



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. 10

May 16, 2023

Dearly Beloved,

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." --(1 Cor. 11:23-25)



I think we can agree the last few years have been a wild communion ride. At the beginning of Covid, during lock-down and beyond, we gathered our own elements and received communion in our homes. Sometimes it was bread and juice, but sometimes we were improvising with what we had in our kitchens. When we returned to the sanctuary, communion was still different. We remained seated in our pews, opened our pre-packaged elements and received the blessed gifts. By God's grace, our remembrance was made holy.

Now we are going to make another option available. On June 4, your choices about how you receive communion are these:

1. You may pick up pre-packaged elements on your way into worship and remain in your seat to eat the bread and drink the juice. This is how we have been doing it for the last two years.
2. You may come forward up the center aisle, get the pre-packaged elements from a server, kneel at the altar and eat the bread and drink the juice there.
3. You may come forward up the center aisle to receive the elements by intinction, the method of dipping a piece of bread into a common cup. You will be served by the liturgist and me. You may proceed to the altar for prayer or you may return to your seat.

In my heart of hearts, I long for everyone to be in the sanctuary as a community of faith together for communion. Yet, I understand and am grateful that there are other options for those who cannot come to the church. Whichever way you choose is just fine! The power of communion lies in our spiritual willingness to be transformed by the Spirit of God. It is a humbling act. And a hopeful one. Yes, Jesus, we remember you! We beg you to make all things new...even us.

Communion has always been a powerful spiritual connection to God and the community of faith for me. Remembering Jesus in this way has been my great joy. When I take communion I remember his teachings, sufferings, death, resurrection, and promise of abundant life for each of us. In communion, I feel connected to the saints who have shaped my faith journey and now rest in peace.

I have received communion around campfires, in cathedrals, at Annual Conference, and in local churches. I have received communion with close friends as well as strangers. I have had bread placed in my hands by dear clergy colleagues and bishops, small-group participants and family members. I have received God's gift from straight, gay and trans people.

(continued on Page 2)

Pastor Julia's Letter continued

All the colors of humanity have touched my hand as they placed a piece of holy bread in my open palm. I have shared communion with people whose bodies and minds are differently abled than my own. Alongside the very young and quite old, I have been blessed by God through bread and juice.

I have torn a thousand pieces of bread from consecrated loaves to share with parishioners, knowing their stories, their deep struggles, and their remarkable, faith-filled triumphs. It is an intimate act to break bread with one another. Without a doubt, communion is what binds me to ordained ministry.

At Christ's table, I have found "union with" with all God's people and with God. That is the breakdown of the word "communion." Union with. It is my heart's deepest desire to know this union with God and others.

May the grace of God flow through our celebration of communion into your heart and spirit.

Love First!
Pastor Julia

Realizing our Vision

Greetings Congregation!

You are invited to participate in an exciting and important planning session this month moderated by Sam Rodriguez, our Director of Congregational Development in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. In this session, we will finalize a new three to five year Vision Statement for FUMC and develop plans for implementing strategies to achieve that Vision.

The session will be on Saturday, May 20, in Friendship Center and last from 8:30 am to noon. Refreshments will be provided, along with plenty of opportunities for fellowship in brainstorming!

Your input and participation will be the key to laying a strong foundation for realizing FUMC's Vision. I hope you will prayerfully consider attending. You may view helpful background materials and resources for the session by going to:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vnhXm8EofTdOW2OLvHEXOHRW7KHrNyLr?usp=sharing>

Although it is not required to make a reservation to attend, it would help us with logistics if you could email or call the church office at sjohnson@champaignfumc.org or 217-356-9078 to let Sharon Johnson know you plan to attend.

Thank you, and Love First!

Wes Curtis
Administrative Council Chair



FUMC Graduates



Frances Donahoe is graduating from Champaign Central High School. Next year, she will attend Bradley University to study Kinesiology and Health Science.



Kenniss Murphy is graduating from Centennial High School. Next year, she will attend Villanova University to study Communication and Exploratory Arts.



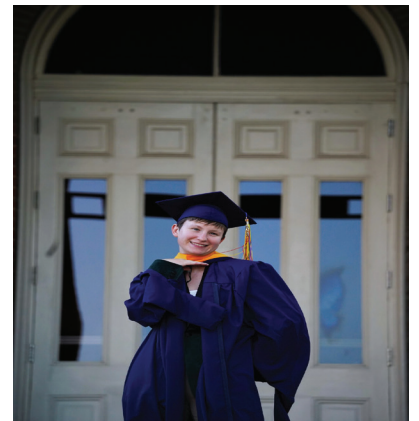
Wesley Uppinghouse is graduating from Central High School. Next year, he will attend Parkland College.



Elisabeth Bieber is graduating with a Bachelor of Music Education from the School of Music in the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois. Next fall, she will be at the Berkeley School District teaching beginning and sixth grade band.



Salvatore Castronovo is graduating with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois. Next fall, he will continue vocal studies with Nathan Gunn.



Amy Paul is graduating with a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Arizona. She will begin working in July at Raytheon Technologies in Tucson.



Meghan Raney is graduating with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois. Following graduation, she plans to open up a private voice studio after moving back to Alabama.



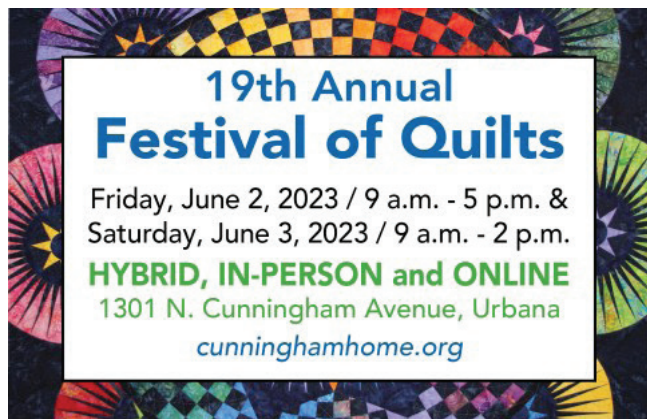
Meghan Uppinghouse is graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Art History. Following graduation, she will be doing office work full time while planning to produce and sell art in the future.



Sophia Uppinghouse is graduating from Parkland College with an Associate's degree in Psychology. Following graduation she will be working in Labor and Delivery at Carle Hospital.

Annual Festival of Quilts

Each year, Cunningham Children’s Home hosts a Festival of Quilts. This year’s event will be held June 2 and 3 in the Spiritual Life Center on the Cunningham campus in Urbana.



The Festival includes a collection of show quilts that creatively blur the lines between conventional quilt making and fine art. Quilts of all sizes are also available to purchase through the quilt auction and quilt boutique. There will be a variety of handcrafted items in the gift shop and a bake sale featuring a variety of delicious homemade goodies!

There’s a suggested \$5 donation per person for admission to the Festival.

All proceeds will benefit the 807 youth, adults and families Cunningham serves each year.

The Festival of Quilts honors a tradition begun in 1895, when United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) from across Illinois began donating handmade quilts to the children at Cunningham Home. Today, every child receives a quilt, stitched with love, upon their arrival at the Home. The Festival celebrates a tradition that offers warmth, comfort, and hope to the youth at Cunningham.

For questions, to donate or to volunteer, please contact Colleen Combes at 217-337-9058 or visit the website: <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/events/annual-festival-quilts>

Please note that there are forms that must accompany donations of baked goods and handcrafted items, that give specific directions for preparation and packaging donations. You will find those on the website, or see Karen Wood for a copy.

Cunningham Kids—March Greenness Winners!

United Women in Faith is excited to report that thanks to the generosity of our amazing congregation, our team collected \$681.55 for Cunningham Children’s Home “March Greenness” Campaign! ” Team, you really “came to play!” We exceeded our goal of \$532.00



It seems like this campaign captured the hearts of the community. Cunningham Home set a goal of \$10,000—the cost of one greenhouse and a few gardening essentials. They surpassed their goal by 250%, raising a total of more than \$25,000.00. Soon, there’ll be vegetables growing and gardeners thriving at CCH!

First Church, on behalf of the winning kids at Cunningham Children’s Home, United Women in Faith thanks you for your support of March Greenness. Love 1st!

For more information about Cunningham Children’s Home, please see <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/>

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.

**Peace with Justice Sunday
June 4, 2023**

On June 4, you will have the opportunity to donate to a Church wide Special Sunday. Your gift will enrich ministries of reconciliation in the United States and around the world. Half of the offering stays within our annual conference and is managed by the conference Peace with Justice Coordinator and the other half is administered by the General Board of Church and Society for ministry around the world.

Envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Friendship Center. You can also mail your check payable to FUMC to 210 W Church St, Champaign, IL 61820 with "Peace with Justice Sunday" written on the memo line.

Thank you!

Summer Choir



Summer Choir (no Wednesday rehearsals; no robes) will be meeting during the month of June! Whenever you are in town, you are welcome!

- Come to the Choir Room at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings
- Rehearse with Summer Choir
- Sing near the beginning of the service
- Sit with your family and friends for the rest of the service

Contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) with questions.



**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.**



United Women in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, June 7, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

UWF A Celebration of Missions at Midyear Salad & Dessert Luncheon will be on Wednesday, June 7, at 12:30 pm in Friendship Center. Hosted by UWF Executive Board.

Minds In Motion

Summer 2023

OUR LOCATION:

First United Methodist Church
210 W. Church St.
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 356—9078

WHEN WE MEET:

June 1 – August 24
Every Other Thursday
10:00 am — 2:00 pm
Lunch will be provided
(consistent with state and local
guidelines).

FEE:

\$100 for the semester
OR
\$20 per day

(A family member can attend for ½
price.)

(Scholarships are available for those
benefiting from assistance with fee
payment.)

DAILY SCHEDULE:

10:00—10:30 am:

Socializing, Sharing

10:30—11:30 am:

Tai Chi/Meditation

11:30—12:00 noon:

Music/brain exercise

12:00– 12:45 pm:

Lunch

12:45– 2:00 pm:

Activity or outing

CONTACT INFO:

Sandy Burgener
(217) 898-4251
sburgener@illinois.edu

Victoria Christensen
(217) 369-9157
vchriste906@gmail.com

Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced.

The Minds in Motion program is designed to promote healthy aging. Each Minds in Motion activity has been selected for optimal benefit, intended to sustain or improve mental and physical functioning in older adults.

Who can benefit from participating in Minds in Motion?

Any older adult who enjoys interacting with others and wishes to optimize his or her physical and brain functioning.

Older adults with physical limitations such as arthritis, tremors, or balance problems may especially benefit from the activities included in the Minds in Motion program. Any adult with mild memory loss will also benefit from participating.

The Minds in Motion program is facilitated by health professionals with experience in healthy aging and older adult therapies. Our Tai Chi/meditation instructor, French Fraker, is a well-established Tai Chi expert with a long history of leading Tai Chi and meditation, including courses offered through the OLLI community education program. Several talented musicians offer interactive music programming.

Each Minds in Motion session includes Tai Chi/meditation exercises, a music experience, brain exercises, and a creative activity alternating with outings in the community. Lunch will be provided at each session.

Summer meeting dates:

June 1: Yoga for older adults, including chair Yoga, with Debbie Chew

June 15: Parkland College art show and gallery; lunch at Parkland

June 29:

July 13: Outing

July 27:

August 10: Outing

August 24: End of semester gathering/picnic

Possible outing locations: Crystal Lake Park/paddle boating; Allerton mansion or garden tour; Food preparation/nutrition class at Harvest Market; U. of I. Sousa Archives/Band museum; Homer Lake: Tai Chi/meditation outdoors, lunch by the water

Weekly (every Thursday) Zoom Tai-Chi/Meditation Sessions are also available from 10:30-11:30. A Zoom link will be provided weekly.

Note: No identifying information about participants will be disclosed without approval or prior consent. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference or any protected class.

Revised: April 2023

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: peanut butter, Ramen noodles, canned peaches, canned peas, spaghetti sauce and dishwashing liquid (small).

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

DREAM BASKETBALL IS TRAVELING

And they need our help!

Snacks such as cases of Gatorade, Trail Mix and Granola Bars are Appreciated!



DREAM



Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males

Congregational Life of FUMC

June 1-30, 2023



- 2 Cameron Manuel
- 2 Marcey Piacenza
- 3 Rachel Rubin
- 4 Jessica Kant
- 5 Jean Christman
- 5 Ashlyn Perry
- 6 Al Chapman
- 6 Kyla Reineke
- 6 John Weible
- 7 Kristin Geis
- 7 Kendall Woods
- 8 Elizabeth Boehm

- 9 Maggie Weber Gehrke
- 10 Rick Ellenberger
- 10 Bev Lewman
- 11 Julie Veazie
- 12 Shelly Kuykendall
- 12 Madison Weldon
- 14 Calvin Curtis
- 15 Dan Kusaya
- 16 Jennifer Olson
- 18 Mary Chapman
- 19 Jacob Bachman
- 20 Liza Schaffer
- 20 Rob Schaffer
- 20 Dick Swain
- 20 Kenny Wood
- 21 Lindsey McCray
- 21 Lily Rice
- 22 Pamela Pendleton
- 23 Emily Benson
- 24 Ryan Minier
- 24 Georgia Patterson
- 24 Jennifer Simmons
- 24 Joan Walton
- 25 Deloris Henry
- 25 Anne McKenney
- 26 Michael Ford
- 28 Sheila Martin
- 28 Hugh Patterson
- 28 Pam Sebby
- 29 James Johnson
- 29 Kennis Murphy
- 29 Mike Reed
- 29 Jean Swain

- 7 Gary & Edna Spear
- 10 Richard Hertel & Derryl Singley
- 12 Ed & Joan Cieniawski
- 12 Dan & Sarah Kusaya
- 12 Mike & Susan Weber
- 14 Larry & Pat Askew
- 16 Jim & Mindy Slack
- 17 Ron & Becki Fields
- 18 Tom & Shirley Maryan
- 18 Greg & Ronda Moser
- 19 Dan & Marcia Carlier
- 20 Bill & Cindy Hand
- 24 Scott & Tiffany Rice
- 24 Larry & Cynthia Skeels
- 24 Jason & Jill Tompkins
- 27 Roger Shanks & Barbara Zachow
- 28 Bryson & Whitney Patterson

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Mike Connelly.



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*

NEXT Messenger Deadline:
June 1, 2023

published on June 6

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

Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bill & Teryl Pigott and family at the passing of Bill's brother, Fred Pigott, on April 1, 2023; and to Anna & John Donahoe and family at the passing of Anna's mother, Jeanne McCoy, on April 29, 2023.



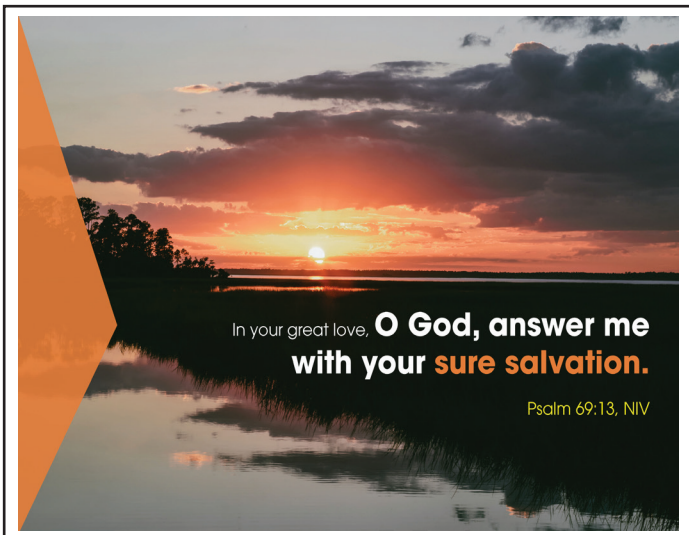
May 2023

<p>14 VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 10:00am ASP Stock Sale 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website</p>	<p>15 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1</p>	<p>16 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:30pm WCG Bonus Semester 5:30pm Board of Trustees- CANCELLED 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab</p>	<p>17 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>18 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>19 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>20 8:30am Visioning Meeting 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>21 10:00am ASP Stock Sale 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 1:00pm SAI (Sigma, Alpha, Iota)</p>	<p>22 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 6:00pm ASP Training 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1</p>	<p>23 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:30pm WCG Bonus Semester 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 7:15pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee</p>	<p>24 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>25 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 3:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>26 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>27 VAN Reserved for Faith UMC 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>28 VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website</p>	<p>29 Building Closed</p>	<p>30 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab</p>	<p>31 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>1 8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>2 1:00pm DREAAM Enrichment Program</p>	<p>3 VAN Reserved for Faith UMC 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
Champaign IL 61820

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In your great love, **O God, answer me**
with your sure salvation.

Psalms 69:13, NIV



*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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