



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. 5

March 5, 2024

Dearly Beloved!

Ever have a great idea, get excited about it, set the wheels in motion, and then discover you just can't pull it off? I'm experiencing that right now!

One plan that changed is our Pool and Pizza get together at Jupiter's Downtown. This change in plans happened due to circumstances outside our control. We were supposed to go on March 4: that is cancelled. **BUT WE HAVE A NEW DATE FOR PIZZA AND POOL: MARCH 11!**



But the other plan that has changed happened because I didn't gather a team to help me with my great idea. Supper with Friends was intended to be a gathering in homes around tables for a meal. Church people would host, other church people would bring the food, and we would get to know one another better. I had hoped for 8 hosts and 50 or so guests. I DO love this idea! I'd like to do it, but I need help! At any rate, we will NOT be doing this on March 18. Thank you to the people who offered to be hosts! We will try to do this in the future! With more leaders involved in planning! If you would like to be on a team that plans this, let me know.

I did not have help because I did not ask for help. This church family is good to respond and work together on projects; I thought I could do it myself. Lesson learned. Again.

Ecclesiastes teaches the importance of joining with others, remembering life is better when we work together!

Two are better than one,
 because they have a good return for their labor:
 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
 But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
 But how can one keep warm alone?
 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
 A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecc. 4:9-12)

Plans have changed. A lesson has been remembered. Working **together** we accomplish great things!

Love First!
Pastor 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

Rice Meal Packing Event



First UMC is joining with Faith UMC and Mahomet UMC on Wednesday, March 20, to pack rice meals for Midwest Missions Distribution Center. The event will begin with a meal starting at 5:00 pm. The rice meal packing will occur between 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. The website to sign up to participate is: <https://www.champaignfaith.org/events/rice-meal-packing-event>

We are hoping to have 10-12 people from our church to participate. We have done this type of event in the past, and it was a lot of fun!

Love First,
The Outreach Ministry Team



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

United Women in Faith District Salutes Sharon Johnson!

Sharon Johnson was honored as District Woman in Mission of the Year for 2023 by the Iroquois River District UWF.

Here are just some of the reasons we nominated Sharon Johnson. She is a role model for sharing her gifts of time, talents and service to God. She serves as unit secretary and Program Resource Coordinator, produces the annual yearbook for us, and assists with the publication of the UWF newsletter.

Sharon has coordinated homemade soup for Bazaars and Markets, faithfully attended district meetings, and participated in the Wrapped in His Love needlework group. She is an active member of Dorcas Circle and the Racial Transformation subcommittee. Sharon is of course also our church secretary!

There is no doubt that Sharon Johnson deserves recognition as Woman in Mission of the Year!

Youth News

My brother and I have always been close. Many times, Joseph will text me a video that he saw on social media. But at the same time, I will be saving the exact same video to send to him. Then, we both laugh as our texts send at the same time. Or I will tell Joseph I just watched an obscure TV show from our childhood. Then he will text me back that he also just watched the exact same show a day ago. Sometimes, we will be together and both respond to someone speaking to us with the same inside joke at the same time.

We aren't twins, but my brother calls this "twintuition." It's one of those funny moments of just being on almost the exact same mental wavelength as someone else.

What would being on the same mental wavelength as Jesus feel like? It's something that we strive to do as Christians every day! We try to act as Jesus did, love as He did, feel compassion as He did, worship as He did, serve as He did. We are continually trying to align ourselves to Jesus' will.

Additionally, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves - in that aspect, we are sort of already on a same mental wavelength. He knows us even better than the people who we may have "twintuition" with. Jesus knows when we are about to laugh before we do, what we are about to feel before we feel it, and what we think without us even saying a word. It's the highest form of connection.

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org



Coming Events:

Sunday, March 10 & 17 - No Youth Group Due to Spring Break

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.

UWF Snack Pantry Project Featured in National Magazine!

An article describing the UWF Snack Pantry Project appeared in the January/February 2024 issue of *response* magazine. *Response* is the official magazine of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women).



The UWF Snack Pantry provides a healthy snack at the end of the day for children at Dr. Howard Elementary School who may not have adequate food at home. We hope that other groups around the country will be inspired to begin a similar project to benefit neighborhood children.

The article, written by Communications Coordinator Carol Bond, includes a photo of Paula Charter taken by Sue Bachman. Paula, who heads the project, is pictured with a cart as she shops for snacks. The FUMC Outreach Team and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference are credited for funding the project.



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.

UMCOR Sunday on March 10

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church operating under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries.

UMCOR has been rebuilding hope for nearly 80 years. Thank you for being a part of this legacy.

Envelopes will be available at church on Sunday, March 10. Make checks payable to FUMC with *UMCOR Sunday* on the memo line.



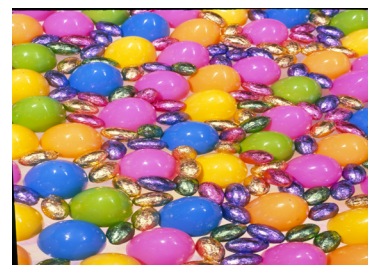
March 5 - Rainbow Garden (drive to)
March 12 - La Bahia
March 19 - Sam's Cafe
March 26 - Martinelli's

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.

FUMC Needs Candy

We need candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please bring bags of individually wrapped Easter candy to the church by Sunday, March 24, if you would like to donate. Thank you!



Palm Sunday Bake Sale! FUMC Bakers, we'd like your help!

Please stop at the UWF table in Friendship Center
on March 10 or 17 to let us know what
you'd like to add to our festive sale.



*All proceeds support the mission work
of United Women in Faith.*

“Friendship

*is being with the other in joy
and sorrow, even when we
cannot increase the joy or
decrease the sorrow.*

*It is a unity of souls that gives
nobility and sincerity to love.
Friendship makes all of life
shine brightly.”*

—HENRI NOUWEN



Countdown General Conference 2024

Our Illinois Great Rivers Conference churches and leaders are invited to learn more about our denomination's upcoming global legislative meeting General Conference 2024. This body of elected delegates from around the world will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, from April 23 through May 4 to deliberate policy, doctrine, and denominational statements for The United Methodist Church. You're invited to learn more about General Conference and to preview some of their discussions through our online GC24 Countdown, which will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning on March 6 and ending on April 17.

Hosted by our Director of Connectional Ministries, Curtis Brown, we will include presentations and discussions on various topics, including:

March 6 - What is General Conference and How Does It Work?

March 13 - Revised Social Principles

March 20 - Global Regionalization Legislation

March 27 - New Clergy Pension Plan

April 3 - Continuance/Removal of LGBTQ Restrictive Language

April 10 - Discussion of Other Legislation and Actions

April 17 - General Conference Overview and Prayer for Delegates



To join GC24 Countdown, you will need to use a device that can access this Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82851896863?pwd=EAOWPJTWHYadzBw5g3sggrWtyUg6l.1>

Meeting ID: 828 5189 6863

Passcode: 649797

You may also dial in on a phone connection, but you will only have the ability to listen to the presentations: (646) 931-3860.

Meeting ID: 828 5189 6863

Passcode: 649797

We will be recording the meetings and presentations, if you would like to review them at a later time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Curtis Brown, cbrown@igrc.org, and please join us as we surround our delegates, our leaders, our churches, and our denomination in prayer for preparation of General Conference 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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
8 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: flour (2 lb bag),
canned pepper, beef stew, and pasta sauce.***

***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

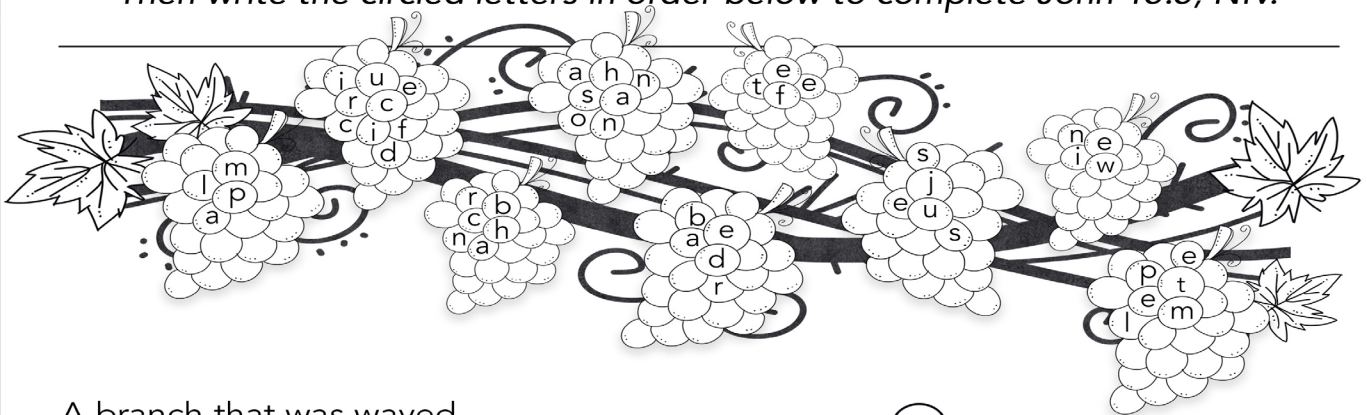
If you would like a supply of offering envelopes for 2024, they are available in the Church Office and in the Narthex. We have weekly sets (52 envelopes) and monthly sets (12 envelopes). The envelopes are dated but not pre-numbered.





A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _____○
- How Jesus was put to death _____○_____
- A stick attached to the vine _____○_____
- People shouted this to Jesus _____○_____
- Jesus washed these  _____○_____
- This was broken and eaten _____○_____
- The Messiah _____○_____ 
- A drink from grapes _____○_____
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _____○_____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____; apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*

Congregational Life of FUMC

March 16-31, 2024



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 17 Judy Schmisser | 22 Chin Kim |
| 18 Kathy Doll | 22 James Lusk |
| 18 Brian Ellenberger | 22 Tyler Walters |
| 19 Ella Schwenk | 23 Scott Garreau |
| 19 Christavi Tshomba | 23 Annie Gordon |
| 20 Sarah Kusaya | 23 Owen Gordon |
| 20 Julie Nichols | 25 Nancy Barenberg |
| 20 Cherry Sutton | 27 Mary Bamert |
| 21 Jason Tompkins | 27 Chris Hinesly |
| | 28 Sara Fredrickson |
| | 28 Madison Rice |
| | 29 Mike Weber |
| | 31 Terry MacRae |



- 18 Robert & Judy Schmisser
- 20 Steve & Sandy Burgener

Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Karen Wood and family at the passing of her husband, Kenny Wood, on February 28, 2024.



Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: David Berner, Dawn Beyler, and Carolyn Schaefer.



NEXT Messenger Deadline:
March 14, 2024
published on March 19
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!!!



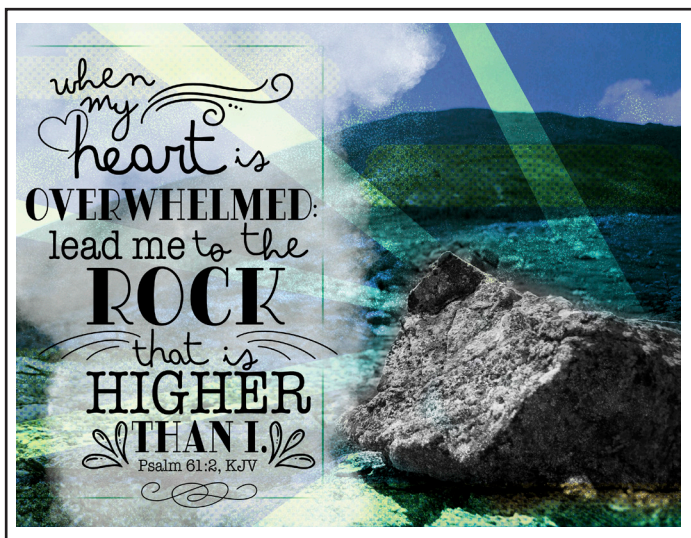
March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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</p>	<p>4 12:00pm Lunch at Jupiter's Downtown-CANCELLED 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Kenny Wood Funeral 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>5 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Rainbow Garden (drive to) 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team</p>	<p>6 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm Wellspring 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</p>	<p>7 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:30pm Clarinet Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:30am UWF Special Program</p>
<p>10 Daylight Saving Time Begins UMCOR Sunday 9:00am UWF Signup Table 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 Gene Larson Meeting 5:00pm Youth Music VAN Reserved for Sunday morning</p>	<p>11 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 12:00pm Pizza & Pool at Jupiter's Downtown 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Foertsch WCG 7:00pm Young Adults WCG</p>	<p>12 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - La Bahia 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings</p>	<p>13 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Larson WCG 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:00pm Taizé Worship Service 6:30pm Beyler WCG 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1</p>	<p>14 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break 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</p>	<p>15 FUMCCC Closed for Spring Break</p>	<p>16 9:00am DREAAM Basketball</p>
<p>17 VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 9:00am UWF Signup Table 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>18 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>19 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</p>	<p>20 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 6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1 March 19 - Continued 7:15 Staff-Parish Relations Committee</p>	<p>21 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:30pm Clarinet Group</p>	<p>22 5:30pm Setup for Pack 11 Pinewood Derby</p>	<p>23 Cub Scouts Pack 11 Pinewood Derby</p>

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.)*



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