



# 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. 16

August 7, 2019

### First Love

*For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. from 1 John 3:11, 16-18; 4:7*

First Love is real and powerful. A baby's first love for its mother. A teen boy's or a teen girl's first love in junior high. The overwhelming love as we welcome our children into the world is unlike any other love. First Love captures our hearts completely, consumes our thoughts and drives our decisions.

First Love for Christians is God. Not so much our love for God, which is fickle and flawed, but God's love for us, which is unbreakable, sacrificial, and healing. In I John 4, the author continues the above passage in verse 19 by writing: *We love because God first loved us.*

Our human experiences of First Love are the closest thing to capturing the powerful emotion of God's love for us. God's love for us has captured God's heart, consumes God's thoughts, and drives God's decisions. Decisions like becoming human in Jesus to be with us. Decisions like modeling sacrificial love even to death on a cross. Decisions like offering forgiveness and healing to the most broken of hearts and spirits.



And we are asked to love others like God has loved us. God's Spirit in us guides us to offer First Love to the world. To see people, really see people, in their brokenness and need and love them still...as God has loved us in our brokenness and need. I once read this quote: "You say you care about the poor? Name one." It drives home the point that love cannot be from a distance or in general, but is specific, is found in real relationships and crosses barriers we might rather not cross. You say you love the poor? Do you know his name? Or her name?

I know you are FIRST LOVE for each other; I've seen this love in the friendships you have with

one another and the encouragement you have given me as I've become part of this church family. Champaign First, can we be FIRST LOVE in our community? A place where we know the names of those who struggle with poverty or addiction? A place where the lonely and hopeless experience FIRST LOVE? A conduit of God's great, big love for all people, no limits?

We are FIRST LOVE. Called, gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit to love God with our whole hearts, soul, mind and strength. And given the mission, the great big, world-changing mission, of loving others.

This challenge, to be Champaign FIRST LOVE will consume our time together, drive the decisions we make and give our lives their greatest purpose. How glad I am to be on this journey with you!

Blessings,

♥ Rev. Julia Melgreen

In the beginning was  
the Word, and the  
Word was with God,  
and the Word was  
God.

**John 1:1**

Wesley Covenant Groups      Fall 2019

# JOHN

Sept. 8 - Nov. 6

Mission Project: Thanksgiving food baskets

**Sign Up: August 11-25**

**Wesley Covenant Group Bible Study: Fall 2019**

## *John*

Almost everyone will admit to feeling lost in the dark at some point in their lives. Human beings struggle with feeling lost in life, unsure of the next step, unclear about who we are and what we are here for, unable to find a light that would give us the knowledge we need to see the way ahead.

Our feelings of being lost and in the dark often stem from our inability to understand God. The God of the intricacies of the created order is not like us! How can we know such a God? How can we know what such a God wants of us?

Join us as we seek to know God through the words and works of Jesus.

Week of September 8 through the week of November 3  
Mission project: collecting Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need  
Book: *John* by Carol J. Miller    Immersion Bible Studies  
Book costs \$10. Scholarships are available.  
Classes meet throughout the week: days and evenings  
Email Ruth for more info: [ruth@champaignfumc.org](mailto:ruth@champaignfumc.org)  
Sign Up: August 11-25

## Update from Barbara Zachow on United Methodist Hymnal Revision

I attended a session at the July FUMMWA conference about the United Methodist Hymnal revision. Here is what I learned.

Summary: There will not be a new hard copy of a United Methodist Hymnal printed soon. Instead, there will be a collection of resources available in the cloud that can be purchased either as individual pieces or through a subscription. This part of the project will be available soon – hopefully by 2020. Plans are also underway for a print version of a hymnal. The particular congregation will be able to choose which hymns from the cloud collection will be included in the hymnal that is used in the particular congregation. There is not a date set for the implementation of the second phase of the project.

Read on if you want to know more! You may be aware that the large hymnal in our pews was published in 1989. In an attempt to include new compositions, the United Methodist Publishing House has published several supplements to that hymnal. FUMC frequently uses one of those supplements, *The Faith We Sing*, in worship.

In 2016 a committee was formed to begin revising the 1989 hymnal. The committee has been working for the past three years to determine what should be included in a new revision of our hymnal. Needless to say, this has not been an easy task. The committee received over 14,000 submissions and is in the process of reviewing each piece to be sure that the music and texts are high quality, represent sound theology, and are practical for congregational singing.

Simultaneously, the committee has asked music directors, pastors, and congregants to define what they would like to see in the new hymnal. It quickly became apparent that while some congregations use only hard copies of music, and some use only digital resources (words to put on a screen or sheet music that can be displayed electronically), most congregations use some combination of the two.

The end result is that the committee has decided NOT to revise the 1989 hymnal at this point in time. Instead, they are focusing their efforts on curating a new *United Methodist Worship Resources Collection*. This collection will include ALL of the current hymns in the hymnals and supplements, all of the approved United Methodist liturgies and worship resources, AND new curated music and other worship resources. One of the committee members called this “a hymnal without a back cover” since pieces can continually be added to the collection. Those who use the collection can be sure that the entries have been reviewed and that it is legal to use the music in all of the formats that are available.

The second phase of the project is to make a customizable hard copy of a hymnal available. The congregation will create “their” hymnal by selecting specific music and resources from the ever-expanding cloud collection.

The committee also emphasized that although the cloud collection has the potential to be limitless, every resource that is included in that collection can be used with confidence that it has been reviewed and has been deemed to be high quality, to represent sound theology, and to be appropriate for congregational use.

**The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a large Electronic Message Center sign to be installed on Church Street. This will be a double-sided, illuminated state-of-the-art sign that will bring our message to thousands of people in our community every day.**

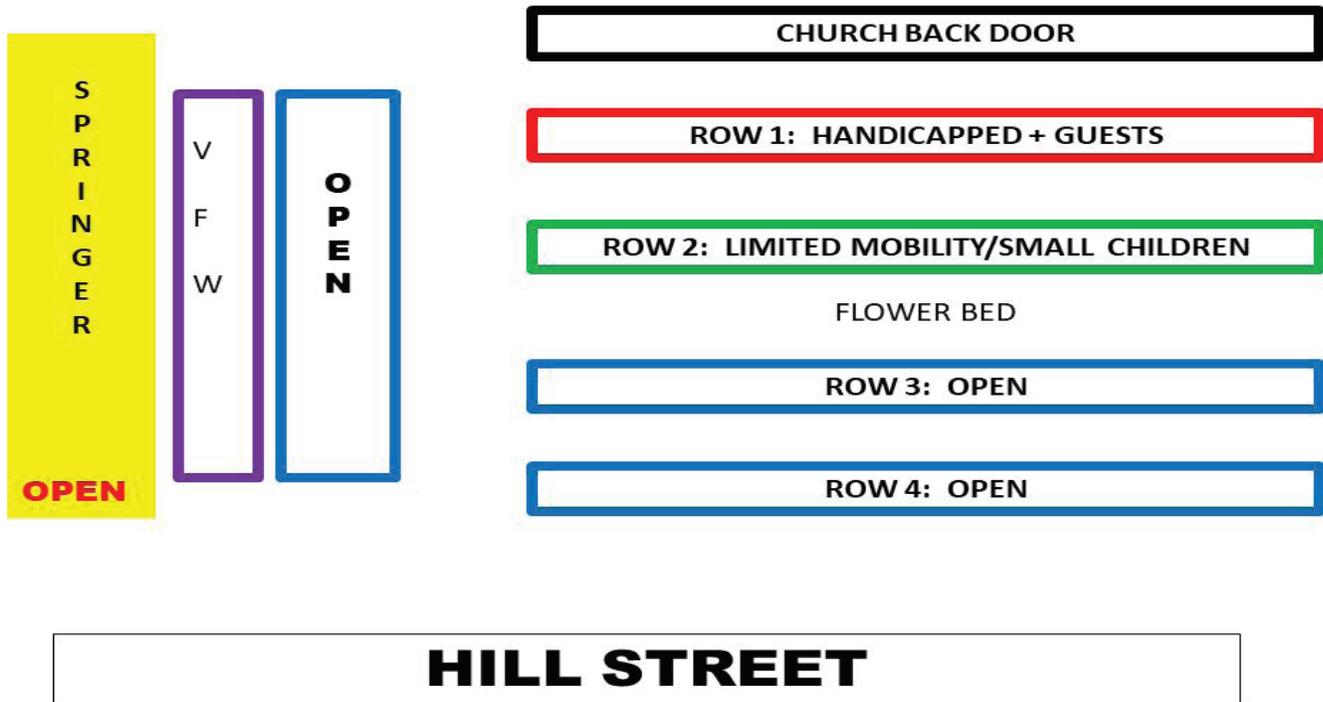
The Board of Trustees invites any donations toward this project with checks made payable to FUMC and "Church Sign" indicated on the memo line.



## Parking Reminder:

Please be sure to leave the first row of the parking lot open to guests and those using handicapped stickers. Leave Row 2 open for families with young children and those with limited mobility.

Remember that there is plenty of parking (free on Sundays!) in the parking garage at the corner of Hill and Randolph. Cars are in the shade and out of the rain!



## Youth Reunion for Any Person Who Has Participated as a Youth at FUMC to Reunite for Fellowship - August 16-18, 2019

Friday, August 16

Supper at Papa Del's 5-8 pm

Saturday, August 17

Taste of Champaign-Urbana (no designated time)

Sunday, August 18

Service and Lunch from 12-2 (Subway)

All are welcome! If interested, contact Cathy (Abell) Mitchell at 309-645-2187.

There is an event listing on Facebook.

Peace and Grace!



## UMW Fundraising Committee Meeting



The UMW Fundraising Committee will meet in the Conference Room at 4:30 p.m. on August 15 to begin planning the October 6 and 13 Sunday Markets.

## Clothing Donations Needed

empty tomb is in need of clothing and is able to accept clothes at 301 N. Fourth St., Champaign, IL.

9 am–12:30 pm and 2:15–5 pm, Monday-Saturday

We ask that donors bring bags or boxes of clothing which are in season and in good condition as well as household items.

April–September: Summer clothes

October–March: Fall / Winter clothes

Questions? Call 356-2262; Office open 9 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday or email [info@emptytomb.org](mailto:info@emptytomb.org)



## 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 diced tomatoes, pepper, and cooking oil. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.*

## 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.

## Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screenings



On August 25, Diane Fish will conduct a blood pressure screening for interested congregation members. The blood pressure screening will be held during the Coffee Connections. 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

This is a fun, but weird time in the year. It's the time where I have to really start nailing down exact dates for all the youth events coming up in the fall (as you can see, those dates aren't totally nailed down yet, but in the next *Messenger* page, that "Coming Events" section will look a lot more full!) and begin thinking about what we'll do in the spring. Some things are classics, like our trip to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch or our annual Progressive Dinner Christmas Party. Some end up being new, like our fall retreat to East Bay that we went on last year! Either way, it's sure to be another exciting year, so come join us and bring your own suggestions!!

Meredith

meredith@champaignfumc.org

### Coming Events:

**Sunday, September 8, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - First Youth Group of the School Year!!!!**



**“We need to cultivate an attitude of patience toward ourselves and our families first, and then to the rest of the Church.”**

JON LEONETTI  
*Missions of the Family*

### End-of-Summer Choir

The summer is coming to a close, and there is one last chance to sing with a Summer Choir! Simply come to the Choir Room at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 25. We will learn a simple anthem, practice the hymns, and proceed to the sanctuary to sing during worship. Remember – you do not need to have won a contest to join our choir. Simply come with a singing heart, a desire to help lead worship, and the willingness to praise God. We will make beautiful music together. All ages are welcome! (If you have questions, contact Barbara Zachow: [bzachow@comcast.net](mailto:bzachow@comcast.net))



## We've Lost a Friend

For those of you who knew him, **Ted Hulett**, a former faithful, long-term member of our congregation and scout master of our Boy Scout Troop 1 for several years, passed away on July 17. He and his wife had retired to Mesa, Arizona.

### empty tomb Receptionist Needed Wednesday Afternoons

Do you remember the verse in the Book of Hebrews that talks about strangers and angels? *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.*

*Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)* At empty tomb, we often welcome strangers who come seeking and offering help. As an empty tomb volunteer Receptionist, people have that welcoming opportunity by answering the phone and greeting people at the office window. Volunteers can be the face of Jesus to those seeking help.

empty tomb is in need of someone who attends church regularly to be the Wednesday afternoon (1-5 pm) Receptionist. Please contact us by calling 217-356-2262 and asking for the Volunteer Coordinator, or by emailing [volcoor@emptytomb.org](mailto:volcoor@emptytomb.org)

### 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](mailto:terylpigott@gmail.com).



# Puzzle!

Match each numbered description with the correct biblical dreamer. Use the passages as hints, if needed.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. His brothers were irritated when he told them of his dreams. (*Genesis 37:5-8*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. He saw angels going up and down a ladder. (*Genesis 28:10-12*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. This ruler dreamed about some skinny cows eating fat cows. (*Genesis 41:17-21*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. She had an unpleasant dream and told her husband to have nothing to do with Jesus. (*Matthew 27:17-19*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. He saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone. (*Daniel 2:24-34*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He was warned to take his family to Egypt. (*Matthew 2:13*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. He saw a vine produce grapes, and he squeezed their juice into a cup. (*Genesis 40:9-11*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. They were warned in a dream about Herod's evil plan. (*Matthew 2:12*)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Pharaoh
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. The magi
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. Jacob
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. Pharaoh's cupbearer
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Joseph (Mary's husband)
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. Joseph (Jacob's son)
- \_\_\_\_\_ G. Pilate's wife
- \_\_\_\_\_ H. The king of Babylon

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

# Congregational Life of FUMC

September 1-15, 2019



- |                    |                         |  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Barry Brindley   | 9 Plamedi Djunga        | 1 Ron & Mary Ann Eaker                       |
| 1 Karen Sweikar    | 9 Ron Eaker             | 1 Terry & Mary MacRae                        |
| 1 Leslie Till      | 9 Westin Kauffmann      | 2 Bruce & Linda Hemminger                    |
| 2 Mary Ann Eaker   | 9 Helen Simpson         | 2 Stan & Bev Lewman                          |
| 2 Barbara Zachow   | 9 Cynthia Skeels        | 2 John & Carolyn Schaefer                    |
| 3 Paul Dalbey      | 10 Ashley Beyler        | 3 Al & Mary Chapman                          |
| 3 Roger Karr       | 10 Sandy Burgener       | 3 Jack & Linda Faullin                       |
| 3 Bethany Thompson | 11 Arlene Wakefield     | 4 Wayne & Linda Whited                       |
| 5 Ronda Moser      | 12 Todd Buhrmester      | 5 Steve & Mary Poole                         |
| 6 Kacie Hastings   | 12 Bruce Hemminger      | 8 Paul & Marie Djunga                        |
| 8 Catie Ford       | 14 Mary Aguilera        | 12 Clement Tshomba & BéBé<br>Otshumba-Okongo |
|                    | 14 BéBé Otshumba-Okongo |  |

## Hospital Report

**Hospitalized in the past two weeks:** Kathy Doll and Sharon Goller.



## 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. Julia & Rev. Jerry

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

## Deaths

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to David & Bonnie Berner and family at the passing of David's brother, Danial Berner, on July 27, 2019, in Marion, IL.



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



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

## NEXT

**Messenger Deadline, August 15, 2019 published on August 21**

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

# Congregational Life of FUMC

## Church Calendar

### Thursday, August 8

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

### Sunday, August 11

8:45 ARK Child Care  
9:00 Summer Bible Study  
10:00 Coffee Connections  
10:30 Worship Service  
4:30 LIFT (Leading In Faith Together)

### Monday, August 12

#### Building Closed

7:00 Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### Tuesday, August 13

#### Building Closed

### Wednesday, August 14

7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Thursday, August 15

8:30 *Messenger* Deadline  
1:30 WCG Leadership Team  
4:30 UMW Fundraising Committee  
6:30 Perceptions Praise Team  
6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

### Friday, August 16

5:00 Youth Reunion at Papa Del's

### Saturday, August 17

Youth Reunion at Taste of Champaign-Urbana

### Sunday, August 18

Youth Reunion  
8:45 ARK Child Care  
9:00 Summer Bible Study  
10:00 Coffee Connections  
10:30 Worship Service

### Monday, August 19

5:15 Board of Trustees

### Tuesday, August 20

9:30 Program Staff Meeting  
6:00 Finance Committee/  
Stewardship Committee  
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

### Wednesday, August 21

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

### Thursday, August 22

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

### Sunday, August 25

8:45 ARK Child Care  
9:00 Summer Bible Study  
10:00 Blood Pressure Screenings  
10:00 Coffee Connections  
10:30 Worship Service

### Tuesday, August 27

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

### Wednesday, August 28

1:30 NDFL Committee  
7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Thursday, August 29

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

### Sunday, September 1 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday

8:45 ARK Child Care  
10:00 Coffee Connections  
10:30 Worship Service

### Tuesday, September 3

9:30 Program Staff Meeting  
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1  
7:15 Worship Ministry Team

### Wednesday, September 4

8:30 *Messenger* Assembly  
9:30 UMW Executive Board  
5:00 Wellspring Committee  
7:00 Chancel Choir  
7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Thursday, September 5

10:00 Minds in Motion  
6:30 Perceptions Praise Team

### Sunday, September 8 Rally Day

8:45 ARK Child Care  
10:00 Coffee Connections  
10:30 Worship Service  
12:00 Rally Day Picnic in Fellowship Hall  
4:00 Angel Choir  
4:30 LIFT (Leading In Faith Together)  
5:00 Youth Music

### Monday, September 9

7:00 Choral Union  
7:00 Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### Tuesday, September 10

10:30 Staff Meeting  
6:00 Chancel Ringers  
7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1

### Wednesday, September 11

1:30 UMW Special Program  
7:00 Chancel Choir  
7:30 Venturing Crew 1

### Worship Attendance

#### Sunday, July 28, 2019

10:30.....163

#### Sunday, August 4, 2019

10:30.....161

