



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 XXVII, No. 12

June 12, 2019

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

~Romans 12:9-13 NRSV

+ + +

A pastor from another denomination, who was my friend, preached for an entire year on the topic of *"Becoming a Romans' 12 Church."* With 12 months of sermons on one chapter of the Bible his parishioners knew those verses of scripture well!

Please take some time this week to read the entire chapter of Romans 12 at one sitting and ponder this question: ***"What is the most important function of our Church?"***

Some church growth specialists point out that Sunday morning worship is the single most significant time that the church gathers in a 'public' manner; therefore, worship is the primary time to connect with newcomers.

Everything we do on Sunday morning isn't worship; however, everything we do, particularly on Sunday morning, ought to enhance connecting with people who have not yet fully discovered what it means to become a Christ-follower.

In a recent Twitter survey, respondents were asked to share a singular event that impressed them in a church worship service. In fact, most of the respondents said they were "delighted" or "surprised," and that the one event made them desire to return.

Nine Surprises in Worship Services That Made Guests Return

1. "Someone had an umbrella waiting for me in inclement weather."

This comment was made for both snowy and rainy weather. Some of the respondents indicated that someone actually stayed next to them so they would not slip or fall. 2. "A member actually invited me to lunch." I admit I was surprised by the frequency of this response. This invitation had a huge impact on guests.

3. "The kid's area had leaders who were friendly and helpful." This issue was obviously highly important to young families. I realize more than ever you keep or lose young families at the point you check the kids in or take them to a class.

4. "There was a time of meaningful prayer." I continue to be gratefully amazed at how important prayer is to guests. They love the times of quiet when people are asked to pray silently. They also love guided prayers.

5. "Someone walked us where we were supposed to go." Every place in a church facility is unknown to a first time guest. They love greeters staying with them and taking the fear of the unknown away.

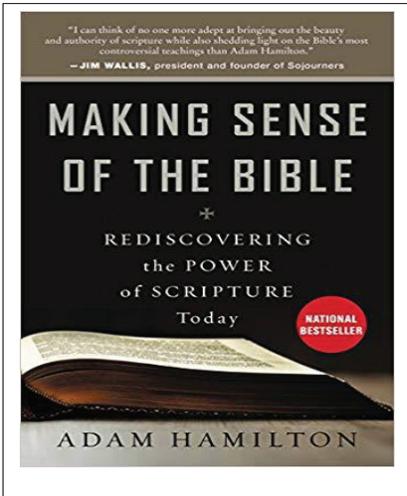
6. "There was genuine friendliness outside of the stand and greet time." I have come to the conclusion that church members tend to like the stand and greet time more than guests do. In fact, most guests see the stand and greet time as artificial, especially if members are not friendly outside that time.

7. "People followed up with my prayer requests the next day." Many churches have places on guest cards for prayer requests. If leaders in the church emphasize that people will pray for the guests, many are likely to complete the card. The guests are really impressed if they hear from someone the next day.

8. "I loved having the opportunity to speak with the pastor." In some churches, this conversation took place in a reception room after the service. In other churches, the pastor called or wrote a personal email that was obviously not a form email. Guests really love hearing from the pastor.

9. "I received a gift at the end of the service." Many guests love receiving a gift for their visit. Their favorite gifts are freshly baked cookies or freshly baked bread. But any gift is appreciated.

In Christ's joyous service,
+ Gary



Summer Bible Study

***Making Sense of the Bible*
by Adam Hamilton**

July 14-August 25

9:00-10:00am

Fellowship Hall

Pastor Julia, leader

The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike.

Sign up between worship services June 9 – 30 OR
Email Ruth to sign up: ruth@champaignfumc.org

Books cost \$11. Reading the book will enhance your study but if you don't have time to read, join in anyway! The video that accompanies the study will explain topics so you can still participate and learn.

Child care will be available for children, ages birth – 10 years.



**During this time of transition,
help Pastor Gary (now) and
Pastor Julia (July) learn names
and feel at home with our
congregation.**

**Wearing a nametag will also
help newcomers connect to
people they meet on Sundays.**

**Be a Connector!
Wear Your Nametag!**



As our church reaches out in our community, we need more greeters and ushers to welcome new people to our worship services and other events.

**Call or email Ruth for more information and to sign up!
217-356-9078 ruth@champaignfumc.org**

*First United Methodist Church
Where Connecting, Growing, and Serving
are a Way of Live*

It's an exciting time at First United Methodist Church in downtown Champaign!

As we look outside our church walls to fulfill our mission as disciples of Christ, we need to be ready to welcome those seeking God's love. Our greeters and ushers will be the first connection for everyone that comes in our doors. Join this important ministry and help our church connect, grow, and serve! Email Ruth for more info and sign up today!

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

We again have the opportunity to participate in the 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 names (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 all sizes of men's clothing: only jeans, pants, shirts, and jackets. **Please do not include any hangers, belts, suspenders, or ties.**

We will be joining other churches in our area in this program. The deadline for this collection will be Sunday, June 16.

Thank you for your help.

Corum Wesley Covenant Group

Summer Choir

Summer Choir has begun! Singers of all abilities are welcome! Simply come to the Choir Room at 10:30 on Sunday morning, where we rehearse the hymns and the anthem for the morning. We sit together in the front pews, sing the anthem, and then you are free to join your family, your friends, or sit with the choir. Contact Barbara Zachow if you have questions. (bzachow@comcast.net)



**Welcome Pastor Julia
with a Picnic in the Park!**

On Sunday, July 7, there will be one service at 10:30 am. There will be a potluck in West Side Park following the service in honor of Pastor Julia Melgreen's first Sunday! Please sign up to bring a main course, side dish, or dessert in the Friendship Center beginning June 16!

7 Suggestions for Welcoming New Pastors

by Barry Howard

When a congregation welcomes a new pastor, it is an exciting time, a new beginning for both the congregation and the new minister. To maximize this new beginning, it is important to prepare spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally for a new chapter. Once a call to a new pastor is confirmed, there are a few things you can do to prepare personally and congregationally to follow a new spiritual leader:

1. Pray for your new pastor.

In most of the churches I know, members pray for the Pastor Search Team throughout the search process, and they pray for the pastor even before they know the identity of their new minister. And they pray for their new pastor in the pastor's inaugural days of ministry. However, I suggest making a commitment to pray daily for your pastor throughout the duration of his or her ministry. Once the honeymoon period is over and the daily grind of ministry begins, praying for your pastor will strengthen your pastor's ministry and will fortify your bond with your pastor.

2. Send your pastor a welcome note or email.

Be careful not to make this correspondence a lengthy epistle and certainly don't make it a diatribe itemizing your personal expectations or agenda. Just offer a brief note, introducing yourself and/or family, and offering a heartfelt welcome. When I moved to my last pastorate, I received over 100 such notes, and these notes confirmed and intensified my excitement about my new place of service.

3. Mention your name on your first several encounters with your new pastor.

Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors. And be sure not to embarrass the pastor by quizzing, "Do you remember my name?" Give your pastor the opportunity to learn your name and, over time, to learn a part of your life story.

4. Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor.

Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church or committee to a person just like the previous pastor or the beloved pastor from the church's history. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.

5. Be prepared to follow.

A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. As a veteran pastor, I am quite aware that there is a small minority of pastors who are "wolves in sheep's clothing," whose motives are deceptive and whose methods are manipulative, and they need to be held accountable. However, the vast majority of pastors I know provide proactive leadership that is Spirit led and mission focused. Don't be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.

6. Give your pastor permission to fail.

The best pastors don't succeed 100% of the time. A few weeks into one of my pastoral assignments, a sincere church member said to me, "I am glad you're here. Every pastor I have had has disappointed me. I hope you never disappoint me." I quickly countered, "Let me just disappoint you right now and get it out of the way. Like you I am an imperfect human being who will make mistakes. But if we forgive one another as God has forgiven us, we will get along just fine." I must admit, I think my response disappointed this well-intentioned member. Don't hold your pastor to a standard of perfection that is impossible to maintain. Allow your minister room to make mistakes.

7. Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately.

One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them publicly and privately. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. "He is too loud." "She is too soft-spoken." "He uses big words I don't understand." "She is not a people person." However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify around our pastor's strengths, and then minimize and compensate for our pastor's weaknesses.

There are many other ways to welcome your new pastor and to launch your pastor into an effective and healthy tenure. If you compare them to your favorite football coach and expect them to "win every game," not only will you be disappointed, you will make your minister miserable and ultimately ineffective. But if you receive your new pastor as a spiritual leader sent to encourage your faithfulness, challenge your presuppositions, and to bring out God's best in you, the relationship between your pastor and your congregation will be vibrant and effective.

UMCOR Response to Recent Storms

We are aware of the many tornadoes that have been crossing the United States. If you wish to help UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in recovery efforts, you may do so by placing a check payable to FUMC with "Advance No. 901670" indicated on the memo line in the offering plate or in the church office.



Stock the Food Pantry Early & Often



Restock the SHELVES

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. There's a desperate need for more volunteers. Please call Sue Bachman at 359-4390 for more information.

Especially needed are: canned mixed fruit, canned pears, canned diced tomatoes, flour, jelly, mustard, and salt. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

"Two ways to overcome the problems in our lives and let God turn them into opportunities are by being hopeful and by being grateful."

JUSTIN FATICA
You're Amazing

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, 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, or 356-9078.

Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings



On June 23, Diane Fish will conduct a blood pressure screening for interested congregation members. The blood pressure screening will be held during the Coffee Connections in between Sunday services. To allow for privacy, the screening will take place in the Library. Blood pressure screenings will occur regularly, usually on the fourth Sunday of each month. Please contact Diane at the church (ask to leave a message for the Parish Nurse) if you have any questions about the screening.

Youth News



Summer has started for us here in FUMC's Youth Group! We finished our regular meetings on Sunday nights awhile ago, but we are beginning our special summer activities! This summer, we'll be going to the drive-in, painting the Youth Room, going paintballing, and trying to break out of an escape room--so come join us!!! We also will have our annual mission trip, Appalachia Service Project (ASP), the second week of July! We may not be meeting every week in summer, but there's still a lot going on and we can't wait to see you at all of it!!

Meredith
meredith@champaignfumc.org

Coming Events:

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Work 4 Your Church Day - Join us in this all-church event to help beautify FUMC! We'll be painting the Youth Room and sprucing it up, while also helping in other areas of the church!

Monday, July 1, 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Paintballing - We're going to go paintballing at Firemark Paintball in Dewey! We'll meet at the church and then head out in the van. Cost is \$10 per person, which covers everything. Come join us! Please RSVP by June 23, so that we can get registered!!

July 6 - July 13 - Appalachia Service Project

Monday, July 22 - The Lion King at the Harvest Moon Drive-In Theater - On July 22, join us for a fun night at the drive-in! We'll meet that night at the church and pile into the van to drive to Gibson City! Cost is \$5.00. Times depend on when the sun is setting, so stay tuned for the exact time! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and radios!

Sunday, August 4, 3:45 pm - 5:30ish - Escape Room - We'll be taking on an escape room at Champaign-Urbana Adventures in Time and Space! We'll meet at the church at 3:45 and take the van over. We'll have an hour once we get there to "Save the World!" Cost is \$15/person. Please RSVP by July 27, so that we can get registered and have an accurate headcount!

Memorial Service for Martha Baxter North

The Martha Baxter North memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 29, at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Martha passed away on March 2, 2019, in Bloomington, Minnesota. She is survived by daughters Jane and Kathy, and Charlotte, David, John, and Becky North. The officiants will be Rev. Dick McGuire and Rev. Gary Ford. Memorial donations may be made to Champaign First for the Baxter Family Endowment Fund, the earnings from which support our Music, Youth, and Trustees Ministries; or to the North Fellowship, Garrett Evangelical, 2121 Sheridan Rd, Evanston IL 30201, which provides scholarships to seminary students.

Old Sheets & T-shirts Needed

Do you have old sheets or big T-shirts you need to throw out?? Donate them to FUMC to help our Appalachia Service Project Trip! We use old sheets and T-shirts to help cover seats in our vans so that they don't get as dusty and messy as we do at the worksites! Sheets and T-shirts can be dropped off to the church in the Resource Room--just make sure they're labeled for Meredith!

Flower Calendar Sign-Up for 2019

The 2019 Flower Calendar Sign-up is available on the bulletin board outside the Resource Room. You can choose the dates on which to celebrate special people and/or special events among your family and friends. The flowers are ordered for you by the chairman of the month. It is a simple way to beautify the chancel and remember the special people in your life. For questions, call Teryl Pigott at 621-2744 or email terylpigott@gmail.com.



Puzzle!

Determine the letter patterns and fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:1, NIV.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

F Q	L V	C R O
G R	K U	D Q P
H S	J T	E P Q

- - - - -

I O B H A L P	Q K D W
H P C G B M O	R J C V
G Q D F C N N	S I B U

- - - - -

F E U L P W	E D V
E F T K Q V	F C U
D G S J R U	G B T

- - - - -

P B Q	R V	C O H B
Q C R	S U	D P G C
R D S	T T	E Q F D

- - - - -

Answer: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
(Galatians 5:1, NIV)

Congregational Life of FUMC

July 1-15, 2019



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | John Donahoe | 9 | Jonathon Curtis |
| 1 | Doris Lain | 9 | Tiffany Rice |
| 1 | Gabrielle Martin | 10 | Sarah Donahoe |
| 2 | Carolyn Merrimac | 11 | JoAnn Schlueter |
| 3 | Ed Cieniawski | 12 | Jack Faullin |
| 3 | Phoenix Pendleton | 12 | Daniel Miceli |
| 4 | Jill Kemper | 12 | Jackson Stanhope |
| 6 | Todd Burgener | 13 | Tim Moser |
| 6 | Will Schwenk | 14 | Vanessa Burgett |
| 8 | Dean Schwenk | 14 | John Weldon |
| 8 | Gregory Thom | 15 | Neal Chamberlain |



- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Bobby & Helene Caton |
| 2 | Jim & Carole Smith |
| 3 | Tim & Sue Bachman |
| 5 | Grant & Deloris Henry |
| 6 | Peyton & Faith Bennett |
| 6 | John & Cherié Weible |
| 8 | Wes & Laura Curtis |
| 8 | Clarence & JoAnn Schlueter |
| 9 | Larry & Judy Johnson |
| 10 | Larry & Janice Corum |
| 13 | John & Nickey Woods |
| 15 | Scott & Meredith Garreau |

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the past two weeks: Julie Booth, Jo Ann Curtis, Sharon Goller, J.C. Karr, Roger Karr, Ed McCartney, and Irene Swank.



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. Gary & Rev. Jerry

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NEXT

**Messenger Deadline,
June 20, 2019
published on June 26**

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



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

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



**We want you here
to worship!!**
Call Bruce Hemminger
at 356-2576.

Congregational Life of FUMC

Church Calendar

Thursday, June 13

1:30 WCG Leadership Team
6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

Saturday, June 15

10:00 VBS + ASP = Work 4 Your Church Day

Sunday, June 16

8:15 Coffee Connections
8:45 ARK Child Care
9:00 Perceptions Worship
11:00 Classic Worship

Monday, June 17

5:15 Board of Trustees

Tuesday, June 18

6:00 Chancel Ringers
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Wednesday, June 19

7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, June 20

8:30 *Messenger* Deadline
1:30 WCG Leadership Team
6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

Sunday, June 23

8:15 Coffee Connections
8:45 ARK Child Care
9:00 Perceptions Worship
10:00 Blood Pressure Screenings
11:00 Classic Worship

Monday, June 24

6:00 Chancel Ringers

Tuesday, June 25

9:30 Program Staff Meeting
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Wednesday, June 26

8:30 *Messenger* Assembly
7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, June 27

1:30 WCG Leadership Team
6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

Saturday, June 29

11:30 Martha Baxter North Memorial Service

Sunday, June 30

Peace with Justice Sunday

8:15 Coffee Connections
8:45 ARK Child Care
9:00 Perceptions Worship
11:00 Classic Worship

Monday, July 1

1:00 Youth Paintballing

Tuesday, July 2

10:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
7:00 Worship Ministry Team

Wednesday, July 3

7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, July 4



Building Closed

8:30 *Messenger* Deadline

Saturday, July 6

Appalachia Service Project Begins

Sunday, July 7

8:45 ARK Child Care
9:00 Coffee with Julia
10:30 One Worship Service
12:00 Potluck Picnic

Monday, July 8

7:00 Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, July 9

9:30 Program Staff Meeting
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Wednesday, July 10

8:30 Messenger Assembly
7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Thursday, July 11

6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

Saturday, July 13

Appalachia Service Project Ends

Sunday, July 14

8:45 ARK Child Care
9:00 Bible Study
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship Service

Monday, July 15

5:15 Board of Trustees

Tuesday, July 16

10:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

Wednesday, July 17

7:30 Venturing Crew 1

Worship Attendance

Sunday, June 2, 2019

9:00.....80
11:00.....125
Total.....205

Sunday, June 9, 2019

9:00.....78
11:00.....91
Total.....169

