



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 XXXII, No. 4

February 20, 2024



Dearly Beloved!

Happy Lent! I love the invitation Lent offers to search our hearts and find the places where God is inviting spiritual growth, deeper devotion, more love, and bold service. On Sunday mornings, the messages (written by our Lent Clergy Team: Revs. Keith Zimmerman, Jan Griffith, Cory Blackwell [Faith UMC], Rev. Lori Harvey [Mahomet UMC] and me) will be focusing on meeting Jesus at the table in sermons from stories in Luke. A major feature of Luke's Gospel is that Jesus is usually going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal. If you love to eat, Luke is your Gospel! In keeping with that table vibe, we'll be eating together, too!

In the past, we've gathered at Harvest Market to eat dinner together. This year, I still want us to gather around the table together, but I'd like to try it in a new way. Please check out the options below:

EVERY TUESDAY: WALKING TALKING LUNCH BUNCH

At 11:30 we gather to stretch and then walk (either around the Sanctuary or at West Side Park...your choice). At 12:20, we walk to a nearby restaurant and continue our time together. Cost is \$10 for the meal. **You are welcome to come just for the meal together!**

MINDS IN MOTION

February 29, March 14, and March 28. Minds in Motion meets from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. There's always a meal served! Please check out our website [Minds In Motion - Winter/Spring 2024 — First United Methodist Church \(champaignfumc.org\)](https://www.champaignfumc.org).

JUPITER'S DOWNTOWN-MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 4

March 4, Noon - 1:30. Please come and have pizza or a sandwich. We can play pool together, too! It's free!

SUPPER WITH FRIENDS-HOLD THE DATE FOR MARCH 18

This plan is still in the works! The idea is this: We'll have seven or eight host homes who will welcome 6-8 people in for dinner. The congregation will sign up to attend. If you sign up, you will be assigned to a home and given a specific food item to bring and share. Everyone will have the same meal with a short time of faith discussion as part of the evening. The goal is to meet new people and enjoy time around the table together. **If you can host, please let Pastor Julia know! Hosts are responsible for opening their homes and providing drinks. Everything else will be provided by your guests!**

Let's meet each other...and Jesus...at the table!

Love First! Julia



*Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's grace*

**Taizé Worship
6:00pm**

February 21 February 28 March 6
March 13 March 20

Come to the sanctuary for meditative scripture, song, and prayer on Wednesdays during Lent. The sanctuary will be dimly lit. Feel free to take a battery candle from the basket in the narthex to light your way to a pew. Sing along if you wish, pray, mediate, and listen for God's voice. Each service uses slightly different music. All of the services will be in the style of Taizé.

February 21 - Taizé Worship Songs: Salvatore Castronovo, cantor

February 28 - Taizé Worship Songs: Chancel Ringers, Salvatore Castronovo,
cantor

March 6 - Choruses from United Methodist Hymnal: Peiqi Huang, cantor

March 13 - Contemporary Choruses: Led by Perceptions Praise Team

March 20 - Taizé Worship Songs and Choruses from United Methodist Hymnal:
Lauren Zimmerman, cantor



United
Women
in Faith

All women of the church are invited to attend
our first Special Program of 2024

Racial Trauma

Guest Speaker: Karen Crawford Simms
founding director of the Trauma & Resilience Initiative

Saturday, March 9
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Friendship Center North

**Program organized by the UWF sub-committee
on Racial Transformation**

Light breakfast refreshments will be served at 9:30

UWF to Host Special Program on Racial Trauma

Our first event of 2024 will be held on Saturday, March 9, in Friendship Center North. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with light breakfast refreshments before hearing from our guest speaker, Karen Crawford Simms.

Ms. Simms is an experienced consultant, trainer, facilitator, and coach. She is the founding director of the Trauma & Resilience Initiative (TRI), a local non-profit organization that provides services and support to individuals and communities impacted by adversity and violence while advocating for justice and equity for all. On March 9, her topic will be “Racial Trauma.”

About a year ago, United Women in Faith formed a sub-committee on Racial Transformation to find ways to educate ourselves about the effects of racism on individuals, families, and communities. Our guiding principle has been that racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are pleased to have Karen Crawford Simms as our guest speaker on March 9.

Youth News

Recently, I got a haircut. This was very overdue and frankly, my hair looked pretty awful. I couldn't get in to see my normal hairstylist (and while she's talented, she is now out of my price range), so I took a chance on a new hairstylist I had never met.

I have always liked long hair, but I knew a good amount of my hair had to be cut off. It was dead at the ends. The hairstylist showed me how much he was going to have to cut off. I agreed to it, just because I knew it had to be done. At the end, he asked me what I thought. It was shorter than I expected, but I told him, "I agreed to this, so I'm not unhappy. It's just short." We both started laughing. But I couldn't deny my hair actually looked *healthy*, so I knew it was the right call. Afterwards, several people told me how much better it looked than before.

Obviously, this is just hair, but we don't typically like change in our lives. God shakes things up and while we have agreed to follow him, we still don't relish the change. It's not really until later, when we see how much *better* we are because of the change that we sit back and think, "Hmm...well, once again, God had the right call!" You might find out that what you thought you wanted before wasn't really serving you in the long run.

So whether it's hair or something bigger, try to embrace the change when it's needed!

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

Sunday, February 25, 4:45 pm - 7:15 pm - BYG Youth Group - Meet at the church and then head out in the van to go to a big youth group hosted by the other Methodist churches in the area at Faith UMC. We will leave from the parking lot at 4:50 pm SHARP, so please do not be late! We will be back at 7:15 pm. As with regular youth group, dinner will be provided!

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.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, March 6, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

UWF Special Program Meeting will be on Saturday, March 9, at 9:30 am in Friendship Center North. Sarah Circle will host the meeting.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North for their Pledge Service.

Sarah Circle will not have a regular meeting in March.

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.



February 20 - Fiesta Cafe
February 27 - Esquire

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.





Friday, February 23, 4:00 pm

Clarinet Recital, Rosemary Mascarenhas
Cathy Mitchell, Recital Host

Sunday, April 28, during 10:30 am worship service

FUMC Angel Choir Presents: *Mission: Possible*

Sunday, May 5, 10:30 am

Major Music Sunday, Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers,
and Orchestra

Monday, May 6, 7:00 pm

Choral Union Spring Concert



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 ham, canned peaches, canned pepper, applesauce, granulated sugar (4 lb), laundry detergent, and Dawn dish washing liquid.

Attention: There's a critical need for one more food volunteer to make food deliveries to needy folks in the community. Instruction and details about the process will be shared with a willing assistant. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Bachman at 217-359-4390 or susanbachman@hotmail.com.

Need a Ride to Church on Sunday?

The Wellspring Health and Wellness Committee is grateful to Gwen Uppinghouse and Sandy Burgener for picking up people to attend Sunday morning worship.

To schedule a ride, please call Sharon at the church office no later than 2:00 pm on the Thursday afternoon before the Sunday when a ride is desired. Sharon can be reached at 217-356-9078.



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.

2024 Offering Envelopes

If you would like a supply of offering envelopes for 2024, they are available 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 pre-numbered.

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual



1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Congregational Life of FUMC

March 1-15, 2024



- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Emily Moser | 9 | Deborah Bodony |
| 2 | Anna Donahoe | 10 | Benjamin Cravens |
| 3 | Sabrina Russell | 10 | Lauren Cravens |
| 4 | Mike Connelly | 11 | Lola Brown |
| 6 | Drew Bargmann | 12 | Chris Brademas |
| 6 | Joni Fredrickson | 14 | Cody Floyd |
| 7 | John Ronsvalle | 14 | Elmer Lash |
| 8 | Forrest Robeson | 14 | Scott Rice |
| 8 | Jane Rogers | 15 | Robbi Russell |

14 Bruce & Terry Benson

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Sandy Pinter.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
February 29, 2024
published on March 5
Articles may be submitted by
e-mail to:
bberner@champaignfumc.org
or brought to church.



Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Rachel Hammond and family at the passing of her grandfather on February 11, 2024; and to the family and friends of Ted Beach, who passed away on February 20, 2024.

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!!!



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Van Reserved for Venturing Crew 1 9:30am ARK Nursery 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 11:30am Handbell Intermezzo 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music	19 Church Office Closed 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Rosemary Mascarenhas Rehearsal 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	20 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 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	21 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 1:30pm Racial Transformation Committee 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	22 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Clarinet Group	23 3:00pm Rosemary Mascarenhas Rehearsal 4:00pm Rosemary Mascarenhas Clarinet Recital	24 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
25 Family Fun Sunday 9:30am ARK Nursery 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 4:45pm VAN Reserved for Youth Group 4:45pm Youth Group 5:00pm Youth Music- CANCELLED	26 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG	27 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm Outreach Ministries 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Administrative Council	28 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	29 8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:30pm Clarinet Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	1	2 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

March 2024

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3 9:30am ARK Nursery 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	4 12:00pm Lunch at Jupiter's Downtown 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	5 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 1:00pm DREAAM	Feb. 5 - Continued Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team			

First United Methodist Church
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Champaign IL 61820

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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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