, November 2, 2025**. The names of church members and other names submitted will be lifted up during the Worship Service. Please submit names to Aimee in the Church Office no later than Monday, October 27th—church@faumc.org or 262-334-2059.



November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9a SA Mtg
2 All Saints Day 8:45a Chancel Choir 9:30a Worship Service Communion, Kids in Service 10:30a Fellowship Time 10:40a FANT Mtg	3 7p Scouts	4 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	5 9:30a UWF Mtg 5p Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table 6p Handbell Choir 7p Ecumen	6 6p Trustees 7p AA Mtg	7	8 9a SA Mtg
9 8:45a Chancel Choir 9a Handbell Choir 9:30a Worship Service 9:40a Kids Ministry & Youth Fellowship 10:30a Fellowship Time	10 7p Scouts	11 10a Wills & Memorials 1p Prayer Shawl 6p ALB Mtg 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	12 9a Investment Club 6p Handbell Choir	13 7p AA Mtg	14	15 9a SA Mtg December Newsletter Articles Due
16 8:45a Chancel Choir 9:30a Worship Service 9:40a Kids Ministry 10:30a Fellowship Time 10:40a FANT Mtg	17 7p Scouts	18 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	19 1-3p UWF Sewing Day 5p Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Table 6p Handbell Choir 7p Ecumen	20 7p AA Mtg	21	22 9a SA Mtg
23 8:45a Chancel Choir 9:30a Worship Service 9:40a Kids Ministry 10:30a Fellowship Time Poinsettia Orders Due	24 7p Scouts	25 1p Prayer Shawl 6:30p AA Mtg 7p SA Mtg	26 6p No Handbells	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed FREE MEAL Thanksgiving Dinner Fellowship Hall 7p AA Mtg	28 Office Closed	29 9a SA Mtg
30 8:45a Chancel Choir 9:30a Worship Service 9:40a Kids Ministry 10:30a Fellowship Time 1p Greening of the Sanctuary						

The Fifth Avenue Family Connection

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Ministers: All friends and members

Lay Leader: Alana Dalton dalton42019@gmail.com

Staff Parish Relations Chair: Kaonou Latham lathamkaonou@hotmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon pastor@faumc.org

Christian Education Chair: Kathy Schneider schneka99@gmail.com

ALB Chair: Ellen Johnson handejohnson123@gmail.com

Trustees Co-Chair: Brett Barnett bwbarnett9628@sbcglobal.net

Trustees Co-Chair: Dean Pok dean@heartlandconstruction.net

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

Finance Chair: Doug Fitzgerald fitzyjd@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Eric Peters ewpeters11@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Betty Clement rclement001@wi.rr.com

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Dot Edison edison2060@sbcglobal.net

Volunteer Coordinator: Jean Krell jkrellwb@gmail.com

Pianist/Organist: Deanna Gibeau deannagibeau99@gmail.com

Chancel Choir Director: Dave Bertelsen badgerbert@charter.net

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