



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. 5

March 7, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

I'd like to extend an invitation to the congregation to consider making a special offering on March 19 to UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief).

March 19th is designated as UMCOR SUNDAY.

The United Methodist Church has six Sundays set aside for special offerings. UMCOR SUNDAY (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) is an important one.

The gifts you give on UMCOR SUNDAY are used to pay the administrative expenses of our relief agency. Every other gift you make to UMCOR over the course of the year is used 100% to relieve suffering.

After a tornado or other natural disaster, many of us wring our hands, lift up our prayers, and wonder, "What else can we do? How can we help?" The answer is: make a donation to UMCOR!

100% of your gift will go to serve and aid the people affected by tragedy. 0% of your gift will be used for administrative expenses.

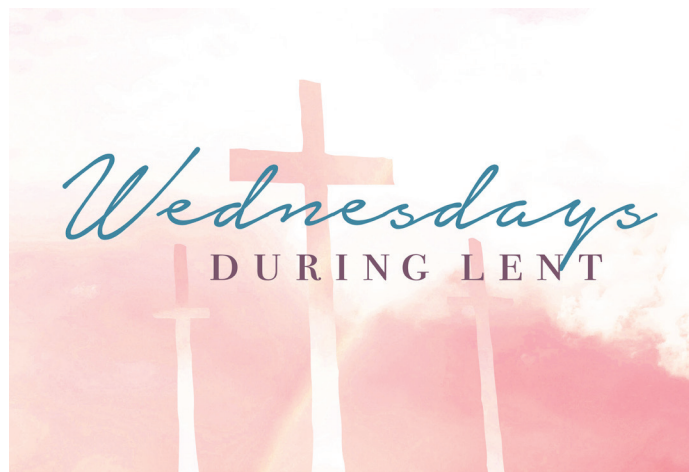
So, if you can, please make a donation to UMCOR SUNDAY, clearly marking your gift UMCOR SUNDAY! I encourage you to channel your gift through our church, but you can also donate online on their website.

If you have time, please visit their website and read about UMCOR's efforts. They are doing good work around the world. It will inspire you to see the many ways and places our denomination is working for the good of others!

WEBSITE ADDRESS: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

Love First!
Pastor Julia





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 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

During Worship - Sunday, March 12 Celebration of Pastor Julia's Commissioning as a New Stephen Ministry Leader

As a Stephen Ministry leader, Pastor Julia will soon be involved in the training and guidance of new Stephen Ministers within our congregation.

Who are Stephen Ministers? A Stephen Minister is

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve in this role
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care
- Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2



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!



United
Women
in Faith

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

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

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.

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.

UMCOR Sunday on March 19

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church operating under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries.

UMCOR has been rebuilding hope for nearly 80 years. Thank you for being a part of this legacy.

Envelopes will be available at church on Sunday, March 19. Make checks payable to FUMC with *UMCOR Sunday* on the memo line.

More about the Dr Howard Snack Pantry Project!

As many of you know, our church has a special relationship with Dr Howard Elementary School (K-5th) on North James Street. Our Local Outreach Ministry Team has for some time donated

**We believe
love in
action
can change
the world**

school supplies to children who attend. Meanwhile, United Women of Faith began to think about ways we could serve our neighbors. In spring 2021, our Social Action Coordinator, Paula Charter, began meeting with Suzanne Meislahn, principal of Dr. Howard, to explore ways that our unit of United Women of Faith might help meet the needs of children who attend our neighborhood school.

According to Ms. Meislahn, 75% of the school population (390 students) qualifies for the free/reduced lunch program and the free breakfast program. The children have breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and lunch between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. At 2:30-3:00 p.m. the students are dismissed from school and sent home. By this time of day, the children are hungry. Most have very little or no food when they arrive home. In many cases it is questionable if there would be any dinner for them. Their next meal would most likely be breakfast at school the next day.

It seemed clear that some sort of substantial and healthy snack at the end of the day would be most helpful to the children. Paula and Ms. Meislahn came up with the idea for a Student Snack Pantry.

To get us started, our church's outreach team voted unanimously to donate \$2000.00 from its Student Support Fund to the Snack Pantry Project. In the last issue of the Messenger, we announced that we had just been awarded a grant for \$3600.00 from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Emerging Ministries Fund!

The Student Snack Pantry ministry is relatively new but very much needed and appreciated. The project has evolved in wonderful and positive ways. The Fifth Grade classrooms have taken the snack pantry and made it into their very own project. They set up the pantry and often help distribute the snacks as well.



Every few weeks, Paula visits the school to check on the inventory and to find out what snacks are most appreciated by the children. Then she makes a trip to Sam's, purchases snacks, and delivers them to the school. Cost of the snacks is between \$350 and \$400 a month.

Teachers know best the needs of the children in their classrooms and often are the first to notice that a child is hungry. The snack pantry is always available to them any time of the day. Paula reports that any child who needs a snack receives one. Sometimes, a teacher will bring in a snack for everyone in the class!

The Dr Howard Snack Pantry has been a shining example of God's love and presence, his help and his guidance through and throughout this ministry. United Women of Faith of Champaign First are grateful to the FUMC Outreach Team and to IGRC for funding this project and we cannot thank Paula Charter enough for her leadership and dedication to the Snack Pantry Project. Truly, love in action!



**Today
We Celebrate
a
New Pathway
to
Progress**

FUMC Welcome Bins Ministry

Today we celebrate new beginnings, new hopes, new pathways to progress.

Angela, Monica, and Cheryl have joined Austin's Place at C-U at Home and are taking their first steps toward stable and independent lives. With the support and encouragement of case managers and the resources provided by the C-U at Home program, these women will find their ways - discovering new strengths and talents - and growing into their full potential as contributing members of our community. Openings occurred when two women moved to other cities to reunite with family and take advantage of job opportunities.

Please pray for these women as they travel their 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.



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

A few weeks ago at Youth Group, we played a game I had found on the Internet called "Bieber or the Bible." This game consists of trying to guess if different quotes are lyrics from Justin Bieber songs or if they are verses from the Bible! The highest score a youth got was 8/9, so let's see how y'all do!

1. I put my heart into your hands, Here's my soul to keep
2. All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you
3. Was I a fool to let you break down my walls
4. See I gave you faith turned your doubt in to hoping
5. How much more pleasing is your love than wine
6. I close my eyes and pray for the broken-hearted
7. There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death
8. Be a visionary for a change
9. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org

(Answers: 1. Bieber, 2. Bible - Song of Solomon 4:7, 3. Bieber, 4. Bieber, 5. Bible - Song of Solomon 4:10, 6. Bieber, 7. Bible - Proverbs 14:12, 8. Bieber, 9. Bible - Proverbs 31:30)

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 Original Pancake House at 12:30 pm!

No Youth Group on March 12 and 19 due to Spring Break

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.



GET READY FOR SPRING TRAINING!!

We are pleased to host a new local, vintage baseball team, the Champaign Clippers, at FUMC. This team consists of players who represent baseball from the early mid-1800s, including authentic uniforms, equipment, and rules. The Clippers' goal is to honor the original style of play while embracing today's diversity by welcoming anyone who can play together, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, or any characteristic. Team members will be describing their playing rules, demonstrating equipment, and answering questions about baseball from the previous century. The team plays locally and welcomes anyone who is interested to attend their games. They'll be visiting Minds in Motion on Thursday, March 9, starting around 11:30 a.m. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about this team and their league to join us as our thoughts turn to spring and baseball season!!



MARCH GREENNESS IS COMING!

A greenhouse is now located on the grounds of Cunningham Children's Home!

And the kids are excited! There are plans underway to purchase another greenhouse and a lot of essential gardening equipment and supplies. In past years, we here at FUMC have supported other special fundraisers for Cunningham: Remember March Freshness and March Mattresses? We don't have all the details about **March Greenness** just yet, but we'll let you know as soon as we do. As they say, watch this space!



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 peas, canned peppers, and laundry detergent.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.



Congregational Life of FUMC

March 16-31, 2023



- 17 Judy Schmisser
- 18 Kathy Doll
- 18 Brian Ellenberger
- 19 Ella Schwenk
- 19 Christavi Tshomba
- 20 Sarah Kusaya
- 20 Julie Nichols
- 20 Cherry Sutton
- 21 Jason Tompkins
- 22 Chin Kim
- 22 James Lusk
- 22 Tyler Walters

- 23 Scott Garreau
- 23 Annie Gordon
- 23 Owen Gordon
- 25 Nancy Barenberg
- 27 Mary Bamert
- 27 Chris Hinesly
- 28 Sara Fredrickson
- 28 Madison Rice
- 29 Mike Weber
- 31 Terry MacRae

- 18 Robert & Judy Schmisser
- 20 Steve & Sandy Burgener

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.

8 *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 Donna Jones and family at the passing of Donna's husband, Carter Jones, on February 25, 2023.



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

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

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 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 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	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 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 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 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 7:00pm Clarinet Group	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 Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	16 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 8:30am Messenger Deadline 12:30pm Youth Spring Break Lunch 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	17 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	18 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:00am Leadership Workshop
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 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	27 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	28 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 2:00pm Memorials & Gifts Committee	29 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service	30 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm Dinner at Harvest	31 12:00pm Illini 4000 Practice Night 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	1 7:15am Illini 4000 Practice Night Ends 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
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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