



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. 2

January 24, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

I am intrigued by the developments in Artificial Intelligence. My son's girlfriend has been working for Midjourney, an art-creating AI program. So I went to their website and started experimenting. I entered the prompt words "**sunny, stained glass windows, church sanctuary, beauty, hope, joy**" and Midjourney created four options for me that you can see here.

But art is not the only thing that can be generated with AI. I did not write the paragraph below. ChatGPT, an AI writing tool, wrote it with the prompts, "**church newsletter, rain, perseverance, psychology, 100 words.**" Why did I choose those prompts? I wanted to write a newsletter article, it is a rainy day (again) and I Thessalonians 2 (the preaching text for Sunday) is about perseverance.

Perseverance, also known as grit, is the ability to persist in the face of challenges and setbacks. Research in psychology has shown that people who possess a high degree of perseverance tend to have several key characteristics: a clear sense of purpose, a growth mindset, resilience, self-discipline, and a strong support system. Rain is often used as a metaphor for the challenges and difficulties that we face in life. But just as plants need rain to grow and flourish, we too need challenges and difficulties to grow and develop as individuals. Perseverance can be developed by setting challenging but achievable goals, learning from failure, and seeking out support and guidance. In our faith journey, God is always with us, and He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. He is the source of our strength and perseverance in the midst of the rain.

Wow. Mind Blown.

Humans were created in the image of a creating God and so we keep inventing, designing, and learning new things. Change can be exhilarating and terrifying...at the same time! The world keeps moving into a future I cannot quite imagine, but hope to navigate. There is an old saying that brings me comfort, "I do not know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future." I am grateful for God, past, present and future.

Love First!
Pastor Julia



ONE WINTER NIGHT



**Join us for a night of
Celebration, Inspiration, Education!**

Friday, Feb. 3 at The Venue CU. 7:00-9:00pm

**Motivational speaker, George Dennehy (www.thatarmlessguy.com)
Music provided by local Christian singers/songwriters **Todd Epps** and **Andy Kim**
All are welcome!**

Join us for an evening of celebration, inspiration, and education on Friday, February 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm at The Venue CU (51 N. Main in downtown Champaign).

Everyone is invited to join C-U at Home staff, supporters, and One Winter Night participants to learn more about the mission and vision of our "Pathways to Progress" shelter programs. Music will be provided by local Christian singer/songwriters Todd Epps and Andy Kim. Motivational speaker George Dennehy will share his inspiring story of perseverance and overcoming obstacles.

This is a free event and all are welcome.

Iroquois River District

Clergy and Laity Gathering

**Sunday, February 19, 2023
2:00 – 5:00 pm
Location – Savoy UMC**

**Guest speaker – Jacqui King,
IGRC Director of Ministerial Excellence**



To register click on this link -
<https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/IRD2023ClergyandLaityGathering>



Today
We Celebrate
a
New Pathway
to
Progress

FUMC Welcome Bins Ministry

Today we celebrate a new beginning, a new hope, a new pathway to progress.

Hattie has joined Austin's Place at C-U at Home and is taking her first steps toward a stable and independent life. With the support and encouragement of a case manager and the resources provided by the C-U at Home program, Hattie will find her way - discovering new strengths and talents - and growing into her full potential as a contributing member of our community.

Please pray for Hattie as she travels this 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.

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 new version of the Welcome Home bins ministry continues their support of the women at Austin's Place.

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) and click on GIVE. BE SURE TO DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT FOR AUSTIN'S PLACE/WELCOME BINS so it goes into the correct account.



First United Methodist Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to the church on Sunday morning or during the week (any time between 10:00 am - 3:00 pm) to stock our food pantry. These items are used by volunteers to provide food for families in need. Please call Sue Bachman at 217-359-4390 for information on volunteering.

Especially needed are: salt (box), sugar, cereal, tomato sauce, and dish washing liquid.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

Need a Ride to Church on Sunday?

The Wellspring Health and Wellness Committee is pleased to announce that transportation to and from the church for Sunday morning services will be available, beginning in January! We are 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.



United Women in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 1, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

Dorcas Circle will not meet in February.

Sarah Circle will meet on Monday, February 20, at 6:00 pm at Laura Curtis's home. Dawn Beyler will lead the program.



To our church family:

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and gifts at the passing of our son Todd on December 3. We've donated all the money gifts to the Music Ministry.

John & Carolyn Schaefer



The Bachman African Travelog Sunday, January 29 1:00 pm



Tim and Sue Bachman will be offering a second opportunity to view some of their pictures from their adventure to South Africa and Zimbabwe this past July. If you missed the first showing, please put this on your winter calendar and join us. Invite family/friends. Bring a sack lunch to eat after church, or return, or just stop by anytime near 1:00 pm to catch the adventure. Hope to see many of you on January 29 at 1:00 pm in Friendship Center South.

Youth News

Life is a funny thing, isn't it? We can never really predict what will come next, though we continually try. We had our first Youth Group of 2023 a few weeks ago, and we talked about New Year's resolutions and looking towards the future. We talked about dreams we had for our futures in the coming year, but also in the years beyond. The kids filled out sheets of what they wanted their lives to be like in 5, 10, and 20 years from now.

What was a little weird for me to think about was that when the 6th graders imagined their 20 years from now section, they were imagining what it would be like for them when they were MY age. They filled out where they wanted to live, what occupation they wanted, their salary, their marital status, what their biggest accomplishment would be, etc.

This was a great time to point out a big part of our lesson - "People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps." –Proverbs 16:9. The leaders and I reminded the youth that what we had planned for our futures as middle and high schoolers was not what ended up happening in our lives as we grew up. Yes, some things might have been the same, but other things happened that we never could have predicted. However, God has the best plan and thank goodness for that because we are so grateful for all the good in our lives!!

So, make your plans, resolutions, and dreams for the next year. God may help you achieve some and he may change others - but it is because only he has the master plan!

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org

Coming Events:

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.



FUMC has a fantastic Tech Team that is the hands and feet behind the scenes for worship services. The team operates sound and video for the sanctuary service on Sunday mornings and produces the online service during the week.

We would like to expand our Tech Team, so if you are computer savvy or willing to learn, email Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) for more information.

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.



Congregational Life of FUMC

February 1-15, 2023



- 1 Mary MacRae
- 1 Ruth Moore
- 1 Eric Simmons
- 3 David Eades
- 3 Robert Moser
- 4 Chris Uppinghouse
- 5 Teryl Pigott
- 6 Jo Ann Curtis
- 7 Sophia Uppinghouse

- 11 Linda Frerichs
- 11 Paul Patterson
- 12 Marcia Carlier
- 13 Mindy Slack
- 14 Robbie Black
- 14 Robin Burch
- 14 Abigail Moberg
- 14 Melody Wurl
- 15 Marge Moluf

- 2 Todd & Kathleen Burgener
- 2 Scott & Jill Kemper
- 7 Chris & Susan Hinesly
- 15 Mark & Cindy Rayburn

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks:



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.

6 *Pastor Julia*



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.

2023 Offering Envelopes

If you would like a supply of offering envelopes for 2023, they are available now in the Church Office and in the Narthex. We have weekly sets (52 envelopes) and monthly sets (12 envelopes). The envelopes are dated but not pre-numbered.

Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Wayne and Anne Weber and family at the passing of Wayne's sister, Lorraine Brockwell, on December 28, 2022, in Oro Valley, Arizona; to John and Carolyn Schaefer and family at the passing of John's sister, Barbara Jean Casper, on January 9, 2023, in Peru, Illinois; and to Lora Mae Kesler and family at the passing of her husband, Ken Kesler, on January 18, 2023.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
February 2, 2023
published on February 7

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

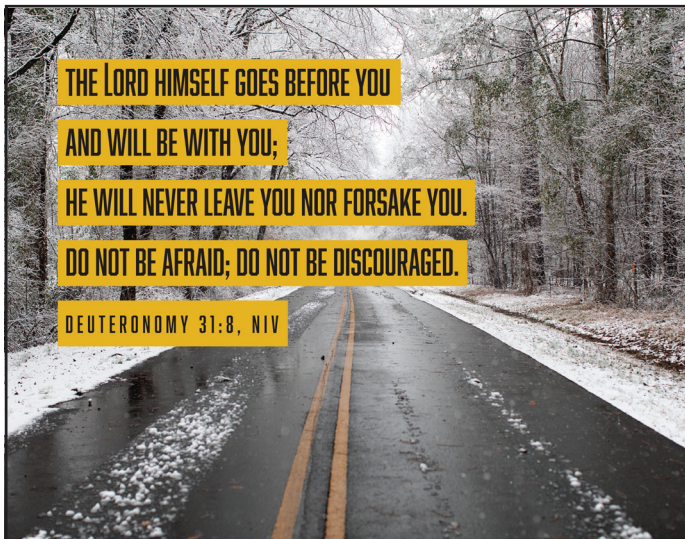
January 2023

<p>22 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am Volunteer Sign-up for Drive Thru Donation for One Winter Night/C-U at Home 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</p>	<p>23 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:00pm Ken Kesler Visitation 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>24 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Ken Kesler Funeral Service 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 6:00pm Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>25 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>26 10:00am Minds in Motion 11:30am Foundation 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group 7:00pm CSPH Point in Time Count</p>	<p>27 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>28 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>29 Family Fun Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am Volunteer Sign-up for Drive Thru Donation for One Winter Night/C-U at Home 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 1:00pm The Bachman African Travelog 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>30 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>31 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>1 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>2 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>3 8:00am One Winter Night/C-U at Home Drive Thru Donation 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>4 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>5 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</p>	<p>6 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>7 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team</p>	<p>8 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Child Care Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>9 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>10 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>11 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>12 Scouting Ministries Sunday 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</p>	<p>13 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>14 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers</p>	<p>15 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>16 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>17 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>18 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
Champaign IL 61820

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
Champaign IL

“Return Service Requested”



*The Messenger is a bi-weekly newsletter for members and friends of
First United Methodist Church, Champaign, IL.
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.)*

First United Methodist Church Ministry Team

Rev. Julia Melgreen, Directing Pastor	jmelgreen@champaignfumc.org
Meredith Garreau, Dir. of Youth, Adult, & 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	
Terry McClellan, Lead Custodian	christianshope2@aol.com