



# 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. 16

September 19, 2023

Dearly Beloved!

Today I am reminiscing about our church. On Sunday, September 17th, I led a memorial service for Olive Getchius' brother, Randy. Olive Getchius and her friend, Wilson Zaring, wrote a spectacular history of Champaign First United Methodist Church. I have mentioned it in sermons and, from time to time, find myself lost in the ministry of people long dead, filled with gratitude for the gift of ministry and mission we have inherited.

There was rapid growth in the early years and the church building grew, too. It began with the original wood frame construction (dedicated in 1863), to the Brick Church (dedicated in 1889), to the final Stone Church, (dedicated in 1907). There was a significant renovation of the Sanctuary in the 1960s changing the exterior and interior to what we see today.

We have some pictures of the old Sanctuary, but not very many. **If you were part of the congregation at that time, do you have pictures? Would you please bring them in so that we could make a copy?** Perhaps you have wedding, baptism or confirmation photos? Or you know about a stash of pictures hiding somewhere in the building now?

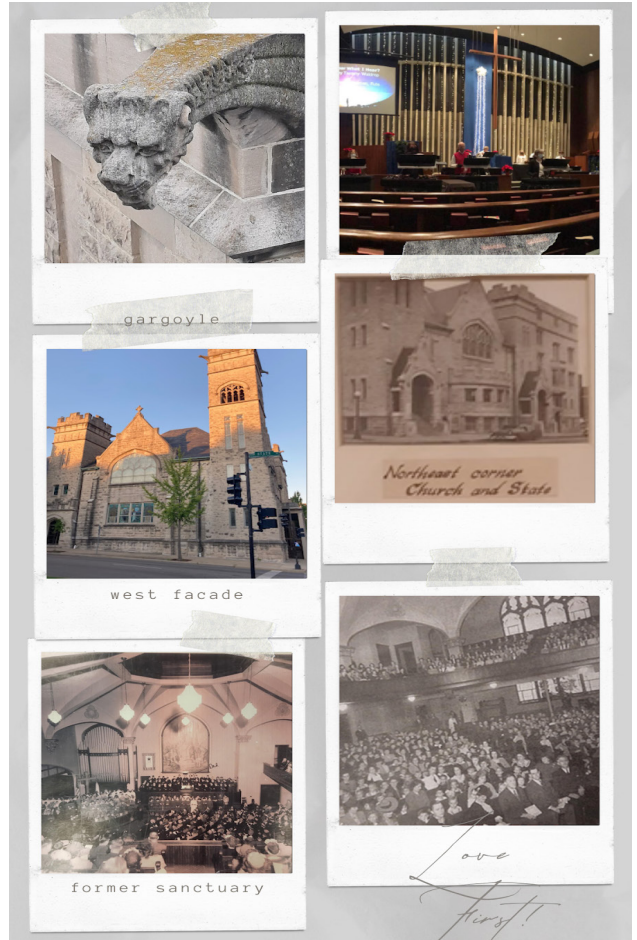
As delighted as I am to see the old pictures of this holy space, **I am most interested in the ministries offered by this congregation** over the years. Foremost in my mind right now is the commitment of this congregation to start a Child Care Center fifty years ago in 1973.

We will be celebrating this ministry of the church on September 24th in worship. The Child Care Center remains a ministry of the church, not an independent business operation housed in our building. It continues to meet the need for quality childcare in our community with 71 students currently enrolled. The Child Care Center is offering a Fifty Year Celebration on Friday night, September 22, 5:30-7:30 pm...AND YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

**If you have stories or pictures of the Child Care Center, please write them down or bring them into the church office! We want to see and share them!**

We are building our future on the foundation of a strong past dedicated to serving this community. We continue to look for ways to show our love for God by serving our community neighbors. Keep up the good work!

Love First,  
Pastor Julia



FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHILD CARE CENTER

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Friday, September 22 | 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Child Care Center Parking Lot

210 West Church Street, Champaign



## **First United Methodist Church (FUMC) AND First United Methodist Child Care Center (FUMCCC)**

Partners since 1973! Fifty years together at this location. So many children and families have been served during these years by talented and caring Directors, teachers, and staff at the FUMCCC. Many of those children/families have been a part of our congregation. Have your children attended over the years? Or perhaps you were a part of the program growing up? On Sunday, September 24, 2023, current FUMCCC children and families have been invited to come and celebrate this special anniversary at 10:30 am. It is the first Family Fun Sunday of this calendar year for FUMC! The service will be led by our children. All FUMC children along with the childcare children and their families are invited to be a part of the service in this way:

- 1) A coloring page and kid-friendly brochure will be available at the check-in table upon arrival.
- 2) Help set up the altar at the beginning of the worship service.
- 3) Participate in singing the kid-friendly songs led by the FUMC Angel Choir.
- 4) Join Pastor Julia and Meredith for Children's Moments up front by the altar.
- 5) Help distribute "magic" pennies to the congregation.
- 6) "Get connected" (hold hands all around) at the end of the service.
- 7) Participate in the service project in Friendship Center directly after the service.

**Everyone is invited and welcome!  
We are all looking forward to seeing you at this celebration!**



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 1, is World Communion Sunday. On this day, Christians throughout the world will receive communion, that special gift from God.

*The Outreach Ministries committee is asking members of the congregation to bring in ONE POUND bags of rice and/or beans which will be donated to the FUMC Food Pantry and Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.*

*We thank you in advance for your support.*

*Love First!*

*World Communion Sunday is also a church-wide Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Envelopes will be available at church on Sunday, October 1. Make checks payable to FUMC with World Communion Sunday on the memo line.*

### 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](mailto: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.



## Coming Soon! First Sunday Market: October 1

- ✚ We'll feature small cakes, as well as all kinds of baked goods (coffeecakes, quick breads, cupcakes)!
- ✚ We'll sell two varieties of homemade soup by the quart!
- ✚ A selection of very classy gift baskets will be available for you to purchase!
- ✚ Our Sensational Silent Auction opens at 10:00 a.m. on October 1!

*All proceeds support the mission projects of United Women in Faith*

## Look forward to the Second Sunday Market: October 8!

- ✚ We'll feature PIES, as well as all kinds of baked goods!
- ✚ There will be a few more gift baskets available for you to purchase!
- ✚ Place your final bids! Our Sensational Silent Auction CLOSSES AT NOON on October 8!

## Attention Soup Cooks and Bakers!

**Bakers:** Please stop at the UWF table on September 24 to let us know what you plan to bake! We need donations of pies, mini cakes, coffeecakes, and quick breads—especially pumpkin, banana, cranberry, and date-nut. For packaging and delivery information, contact Anne McKenney (arockymac@aol.com; 356-4728).

**Soup Cooks:** Visit the UWF table on September 24 to pick up recipes, instructions, and quart-sized Mason jars, lids, and rings. We'd also like to know which variety of soup you plan to make (Chicken-Rice or Beef Vegetable). Or, contact Sharon Johnson (sjohnson@champaignfumc.org; 356-9078).



## 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: canned mixed fruit, canned ham, canned beef stew, canned Beefaroni, canned spaghetti, and canned pepper.***

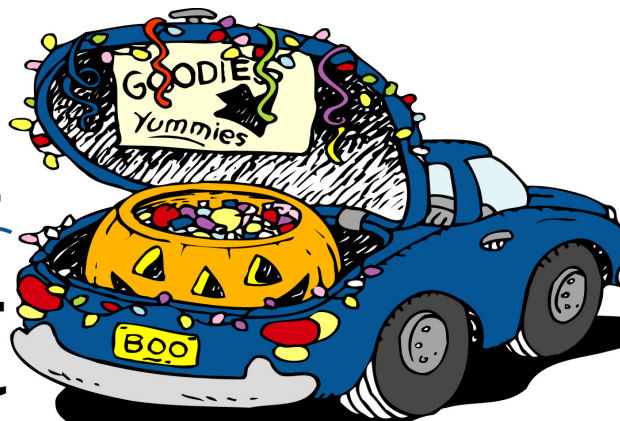


## WALKING TALKING LUNCH BUNCH

**September 19 - Esquire  
September 26 - Guido's**

We meet at 11:30 on Tuesday mornings at the church. The program is led by Debbie Chew, a professional with experience in exercise, and includes a group stretching and warm up time, structured walk adapted for varying levels of ability, and a group lunch. This program is offered free of charge, with the lunch costs being \$10.00. We walk from the church at 12:20 to the restaurant. Please contact the church at 217-356-9078 for information or to register for the walking program.

# Trunk *or* Treat



Join us on Sunday, October 29, from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm for Trunk or Treat! We'll have decorated trunks to go around to for candy and we'll also have hot dogs in the parking lot! If you would like to have a trunk and pass out candy OR you would like to help in another way, please contact Meredith at [meredith@champaignfumc.org](mailto:meredith@champaignfumc.org)!

**If you would like to donate candy for the Youth Group to hand out, please bring it in to the church by October 23! Thank you!**

## Youth Events

This past month, demolition began on the building next to the church parking lot. It feels like it's been a long time coming. When I walked into work one morning, I stopped and watched them rip out the innards of the building for a while. Enough of the structure had already been demolished, so when I looked at it, I could see clear across to the parking garage. Then I had a really weird thought: "Oh what a nice view!"

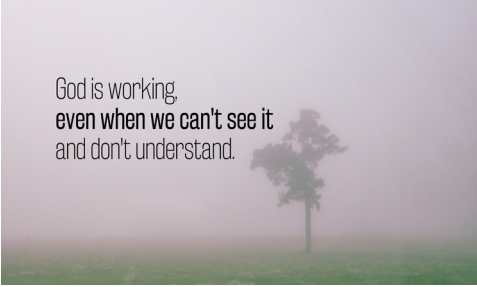
WHAT A NICE VIEW?!?!? It's a PARKING GARAGE. I wasn't looking out over the ocean or rolling hills or from the top of a mountain. I was looking at the parking garage on Randolph and Hill St. I was honestly a little disturbed that I had this involuntary thought pop into my head.

When I thought more about it though, the previous building before was...ugly. It just wasn't a pretty building and it had been neglected. The change from seeing the building to seeing the parking garage was enough of a positive change that I ended up appreciating the new view...no matter how gray or square it was!

The view will only improve in the future, with plans for a playground area in that space. However, as with most positive change, I want to race ahead past the middle stages to the end result. When I was starting college, I wanted to fast forward through the awkward time of meeting everyone on my floor. I wanted to skip ahead to established friendships. But, if I skipped that awkward in between time, I wouldn't have memories and inside jokes that I treasure now.

The view of the parking garage won't be as nice as the final product, but it's a good reminder for me to appreciate even the awkward, in between parts of change. I can see the growth and the promise of what's to come, while also appreciating things (like the view of a parking garage - I wrote that it was gray, but it's a nice touch that there is a good amount of brickwork!) that I would never even notice otherwise. I hope that I can start appreciating these growing stages by remembering that God has sprinkled things for me to take note of that I would typically not even "see."

Meredith  
meredith@champaignfumc.org



God is working,  
even when we can't see it  
and don't understand.

**Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Dinner at Meredith's!** - All the youth are invited to dinner at Meredith's house! We'll eat, get to know each other better, and have fun! RSVP by September 17! Youth will be receiving a postcard invitation in the mail.

**Friday, September 23, 5:30 pm - 10:15 pm - *Hotel Transylvania* (and Frightfest) at Harvest Moon Drive-In Theater** - We'll meet at the church and hop into the van to drive to Gibson City to see *Hotel Transylvania* at the Harvest Moon Drive-In Theater! Cost is \$5.00 - bring extra if you'd like to order food. There will also be fun activities for the spooky season, such as photo ops, costume contests, and food and drink specials.

**Sunday, October 8, 4:15 pm - 8:30 pm - Hardy's Reindeer Ranch!** - We're heading out to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch! Come participate in the hayride, cookout, maze, and go karts! Cost is \$11 a person. We will meet at the church at 4:15 pm and arrive back at the church at 8:30 pm. If you would like to join us as a parent volunteer, we would also love to have you at this event. Please let me know if you will be attending by Monday, October 2, so that I can have an accurate headcount for Hardy's!

**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.

## Charge Conference

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

## 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.



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!!!



## Parade of Lights, Anyone?

FUMC had a wonderful time participating in the Parade of Lights in downtown Champaign last year. This year the parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 25. If you are interested in helping to organize the float and participants this year, contact the church office (217-356-9078) or email Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) by October 8. With your assistance we can help light up downtown Champaign once again!



## 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.



Visit our website ([www.champaignfumc.org](http://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

October 1-15, 2023



- |   |                       |    |                  |    |                           |
|---|-----------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Dan Carlier           | 9  | Carson Floyd     | 6  | Stan & Jennifer Olson     |
| 2 | Pamela Christman      | 9  | Donna Jones      | 10 | Michael & Mara Willoughby |
| 2 | Larry Fredrickson     | 9  | Arika Sides      | 11 | Todd & Elizabeth Boehm    |
| 3 | Kelli Kemper          | 9  | Christine Stover | 12 | Austin & Krystal Ray      |
| 3 | Rachel Tshomba        | 9  | Kari Wietzke     | 13 | Jim & Lori Palmer         |
| 5 | Brandon Kauffmann     | 10 | Grace Chrisman   | 15 | Howie & Jeanne Kemper     |
| 6 | Timothy Burgener      | 10 | Deb Foertsch     |    |                           |
| 7 | Rita Gentry-McCartney | 10 | Ed McCartney     |    |                           |
| 8 | Edna Spear            | 11 | Hannah Burgener  |    |                           |
|   |                       | 12 | Jordan Bargmann  |    |                           |
|   |                       | 13 | Carolyn Kelley   |    |                           |
|   |                       | 14 | Caitlyn Floyd    |    |                           |
|   |                       | 14 | Michael Thompson |    |                           |
|   |                       | 15 | Rachel Berner    |    |                           |

## 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.

**NEXT Messenger Deadline:**  
**September 28, 2023**  
**published on October 3**

Articles may be submitted by  
e-mail to:  
[bberner@champaignfumc.org](mailto:bberner@champaignfumc.org)  
or brought to church.

## Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Pam Seby and family at the passing of Pam's brother, Gary Workman, of Omaha, Nebraska, on August 23, 2023; and to Pamela & Anthony Pendleton and family at the passing of Pamela's step-brother, Curtis Griffin, on August 31, 2023, in Keokuk, Iowa.





# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>17</b> VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 9:00am United Women in Faith Sign-up 9:30am Wesley Covenant Group Sign-ups 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 1:00pm Funeral 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	<b>19</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch at Esquire 5:30pm Board of Trustees 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Finance Committee	<b>20</b> 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:00pm Youth Dinner at Meredith's 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>21</b> 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministers 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm FUMC Vision - Communications Committee 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team- CANCELLED 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>22</b> 5:15pm Van Reserved for Youth Group 5:30pm FUMCCC 50th Anniversary 5:30pm Youth Group Trip to Harvest Moon Drive-In	<b>23</b> 8:00am DREAAM Robotics Club 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
<b>24</b> Family Fun Sunday 9:00am United Women in Faith Sign-up 9:30am Wesley Covenant Group Sign-ups 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Nominations Committee 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Bachman WCG 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	<b>26</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch at Guido's 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 5:30pm Outreach Ministries- CANCELLED 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings	<b>27</b> 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Social Justice Committee 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>28</b> 8:30am Messenger Deadline 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>29</b> Church Van Reserved for Scouts BSA Troop 1	<b>30</b> Church Van Reserved for Scouts BSA Troop 1 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Church Van Reserved for Scouts BSA Troop 1 World Communion Sunday 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:00am UWF Sunday Market 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Bachman WCG 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Young Adults WCG  <b>Oct. 3 - Continued</b> Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15 Worship Ministry Team	<b>3</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub	<b>4</b> 9:00am C-U at Home Board Meeting 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:00pm GriefShare Support Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	<b>5</b> 10:00am Minds in Motion 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team 7:00pm Clarinet Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church  
210 W Church Street  
Champaign IL 61820

Non-profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 14  
Champaign IL

“Return Service Requested”



*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](http://www.champaignfumc.org).)*

### First United Methodist Church Ministry Team

Rev. Julia Melgreen, Directing Pastor	jmelgreen@champaignfumc.org
Meredith Garreau, Dir. of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries	meredith@champaignfumc.org
Barbara Zachow, Dir. of Music & Worship	bzachow@comcast.net
Tina James, Business Manager	businessmgr@champaignfumc.org
Laura Hendricksen, Child Care Ctr. Dir.	lhendricksen@champaignfumc.org
Sharon Johnson, Administrative Assistant	sjohnson@champaignfumc.org
Bonnie Berner, Dir. of Communications	bberner@champaignfumc.org
Landon Westerfield, Organist	landon@champaignfumc.org
Ryan Berner, Worship/Music Technical Support Assistant	rexberner99@gmail.com
Emily Benson, Business Office Assistant	asstoffice@champaignfumc.org
Terry McClellan, Lead Custodian	christianshope2@aol.com