

# The Friendly Communicator

## August 2023

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

**"If you seek him, he will be found."** I Chronicles 28:9 (NIV)

Have you ever had the sense that someone or something is always with you, watching, listening, hearing, and answering your prayers?

This is the presence of God. It is a way of knowing and being assured that God is real and alive in you. The presence of God in your life brings us back to the story of the resurrection. Ever feel like you are just wandering, searching for something unknown—lost? Know that you are in good company.

We learn from the Biblical stories of God's people that they too were wandering, searching, and lost. You remember Jacob wrestled with an angel, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, and Moses entered a cloud of unknowing on Mt. Sinai to receive God's word for the people. That's the reason for the resurrection! Now that Jesus has proclaimed that "I am alive," we are assured that Jesus is alive and lives in us. No longer do we have to wander, search, and feel lost.

Today we too can proclaim that Jesus is ours—our Savior, who is alive and living in us. We can live each day as resurrected, alive people of God, fearless people, confident people, and people trusting in God. How wonderful it is to live your life with a high level of confidence, knowing who you are and whose you are. Others will notice it, feel it, and see the light of Christ shining within you. Maybe, just maybe, one day they too will be changed by your light.

The church offers you a myriad of opportunities to continually find God living among us. Take time to participate in the worship services, the prayers, the worship songs, and the quiet time for pause and silence. Hear the message that God sends through the preaching of the word to strengthen, encourage, and teach you how to live. Finally, serve God through your actions and love!

*Pastor Gwen*

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### August Birthdays

- 1 Lorna Stoecker
- 8 Samantha Moreno
- 9 Alex Moreno
- 10 Jon Gage
- 18 Rev. John Jones IV
- 22 Steve Brown
- 22 Richard Murdock
- 30 Casey Brophay

### August Anniversaries

- 10 Drew & Tara Hettich – 27th
- 11 Bill & Kathy Schuttenhelm – 44th
- 15 John & Linda House – 24th
- 16 Peter & Sue Moreno – 37th
- 24 Rev. Charles & Brenda Graves – 60th
- 28 Rob & Sarah Smith – 13th

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know, and we'll add it to our records.

The third Sunday collection for August 20th for Milwaukee Christian Center is pasta sauce and toothbrushes.

### **One Year at FBC-WA**

August 1st marks a year since Rev. Gwendolyn Young became Pastor at FBC-WA. Throughout that time, she has worked to strengthen the church and the community. As a strong believer in “creating something new for God,” Pastor Gwen is committed to providing thoughtful sermons and creating lasting bonds within and outside the church.

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### **Shalom Retreat**

Join women from across the United States and Puerto Rico for an in-person Shalom Retreat, October 6-8, 2023, at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc.

To register and find out more, visit: [https://abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=67&blm\\_aid=25413](https://abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=67&blm_aid=25413)

### **Bible Study**

Join us for Bible Study **Tuesdays at 11 AM (in person and via Zoom)**. The Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79185392195?pwd=UTfzEja4vvKfEiUwoUoP3HBmAm09Ii.1>

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<b>June 30, 2023</b>	
<u>Financial Reports</u>	
<b>General Receipts</b>	
Envelopes/loose offerings	\$6,640.00
Loose Offerings	\$14.50
Church School	\$141.35
Birthday	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,815,85</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts</b>	
Secret Place	\$10.00
Pow Wow	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Communion Offering</b>	
Grand Avenue Club	\$80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	
Duane Kirk	\$210.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>
<b>Mission Offering</b>	
O.G.H Sharing	\$284.00
Ukraine Relief	\$50.00
AF Christ	\$50.00
MCC	\$125.00
Grand Avenue Club	\$125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$634.00</b>
 <b>Deposited Total</b>	 <b>\$7,799,85</b>

### **3Gs PICNIC AT THE JAECKS**

As we previously announced, we will be holding our annual picnic at the home of Debb and Jeff Jaeck on beautiful Phantom Lake on **Wednesday, September 13**, at **11:00 a.m.** For those who wish to meet at the church, let's plan on leaving there by 10:00 a.m.

Please plan on bringing whatever you want to grill as well as a dish to share. Soda and ice will be provided. There will be a **sign-up sheet in the Educational Wing foyer**. Let us know if you will be carpooling from the church or going directly to the Jaecks' home. If you need a map, there will be a few behind the sign-up sheet.

### **Communion Offering**

Communion offering for August 6th is the Milwaukee Christian Center.  
<https://mccwi.org/>

# Rehearsals begin soon!

**August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Handbell Choir      6:30-7:30

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**

Handbell Choir      6:30 -7:15

Chancel Choir      7:30-8:45

Don't let fear stop you! Join  
us!

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### *FROM THE DIREKTR...*

Sometimes people ask, "If you could have one wish, what would it be?" My answer is always the same: "Eliminate fear." I am a firm believer in the power of fear.

Just think about it. What stops you from bungee jumping? Sky diving? Riding a roller coaster? Remodeling your bathroom? Coloring your hair pink? Swimming in the ocean? I could go on and on with examples of things we don't do because we are afraid. Sometimes fear is a good thing. Fear of touching a fire, fear of running into traffic—those are all good fears that protect us.

When fear becomes a barrier to trying and doing things that interest us or that would expand our horizons, then fear is strangling our experience of the rich life God has given us. When fear hampers our ability to create an interesting life for ourselves and our families, then it needs to go!

As summer comes to an end and we anticipate the changing of the season, pray about how you can show fear to the door. Change your way of deciding what to do, and don't let fear be the deciding factor.

Are some things in life scary? You bet! But fear is just

**False Evidence Appearing Real**

*Mary Schecher*