

THE MESSENGER

Charge Conference 2021

Wednesday, October 6

7:00 pm



This is one of six church-wide special offerings. The money given this Sunday goes to support ethnic and racial students who are pursuing many avenues of ministry in their quest to become the future leaders of the United Methodist Church. Your gifts provide scholarships to students from the U.S. and around the world. FUMC's Mission Team designates \$100 toward these scholarships, and you are welcome to make individual donations as well.

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO ...

Many of you have already heard that October 7th will be my final day in the office as your secretary. I have enjoyed the time I've spent with FUMC over the past 12 years (and 4 sets of pastors!) and will continue to lovingly remember the friendships and relationships that we have built with each other over this time. You've taught me so much. You have supported me through the caretaking of my parents, the death of my father, my children and grandchildren moving far, far away, having breast cancer, and much more. You have become my surrogate church family, and I will always cherish these moments.

I had always thought (and planned) on retiring from First United Methodist in my "old" age. But, as you know, sometimes God has other plans for us. Plans that we don't necessarily ask for, but He provides for

us anyway in our time of need. When it became clear that some business changes were going to be made in an effort to be good financial stewards for the church, God opened another door for me.

Starting October 18th, I will be the new Office Administrator for the First Lutheran Church on the other end of Church Street. Even as it brings the excitement of a new challenge, I still grieve over leaving FUMC. Thank you for being my employer, but more importantly my friends.

In Christ,

Barbi

OFFICE STAFF AND HOURS UPDATES

As some background to Barbi's announcement of her resignation, we should begin at the beginning. In August, the Staff Parish Relations Committee discussed their part of the overall effort of church leadership to help set the 2022 budget where it belongs, which meant facing some ministry realities as they truly are.

It was decided the new office hours would be set to reflect this: Monday-Friday from 9am – 3pm. The greatest staff impact from the reduction in office hours was to the Administrative Secretary's position. It would be twenty-five hours per week starting January 1, 2022.

The SPRC shared this information with Barbi first so that she would be made aware in person and not simply due to the normal process of church budgeting and it being the time of year that we share those documents for Charge Conference. The next week the news was shared with the full staff.

Barbi has taken a different job and her last day in the office will be Thursday, October 7, 2021. We are grateful for all that Barbi has contributed to the life of this church and wish her well in her new job.

We lament that the reality of ministry in this season of church life is reduced to the point that such decisions are necessary for practicing wise stewardship of our resources. And we will need an extension of understanding and flexibility from the congregation as we look for volunteers to help answer phones and the front door sometimes as well as fluctuating church office hours while we navigate these changes.

Thank you in advance for showing Barbi your appreciation for her work through a phone call, card, or email and for your prayers for her and the church as we continue moving through change.

Pastor Amanda Richards

NEXT FILL-THE-CART OPPORTUNITY:

Tomato products in November! You can start bringing your donations in for this on any Sunday between now and then. Thank you for all your help and support in our effort to help feed the community.



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>

SPECIAL MISSION UMW RECOGNITION

Lana Hoey

Each year on UMW Sunday, we recognize a UMW or other church member who has made outstanding contribution to the work of the church. This year LANA HOEY receives the award.

Although Lana is small in stature (I can say that as we're about the same height) she looms large in generosity of service.

- For several years she, with Jan Allen, has served as chair of Hope Circle
- Lana has organized funeral meals for innumerable church members over several years.
- She has also lined up volunteers to take meals to shut-ins during family crises. (She says this job

is too easy as all who she calls quickly agree to serve.)

- Lana has served as hostess at Dinner Downtown assigning tasks to volunteers and being sure that everything runs smoothly.
- Then until Marilyn Stevens organized Kids Club, Lana would gather the children after they finished their meal, and she would read Bible stories and often send some item home with them.
- Lana has presented many children's sermons, possibly more than 1 generation of children. One that I'll never forget was her showing eggs of several colors which her chickens had laid; however, when these eggs were broken, there was no way of telling from

which egg shell each had come. Lesson: we're all alike despite our outward appearance.

- Here is one more gift which I doubt is duplicated by anyone else in our conference and maybe beyond. Lana raises chickens, which lay eggs, which she brings to church. Then members of the congregation, who need eggs, make a monetary donation. All monies collected from this go to support African University!

Lana – Thanks for sharing all your gifts to UMW, this congregation and beyond! We are blessed by your continuing generosity!

Virginia McQuiston and
UMW Members

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 152 Years of Women in Mission – October 2021

Virginia McQuiston is president of our UMW unit of four circles. Congratulations to Virginia, the UMW Leadership Team, and all women for presenting UMW Sunday on September 19, 2021! Tim Manard, the featured speaker, brought greetings, news, and thanks from Cunningham.

UMW invites all women to participate in its activities. Women do not have to attend services at this church in order to participate in UMW. Women are encouraged to invite friends to participate in the circles and other activities.

Hope Circle held a re-organizational meeting and salad luncheon on September 1 with 10 members of the circle and guests, Pastor Amanda and Pastor April. Hope Circle will meet Friday, October 1, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. **Kathy Leavitt** will present the program. The group is interested in doing activities, such as making freezer meals or visiting Old King’s Orchard, a facility providing services for at-risk youth. Contact: **Virginia McQuiston**.

Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, October 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the church’s library. **Doris Hudson** will provide the program. Contact: **Barb Ohlsen**.

Mary & Martha Circle may need to reorganize and/or merge with another circle. Some members have moved while others are in long-term care. Contact: **Carol Drayton**.

Ruth Circle will meet Monday, October 18, 1:30 p.m. at church. Contact: **Patty Barr**.

More Calendar Dates:

Saturday, October 2, Illinois Great Rivers Conference’s UMW Annual gathering, Morton FUMC, only online.

Wednesday, October 20, 1:30 p.m., (Note this is the 3rd Wednesday) Leadership team, Susannah Wesley room

November 18 – 20, Bloomington, IL, Baby fold’s Festival of Trees. Patty Barr and Kathy King-Nobles will submit an entry.

Thurs., December 9, 1 p.m., Christmas Tea



Beginning in February, Jennifer is excited to offer a volunteer opportunity with our youngest learners!



We are searching for a group of loving teachers to take turns on CreaSunday mornings sharing a 10-minute lesson with children in our nursery. Each age-appropriate lesson will introduce our littles to Bible stories and faith language. Everything needed will be prepared and provided. Please contact Jennifer for more information.

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|  | Creation |  | Jesus is our teacher |
|  | God is always with us |  | Jesus is our Savior |
|  | God takes care of us |  | Paul's Journey |
|  | Praise God! |  | God is Love |
|  | Jesus is born |  | The fruit of the Spirit |

thank you

Thank you for your prayers, concerns, and cards when I was undergoing my initial treatment for lymphoma. They were a source of comfort and helped me get through the days. I am now on a different course of treatment, and it is progressing much better than the first set of treatments. I feel fine and have resumed a normal life. Thank you again for your prayers and support. – Mark Vandermyde

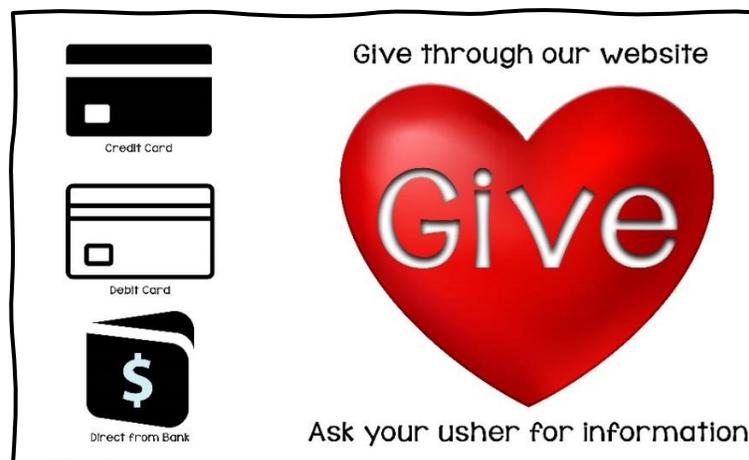
A BIG thank you to all of those who took time out of their busy schedules to work at the Farm Progress Show. We ended up with a total of 53 hours spent at the food tent preparing sandwiches, pit potatoes, loaded pit potatoes, taking orders and being runners. At this time we do not know how much we will earn, but once we know the amount, it will be shared with the congregation. Again, thank you and see you at the food tent in 2023! - Dave Johnson

I would like to express a sincere Thank You for your cards, wishes and prayers during the days of my recovery. They bring such support, caring, joy and comfort. I miss you and look forward to being back with you. - Jan Taylor

Thank you once again for the scholarship money gift towards my sophomore year at Millikin University. It helps cover the cost of books and fees. I'm glad to be in classrooms for the first time since I started at Millikin. It's been a great year so far. The music degree (supposed to be a minor.....haha) keeps me very busy. Thanks again for your support! - Austin Fyke

Thank you to all who were able to help Fill the Cart in August. Seventy-five cans of pork and beans were donated to Northeast Community Fund. – the Missions Committee

A NEW WAY OF GIVING



There are multiple ways of getting a detailed instruction sheet: Ask an usher on Sunday morning; check our website; call the office staff to have them send you a copy via email; and/or a pdf will be attached to various emails. For questions on the instructions themselves, please contact Tim Lee or Nysa Leggions.