



# 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. 6

March 19, 2024



*The pain of grief is just as much a part of life*

*as the joy of love;*

*it is, perhaps, the price we pay for love,*

*the cost of commitment.*

*--Colin Murray Parkes*

Dearly Beloved,

I recently said to someone, "I don't like this part of life where we say good-bye to so many loved ones. It feels like each death leaves a new hole in my heart." We have lost a couple of great friends from our church family lately: Kenny Wood and Ted Beach. The older people I know have weathered the loss of so many friends and family members, that I sometimes wonder where they find the strength to press on.

Then I remember! They have been practicing their faith for a lifetime! And practice makes us better at what we aim to do...trust God in every circumstance. Trusting God doesn't magically remove the pain of loss. But it helps. We pray and that helps, too. And we talk about those who have gone before us. We name them and remember them with bittersweet joy.

This works for other pain as well. We talk about it and we listen. A teacher on Facebook was responding to the tragic deaths of five people, three of them very young children, in a Schulyer-Industry bus and semi crash in Rushville, IL, this week. As she processed the pain she was feeling and how to discuss it with her own young children, she wrote, "I went back to my thought that I share with my students when we read or talk about tough things: If these people experienced it, we owe them the respect of talking about it, even if it makes us uncomfortable and sad. We come together when sad things happen and we show our love and support, because it means something. Then we prayed."

She was suggesting that we face and make space for the pain of others. Even if it makes us uncomfortable and sad. The Bible says it this way: *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* (Galatians 6:2) We show our love and support because it means something. And we pray.

A church family does this especially well. We bravely show up for one another, listen to one another, pray for one another, and walk through the valleys of life together. May any grief that is yours be lightened by the faith you have and the love you receive from your church family.

Love First,  
Pastor Julia



Come to the sanctuary for meditative scripture, song, and prayer this Wednesday. 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.

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



**Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 am Worship  
 Join in the Palm Processional. Meet in the Narthex at 10:25 am.  
 Holy Communion will be celebrated.

**Maundy Thursday Worship**

Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 pm Worship  
 Holy Communion will be celebrated.

**Good Friday Worship**

Friday, March 29 – 7:00 pm  
 Joint Worship with First Presbyterian Church in our sanctuary.  
 Remember the crucifixion of Christ on this dark and Holy Friday.

**Easter Sunday Celebration**

Sunday, March 31 – 10:30 am Worship  
 Rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall for Children and Youth.



**Sunday, March 31  
10:00 am - 10:30 am  
in Fellowship Hall**

Children and Youth of all ages are welcome to attend the annual Easter Egg Hunt before the service on Easter Sunday!

# **SPRING BAKE SALE!**

Presented by United Women in Faith

**PALM SUNDAY**

**March 24, 2024**



**Friendship Center**

**10 am - 11:30 am**

**All proceeds support UWF Mission Projects**

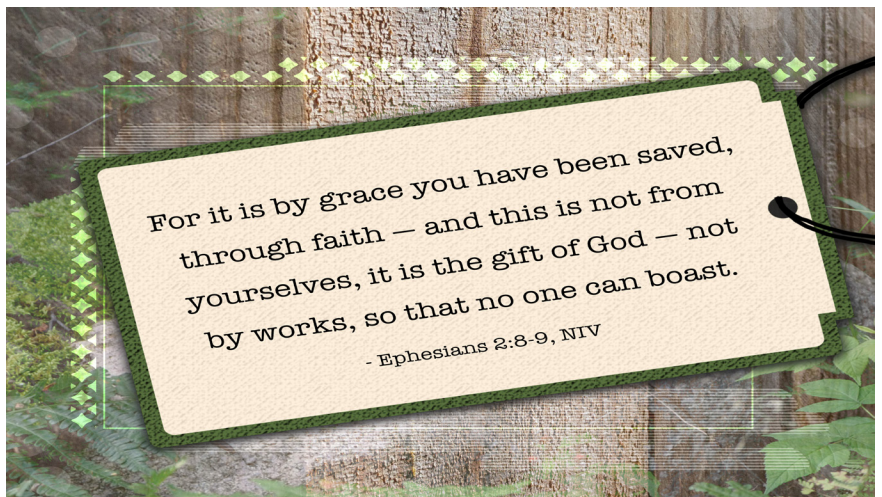
## Youth News

Recently, I've been thinking about the concept of extending grace. I am horrendous at responding promptly to texts (amongst other forms of communication as well). I have every good intention of responding quickly, but I think, "Oh! I want to write a good response to this! I will text them back later today when I have time!" All of a sudden, it's a week later and I totally forgot.

Obviously there are exceptions to this, like if it's about a serious matter, but typically, I completely accidentally forget more often than I would like to admit. Luckily, my friends understand my scatterbrained nature and do not hold this against me (or they just text again or call). How lucky I am to have people who extend grace to me when I do these unintentional - yet I'm sure annoying - things!

I cannot imagine all the unintentional, yet annoying things (and all the intentional things) that we do that God continually chooses to extend grace towards us regardless. God decides not to cut us off due to our bad actions, but instead gives us grace and forgiveness - all we have to do is ask!

Meredith  
meredith@champaignfumc.org



### Coming Events:

**Sunday, March 31 - No Youth Group Due to Easter**

**Sunday, March 31 - Youth Group Fundraiser with Mack Glass**

**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.

## 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.

## 20th Annual Flea Market & Bake Sale

**When:** Saturday, April 27, 2024  
from 7:00 am - 2:00 pm (come early)

**Where:** Countryside United Methodist Church  
1807 Co. Rd. 1000 N. (which is the road between Sidney and Philo)

*We'll be looking forward to seeing you at "The Old Country Church."*





United  
Women  
in Faith

**Palm Sunday Bake Sale** will be on Sunday, March 24, in Friendship Center.

**UWF Executive Board** will meet on Wednesday, April 3, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet on Wednesday, April 10, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North.  
Committee: Rae Ann Climpson and Cathy Ehler

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, April 15, at 6:00 pm at Terry Benson's home. Dawn Beyler will lead the Prayer & Self-Denial program.



**March 19 - Sam's Cafe**  
**March 26 - Martinelli'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.



# 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 2024 Partner Church

**Jeff VanCamp**  
Executive Director of  
Chaddock Children's Foundation

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sunday, April 7, 10:30 am**

Jazz Sunday

**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](http://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 cream style sweet corn, canned green beans, canned pears, vegetable or chicken noodle soup, and beef stew.***

***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](mailto: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.

## Together in Prayer

You are cordially invited to a community-wide, women's prayer breakfast on Saturday, April 20, at Stone Creek Church. Check in is at 8:30 am with breakfast, worship, and prayer to follow from 9-11 am. A donation of \$15 is requested at the door and proceeds benefit the El Roi House, a local home where young moms and children experiencing homelessness can gain a fresh start. Please contact [hobbs.abby@gmail.com](mailto:hobbs.abby@gmail.com) for reservations.

### El Roi

Offers a stable, nurturing home where young moms are equipped to receive God's love, learn practical skills and launch new lives.

### El Roi House History

After 13 years of ministry to team moms through Champaign County YoungLives, the staff and mentors identified the great need for stable housing. Right about this time, a wonderful Stone Creek Church couple communicated to their pastor a desire to donate their home for this use. Stone Creek agreed to cover the costs for the first year so, beginning in November 2022, the El Roi House ("God sees me") was home to our four single, young moms who would otherwise have been homeless.

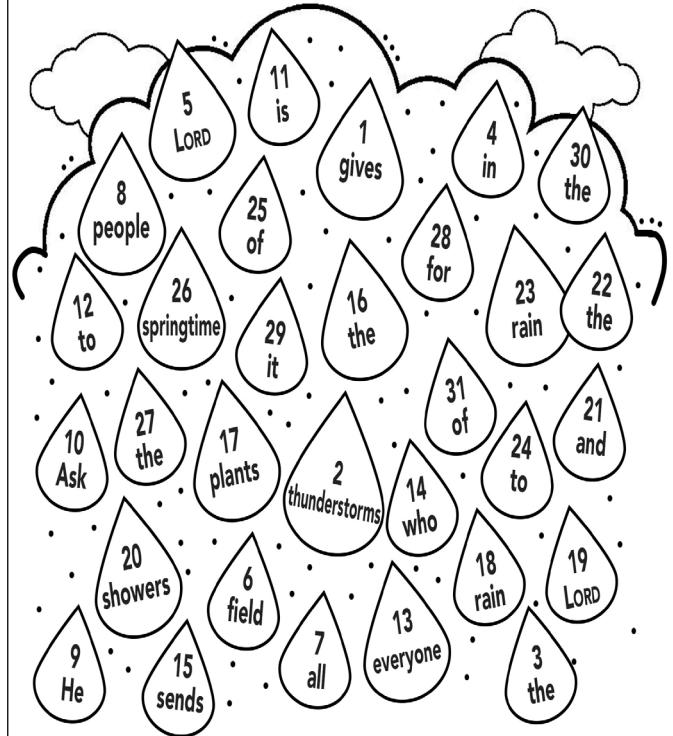
El Roi House is now its own, 501(c)3, non-profit organization and seeking funding to relieve the financial responsibility from Stone Creek Church. They are also searching for Christian women to staff the house and who can help provide a safe, nurturing environment in which young, single moms and their children can grow and thrive.

### Values

- Embody Christ's love and grace by offering healing and acceptance to young moms.
- Approach every mom with compassion for her past and hope for her future.
- Nurture every mom with intention to equip and empower her potential to grow.
- Surround every mom with a community of caring adults who can model and teach God's transformational love.

# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



\_\_\_\_\_ 10      \_\_\_\_\_ 16      \_\_\_\_\_ 5      \_\_\_\_\_ 28      \_\_\_\_\_ 18

\_\_\_\_\_ 4      \_\_\_\_\_ 22      \_\_\_\_\_ 26 ;

\_\_\_\_\_ 29      \_\_\_\_\_ 11      \_\_\_\_\_ 3      \_\_\_\_\_ 19      \_\_\_\_\_ 14      \_\_\_\_\_ 15

\_\_\_\_\_ 27      \_\_\_\_\_ 2 .

\_\_\_\_\_ 9      \_\_\_\_\_ 1      \_\_\_\_\_ 20      \_\_\_\_\_ 31      \_\_\_\_\_ 23

\_\_\_\_\_ 12      \_\_\_\_\_ 7      \_\_\_\_\_ 8 ,      \_\_\_\_\_ 21      \_\_\_\_\_ 17      \_\_\_\_\_ 25

\_\_\_\_\_ 30      \_\_\_\_\_ 6      \_\_\_\_\_ 24      \_\_\_\_\_ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants in the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV



# Congregational Life of FUMC

April 1-15, 2024



- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Paula Charter    | 10 Mary Clow        |
| 1 Payton Woods     | 11 Bob Cicone Jr    |
| 2 Judy Johnson     | 11 Faith Melchi     |
| 2 Howie Kemper     | 12 Julie Clark      |
| 2 Mindy Kolar      | 12 Rae Ann Climpson |
| 3 Jacqueline Corum | 13 Carol Bond       |
| 4 John Curtis      | 14 Ryan Berner      |
| 7 Wayne Whited     | 14 Susan Eades      |
| 9 Alex Charter     | 15 Larry Corum      |
| 9 Frances Donahoe  | 15 Carson Kemper    |
| 9 Catherine Ehler  | 15 Jim Till         |

12 Tom & Susan Veitch

## Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Devon Good and family at the passing of Devon's uncle, Alan Good, on February 20, 2024; to the family and friends of Lola Brown, who passed away on March 1, 2024; to Bev Lewman and family at the passing of Bev's daughter, Kathy Kelley, on March 7, 2024; and to Julie Fredenburg at the passing of her mother on March 7, 2024.

## Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks:



**NEXT Messenger Deadline:**  
**March 28, 2024**  
**published on April 2**

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to:  
[bberner@champaignfumc.org](mailto: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!!!





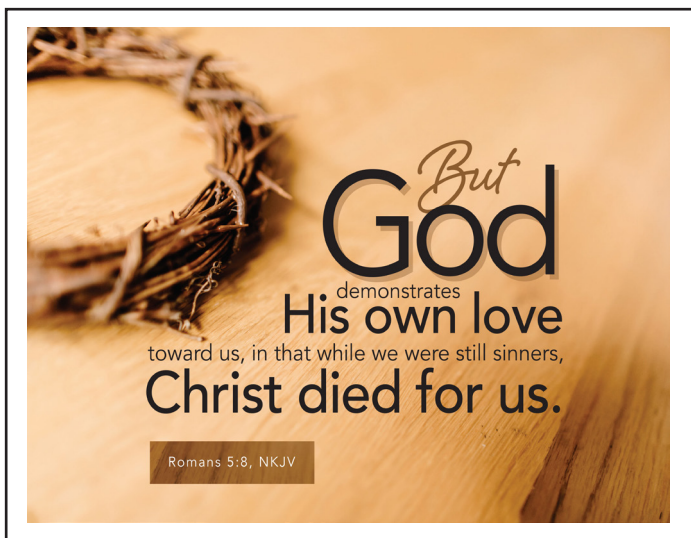
# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>17</b>  VAN Reserved for Sunday morning  9:00am UWF Signup Table Fundraiser  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</p>	<p><b>18</b>  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><b>19</b>  9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club  10:30am Program Staff Meeting  11:30am Walking Talking Lunch  Bunch - Sam's Cafe  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  5:30pm Board of Trustees- CANCELLED  5:30pm DREAAM Basketball  6:00pm Chancel Ringers  6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings  7:15pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee</p>	<p><b>20</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  <del>1:00pm Larson-WCG</del>  1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group  5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club  6:00pm Taizé  Worship Service  6:30pm Beyler WCG  6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den  7:00pm Chancel Choir  7:00pm FUMCCC Committee  7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p><b>21</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  4:00pm Confirmation Class  5:30pm DREAAM Basketball  5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club  6:30pm Clarinet Group  6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team</p>	<p><b>22</b>  5:30pm Setup for Pack 11 Pinewood Derby</p>	<p><b>23</b>  Cub Scouts Pack 11 Pinewood Derby</p>
<p><b>24</b>  Family Fun Sunday  Palm Sunday  VAN Reserved for Sunday morning  9:30am ARK Nursery  9:30am UWF Bake Sale  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</p>	<p><b>25</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  5:30pm LIFT Game Night  6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1  7:00pm Choral Union</p>	<p><b>26</b>  9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club  10:30am All Staff Meeting  11:30am Walking Talking Lunch  Bunch - Martinelli's  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</p>	<p><b>27</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group  1:30pm Racial Transformation Committee  5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club  7:00pm Chancel Choir  7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p><b>28</b>  Maundy Thursday  8:30am Messenger Deadline  10:00am Minds in Motion  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  4:00pm Confirmation Class  5:30pm DREAAM Basketball  5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club  6:30pm Clarinet Group  7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service  8:00pm Acoustic Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29</b>  FUMCCC Closed  Good Friday  7:00pm Joint Good Friday Worship with First Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>30</b>  9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p><b>31</b>  Easter  9:30am ARK Nursery  10:00am Church Service Check Ins  10:00am Easter Egg Hunt  10:30am In-Person Worship Service  10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>March 2 - Continued Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team</b></p>	<p><b>1</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1  7:00pm Choral Union</p>	<p><b>2</b>  10:30am Program Staff Meeting  11:30am Walking Talking Lunch  Bunch  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  5:30pm DREAAM Basketball  6:00pm Chancel Ringers  6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11</p>	<p><b>3</b>  9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group  5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club  6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den  7:00pm Chancel Choir  7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p><b>4</b>  1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program  4:00pm Confirmation Class  5:30pm DREAAM Basketball  5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club  6:30pm Clarinet Group  6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>  9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>

First United Methodist Church  
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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](http://www.champaignfumc.org).)*

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