



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. 11

June 6, 2023

The Gospel According to Winnie-the-Pooh

Summer Sermon Series began on Sunday, June 4

“I see now,” said Winnie-the-Pooh. “I have been Foolish and Deluded,” said he, “and I am a Bear of No Brains at All.”

“You’re the Best Bear in All the World,” said Christopher Robin soothingly.

“Am I?” said Pooh hopefully. And then he brightened up suddenly.

*“Anyhow,” Pooh said, “it is nearly Luncheon Time.” So he went home for it.
--(from Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne.)*



Dearly Beloved!

Happy Summer! Sunshine and long days! Beaches and ball games! Children’s laughter in the neighborhood and ice cream treats! What’s not to love about the carefree days of summer?! Our summer sermon series embraces the joy of childhood and the wisdom of the Hundred-Acre-Wood.

In the excerpt above, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet have confused themselves as they seek to track a Woozle in the woods. When Christopher Robin points out the truth that none of the mysteriously appearing tracks belong to Woozles, but rather to Winnie and Piglet as they keep circling the same tree trunk, Pooh Bear does what many of us would do, he starts to beat himself up. “I’m no good. I’m stupid.”

But Christopher Robin speaks yet another truth in his ear: “You’re the Best Bear in All the World!” And Pooh responds, “Am I?” and then he brightens up!

As we look for the Gospel in unexpected places, like a children’s book, this story seems to capture the essence of God’s good news for us in Jesus. Just when you think you are worthless or foolish, Jesus whispers, I think you are the Best One in All the World!”

It brings to mind a Max Lucado quote, “If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Face it, friend. He is crazy about you!”

Live in the light of that good news today! **God is crazy about YOU!** And our one job is to make sure everyone knows that God is crazy about them, too! Shine bright, beloved! Love is the way!

Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn’t love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

Love First!
Pastor Julia



United
Women
in Faith

All women of the church are invited to join us for lunch
and an afternoon of inspiration and fellowship!

SALAD AND DESSERT LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 7, 12:30 p.m.

Friendship Center North

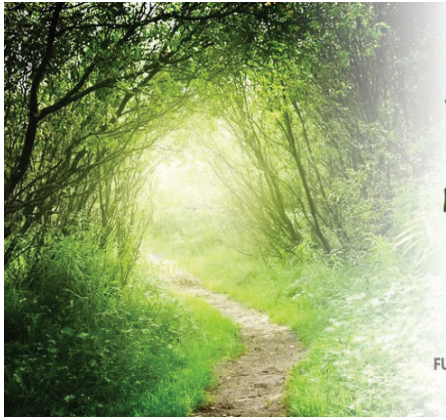
“The Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House”

*A UWF Mission Institution serving the East St. Louis community
for over 100 years*

GUEST SPEAKER: Lisa Graves, Executive Assistant LBDNH

As you are able, please bring a salad or dessert to share!

*Donations of non-perishable food items, dish detergent, pencils,
pens, crayons, toothpaste, and new birthday cards are welcome*



Today
We Celebrate
a
New Pathway
to
Progress

FUMC Welcome Bins Ministry

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

Sidera and Nikki 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.

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.

Heads up FUMC Congregation!



The Outreach Ministry Team will once again collect school supplies and backpacks to be distributed to elementary-age children at empty tomb. The filled backpacks will be blessed during a worship service in July or August. Complete information will be provided for you in the July issue of the *Messenger*. As always, your generous support will bring smiles to the faces of many children. Thank you.

Food Pantry Thank You

Many thanks to each of you who have donated items for the church food pantry within the last year or so. I especially want to thank Sharon Johnson for stocking the pantry shelves as the food is delivered to the church and placed in the Resource Room. The food delivery volunteers greatly appreciate the large selection of non perishable items available to choose from. Each volunteer pulls together a specific list of needed/requested items for each individual/family we serve then shops at the grocery for more perishable foods. This outreach service is all possible because the folks at FUMC CARE about our hungry neighbors. Thank you.

Sue Bachman



Youth News

Summer has started for us here in FUMC's Youth Group! We have finished our regular meetings on Sunday nights awhile ago, but we are beginning our special summer activities! This summer, we'll be trying to break out of an escape room, going to the drive-in, and having a Bible study with ice cream - so come join us!!! We also will have our annual mission trip, Appalachia Service Project (ASP), the second week of June! We may not be meeting every week in summer, but there's still a lot going on and we can't wait to see you at all of it!!

Meredith

meredith@champaignfumc.org



Saturday, June 10-17 - Appalachia Service Project

Wednesday, June 21, 4:15 pm-6:00 pm - Escape Room at Champaign-Urbana Adventures in Time and Space – We'll be taking on an escape room on June 21! We will meet at church at 4:15 pm and take the van over! We'll have an hour once we get there to "Save the World!" Cost is \$15 per person, and please RSVP by June 18, so we can register and get an accurate headcount! We'll be back around 6:00 pm!

Thursday, July 6 - *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* at the Harvest Moon Drive-In Theater – On July 6, we'll meet at the church and hop into the van to drive to Gibson City to see *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* at the Harvest Moon Drive-In theater! Cost is \$5.00. Times depend on when the sun is setting, so stay tuned for the exact time!

Wednesday, August 9, 3:30 pm-5:15 pm - Bible Study and Ice Cream in the Park – On Wednesday, August 9 meet at the church at 3:30 pm. We'll drive the van to Custard Cup, grab ice cream, and head over to Hessel Park right across the street! Then we'll have a Bible Study in the park! We'll be back at the church by 5:15 pm! Bring a Bible and a few dollars for ice cream!

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.

Sunday
JULY 23

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

7:30 pm

Evening Perceptions

A time of
Songs and Scripture

Led by
Perceptions Praise Team

Gather on Church Street sidewalk
or
Bring your lawn chair to circle drive



READ TO LEAD

SUMMER PROGRAM

We are looking for Literacy Tutors

Work one-to-one with LIFT Scholars to help readers who are currently reading below grade level. Training provided.

June 19-July 28 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
12:30pm-1:30pm

Interested in tutoring? [Complete this form](#), scan the QR code or contact brownri@u4sd.org



Paid and volunteer opportunities available



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: canola oil, navy beans - 1 lb size, canned whole corn, cereal, and bar soap.

Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.



CERTIFICATE of Recognition

In grateful recognition of your generosity, mission, and sense of compassion for the children at Chaddock, we are pleased to recognize

Champaign First UMC

As a 2023 Partner Church

Jeff VanCamp
Executive Director of
Chaddock Children's Foundation

Please accept our appreciation and our prayers for your church as a place where people can gather to worship, pray, learn, enjoy fellowship and unite in their commitment to share God's love and grace with the world. We hope you will continue to partner with us in ministry in 2023. In Christian love and service, Jeff Van Camp, Executive Director, Chaddock Children's Foundation

Congregational Life of FUMC

July 1-31, 2023



- 1 John Donahoe
- 1 Gabrielle Martin
- 2 Carolyn Merrimac
- 3 Ed Cieniawski
- 3 Phoenix Pendleton
- 4 Jill Kemper
- 6 Todd Burgener
- 6 Will Schwenk
- 8 Dean Schwenk
- 8 Greg Thom
- 9 Jonathon Curtis
- 9 Tiffany Rice

- 9 Paul Rogers
- 10 Sarah Donahoe
- 11 JoAnn Schlueter
- 12 Daniel Miceli
- 12 Jackson Stanhope
- 13 Tim Moser
- 14 John Weldon
- 16 Atlas Doyle
- 16 Robert Schmisser
- 16 Clement Tshomba
- 17 Grace Waibel
- 17 Karen Wood
- 19 Sylvia Ronsvalle
- 21 Marin Mattingly
- 21 Will Simmons
- 22 Alex Wurl
- 24 Avery Bequette
- 24 Caroline Bequette
- 24 Mary Clark
- 24 Sharon Johnson
- 24 Ken Kemper
- 25 Pamela Rowe
- 26 Everett Bargmann
- 27 Nancy Phillips
- 27 Diane Weible
- 28 Faith Bennett
- 29 Brandy Cicone
- 29 Paula Weldon
- 30 Brad Simmons
- 31 Bobby Caton

- 1 Bobby & Helene Caton
- 2 Jim & Carole Smith
- 3 Tim & Sue Bachman
- 5 Grant & Deloris Henry
- 6 Peyton & Faith Bennett
- 6 John & Cherié Weible
- 8 Wes & Laura Curtis
- 9 Larry & Judy Johnson
- 10 Larry & Janice Corum
- 13 John & Nickey Woods
- 15 Scott & Meredith Garreau
- 18 Dick & Ginny Clark
- 19 Anthony & Pamela Pendleton
- 25 Dick & Jean Swain
- 27 John & Paula Weldon
- 29 Chad & Ashley Beyler
- 29 Jonathan & Kimberly Fotzler
- 29 Edwin McCartney & Rita Gentry-McCartney

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last few weeks: Kathy Doll.



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.

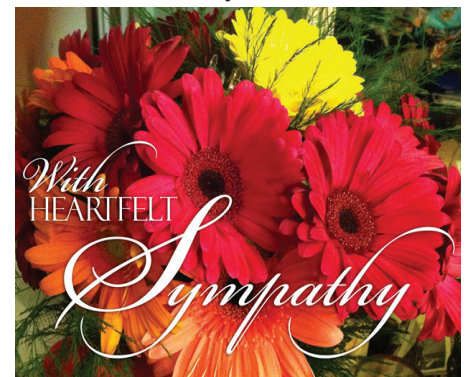
I don't want to miss you when I make hospital calls.

NEXT Messenger Deadline:
June 29, 2023
published on July 5

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

Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Tina & Scott James and family at the passing of Tina's uncle, David Moellmann, on May 23, 2023, and at the passing of Tina's mother, Iverne Johnson, on May 25, 2023.



June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Graduate Recognition Sunday Peace With Justice Sunday 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	5 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop #1 Court of Honor	6 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team	7 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 12:30pm UWF: A Celebration of Missions Salad Luncheon 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	8 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	9	10 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
11 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 12:00pm New Member Class 1:00pm Uppinghouse Graduation Open House	12 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 8:00am DREAAM Hands-on Science Girls Camp	13 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 8:00am DREAAM Hands-on Science Girls Camp 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball	14 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 8:00am DREAAM Hands-on Science Girls Camp 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	15 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 8:00am DREAAM Hands-on Science Girls Camp 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	16 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 8:00am DREAAM Hands-on Science Girls Camp	17 Appalachia Service Project VAN Reserved for ASP 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
18 Reception of New Members 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website	19 Building Closed	20 7:30am DREAAM Youth Entrepreneurship Camp 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 9:00am VAN Reserved for Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 5:30pm Board of Trustees 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball	21 7:30am DREAAM Youth Entrepreneurship Camp 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 4:15pm VAN Reserved for Youth Group 4:15pm Youth Group to Escape Room 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	22 7:30am DREAAM Youth Entrepreneurship Camp 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	23 7:30am DREAAM Youth Entrepreneurship Camp	24 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
25 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website	26 June 27 - Continued Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries	27 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walk, Talk, and Let's Eat! 5:30pm DREAAM	28 1:00pm Social Justice Committee 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm GriefShare Support Group 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	29 8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm	30 June 29 - Continued Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	1 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

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Champaign IL 61820

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*The Messenger is a bi-weekly newsletter for members and friends of
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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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