



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. 3

February 7, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

I was surprised when I saw the photo of this boat!

Our Bishop, Frank Beard, is leading a tour of the Holy Land right now. Every year at Annual Conference a donation is received to offer a trip to each person being ordained. One year the ordinands went on a mission/educational trip to Juarez, Mexico. I joined this trip as a representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry. A number of years later, I accompanied my friend, Margaret Ann Jessup, on her ordination trip to visit John Wesley sites in England. Covid has delayed our ordinands' trip the past few years, but finally, they are visiting Israel. Our neighbor, Rev. Sheryl Palmer, the pastor at Faith UMC, is on this trip with her husband. Two people I mentored are there, too. I have been eagerly reading all the posts from my clergy friends! What a fabulous opportunity!



A friend posted a picture of the boat that they had taken out into the Sea of Galilee. It surprised me. I guess I'm used to big, plexiglass boats for the water tours I've taken in the United States. But this boat looks different. Simple, wooden, small, and vulnerable. While our IGRC group was on the Sea of Galilee they were overtaken by a storm. Was this boat able to handle a squall?

Rev. Haley Hausman, ordained in 2020 and on the boat wrote, *It's been windy and raining with the wind whistling all morning. Reading Mark 6 this morning. Thankfully, Jesus literally calms this sea. "Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here."* (Mark 6:50) The boat tour was cut short and all the guests made it to shore.

"Don't be afraid. Take courage, I am here." Jesus spoke those words to his disciples as they faced a big storm. He speaks the same words to us! Into the storms of life Jesus speaks a calming word. No matter how small or vulnerable you may feel, Jesus brings peace.

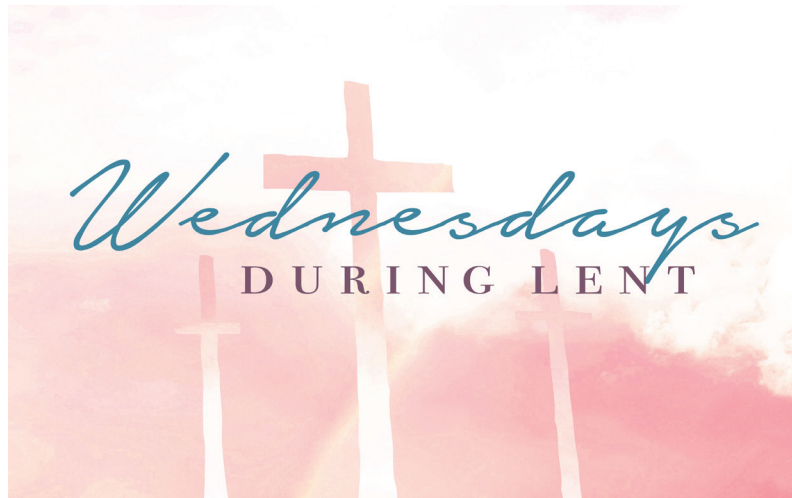
I am praying for the people from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in Israel right now and invite you to pray for them, too. I'm praying that they can feel the presence of God, be inspired by the life of Jesus, enjoy the company of their travel companions, and make it safely home on February 8!

Love First!
Pastor Julia



Service
February 22
6:00 pm in the sanctuary

Come to prepare for Lent and make a way for holiness to be a part of your journey through Lent and beyond. The worship service will include songs, scripture, and the imposition of ashes.



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.

Update Membership Information

Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so).

It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.

Have you changed your phone number or email address? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct.

Please email changes or questions to Bonnie at bberner@champaignfumc.org or call her at 217-356-9078.

Thank you for your help!

Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please email Tina at businessmgr@champaignfumc.org or call her at 217-356-9078.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.



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: Hamburger Helper, French style green beans, canned peaches, and 2 lb bag of flour.

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

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.

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

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.



Christmas Offering

We received donations of \$5345.95 from the Christmas offering. The money will be split between the Student Support Fund and C-U at Home. The continued generosity of this congregation is awe inspiring! Thank you so much!

The Outreach Ministries Team



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.

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>

Youth News

What makes up a typical Sunday night at Youth Group? Well, a few different things actually! First, everyone arrives and then we have dinner together. We might catch up on what happened during the week, share a story or two, or just discuss anything that comes to mind!

After this, I begin with our announcements. I let everyone know about events coming up, birthdays, due dates for things like ASP, etc. Next, it's time for our discussion.

Our discussion/lesson can be many different things. Sometimes we focus on one passage in the Bible and break it down with a hands on activity. Other times we might discuss a concept (like doubt or peer pressure or mental health), look at what God says about the concept, and think of how we can apply that to our lives. Sometimes we might do a service activity to remember that God wants us to help others.

After this, it's time for games! These games might include running all around the church or gym. They might be trivia based. They might be a game that we play on our projector screen. They might be an "up front" game, where one player is competing for their whole team. No matter what, we end up having fierce competition (and we do have a prize basket, so that helps too)!

Anyway, that's a regular night at youth group! If you're interested in helping, you can actually provide a dinner for the youth group for a night! Just contact me at meredith@champaignfumc.org for more info.

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

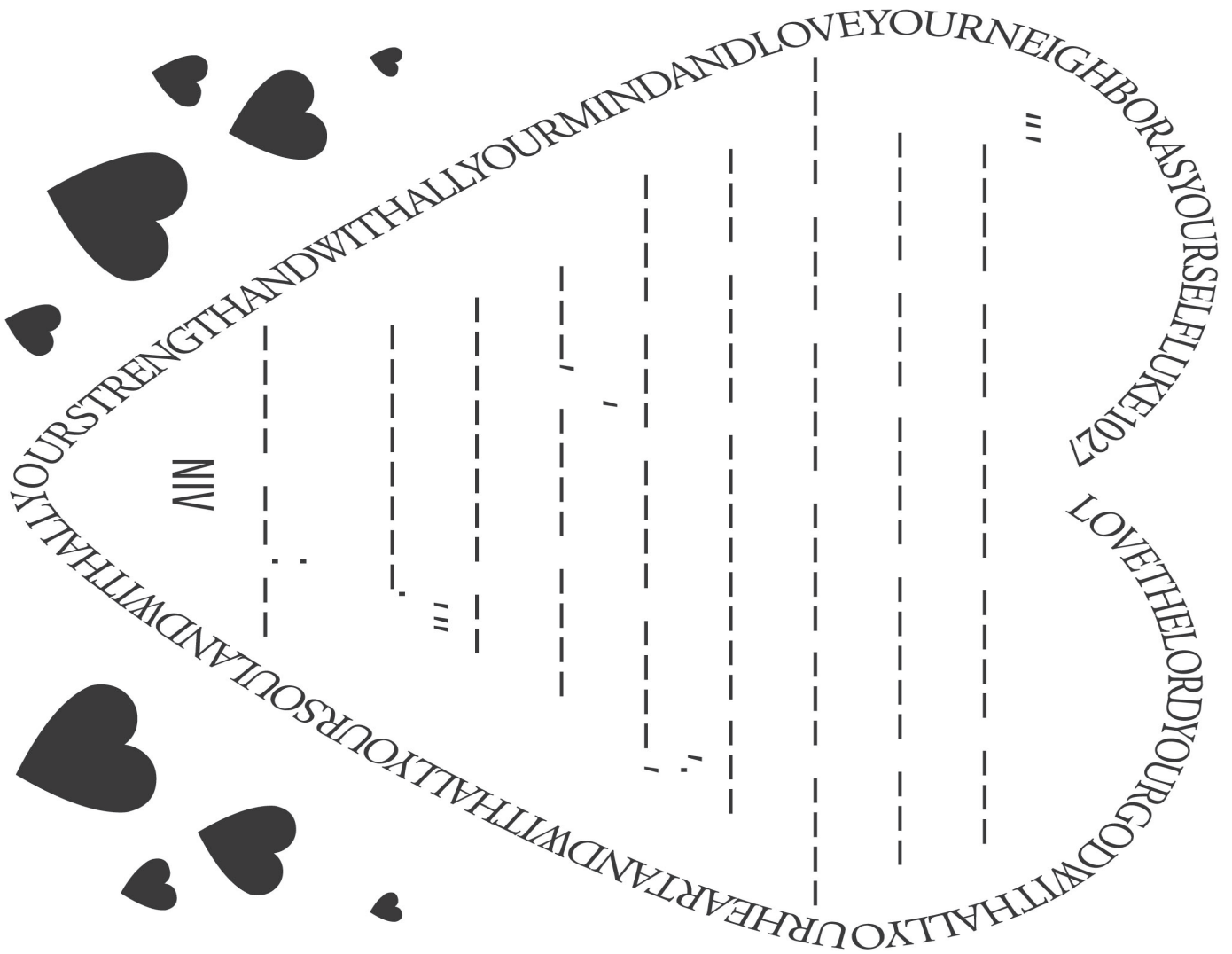
Saturday, February 11, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - PALentines Party - We will be having a youth group PALentine's Party at the church on Saturday, February 11, from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the church! We'll make Valentine's crafts/art, decorate heart cookies, watch a movie, have snacks, etc.! Come and celebrate the season!!

Sunday, February 12 - No Youth Group due to the Super Bowl

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.

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

What about that Doxology?

The word DOXOLOGY is a combination of the Greek words DOXA (meaning “glory”) and LOGOS (meaning “a speaking”). When we sing the Doxology in worship, we are speaking (singing) glory to God. The word first appeared in English around 1645. There are many versions of Doxologies. Some common examples are the Greater Doxology, the Lesser Doxology, and the Common Doxology.

Lesser Doxology (Gloria Patri or Glory Be to the Father)

This is a song of praise sung to the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is often sung near the beginning of the service or around the reading of the Psalms in the Latin Mass. Examples of The Lesser Doxology are Numbers 70 and 71 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Greater Doxology (Gloria in excelsis Deo or Glory be to God on High)

The Greater Doxology began as the hymn the angels sang at the birth of Jesus. That hymn is linked to ancient Jewish liturgy. Additional verses were added and the result is the Gloria in excelsis Deo. Examples of the Greater Doxology are Numbers 82 and 83 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

*Glory be to God on high
And in earth peace, goodwill towards all.*

*We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee, for thy great glory
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

The Common Doxology (The Doxology)

The Common Doxology refers to the Doxology that FUMC most often uses in worship services, Numbers 94 and 95 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

The text was written by Thomas Ken in 1674 as the final verse of two hymns. The hymns were used during morning and evening worship services at Winchester College in England. This text, or a variation of the text, can be sung to many hymn tunes. The most common are LASST UNS ERFREUEN (UMH No. 94), OLD 100th (UMH No. 95), and TALLIS' CANON (UMH No. 682). Furthermore, the last verse of no more than 24 additional hymns in the United Methodist Hymnals are doxologies of this type.



UPDATE from MUTARE



Jane and Larry Kies
Africa University
Box 1320
Mutare Zimbabwe
email- LKies@africau.edu; jkses60@gmail.com

I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.'
Isaiah 41:1-2

Newsletter
Vol. 36, No. 3
Nov 2022

Dear friends and family,

After 5-months of visiting churches, family and friends in the USA, UK and Netherlands, we returned at the end of September to a touching welcome of warm greetings, embraces and smiles from friends, colleagues, church family and students, all of whom have helped us feel grounded and thankful to be 'home'.

Our first week we joined a campus clean-up day in preparation for the grand celebration of 30 years of Africa University.



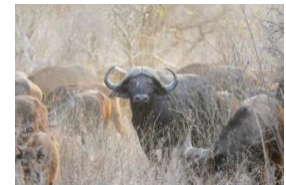
Photos courtesy OAPA, AU

Homecoming



The sounds, colours, and exuberance of Zimbabwe were apparent in an animated UMW revival over the weekend. The preaching was stirring, the singing joyful and the food delicious!

And more recently, sights and sounds of a different nature in Gonarezhou National Park during which we were blessed with the company of good friends and sightings of unbelievable numbers of the park's residents!



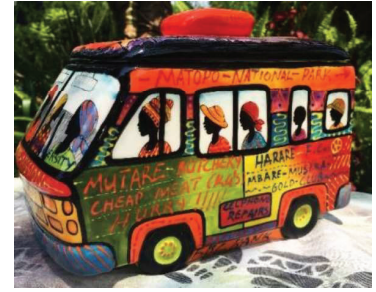
There was much singing and festivity over the weekend of October 22-23 as **AU celebrated 30 years AND the inauguration of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Rev Peter Mageto.** Visitors from different parts of the globe congregated to make this both a celebration of the past, and a projection of AU's commitment and potential to change Africa and the world through leadership training for the next generation of African youth.

Photo credit: UMC Council of Bishops

We are now both adjusting to the idea of **being 'retired'** as GBGM missionaries, (Jane as of October 1st). Larry, of course, has had 2 years practice -although he will continue teaching as a volunteer.



As we are looking out to new horizons, we will take time to reflect on the way God brought us together in ministry and guided us through new terrain in Botswana and across borders to Zimbabwe (with stops along the way in the USA, and other distant places), always with the assurance, 'I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.' (Isaiah 41:1-2)



Time and space do not allow us to provide pictures of or name all the special people who hosted and cared for us during our church and other visits. Family, friends, church family and GBGM staff have always held us up in prayer and warmly received us whenever we came back to the States. We are so thankful for this commitment to ministry and for the love that has held us all together in our work to carry out the mandate that Jesus gave us all to make Him known in our communities and disciple others.

Family

Besides enjoying our church family, we have received unlimited joy in sharing this journey from our own families and precious children. We came across the saying, 'one is not born in Africa; Africa is born in you'. Certainly, Africa has given them wisdom, perspective and experiences that have shaped them. They have withstood multiple challenges adapting to new cultures, but we are so proud of them and the steps they have taken to establish their own lives in new places.



This is our **last 'official' newsletter**. Please let us know if you would like to be on our list for future, more occasional letters. We will continue to use LKies@africau.edu and JKies60@gmail.com as well as the website www.LarryKies.com

Websites:

Africa University news: www.africau.edu
www.support-AfricaUniversity.org, and on
Twitter and Facebook.

A.U. scholarship fund:
<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3021028/>

The Farm Development Fund: For current projects: Dr. Sebastian Chakeredza,
(chakeredzas@africau.edu)

As you may prayerfully be considering **another missionary to support**, we would like to suggest the following A.U. graduates, now GBGM missionaries:

Temba Nkomozepe (Zambia, Agricultural development). TNkomozepe@umcmmission.org.

Masuka Maleka, Ivory Coast, church development).
<https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3021390/>

Always, our thanks and praise go to our heavenly Father, always there, always faithful in the valleys and the heights. We give Him all the glory as we aim to 'live a life worthy of our calling.'

Thank you!!! May you always be blessed in your service to God and others.

Jane and Larry Kies

Congregational Life of FUMC

February 16-28, 2023



- 16 Tim Deal
- 17 Jonathan Fotzler
- 17 Phyllis Robeson
- 18 Ann-Marie Best
- 19 Madeline Geis
- 19 Grace MacRae
- 21 John Ayers
- 21 Bill Hand
- 21 Adam Simmons
- 21 Seth Simmons
- 22 Emersen Geis
- 22 Jenna Martin

- 22 Althea Stockwell
- 24 Jeanne Kemper
- 25 Joseph Hadler
- 25 Jack Hou
- 25 Connie McCray
- 25 Gale Morenz-Rasch
- 25 Greg Moser
- 26 Matt Matuniak
- 27 Barbara Foil
- 27 Meredith Garreau
- 27 Hillary Veitch
- 28 Larry Askew
- 28 Julie Fredenburg
- 28 Josef Hallbeck

- 25 Ken & Kelli Kemper
- 25 Jake & Kelsie Sicinski
- 26 John & Sylvia Ronsvalle
- 28 Joseph & Marin Mattingly

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Annie Gordon.



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.



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 of Barry Brindley, who passed away on January 25, 2023, in Chrisman, Illinois; and to Terry and Bruce Benson and family at the passing of Terry's mother, June Hix, on January 28, 2023, in Parkersburg, West Virginia.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
February 16, 2023
published on February 21

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

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	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	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	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	9 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	10 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	11 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 7:00pm Youth PALentine's Party
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	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	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	15 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	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	17 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm FUMCCC Pre K Open House	18 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
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 DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	24 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 6:30pm Scouts 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	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	2 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm	3 Pack 11 Pinewood Derby Setup 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	4 Pack 11 Pinewood Derby 9:30am UWF Special Program Meeting

First United Methodist Church
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Champaign IL 61820

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God's
love
endures
FOREVER.

Psalms 136:1



*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.)*

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