

THE MESSENGER

From PASTOR AMANDA

“Greetings! Welcome to my first newsletter article as your pastor! Another first in a flurry of firsts for me and my family. Thank you to all who have been welcoming us into this community and into this body of Christ. Brian, Mason, Parker and I all look forward to a long and fruitful season of ministry together.

As a bit of ‘get to know you’ I want to share a couple pieces of scripture that are completely foundational to how I live out my faith not only as your pastor but as a wife, mom, daughter, friend, neighbor, citizen, etc.

The first text that is at the core of how I engage my life of loving God and others comes from Romans 12:2, “Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is— what is good and pleasing and mature.”

The goal of our faith is to grow into the likeness of our holy God and our beautiful savior, Jesus. This verse of scripture (offered regularly as prayer and plea to the Lord) encourages us to watch for patterns, systems, ways of perceiving the world and to at the very least remain curious about them. It is good to ask questions of the world around us and to seek the perspective of God so that we can evaluate



the world around us in ways that lead to personal decisions and community decisions that are good, pleasing, and mature...like God!

The other text that is woven into the fabric of my spiritual life is my commitment to measuring life by the fruits of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23, “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.”

These fruits, when they are produced through a life, bring nourishment to others. I don’t only seek to bear the fruits of the Spirit because God said so. The fruit of the Spirit born through one who is in the Spirit brings nourishment to others. When I am a gentle mom instead of a cranky mom or a patient friend instead of a hurried/distracted friend I am not just doing superficial good, but am bringing more of the likeness of God into the life of a person whom God loves and most likely one I care about, too.

I look forward to pursuing Christlikeness together with this church body and, together, bearing the fruits of the Spirit so that the world can be nourished on that which is so very good.

Grace and peace,

- Pastor Amanda

MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

FUMC has reserved an afternoon work slot at Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Thursday, July 29. Volunteers at MMDC must be ages 11 and up. We will leave from the church parking lot at 11:30 am and return at approximately 5 pm. Please eat lunch before we leave for MMDC. If you want to volunteer, please call or email Debbie Vandermyde (217)412-0634 or debbievandermyde56@gmail.com) no later than June 15 to reserve your slot.

One mans
trash is
another
mans
Treasure

UMW'S TRASH & TREASURE

United Methodist Women are making tentative plans to hold the Trash and Treasure sale October 7-9. **HOWEVER, do not bring your treasures to the church until further notice, please.**

Items not accepted for sale include child car seats, TVs, videos, magazines, clothes, used light fixtures, curtain rods, left over building materials.

A NEW WAY OF GIVING

Beginning later this month, persons may use secure electronic giving from our church website. This service is provided by VANCO, a leading financial services firm that counts a large number of United Methodist churches among its satisfied clients. Persons can give using a credit card, debit card, or by EFT from a bank account. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your donation. Also, our Financial Secretary, Nysa Leggions will update your giving account with any donation.

Persons can use this to give regular periodic donations (for example, weekly or monthly). It can also be used for any one-time donations, such as memorials to honor someone, or direct it to a specific need.

We plan on having a document to help individuals use it. We will also have individuals that can assist you in creating a donation. Please contact Tim Lee or Nysa Leggions if you have questions.

CHADDOCK NEWS

May 27th was graduation day for ten Chaddock School students. Congratulations to the students who fulfilled high school graduation requirements. Our gifts of money, toiletries and prayers over many years helped make this milestone possible. Thanks to FUMC for the continued support of Chaddock students.

AMAZON SMILE FOR MIDWEST MISSION

If you ever order anything from Amazon.com, you can have 0.5% of what you spend donated to the charity of your choice. It does not cost anything to participate – all you have to do is sign up for it at [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile). Whenever you order anything, the charity automatically receives the donation. Midwest Mission is now on the list of charities and would appreciate being your choice.

On Sunday mornings it is important that you sign the register that gets passed down the aisle

Thanks in advance,
Church Office

ADDRESS CHANGE

for Joanne Forrest

Please send all mail for Joanne to her son and daughter-in-law's address at:

Joanne Forrest
4305 W. Old Church Road.
Champaign, IL 61822

Joanne has not physically moved; however, we have forwarded her mail for almost a year now, and the post office will stop forwarding shortly. Thank you.

- Joe and Sheryl DeBarr



FROM JENNIFER HORTON-MOTTER

Does God have a favorite color?



This summer our preschool and kindergarten students will explore different colors in a variety of Bible stories. Our elementary students are focused on learning more about prayer this summer. We have already learned about Doodle Prayers and Praying in Color, and we are now taking a closer look at The Lord's Prayer.



Saturday, December 4th - 9am - noon

Grab your elf hats and jingle bells and sign up now for THE volunteer event of the year!

Volunteer registration is now open, and can be easily done online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d45abad2ca6fc1-childrens2>

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

Editor's note: As has been an annual tradition for several years, below is a report of action taken by the 2021 Annual Conference. A summary report, suitable for use in church newsletters and reporting to your local congregations following Annual Conference is now available online. Congregations are free to use it or reprint it without seeking permission.

By Paul Black

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered online for its second virtual annual conference session June 11-12. The theme of the two-day gathering with a two-hour clergy session and a four-hour plenary session was A Time for Healing, the first of four themes focusing on a quadrennial theme of God Has Made Everything Beautiful in His Time, based upon Ecclesiastes 3.

The start of Annual Conference came with the announcement by the State of Illinois that it was lifting masking and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated people. Conference leadership, which has provided guidance for the past 15 months through the pandemic, is now returning such decisions to the local church in consultation with local health officials. Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, conferees were able to worship and gather for Christian conferencing. IGRC Communications collaborated to produce a hybrid, part-live, part-recorded Annual Conference. Attendees gathered virtually via Zoom web conferencing or by attending one of the eight remote locations throughout the annual conference. Slightly more than 930 attended annual conference from home and another 90 attended through one of the remote sites and voted manually with marshals reporting vote totals via a roll call vote once voting was completed in the Zoom room. Annual Conference secretarial staff aggregated the vote totals.

Bishops Sharma J. Lewis, episcopal leader of the Richmond (Va.) Area, was the preacher for the Opening Worship and Bishop Frank J. Beard preached the closing worship service.

Leading up to the single-day conference, services were aired recognizing 26 retirees with a combined 635 years of service was held June 11; A Memorial Service remembering clergy, clergy spouses and lay members to annual conference that had passed away in the previous year and remembrance of 10 congregations with a combined 1,405 years of ministry that have completed their mission – East Peoria Faith UMC, St. Elmo: Fairview UMC, Florence UMC, Granite City Niedringhaus, Iroquois UMC, Girard: New Hope UMC, Sumner: Olive Branch UMC, Roberts UMC, Saint David UMC and Texas UMC -- on June 10.

The Conference also approved the closure of two congregations -- the former United Church of Altona and the former Fairview Heights Christ UMC -- which have left the denomination to become independent. Both resolutions followed negotiations between the congregations and conference leadership.

The Annual Conference approved a 2022 budget of \$11,040,909 – a reduction of 1.48 percent. However, included in the spending plan is the use of \$700,000 from Conference reserves to enable a second straight year of decrease in apportionments of more than 7 percent. While budgets have been relatively flat over the past 10 years, the \$10,340,909 apportioned total returns spending levels to 2005. The \$893,033 reduction comes on the heels of apportionment collections of 90 percent in 2020, slightly higher than the 88 percent in pre-pandemic 2019, and still lower than 95 percent in 2018. The Conference ended 2020 with a \$352,000 surplus.

The 2022 Spending Plan also includes funding for a new position -- a Director of Ministerial Excellence -- which will relate to the Conference Board of Ministry, the Bishop and Cabinet, and be a single link for clergy from the beginning of candidacy throughout their active ministry. The position not only includes administrative tasks, but it also includes providing direction for the Pastoral Care

and Counseling network within the conference. The search process is underway and is being guided by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Applications are being accepted through June 25, 2021.

Legislatively, the conference announced that the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will remain at \$17,500 for 2022. The conference also approved a 2 percent increase to its minimum salaries. In 2022, the salaries will go to \$46,195 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$42,391 for full-time local pastors.

Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$827 per active service year in 2022, funded by a gift from Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund.

In anticipation that General Conference action may result in a split of the denomination, conferees approved a change to the Preachers' Aid Society's by-laws that would extend benefits to any pastor who is a member of the IGRC at the time of separation when they retired. The measure, which required a 90 percent affirmative vote was approved 714-14.

The Clergy Session approved the election of one elder in full connection and three deacons in full connection. They also approved the commissioning of seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon; and celebrated the graduation of three local pastors from Course of Study. Ordination and Commissioning Services will be held at Champaign Faith UMC on Saturday, June 19. Commissioning will be at 11 a.m. and Ordination will begin at 2 p.m.

Membership stands at 112,122 in 2020, down 3,249 (2.8 percent) from 2019. Average worship attendance is 35,151, down 14,119 (28.7 percent), although congregations also reported 45,665 persons attending online, which would result in a substantial increase. Church school attendance stands at 12,509, down 3,697.

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held June 9-11, 2022, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria.



Ice Cream Social

Boy Scouts Troop #202
invites you to help
Welcome Pastor Amanda
and family!

Wednesday, July 14
6:30 pm
Rock Springs Nature Ctr.

3RD QUARTER FOCUS

Book Discussion – July 26 at 6:30pm

The mission team focus for the 3rd quarter is *social justice*, so we would like to suggest that anyone who is interested, please read the book [Just Mercy; a Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson. It's the author's true story of an organization he founded called the Equal Justice Initiative.

As a young African American lawyer in the south, one of his first cases was to defend a young man who was sentenced to death for a crime he said he didn't commit. We will be discussing the book on July 26 at 6:30 at the church. The book was also made into a movie by the same title. Please join us!

- Mission Team

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

152 Years of Women in Mission

March 23, 2021, UMW marked 152 years of women in mission with services to and advocacy for underserved women, children, and youth.

Calendar

Mission U 2021 is virtual. Additional information can be found on the Mission U registration page:

<https://www.IGRC.org/umw-mission>

Participants are responsible for getting their own books. We highly recommend that you read the book to receive maximum benefit from the study. You can borrow the book from a library or purchase the book through the UMW website www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/missionstudy or for Kindle through www.amazon.com the link for which is also on that UMW page, or the site of your choice.

Mission U, view pre-recorded sessions July 1 – 17.

Mission U Discussion schedule: Thursday, July 17, Study 1, 10 – noon; Study 2, 1 – 3 p.m.; Study 3; 7 – 9 pm.

UMW Leadership Team – next meeting is Wednesday, **August 11**, 1:30 p.m. The team and circles will not meet in July.

Sangamon River District UMW Fall meeting: Friday, September 17, Springfield Laurel United Methodist Church.

UMW Sunday, September 19, speaker is Tim Manard, Development Officer, Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana.

Thursday, September 23, Fall Fling, Ruth Circle will be in charge of refreshments and decorations.

Saturday, October 2, Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) UMW Annual Gathering, First United Methodist Church, Morton.

October 6 – 9, tentative dates for Trash 'n Treasure sale. **Do not** bring items to the church until given permission much later.



YOUTH NEWS from Pastor April

Youth Group is doing special activities of mission work and fun this summer. Our first activity was a girl only lunch. We had a group of 10 at Olive Garden. We had lots of good food and great conversation. The youth had a marvelous time. We will do a boy only lunch later in the summer after Pastor Amanda's family has settled in.

Youth Sunday School continues to meet at 10:15 over the summer. We just finished a Bible study on Mike Slaughter's book, Dare to Dream: Creating a God Sized Mission Statement for Your Life. It was an excellent study and created some interesting conversations. We identified people and qualities that we admire, needs in our community, struggles in our lives that have defined us, excuses that prevented us from living God's dream, and the gifts God has given us. We learned that it is not our mission but we are all part of God's mission. Our missions may change or evolve but we will have them our whole lives. What is God asking you to do or be and what has God given you to complete your mission? Are you living out your mission, if not, why? Jesus said, "All things are possible for the one who has faith" (Mark 9:23).



JULY 20 – Northeast Community Fund, meet at 8:30 and work from 9am – Noon

JULY 29 – Midwest Mission Distribution, meet in parking lot of FUMC at 11:30am

AUGUST 15 – Pool Party, 2-4 pm at Motters (August 22 is the rain date)

AUGUST 29 – Boys Only Lunch, meet at FUMC parking lot at 11:30am

SEPTEMBER 19 – Family (youth and children) Mini Golf

SEPTEMBER 26 – Skyzone in Springfield. We'll eat lunch at the church following SS, then depart

drivers and chaperones needed for Skyzone event



Dear friends in mission

Thank you very much for your financial support sent this year, and for the loving prayer and financial support you have provided over the years. You have truly been a great blessing to Larry and I, and to Africa University.

Jane Kies, GBFM missionary

THANK YOU to all who were able to donate Fill the Cart Cereal in May for the Northeast Community Fund. Forty-seven boxes of cereal were delivered to NE Fund. Each donation helps their clients keep food on their family's table.

(FYI: Fill the Cart in August will be Pork and Beans, so watch for the sales now.)

Mission Committee

Thank you for your generous donation to Dove's Financial Assistance (MAX) program. We're honored you trust us to help our community members in need, and with your continued support, we know we'll provide hope to those who need it most.

Pastor Shane Hartman, Dove's Financial Assistance Director

To the Entire FUMC Family:

Thank you for such a great send-off! The music was fabulous, the gifts were so generous, and your kind words meant so much! Thank you for allowing us to be part of your life!

Camilla and Jeff

To my church family,

Thanks to all of you who sent cards, called, or showed your support in other ways at the time of the loss of my brother. All of your expressions of Christian love were most appreciated.

Betty Biggs