

#### 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

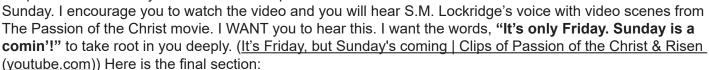
Volume XXXII, No. 7 April 2, 2024

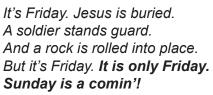
Dearly Beloved,

As I write this, it is Maundy Thursday, not yet Easter. My mind knows most of you will read this in the days following our highest and holiest day. Your spirits will be singing Alleluia with joy! As you should!

But my heart is not there yet. I **know** Sunday's coming and Jesus is risen. But I'm not quite to the Alleluias yet. Holy Week's story of Jesus' betrayal by Judas, Peter's denial, the violence of whipping, and the pain of crucifixion insist on my attention.

So I'll share with you my favorite sermon. It is brilliant. Truly a masterpiece. And it's less than four minutes long. It captures the pain of Good Friday and the incredible promise of Easter





-By S.M. Lockridge—African American pastor from 1953–1993

The journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday mirrors the journey of our own lives – filled with moments of pain, doubt, and despair, but also moments of joy, hope, and renewal. It is a journey that challenges us to confront our own struggles and weaknesses, yet it is also a journey that offers the promise of redemption and transformation.

As we celebrate Easter together as a church family, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's love. Let us embrace the message of hope and renewal that Easter offers, and let us share that message with others who are in need of encouragement and comfort. Whatever trials you face, whenever you face them, remember - Sunday's coming! May the hope of Easter's victory be yours!

Love First, Pastor Julia





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



#### 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.



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.

#### 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.

## 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



#### **Sing with Major Music!**



Love to sing but can't make a year-long commitment?

Never fear, YOU are welcome to join Chancel Choir for Major Music Sunday!

Rehearsals at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Choir Room.

Orchestra rehearsal on Saturday morning, May 4. Major Music Sunday is May 5.

Contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net) or the church office (217-356-9078) for additional details.

#### Native American Ministries Sunday April 14, 2024

On April 14, you will have the opportunity to donate to a Churchwide Special Sunday. Your generous gift provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians, strengthens and develops Native American ministries and communities, both urban and rural, and supports Native American outreach at the annual conference level. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries.

Envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Friendship Center. You can also mail your check payable to FUMC to 210 W Church St, Champaign, IL 61820 with "Native American Ministries Sunday" written on the memo line, or go online to www.champaignfumc.org and click on GIVE. Be sure to designate your gift for Native American Ministries Sunday.

Thank you!

#### **Youth News**

Confirmation has started up at the church and we began by learning about Christianity, Methodism, and John Wesley. After they had learned a bit about the history of Methodism and its founder, I challenged them to a game: could they identify if a quote was said by John Wesley...or a celebrity? They did pretty well, but some of the quotes definitely stumped them! Let me know how you do!

- 1. "Keep your nose out to the sky, keep your heart to God, and keep your face to the raising sun."
- 2. "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can."
- 3. "Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn."
- 4. "All we are is skin and bone."
- 5. "It is important in this journey to remember that just because someone has inflicted hurt upon us, it does not give us the right to do the same."
- 6. "I do find that there's a fine balance between preparation and seeing what happens naturally."
- 7. "Though I am always in haste, I am never in a hurry."
- 8. "I close my eyes and pray for the broken-hearted."
- 9. "The best thing of all is God is with us."
- 10. "I felt my heart strangely warmed."



(Answers: 1. Celebrity - Kanye West, 2. John Wesley, 3. John Wesley, 4. Celebrity - Taylor Swift, 5. Celebrity - Zendaya, 6. Celebrity - Timothée Chalamet, 7. John Wesley, 8. Celebrity - Justin Bieber, 9. John Wesley, 10. John Wesley)

#### **Coming Events:**

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

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

**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)

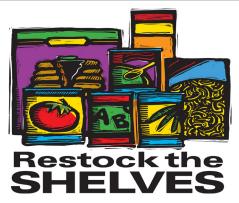
We'll be looking forward to seeing you at "The Old Country Church."



**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

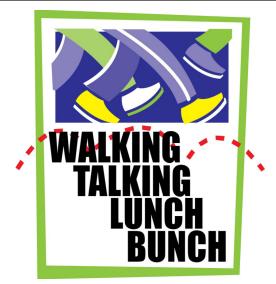
**Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, April 15, at 6:00 pm at Terry Benson's home. Dawn Beyler will lead the Prayer & Self-Denial program.



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 Spam, canned Vienna Sausages, canned Beanie Weenies, laundry detergent, and Dawn dishwashing liquid.



April 2 - Guido's

April 9 - Sam's Cafe

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.

#### **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.

# Puzze!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house
Blooms that have petals
Spring precipitation
Puffy and white in the sky
Soil
Lawn
Must be weeded and tended
Tiptoe through these
Baby sheep
We need food and this
God made this from nothing
A sign of God's promise
These, in April, bring May flowers

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	27	28	29			•	
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73		1			5	2		3		7

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

#### **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 <a href="mailto:hobbs.abby@gmail.com">hobbs.abby@gmail.com</a> 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.

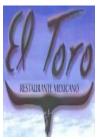
#### El Roi House History

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.



## 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!

**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

n

Please present this flier when you pay your bill!

#### Congregational Life of FUMC

April 16-30, 2024



- 16 Benedicte Tshomba
- 17 Bonnie Whiteside
- 18 Aaron Chapman
- 18 Linda Faullin
- 19 Linda Rawlings
- 20 Austin Ray
- 20 Ryan Weldon
- 21 Lea Tshomba
- 23 Kathy Reineke
- 24 Lilly Kant
- 26 Bob Parkhill

- 27 Nicholas Bodony
- 27 Kyle Curtis
- 27 Joseph Mattingly
- 27 Wayne Weber
- 28 Susan Weber
- 29 Susan Hinesly
- 30 Al Boehm
- 30 Jaxon Pendleton
- 30 Eric Robeson
- 30 David Weible



- 17 Justin Craft & Rachel Berner
- 17 Josef & Helen Hallbeck

#### **Deaths**

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Christine Stover and family at the passing of Christine's dad, Jaye Stover, on March 19, 2024, in Texas; and to the family and friends of Sylvia Herzog, who passed away on March 30, 2024.



#### **Hospital Report**

Hospitalized in the last two weeks: Gene Larson and Matt Matuniak.



#### 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 11, 2024 published on April 16 Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: bberner@champaignfumc.org

or brought to church.



#### April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Baster 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	1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	Morning Book Club 10:30am Program Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Guido's 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 3:30pm Taco Tuesday	9:30am United Women in Faith Executive Board 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 5:15pm Leadership Visioning Team 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 6:30pm Pack 11 Kindergarten Den 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1		5	9:00am DREAAM Basketball	
Jazz 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 6:00pm Youth Group	8 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Sam's Cafe 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program	Afterschool Program 1:00pm Wednesday 30am All Staff eting 30am Walking King Lunch Inch - Sam's Electron Opm DREAAM Inch - Sam's Inch -		12	9:00am DREAAM Basketball 12:00pm Private 50th Wedding Anniversary Party	
Native American Ministries Sunday 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 5:00pm Youth Music 6:00pm Youth Group	Afterschool Program 6:00pm Sarah	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	Kindergarten Den 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm Venturing	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 Meetings	19	9:00am DREAAM Basketball	

First United Methodist Church 210 W Church Street Champaign IL 61820

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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 <a href="www.champaignfumc.org">www.champaignfumc.org</a>.)

#### **First United Methodist Church Ministry Team**

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