



Let God's Word...

# GOOD NEWS FROM THE PEWS

July/August, 2024

...Rule Our Hearts and Guide Our Footsteps

## Pastor's News, views, and attitudes

Annual conference celebrated Our Time to Dance (By Paul Black) – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered June 6-8 with the theme, Our Time to Dance, the final of four expressions focusing on a quadrennial theme of God Has Made Everything Beautiful in His Time, based upon Ecclesiastes 3. The theme figured prominently throughout the conference session. Liturgical dancers were a part of both the Laity Session and Service of Ordination. The Retiree Recognition Service included a prelude offered by the nationally-recognized drumline of the Peoria Manual High School band.

During the Conference, two pieces of legislation related to the recently completed General Conference were approved. The Annual Conference, on a 457-144, approved a resolution supporting the creation of several educational opportunities for conference members before the ratification vote at the 2025 Annual Conference. In a second legislative item, the conference approved a resolution on LGBTQ+ inclusion, 433-177, that authorized the creation of a conference-level LGBTQ+ Ministry Team that will curate, create and share resources for churches that wish to expand its ministry to the LGBTQ+ community. In anticipation of a special called session of General Conference in 2026, the Conference voted 365-235 to hold new elections in 2025 – the first since the current delegation was seated in 2019.

Special offerings during the Annual Conference included: \$4,616.04 for the John Kofi Asmah School in Liberia; \$6,377 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College; \$6,721 for the Joyce Helm Francis Endowed Scholarship at Africa University; and \$5,338.74 for the Ordinands' Trip for the classes of 2023 and 2024 to visit the missionary journeys of Paul in spring 2025. In addition, 1,857 pounds of various materials were collected for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

A total of 29 retirees with a combined 752.85 years of service were recognized. A Memorial Service remembering clergy, clergy spouses and lay members to annual conference that had passed away in the previous year and remembrance of 19 congregations with a combined 2,797 years of ministry that have completed their mission – Asbury (Altamont Circuit); Ashland; Beckemeyer; Brownstown; Cabery; Cowden; Decatur: Christ; Granite City: Dewey Avenue; Elkhart; Essex; Farmersville; Flora: Trinity; Galva: Grace; Hebron; Hume; Joppa; Monica; Olmsted and Zion Chapel (Boody).

Conference trustees also announced that a plan for exit for churches seeking to depart as the result of actions taken by the 2024 General Conference is being developed. The plan, which would close the church as a United Methodist congregation would require the payment of two years' worth of apportionments, the church's pro-rata portion of the conference's unfunded pension liability and a 10 percent surcharge for releasing the trust clause, allowing the conveyance of property.

The Annual Conference approved a 2025 budget of \$8,013,000 – a reduction of 7.91 percent over 2024 and nearly 36 percent less over the past five years. With apportionments being relatively flat over the past 10 years, the \$8,013,000 total will be financed by \$6.74 million apportioned to the churches and \$1.273 million from the conference reserve funds. The \$8,013,000 total is the lowest in the history of the 27-year-old conference that merged in 1996. The conference's financial health has remained strong as 2023 ended with a surplus of \$131,404 and an apportionment collection rate of 93.49 percent collection rate. The 2025 budget and its corresponding apportionment is roughly 11.5 percent of local church operational expenditures and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration is working to bring that total down to 10 percent in order to maintain a collection rate of 90 percent or greater. A major part of the 2025 budget reduction comes from the reduction of general church apportionments which were approved at the 2024 General Conference. General Church apportionments dropped 24.48 percent for the 2025-28 quadrennium for a reduction of \$583,163 of the \$688,500 in budget reductions. Legislatively, the conference approved the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will be \$18,000 for 2025 – the first raise since 2015 when the allowance was set at \$17,500. The conference also approved a 3.3 percent increase to its minimum salaries. In 2025, the salaries will go to \$52,100 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$47,809 for full-time local pastors. Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$879 per active service year in 2025, funded by a gift from Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund. The Conference also approved updated eligibility rules for the IGRC Medicare Supplement for retired clergy. Preachers' Aid Society currently provides \$1.25 million annually to finance this benefit.

The Clergy Session approved the election of five elders in full connection. They also approved the recognition of orders of one elder and celebrated with five local pastors on their completion of the Course of Study. Membership stands at 87,642. Average worship attendance is 26,782 and online worship totals 17,855. Professions of faith were at 278 by confirmation and 495 by other than confirmation. Baptisms totaled 621. The 2025 Annual Conference will be held June 5-7, 2025, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria. (Paul Black is the Director of Communication Ministries of the Illinois Great Rivers

## \*\*\*\*\* Taco Supper \*\*\*\*\*

August 10, 2024 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

We will be serving tacos, dessert and beverages. Cost is free-will donation. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for workers, (times are on the sign-up sheets) desserts and other items for the supper. Any questions, please contact Barb Downs. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support of this important outreach and fund raiser.

## Nurture news

Creative Crafters is going strong and beginning work on feminine hygiene kits for Midwest Missions. If you want to sew, knit, crochet or just gab, you are encouraged to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m.

A Bible Study will be starting September 4 for 6 weeks on “Knowing Who We Are, The Wesleyan Ways of Grace”. Contact the church office or Pastor Lisa to register.

Julie will be leading a Grief Share support group from September 5 through December 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. You can register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) or by calling the church office.

We will be calling Bingo at Crosstown Square in Silvis the third Thursday of every month, beginning in June. A list of prizes needed will be posted on the bulletin board. Please see Barb Downs or Katie Gillispie if you would like to volunteer for this enjoyable outreach.

We are planning to have a combined worship service on July 28 at Green River. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share for the potluck after the service. We will be discussing events at General Conference and Annual Conference and how the decisions made there will affect our churches.

Thanks for the many items for Midwest Mission, which we delivered during Annual Conference. And thanks for the donation of men’s clothing which has been delivered to Country Oaks. Our mission outreach for the month of July is backpacks to be donated to the Bikers for Backpacks and delivered to children in need at local schools. For August we are asking for feminine hygiene products to be distributed by the Food Pantry. Thanks so much for your generous support for all our mission outreaches.

Please feel free to come to our next Nurture meeting on Monday, July 8 at 5:30. We welcome any questions or ideas about other things our church could do. Thanks so much for all your support and all your prayers. We thank God for such a generous, giving, involved church family.

### *Milan Christian Food Pantry*

Our next work dates are Mondays July 22<sup>nd</sup> & Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11 a.m. and Thursdays July 25<sup>th</sup> & Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 3 – 6 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome! Thanks to everyone who is donating, working and/or praying for the Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your ongoing support.

*Be sure to notify the church office with any changes in addresses and/or phone numbers.*

*Pennies For Missions will be collected the second Sunday of the Month*

## Upcoming Events >>>

Event	Date	Time
Open Road	9 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Jul 13 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	6 pm
Creative Crafters	Wednesdays	9 – 10 am
Nurture	July 8th	5:30 pm
Staff Parish	July 16th	5:30 pm
Bingo	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	1:30 pm
Trustees	July 13th	9:30 am
Finance	July 13th	10:00 am
Church Council	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am



## Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm. Fridays CLOSED. Pastor's hours are available by appointment. If the church office is closed, please leave a message and Pastor Lisa or Rebekah will return your call. If you have an urgent issue, you may call or text Pastor Lisa on her cell phone at 217-898-8403 or email her at [pastorllisa@gmail.com](mailto:pastorllisa@gmail.com).



### *A Note from Pastor Lisa:*

Open Road continues to have biker church at Camp Milan on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month. If you ride or are looking for a different kind of church come on out.

We set up a booth at annual conference and we have been given an advanced special number through our annual conference for donation to the motorcycle ministry.

I recently participated in a bike blessing and pre-ride prayer in Bloomington as well as in the ride to help support and raise money for Alzheimer's research. I will be attending upcoming rallies in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri and a number of rides that support other charitable organizations.

Until next time, keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.

# *Financial News*

Treasurers Report – For Period Ending 30 June 2024  
Submitted by Linda Armstrong Lindy

**Message:** I have not yet put in all of the May figures. During May, we had to pull \$10,000 from savings to make ends meet. The finance committee is hoping that we will be solvent the rest of the year. There were some payroll checks that were picked up in April that were from March. We had an insurance payment due. There were also some payments to Iowa-Illinois Termite and Pest to help combat the influx of mice. It seems that our church has an abundance of entrances for the mice. The trustees are looking at fixing these openings. All the financial information will be up to date before the next newsletter. Blessings to all. Linda

**2024:**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Income	5,843.88	6,703.37	10,618.01	11,268.99			
expenses	9,334.74	10,758.75	8,719.47	20,059.91			
difference	- 3,490.86	-4,055.38	1,898.54	-8,790.92			
Savings used					10,000.00		

**Recap:** Below is a recap of our finances for January 2023-December 2023:

	January	February*	March	April	May*	June*	July*
Income	8,752.17	13,777.29	6,237.46	6,398.39	18,022.43	22,110.6	12,606.9
expenses	11,714.21	12,460.10	9,740.26	8,821.82	10,220.13	14,493.90	10,005.85
difference	-2,962.04	1,317.19	- 3,502.80	- 2,423.43	7,802.30	7,616.70	2,601.05
Savings used		5,000			8,000	16,000	5,902

	August	September	October	November	December	totals
Income	6,654	7,816.12	28,052.30	8,801.29	7,247.40	126,476.39
Expenses	17,034.02	6,147.36	11,054.16	12,278.25	8,412.05	132,382.11
Difference	-10,379.98	1,668.76	16,998.14	-3,476.96	-1,164.65	-5,905.72

For 2023: Months with an \* behind them include income from savings. The extra \$5,902, is the refund for property tax that we were charged erroneously in 2022. Note that in October 2023, the church was given \$20,000 from an estate. This does make us in the black for the year, but if you look in the ‘totals’ column, you will see a negative balance which shows our balance thru November without the \$20,000 inheritance.



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
WITH CAKE!!!**

**First Sunday of every month**

**July Birthdays**

Irma Gripp	3
Gary Howe	4
Jan Mills	5
June Woodbury	5
Jan French	8
Barb Lee	18
Jeff Golightly	20
Laura Folsom	27
Marcy Allen	31

**August Birthdays**

Vicki Vogt	3
Michael Shannon	5
Colleen Harmon	6
Kathleen Lake	11
Angela Golightly	12
Darrell Flickinger	12
Jacob Lindy	15
Zach Versluys	18

**July Anniversaries**

Jim & Irma Gripp	16
Rick & Debi Simpson	26

**August Anniversaries**

Bob & Pam Gauley	31
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**Help Needed for Miscellaneous Accounts**

You may direct extra-donations if you are looking for somewhere specific to donate:

- ❖ Office Supplies
- ❖ Computer Supplies (Web support or software)
- ❖ Mowing / Snow Removal
- ❖ Food Pantry

**Attendance**

(in person + online)

May 5	25 + 18	June 2	34+33
May 12	39 + 18	June 9	36 + 44
May 19	38 + 16	June 16	28 + 31
May 26	29 + 37	June 23	32 +

*Please join us for  
Communion the first  
Sunday of every month.*

**Ushers and Liturgists  
Opportunities Available**

As part of our worship service each week, we have opportunities for ushers, liturgists, acolytes and assistants for communion. Coffee helpers for after worship fellowship are also needed. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex for these positions. We currently have many spots open for service. Please prayerfully consider signing up as a volunteer in service to God and to your church.

*This is the day the Lord has  
made, let us rejoice and be  
glad in it.*

**Thank**

**Bell Ringer**

July - volunteers still needed  
August - volunteers still needed

**Acolytes**

July - Nicole Koester  
August - Nicole Koester

**Liturgists**

July - Jeff Gerard  
August - volunteers still needed

**Coffee Helpers**

July - Barb Downs/ Sandy Mallder  
August - Barb Downs/Barb Lee

**Ushers**

July – Willy Mallder/Greg DeSchepper  
August – Willy Mallder/Greg DeSchepper

Trinity United Methodist Church Non-profit Org.  
300 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Milan, IL 61264

Pastor Lisa Wiedman  
Email: [pastorllisa@gmail.com](mailto:pastorllisa@gmail.com)  
Church phone (309)787-1362

Sunday Worship Schedule  
8 & 10:30 am Sunday School  
9:00 am Worship

Email: [milantrinity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milantrinity@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.milantrinity.com](http://www.milantrinity.com)  
Facebook: Milan Trinity UMC



Happy  
Fourth of  
July!



WE REMEMBER ...