



# 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. 8

April 16, 2024



Join FUMC Angel Choir in worship on April 28 at 10:30 am for the last Family Fun Sunday of the semester! Angel Choir will present the musical *Mission: Possible!* Invite your friends and family to come and see Angel Choir show us that no matter where we are, and no matter what our talents are, we all have a mission to spread the good news of God's love! Come to join the fun and support the hard work that the Angel Choir has put into preparing this special message.



# *The Music of the Spheres*

MAY 5, 2024

10:30 AM

MAJOR MUSIC SUNDAY

CHANCEL CHOIR, CHANCEL RINGERS  
PERCEPTIONS PRAISE TEAM, YOUTH MUSIC  
ORCHESTRA

# *Choral Union Spring Concert*

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

7:00 PM

First UMC, Champaign – 210 W Church Street

Featuring:  
Selections from Johannes Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*  
*Feel the Spirit* by John Rutter

Special Guest: THE CLARINET GROUP

Free Admission    Donations Appreciated

## Clothing for Danville Correctional Center's Newly Released Offenders



During the month of April, we again have the opportunity to participate in a program of the Danville Correctional Center to provide good used men's clothing for at least half of those 500 offenders who are released each year with few assets to their name (only prison clothing). Offenders about to be released can select clothing which can give them a sense of self-worth as they step back out into the world.

A labeled box is provided in the Resource Room for donations of all sizes of men's clothing. Especially needed are men's jeans, pants, shirts, shoes, and jackets. Please do not include any belts, ties, suspenders, or hangers. We ask that you make your donations between April 1-28, 2024. The church office will be open from 10 am to 3:00 pm weekdays for you to drop off your items, or you can bring them on Sunday morning.

We will be joining other churches in our area in this program. Please remember the deadline for this spring collection is April 28. We would like to thank Bob Clark from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for picking up and transporting our donated clothing to Danville.

Thank you for your help.

Larson Wesley Covenant Group



## Green Team Notes: April, Earth Month

April is the official "Earth Month", with Monday, April 22, being "Earth Day" for 2024. When asked what each of us can do to contribute to the health of our planet, our Faith in Place support person, Cindy Shepherd, responded with a smile and these two recommendations: 1) use air travel less; 2) avoid eating meat! – knowing these two things were probably difficult, at best, for most of us. Yet, these were Cindy's immediate suggestions for some very good reasons. The fossil fuels burned by airplanes release CO2 emissions and strong warming non-CO2 effects due to nitrogen oxide vapor trails, contributing significantly to global warming. Cows alone are responsible for 40% of methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas, not to mention the deforestation and land use conversion, along with other environmental effects, such as excessive water usage worldwide.

So, what else can you do to help our ailing planet? Here are some everyday things you can do to fight global warming and improve our planet's health:

- Change your home's energy source, such as use solar energy and LED light bulbs, wash clothes with cold water, replace an oil or gas furnace with an electric heat pump
- Switch to an electric vehicle
- Walk, bike, or take public transportation when possible
- Compost food waste and throw away less food
- Eat more vegetables
- Plant native species
- Buy locally and from companies committed to reducing gas emissions and waste
- Reduce, recycle, reuse

While you may not be able to or ready to give up air travel or become a vegetarian, reducing air travel and meat consumption can still contribute to a healthier planet. Along with these other, feasible actions, we each have an opportunity now to make a difference. For an interesting and often uplifting view of ways to help our planet, Jane Goodall's 2021 book, "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times" is one suggested helpful and appropriate Earth Month read!





## Youth News

Do you know the books of the Bible in order? I would guess that most people don't. When I was younger, my mom taught my brother and me a song to help us memorize the books of the Bible in order. I can still remember the song to this day, and it helps me locate what I want to find in the Bible quickly. Pastor Julia also learned this song and the poor Confirmation class has heard our singing skills a few times now.

Is it necessary to memorize the books of the Bible? No, most people probably use the table of contents at the beginning. But it is a helpful tool to have and it helped me think about the setup of the Bible - like why certain books are placed where they are, even if they might be older than the books that come before them. That's why we're going over it a little bit in Confirmation. If you have any tricks or tips about navigating the Bible (like how Psalms is about halfway through, etc.), let me know! We're always looking for more practical ways to make it easier to read and understand the Bible!

Meredith  
Meredith@champaignfumc.org



### Coming Events:

**Sunday, April 21, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - ASP Study Session**

**Monday, April 22 - ASP Fundraiser at El Toro on Springfield**

**Sunday, May 5, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Youth Group Finale!**

**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

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, April 15, at 6:00 pm at Terry Benson's home. No meetings in May, June, July, or August.

**UWF Executive Board** will meet on Wednesday, May 1, at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet on Wednesday, May 8, at 2:00 pm in Friendship Center North. Committee: TBD



## 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: pork & beans, rice, canola oil, and salt.***



**April 16 - Manzella's Italian Patio (driving)**

**April 23 - Jupiter's**

**April 30 - 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.



**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.**

## BIBLE READING PLAN:

# Choose YOUR OWN JOURNEY



Head out on a month-long exploration through God's Word. Each day's quest comes with some options. Choose from a prayer, a parable, a gospel reading or an epistle reading. If you have more time or use this Bible Reading Plan more than once a day, read the rest of the passages too.

### 1. GRATITUDE

- Prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
- Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### 2. TRUST

- Prayer: Psalm 28:6-9
- Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

### 3. PRAISE

- Prayer: Exodus 15:1-18
- Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

### 4. LOVE

- Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11
- Gospel: Mark 12:28-33
- Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

### 5. PRAYER

- Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- Parable: Luke 18:10-14
- Epistle: Ephesians 6:17-20

### 6. OBEDIENCE

- Parable: Matthew 21:28-32
- Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

### 7. PATIENCE

- Parable: James 5:7-11
- Epistle: Romans 8:22-25

### 8. WISDOM

- Prayer: 1 Kings 3:3-9
- Parable: Matthew 7:24-27
- Epistle: James 3:13-18

### 9. CALLING

- Prayer: Isaiah 6:1-8
- Epistle: 1 Peter 2:9-10

### 10. FORGIVENESS

- Prayer: 1 Kings 8:46-53
- Parable: Matthew 18:21-35
- Gospel: Luke 23:32-34

### 11. JOY

- Prayer: Psalm 16
- Parable: Luke 15:1-10
- Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

### 12. RESTORATION

- Prayer: Psalm 51:10-19
- Gospel: John 2:19-22

### 13. STEWARDSHIP

- Parable: Luke 12:16-21
- Gospel: Luke 21:1-4
- Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

### 14. HUMILITY

- Parable: Luke 14:7-14
- Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

### 15. REFUGE

- Prayer: Psalm 121
- Gospel: John 17:11-19

### 16. MIRACLES

- Prayer: Matthew 14:13-21
- Gospel: Mark 9:14-24

### 17. FRUITFULNESS

- Parable: Matthew 25:14-30
- Gospel: John 15:1-8
- Epistle: James 2:14-24

### 18. UNITY

- Prayer: John 17:20-23
- Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

### 19. PROVISION

- Prayer: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- Parable: John 10:1-18
- Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

### 20. PEACE

- Prayer: Isaiah 26:1-13
- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

### 21. JUSTICE

- Prayer: 1 Kings 8:56-61
- Parable: Matthew 20:1-16

### 22. PERSISTENCE

- Prayer: James 5:13-18
- Parable: Luke 18:1-8

### 23. EVANGELISM

- Prayer: Acts 4:23-31
- Epistle: Romans 10:9-15

### 24. FAITHFULNESS

- Prayer: Nehemiah 8:1-13
- Parable: Matthew 21:18-22

### 25. SUFFERING

- Prayer: Job 19:21-27
- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

### 26. GROWTH

- Prayer: Colossians 1:9-14
- Parable: Mark 4:26-29

### 27. MERCY

- Parable: Luke 10:30-37
- Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16

### 28. SALVATION

- Prayer: Acts 2:22-36
- Parable: Luke 16:19-31
- Gospel: John 3:16-17

### 29. READINESS

- Prayer: Luke 1:46-55
- Parable: Matthew 25:1-13

### 30. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- Parable: Matthew 13:31-33
- Gospel: John 14:1-4

### 31. BLESSING

- Prayer: Numbers 6:24-27
- Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24





## Scholarship Fund

FUMC has a scholarship for our youth (and previous youth) who are advancing their education! If you are interested, all the information can be found below!

First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the Clyde Lee and Jane Cecilia Baker Endowment Fund Scholarship on behalf of Professor Jack Sherman Baker. This scholarship is available to current and previous youth who have been active in the youth and/or music ministries of FUMC. It is available for advanced education, including community/junior college, 4-year college/university, or accredited trade school.

Applications can be obtained by contacting the church office and must be turned in for consideration by April 28, 2024.

### 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.



## First United Methodist Church Appalachia Service Project Fundraiser

El Toro Bravo likes to give back to the community and will be hosting a fundraiser for FUMC youth going to build homes this summer for the Appalachia Service Project!

**The fundraiser date is April 22, 2024.**

This is how the fundraiser works....

- \* Tell everyone you know (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) to enjoy a meal at **El Toro Bravo – 2561 W. Springfield Ave., Champaign, any time on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> .....Dine-In or Carry-Out!! Giftcards count too!!!!**
- \* Fill out the bottom of this flier with the information off of your El Toro bill.
- \* Give it to your cashier or wait staff and.....You're done!! It's that simple.

El Toro Bravo will donate 20% of your bill to the First United Methodist Church for the ASP project!! Funds raised will go towards travel expenses and materials for youth going to build/repair homes for the Appalachia Service Project.

**Help us support this important youth mission trip!  
GIFTCARDS, Dine-in, and Carry-out orders all count!**

XX

**Organization: First United Methodist Church**

**Donation Day:** Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 (open to close)

**Guest Check Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (before sales tax)

**Location:** El Toro Bravo – 2561 W. Springfield Ave., Champaign



Please present this flier when you pay your bill!



# Congregational Life of FUMC

May 1-15, 2024



- 1 Jim Smith
- 2 Aidan Moberg
- 2 Marie Till
- 2 Gwen Uppinghouse
- 3 Todd Boehm
- 5 Olivia Proctor
- 6 Dale Myers

- 8 Grant Henry
- 9 Scott Kemper
- 10 Daniel Bodony
- 10 Erwin Hoffman
- 10 Barbara Mitchell
- 12 Cindy Hand

5 John & Kathy Doll

## Hospital Report

**Hospitalized in the last two weeks:** Allen Beyler and Mary Lou Gannaway.



## 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:**  
**April 25, 2024**

**published on April 30**

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

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!!!





# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>14</b> Native American Ministries Sunday VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 9:00am VBS 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 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>15</b> 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	<b>16</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Manzella's Italian Patio (driving) 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	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:00pm FUMCCC Sensory Processing Training 6:30pm Clarinet Group 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
<b>21</b> VAN Reserved for Sunday morning 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 4:30pm ASP Study Session 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>22</b> ASP El Toro Fundraiser 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	<b>23</b> 8:00am FUMCCC Vision/Hearing Screenings 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club-CANCELLED 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Jupiter'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 7:15pm Administrative Council	<b>24</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	<b>25</b> 8:30am Messenger Deadline 10:00am Minds in Motion 11:30am Foundation 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 5:30pm DREAAM STEAM Lab Club 6:30pm Clarinet Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 3:00pm Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir Musical
<b>28</b> Family Fun Sunday 9:30am ARK Nursery 10:00am Church Service Check Ins 10:30am FUMC Angel Choir presents Mission: Possible 10:30am In-Person Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service On Facebook, YouTube, Website 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>29</b> 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:00pm LIFT Game Night 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	<b>30</b> 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Esquire 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM	<b>1</b> 9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:00pm Wellspring Committee 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den	<b>2</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	<b>3</b> April 30 - Continued Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings	<b>4</b> 8:30am Major Music Rehearsal Choir Warm-Up 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 9:00am Major Music Rehearsal

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

#### First United Methodist Church Ministry Team

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