First United Methodist Church Champaign

Where connecting, growing, and serving are a way of life



• SERVE others. Messenger

Volume XXXI, No. 9

Dearly Beloved!

First, I'd like to thank our great team at Champaign First UMC. I was on vacation for two weeks and was able to relax and release worries about the church because we have a fantastic staff! Also, I was confident that worship would be well-led by our two guest preachers: Gene Larson and Meredith Garreau for whom I am grateful. Finally, Steve Burgener covered pastoral care; I knew you were in great hands. THANK YOU to all of these leaders!



May 2, 2023

The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to:

CONNECT people with God and one another

GROW as disciples of Jesus Christ

I love road trips. We traveled to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to visit Frank's sister. I fell in love with this area of the country! We also traveled to northern Michigan to visit my friend, Beth, and her wife, Monique. We visited all our kids, too. It was great to eat, laugh and sight-see with people we love. Frank and I listened to two great books: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. We talked about our past, our present, and our future, reminiscing and dreaming in equal measure.

But, there were also some "not great" parts! On the way out east, we didn't realize we'd missed a turn, so we wandered through Virginia for an extra two hours. On the way back, in the dark and rain, we ended up on a windy, mountain road that was determined to throw us into a ditch. The weather was awful. It was cold and windy on the beach and it snowed in Michigan.

And still it was a wonderful trip.

It was wonderful because of the connections we made and the joy we had in sharing time with loved ones.

That's our story as a church, too! There is joy in the journey of life because we have each other! In I John 4:7 we read this: *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* At the end of the day, it is our loving connections to others that carries us along.

Here are some things I am looking forward to at church:

- On April 30 I am excited to watch our children lead worship as they present their musical, It's Cool in the Furnace.
- Stephen Ministry training is beginning on May 4. It is important training in caring for one another well. If you would like more information, please come to the first session (no obligation to continue), have dinner and hear about this important work! Please let us know if you will be coming so we have enough food!!
- Major Music on May 7

And that's just the next 10 days! It is wonderful to be part of a church family that is always looking for ways to serve, celebrate and love!

I was happy to leave Illinois for a while and I am happy to be back home! I am looking forward to our future together...wherever the road takes us!

Love First! Pastor Julia





GREEN TEAM NOTES

Questions about Plastics: How can I tell if it can be recycled!

Look for the triangle below, which should have one of seven numbers. No triangle or a triangle with a line across it generally means the plastic item cannot be recycled. What do the numbers mean??



1: Water and beverage bottles, cooking oil containers, peanut butter jars, other food containers. **R**ecycled into fleece, fiber, furniture, carpet, new containers, etc.

2: Milk jugs, shampoo bottles, motor oil bottles, bottle caps, cleaning product containers, detergent bottles. **R**ecycled into detergent bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, fences, yard items.

3: Plastic pipes, outdoor furniture, shower curtains, bottles. Recycled into decks, paneling, flooring, speed bumps, etc.

4: Grocery and newspaper bags, sandwich bags, dry cleaning and shopping bags, bread loaf bags, produce bags. Recycled into trash can liners and cans, shipping envelopes, etc.
5: Food containers for yogurt, sour cream, margarine; straws, rope, carpet, and bottle caps. Recycled into battery cables, brooms, brushes, bicycle racks, rakes, etc.
6: Styrofoam products for coffee cups, packing peanuts, to-go food containers. Recycled into insulation, egg cartons, light switch plates, vents, carry-out containers, etc.
7: Food containers and Tupperware, 3- and 5-gallon water bottles, 'bullet proof' materials, DVD cases, etc. Recycled into plastic lumber and custom-made products.
*From: City of Champaign Public Works Department

The FUMC blue container for recycling plastic objects (rinsed clean from food, etc.) is found in Friendship Center north, just outside the kitchen area.

Most plastic utensils cannot be recycled, unless they are marked as being compostable or with a recycling triangle. While many (most) plastic items are recyclable, current rates of plastic items being turned into new objects is about 5%; well below the world standard of 30% (NPR, October 24, 2022). We are grateful for any and all efforts to reduce plastic use and increase plastic recycling, as anyone and everyone can make a difference.

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

Church Women United to Honor Catalina Gonzalez

United Women in Faith has nominated Catalina Gonzalez as our Outstanding Young Church Woman of the Year. Catalina will be honored at the celebration of May Friendship Day on Friday, May 5. The event, hosted by CWU, will be held at Bethel AME Church (401 E Park St, C.). Refreshments and fellowship will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program to follow at 7:00 p.m. We encourage all women of the church to join us on May 5 to show our support for Catalina.

If you've attended Sunday morning worship services, you've probably already met Catalina. Her gift of hospitality shines through as she welcomes us to Coffee Hour. Next to her, you've also met her husband Toby Woods and their adorable daughter Sara.

Catalina Gonzalez is a native of Columbia, South America. She attended Texas A & M University, where she earned a Master's Degree in Biotechnology. She received her U.S. citizenship a year ago.

Catalina possesses a joy and love that she radiates wherever she goes—in her neighborhood, her work place and our church. When she first came to our community, she worked in our church's Child Care Center. She is now employed as a receptionist—and sometimes interpreter—at the Frances Nelson Health Center, which serves the underprivileged in our area. Her faith and her love of children have led her to service with our church's ministry for children.

Catalina is truly an Outstanding Young Church Woman. Come to May Friendship Day if you are able, and by all means, congratulate Catalina the next time she welcomes you to Coffee Hour.



Thanks to your generous support of our October Sunday Morning Markets, we met our 2022 Pledge to Missions of \$3005. In addition, at its March meeting, our Executive Board voted to award love gifts totaling \$1200 to agencies that serve the needs of women, children, and youth.

This year's recipients are:

- 🖤 empty tomb Layette Fund \$400
- 🎔 Luella's Lodge \$300
- Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (East St Louis) \$150
- 🌳 Baby Fold \$180
- 🕈 Chaddock \$170

You may not be familiar with the last two on the list. Baby Fold (Normal) offers life-critical support such as foster care, special education, early childhood programming, and adoption support throughout Central Illinois. Chaddock (Quincy) is an agency that offers hope and healing for severely traumatized children and their families.

Mission giving is truly love in action! Thanks for helping us make this happen, FUMC!

Midwest Mission Distribution Center will be collecting items for disaster relief at Annual Conference June 8-10.



The items can be left in the FUMC Resource Room prior to June 8. They will be delivered by our participants at the conference.

The items requested are:

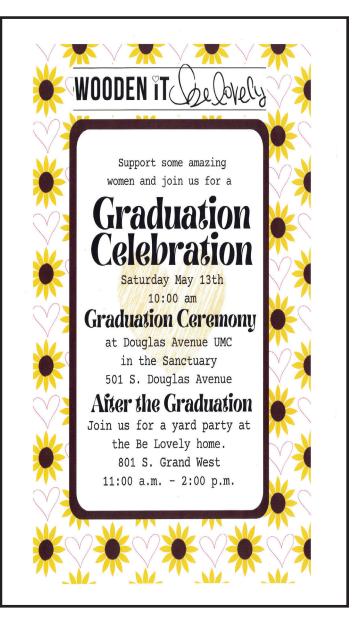
- Liquid dish soap 16-64 oz bottles
- Laundry detergent 32-150 oz bottles
- Liquid household cleaner 16-80 oz bottles
- For the feminine hygiene kits: girls' underwear sizes 10-14 and women's sizes 5-8
- Monetary donations are also welcome

Thank you for your support.



Our Easter offering exceeded our goal of \$5000.00 which will assist in the purchase of the new furniture truck for empty tomb. We actually received \$6010.00. This sum will provide for safe pickups and deliveries of furniture all free in Jesus' name. You are such a generous congregation! Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

Love First! The Outreach Ministry Team





United Women in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, May 3, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 10, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North.

Sarah Circle will not meet in May.

Youth News

FUMC Graduates: Are you graduating from High School, Technical School, College, or another school this year? We are accepting information about all of our graduating students so that we can feature them in an upcoming issue of the *Messenger!* They will also be honored on Graduate Recognition Sunday!

Email meredith@champaignfumc.org by May 9 with the following info:

- 1. Name
- 2. School you are graduating from
- 3. Future work or education plans (i.e. future school and major)
- 4. If graduating college, what degree you received and what you majored in
- 5. A picture of yourself.

Meredith



Coming Youth Events:

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!

Monday, May 15 - ASP Full Payment Due

Sunday, June 4 - Graduate Recognition Sunday

Saturday, June 10-17- Appalachia Service Project

Youth Group begins our Summer Break on May 8! Summer events will be listed in future Messengers!

Thank You!

By the time you read this, Angel Choir will have presented *It's Cool in the Furnace* during worship on April 30. Thanks to all of the kids who participated, their parents, and to Mr. Braulio and Ms. Ellie who assisted. More thanks goes to Pastor Julia who provided transportation many weeks as well as to Gwen Uppinghouse, Gail Morenz, Barb and Bob Cicone, Deb Foertsch, and Roger Shanks who all helped make this happen. It takes a village!





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.

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.



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: ketchup, pork & beans, and canned pears.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.



Spring 2023 FUMC Music Scholarship Students

Salvatore Castronovo, Bass Section Leader, Chancel Choir



Salvato Salvatore Castronovo, baritone, hails from Rockland County, New York, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Music in Vocal Performance and Literature under Nathan Gunn at the University of Illinois. Before coming to Illinois, he received an Honors Bachelors of Music degree from the University of Delaware while studying with D. Blake Smith. Recently, he performed the role of Carl-Magnus in Lyric Theatre's production of A Little Night Music. Last spring, he made his Lyric Theatre @ Illinois main-stage debut as The Count in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro. Through the University of Delaware Opera Theatre program he performed as Carl-Magnus, A Little Night Music, II Conte, Le nozze di Figaro, and Don Apostolo Gazella, Lucrezia Borgia. Throughout his undergraduate career he also performed as a bass soloist for a few sacred concert works

including J.S. Bach's Magnificat and Bach's solo cantata, Ich habe genug.

Matthew Felbein, Assistant to Director, Chancel Ringers



Matthew Felbein is a sophomore studying Choral Music Education at the University of Illinois. He is involved in various musical ensembles at the University of Illinois as well as serving as one of the drum majors of the Marching Illini and performing with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. Matthew grew up sharing his faith through music and has loved getting to continue that at FUMC! In his free time, Matthew enjoys writing music and spending time in nature.

Braulio Muro, Angel Choir and Youth Music Assistant to Director, Tenor Section Leader, Chancel



Braulio Muro is a junior currently pursuing a BME in music education with a concentration in choral music at the University of Illinois. He is very involved in the music education student community as he is the president of the UIUC's Music Education Student Association (MESA) and the Choral Lab Coordinator for the UIUC's chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Braulio is also the University Chorus TA for the 2023 spring semester. Since 2021, he has been working with First United Methodist Church Champaign as an assistant teacher for their children and youth choirs, and as a tenor section leader for their Chancel Choir. Aside from his choral education endeavors, Braulio is also an active performer. He has most recently performed with the Varsity Men's Glee

Club, Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, and Illini Student Musicals (ISM).

Emma Perisho, Soprano Section Leader, Chancel Choir



Emma Perisho is a sophomore studying Choral Music Education at the University of Illinois. At UIUC, she is involved in Illini Student Musicals and Women's Glee Club. This past semester, she performed in Illini Student Musicals' production of Grease and helped teach vocals and choreography for their end of semester Cabaret. This is her first semester helping out with Chancel Choir and she is so grateful!

Elizabeth (Ellie) Pierzina, Angel Choir Assistant to the Director



Ellie Pierzina is a sophomore instrumental music education major at UIUC. Flute is her primary instrument, but has been singing since first grade. She helps to lead the Angel Choir each Sunday and is so excited for their production of "It's Cool in the Furnace." Outside of music, she also enjoys running, crocheting, and reading in her free time.

Anna Poel, Youth Music Assistant to the Director



Anna Poel is currently a sophomore studying Music Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She studies trumpet under Dr. Amy Gilreath along with having a background in voice and piano. She is a Trumpet Section Leader in the Marching Illini and participates in other organizations like the National Band Association and the Music Education Student Association. She is also a brother of Kappa Kappa Psi, the Honorary Band Fraternity at UIUC. Over the summer, she marches with the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. This is her first semester working with Youth Music, and she is thankful for the opportunity to work with the awesome students here at FUMC!

Salvador López Portillo, Alto Section Leader, Chancel Choir



Countertenor Salvador López Portillo debuted the roles of Marcellina in Le Nozze di Figaro at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream, at the Miami Beach Classical Music Festival in the 2021/2022 season. Additionally, his previous season included the roles of Nerone in L'incoronazione di Poppea with the Bellas Artes Opera Studio; Zita in Gianni Schicchi with Eastman Opera Theater; and Apollo and Bacco in Luigi Rossi's L'Orfeo with Eastman Collegium Musicum. Furthermore, Mr. Lopez Portillo regularly offers recitals and concerts in his hometown, and his musical versatility as a soloist is evidenced by his performance of pieces such as Elgar's Sea Pictures, Mahler's Rückert Lieder and Karl Jenkin's Stabat Mater. Mr. Lopéz Portillo earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations degree from

Tecnologico de Monterrey, in Mexico, and his Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Illinois.

Meghan Raney, Soprano Section Leader, Chancel Choir



Meghan Raney, soprano, is a native of Florence, Alabama. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of North Alabama in May 2020 and is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Some of her performance credits from the University of North Alabama include Little Women: The Broadway Musical (Meg March), Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel (Hansel), Hairspray! The Broadway Musical (Velma Von Tussle), the collegiate premier of Ricky Ian Gordon's The House without a Christmas Tree (Grandma Mills), and Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw (Governess). With Lyric Theatre @ Illinois, Meghan has participated in Lyric Under the Stars, Carnaval!, and in the workshop of an untitled opera by Sarah Kirkland Snider

about Hildegard von Bingen.

Music Ensembles at FUMC Angel Choir (3 yrs – grade 5) Youth Music (grades 6 – 12) Choral Union (community chorus hosted by FUMC) Chancel Ringers, Chancel Choir, Perceptions Praise Team, Clarinet Group, Periodic Instrumental Ensembles

Congregational Life of FUMC



May 16-31, 2023

- 16 Eric Dissman
- 16 Carole Smith
- 17 Krystal Ray
- 18 Sandi Jones
- 18 Jeff Mitchell
- 18 Kelsie Sicinski
- 20 Glodi Djunga
- 21 Kristine Brown
- 21 Joanne Peterson
- 21 George Hast
- 23 Anna Sprague
- 23 Ken Yokoyama

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks:



Going into the Hospital?

If you are scheduled by your physician to be hospitalized, please indicate "<u>Champaign First United</u> <u>Methodist Church</u>" 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.

- 24 Mary Lou Gannaway
- 25 Peter Deal
- 25 Jasper McKenney
- 25 Jim Paul
- 27 Audrey Carl
- 27 Alexandra Harmon-Threatt
- 28 Bill Kruidenier
- 29 Lauren Brademas
- 30 Roger Shanks
- 30 Vivian Tidemann
- 30 Whitney Weber



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.



- 22 Dave & Bonnie Berner
- 22 Steve Rasch & Gale Morenz-Rasch
- 27 Cody & Caitlyn Floyd
- 29 John & Susan Miceli



FUMC will celebrate Holy Communion during worship on May 14.

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 prenumbered.

NEXT *Messenger* Deadline: May 11, 2023 published on May 16

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

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Family Fun Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am Angel Choir Musical: "Cool in the Furnace" 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	1 ASP El Toro Fundraiser 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	Morning Book Club 10:00am FUMCCC Staff Massages 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	10:00am FUMCCC Staff Massages 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 5:00pm Wellspring Committee 7:00pm Chancel Choir	in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab	Enrichment	6 8:30am Major Music Rehearsal Choir Warm-Up 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:30am Major Music Orchestra Rehearsal
7 Major Music Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 12:00pm Church Van Reserved for Youth	8 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:30pm WCG Bonus Semester	Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	11 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	12 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program	13 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
14 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website	15 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff	Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing		Enrichment	20 8:30am Visioning Meeting 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church 210 W Church Street Champaign IL 61820

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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 <u>www.champaignfumc.org</u>.)

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