



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. 7

April 4, 2023

Dearly Beloved,

On April 2, we entered Holy Week with a parade of palms through the sanctuary and the word “Hosanna” on our lips. We are reminded that “Hosanna” means “help us” or “save us” in Hebrew. The cry of Hosanna is a desperate plea for help, a cry that rises from the depths of our brokenness and pain. It has been the prayer of my heart this week as we wrestle with the agony of another school shooting. “Help us, God!!!”

But as followers of Christ, we are called to respond to the cry of Hosanna with action. We ask for God to help us and then we join with God to bring the Kingdom. We are called to work for peace and justice, to be agents of love and hope in a world that is too often characterized by division and despair. We are called to listen to the cries of those who are hurting and marginalized, to stand with them in solidarity, and to work to address the root causes of violence and injustice.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that the power of death has been overcome. We are reminded that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been given a new way of life, a way of peace, justice, and love.

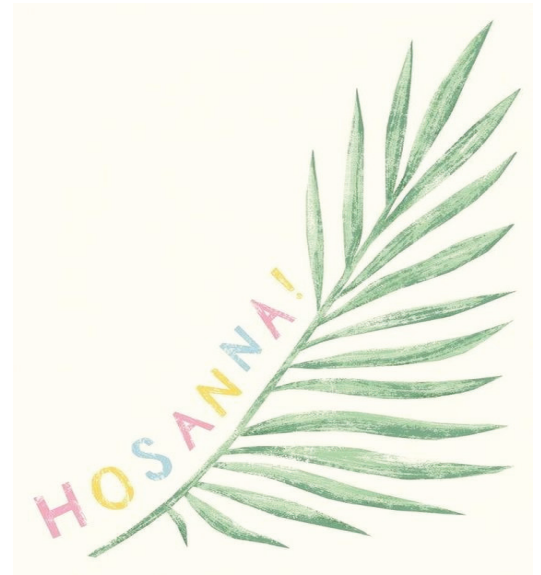
So let us continue to cry out Hosanna, even as we work for change and strive to build a better world. Let us hold onto the hope and promise of Easter, that through the power of the risen Christ, we can find new life and new hope.

I encourage you to worship on Maundy Thursday and contemplate the betrayal of Jesus. Our service will be at 7 pm.

On Good Friday, please join me as we gather for worship at First Presbyterian, across the street from FUMC, for worship at 7 pm.

Our Christian story is complex, dark and heartbreaking. Do we possess the courage to remember the violence of the cross before we celebrate the new life of Easter? God, help us! Hosanna!

Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter,
Pastor Julia



Worship Schedule for
Holy Week



Maundy Thursday Worship

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

Good Friday Worship

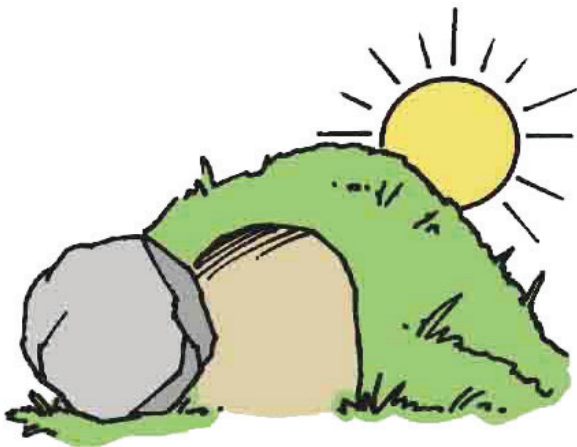
Friday, April 7 – 7:00 pm
Joint Worship

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.



**Clothing for Danville Correctional
Center's Newly Released Offenders**



During the month of April, we again have the opportunity to participate in a program of the Danville Correctional Center to provide good used men's clothing for at least half of those 500 offenders who are released each year with few assets to their name (only prison clothing). Offenders about to be released can select clothing which can give them a sense of self-worth as they step back out into the world.

A labeled box is provided in the Resource Room for donations of all sizes of men's clothing. Especially needed are men's jeans, pants, shirts, shoes, and jackets. Please do not include any belts, ties, suspenders, or hangers. We ask that you make your donations between April 1-30, 2023. The church office will be open from 10 am to 3:00 pm weekdays for you to drop off your items, or you can bring them on Sunday morning.

We will be joining other churches in our area in this program. Please remember the deadline for this spring collection is April 30. We would like to thank Bob Clark from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for picking up and transporting our donated clothing to Danville.

Thank you for your help.

Larson Wesley Covenant Group

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.

FUMC Green Team Notes

Our thanks to Jan Kane sharing her extensive knowledge of 'green' alternatives for everyday products, from toothpaste to coffee! We especially appreciate all the samples Jan made available for anyone who was interested.

Jan focused mostly on ways to reduce plastic use, replacing plastic with biodegradable or compostable products. So, why should we be concerned about plastics?

Plastics by the numbers:

- Half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 15 years.
- Every year, about 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans from coastal nations. That's the equivalent of setting five garbage bags full of trash on every foot of coastline around the world.
- Plastics often contain additives making them stronger, more flexible and durable. But many of these additives can extend the product life, with some estimates ranging to at least 400 years to break down.

Once at sea, plastics break down into small particles, often less than one-fifth of an inch across. These microplastics are spread throughout the water and have been found in every corner of the globe from Mount Everest, the highest peak, to the Mariana Trench, the deepest trough. From the National Geographic, June 7, 2019



New FUMC Property

On April 25, 2023, at 7:00 pm a special Charge Conference meeting is being called for the approval of purchasing the building and land just east of the church's parking lot at 203 W Hill St., Champaign, otherwise known as the old AMVETS building.



Anyone interested in having a visit from Rev. Julia on a Tuesday afternoon should contact Sharon Johnson at 217-356-9078.



If you feel the call to pray for members of our church family as well as other folks who need prayers, please let Sharon Johnson know at sjohnson@champaignfumc.org.

Prayer requests are sent to our prayer warriors by email usually once a week, although there are times when circumstances require more frequent contacts. If you have any questions about this ministry, or if you have signed up but have not been receiving the prayer chain the last couple of weeks, please give Sharon a call at 217-356-9078.

Report from A Stephen Minister

I have been a Stephen Minister since we began this ministry. The philosophy of Stephen Ministry had always appealed to me; an ecumenical, caring and listening ministry; a ministry of prayer trusting Christ as the healer; and a ministry that trains lay persons to provide assistance for their pastors. All of these ideas sounded like ways for me to be Christ's hands in the world and a way to be a blessing to members of our congregation. After years of being a Stephen Minister, I've discovered that I was right, but I was also wrong about Stephen Ministry. As a Stephen Minister I have received the blessings. I have been blessed by getting to know members of our church. Sharing their joys and concerns has been a privilege and an honor.

I would encourage any of you who are looking for ways to serve and grow as disciples to consider Stephen Ministry. You will be surprised by the unexpected blessings you will receive in return.

Kathy Doll



United
Women
in Faith

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

Dorcas 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.



And if God cares
so wonderfully for
flowers that are
here today and
thrown into the
fire tomorrow,
he will certainly
care for you.

LUKE 12:28



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

What are the little things you do to make day-to-day chores or life seem easier? Recently, I've been more excited to wake up and jump out of bed - after all, we are seeing the sun and the sky again! However, during the winter, I found myself dragging. I needed helpful little tricks to make the monotony more enjoyable. So here's what I found:

- Listening to audiobooks (for free) through the Libby app makes chores and getting ready in the morning much more fun. I wanted to listen to the rest of the audiobook, so I would get up right away to do so!
- Getting cozy in an armchair to have my morning coffee is so much more pleasant than gulping it down before I run out the door. It's a quiet moment in my morning and to continue that moment of peace...
- I then spend five minutes writing in my prayer journal. Working at a church means you have to carve out time with God that is JUST for you and no one else. This really helps me stay grounded.
- And tying back into my first example about listening to things, listening to a good podcast makes an afternoon walk even more delightful. I'm obsessed with the show *The Office*, so I like to listen to the Office Ladies podcast while I stroll around the neighborhood.

I don't tend to use the phrase, "self-care." It feels overused and honestly, a little annoying. However, the idea is that self-care is anything you do to help yourself be physically, mentally, and emotionally well. The things listed above help my mind, soul, and body. So if you haven't already, I encourage you to find small everyday things you can do to feed all three!

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Youth Events:

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!

Sunday, May 7, Noon - 4:15 pm - Last Youth Group at Illini Baseball Game! - Take me out to the ballgame!! We'll meet at the church at noon and take the van to the Illini baseball game!! The game is free, but bring money if you would like any concessions. We will try to be back around 4:15 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.



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.



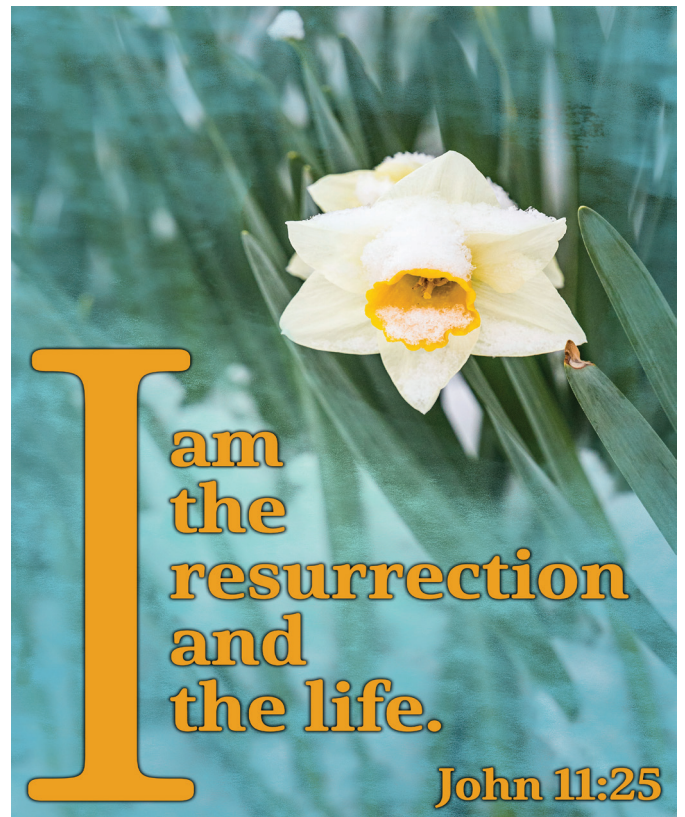
First United Methodist Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to the church on Sunday morning or during the week (any time between 10:00 am - 3:00 pm) to stock our food pantry. These items are used by volunteers to provide food for families in need. Please call Sue Bachman at 217-359-4390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

Especially needed are: jelly, rice, and spaghetti.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.



“Mom’s really worried about being late for Easter sunrise service, isn’t she?”



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

2023

BISHOP'S  PEN

LOOKING FOR A FOURTH
Contact: Roger Shanks
rdshanks@illinois.edu

TO BENEFIT JOYCE FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP
FOR AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Save
the date!

May 19, 2023

Edgewood Golf Course

{11am tee time, 16497 Kennedy Rd, Auburn, IL 62615}

- \$100 per player, \$400 for a team of four
- \$500 for two players and a hole sponsor
- \$1,000 for four players and hole sponsorship
- Four team best ball
- 100% of sponsorships and fees go to the scholarship

Congregational Life of FUMC

April 16-30, 2023



- 16 Benedicte Tshomba
- 17 Bonnie Whiteside
- 18 Aaron Chapman
- 18 Linda Faullin
- 19 Linda Rawlings
- 20 Austin Ray
- 20 Ryan Weldon
- 21 Lea Tshomba
- 23 Kathy Reineke
- 24 Lilly Kant
- 26 Ted Beach

- 26 Bob Parkhill
- 27 Nicholas Bodony
- 27 Kyle Curtis
- 27 Joseph Mattingly
- 27 Wayne Weber
- 28 Susan Weber
- 29 Susan Hinesly
- 30 Al Boehm
- 30 Jaxon Pendleton
- 30 Eric Robeson
- 30 David Weible

- 17 Rachel Berner & Justin Craft
- 17 Josef & Helen Hallbeck

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.



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 Jim and Carole Smith and family at the passing of Jim's brother-in-law, Robert Vandiver, on March 22, 2023; and to the family and friends of Pat Carrington, who passed away on March 28, 2023.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
April 13, 2023
published on April 18

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

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 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 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 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 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 8:00pm Perceptions Praise Team	7 FUMCCC Closed 12:00pm Church Office Closing at noon 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment 7:00pm Joint Good Friday Worship	8 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
9 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website	10 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	11 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers	12 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Child Care Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	13 8:30am Messenger Deadline 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	14 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	15 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Youth Hot Dog & S'mores Fire Pit
16 Jazz 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 6:00pm Youth Group	17 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	18 7:30am FUMCCC Vision/Hearing Screenings 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 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 7:15pm Finance Committee	19 7:30am FUMCCC Vision/Hearing Screenings 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	20 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	21 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	22 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
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Champaign IL 61820

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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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