



# First United Methodist Church Champaign

Where connecting, growing, and serving are a way of life



*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to:*

- **CONNECT** people with God and one another
- **GROW** as disciples of Jesus Christ
- **SERVE** others.

## Messenger

Volume XXXI, No. 17

October 3, 2023

Dearly Beloved,

The picture you see is of Gene Larson in his happy place...fishing! He is pretty new to Champaign First UMC; he joined in October 2021. He has preached a couple of times, is a frequent liturgist, and put together our Wesley Covenant Group (WCG) discussion guides for this fall!

A Wesley Covenant Group is a small group committed to learning and growing together. We offer these small groups twice a year: in the fall and winter/spring. Everyone in the congregation is **WELCOME TO JOIN** a WCG! This fall's session just got underway. It's not too late to become part of a group. If you are interested, please call the church office and we will help you get connected!



The WCG Leadership Team decided to try something new. Instead of purchasing a Bible study, they decided to intertwine two really great things: The Sermon on the Mount and John Wesley's 22 Questions. It's a novel approach and both resources, the scripture and the questions promise to challenge you! I think what Gene created will be a benefit to anyone who desires to grow in spirit and in knowledge.

By way of some background: the Sermon on the Mount is incredibly powerful. It's found in Matthew 5-7 and contains a summary of Jesus' teachings. If you are new to reading the Bible, start with the Sermon on the Mount! Simply reading the Scripture will be of benefit. Spending some time thinking about it can take you to a next level.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed that our Christian lives were about "going on to perfection." Simply put, our love for Jesus should change us from the inside out. As our hearts grow more deeply in love with God, our behavior should be more Christ-like, too. The 22 Questions were a way for followers to gauge their own spiritual growth. In addition, small groups were a way to hold one another accountable and help one another achieve faith goals.

Since it is a time for trying new things, I'm going to try a new thing here, too! I'm going to share this discussion guide each week with the whole congregation! I encourage you to read your Bible, ponder the questions and wrestle with where God might be leading you! I am grateful to Gene and our WCG Leadership Team.

If you do not have access to email, and would like to receive print copies of the WCG handouts so that you can participate from home, please call the church office to request a copy! We'd be happy to send it to you!

Love First!  
Pastor Julia

## Commissioning of Stephen Ministers



On Sunday, September 17, our congregation was blessed to commission Nancy Barenberg, Chad Beyler, Deb Foertsch, and Gene Larson to serve our church as new Stephen Ministers. These new Stephen Ministers have dedicated 50 hours of training along with our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Rev. Julia Melgreen, Sandy Burgener, and Bernie Chamberlain.

Stephen Ministers are not professional therapists or ministers, but lay people who are trained to walk alongside those who are experiencing transitions or crisis in their lives.

## Consecration Sunday Highlights

1. Consecration Sunday is on October 22, 2023, and we will have a special guest speaker.
2. Lead-up Sundays will feature personal witness about First United Methodist Church, Champaign.
3. A secure electronic estimate of giving form is online on the church website: (<https://www.champaignfumc.org/estimate-of-giving>). Traditional estimate of giving cards are also available.
4. The celebration on Consecration Sunday will include small bundt cakes.
5. Finally, results from the submitted estimates of giving forms will be shared during worship on October 29, 2023.
6. Blessings on generous people.



September has been a hectic month with the opening of the new men's house in Urbana. As everyone settles in, it's time for an update from Austin's Place.

We have four new faces in our house! Please welcome Dashea, Haley, Elizabeth, and Briann!

These women have joined Austin's Place at C-U at Home and are taking their first steps toward stable and independent lives. With the support and encouragement of case managers and the resources provided by the C-U at Home program, these women will find their way - discovering new strengths and talents - and growing into their full potential as contributing members of our community.

Please pray for these women as they take the first steps on their new pathway to progress.

Each woman receives a Welcome Bin from Champaign First United Methodist Church. Each bin contains a set of sheets, a blanket, a pillow, towels, washcloths, a laundry hamper, and a shower caddy for her to use during her time at Austin's Place. She will take these items with her when she graduates from the C-U at Home program. These bins continue to be a warm welcome for women as they begin to discover what a stable home is like - possibly for the first time in their lives.

As the original home of Austin's Place, Champaign First UMC has a long history and deep love for the women served by this ministry. This Welcome Home Bins Ministry continues this legacy of support of the women at Austin's Place. LOVE FIRST!

Your generous donations make this ministry possible. To support this ministry, you can donate with a check payable to FUMC (210 W. Church St, Champaign, IL 61820) or go to our website ([www.champaignfumc.org](http://www.champaignfumc.org)) and click on GIVE. BE SURE TO DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT FOR AUSTIN'S PLACE/WELCOME BINS so it goes into the correct account.



## Building Affordable Homes in Kentucky

For the past several years a small but energetic group from FUMC has traveled to Hazard, Kentucky, to help build homes by working with the Housing Development Alliance, Inc. Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1993, the Housing Development Alliance serves as lender, counselor, developer, and contractor for low-income persons in need of housing assistance. Their mission is to strengthen communities through creating high quality, long lasting, affordable homes.



On Sunday, October 29, another group will travel to Hazard to help build another house (or two if we have enough volunteers). We will work for 3½ days, leaving Hazard mid-afternoon on November 2.

This year, more than ever, HDA needs volunteers. In July 2022 their service area had flash flooding that destroyed 1749 homes and damaged another 4057 homes. HDA is building and repairing homes for the flood victims in addition to their normal home building programs.

This is your personal invitation to get on board. We'd love for you to join us in our joy of serving. John Doll is the contact person. He can be reached at 217-398-3040; text at 217-377-4199; or email at [jandkdoll@yahoo.com](mailto:jandkdoll@yahoo.com). Help us raise the walls on another home.

## Fun Fall Activities for your Brain and Body!

### "Peace, Pumpkins and Peanut Brittle!"

Your FUMC Minds in Motion program has some fun activities planned for fall. Each program or outing includes opportunities to build brain health while engaging with others in a fun activity. Socializing itself is positive for the brain. Please consider joining us for some or all of the following:

**October 5: Visit to Negangard Pumpkin Patch** followed by lunch at Philo Tavern. Transportation available. Cost: Meal only

**October 19: Tai Chi and Meditation** followed by a discussion with Sara Marsh-Yant, LCSW, MPAC, on ways to decrease anxiety while improving brain health. No charge.

**November 2: Visit to the Vault Art Gallery** in Tuscola followed by lunch (and peanut brittle) at Flesor's. Transportation available. Cost: Meal only

**November 16: Tai Chi**, followed by a demonstration and discussion regarding the positive effects of meditation on the brain and body, led by French Fraker, OLLI Instructor. No charge.

Each program will start between 10:00 – 10:30 am. Please call the church at 217-356-9078 to register or for any questions.





United  
Women  
in Faith

Coming soon! October 8!  
The Second Sunday Market!

- ✚ We'll feature PIES, as well as all kinds of baked goods!
- ✚ There will be a few more gift baskets available for you to purchase!
- ✚ Place your final bids! Our Sensational Silent Auction CLOSSES AT NOON on October 8!



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **Sensational Silent Auction!** **Place your final bids on Sunday, October 8**

- ✚ Two **original paintings of sunflowers** by JoAnn Schlueter
- ✚ **Hand-crocheted shoulder bag** and small accessory bag, plus child's bag and as a bonus, 4 coffee mugs with cozies by Catalina Mira Gonzalez
- ✚ A total of 120 **assorted Christmas cookies** baked by 5 of our outstanding bakers (2 doz. each)
- ✚ 3-hour **home repair**/minor construction work (Pete Beyler)
- ✚ **Holy Family wood puzzle, cross, and hanging basket** designed and crafted by Norm Starr
- ✚ A **Gift Basket from Checkered Moon** including perfume, lotion, and a candle from the Volcano Scent line

*All proceeds support the mission projects of United Women in Faith*



## Restock the SHELVES

Food pantry update: FUMC always needs staple food items such as in the list below. This outreach ministry works through a helping coordinator at empty tomb to deliver needed food and healthcare items to folks in our community. There are five church members willingly volunteering to make deliveries to those in need--at least one delivery a week. Our pantry provides the non-perishable items and fresh food is added as they shop at a local store. Monetary donations are always welcome. Bring your bag of groceries to church on Sundays or drop them off in the Resource Room during the week. Thank you so much for thinking of others in this community in need of healthy staple foods.

Love 1st!

***Especially needed are: 4 lb bag sugar, Hamburger Helper, Jell-O, canned whole kernel corn (no cream style), and canned fruit (peaches, pears, mixed fruit).***



**October 3 - Smith Burger Company**  
**October 10 - Farren's Pub & Eatery**  
**October 17 - Sam's Cafe**  
**October 24 - Jupiter's Pizzeria**  
**October 31 - Watson's Shack & Rail**

We meet at 11:30 on Tuesday mornings at the church. The program is led by Debbie Chew, a professional with experience in exercise, and includes a group stretching and warm up time, structured walk adapted for varying levels of ability, and a group lunch. This program is offered free of charge, with the lunch costs being \$10.00. We walk from the church at 12:20 to the restaurant. Please contact the church at 217-356-9078 for information or to register for the walking program.

## Trunk or Treat



Join us on Sunday, October 29, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm for Trunk or Treat! We'll have decorated trunks to go around to for candy and we'll also have hot dogs in the parking lot! If you would like to have a trunk and pass out candy OR you would like to help in another way, please contact Meredith at [meredith@champaignfumc.org](mailto:meredith@champaignfumc.org)!

**If you would like to donate candy for the Youth Group to hand out, please bring it in to the church by October 23! Thank you!**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**UWF Executive Board** will meet on Wednesday, October 4, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet on Wednesday, October 11, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North.

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, October 16, at 6:00 pm at Terry Benson's home. Laura Curtis will provide the program.

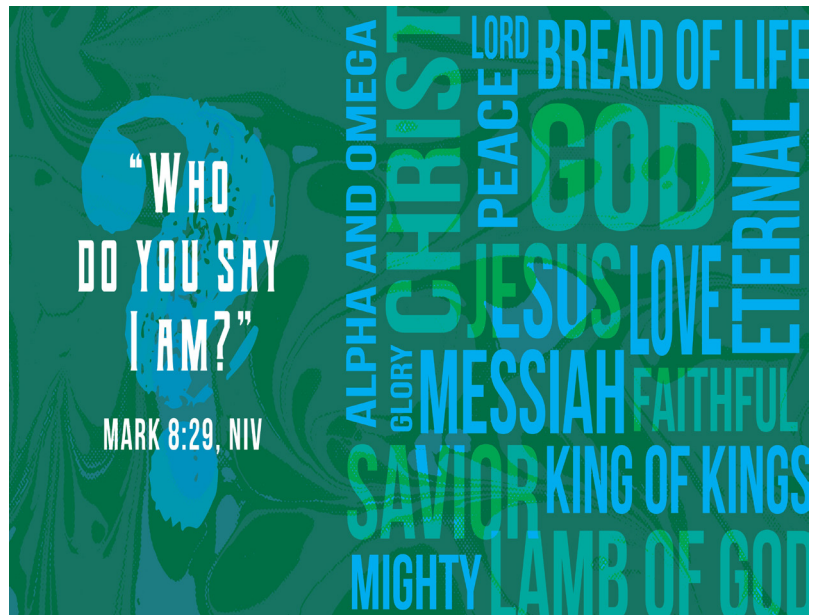


## Youth Events

What is your favorite image of Jesus? This was something that we talked about in Youth Group a few weeks ago. I had printed out Bible verses to look up that had different representations of Jesus in them - such as the Good Shepherd, the Lamb, Son of God, Prince of Peace, etc. I split the youth into two groups and then after they looked up a verse that had a different name for Jesus, they took a photo to represent that image of Jesus. Afterwards, we gathered back in the youth room to look at a slideshow of our photos and discuss these different ways to describe Jesus and what we thought of them.

How do you imagine Jesus? Do you have a favorite metaphor? There are so many other than the ones I mentioned above, such as the Vine, the Light of the World, and the Gate to name a few. These different images teach us new things about Jesus - they help tell us who He is! The unique names provide more insight into the one who loves us no matter what.

Meredith  
meredith@champaignfumc.org



### Coming Events:

**Sunday, October 8, 4:15 pm-8:30 pm - Hardy's Reindeer Ranch!** - We're heading out to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! Come participate in the hay ride, cookout, maze, and go karts! Cost is \$11 a person. We will meet at the church at 4:15 pm and arrive back at the church at 8:30 pm. If you would like to join us as a parent volunteer, we would also love to have you at this event. Please let me know if you will be attending by Monday, October 2, so that I can have an accurate headcount for Hardy's!

**Friday, October 27, 6:00 pm- 10:00 pm - Haunted House and Hot Chocolate** - Meet at the church for a Haunted House and Hot Cocoa! We'll be heading to the haunted house in Downs, IL, and then grab hot chocolate (and donuts) at Krispy Kreme before heading back to Champaign. Cost is \$4. We'll be back in the church parking lot by 10 pm. Please RSVP so I purchase enough spots for us!

**Sunday, October 29, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm - Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party** - We will be helping out with Trunk or Treat and eating hot dogs! Afterwards, we'll head down to a Halloween movie night in the Youth Room complete with snacks!

**Sundays, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm - Youth Group** - Our middle school and high school youth meet every Sunday evening at the church! Come join us for an evening of activities, fellowship, and fun! We meet in the youth room and dinner is provided.

## Charge Conference

Charge Conference date is November 5, 2023, at 4:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church. Please save this date!

## Flower Calendar

Floral arrangements for worship services are a simple way to remind us of the beauty of nature that God has created for us and to honor or memorialize a loved one. To celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any special occasion, please sign up on the calendar located on the bulletin board across from the church office. Prior to the worship service for which you sign up, you will receive a phone call asking for your preference of fresh or silk flowers. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact Teryl Pigott at 217-621-2744.



Please check out the signup board in Friendship Center and find a date you can be a GREETER/COFFEE TIME VOLUNTEER. Lots of dates needed!!!



## Parade of Lights, Anyone?

FUMC had a wonderful time participating in the Parade of Lights in downtown Champaign last year. This year the parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 25. If you are interested in helping to organize the float and participants this year, contact the church office (217-356-9078) or email Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) by October 8. With your assistance we can help light up downtown Champaign once again!



## Need a Ride to Church on Sunday?

The Wellspring Health and Wellness Committee is grateful to Gwen Uppinghouse for accepting the position of van driver. The van will be available for pick up for the 10:30 service two Sundays per month initially. Other transportation services may be available on Sundays when the van is not scheduled.

To schedule a ride, please call Sharon at the church office no later than 2:00 pm on the Friday afternoon before the Sunday when a ride is desired. Sharon can be reached at: (217) 356-9078.



Visit our website ([www.champaignfumc.org](http://www.champaignfumc.org)) and fill out a prayer request form or call the church office at 217-356-9078 and leave a message.

# Congregational Life of FUMC

October 16-31, 2023



- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 16 Samuel Bargmann    | 25 Blessing Djunga   |
| 16 Pam Burnside       | 25 Tom Maryan        |
| 17 JoAnn Curtis       | 26 Caleb Bradbury    |
| 17 John Woods         | 26 John A Weldon     |
| 18 Meghan Uppinghouse | 27 Ron Fields        |
| 19 Brian Jackson      | 27 Oliver Tshomba    |
| 19 Rachele Waibel     | 28 Carleigh Hebbard  |
| 20 Bonnie Berner      | 29 Linda Whited      |
| 23 Chad Beyler        | 30 Gloria Buhrmester |
| 24 Keegan Sides       | 30 Bryson Patterson  |



- |  |
|--|
| 17 David & Susan Eades                   |
| 18 Eric & Lisa Robeson                   |
| 27 Craig Gehrke & Maggie<br>Weber Gehrke |

## Hospital Report

**Hospitalized in the last two weeks:** Paul Rogers and Jim Till.



## Going into the Hospital?

If you are scheduled by your physician to be hospitalized, please indicate "**Champaign First United Methodist Church**" on your admission form.

Privacy guidelines will not allow hospitals to notify the church without your permission. If you can, call the church office before you are admitted, or have a family member or friend let us know.

I don't want to miss you when I make hospital calls.

**NEXT Messenger Deadline:**  
**October 12, 2023**  
**published on October 17**  
Articles may be submitted by  
e-mail to:  
[bberner@champaignfumc.org](mailto:bberner@champaignfumc.org)  
or brought to church.

## Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Kathy and John Doll and family at the passing of Kathy's step-father, Oscar Britt, Jr., on September 17, 2023; to Jim and Carole Smith at the passing of Jim's sister, Judy Jorgens, on September 19, 2023, in Effingham, IL; and to Ed McCartney and family at the passing of his wife, Rita Gentry-McCartney, on September 28, 2023.





# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Church Van Reserved for Scouts BSA Troop 1 World Communion Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am UWF First Sunday Market 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	<b>3</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club-CANCELLED 10:30am Program Staff Meeting-CANCELLED 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team	<b>4</b> 9:00am C-U at Home Board Meeting 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>5</b> 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team-CANCELLED 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
<b>8</b> VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am UWF Second Sunday Market 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 1:00pm SAI (Sigma, Alpha, Iota) 4:00pm Angel Choir 4:15pm Van Reserved for Youth Group 4:15pm Youth Group Trip to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch	<b>9</b> 5:30pm Nominations Committee 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	<b>10</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Pack Meeting	<b>11</b> 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>12</b> 8:30am Messenger Deadline 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers Supervisory Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
<b>15</b> VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	<b>17</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm Board of Trustees 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Finance Committee	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>19</b> 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church  
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For more information, please call the Church Office at (217) 356-  
9078. Nonmember subscription rate \$20.00 per year  
(or can be found at no cost at [www.champaignfumc.org](http://www.champaignfumc.org).)*

#### First United Methodist Church Ministry Team

Rev. Julia Melgreen, Directing Pastor	jmelgreen@champaignfumc.org
Meredith Garreau, Dir. of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries	meredith@champaignfumc.org
Barbara Zachow, Dir. of Music & Worship	bzachow@comcast.net
Tina James, Business Manager	businessmgr@champaignfumc.org
Laura Hendricksen, Child Care Ctr. Dir.	lhendricksen@champaignfumc.org
Sharon Johnson, Administrative Assistant	sjohnson@champaignfumc.org
Bonnie Berner, Dir. of Communications	bberner@champaignfumc.org
Landon Westerfield, Organist	landon@champaignfumc.org
Ryan Berner, Worship/Music Technical Support Assistant	rexberner99@gmail.com
Emily Benson, Business Office Assistant	asstoffice@champaignfumc.org
Terry McClellan, Lead Custodian	christianshope2@aol.com