



# 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 XXVI, No. 1

January 10, 2018

### What We Have Heard and Seen

As an intuitive personality type, I tend to notice anything that cannot be seen, heard, smelled, touched, or tasted. To say it a different way, it can take a while for me to notice the things we take in through our five senses because I'm typically trying to pick up on the "something more." To put it yet one more way, I often have my head in the clouds.

On Christmas Eve, a little girl who is relatively new to our church made a beeline to me following the 4:00 p.m. worship service. I had finished greeting worshipers at the door and had returned to the chancel area to organize a few things in preparation for the 7:00 service (I also have a strong pragmatic side) when she approached me with a simple piece of yellow paper from a writing tablet.

The girl's mom explained how her daughter had asked her to write the words "For Pastor Tom" and "Love," but then the little girl wanted to sign her name herself, so she did. It was a piece of her own artwork. I have to admit there are few gifts I receive as a pastor that mean any more to me than a child's artwork. (Remember, I'm always seeking meaning because meaning is something you can't see, hear, smell, touch, or taste. And what's more meaningful than a child drawing a picture just for you?)

As you might expect on Christmas Eve, the picture features a

manger scene, complete with smiling Mary, smiling Joseph, and a sleeping baby Jesus. And there is a golden star at the top and an angel. The angel is red—very red, with a face (smiling like Mary's and Joseph's), arms, feet, and (of course) wings.

What took a while (again, it's the head in the clouds thing, the basking in the deeper meaning bit, and the feelings you get when you are the recipient of a beautiful piece of art like this made by a child just for you, because I'm a feeling type too though I often hide them)—what took a few days, in fact, was figuring out that the angel is red because I think the artist took it directly from the scene in front of the pulpit in the sanctuary. I can see the outline of the pulpit in the picture if I look. It's brown.

Perhaps I finally made the connection because I had taken a picture of it myself and, in fact, had set it as the wallpaper on my phone, a photo perhaps being the closest I could come to my younger artist's artwork upon noticing the same, very visible thing. Maybe the visible doesn't always escape me after all.

It seems, then, you never know what a child will see. You can never be certain what she will notice, what will capture her attention, when she comes to worship. The same is true for an adult, I suspect. You never know how a

piece of music will inspire, how singing a hymn or praise song will move, how being spoken to (or even being the one to speak to a stranger or a friend) will encourage, how something visual will leave an imprint on the mind or the heart, or even how the smell of the coffee or the taste of the treat will satisfy a deeper longing. In other words, I am taken lately by the thought of all that is happening around us on even an ordinary Sunday morning that we may miss if we have our heads in the clouds.

Luke tells us at the end of the Christmas Eve gospel that while Mary "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart," something an intuitive type like me would do, "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

The First Letter of John opens by saying, "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life."

Oh yes, the word of life! That's what it is! In this New Year, let's make an effort to notice more of what's going on around us here—and what it all really means.

Lowering My Gaze,  
*Rev. Tom Corum*  
Directing Pastor

## You Are Welcome to Join a Musical Group this Spring!

Contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net or 540-553-1631) with questions, or just come. There is something for everyone, and we would love to have you join us.

Sundays - 4:00 in Room E, Kids Choir (grades 2-5)

Sundays - 5:00 in Choir Room, Youth Music (grades 6-12)

Mondays - 7:00 in Choir Room, Choral Union (community chorus begins Jan. 22)

Tuesdays - 6:00 in the Balcony, Chancel Ringers

Wednesdays - 7:00 in Choir Room, Chancel Choir

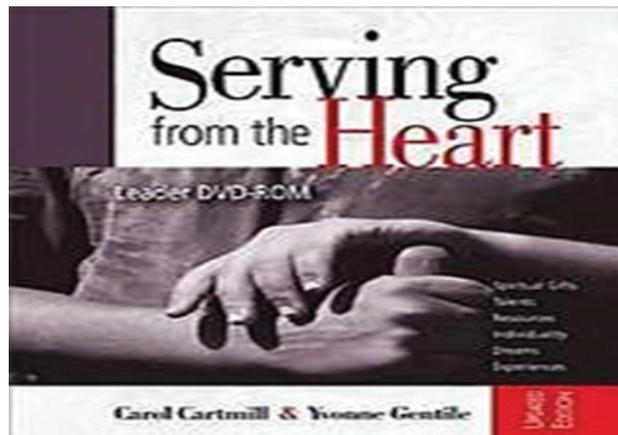
Thursdays, 6:30 in Sanctuary, Perceptions Praise Team



## Human Relations Day Offering on January 14

On Sunday, January 14, we will have a special offering for Human Relations Day. Your generous gift supports the Community Developers Program and community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services, related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation program, General Board of Church and Society. Offering envelopes will be in Sunday's worship bulletins.

## All-Church Lenten Study February - March 2018



God's plan for the church calls for each member of the Body of Christ to play a vital role. Sometimes we think serving God is an obligation, a duty, and it isn't meant to be enjoyable. The truth is, though, God wants us to find joy and fulfillment when we serve. That happens when we serve in a role that matches who God created us to be.

Take a 6-week journey of self-discovery and learn more about how the Body of Christ is intended to function, and what that means to you. Explore your spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, resources, individual style, dreams and experiences--all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor.

## Video and Sound Volunteers Needed for Both Worship Services

The frantic season of gift-giving may be coming to a close, but there is another gift you may be able to give – assistance with the video or sound during worship services. If you are able to adjust the volume on your speakers or push the spacebar and use the mouse with your computer, you are qualified to be trained on the equipment in the sanctuary. People who operate video and sound for the 9:00 service on Sunday mornings rehearse with Perceptions Praise Team at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. Persons who operate video and sound for the 11:00 service are trained to use the equipment and operate the equipment on designated Sunday mornings. Contact Barbara Zachow (bzachow@comcast.net or 540-553-1631) if you are interested in assisting in this ministry.

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference  
of The United Methodist Church  
Equipping and Connecting Team  
recognizes

### Champaign First UMC

### AS A 2016 FIVE STAR MISSION CHURCH

- \* Paid 100% of Apportionments
- \* General Advance or UMCOR Project(s)
  - \* GBGM Missionary Support
- \* Conference Advance Special Project(s)
- \* Three or more UMC Special Sundays

<i>Rev. Dr. Thomas Logsdon</i> Director of Connectional Ministries	<i>Bunny Wolfe</i> Coordinator of Missions & Outreach
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The Illinois Great Rivers Conference  
of The United Methodist Church  
recognizes

### Champaign First UMC

### For Faithfully Supporting Connectional Giving Through the Payment of 100% of Your Apportionments for the Year 2016

*Frank Beard*  
Resident Bishop

<i>Angie Lee</i> District Superintendent	<i>Mike Potts, Chair</i> Conference Council on Finance & Administration
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### empty tomb Toy Setup



Endless thanks are extended to all of the "Santa's elves" that volunteered their time and joyous energy to help transform the empty tomb clothing room into Santa's workshop on December 7. Every pair of hands was needed to setup all the toys, games, books, dolls, sports equipment, stuffed animals, hats and mittens etc. for families to come and shop for their kids for Christmas. Over 20 folks, from youth to seniors, worked together to accomplish our goal--creating a colorful and welcoming environment for shoppers. It was a heartwarming sight to see folks from FUMC giving to others during this season of sharing. Thanks so much.

### Thank You from empty tomb

Dear empty tomb Christmas GiveAway Volunteers,

Thank you!! Thank you for helping to make the 2017 empty tomb Christmas GiveAway a resounding success. You joined 75 other volunteers (including sign-up day, set-up evening, and Friday and Saturday GiveAway days) from 21 churches who contributed 297.5 volunteer hours. We hope you were blessed as a result of your participation. Many others were blessed as well:

- 115 parents shopped for gifts for a total of 274 children
- 90 children selected 156 gift baskets for parents/guardians

The remaining toys are being shared through referrals. If there are still toys left next week, they'll be available on a walk-in basis.

We thank God for this opportunity to serve others during the Christmas season, and we thank God for you as well. Merry Christmas!

Karen Seiter  
Volunteer Coordinator  
empty tomb, inc.

## Youth News

One thing I have always tried to stress the importance of in Youth Group is reading the Bible. We read the Bible every single youth group night. I plan lessons that go over classic Bible stories and also ones that are more obscure. We discuss poems in Psalms and parables in the Gospels. The hope is that eventually, the kids will build a habit of reading the Bible themselves.

Recently though, I took a step back and started looking at how often I read the Bible....and I realized that I was really lacking--both as a Youth Director AND as someone who is trying to grow in their relationship with God. When I don't focus on God, not only are my youth lessons stale, but I become stale. If God is supposed to be the center of my life, how am I NOT reading his word every day?

So--that is my new commitment. This year, I'm committing to reading the whole Bible by the end of the year. However, this commitment will not stop by the end of 2018--I want to grow this into a habit that I am reading the Bible each day. If God is the most important part of my life, I need to reflect that in how I spend my time. So, here's to focusing on God in 2018 and beyond!

Meredith  
meredith@champaignfumc.org

### Coming Events:

**Sunday, January 14 - No Youth Group**

**Sunday, February 4, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Youth Group Super Bowl Party** - Join us at Meredith's apartment to watch the game, hang out with friends, and eat some delicious food! Don't like football? Not a problem! We'll have other activities to do as well!

**Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - High School Bible Study** - Our high school Bible study meets on Wednesdays at Panera on Kirby from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.! Study the Bible and grab dinner while you get to spend time with friends!

**Sundays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - 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 Sign Up for 2018



Do you have birthdays, anniversaries or other special events you would like to celebrate? Do you have special people in your family whom you would like to honor?

Why not celebrate by providing flowers for a Sunday. The flowers are ordered for you by the chairman of the month. It is a quite simple way to beautify the chancel and remember the special people in your life.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall across from the office.

For questions, call Teryl Pigott at 621-2744 or email [terylpigott@gmail.com](mailto:terylpigott@gmail.com).

## Thank You

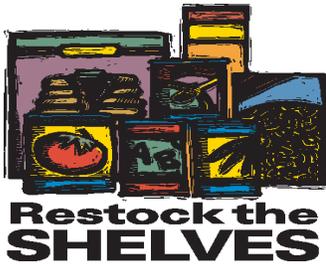
Thanks to all who donated items for Austin's Place through the Giving Tree. Because of your generosity, our shelves are stocked and we are ready for our 11th season of shelter!

## 2018 Offering Envelopes

If you would like a supply of offering envelopes for 2018, they are available now in the Church Office. We have weekly sets (52 envelopes) and monthly sets (12 envelopes). The envelopes are dated but not pre-numbered.

***Our individual mission is  
where our talents/gifts  
meet the needs  
of our neighborhood,  
our community,  
our nation,  
or the world.***

## Stock the Food Pantry Early & Often



First United Methodist Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to the church on the first Sunday of each month to stock our food pantry. These items are used by the volunteers to provide food for the families in need.

*Especially needed are: paper towels, dish soap, mustard, cereal, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken, and beef stew. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.*

“Be faithful in little things, for in them lies our strength.”

MOTHER TERESA  
Taken from *Thirsting For God*



United  
Methodist  
Women

**UMW Executive Board** will meet on Wednesday, January 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

**Dorcas Circle** will not meet in January.

**Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. at Terry Benson's home. Dawn Beyler will be doing the pledge service.

## To Our Guests and Visitors . . .



**Welcome** to First United Methodist Church of Champaign. We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us, and we invite you to visit the Hospitality desk in the Friendship Center, adjacent to the Sanctuary. Or you can visit us on our website, [www.champaignfumc.org](http://www.champaignfumc.org), to learn more about the many opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service available through the ministries of our congregation.

### How do I become a member...?

If you are considering membership in the congregation of First United Methodist Church, you are invited to attend an orientation group: “Connecting@First.” This is an opportunity to learn more about the ministries of the Church.

If you would like to register for the next group, please contact Sharon Johnson, Administrative Assistant to the Directing Pastor, [sjohnson@champaignfumc.org](mailto:sjohnson@champaignfumc.org), or 356-9078.

## NDFL Program and Lunch

NDFL (New Designs for Living) will meet on Wednesday, January 17, at 11:30 a.m. in Friendship Center North. We will have sandwiches from County Market with table service and beverages provided. The program will be on Crime Stoppers. Please sign up on Sunday, January 14, in Friendship Center.



# Congregational Life of FUMC

January 16-31, 2018

## Celebrating a



- 16 Matthew Morrow
- 17 John Doll
- 17 Mary Leger
- 17 Margaret Stair
- 18 Laura Curtis
- 18 Riley Kemper
- 18 Connor Lawson
- 19 Robert Coffin
- 19 Nia-Imani Davis
- 19 Ruth Thom
- 20 Heather Miller
- 21 Angela Brown
- 21 Judy Iversen

- 21 Susan Miceli
- 21 Ryder Perry
- 22 Avery Duncan
- 22 Suzanne Gates
- 22 Shirley Maryan
- 22 Mary Poole
- 25 Hannah Charter
- 25 Barbara Hecker
- 26 J.C. Karr
- 28 Verna Coffin
- 30 Abigail Cicone
- 30 Tyler Cicone
- 30 Lora Mae Kesler
- 30 Hubert Woolen
- 31 Jan Kiley
- 31 Susan Veitch



25 Ron & Lynne Lyman

### Hospital Report

**Hospitalized in the past few weeks:** Frances Good, Anne Johnston, John Jones, Roger Karr, Lora Mae Kesler, Kyle Roberson, Carole Smith, and Bethany Thompson.



### 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 us before you are admitted, or have a family member or friend let us know.

We don't want to miss you when we visit.

Rev. Tom & Rev. Jerry

### Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Ted Beach and family at the passing of Ted's wife, Shirlye Beach, on December 16, 2017.



If you have a need for prayer, please call the Church Office at 356-9078.

### NEXT

**Messenger Deadline,  
January 18, 2018  
published on January 24**

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to:  
bberner@champaignfumc.org  
or brought to the Church.

**Do YOU need a ride  
to 11:00 Sunday Morning  
Worship Service?**



**We want you here to worship!!** Call 352-6943, and let Al Boehm know of your need. He will be happy to assist you.

# Congregational Life of FUMC

## Church Calendar

### Thursday, January 11

- 8:00 Quilters
- 10:00 Minds in Motion
- 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
- 7:00 Wrapped in His Love
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Friday, January 12

- 7:45 Austin's Place

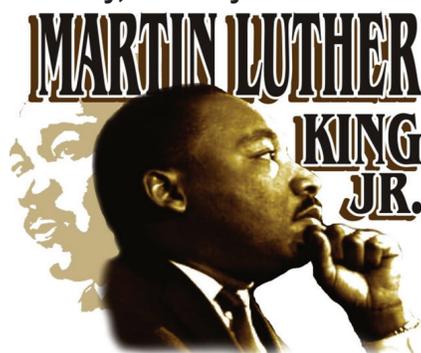
### Saturday, January 13

- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Sunday, January 14

- 8:15 Coffee Connections
- 8:45 ARK Child Care
- 9:00 Perceptions Worship
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Classic Worship
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Monday, January 15



**1929 1968**

#### Building Closed

- 7:00 Sarah Circle
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Tuesday, January 16

- 10:00 OMA (Opening Minds with Art)
- 10:30 Staff Meeting
- 11:45 WCG Leadership Team
- 6:00 Chancel Ringers
- 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Wednesday, January 17

- 11:30 NDFL Program & Potluck
- 6:30 High School Bible Study
- 7:00 Chancel Choir
- 7:30 Venturing Crew 1
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Thursday, January 18

- 8:00 Quilters
- 8:30 *Messenger* Deadline
- 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Friday, January 19

- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Saturday, January 20

- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Sunday, January 21

- 8:15 Coffee Connections
- 8:45 ARK Child Care
- 9:00 Perceptions Worship
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Classic Worship
- 4:00 Kids Choir
- 4:30 LIFT (Leading in Faith Together)
- 5:00 Youth Music
- 6:00 Youth Group
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Monday, January 22

- 8:00 Quilters
- 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
- 7:00 Choral Union
- 7:00 Confirmation Class
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Tuesday, January 23

- 9:30 Program Staff Meeting
- 11:45 WCG Leadership Team
- 6:00 Chancel Ringers
- 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
- 7:15 Worship Ministry Team
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Wednesday, January 24

- 6:30 High School Bible Study
- 7:00 Chancel Choir
- 7:30 Venturing Crew 1
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Thursday, January 25

- 8:00 Quilters
- 10:00 Minds in Motion
- 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
- 7:00 Wrapped in His Love
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Friday, January 26

- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Saturday, January 27

- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Sunday, January 28

- 8:15 Coffee Connections
- 8:45 ARK Child Care
- 9:00 Perceptions Worship
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Classic Worship
- 4:00 Kids Choir
- 5:00 Youth Music
- 6:00 Youth Group
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Monday, January 29

- 8:00 Quilters
- 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
- 7:00 Choral Union
- 7:00 Confirmation Class
- 7:45 Austin's Place

### Worship Attendance

#### Sunday, December 31, 2017

10:00.....82

#### Sunday, January 7, 2018

9:00.....71

11:00.....99

**Total.....170**

First United Methodist Church  
210 W Church Street  
Champaign IL 61820

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US Postage Paid  
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Champaign IL

“Return Service Requested”

**January 14, 2018**

**2nd Sunday after the Epiphany  
Human Relations Day**

**9:00 a.m. Perceptions Worship**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Classic Worship**

**Sermon:**

“Seeing and Being Seen”

**Scripture:**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51

Rev. Tom Corum, preaching

**January 21, 2018**

**3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

**9:00 a.m. Perceptions Worship**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Classic Worship**

**Sermon:**

“The Gift of Inclusion”

**Scripture:**

Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Rev. Tom Corum, preaching

**First United Methodist Church Ministry Team**

Rev. Tom Corum, Directing Pastor tcorum@champaignfumc.org

Rev. Jerry Nichols, Visiting Pastor

John Christopher Brown, Dir. of Lay Ministries & Community Outreach

Meredith Garreau, Dir. of Youth, Adult, & Family Ministries

meredith@champaignfumc.org

Barbara Zachow, Dir. of Music & Worship

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John Jones, Business Manager

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Laura Hendricksen, Child Care Ctr. Dir. lhendricksen@champaignfumc.org

Sharon Johnson, Administrative Ass't sjohnson@champaignfumc.org

Bonnie Berner, Dir. of Communications bberner@champaignfumc.org

Ray Wiggs, Organist rewiggs@gmail.com

Mara Boehm, ARK Coordinator peacefuldance@att.net

Jason Mack, Building Manager jmack@champaignfumc.org

Terry McClellan, Weekday Morning Custodian

Tim Valentine, Weekday Evening Custodian

Scott Ervin, Weekend Custodian

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

*Every Sunday morning: 8:15 a.m.-Coffee Connections;  
9:00 a.m.-Perceptions Worship; 10:00 a.m.-Sunday School (during  
the school year); 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship. Child care for infants  
through age 10 is available from 8:45-12:15.*