



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 Sunday. I encourage you to watch the video and you will hear S.M. Lockridge's voice with video scenes from The Passion of the Christ movie. I WANT you to hear this. I want the words, "**It's only Friday. Sunday is a comin'!**" to take root in you deeply. ([It's Friday, but Sunday's coming | Clips of Passion of the Christ & Risen \(youtube.com\)](#)) Here is the final section:



*It's Friday. Jesus is buried.
A soldier stands guard.
And a rock is rolled into place.
But it's Friday. **It is only Friday.
Sunday is a comin'!***

-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

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



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."

Confirmation Class



(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."



United
Women
in Faith

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.



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 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.

Puzzle!

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										

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."

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

Hospital Report

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



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.

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.



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!!!



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 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	1 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	2 9:00am Tuesday 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 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Den Meetings 7:15pm Worship Ministry Team	3 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	4 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	5	6 9:00am DREAAM Basketball
7 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	9 9:00am Tuesday Morning Book Club 10:30am All Staff Meeting 11:30am Walking Talking Lunch Bunch - Sam's Cafe 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 5:30pm DREAAM Basketball 6:00pm Chancel Ringers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 11 Pack Meeting	10 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 1:00pm Wednesday Recovery Group 2:00pm Dorcas Circle 5:30pm DREAAM Robotics Club 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm FUMCCC Committee 7:30pm Venturing Crew 1	11 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 6:30pm Perceptions Praise Team	12	13 9:00am DREAAM Basketball 12:00pm Private 50th Wedding Anniversary Party
14 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	15 1:00pm DREAAM Afterschool Program 6:00pm Sarah Circle 6:30pm Scouts BSA Troop 1 7:00pm Choral Union	16 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	17 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 April 16 - Continued Scouts Pack 11 Den 7:15pm Finance Committee	18 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 Meetings	19	20 9:00am DREAAM Basketball

First United Methodist Church
210 W Church Street
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
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