Music & Meditation

THE SIX WEEKS OF LENT are a time of personal reflection – a time to reflect on what Christ has done for us and how we can draw nearer to Him.

BEGINNING MARCH 1 and continuing every Sunday through April 5, Music & Meditation will be at 4:30 – 5:15 in the sanctuary. Following this time, a Lenten study will be led by Pastor Camilla. The study is especially geared toward United Methodists.

STARTING MARCH 1ST —

“Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Homosexuality, and The United Methodist Church” is a study by Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of St. Luke UMC in Indianapolis. This study encourages participants to wrestle with all sides of the issues of inclusion and Biblical interpretation. Pastor Camilla believes this is an important conversation to begin now, leading up to the General Conference discussions and votes in May, 2020.

This 6 week class will be offered on Sundays at 5:30 pm and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. The sessions will be the same on both nights each week. No pre-registration or books are needed. Please plan to come and be part of this important discussion!

Music & Meditation

THE SIX WEEKS OF LENT are a time of personal reflection – a time to reflect on what Christ has done for us and how we can draw nearer to Him.

BEGINNING MARCH 1 and continuing every Sunday through April 5, Music & Meditation will be at 4:30 – 5:15 in the sanctuary. Following this time, a Lenten study will be led by Pastor Camilla. The study is especially geared toward United Methodists.

STARTING MARCH 1ST —

“Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Homosexuality, and The United Methodist Church” is a study by Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of St. Luke UMC in Indianapolis. This study encourages participants to wrestle with all sides of the issues of inclusion and Biblical interpretation. Pastor Camilla believes this is an important conversation to begin now, leading up to the General Conference discussions and votes in May, 2020.

This 6 week class will be offered on Sundays at 5:30 pm and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. The sessions will be the same on both nights each week. No pre-registration or books are needed. Please plan to come and be part of this important discussion!
Astounding Grace

Lenten Sermon Series: “Astounding Grace”

Pastor Camilla will be looking at the many ways we encounter grace in our lives. As part of this series, you are invited to read along each week in Matt Rawle’s study book, “The Grace of Les Miserables.”

Those books are available in the church office during the week and at the information desk on Sundays. If you wish to help offset the cost of the book, you can add $10 to the collection plate on Sunday.

Welcome Jeff Rasche

Please welcome Rev. Jeff Rasche, recently retired from Chaddock School, who will be our preacher on March 15. Jeff and his wife Shelly have a life-long connection to First UMC. Let’s welcome them as part of our family!

Sunday Morning Worship

When you go to the movies, aren’t you amazed at the number of people it takes to produce a movie? The credit lists are very long. Well, have you ever thought of all the people behind the scenes who make a Sunday morning worship service happen?

The Worship Committee not only wishes to call attention to the necessary people who volunteer their time and talents, but we wish to say “Thank you” to each one who volunteers in any of these areas.

Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Liturgists, Communion Stewards, Music (choir, bells, brass, carillon), Decorations/Worship Arts, Paraments, Video, Audio, Projection, Clean & restock pews, Banners, Flowers, Instrument upkeep, occasional children’s sermons, coordinators for special holidays – all of these volunteers work to assist our paid staff to make our worship services welcoming and meaningful.

The rest is up to us. Are we welcoming? Are we eager to be in worship? Are we responsive to the message and ready to serve God?

First UMC Flower Fund

Thank you to those who provide funds for the altar flowers in worship each Sunday. The sign-up sheet is in the office and your donation can be made through the financial office. These flowers are usually given in memory or in honor of someone or for a special occasion.

Likewise, the Easter Flowers and the Christmas Flowers are given in memory or honor and a donation is made to the Flower Fund.

As we become more aware of allergies to pollen and fragrances, we are using more and more silk flowers as well as a few live flowers/plants. Also the worship arts committee purchases many additional decorations to enhance our sanctuary for special seasons of the church year and holidays.

Your donations to the Flower Fund are used for all the above mentioned flowers/decorations. As usual, if you wish to make a donation in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the order sheet in the bulletin prior to Easter and Christmas. The donors and those being honored and/or remembered will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday and Christmas Sunday.

Thank you for your understanding of the move to more silk flowers and additional decorations.

- The Worship Committee

Sundays during Lent

Sunday, March 1
Grace and Justice

Sunday, March 8
Grace and the Poor

Sunday, March 15
Jeff Rasche, Guest Preacher

Sunday, March 22
Astounding Grace: Grace and Barricades

Sunday, March 29
Astounding Grace: Grace and Hope
Chaddock School Book Launch

Monday, March 16 at 6:30 pm

You're invited to discover Chaddock's new book: Raising the Challenging Child: How to Minimize Meltdowns, Reduce Conflict, and Increase Cooperation.

A special reception will be hosted by Decatur First United Methodist Church on Monday, March 16. Doors open at 6:30, with a brief program at 6:50.

The book features research-based and family-tested ideas and lessons for improving and strengthening family relationships. A free study guide for Christian parents, Sunday School and small groups is also available. Debbie Reed, Chaddock President/CEO, will be happy to autograph your copy!

RSVP your attendance to dsmith@chaddock.org, 217-222-0034. More information at raisingthechallengingchild.com.

Friends visiting Friends

There will be another gathering at Primrose on Saturday, April 18th at 2:00 pm. in the Café.

Thank you so much for all those who have participated in the past. The level of appreciation from your friends who can no longer come to church, is immeasurable. It lets them know that they are not forgotten, and it helps them to feel a valued part of our congregation still. This is such an important ministry in the life of this church and our congregation.

If you are able to attend this next gathering, please let Leon and Barb Bolin know.
Thank You

Friends,

Thank you for the many cards, calls and prayers. The support helps during this time of recovery.

- John and Jan Allen

Thanks! The youth would like to thank you for your support in addressing local and global hunger. A total of $353 for Northeast Community Fund and Heifer International was received. Thanks for helping provide so much needed food.

- The Youth

Thank you so much for your donation of items to our shelter. We appreciate your kindness and generosity! Thank you for thinking of us.

- Dove, Inc.

Kids Club

As we approach Easter and the promise of New Life, Kids Club looks forward to opportunities for new life in our Gardening Program.

**Kids Club Easter Wish List**

- **5 Volunteers** - March 10th and March 12th
  + Help kids plant seeds at Good Samaritan Inn from 11:30-1:00

- **5 Volunteers** - March 28th
  + Chaperones for Field Trip 9:00 - 11:30

- **2 Volunteers** each Saturday from April 18 - July 25th
  + Welcome gardeners at 9:00 am,
  + Chaperone from 9-11
  + Pay Interns and Apprentices at 11:00
  + Deliver produce to Good Samaritan Inn at 11:30

- **90 Pringles type cans** to make banks for our Financial Literacy Project the end of April.

Contact Marilyn Stevens at 638-5545 or Patty Barr at 619-6861 to volunteer or for more information.
THE TRUSTEES approved the following scholarship applications:

Claire Burnham - $500.00 - Richland C.C. Nursing
Karina Forshee - $500.00 - Augustana Bio Chemistry
Lucas McCoskey - $500.00 - Millikin Accounting
Alyssa Spencer - $500.00 - S.E. Missouri Pre Veterinary
Gabrielle Spencer - $500.00 - SIU Carbondale - Agr. Finance

Applications for fall semester scholarships should be filed with the Trustees in July 2020.

IN ADDITION TO THE SCHOLARSHIPS the trustees also approved the annual distribution of income and/or principal from other restricted funds as directed by the donors. Most of the funds provided that the Missions Committee would select the organizations to receive the funds.

THE SALE OF THE FORMER PARSONAGE was concluded in December. When the Fenders were vacating the property Kevin Miller, a licensed independent appraiser, placed it's value at $150,000.00. Before listing the property for sale it required significant expenditures for drainage, landscaping and other renovations to make it more saleable. The property was listed with Teri Booker at Brinkoetter Realty and a listing price of $164,500.00 was established. After some negotiating we reached a selling price of $160,000.00 with the buyer requiring no inspections. After deducting all expenses for title work, real estate commission, renovations, utilities etc. the net proceeds from the property was $138,221.84. These funds are deposited in a restricted fund as required by the Book of Discipline. The income from the fund will be available for current expenses but the principal is restricted for use in acquiring another parsonage or for a major renovation or improvement to the church building.

- Rich Barnett, Chair

Registration Deadline - with deposit - April 7th.
www.igrc.org/campsessions

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jennifer Horton-Motter. Email:
Jennifer@decaturfirstumc.org

Parent Paint Party!

Hey parents! How about a few kid-free minutes and some time to fellowship with other parents?!

At 3pm on Saturday, March 14th we will get creative at Let’s Paint With Liz. Childcare will be provided at the church. Please register (at the KidLife welcome desk) by March 8th. If you have any questions, please contact Joli Hohenstein at: hohensteinj@gmail.com

World Day of Prayer

WE’RE HOSTING AGAIN THIS YEAR on Friday, March 6, 2020 in the Sanctuary at 1:00 pm

THIS YEAR THE WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE have prepared the services around the theme “Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk” from John 5:2-9a

THERE WILL BE A MISSIONARY SPEAKER, Dru Smith, who served in Africa. There will also be stories of women and a skit.

Carillon on Sundays

EVER WONDER who’s responsible for the beautiful carillon music on Sunday mornings? Kathy Leavitt and Patti Swinford—that’s who! Make sure to share your appreciation with them when you see them next! They would love to share with anyone who is interested in playing. Please see one of them if you’d like to learn how to play the carillon.
We will stay—An Ash Wednesday Devotional

What exactly are we all beginning? A sojourn.
Yes, I too like the word. And its meaning is, well, meaningful. A sojourn is a temporary stay. (Merriam-Webster)

Here, between the full manger and the empty tomb, we will stay with Jesus as He journeys cross-ward...

and hear Him weep over stubborn hearts and turn over temple tables. (Lk 19:41, Lk 19:45-46)

and see the crowds shout “Hosanna!” and “Crucify him!” (Lk 19:37-38, Lk 23:21)

and witness the disciples’ pledge sincere faithfulness and deliver fear-filled abandonment. (Mt 26:35, Mt 26:56)

During Lent, we will stay with Jesus and remember...
that we are the stubborn hearts and the temple tables.
We are the fickle crowds and the fearful disciples.
And He is our Savior.

So we will stay with Jesus...
and feel His grief when He calls Judas, “friend.” (Mt 26:50)

And believe His voice when He tells Peter, “And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Lk 22:32)

And love His mercy when He cries, “Father forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.” (Lk 22:34)

We will stay with Jesus these forty days of Lent to hear,
to see,
to witness,
to feel,
to believe,
to love.

To remember.
We stay with Jesus these 40 days of Lent to remember, to believe, and to love.

And on that morning, when the silent tomb gives way to an earth-shaking shout, and together we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection, our hope is that these forty days prepare us to continue to stay with Jesus...until we see Him face to face.

“What a day, glorious day, that will be”

Alicia Chole
https://aliciachole.com/wewillstay/
All women are invited to participate in UMW activities!

Mon., Mar. 2, 9:30 a.m., Library, Miriam Circle; Barb Ohlsen, chair. Pastor Camilla will present the program.

Fri., Mar. 6, 1 p.m., Sanctuary, World Day of Prayer, organized by Susan Hawbecker. This year's program was written by women of Zimbabwe, a landlocked country located in southern Africa. It is known for its dramatic landscapes, animal reserves, and Victoria Falls. Decatur women will wear African clothes given to American Methodist women. Following the service, we will serve a light luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Wed., Mar. 11, 1 p.m., UMW Leadership Team, Susannah Wesley

Fri., Mar. 13, 1:15 p.m., Chapel, Mary & Martha Circle, Carol Drayton, chair.

Sat., Mar. 21, 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall, Spring Fling, Hope Circle, hostesses. Program by Central Illinois Christians in Mission (1000 E. Locust Street, Decatur, IL 62521). This group provides household items for persons in need. UMW would like to collect new or gently used items for them at this meeting. They always need pots and pans and silverware.

Mon., Mar. 16, 1:30 p.m., Library, Ruth Circle. Rita Larrance will present the pledge program and provide refreshments.

Mon., Mar. 23, 5:30 p.m., Panera Bread, Bibles, Books, and Bagels will discuss A Raisin the Sun, a play by Lorraine Hansberry. Patty Barr convenes this group, which is open to men and women.

Tues., Mar. 24, 7 p.m., Library, Hope Circle, Jan Allen and Lana Hoey co-chairs.

Fri. & Sat., April 3 – 4, Cunningham’s Festival of Quilts, 1301 N. Cunningham Ave., Urbana 61802. UMW members donate quilts, crafts, and food for this event.

Thursday, March 26 at 10:30 at First United Methodist Church in Rm. 104

This month’s meeting will be at First United Methodist Church and the speaker will be Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe.

First Friends is a social group that is open to members and non-members alike. Each month there is a speaker with a discussion afterward. Refreshments are served. There is no fee to attend, but free-will donations are accepted to cover the cost of the refreshments. Bring a friend with you!

Saturday, March 9 at 10 a.m.
For all women!

Hostesses: Hope Circle
Program by: CICIM (Central IL Christians in Mission)

This group provides household items for persons in need. UMW would like to collect new or gently used items for them at this meeting. They always need pots and pans and silverware.
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY:
   APRIL 5 - 9am worship service

MAUNDY THURSDAY:
   APRIL 9 - 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY:
   APRIL 10 - 12:15 pm

EASTER SUNDAY:
   APRIL 12 - 9:00 am  Worship Service