



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. 14

August 22, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

Why do I address you each week as “Dearly Beloved?” I like it for several reasons. First, and most personal, you are dear and beloved to me!

Next, it reminds me we are a Beloved Community. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized this phrase during the Civil Rights Movement and it reminds me of the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught about. At the center of our call to be the embodiment of Christ is the call to be Beloved Community with all people.

And, finally, it reminds me of the beginning of our wedding ceremony. “Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today....” In this context, we are celebrating a life-changing covenant that will be made between two people.

I am a big fan of covenants. Covenants are sacred promises. It’s a church thing! And it is holy. In baptism, we make promises. When we get married, we make promises. When we join a church, we make promises. These are sacred promises we make to God and to one another.

When you became members of First United Methodist Church you promised to support the church with your **prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness**. For our Beloved Community to thrive, we depend on promises made and promises kept. We are bound to one another deeply in holy covenant.

Do you see the church as a Beloved Community? Do you hold the promises you made as sacred? I hope so! I believe you do! Of course, the best covenant maker and keeper is God whose love remains steadfast!

Let’s celebrate our BELOVED COMMUNITY as people of God by gathering in worship and enjoying lunch together on September 10. Please call the church office to make your lunch reservation (217-356-9078). Food will be served from Chipotle as a gift from the church to you! Please plan on coming!

Love First,
Pastor Julia



BELOVED COMMUNITY

Music in the Courtyard

Featuring:

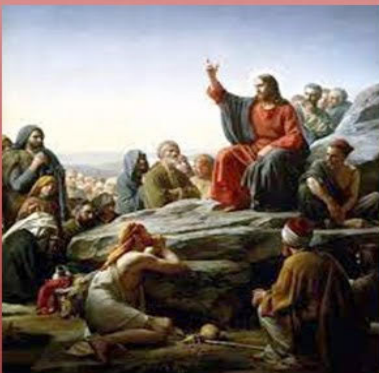
Carlyle Johnson
Sal Castronovo, Landon Westerfield
Riley Berner, Wesley Uppinghouse

Sunday, August 27, 2023
7:00 pm

Grab your lawn chair, come to the FUMC courtyard on Church Street, kick back, and enjoy a special treat on Sunday evening, August 27 at 7:00 pm. Carlyle Johnson, Riley Berner, Sal Castronovo, Wesley Uppinghouse, and Landon Westerfield will be filling the air with an evening of gospel, jazz, and more. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in closing the month of August with some beautiful and toe-tapping music.

FUMC musical ensembles resume their regular schedules soon. All interested musicians (and wanna-be musicians!) are welcome to join. Invite your friends to join us. Contact Barbara Zachow for more information at 217-356-9078 or bzachow@comcast.net.

Fall Wesley Covenant Groups Begin September 25



Join us!

Fall 2023 Wesley Covenant Group Bible Study

Week of September 25 – November 6

Join our Wesley Covenant Bible Studies for a seven-week study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Each week we'll read from Matthew's account and use John Wesley's 22 questions to discuss how we can better apply Jesus' simple, but difficult, teachings. Each group will meet once a week beginning the week of September 25 and concluding the week of November 6. Please contact Chad Beyler (cbeyler1023@gmail.com) or call the church office for more details on weekly meeting times. The Bible is the only book needed for this study.

The Fall Semester is Beginning, and that means Music and You!

The days are getting shorter, the school year is beginning, and regular music rehearsals are beginning at FUMC. If you are interested in any of the musical ensembles, you are welcome. You do not need to be particularly talented. Simply be willing to work to give your best during worship. Call the church office (217) 356-9078 or email Barbara Zachow at bzachow@comcast.net if you are interested in any of the ensembles or helping with the Tech Team!



FIRST REGULAR REHEARSALS, FALL 2023

Chancel Choir – Wednesday, August 23, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Choir Room

- Youth and adults of any age
- Provide choral music in a variety of styles for worship

Chancel Ringers – Tuesday, September 5, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Bell Tables in Sanctuary

- Youth and Adults of any age
- Intermediate or Advanced handbell experience
- Provide music in a variety of styles for periodic worship services

Perceptions Praise Team - Thursday, September 7, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Sanctuary

- Youth and adults of any age
- Keyboard, guitar, drum set, vocalists, other instruments

Angel Choir – Sunday, September 10, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Room J, Fellowship Hall, and Sanctuary

- 3 years old through 5th graders; adults welcome
- Singing, tone chimes, beginning bells, Orff and rhythm instruments, foundational music reading skills
- Lead worship on Family Fun Sundays (last Sunday of the month)

Youth Music – Sunday, September 10, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, Choir Room and Sanctuary

- 6th through 12th graders
- Singing, intermediate bells, instruments, other artistic talents

Media and Technology Arts Team – Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, Sanctuary

- Youth and Adults
- Enhance worship through wise use of audio, video and projection technology

Clarinet Choir – Thursdays at 7:00 pm, Choir Room

- Contact Cathy Mitchell for more information (abell80illinois@gmail.com)

FUMC ALSO HOSTS Choral Union – Monday, September 11, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Choir Room

- Adults with willingness to sing in and contribute to the community chorus, the ability to match pitch, and the ability to produce a pleasing vocal sound
- Give periodic concerts throughout the community



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

FUMC Welcome Bins Ministry

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

Ashley and Kimberly 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. Both Ashley and Kimberly were touched by the generosity of their Welcome Bins.

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.

Cubs Scouts Pack 11 Parent Info Night on August 29



Cub Scouting is a parent-led, year round program for the whole family. Cub Scouts develop skills at den meetings with fun and adventurous activities designed to engage their age group. Scouts learn the importance of serving their communities and are recognized for their achievements with belt loops, pins, and badges. Cub Scouting is for all boys and girls who are between 5 and 10 years old.

There will be a Parent Info Night on Tuesday, August 29, 6-7:15 pm, in Fellowship Hall. Interested parents may also contact Christopher Cole (coleca@gmail.com) or Emily Shaw (emilyfshaw@gmail.com).



Restock the SHELVES

Food pantry update: FUMC always needs staple food items such as in the list below. This outreach ministry works through a helping coordinator at empty tomb to deliver needed food and healthcare items to folks in our community. There are five church members willingly volunteering to make deliveries to those in need--at least one delivery a week. Our pantry provides the non-perishable items and fresh food is added as they shop at a local store. Monetary donations are always welcome. Bring your bag of groceries to church on Sundays or drop them off in the Resource Room during the week. Thank you so much for thinking of others in this community in need of healthy staple foods.

Love 1st!

Especially needed are: spaghetti, tomato sauce, canned ham, canned cut green beans, canned pepper, garlic salt, iodized salt, Dawn dishwashing liquid, and shampoo.

Tune Your Heart - September 3

Musicians diligently tune their instruments. We will focus on tuning our hearts to God with a service filled with hymns, psalms, and worship songs on September 3 at 10:30 am.

The voting has closed, and the preliminary results include the following.

- Total Ballots: 26
- Most votes for one piece: 4
- 11 Psalms
- 26 Worship Songs
- 47 Hymns
- 1 Choir Anthem
- 1 Prayer
- 2 pieces not listed in any of our hymnals or in Song Select

Obviously, ALL of the requested pieces will not fit into one worship service, but we will try to fit as many as possible into the service on September 3!

Thanks for your input!



You're Invited Meet & Greet

09 September
10am – 12:00pm

Mattoon First UMC
1601 Charleston Ave

Come meet our new Assistant District Superintendents Rev Lori Harvey and Rev Jeff VanDyke and Rev Angie Lee, Superintendent of the new East District of the IGRC of the United Methodist Church

Youth News

Some of you may or may not know this, but one of my vices is being a fan of *The Bachelor* franchise. Hillary Veitch and I regularly gather to watch *The Bachelor*, *The Bachelorette*, *Bachelor in Paradise*, etc. If you have the same vice, you may know that ABC is coming out with a new show - *The Golden Bachelor*. *The Golden Bachelor* is a dating show for the 65+ group and the first *Golden Bachelor* is a 71 year old named Gerry who is from Indiana.

I will obviously be watching this, so when I saw a promo clip, I immediately started watching. Gerry talked about his deceased wife, who was the love of his life with whom he had two beautiful daughters. He became very emotional as he explained they saved up for a house by a lake - it was their ultimate dream for retirement. They closed on the house and only a few days later, his wife fell ill. She died from a bacterial infection barely a month after they had closed on their dream home. When I heard the date his wife passed away, my mouth dropped open. It was the exact same day, month, and year as my wedding day.

As I watched this man crying on TV, all I could think was, "The best day of my life was the worst day of his." Obviously, we know this, but I'm not typically faced with the knowledge directly - though some of you may have been. I imagined Gerry (who I'm sure has no clue how much he has been in the thoughts of a random woman in Illinois) crying at his wife's bedside and then I switch in my mind to dancing and laughing with my new husband, friends, and family. I think of death and then cutting a cake, of heartbreak and then of our first dance.

I don't know Gerry, but we are all interconnected as God's children. 1 Corinthians 12:26 says, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Someone you know may be having their best day or worst day ever, but as Christians, it's important to come alongside them to either celebrate with them or to empathize and be beside them in their pain. Jesus taught us to love those around us as ourselves through our best days, our worst days, and everything in between.

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

Sunday, September 10, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - First Youth Group of the Year!

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.





BACK TO SCHOOL

10 VERSES TO PRAY OVER YOUR KIDS AS THEY HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

1. EPHESIANS 4:32 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM BE KIND.
2. JOSHUA 1:9 - PRAISE GOD FOR ALWAYS BEING WITH THEM.
3. PROVERBS 10:9 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM WALK IN INTEGRITY THIS YEAR.
4. PSALM 56:3 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.
5. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM NOT WORRY.
6. LUKE 2:52 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM GROW THIS YEAR.
7. PROVERBS 17:17 - PRAY FOR THEIR FRIENDS.
8. COLOSSIANS 3:23 - ASK GOD TO HELP THEM WORK HARD.
9. JAMES 1:5 - ASK GOD TO GIVE THEM WISDOM.
10. PHILIPPIANS 4:12 - PRAY FOR THEIR CONTENTMENT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.



Thanks to you 43 elementary students started the school year with new backpacks filled with the supplies they need. You are an amazing, generous congregation!

Thank you!

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.

Charge Conference

Charge Conference date is November 5, 2023, at 4:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church. Please save this date!



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

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.

Congregational Life of FUMC

September 1-15, 2023



- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Justin Craft | 9 Westin Kauffmann | 1 Terry & Mary MacRae |
| 1 Leslie Till | 9 Helen Simpson | 2 Bruce & Linda Hemminger |
| 2 Mary Ann Eaker | 9 Cynthia Skeels | 2 John & Carolyn Schaefer |
| 2 Barbara Zachow | 10 Ashley Beyler | 3 Al & Mary Chapman |
| 3 Bethany Thompson | 10 Sandy Burgener | 4 Wayne & Linda Whited |
| 5 Ronda Moser | 11 Arlene Wakefield | 5 Steve & Mary Poole |
| 6 Kacie Hastings | 12 Todd Buhrmester | 8 Paul & Marie Djunga |
| 8 Catie Ford | 12 Bruce Hemminger | 12 Clement Tshomba & BéBé
Otshumba-Okongo |
| 9 Plamedi Djunga | 13 BéBé Otshumba-Okongo | |
| 9 Ron Eaker | | |

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last few weeks: Bobby Caton, Mary Lou Gannaway, Rita Gentry-McCartney, Ed McCartney, and Carole Smith.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
August 31, 2023

published on September 5
Articles may be submitted by
e-mail to:
bberner@champaignfumc.org
or brought to church.

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.

Please check out the signup board in Friendship Center and find a date you can be a GREETER/COFFEE TIME VOLUNTEER.
Lots of dates needed!!!



August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Van Rides for Sunday 9:00am Larson Visioning Group 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 12:00pm Stephen Ministers 4:00pm Elevate Trampoline Park for Children & Families	21 5:30pm Nominations Committee 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee	22 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch at Neil St. Blues 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 7:15pm Administrative Council	23 1:00pm Social Justice Committee 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	24 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Music in the Courtyard Rehearsal 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team-CANCELLED	25	26 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
27 9:00am Larson Visioning Group 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 7:00pm Music in the Courtyard	28 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1	29 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch at Seven Saints 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Parent Info Night	30 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 3:30pm CSPH 5:30pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	31 8:30am Messenger Deadline 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	1	2 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website	4 Building Closed Labor Day	5 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 3:30pm Taco Tuesday 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team	6 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm Wellspring Committee 5:30pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	7 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	8	9 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
10 All-In Worship 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	11 5:30pm Nominations Committee 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union Sept. 12 - Continued 6:30 Cub Scouts Pack 11 7:15 SPRC	12 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel	13 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 1:30pm UWF Special Program Meeting 5:30pm GriefShare Support Group 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Committee 7:30 Venturing Crew 1	14 8:30am Messenger Deadline 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	15	16 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
Champaign IL 61820

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For more information, please call the Church Office at (217) 356-
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(or can be found at no cost at www.champaignfumc.org.)*

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