



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. 4

February 21, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

Welcome to Lent 2023! **How is it with your soul?** That is the question Lent poses. Usually the answer, at least for me, is that I can imagine doing a better job of nourishing my spirit and drawing near to God. Lent is a gift to us! Lent invites us to prioritize care for our spirits, service to our neighbors, and love for God. It is a church season of 40 days (not too long, definitely doable!) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. **Will you choose ONE thing as a Lenten spiritual discipline?** We can do this in our personal disciplines, such as: exploring new ways to pray, giving more time to prayer, worshiping together on Sundays, practicing a fast (from food or something else, like screen time or chocolate), volunteering in the community, and Bible reading for devotion and study.



But we also grow our spirit as a community of faith. We are inviting you to participate in the following Lenten practices:

- **Ash Wednesday Service, February 22, at 6 pm in the Sanctuary.** We will offer the imposition of ashes as part of this service.
- **30-Minute Taizé services:** Every Wednesday night at 6 pm, please meet in the Sanctuary for a service of song, Scripture and reflection. Taizé (pronounced six different ways if you look it up online! I say "Tuh'zay," but feel free to find a pronunciation you like!) Taizé is a village in France where a young monk, Brother Roger, bought some property and, with his sister, began to offer safety, hospitality and care to soldiers and children after WWII. "Today, the Taizé Community is made up of about a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations." (https://www.taize.fr/en_rubrique8.html). Many people attend spiritual retreats at the faith community of Taizé seeking to grow closer to God.
- **Thursday Night Dinner Together:** On Thursday nights at 5:30 pm, please join me at Harvest Market on S. Neil Street for dinner. Buy your dinner downstairs (they have a good selection of hot foods and salads), then come to the dining room upstairs. Come even if you don't want to eat there...there's no requirement to purchase food. We will enjoy one another's company: a spiritual discipline of friendship and laughter.

I am looking forward to these times together with you! Please receive the gift of Lent with a glad and joyful heart that seeks to know God better, loves people more, and cares well for our beloved selves.

Love First,
Pastor Julia



Wednesdays DURING LENT

Come Away to the Quiet - Taizé Services during Lent

These services focus on the meditative character of worship through the use of repetition. Portions of hymns, songs, and choruses are sung. The use of repetition allows the text to gradually penetrate one's whole being. Thus, meditative singing becomes a way of listening to God. It allows all to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive listening to God. The songs also sustain personal prayer.

You are invited to "Come away to the quiet" and join in 30-minute meditative Taizé style worship services at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary on Wednesdays during Lent. The services will include candlelight, meditation, scripture, song, and prayer. The music is led by FUMC musicians; you are welcome to join in the singing or to simply listen.

Come away to the quiet, open your heart, and talk with God on March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

Our congregation will celebrate the commissioning of Pastor Julia as a new Stephen Ministry leader during worship on Sunday, March 12.

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is an independent, non-for-profit Christian educational organization. Its main activity is the training of Stephen Ministry Leaders, who then train others in their congregation to be Stephen Ministers capable of accompanying those who are facing some crisis in life, such as illness, death of a loved one, divorce, relocation, etc. It is a lay care-giving ministry that supplements pastoral care.

It was founded in 1975 by the psychiatrist Rev. Kenneth C. Haug and is based in St. Louis. More than 12,000 congregations from 160 Christian denominations are now involved, located in the U.S., Canada and 24 other countries. As of 2016, Stephen Ministry had trained more than 65,000 leaders, who returned to their local churches to train 600,000 congregational members.

The mission of the Stephen Ministry organization is summed up in Ephesians 4:12a: "To equip the saints for the work of ministry."



FUMC Needs Candy



We need candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please bring bags of individually wrapped Easter candy to the church by Sunday, April 2, if you would like to donate. Thank you!



Have you lost someone recently that you loved dearly?

GriefShare may help you gain a new perspective on life since your loss.

Griefshare is a 13-week support group that will help you through your loss. Weekly videos, group discussion (not mandatory) and a workbook are used in the process.

Meetings will be held at the First United Methodist Church starting Wednesday, March 15, 2023, and will continue through June 28 (EXCEPT April 4 - Holy Week) from 6:00-8:00 pm. These sessions are held in Friendship Center North. You need not attend all 13 sessions.

You may sign up by calling the church (217-356-9078) or Cathy Mitchell (309-645-2187). You may also go online to griefshare.org. There is a suggested fee of \$20 for the workbook. Workbook scholarships are available.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am-10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt in Fellowship Hall Rooms D, C, B, A.

Children and Youth of all ages are welcome to attend the annual Easter Egg Hunt before the service on Sunday!



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: jelly and pork & beans.

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 is available! 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, March 1, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

Special Program Meeting will be on Saturday, March 4, at 9:30 am in Friendship Center North. Sarah Circle will host the meeting.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 8, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North. Carol Bond will lead the Pledge Service.

Drive Thru Donation Event at FUMC

Love, First

\$9,384

In support of One Winter Night/C-U at Home

Green Team Notes: Focus on Reducing Waste!

To help reduce waste, we're asking anyone who routinely uses a Styrofoam cup to choose a reusable mug. Here's how it works:

- 1 - Pick a mug from the Green Team table in Friendship Center
- 2 - Label the mug with your name
- 3 - Drink hot drink of choice
- 4 - Rinse, dry, and replace the mug

Reducing waste is one of the most effective ways to sustain the environment for future generations!

Recycling efforts are on the rise! Two new receptacles are now available in Friendship Center North, one for paper goods and one for other recyclables, such as cans, bottles, and most plastic containers. We thank you for all your efforts in increasing our recycling and ask that you please rinse your container (cup, bottle, can) before depositing it into the proper receptacle.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sharon in the church office or Sandy Burgener at: sandsburgener@gmail.com.



United Women in Faith has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3600.00 by the Emerging Ministries Fund of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) to support the Snack Pantry Project we've implemented at Dr. Howard Elementary School! The project is headed by Paula Charter, our Social Action coordinator. We could not have undertaken this project without an initial grant of \$2000.00 from our church's Outreach Ministries Team. For helping us get started, we send our heartfelt thanks.

In the next issue of the *Messenger*, we'll provide you with the details of this wonderful ministry to address child hunger for youngsters.



United
Women
in Faith

All women of the church are invited
to attend this special program

LUELLA'S LODGE



**a place to heal when grieving
the loss of a child**

Guest Speaker: Carrie Hay
Co-Founder of Luella's Lodge

Saturday, March 4
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Friendship Center North



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 worship service on Sunday mornings.

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.

Youth News

Creativity is a wonderful thing, isn't it? Last Saturday, the Youth Group had a PAL-entines party at the church. There were several activities, which included cookie decorating, canvases to paint, and even resin wall hangings to pour.

I loved looking at the creative paintings, cookies, and resin pours. Each one was so uniquely different depending on who created it. I was ooh-ing and ahh-ing over each piece.

Everyone has creativity in them - even if you think you aren't creative at all! There are just different ways that your creativity might manifest. We know we are creative because God made us in His image! God is the ultimate creative genius (I mean, look at all the weird animals in the world...I couldn't make those up!). So embrace your creative side that you inherited from God.

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

Thursday, March 16 - Spring Break Lunch Meet up! - Are you stuck in town during Spring Break this year? Let's meet up for lunch and catch up! Bring money to cover your food and join me at Buffalo Wild Wings in Savoy at 12:30 pm!

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.



Join us for Family Fun Sunday on February 26! After the children-led worship service, we will be packing Personal Dignity kits for Midwest Mission Distribution Center! Come and pack kits that will be given to those in need.

6

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.





MASTER'S RECITAL

MEGHAN RANEY

BEATRIX ROQUE SANTANA, PIANO

MARCH 4, 2023

3:30 PM

SMITH MEMORIAL HALL, RECITAL HALL

Meghan Raney, soprano scholarship student in Chancel Choir, will perform her master's recital on March 4 at 3:30 pm in Smith Memorial Recital Hall. There will be music by Scarlatti, Britten, Prokofiev, Poulenc, and Grieg.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be a live-stream on the Facebook event page for those not available to attend in-person.

<https://fb.me/e/2AYFza26W?mibextid=RQdjqZ>

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree in vocal performance and literature. Meghan Raney is a student of Professor Jerold Siena.



Congregational Life of FUMC

March 1-15, 2023



- 1 Emily Moser
- 2 Anna Donahoe
- 3 Sabrina Russell
- 4 Mike Connelly
- 6 Drew Bargmann
- 6 Joni Fredrickson
- 7 John Ronsvalle
- 8 Forrest Robeson
- 8 Jane Rogers

- 9 Deborah Bodony
- 10 Benjamin Cravens
- 10 Lauren Cravens
- 11 Lola Brown
- 12 Chris Brademas
- 14 Cody Floyd
- 14 Elmer Lash
- 14 Scott Rice

- 14 Bruce & Terry Benson

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Roberta Johnson.



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.

8 *Pastor Julia*

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your request.

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 the family and friends of Jesse Dowell, who passed away on February 12, 2023; and to Christine Stover at the passing of her brother-in-law, Jerry Lee, on February 16, 2023, in Beaumont, Texas.



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

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

February and March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 2:00pm Iroquois River District Clergy & Laity Gathering 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music	20 Church Office Closed 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:00pm Sarah Circle 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	21 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm Board of Trustees 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Finance Committee	22 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	23 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Dinner at Harvest Market 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	24 10:00am Jesse Dowell Visitation 11:00am Jesse Dowell Funeral 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	25 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
26 Family Fun Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	27 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	28 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Administrative Council	1 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	2 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Dinner at Harvest Market 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	3 Pack 11 Pinewood Derby Setup 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	4 Pack 11 Pinewood Derby 9:30am UWF Special Program Meeting
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	6 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	7 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	8 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm Wellspring Committee 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Child Care Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	9 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Dinner at Harvest Market 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	10 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	11 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:00am Leadership Workshop
12 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	13 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	14 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers	15 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 7:00pm Chancel	16 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Dinner at Harvest Market	17 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	18 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:00am Leadership Workshop

First United Methodist Church
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