



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. 6

March 21, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

One of my favorite things about being a pastor is getting to know the people of the congregation. I want to spend time with you! You may be a member or a visitor. You might be an older person or you could be in your 20s or somewhere in between. Perhaps you have attended FUMC for the last 60 years. Or, maybe, last Sunday morning was the first 60 minutes you've ever been in the building. Maybe you are healthier than you've ever been or it could be you've just gotten the worst news ever from your doctor. I'd love to talk to you!

Sometimes, if a person is still working, I'll grab lunch with them or an early supper. If we can meet for coffee, I always enjoy that! Generally, I hold Tuesday afternoons open for home visits at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm. I appreciate the opportunity to meet one-on-one with people who are interested in Champaign First UMC.

MAY I VISIT YOU?

There are two ways to get a visit scheduled:

1. **Call the church office** at 217-356-9078 and talk to Sharon Johnson, our Administrative Assistant. She helps me get the appointments made. If you would like a visit, please feel free to call. We can visit just for the enjoyment of getting to know one another better or spending time together. It doesn't have to be a crisis! If you and Sharon cannot figure out a time/date, please leave your number and I'll call or text you back.
2. **SAY YES when Sharon calls.** Sharon and I try to keep a running list of folks I might visit. When she calls to set up an appointment, SAY YES.

If you don't want me to come to your home, that's fine! We can meet in my office or at a local coffee shop. If you are comfortable opening your home to me, I'm happy to travel to you! Plan on about an hour for the visit. Let Sharon know if you would like me to bring communion to celebrate together. But mostly, don't worry! These visits are among my greatest joys and I hope they will be fun for you, too!

Love FIRST!
Pastor Julia

May I VISIT YOU?





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 22 and March 29.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 2 – 10:30 am Worship;
Join in the Palm Processional.
Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6 – 7:00 pm Worship;
Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 7 – 7:00 pm
Joint Worship
at First Presbyterian Church.
Remember the crucifixion of Christ on
this dark and Holy Friday.

Easter Sunday Celebration

Sunday, April 9 – 10:30 am Worship;
Rejoice in the resurrection of
our Lord Jesus Christ.



2023 Easter Offering



Benefiting empty tomb

FUMC has allocated 100% of the Easter Offering to assist empty tomb in purchasing a new furniture delivery truck!

FUMC has allocated 100% of the Easter offering to assist empty tomb in the purchase of a new furniture truck. The truck goes out most Saturdays to pick up donated basic furniture (beds, dressers, tables, chairs) and deliver requested items to folks in need free in Jesus name. Your support is greatly appreciated! LOVE FIRST!

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!



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.

God's Promises Fulfilled

Undoubtedly, the most fulfilling ministry of which I have been involved has been that of my Stephen Ministry experiences. For the past 20 years as a Stephen Minister, I have been privileged to be the Christian friend who walked with others through their wilderness journeys.

I think of Jane*, the lady who suddenly lost her husband, and the months that we walked together through her wilderness of grief. I remember the precious hours spent with Hazel* who shared her life experiences with me as she went through the wilderness of terminal cancer. I recall the heart-break wilderness of rejection which Ruth* shared with me when her husband abruptly left her for someone else. I can still feel the gentle touch of my dear friend Mary*, who spent her last years in a nursing home enduring the wilderness of no longer feeling useful, of being dependent on others, of having no close family, and of losing her only child, an adult, son.

A strong guideline of Stephen Ministry is "We are the caregivers, God is the cure giver." I feel that God has kept his covenant with me through the presence of the Holy Spirit in each Stephen Ministry encounter. As I walked with others through their wilderness experiences of grief, death, rejection, and loneliness, I felt as though "we were truly standing on Holy Ground."

All of us walk through troubled times at some point in our lives. I do not believe that our Lord wants us to walk alone on these wilderness journeys.

"Praise be to the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with comfort we ourselves have received from God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the care receivers since confidentiality is the cornerstone of the Stephen Ministry program.

Shared by Bernie Chamberlain

(This was part of a FUMC Lenten Devotional Series entitled *Covenants in the Wilderness*.)

FUMC Green Team

The FUMC Green Team is grateful that one of our regular worship attendees, Jan Kane, will be sharing her knowledge and resources about green products, focusing on everyday products designed to reduce our use of plastic. Jan will have a display in Friendship Center South for two Sunday mornings: March 26 and on Palm Sunday, April 2. Jan is willing to share her extensive experience with plastic alternatives, and has a variety of samples from sustainable products she will be sharing. Please take time to stop by and talk with Jan!

Our thanks go out to Terry Benson who helped us distribute and label coffee mugs for use on Sunday morning coffee hour. And, we appreciate everyone's efforts in using the recycling center bins to recycle many of the items that would have otherwise ended in the landfill!

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

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, April 5, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

Dorcus Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 12, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North.

Sarah Circle will meet on Monday, April 17, at 6:00 pm at Lynne Lyman's home. Lynne will lead the Prayer & Self-Denial program.

MARCH GREENNESS CAMPAIGN READY TO GO!

Cunningham Children's Home has launched a special fundraising campaign to provide their kids with everything they need to do some real gardening!



Thanks to a \$500.00 grant from the CC Schools Foundation, Cunningham already has a 4 x 6ft greenhouse on campus. The kids have taken up gardening enthusiastically! They've already sprouted seedlings, started composting, and planned their garden plots.

For the month of March, Cunningham has launched March Greenness! They've set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 to purchase a much larger greenhouse, tools, and other necessary supplies. They're asking for our help in reaching their goal.



United Women in Faith are answering the call and we hope you will join our Team! We invite you to take part in "March Greenness!" Our team's name is "Champaign First United Women in Faith". We've set our team's goal at \$532.00 which will go toward the overall cost of the greenhouse.

There are two ways you can help. You can write a check to UMW and drop it off or send it to our secretary, Sharon Johnson, at the church. Include CCH (or Greenness) on the memo line. We will see that your donations reach Cunningham Home by the end of the month.

If you prefer to donate online, here is the website address to go directly to the March Greenness campaign: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/marchgreenness/>

- Click on Find a Green Team
- Type in Champaign First United Women in Faith
- Select our team's name from the list
- Click on Donate Now

Add your donation amount and payment details. Contact Terry Benson at 217- 390- 4687 if you have questions. To learn more about the March Greenness project, see <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/events/seeing-green>

On behalf of the winning kids at Cunningham Children's Home, the Champaign First United Women in Faith Team thanks you for your support of March Greenness. Go, 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 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.



Scholarship Fund

FUMC has a scholarship for our youth (and previous youth) who are advancing their education! If you are interested, all the information can be found below!

First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the Clyde Lee and Jane Cecilia Baker Endowment Fund Scholarship on behalf of Professor Jack Sherman Baker. This scholarship is available to current and previous youth who have been active in the youth and/or music ministries of FUMC. It is available for advanced education, including community/junior college, 4-year college/university, or accredited trade school. Applications can be obtained by contacting the church office and must be turned in for consideration by April 28, 2023.

Coming Events:

Sunday, April 9 - No Youth Group due to Easter!

Saturday, April 15, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Hot Dog and S'mores fire pit! - Come on over to Meredith's house to roast hot dogs and s'mores over the fire! We'll have all the fixings and enjoy the slightly warmer weather! Afterwards, we'll play games and hang out!

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.





UPDATE:

Central High School Food Pantry

In June 2021, Student Support Fund purchased a refrigerator/freezer for the food pantry at Central High School. Laura Morrison, head volunteer of the food pantry, recently sent this update:

I want to just thank you again for helping us out with the refrigerator/freezer for our pantry. I have been able to get frozen meat for almost every market that we have had. I also have been able to get other frozen vegetables and meals as well as dairy such as yogurt and cheese. It has been great and the people that we serve are very happy to get these items---which we could not do without that fridge/freezer.

So...THANK YOU again and again for helping us. We have been serving 35 to 40 families at each market and having these things available is great!

*Laura Morrison
CHS Market*

Thank you for your continued support of the Student Support Fund which continues to provide funding for our neighbors at Dr. Howard Elementary School, DREAAM, and LIFT.



From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone for your prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers, and visits. You are so appreciated and so special to me. God bless you all.

Roberta Johnson



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: canned pepper and liquid laundry detergent.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.



**Join us for Family Fun Sunday
on March 26!**

**After the children-led worship
service, we will be taking part in a
service project.**

APRIL 30, 2023

10:30 AM

ANGEL CHOIR PRESENTS:

Cool in the Furnace

FEATURING:

ALP

Alex, Lea, Plamedi

and

THE FAB FIVE

Blessing, Melody, Oliver

Phoenix, Sarah



Awake My Soul and Sing

MAY 7, 2023

10:30 AM

MAJOR MUSIC SUNDAY

CHANCEL CHOIR, CHANCEL RINGERS

PERCEPTIONS PRAISE TEAM, YOUTH MUSIC

ORCHESTRA

Choral Union Spring Concert

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

7:00 PM

First UMC, Champaign – 210 W Church Street

Featuring Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light*

Meghan Raney, Soprano

Salvatore Castronovo, Baritone

Cathryn Case, Harp

Daniel King Crede, Organ

Sunny Choo, Piano

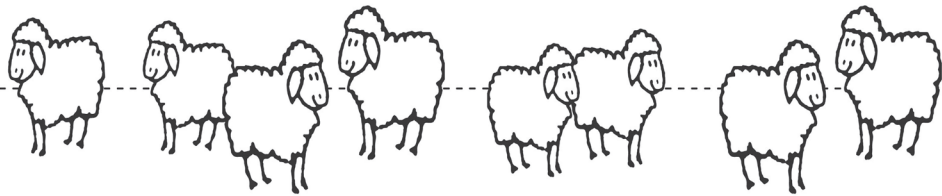
Barbara Zachow, Conducting

Free Admission Donations Appreciated

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!



Allwelikeysbelievewraywecommandsodtherighteousnessof
gospeltosrevealstartehtestimonysnsalordrtheiniquity
rightasisepraisedwsilfooaputownwayaposa humcornersfo
heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruootgercorlaido ireasonsus
returncaphavent rustedeallturnedrespossesnhtruths.Ila

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

Congregational Life of FUMC

April 1-15, 2023



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Paula Charter | 9 Cathy Ehler |
| 1 Payton Woods | 10 Mary Clow |
| 2 Judy Johnson (Mrs. Larry) | 11 Bob Cicone Jr |
| 2 Howie Kemper | 11 Faith Melchi |
| 2 Mindy Kolar | 12 Julie Clark |
| 3 Jacqueline Corum | 12 Rae Ann Climpson |
| 3 Betty Walker | 13 Carol Bond |
| 4 John Curtis | 14 Ryan Berner |
| 5 Jessica Hadler | 14 Susan Eades |
| 7 Wayne Whited | 15 Larry Corum |
| 9 Alex Charter | 15 Carson Kemper |
| 9 Frances Donahoe | 15 Jim Till |

12 Tom & Susan Veitch

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Anne & Wayne Weber.



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.

10 *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 Bonnie & Dave Berner and family at the passing of Bonnie's father, Ronald Bielfeldt, on March 11, 2023.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
March 30, 2023
published on April 4

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

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 UMCOR 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	20 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	21 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Board of Trustees 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers	22 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 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 9:00am C-U at Home Board Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	25 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
26 Family Fun Sunday Van Reserved for Rides to Church 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 Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	28 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 2:00pm Memorials & Gifts Committee 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee	29 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	30 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 7:00pm Clarinet Group	31 12:00pm Illini 4000 Practice Night 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	1 7:15am Illini 4000 Practice Night Ends 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 UWF Palm Sunday Bake Sale 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	3 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	4 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team	5 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	6 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 8:00pm Perceptions Praise Team	7 FUMCCC Closed 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 7:00pm Joint Good Friday Worship	8 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
Champaign IL 61820

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“Return Service Requested”

Trust in the Lord
with all your heart; do
not depend on your
own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you
which path
to take.

-Proverbs 3:5-6



*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 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