



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. 3

February 6, 2024

Dearly Beloved!

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day! Or should I say Valentine's Day is on Ash Wednesday?!

Either way, February 14 is a GREAT BIG DAY OF LOVE! We love because God first loved us!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season called "Lent". We will have two services in which you can receive the Imposition of Ashes: a brief service at 12:15 and a longer service at 6:00 p.m. ***If you cannot make it to either service, but would like ashes, please let the church office know! We have Ash-Cross Temporary Tattoos we can send you upon request!***



PLANS FOR LENT--

First UMC (Rev. Juia Melgreen), Faith UMC (Revs. Jan Griffith, Keith Zimmerman and Cory Blackwell) and Mahomet UMC (Rev. Lori Harvey) have been planning Lent together!

As we embark on this year's Lenten journey, we are delving into the heart of the Gospel of Luke through a unique lens—Meals with Jesus. Jesus is always eating, always at someone's table. We're going to look at those stories! Each meal serves as a table of encounter, an opportunity for divine communion. Lent, a season of reflection and spiritual discipline, invites us to go deeper into Scripture, to share a meal with others, and to invite Jesus to our contemporary tables. It is a time of intentional introspection and connection—both with God and with one another. Our sermon series uses a framework from this book: A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community and Mission Around the Table by Tim Chester.

WORSHIP TOGETHER--

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES:

- Lunch Hour Ashes (12:15-12:45) This will be a short service at which you can receive the Imposition of Ashes.
- 6:00 p.m. A full service with the Imposition of Ashes

TAIZÉ WEDNESDAYS: 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary - February 21, 28 and March 6, 13, and 20

These are services of Scripture, candlelight, and gentle, repetitive songs inviting us to breathe deeply, center our hearts on Jesus, and be renewed.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm in FUMC's Sanctuary

Seven Actions: A service of prayer and Holy Communion - We will light seven candles as we read the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm in FUMC's Sanctuary

We will worship with our friends from First Presbyterian as we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

My prayer is that we will observe a Holy Lent, a time of honest reflection about who we are and who God has called us to be. How can we be closer to God and make life choices that reflect our love for the One who loves us so well, inviting that love to spill out into this tired world?

Love First! Pastor Julia

New Member Received on January 28, 2024



Anne Button grew up in Danville, IL, and attended church at the Rock Church and St. Paul's Catholic Church. She looked forward to becoming a member at First. Anne is married to Jim and works at Champaign Ford City.



Tim Bachman, Rev. Julia Melgreen, Anne Button, and Jim Button

Christmas Offering Update

The money continues to be received in support of Austin's Place and Welcome Home bins! The total is now \$5352.00! Thank you for your amazing generosity!

Love First!
Outreach Team



iRead • iCount

IMPROVING A CHILD'S WORLD ONE-HOUR AT A TIME[®]

Help Make a Difference in Our Community by Becoming an iRead • iCount Volunteer!

iRead Program Dates: March 19 - April 26, 2024

This program helps kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling with literacy and math competencies in Champaign and Urbana primary schools. We need hundreds of volunteers in the classrooms this spring to work one-on-one with these students to help with literacy.

Why is This Volunteer Program so Important?

We have an achievement gap in our schools that has widened over the past couple of years. If we do not address it now, we will never close this gap.

Why This Matters:

- Reading and math are our most basic workforce skills.
- Workforce development is an economic development tool and an anti-poverty, anti-violence strategy for our community.

We Can Do Better for Our Community. We Have to Do Better for Our Community.

Quick Facts about Volunteering:

- Volunteers submit applications by **February 9, 2024** for processing.
- Approved volunteers will go online and sign up for school choice, day and time preference, and training session.
- Volunteers will attend one training session and one orientation session at their school.
- Volunteers spend one hour a week in the classrooms working one-on-one with early learners, helping build the students' basic reading skills.
- The reward of helping a child build these skills is immeasurable.

We have the responsibility and ability to help the future workforce generation succeed by strengthening the foundation for literacy and math education for our youngest, most vulnerable students now.

For more information and to sign up to volunteer:
www.champaigncounty.org/iread-icount

Questions?

Cheryl Barringer, iRead • iCount[®] Coordinator
303 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign, IL 61820

ireadicount@champaigncounty.org • 217.359.1791

2023 State Test Data

Champaign Unit 4 3rd Grade State Test

- 22.9 percent of students can meet or exceed in reading
- 27.2 percent of students can meet or exceed in math

Urbana District 116 3rd Grade State Test

- 7.9 percent of students can meet or exceed in reading
- 11.1 percent of students can meet or exceed in math

Partner Organizations



Youth News

Recently, I just got to hear my brother speak as the guest of honor at a Tourette's Gala in Houston, Texas. As some of you may or may not know, my brother has Tourette's syndrome. This exhibits itself in bodily/vocal tics that he cannot control.

His speech was literally incredible. First of all, it was hilarious. If you know him, that really isn't a surprise. Secondly, it had a really good message in it and that's what I wanted to share with you.

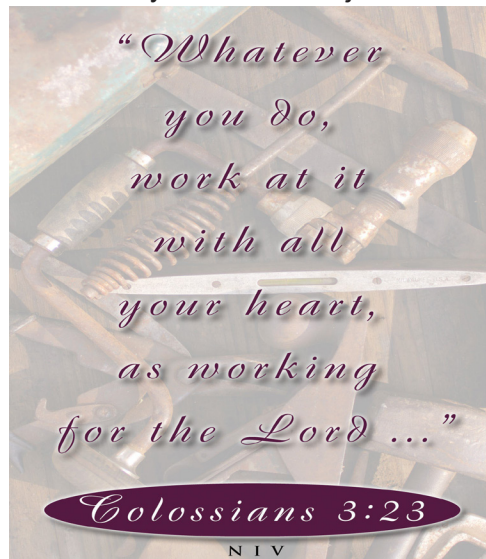
My brother is in grad school for landscape architecture. Due to his tics, it can take him more than double the time to make hand renderings of his designs than it does his classmates. He discussed the hopelessness that can happen when you have Tourette's. It can feel like your disorder is holding you back from doing what you want to do.

That being said, he pointed out that you **HAVE** to do things anyway as a part of society, so there are two choices. One is to do the bare minimum. The second is to find something you really want to do, and then just work *really, really hard* to accomplish what you want. He followed that up with this: "Always choose the latter. The former is just a waste of time." He continued to say that by just doing the bare minimum, you are still putting in the time, effort, and sometimes money, so you might as well do the best you can, so that your result is better than just alright.

He ended his speech by saying, "If you ask yourself, 'is this a thing I would want to do if my [insert challenge here] wasn't in the way?' if the answer is 'yes,' go ahead and do that thing."

I was struggling on how to end this...but I think his words say it best. So I'll just leave it there.

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

Friday, Feb. 9, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm - U of I Hockey Game - Meet at the church at 6:00 pm to ride in the van and cheer on the U of I Hockey team at the ice arena! Bring \$3 (plus more if you would like concessions). Dress warm!

Sunday, Feb. 11 - No Youth Group due to the Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 18 - No Youth Group, Presidents Day Weekend

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.

Thank You, Barb Alsup!



Thank you so much to Barb Alsup for her faithful service on the Wellspring Committee!

Here's a message from Barb: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Wellspring Committee. Wellspring: Health and Wellness Ministry began in February, 2006. At the urging of Alice Faron I joined the committee after I began assisting Rev. Terry Harter with pre-marital counseling. After retiring from Cunningham Children's Home I became interested in volunteering more at our church. Because of my social work/counseling background Terry suggested I train in a church related program, Prepare - Enrich. At the time the Wellspring committee's programming goals were to assist our congregation in managing their health and wellness needs. The committee's programs included Connecting Hearts, Stephen Ministries, Minds In Motion, Pre-Marital Counseling, GriefShare, Parish Nurse Services, and Transportation Services. Additional programs have been added in recent years. Wellspring programs have grown to become a vital component of church outreach. It has been my privilege to serve on this committee for many years. I always felt my integration into the congregation was the result of my work with this committee. I encourage all new members to seek an active role on a committee that is meaningful and fulfilling."

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 6 - Manzella's Italian Patio
February 13 - Big Grove
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.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 7, at 9:00 am in the Conference Room.

Dorcas Circle will not meet in February.

Sarah Circle will meet on Monday, February 19, at 6:00 pm at JoAnn Schlueter's home. Terry Benson will lead the program.



Sunday, February 18, 11:30 am

Handbell Intermezzo, Chancel Ringers
Friendship Center South

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

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
6 at 217-356-9078 and leave a message.



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 pineapple, canned fruit cocktail, Hamburger Helper, oatmeal packets, and toothbrushes.









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.

2024 Offering Envelopes

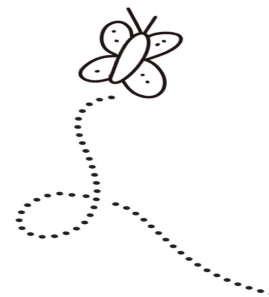
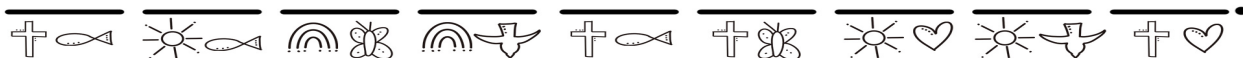
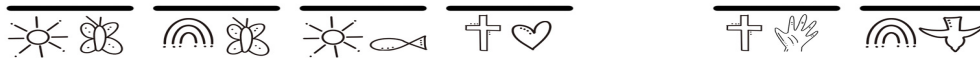
If you would like a supply of offering envelopes for 2024, they are available in the Church Office and in the Narthex. We have weekly sets (52 envelopes) and monthly sets (12 envelopes). The envelopes are dated but not pre-numbered.

Puzzle!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

P



Answers: Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.

Congregational Life of FUMC

February 16-29, 2024



- 16 Tim Deal
- 17 Jonathan Fotzler
- 17 Phyllis Robeson
- 18 Ann-Marie Best
- 19 Madeline Geis
- 19 Grace MacRae
- 21 John Ayers
- 21 Bill Hand
- 21 Adam Simmons
- 21 Seth Simmons

- 22 Emersen Geis
- 22 Jenna Martin
- 22 Althea Stockwell
- 24 Jeanne Kemper
- 25 Connie McCray
- 25 Gale Morenz-Rasch
- 25 Greg Moser
- 26 Matt Matuniak
- 27 Barbara Foil
- 27 Meredith Garreau
- 27 Hillary Veitch
- 28 Larry Askew
- 28 Julie Fredenburg
- 28 Josef Hallbeck

- 25 Ken & Kelli Kemper
- 25 Jake & Kelsie Sicinski
- 26 John & Sylvia Ronsvalle
- 28 Joseph & Marin Mattingly

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Elsie Skaggs.



Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Paul & Marie Djunga and family at the passing of Paul's father on January 28, 2024.

NEXT Messenger Deadline:
February 15, 2024
published on February 20
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!!!



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 6:30pm Beyler WCG 6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision 6:00pm Wrapped in His Love 6:30pm Clarinet Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am FUMCCC Dental Health Presentation 5:30pm Van Reserved for Youth Group 6:00pm Youth Group Trip to U of I Hockey Game</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Scouting Ministries 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 4:00pm Angel Choir 5:00pm Youth Music- CANCELLED</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>13</p> <p>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 DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Pack Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 12:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Committee</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM Coding Group 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:30pm Clarinet Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Van Reserved for Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Van Reserved for Venturing Crew 1 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>18</p> <p>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</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Office Closed 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY</p> </div>	<p>20</p> <p>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 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub</p>	<p>21</p> <p>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 Feb. 20 - Continued Scouts Pack 11 Den 7:15pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>22</p> <p>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</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:00pm Rosemary Mascarenhas Clarinet Recital</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>

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-
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(or can be found at no cost at www.champaignfumc.org.)*

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