



FUMCAH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2019

Elementary School Rules

It's almost Valentine's Day! That has become a REALLY special day in our family as it is the birthday of our older granddaughter, Lily (as well as church members Dale Ford, Liam McDonnell and Mary Wicklein; Happy Birthday to all!) Talking to Lily about her upcoming birthday plans reminded me of the Aquila Elementary School Valentine's Day parties of my childhood. Mom would buy one of those ubiquitous cello-packs of little cards with white envelopes and I would spend an inordinate amount of time matching each classmate with their perfectly positive Valentine. (If the card were even remotely "mushy", it always went to a girl, never a boy!) The only classroom rule about cards was that every child had to receive one from everybody else. Best friend, mean kid from the bus stop, teacher's pet – didn't matter; every kid got a Valentine. That was the rule.

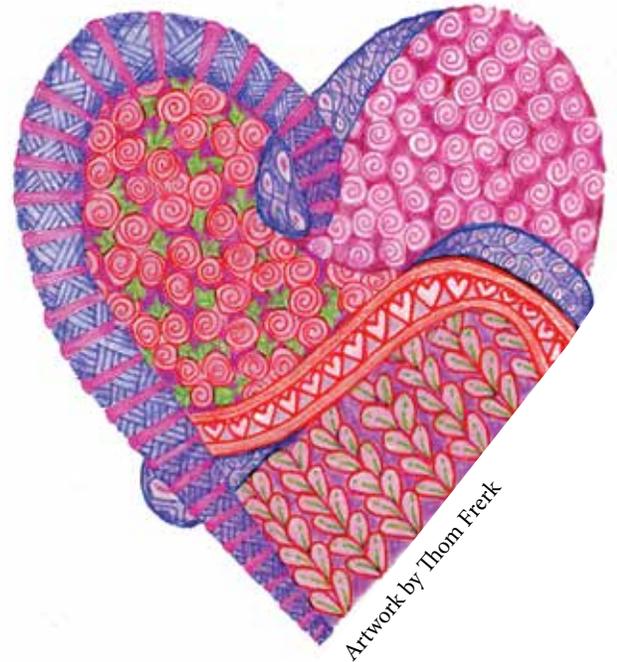
I think there is a lot of lifelong benefit and truth in some of those elementary school rules.* Everyone deserves to feel loved and included. Our faith expects us to share God's love with all. We may not always be able to see everyone else with God's eyes – recognizing the sacred potential of each person – but we can love and pray for them anyway. After all, "We love because God first loved us."

It can be a challenge to embody God's love as Jesus did – inviting others into transformative community, believing that true repentance is possible, connecting with those on the margins, challenging the status quo while offering forgiveness – but that's what the church is called to do and be. Blessedly, there is forgiveness when I mess up; I can try again . . . and again.

Whether or not you or I send Valentine cards anymore, I hope we can reflect that elementary school wisdom that includes everyone – no exceptions – in the welcoming love of FUMCAH and our United Methodist Church

*with a nod to Robert Fulghum, author of the 1990 book, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Pastor Lynn Mikels



February Worship Schedule

- February 3** Courageous Conversations: Jesus' Rules for a Fair Fight.
- February 10** Courageous Conversations: Confronting Hate Speech.
- February 17** Courageous Conversations: What Not to Say (When Someone is Suffering).
- February 24** Courageous Conversations: Say Anything (How to Talk to God).



February Mission: IMAGINE NO MALARIA.

Our mission focus for the month of February is Imagine No Malaria. The United Methodist Church, along with Imagine No Malaria and a few other organizations, is committed to the elimination of this deadly disease in Africa. The good news is that malaria is 100% preventable and because of the work done to this date, the death rate has been cut in half. However, malaria still continues to take the life of a child every two minutes. Our goal is to eradicate malaria from Africa as was done in the U.S. in the 1950's.



The Missions Committee will once again be selling Valentine's Day cards this year to benefit Imagine No Malaria. For each \$10 donation, a bed net will be sent to a family in Africa, and you will receive a beautiful handmade Valentine to send to a loved one. These Valentines are perfect for your children, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles, friends, neighbors, teachers, and even your pastors (hint, hint!). Celebrate the loved ones in your life with a donation in their honor that will change the life of a child in Africa. Valentines will be for sale through Sunday, February 10.

General Conference of the United Methodist Church

From February 23-26, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in St. Louis to consider denomination unity plans. In 1972, the General Conference put discriminatory language about homosexuality into our Book of Discipline. Many have been fighting 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 splitting. The bishops called for a recess and came back with the Commission on the Way Forward. This group of 32 persons from across the denomination have worked for the last eight 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.

Join the FUMCAH GREEN Team

Do you ever wonder how we can do more about helping God's creation? The GREEN Team can always use your ideas or help. We have several events coming up in February, March, and April, including the Faith In Place Winter Farmer's Market, and A River Water Clean-Up partnering with the FUMCAH Missions Team. For questions to consider about the FUMCAH GREEN Team, please see the link from Faith In Place about general GREEN Team goals (<https://www.faithinplace.org/news/plan-your-green-team-goals-2019>) or speak to a member of FUMCAH's GREEN Team.

Preschool Fundraiser on March 3 & 10

Easter is just around the corner. Do you need a few chocolate bunnies or some Pixies? The Preschool will be selling Fannie May chocolate again for Easter! Orders can be placed on March 3 and March 10. The fundraiser supports scholarships for families in need and helps to build the technology fund.

Trivia Night March 9, 6-10pm

Join the fun at Trivia Night on Saturday, March 9! The night begins at 6:30pm: setting up table decorations, enjoying snacks and checking out the competition. A \$300 cash prize will be awarded to the first place team, with additional prizes for last place and best table theme! Trivia will begin at 7:30pm and the night will end by 10pm.

People of high school age and older can sign up for \$35 per person. A table of 8 people can sign up for \$280. You are encouraged to plan a theme for your table and to dress up. Last year's themes included Mardi Gras, Luck of the Irish, Revenge of the Nerds, Tacky Tourists, Artists in Residence, and Hawaiian Luau. Bring snacks, but no alcohol.

Trivia Night proceeds benefit Viator House of Hospitality. Registration closes Sunday, March 3. Limit of 15 teams, so don't wait! To sign up, call or text Wendy Dunnington at 773-972-4188 or email wadunnington@gmail.com.



February Kaleidoscopes - Faith and Family Systems with Reverend Bill Obalil

This month, our Kaleidoscope series will present a brief introduction to a different way of thinking about why we act and think as we do. While not explicitly Christian, the Family Systems approach has been very helpful to many Christian and Jewish clergy and lay leaders. Bill will use Biblical material to illuminate some of the major ideas and, where possible, make connections to *Courageous Conversations* and *The Anatomy of Peace*.

February 3: "All People Are Members" - What if how we act and think is more powerfully shaped by our relationships in families, friendship circles, and "tribes" than by individual traits?

February 10: "Solid Self/Response-able Self" - What relationship posture allows us to be creative, constructive, and mature when that is most needed in difficult situations?

February 17: "Anxiety: the Root of All Evil" - How does anxiety debilitate our best selves, and how do groups often (not so helpfully) try to manage high anxiety?

February 24: "All I Can Handle is Myself...and Some Days That's Too Much" - What is the Jesus Model (in Family Systems terms) of living as a faithful presence in the midst of turmoil?

Eldercare Education Series at FUMCAH

We've partnered with Julie Boggess, founder of Enlighten Eldercare, to bring four, 90-minute programs from 7:00 to 8:30pm, that will be packed with practical and helpful information about issues related to caring for the elderly. Julie has spent over 30 years working in the senior housing and healthcare industry, providing education and support for professional and family caregivers facing the challenges and rewards of caring for the elderly.

Feb 7: Making Sense of Elder Services Continuum of Care

Feb 14: Understanding Dementia and Memory Loss

Feb 21: Managing Caregiver Stress

Feb 28: Planning with Advanced Directives

This series is free to FUMCAH Members (non-members \$79 per person). For more information, please contact Julie Boggess at Julie@Ageucate.com or 847-858-7666.

Winter Farmers Market Sunday, February 10

FUMCAH will host Winter Farmer's Market on Sunday February 10. Markets feature locally grown produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, honey, and other foods, as well as other locally produced goods. Enjoy fresh food while supporting farmers and vendors! This market is made possible with the help of Faith in Place. Link cards are accepted for payment at the market and will be matched, up to \$25, for the purchase of fruits and vegetables. See faithinplace.org for more information, or contact Allison Anderson at 847-525-7518.

UMW Offsite Work Day, February 23, 9-11am

United Methodist Women invites all ages to the Lake Bluff Sorting Center of Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Bluff, Illinois. We plan to meet at the FUMCAH parking lot at 8:20am on Saturday, February 23, to carpool. Contact Linda Riddle at linda_riddle@sbcglobal.net or 847-394-5256.

Congregation News

Deaths:

Jim Jirak, long-time member, on December 31, 2018.

Tom Passolt, husband of Terri Passolt, on January 9, 2019.



Financial Report through December 2018

November Revenue: \$94,046

Year-to-date Revenue: \$762,354

November Expense: \$84,841

Year-to-date Expense: \$791,811

We have paid our 2018 apportionment in full: \$85,704. We used cash reserves to cover the shortfall in 2018.

Year-end statements will go out the end of January. If you have questions, or your pledge or donations seem to be recorded incorrectly, please let Melinda know as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your good stewardship in 2019!



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Art Classes

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.

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.

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.

Yoga Classes

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

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 (lorenacorty@gmail.com) for more information about pricing and scheduling.

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, Wednesday mornings (9:30-10:30 am), Thursday evenings (6:30pm-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.

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