

# THE MESSENGER

## PUTTING THE 'NEW' IN NEW YEAR!

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21 “No one sews a piece of new, unshrunk cloth on old clothes; otherwise, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and makes a worse tear. 22 No one pours new wine into old leather wineskins; otherwise, the wine would burst the wineskins and the wine would be lost and the wineskins destroyed. But new wine is for new wineskins.” – Mark 2:21-22

If ever in my life and ministry there has been a time when it is important to listen to the wisdom that Jesus gives us here in Mark’s gospel, I think it is now. We are well beyond the point of being able to patch up the past and make it a wearable garment again. We are well beyond the point of being able to reuse wineskins without wasting the wine. That doesn’t mean the past was bad, just that it is worn and ready to be retired in honor.

The ministries that have been done in the life of this church have brought good to our neighbors and glory to God. Now it is time to dream new dreams, sew new garments from new materials (that are soft and durable), and fill new vessels with new life. Each of us will have a part to contribute to this new future.

Some of us will contribute significant dollars because it is a resource we have plenty of. Some of us will contribute significant time in prayer because we are devoted to the intercession between God and God’s beloved creation. Some of us will contribute time and energy in service to the making and the doing of the new ministries that are yet to unfold. Some of us will contribute knowledge in the ongoing governance and

administration of the church. And some (hopefully all) of us will contribute great faith and trust that in great uncertainty all will still be well.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Amanda

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Please note that attached to this newsletter are some administrative documents that will help you navigate church operations.

- Staff Flow Chart – This will simply help you know how our staff is organized as you work with them to plan ministry.
- Official Church Roll and Addendum – The nominations process is still ongoing. Please look at where we are currently without shock or dismay. We are fully operational and will be fine. While we aren’t where we want to be, we aren’t where we’re going to be either.
- Building Usage Form – This form needs to be completed for all events that require room setup. There is no charge for church events, but we do need to know what items will be required, such as coffee, tea, tables, etc. Also, a sketch must be added to the back of the form to guide the setup. Once the form is completed, please give it to one of the office staff so that she can add it to the orange binder.

## THANK YOU!



Thank you for all your support for the Children's Christmas Shoppe! We had a lovely day full of music and laughter as we helped 65 children select Christmas presents for their family members. Our 49 "elves" helped children shop for and wrap 446 presents in 3 hours. Each child also left with a treat bag containing an ornament, snacks, and a copy of *One Night in Bethlehem* by Tim Wesemann. Your prayers, donations of gifts, wrapping supplies, and time were greatly appreciated! If you are still feeling jolly after Christmas, donations of tiny gift bags and To/From stickers (check the clearance section) will be saved for next year.



The church office is now open from 9 am – 3 pm, Monday through Friday. Here are the emails and the hours for each of our office and custodial staff members:

**Nysa's Hours:**

Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 am-3 pm

Thursday, 8:30 am-12 pm

**Nysa's Email:** [financeoffice@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:financeoffice@decaturfirstumc.org)

**Bri's Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm

**Bri's Email:** [facilities@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:facilities@decaturfirstumc.org)

**Krista's Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 9 am-3 pm

**Krista's Email:** [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org)

**Jim's Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8 am-12 pm

**Susie's Hours:** Tuesday-Thursday, 1 pm- 4 pm

**Jim & Susie's Email:** [popesjanitorial@yahoo.com](mailto:popesjanitorial@yahoo.com)



**Book Study.** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. from January 26-February 23, Pastor Amanda will lead a Book Study of "Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)" by Kate Bowler. Books will be required, participants can purchase on their own or sign up for the church to order by January 12. Beginning December 26, a signup sheet will be available at the Worship Desk (make sure to indicate if you need a book), or you may email Krista at [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org).



## YOUTH NEWS from Pastor April

I am excited to announce that youth confirmation will return on January 23, 2022, at the Sunday school hour (10:15-11:15 am). Many youth just got started with Pastor Camilla when COVID shut everything down. So, whether the youth started or not, they are all welcome to join confirmation. Youth will have the opportunity at the end of our classes to profess their membership to the United Methodist Church, and specifically the Decatur First United Methodist Church, as they continue on their path of Christian discipleship. Classes will be taught by Pastor Amanda and Pastor April. Mentors will continue and are invited to attend classes as well. We ask that everyone mask up to love each other and keep each other safe. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor April.



### NEXT BLOOD DRIVE AT FIRST...

Due to the holiday, the January blood drive will be held on the 2nd Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 7 am to noon at Decatur FUMC. Please go online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call Carol at 217-520-4676 to schedule an appointment to give blood...the best gift, besides Jesus, you can give.



**Blood Drive!**

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE					
	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
<b>LITURGIST</b>	Patty Barr	Elaine Beam	Barb Cooper	Leon Bolin	Merle Morgan
<b>USHERS</b>	Tom McQuiston & Thom Welsh	Tom McQuiston & Thom Welsh	Tom McQuiston & Thom Welsh	Tom McQuiston & Thom Welsh	Tom McQuiston & Thom Welsh
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Usher	Colton Denny & Aaron Motter	Victoria Trotman & Aaliyah Wilson	Ben Motter	Lexi Groves & Natalie Griffith
<b>GREETERS</b>	Linda & Lily Burnham	Dick & Kathy Butler	Duane & Karen McCoskey	Dave & Sandy Johnson	Ritchie & Sandy Barnett
<b>WELCOME CENTER</b>	Kathy Cain	Emily Crews	Anna Armstrong	Barb Bolin	Barb Ohlsen
<b>PRAY WITH PASTOR AMANDA</b>	Tim Lee	Gail Dees	Chris Milligan	Faye Baker	Lana Hoey

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### January 2022

**All women** are invited to participate in UMW. The person does not have to be a member of this or any church to participate. For information, contact anyone listed below.

**The UMW Leadership Team** was elected and installed at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tea.

President	<b>Virginia McQuiston</b>
Vice President	<b>Helen Kershaw</b>
Secretary	<b>Patty Barr</b>
Treasurer	<b>Diana Keller</b>
Communications	<b>Ruth Cortright</b>
Membership	<b>Linda Mollohan</b>
Program Resources	<b>Janet Palmer</b>
Social Action	<b>Sherry Parriott</b>
Spiritual Growth	<b>Jan Taylor</b>
Supportive Community	<b>Linda Arends</b>
	<b>Jane Malcomb</b>
Hope Circle	<b>Anna Armstrong</b>
	<b>Kathy Leavitt</b>
Miriam Circle	<b>To be determined</b>
Ruth Circle	<b>Patty Barr</b>

Nomination Classes:

2022 – **Cindy Machalicky, Barb Ohlsen**

2023 – **Betty Roper, Linda Cooper**

2024 – **Elaine Beam, Susan Hawbecker**

**UMW Individual members contributed**

to various charities before Christmas 2021:

- Johns Hill Magnet School's Supply Cabinet
- Chaddock – Quincy
- Cunningham Children's Home – Urbana
- Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House – East St. Louis

The 2022 UMW Budget also contains funds for these organizations:

- Baby Fold – Normal
- Spero Family Services – Mt. Vernon
- Chaddock – Quincy
- Cunningham's Guardian Parent Program
- Lessie Bates Dates Neighborhood House

*thank you*

Thank you to all who purchased school items and clothing items for our local mission project: BETTER TOGETHER - John's Hill School & First United Methodist Church. The Christmas boxes were filled to overflowing at the Christmas Tea. The boxes and many bags were taken to John's Hill School on the following Monday by our contact person, Jan Allen. She reported that the staff was thrilled with the large donation of items. Thank you for helping the staff at the school meet the needs of the 500+ students.

*Thanks for all the items donated for Chaddock School. Everyone was so generous and your support is greatly appreciated!*  
-Kathy Leavitt and Tim Lee



## FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Are you looking for a way to honor someone or remember a special occasion during Sunday worship? A simple way to do this is to provide the fresh flower arrangement on the altar. Most Sundays are available and can be selected by contacting the Church office. There is a small cost involved to provide this special touch to our worship experience. You are welcome to take the flower arrangement you provide at the conclusion of the worship service.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:  
**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**  
RE M I N D E R :  
**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS  
January 15**

## WEATHER CLOSURES

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE WILL POST CANCELLATIONS ON FACEBOOK AND THE CHURCH WEBSITE ([WWW.DECATURFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://WWW.DECATURFIRSTUMC.ORG)). WE WILL ALSO SEND AN EMAIL TO THOSE ON THE WEEKLY MAILING LIST.

IF YOU REQUIRE SOMETHING DIFFERENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



from the

*Church Pastors and Staff*

to the

*Congregation*

of the

*Decatur First United Methodist Church*