



DECEMBER 2018

## Letter from the Pastor

One of my favorite Christmas books for Children is Santa's Favorite Story by Hisako Aoki. In it, the forest animals discover Santa under a tree, sound asleep. The animals are alarmed that there won't be a Christmas. Why isn't Santa busy in his workshop? Santa assures the animals that it will still be Christmas. "Christmas hasn't got anything to do with me," he says, "Sit down and I'll tell you the story of the first Christmas. The story is lovingly told, "God has sent His Son to show what God's love is like. Follow the star to the stable."

We should not be surprised that Santa knows this story well, for St. Nicholas, the original Santa Claus was a Christian bishop of Asia Minor around the year 325 CE. He gave generously to the poor, often in secret. One story tells of three sacks of gold that the Bishop tossed in the window of a poor man. They provided dowries for his daughters so that they would not be sold into slavery. Another legend recounts the time Nicholas saved the people of Myra from a famine. As a grain ship passed by, Bishop Nicholas begged for some of the cargo to feed his starving people. He promised the sailors that when the grain was weighed at the ship's destination, nothing would be missing - if only they would share.

Still another story recounts the restoration of life to three traveling students who were robbed, killed and pickled by a cruel innkeeper. Because of this, Bishop Nicholas was named the patron saint of students and children.

I think these stories reflect the spirit of Christmas. As one of FUMCAH's former pastors wrote: St. Nicholas was a man "who was always on the lookout for those who were less fortunate, a man who felt the pain of those who were struggling with meager means, and a man who seeks situations in need of miraculous gifts." That is what God's love is like. May we all discover ways to embody that love this season, and in doing so, experience again the birth of our Savior.

Pastor Lynn Mikels



## December Worship Schedule

**December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30** Advent Series: Fear (K)not.

Fear of the unknown, fear of missing out, fear of disappointing others, fear of the next disaster, all rob us of joy, disrupt our relationships and keep us from living fully. God's message to us is "Fear not." Join us for worship in December to hear the Christmas message of hope, peace, joy and love that counters fear. Sundays at 9:30am.

**December 19** Longest Night: This season of joy can be difficult for those suffering with loss.

**December 23** Illinois Brass Band will join us for worship.

**December 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00pm: Christmas Eve Family Friendly Service.

7:30pm: Christmas Eve Service.

11:00pm: Christmas Eve Service with Communion.

## **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. A church building has recently been built and is already in use, but SAI is in need of funds to complete the project. Our goal this December is to raise the funds to allow SAI to add windows and doors to the building.

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. The missions committee will also have a table near the parlor where you can turn in your form.

## **December Kaleidoscopes**

All adults are welcome in the Wesley Room (lower level) after worship each Sunday for stimulating presentations on a variety of topics. Here's what is featured for December:

**December 2** – Join Tom Herr as he presents updates on FUMCAH's building project.

**December 9, 16** – Beautiful and challenging images of light are found in scripture and fine art. Join art historian, Jeff Mishur, of Art Excursions as he shares slides and insight on selected artist's use of light. It will enhance your appreciation of Advent and Christmas paintings.

## **Longest Night Service December 19**

Our Longest Night worship service is a time to recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, and the pain of isolation can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone and recognize God's presence during this season. Join us on Wednesday, December 19, at 7:30pm, as we sing songs, tell stories, and remind ourselves through the words of scripture and prayer that we are not, even on the longest night of the year, absent from God's love.

## **UMW Funeral Reception Volunteers**

United Methodist Women offers to host a reception following funeral and memorial services held at FUMCAH. Our volunteer staff has diminished and we are updating our volunteer list so we have enough rotation for men, women, and teens to help in areas of set-up, serving, and clean-up (similar to Sunday morning coffee hour) and baking cookies. If you are able to help us or just have questions, please contact Barb Donahue at 847-392-1471 or jbd77@comcast.net.

## **Crossroads**

"Here We Come A-Caroling!" Crossroads, the FUMCAH fellowship group for 4th, 5th and 6th graders, has planned a caroling party for Sunday, December 16. Wear a Santa hat and meet at church at 2:30; we'll visit some of our church members to share musical Christmas greetings. RSVP to Sarah Hunter Montgomery at shunter26@hotmail.com.

## **Missions Cookie Sale December 16**

Sugar Spice and everything nice! It's cookie baking time again at FUMCAH. Our Missions Committee Cookie Sale will be Sunday, December 16, and we could 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 at the church on Friday, December 14 9am-1pm, or Saturday, December 15 9:30am-10am. Of all our mission projects, this well might be the tastiest. This year's proceeds will be given to Journeys The Road Home.

## **Recycled Christmas Donations**

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers for this year's Recycled Christmas Sale. Now it's time to plan ahead to next year's sale! UMW will be collecting donations for the 2019 Recycled Christmas sale during the month of January. Please bring items to the office packed in boxes if possible for storage purposes.

## **Preschool/We-e Care Registration**

Preschool/We-e Care Registration opens for the 2019-2020 school year on January 7. We have classes for 16 months - Pre-K! Church members, preschool board members and current families get priority registration through February 1. Contact Amy at 847-255-5119 or fumcps@sbcglobal.net for more information.

## February meeting of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will affect us all.

February 23-26, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in St. Louis to consider plans that will enable our denomination to remain united. In 1972, the General Conference put discriminatory language about homosexuality into our Book of Discipline. Many have been fighting hard to get that language removed. At the General Conference in 2016, the debate reached a breaking point and our denomination was at the point of split. The bishops called for a recess and came back with the call for the Commission on the Way Forward. This group of 32 persons from across the denomination have worked for the last 8 months on a way for our denomination to remain united while honoring the cultural contexts in which churches, lay people and clergy find themselves. They presented three plans to the Council of Bishops, The One Church Plan, the Traditional Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan. Of the three, the Council of Bishops chose The One Church Plan which will be voted on at General Conference. The other two plans, and additional plans that surface, will also be available for consideration.

### Save the Dates!

**Monday January 21, 2019:** FUMCAH will be going to the annual MLK Faith in Action Assembly at Liberty Baptist Church in Chicago. Community Renewal Society is arranging for a bus to take member churches from Arlington Heights to Chicago that day. Please join the FIA team as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. There will be a Chicago mayoral candidate forum, uplifting music, and a commitment to social justice.

**Sunday February 10, 2019:** FUMCAH hosts Winter Farmers Market. Enjoy local produce and goods from local farmers and vendors.

### 2019 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to all for participating in the 2019 Stewardship Campaign which concluded on Sunday, November 11 with a Celebration Lunch. John Wesley's Earn. Save. Give. messages and practical tips for money management resonate with all of us. Thanks for your stewardship and involvement with FUMCAH. The committee looks forward to reporting campaign results over the coming weeks.



## Congregation News

### New Members

Judy Protosevich on November 11  
Collin and Julie Voigt on November 11

### Deaths

Stewart Kleinschmidt on November 6, husband of member, Marge Kleinschmidt  
Dolores Mostad on November 20



### Financial Report through October 2018

October Revenue: \$47,703

Year-to-date Revenue: \$614,935

October Expense: \$59,933

Year-to-date Expense: \$644,273

We have paid seven months of our 2018 apportionment total of \$85,704: \$59,636

As we near the end of the year, we are sending out contribution statements monthly. If you have questions, or your pledge or donations seem to be recorded incorrectly, please let Melinda know as soon as possible. It's much easier to make corrections now rather than later, so your final statement will be correct for tax purposes.

Financial Contributions for 2018 must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be counted in 2018.

And, don't forget to check with your tax or financial advisor about end-of-year giving!

Thank you very much for your good stewardship in 2018!



First United Methodist Church  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

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PRST STD  
Non-profit  
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Permit No. 593

or current resident

Seniors (62+) and Students w/IDs (16+), \$6/drop-in or 10 classes/\$50.  
(5 classes/\$35, 10 classes/\$60, 20 classes/\$110).  
Classes are open to all church members and the public (age 16 and over), \$8/drop-in class, save with a class pass

Regular Zumba® classes, Wednesday mornings (9:30-10:30 am), Thursday evenings (6:30pm-7:30 pm).  
Classes are led at FUMCAH by one of our own church members, Veronica Biazio, ACE certified group fitness instructor and licensed Zumba® instructor.

### 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.

### Voice Lessons

Voice lesson times will be offered on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Individual sessions are \$30 for 30 minutes with discounts available for the full 7-week course. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Scholarships are available. Contact Lorena (lorenacory@gmail.com) for more information about pricing and scheduling.

Christine Bellum, a certified yoga-fit instructor, welcomes adults on Friday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information, call the church office at 847-255-5112.

### Yoga Classes

2-2-2 Art Workshops: One-time workshops the 2nd week each month during the Thursday or Saturday art classes. To sign up, contact Thom Ferek at 773-507-5340.

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Youth Art Classes: From 4-5:30pm on Tuesdays, for ages ten and older, and on Thursdays, for ages 6-9. Projects will include clay, jewelry, drawing, painting, mixed media, and more. The cost is \$6 per class or \$30 for a punch card of six. Participants need not attend every week.

### Art Classes

Saturday Open Studio: 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. Saturdays, 9:30-11:45am. Open to ages 13 and up.

# STUDIO 1903

