



FUMCAH NEWS

December 2019

Conflict of Kingdoms

Do you ever find yourself trying to figure out if a pair of socks is blue, black, or brown? The light is dim and you squint, trying to tell if the pair in your hand is matched, or if you'll spend your day tucking a brown clad foot behind a blue one. In those moments, do you, like me, compare the item of questionable color to an item whose color you know for certain? When you hold up the blue or brown sock to the black sweater, you can see its true hue instantly.

Advent, the church season before Christmas, is a time when we compare the way we think the world works to the way of being in the world that Jesus shows. We often think that violent conflict, competition for resources, endless self-promotion, and consuming anxiety are built into the fabric of things. Advent introduces us to the Way of Jesus and the Kingdom that Jesus inaugurates. Jesus' realm is one of peace instead of war; mercy instead of judgment; cooperation instead of competition. Advent asks us to choose which Kingdom we will inhabit.

Pastor Melissa Earley

Worship Schedule

Advent

- December 1** Pastor Melissa will preach on Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 26:36-44. Holy Communion will be served.
- December 8** Pastor Melissa will preach on Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12.
- December 15** Pastor Liz will preach on Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10. Illinois Brass Band is playing. Come early to hear an extended prelude.
- December 18** Longest Night and Memorial Communion Service at 7:30pm.
- December 22** Pastor Melissa will preach on Isaiah 7:10-16, Luke 1:47-52.
- December 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4pm, 7:30pm, and 11pm. Holy Communion will be served at 11pm.
- December 29** Pastor Liz will preach on Matthew 2:13-23.



Kaleidoscope - after worship in the Wesley Room

- December 8** Jean Wood will share her adventures from her recent trip to the Holy Land.
- December 15** Art historian Jeff Mishur will present highlights from the life and work of El Greco.

FUMCAH CALENDAR

December

- 03** Preschool Fundraiser at Noodles & Co. in downtown Arlington Heights from 4-8pm. Be sure to mention the First United Methodist Preschool to have 25% of your order donated to our preschool!
- 06** Commonground Annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange, 7pm, adults only. Please email Amy Merz for info about the party or Commonground at cletusandjeanne@hotmail.com.
- 07** Breakfast with Santa, 9am. Pancakes, Christmas crafts, music, and a visit with Santa. Register at <http://gofumcah.com/breakfast-with-Santa>
- 08** Join FUMCAH choir members for an afternoon of Christmas caroling! We will be singing to folks from our church, and bringing them some Christmas cheer.
- 09** Church Conference, 7pm, in the Wesley Room.
- 15** The Illinois Brass Band will join us for worship at 9:30am, and perform a concert at 2pm in the Sanctuary. Missions Cookie Sale after worship.
- 18** Longest Night and Memorial Communion Service at 7:30pm. An Advent worship service for those who grieve or for whom the holidays are a difficult time.
- 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 4pm, 7:30pm, and 11pm.

Save the Date!

Jan 3 Field Trip to Chicago: Exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center

Breakfast with Santa

Join us December 7, at 9am, for a breakfast buffet, Christmas stories & crafts, a visit with St. Nicholas, and a performance by the PHS Madrigal Singers. While there is no charge for the event, we ask that you contribute a non-perishable food item. Register online at <https://gofumcah.com/breakfast-with-santa>, or call the church office for details.

Longest Night and Memorial Communion Service

The Christmas season can be a hard time of year, particularly if you are grieving a loved one, have lost a job, have recently moved, or are in the midst of another unwelcome change. To make space for grief and to offer care and support to each other, we will have a worship service on December 18, at 7:30pm, that will include Holy Communion. This service will be led by the Rev. Bill Obalil, a retired United Methodist pastor, who is a part of FUMCAH.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4pm, 7:30pm, and 11:00pm

The 4:00 Christmas Eve Service has been planned with the youngest people in our church in mind. Pastor Lynn will tell the story "The Worst Christmas Ever," and the children's choirs, bell choir, and puppeteers will perform. Pastor Melissa Earley will preach at 7:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will include Holy Communion.

Living in the In-Between - Worship Series beginning in January

Often, we find ourselves living in the not-yet, somewhere between what is past and what is on its way. We experience this in our own lives when we are in the midst of endings in relationships, in work, and in life stages, and we don't yet know what's next. We are experiencing the in-between in our church life. The ways we've always done things don't work the way they used to as church takes on a different role in society. We don't know what the next General Conference, the denominational meeting in May, will bring. Join us for this four-part sermon series on Living In-Between.

Missions Cookie Sale

Sugar and spice and everything nice! It's cookie baking time again at FUMCAH. Our Missions Committee Cookie Sale will be Sunday, December 15, and we can use your help. If you could add a batch of your favorite cookies, our Christmas boxes would be even more special. Cookies should be dropped off in Room 32 on Friday, December 13, 9am-1pm, or Saturday, December 14, 9:30am-10am. Of all our mission projects, this might be the tastiest. This year's proceeds will be given to Depression Bi-Polar Support Alliance (DBSA).

Illinois Brass Band in Worship

The Illinois Brass Band will play for our worship service on December 15. Come early to enjoy an extended prelude as the band's magnificent music fills our Sanctuary and we sing beloved carols and Advent hymns.

Field Trip to Chicago: Exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center

All FUMCAH members and friends are invited to join the Thursday morning Discovery Circle on Friday, January 3, to visit the Chicago Cultural Center exhibit on gun violence. We'll meet at the Arlington Heights train station to take the 9:30am train, and the group will then walk to the Cultural Center at Michigan and Randolph. After viewing the exhibit, there will be time to look at some of the decorations on State Street, stop in the sanctuary at Chicago Temple to pray for the victims of gun violence, and then share lunch at the French Market, before returning to Arlington Heights aboard the 2:30pm train, though individuals are welcome to linger in the city. This powerful installation gives structure and form to the tragedy of gun violence. To visit an exciting experience that combines social concerns with art and architecture is a rare opportunity.

You can read more about the installation here: <https://www.dezeen.com/2019/10/01/gun-violence-memorial-project-chicago-architecture-biennialmass-design-group/>

DECEMBER MISSION: Poinsettias With Purpose

Rather than purchasing poinsettias in honor/memory of our loved ones, FUMCAH members are encouraged to make a donation instead. Our tradition is known as Poinsettias With Purpose.

This year, our Poinsettias With Purpose cause is Sustainable Action International (SAI). SAI was co-founded in 2010 by missionaries Evens and Karina Paul to serve the community of La Victoire, Haiti. SAI has been working hard to provide clean water, education, and fulfill basic needs for the Haitian people, all while sharing the love of Christ. The nation of Haiti has been struggling greatly the last several weeks due to political unrest. Protests have blocked roads, cutting off access to supplies, especially gasoline to power generators. Our goal this December is to raise funds to help SAI get through this difficult time, and to help fund construction of a much needed building to house their high school program.

For each \$10 donation to Sustainable Action International, a paper poinsettia will hang on the windows in the loggia. On these poinsettias, we will write your name and the name of your loved one(s) that your donation is in honor/memory of. Names will also be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Forms for Poinsettias With Purpose will be in the Sunday bulletin and can be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. A member of the Missions Committee will transcribe your information onto a paper poinsettia for all to see.

CONGREGATION NEWS

New Members on November 10

Cassandra Callow, Amy Elston, Chris Elston, Varsha Gaikwad, Sagar Waghmare, Maryann Kattezhah, Kris Lawrence, and Pamela Wells.

Deaths

Doris Coup, former member, on November 4.

Bob Heller, member of FUMCAH for 76 years, on November 6.

Lois Anderson, member of FUMCAH for 62 years, on November 16.

Baptism

Elijah Michael Namowicz on November 17, son of Alexandra and Andrew Namowicz, brother of Walter.

Birth

William Oliver Heitz on November 8, son of Lindsay and Rob Heitz, brother of Hannah, grandson of Cathy and the late Gary Laatsch, and great-grandson of the late Bill and Gerry Will.

ASP Gift Card Sale

With your support, youth and adults from FUMCAH have been helping families in need in Central Appalachia for 45 years. The new underpinning on Bethany's home has made it warmer and drier. Repairs to Cordus' roof and a wheel chair ramp made his home drier and safer. With ASP's help, the Thompsons were able to start a new home for their family of six. Team ASP 2020 will be traveling to central Appalachia in June 2020 to participate in this "relational ministry with home repair on the side." To help raise the necessary funds to get our group to Kentucky or West Virginia, ASP will be holding our annual Holiday Gift Card Sale. Place your order for gift cards any Sunday from now to December 15 and pick up your order the following Sunday. The final pick-up day will be Sunday, December 22. Make your holiday gifting easy and help Team ASP 2020 in their mission to make homes warmer, safer, and drier. You can also choose to help two missions at once by purchasing gift cards from ASP and giving them to ChildServ. You can brighten the Christmas of a needy child in the Chicagoland area and help Team ASP 2020 at the same time!



ChildServ Gift Tags

There will be a ChildServ table with gift tags set up next to the ASP table in Fellowship Hall. There are tags for 150 children, and each tag has a child's information, including a wish list for gifts and sizes for clothing. Gifts are due no later than December 10. Instructions will be provided with the tags.

Preschool News

Our 3-year-old preschoolers are going to have to search in new and interesting places around the church to try to catch the gingerbread man what with all the construction going on!

Preschool and We-e Care sessions will be on winter break from December 23, 2019 until January 6, 2020.

Night Owls Volunteers Needed

Night OWLS (Night Out With Loving Sitters) invites special needs children and their siblings to FUMCAH on the third Saturday of each month, from 6-9pm, for dinner and a variety of activities. Each special friend has a teen or adult "buddy" (must be age 18 or older) who stays with them all evening. Younger volunteers work with siblings and assist with activities. While originally designed as a respite program for parents, Night OWLS is fun for everyone. This year, we are delighted to have several new families. We would like to expand the number of adult and youth volunteers so that we don't have to turn anyone away. Volunteers help when they are able; there is no fixed time commitment. Contact Pastor Lynn if you would like to help, or if you know a family that might like to attend. We believe that ALL children are special!

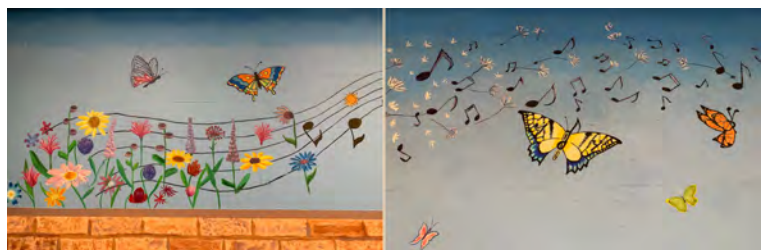
Recycled Christmas Donations

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped make the 2019 Recycled Christmas Sale a success. Now it's time to plan ahead to next year's sale! UMW will be collecting donations for the 2020 Recycled Christmas sale during the entire month of January. Please bring items to the office packed in boxes, not bags, for storage purposes.

Our Music Room is Beautiful!

Thanks to many artists, led by Thom Frerk, our Music Room walls are blooming! It's a project that's been going on for a few months now, and it's almost done. Special thanks to all that have contributed, including; Thom Frerk, Kim Buck, Dorota Blaszkiwicz, Terri Passolt, Tom Carlson, Jim Abdnor, Jeannie and Andy Workman, Julie Voigt, Ann Whitney, Bob O'Neill, Shane, Wyatt, Amelia, and Vivian Sutton, Alice Kelsey, Liam McDonald, Nora Montgomery, Alexis Bledsoe, Cam Lyons, and everyone else who helped! Come on down to the Music Room and check it out in person!

~ Jeannie Workman, Director of Music Ministries





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Art Classes
 Youth Art Classes: From 4-5:30pm Thursdays. Projects include clay, jewelry, drawing, painting, and more.
 Saturday Open Studio: From 9:15-11:15am on Saturdays, open to ages 13 and up. Whether you are a beginner or have experience, our open studio allows you to work at your own pace on projects of your choice, such as painting, printing, drawing, mosaic tile, glass fusing, and more. Drop in for however long you wish in our relaxing, supportive setting.
 All classes are \$7 per class or \$25 for a punch card of four, participants need not attend every week. To sign up, call or email Thom Ferk at 773-507-5340 or thomferk@gmail.com.

Music Lessons
 Voice lesson times are offered on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Individual sessions are \$30 for 30 minutes. All ages are welcome. Scholarships are available. Contact Lorena (lorenacory@gmail.com) for more information about pricing and scheduling.
 Drum lessons are offered in the Sanctuary with Kyle Gentle. Contact Kyle (kyle.gentilemusic@gmail.com) for information on pricing and scheduling.

Yoga Classes
 Christine Pellum, a certified Yoga-Fit instructor, welcomes adults on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm, in the Chapel. Molly Kranovich leads a Friday morning yoga class from 9:30-10:30am in the Chapel. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information, call the church office at 847-255-5112.

Zumba®
 Burn lots of calories while dancing to a blend of Latin and World music. Routines can be modified for your level of fitness. Classes are led at FUMCAH by one of our own church members, Veronica Biazio, ACE certified group fitness instructor and licensed Zumba® instructor. Regular Zumba® classes are Thursday evenings (6:30-7:30pm).
 Classes are open to all church members and the public (age 16 and over), \$8/drop-in class, save with a class pass (5 classes/\$35, 10 classes/\$60, 20 classes/\$110).
 Seniors (62+) and Students w/IDs (16+), \$6/drop-in or 10 classes/\$50.

