



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. 20

November 14, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

Happy Thanksgiving! Please read this letter to the end! There are some tips for cultivating gratitude and some good news about our congregation in the concluding remarks!

The Apostle Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 remind us to "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" That's a pretty powerful call to action! So, how can we cultivate this spirit of thanksgiving that extends beyond the Thanksgiving Day feast?



Let's take a look at five faith practices that will keep our hearts full of thanksgiving, long after the turkey leftovers are gone!

- **Reflect on God's Faithfulness**
- **Count Your Blessings**
- **Give Thanks in Prayer**
- **Serve Others with a Grateful Heart**
- **Cultivate Contentment**

One thing I am specifically grateful for all year-round is the generosity of this congregation! I'd like you to take a look at our 2022 Charitable Giving totals shared in this *Messenger*! The dollar total is fabulous (**\$196,584 in charitable giving in 2022**) but I want you to close your eyes and imagine the ripple of God's love impacting actual people's lives represented by that giving. Thank you! And may God be given the glory!

And second, I am thankful for the preliminary projections from Consecration Sunday. We have received enough pledges that we are within \$68,000 of hitting our pledge goal of \$420,000! There are a number of people we still look forward to hearing from and we are very optimistic! **For EVERY person who is prioritizing giving to the church, I am grateful.** I believe in the mission of our congregation to worship God, to care for one another, and to serve our community.

With a Grateful Heart,
Pastor Julia



Giving TREE

We began handing out Giving Tree ornaments on Sunday, November 5! Gifts will go to children at Cunningham Children's Home and Chaddock. Please return your unwrapped gift with the tag and ornament by Sunday, November 26.



LIFT Winter Coat Drive

Beginning on November 5 and continuing until November 26, we will be participating in LIFT's winter coat drive. Paper replicas of winter coats identifying sex, size, age, and color preference will be on display in Friendship Center. Please choose one, purchase a coat, and return it to the church by Sunday, November 26. The coats will be delivered to LIFT for distribution on Monday, November 27. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile project!!

Love First!
Outreach Ministries

United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Student Day is a churchwide special Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Your generous gift supports our students. When you give, you help provide for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Envelopes will be available at church on Sunday, November 26. Make checks payable to FUMC with *United Methodist Student Day* on the memo line.



SANTA BREAKFAST



**Saturday, December 16
9:00 - 10:30 am**

All children and their families are invited to join us for our Santa Breakfast! We will enjoy breakfast, crafts, a visit from Santa and more! RSVP to Meredith by emailing meredith@champaignfumc.org or calling 217-356-9078 by December 6.

Major Music Sunday

December 10, 2023
10:30 am

A Service of Lessons and Carols: The Darkness Clears Away

Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers,
Orchestra

All are welcome!

2023 Poinsettias



If you wish to donate toward the purchase of poinsettias, please fill out this form and send or deliver it to the Church Office. Please include your check in the amount of \$10.00 per poinsettia payable to FUMC.

Orders cannot be accepted after December 11, 2023.

May be taken to shut-in or nursing home

Will Pick Up after 10:30 a.m. Advent Service on Sunday, December 17

Given: In Honor

of _____

Given: In Memory

of _____

Your Name(s) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered _____ Paid \$ _____

TOTAL CHARITABLE GIVING 2022 = \$196,584

BENEVOLENCE APPORTIONMENTS

World Service/Ben/Conn	\$23,856
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CONFERENCE, NATIONAL, WORLD

IGRC Disaster Fund	\$25.00
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Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$30.00
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UNICEF	\$500.00
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Our Conference, Our Kids	\$240.00
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Missionary: Jane Kies	\$2,700.00
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UMCOR US Disaster (#901670)	\$1,780.00
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UMCOR International	\$13,890.00
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SPECIAL SUNDAYS

UMCOR Sunday (\$573), World Communion (\$105), Peace With Justice (\$90), UM Student (\$40), Human Relations (75), Native American (\$20)	\$903.00
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COMMUNITY MISSION

Austin's Place	\$4,211.00
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Cunningham Children's Home	\$20.00
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C-U at Home	\$1,310.00
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empty tomb (direct)	\$300.00
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empty tomb (senior citizen's fund)	\$6,300.00
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empty tomb (backpack ministry)	\$655.00
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FUMC MISSIONS

ASP (youth mission trip)	\$6,526.00
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FUMC Child Care Center (staff allocations)	\$42,361.00
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Food Pantry	\$1,068.00
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Good Samaritan	\$4,635.00
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Good Samaritan (staff allocations)	\$11,367.00
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Student Support Fund	\$7,044.00
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Other Outreach (staff allocations)	\$7,427.00
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TOTAL	\$137,148.00
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This congregation has financial resources beyond the annual operating budget. We also have investment earnings and memorials that have benefitted our ministries for many years. In addition, we frequently ask for donations of in-kind gifts, such as food or coats. Here are some of the other monies given and in-kind gifts that are not represented in our Operating Expense Summary:

Additional Money given

Program resources for church (Youth, Worship, Minds in Motion)	\$17,076
Scholarship Music Students	\$21,957
A donation to Boy Scouts in 2022	\$2,500
Seminary Student scholarship	\$5,500
Warm Hats	\$85
Rice Meals to Ukraine	\$1,253
DREAAM	\$3,935
LIFT	\$3,935
Housing Development Alliance KY	\$3,195
Total	\$59,436

In-Kind Gifts

- Children's Faith-at-Home Kits for Child Care Center families
- School supplies for empty tomb backpacks
- Food Pantry, donated food and household items
- Coats for the kids of DREAAM and LIFT
- Our Christmas Giving Tree collects hundreds of Christmas gifts for children at Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana) and Chaddock (Quincy, IL).
- Volunteer construction labor, Kentucky
- Free building use for community non-profits





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: peanut butter, canola oil, and bath tissue.



November 14 - KoFusion (preset menu)

November 21 - Neil St. Blues

November 28 - La Bahia

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.

Trio Fanfarrón

Special Guest Vocals by:
Ronald Hedlund
Kelly Holden

Artistic Responses to Colonialism

All donations benefit the Dr. Howard School Student Fund

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 3 pm

First United Methodist Church
210 W. Church, Champaign, IL

Melita Lasek Satterwhite

Ji Myung Kim

Barbara Hedlund



Youth Events

Do you ever have weird dreams? This is what we talked about in Youth Group last week! We talked about odd dreams, dreams we have over and over, dreams that we love or hate, etc. After that, we discussed all the many dreams that God helped Joseph to decipher in the book of Genesis.

The Joseph story is chockful of dreams! First, Joseph dreams about bundles of wheat and stars (symbolizing his family) that bow down to his bundle of wheat and stars. Then, Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker in prison - to very different outcomes! Finally, Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams of fat and skinny cows and then of healthy grain and withered grain.

However, there are even MORE times that dreams play a part in the Bible! Some of them are Jacob's ladder, Daniel's dream of animals, and don't forget when Joseph (in the NEW Testament) has a dream where an angel tells him to stay with Mary, since she is carrying the Son of God! And there are even more that I haven't mentioned!

God has communicated with us throughout time in many different and varying ways! It's always interesting to read these accounts and to also keep an open mind to all the many different ways God might be trying to speak to you!

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org

Coming Events:

Sunday, November 19 & 26 - No Youth Group due to Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 10 - Youth Group Progressive Dinner Christmas Party!! - Join us for our Progressive Dinner! We'll meet at the church at 5:00 pm; then we will drive to three different houses for appetizers, an entrée, and desserts! We'll also be playing games at our last stop, so make sure to bring an odd gift for White Elephant!!

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.

Men's Clothing Drive for the Danville Correctional Center



During the month of November, we again have the opportunity to participate in a program of the Danville Correctional Center to provide good used men's clothing for at least half of those 500 offenders who are released each year with few assets to their name (only prison clothing). Offenders about to be released can select clothing which can give them a sense of self-worth as they step back out into the world.

A labeled box is provided in the Resource Room for donations of all sizes of men's clothing. Especially needed are men's jeans, pants, shirts, sweaters, shoes, and jackets/winter coats. Please do not include any belts, ties, suspenders, or hangers. We ask that you make your donations between November 1-30, 2023.

We will be joining other churches in our area in this program. Please remember the deadline for this Fall collection is Thursday, November 30. We would like to thank Bob Clark from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for picking up and transporting our donated clothing to Danville.

Thank you for your help.

Larson Wesley Covenant Group





United
Women
in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, December 6, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

UWF Installation of Officers/Advent Program will be on Wednesday, December 6, at 1:30 pm in Friendship Center North.

Dorcas Circle will attend the UWF Installation of Officers/Advent Program on December 6.

Sarah Circle will not meet in November. On Monday, December 11, Sarah Circle will meet at JoAnn Schlueter's home. Paula Charter will lead the program.

Thank You!

THANKS to all of the tenors and basses who joined voices on November 5 in wonderful song! The congregation truly appreciated your efforts!



Sing with Chancel Choir for Major Music Sunday

Chancel Choir has begun practicing music for Major Music Sunday! More voices are always welcome – especially when there is an orchestra. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. There is an orchestra and choir rehearsal in the morning on Saturday, December 9, and Major Music is on Sunday, December 10. Contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) for more details.

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!!!



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 Thursday afternoon before the Sunday when a ride is desired. Sharon can be reached at: (217) 356-9078.



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

***COME CELEBRATE ADVENT
WITH UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH!***

**Wednesday, December 6, 1:30 PM
Friendship Center North**



**Join us for Conversation, Carols,
and Festive Cheesecake!**

**All women of the church
are invited to attend**



Grief during the holidays

The holiday season can be challenging after the loss of a loved one. Whether the loss was recent or some time ago, grief can be overwhelming and intense during the holiday season.

OSF Hospice and OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center would like to invite you to attend a two-hour session on “Grief during the Holidays”. There will be two sessions during the month of December. Each session will provide the same information regarding education about holiday grief, time for sharing and tips on ways to help you through the holiday season.

These sessions are free to the public. Registration is required in order to have materials available for each participant. Parking is available in front of the office.

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 2, 2023 | 10:00 A.M. – NOON


SUNDAY – DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

OSF Homecare & Hospice Office

1501 Interstate Drive -Suite C, Illinois, 61822 (last office on the right)

Registration is required. For more information and to register, please call (217) 355-4120 option 7, during business hours (Monday – Friday 8:00 to 4:30 p.m.)

PUZZLE



THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____



Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____



The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____



Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be _____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

**The Illinois Great Rivers Conference
of The United Methodist Church
recognizes**

Champaign First UMC

**For Faithfully Supporting Connectional
Giving Through the Payment of 100%
of Your Apportionments for the Year**

2022

Rev. Dr. Frank J. Beard
Bishop, Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Angie Lee
District Superintendent

Neal Miller, Chair
Conference Council on Finance & Administration

Congregational Life of FUMC

December 1-31, 2023



- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Larry Johnson | 7 Bob Cicone | 3 Michael & Bethany Thompson |
| 1 John Schaefer | 7 Ryan Perry | 17 Keith & Teresa Ford |
| 2 MaryBess Gordon | 8 Brian Sides | 19 Rick & Barb Alsup |
| 2 Athena Ray | 9 Donna Reed | 23 David & Diane Weible |
| 3 Devon Good | 9 Nickey Woods | 26 Mike & Donna Reed |
| 3 Wesley Uppinghouse | 10 Alex Brockett | 27 Neil & Linda Foztler |
| 4 Alexandra Miceli | 11 Helene Caton | 27 Bill & Teryl Pigott |
| 5 Steven Sanders | 12 Stan Olson | 28 Andrew & Julie Bequette |
| 6 Ryan Miller | 13 Kathleen Burgener | 28 Al & Linda Boehm |
| 6 Cherié Weible | 13 Sandra Santas | 28 Chris & Jessica Kant |
| | 13 Barb Wright | 28 Dave & Kathy Reineke |
| | 16 Tiffany Hand | 28 Jim & Marie Till |
| | 17 Bruce Benson | 29 Tim & Susan Morrow |
| | 17 Collin Carlier | 30 John & Kyle Curtis |
| | 19 Wes Curtis | 31 Joe Murphy & Kim Collins |
| | 19 Nancy Parkhill | |
| | 19 Anthony Pendleton | |
| | 20 Lindsey Wurl | |
| | 21 Kim Collins | |
| | 21 Maxwell Proctor | |
| | 22 Rick Alsup | |
| | 22 John Miceli | |
| | 22 Evangeline Rice | |
| | 22 Peggy Schneider | |
| | 24 Cathy Mitchell | |
| | 25 Grant Morenz | |
| | 26 Joe Murphy | |
| | 27 Donna Worner | |
| | 28 Larry Buhrmester | |
| | 28 Scarlett Kant | |
| | 28 Evelyn Luckett | |
| | 28 Julia Melgreen | |
| | 29 Sandra Pinter | |
| | 30 Laura Bargmann | |
| | 30 Beth Cupps | |
| | 31 Neil Foztler | |
| | 31 Ethan Simmons | |

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Julie Booth, Marge Moluf, Stan Olson, and Kenny Wood.



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.

Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Brian & Carianne (daughter of Bob & Barb Cicone) Reule at the passing of Brian's mother, Margaret Reule, on November 5, 2023, in Wisconsin.



Carlyle Johnson's birthday is November 24. We are so sorry for the typo!

NEXT Messenger Deadline: November 30, 2023 published on December 5

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: bberner@champaignfumc.org or brought to church.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15 8:00am FUMCCC Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	16 8:00am FUMCCC Parent/Teacher Conferences 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	17 8:00am FUMCCC Parent/Teacher Conferences	18 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 1:00pm DREAAM Robotics Workshop 3:00pm Trio Fanfarrón Concert
19 Reception of New Members VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 9:30am ARK Nursery 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	20 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union- CANCELLED	21 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- CANCELLED 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings	22 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir-CANCELLED 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	23 Thanksgiving - Building Closed	24 Building Closed	25 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
26 Family Fun Sunday United Methodist Student Day 9:30am ARK Nursery 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 5:00pm Youth Music	27 4:00pm C-U at Home Board Meeting 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	28 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings	29 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	30 8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	1	2 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
Champaign IL 61820

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For more information, please call the Church Office at (217) 356-
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