



FUMCAH NEWS

APRIL 2018

Letter from the Pastor

It's never just about the building.

It's never about the building. It's always about the ministry. And the building is an important tool for ministry. FUMCAH is known in our community as a church that intentionally welcomes all and for our excellent preschool and other ministries with children. Right now our building is hampering our ability to do the ministry we are called to do.

It's hard for some people to get in and hard for newcomers to identify the front door. A covered drop off that's at the same level as the entrance will make it easier for those with limiting conditions to come to church. The new bathrooms will more easily accommodate those with walkers and in wheelchairs.

Inviting newcomers to fellowship time is challenging. For many new folks, winding their way down to the fellowship hall implies a commitment that they are not ready to make. To be able to invite them to a quick cup of coffee before they head out the door is much more hospitable.

There's enough room outside the sanctuary for information sharing. In a church as large as ours, with as many ministry opportunities as we have, sharing information is a constant challenge. Creating easily accessible space to sign up for PADS, small groups, and other ministries will help everyone get more deeply involved.

Our preschool and Sunday school rooms have windows that don't open or close and don't have air conditioning. We hamper our ministries with children by not having appropriate space for children that is energy efficient and comfortable. The fellowship hall kitchen is unpleasant and hard to use. Even modest fixes like moving the grease trap outside and putting in new windows would make the kitchen much more usable for our Wednesday night JAM dinners, stewardship lunch and other major events.

We need safety updates. Only part of our building has up to date fire suppression. We need to improve our ability to monitor who comes in and out of the building, particularly when preschool is in session. Our renovation will address these critical issues.

Pastor Melissa Earley

Worship Series

Laying the Foundation for a Building for All

April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, our worship services will remind us of who we are and who God is calling our church to be. You won't want to miss the skits, testimonies, music and sermons of this worship series.

April 15 Building for Strangers (AKA "Friends We Haven't Met Yet")

How can strangers become friends if we never have the first conversation? How can strangers reveal Christ if we can't invite them to stick around?

April 22 Building for those who need a little help from their Friends

Likely, the first church renovation project was ripping open the roof of a home to lower a paralyzed man to Jesus. Our covered drop off, level entrance and improved bathrooms seem like small potatoes compared to that!

April 29 Building for all God's Children

The best way to tell kids that God loves them is to repeatedly show them love. That's harder to do when Sunday school windows don't close and rooms are too hot.

May 6 It's Not Only About the Building

We are about to do a major and necessary renovation of our building. But our ministry is not centered within our church walls.

April Mission: Heifer



Time to start collecting your pennies, dimes, and quarters because April is Heifer time at FUMCAH. On April 8, our children will pass among the congregation and collect your coins... and dollars and checks. Using these coins we can select chicks or rabbits or honeybees and Heifer will give our special gifts to a family and help them learn how to turn our gifts into thriving businesses. While we are helping families we are helping our children learn to share and take care of each other. What a wonderful way to celebrate Easter and Springtime.



Cans Needed for Heifer Collection on April 8

Let's make some noise! On April 8, during worship, our children will be collecting coins to support our April mission, Heifer Project International. This year, coins will be dropped into cans, rather than plastic cups. Children – bring a can with you to church! Everyone else – bring a can for kids who don't have one that day! No worries, we'll recycle them later. The noisier the collection, the better! ("Paper donations" will be welcomed as well!)

Kaleidoscope

April 1 – No Kaleidoscope; Happy Easter

April 8 – Wendy Davis and Dave Zuehlke will share personal stories from their Heifer trip to Guatemala as well as news about Heifer work in the United States.

April 15 – Learn how to be a greener gardener. FUMCAH's Green Team and United Methodist Women are co-sponsoring this Kaleidoscope. The Garden Committee will discuss composting, pollinators, environmentally safe alternatives to herbicides, native plants, and the adopt-a-garden program. These tips will provide you with time-saving tips as well as ways to make your garden even more beautiful. Refreshments will be provided by United Methodist Women.

April 22 – It's "Festival of God's Creation" Sunday. One way that FUMCAH celebrates the beauty of nature and the outdoors is through our Garden Ministry. Come and discover something new!

April 29 – "My Egyptian Adventure" – Enjoy some highlights of Pastor Lynn's recent trip.

Kaleidoscope is our multi-faceted Sunday morning program welcoming all adults. The focus changes from week to week with various topics and frequent guest speakers – all hoping to offer interesting perspectives on life and faith. Kaleidoscope meets after worship, about 10:40 am, in the Wesley Room on the lower level. Pick up your coffee in Fellowship Hall and head over! For more information about Kaleidoscope or Adult Faith Formation, contact Pastor Lynn Mikels (l.mikels@fumcah.com).

Would you like to become a Member of FUMCAH?

Please let Pastor Melissa know if you'd like to join FUMCAH. You may also find the Newcomer Tour and the How to Speak FUMCAH class helpful and informative.

Newcomer Tours and Orientation – April 8

If you find people referring to ministries of our congregation or rooms in our church building and you have no idea what or where they are talking about – this tour is for you. Meet by the Welcome Center on April 8 after worship. Pastor Melissa will give you a tour of our building and introduce you to different ways to get involved.

How to Speak FUMCAH – April 22 and 29

Each church has its own language. Learn to speak ours.

What's grace? Who is John Wesley? What is baptism and communion? What does the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights believe about the Bible and who gets into heaven? How are we different or similar from other churches? How does FUMCAH make decisions?

If you have any of these questions, if you're interested in joining FUMCAH, or would like to go deeper in your understanding of United Methodist beliefs and practices, come to this class right after worship in the parlor. Please let pastor Melissa know if you will need childcare.

Anatomy of Peace Small Groups

THE ANATOMY OF PEACE



Participation in our winter small group series, Anatomy of Peace, was enthusiastic. Six groups met for six weeks. Several people mentioned that it was one of the best books they had read. (Copies are available in the church library for others who are curious.) Kallie Haas was part of the Sunday young adult group led by Liz Evans. Kallie reflected on the experience in a Sunday morning Offering Invitation. Here's part of what she said:

Most of you don't know me, and probably don't even recognize me, so let me introduce myself. My name is Kallie Haas and I'm not a member here. I had been church shopping for about 2 years on and off when I spoke to Becky and Darnell McClaney about their church, FUMCAH. It took a few weeks but eventually I made it through the doors and have loved it ever since. FUMCAH's worship services filled me with that hope that I was looking for, they provided me relief from the burdens of the week, and the reminder that God's love surrounds me.

Because of this hope and relief, I decided that I was ready to get to know FUMCAH a little better, so I joined the young adults group for the book study of "The Anatomy of Peace." I've always enjoyed small groups because the discussions week to week challenge my beliefs and strengthen my connection of God. This group was no different. Even though I was made to feel I could safely share my stories, share my feelings, and share my Christian faith. The book had relevance to each of us, but for me it was the push I needed to spend more time in prayer. More time talking to God. I definitely feel like my life is healthier simply by working on this relationship.

-Kallie Haas

A round of applause to our Adult Faith Formation Committee and our team of leaders who helped to plan and/or provided leadership for the groups: Steve Berry, Steve Magnino, Dick May, Jim Abdnor, Ron Reed, Wendy Dunnington, Anita Herr, Allie Yoder, Tracey Ruder, Jacqueline Raitano, Liz Evans, Pastor Melissa.

Anatomy of Peace groups are just one of the small group gatherings at FUMCAH. Check out ongoing groups at on our website and through the Church News. Additional new groups will begin in the fall.

-Pastor Lynn Mikels

LIVE Story Slam



Story Slam at the Arlington Ale House

Thursday, April 26

In March, FUMCAH invited members of our community to participate in storytelling workshops. Participants have been learning how to craft and tell stories with the help of Storytelling coach, Rebecca Anderson. Join us on April 26 for a live story slam at the Arlington Ale House featuring storytellers from the workshop. Visit go.fumcah.com/storyslam to reserve your free ticket today!

Building for All Campaign Team



Do you have questions about the proposed renovations? Would you like a one on one meeting with someone on the Capital Campaign to talk about your gift? Everyone on the Capital Campaign is available to meet with you one on one. The Capital Campaign committee members are: Kevin Conlee and Jonathan Nii, co-chairs, Tom Herr - Building Committee chair, Steve Foutch and Doug Leipprandt - Communications, Stuart Jones - Major Gifts, Larry Johnson - Finance chair, Jenny Bornhorst - Youth Engagement, Gail Becker - Administration Chair, Greg Ford, Jim Abdnor, Becky Johnson, and Jean Wood.

Building for All Tours

If you'd like to see where renovations will happen and get a better idea of what the changes will be, join one of the Sunday tours. Tom Herr, chair of the Building Committee, will offer tours on April 22 and April 29 immediately after worship. Meet by the Welcome Center.

Young Christians and Communion

Children in 1st grade and above and their parent/s are invited to a Family Communion Workshop on Saturday, April 28 from 10 am until about noon. We'll bake bread for the next day's celebration of Communion in worship and talk about what Communion means to us. United Methodists welcome children and adults of all ages to the Communion Table and recognize the mystery that our sacrament contains. That will be affirmed, but this workshop also offers a way for families to actively participate in preparation for Communion and discuss its importance in our lives of faith.

Please pre-register by calling the Church Office (847-255-5112) or emailing Pastor Lynn (l.mikels@fumcah.com) so that we can adequately prepare.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Sunday, April 22

Safety and security are always primary concerns in our ministry to children and students. Regular training and updates promote volunteer staff preparedness and witness to our commitment to protect children. Please plan to attend the Safe Sanctuaries Training on Sunday, April 22, 10:45 am, in the ROC.

The logo for FUMCAH Student Ministry, featuring the text "FUMCAH STUDENT MINISTRY" in a stylized, blocky font. "FUMCAH" is in white on a red background, and "STUDENT MINISTRY" is in red on a white background.

Upcoming Student Ministry Events

4/8 Student Fellowship 3:00-4:30 pm

4/21 Confirmation Retreat (all day)

4/22 Archery Tag 3:00-5:00 pm

Visit fumcah.com/student to learn more about volunteer positions, or contact Anthony Livoti (a.livot@fumcah.com).

Registration Open for VBS 2018



VBS will take place Monday, July 9 through Thursday, July 12, 3:00 - 5:15 pm. This year we will experience a Rolling River Rampage. Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise. Please contact Pastor Lynn Mikels (l.mikels@fumcah.com) with questions. Visit go.fumcah.com/vbs2018 to register online or pick up a form at the church office.

Sustainable Children's and Youth Ministry Training

Saturday, April 28

Melissa Rau, from Ministry Architects, will be speaking at a workshop and training at Glenview United Methodist Church on April 28. The focus is on sustainable youth and children's ministries and will be split into 2 sessions: 9am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. Lunch offered in between from 12pm-1pm.

The cost is \$30 for the morning session, \$10 dollars for lunch, and \$20 dollars for the afternoon session. FUMCAH is getting a special discount based on how many attend the seminar and childcare is available. If you're interested in this workshop, register online at go.fumcah.com/training or contact Anthony Livoti (a.livoti@fumcah.com) and we can get you signed up!

To learn more about Melissa Rau please read the following interview with Melissa Rau.

Q1: What are some of the challenges you see facing churches today? How does this workshop address them?

Melissa: Churches are facing a number of challenges today. Though this training doesn't address all of them, it will address how too few churches have the systems and structure in place to help them reach their greatest potential. It will help churches understand how to implement the changes necessary to achieve a sustainable youth ministry.

Q2: How do you define "sustainable"?

Melissa: Sustainability, in our context, means that the success of the ministry isn't fully dependent upon the super star, magnetic personality. In other words, there are things in place to ensure when the paid staff person leaves, the church won't be forced to start all over again (as is too often the case, especially in youth ministry).

Q3: Who should come to this workshop? Just youth ministers?

Melissa: EVERYONE!! In fact, though youth ministers are certainly welcome, it's probably even more important for the non-youth minister to come so they can partner with their youth minister to establish a sustainable youth ministry—they can't do it alone. Pastors, parents, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, confirmation mentors, small group leaders...you name it. They should seriously think about coming!

Q4: Do you have a brief success story about a church you have worked with?

Melissa: Goodness. Of course we have success stories to share. Ministry Architects has worked with over 700 churches, many of whom can celebrate their own success story. Every one, however, is unique. Those with whom Ministry Architects worked and celebrate success trusted a process and gradually affected positive change among their ministries. It's not easy work or a quick fix; it takes a lot of energy, time, and effort. Those who have stepped up to the challenge were always surprised how God has shown up throughout the process. I wonder. What does God have in store for you?

Children's Spring Musical

Looking to extend your JAM season or perhaps participate for the first time? Consider joining the cast of our Spring Musical. You may know that JAM (Jesus and Me) is our program for preschoolers through 6th graders that meets from October through March on Wednesdays from 5-7 pm. This year, we are extending the JAM season to offer a children's choir musical which will be presented on Mother's Day, May 13, during worship. Rehearsals will be April 4- May 9, 5-6 pm, for Kindergartners through 6th graders. Preschoolers will rehearse for only four of the weeks: April 18 & 25, May 2 & 9. For those who would like to sing a little but cannot make the Wednesday schedule, there will be two Sunday morning practices during Celebration Station, after worship, on April 15 and 29. The latter may not be the full experience, but we hope it will expand musical opportunities for more kids.

While JAM's family fellowship dinner and the Church Mice ended their season on March 14, we hope that many will continue (or begin) JAMmin' this spring. Please do register so that we can plan properly; you may do online or at the church office. Questions? Check with Stacey Williams, our Children's Music Coordinator, or Pastor Lynn.

Mission Trip Fundraisers

For those of you who are missing the JAM dinners – there are fundraisers at restaurants for our Haiti Mission Trip on two of the Wednesday nights, April 11 and 25. You can drop the kids at musical rehearsal and pick up diner at Portillo's on April 11 from 5-8pm (806 W. Dundee in Arlington Heights) or Panera on April 25 (1065 N Elmhurst Road in Mt. Prospect). A donation of 20% of the bill will be given to FUMCAH on both of these nights. You must bring our flyer with you!

On Thursday, May 17th from 11am-9pm dine at California Pizza Kitchen (3 South Evergreen in Arlington Heights) and 20% of your bill will be donated to the mission trip.

Visit go.fumcah.com/haiti-fundraiser for flyers or additional information.

Forest Preserve Restoration Day

Saturday, April 14

Join Faith in Place and the Green Team for the Sierra Club's Forest Preserve Restoration Day. The event takes place on April 14 at Deer Grove East in Palatine from 9 am to 1 pm. Please contact Thom Frerk (thomfrerk@gmail.com) for more information.

Day of Faith at the Capital - Bring justice to Springfield!

Tuesday, April 17



Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to make new friends who want to put their faith into action? Do you want free food and a whole day to bond with your fellow people of faith? Come hop on the (free) bus to Springfield with fellow FUMCAHers and other people of faith from all over the state!

Share a free breakfast on the bus as we get to know more about the bills we will be discussing with our legislators. We will be grouped into small groups so each of us has a chance to role play and practice being part of a legislative meeting. There will be a free lunch at the Capitol building, and then on to legislative meetings and an energetic Rally under the Rotunda!

This is being sponsored by Community Renewal Society (CRS), of which our church is an active member. You can sign up on their website communityrenewalsociety.org. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Patty Crusius by text, phone or email (847-910-9675, pattycrusius@comcast.net).

There are also helpful but optional information sessions ahead of time in different parts of the Chicagoland region: Tuesday, April 3 at 6 pm (West Side), Wednesday, April 4 at 10 am (North area) or Saturday, April 7 at 10 am (South Side).

Environmental Advocacy Day

Thursday, April 26

Sometimes it takes more than personal actions to create a greener world. We can make a wider impact by speaking to our legislators and advocating for greener governments and policies in Illinois. If this is important to you, consider making a day trip to Springfield with the Green Team and Faith in Place to make your voice heard. There will be a bus leaving from Schaumburg that morning and you will learn everything you need to know on the bus ride there. In an era where the Federal government is all but ignoring caring for our common home, we still have an opportunity to make meaningful change at the state level. Come join us in putting our faith into action and connecting with some wonderful people along the way.

For more information, please contact Christina Crusius. christina.crusius@gmail.com (847) 917-9641.

Green Corner Tip!

During the recent green coffee hour on March 18, FUMCAH prevented over 200 cups and plates and plasticware from going into landfills. To help the environment the Green Team always urges you to bring your own reusable coffee cup to Coffee hour and reusable storage containers when you go out to eat.

We are taking steps toward a greener coffee hour. You will notice that we will use spoons instead of stirrers going forward. If you would like to cut down on landfill you are welcome to bring your own travel coffee mug (and take it home to wash).

United Methodist Women Spring Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars! The Spring Rummage Sale will be held Friday, May 11, 9am-3pm and Saturday, May 12, 9am-1pm. As you do your Spring cleaning, please set aside adult and children's clothing, jewelry, shoes, accessories, housewares, toys, games, sporting goods, DVDs, books, lamps, small appliances, and small furniture (chairs, accent tables, etc). United Methodist Women will gladly accept your donations! Your donations are sold and given a new life in the community and all proceeds benefit the missions of the United Methodist Women in our community, nation and world.

We will be accepting donations from Tuesday, May 1st through Monday, May 7th. You can drop your items off in room 32 any time the building is open. Donations brought on the last 2 days of drop-off (5/6 & 5/7) can be delivered to the stage area of Fellowship Hall. Please let us know if you are in need of assistance transporting your donations. Larger furniture items will only be accepted on May 5, 6, & 7. We will no longer be picking up furniture, but you are welcome to bring it on your own to the lower level of the building.

Watch the e-news for further information about volunteer opportunities. Volunteers will be needed between May 5th and May 12th. Questions? Please contact Jacqueline Raitano, UMW Rummage Sale Coordinator (JacquelineRaitano@yahoo.com, or 847-612-8444).

Early Bird Rummage Sale Drop-off

Donations will be accepted at the parsonage (1905 E. Euclid Ave.), and we will help you bring items down to the basement on Saturday, April 7, 9:00-11:00 am. No furniture, please. If you miss these early bird dates, official drop-off for the Rummage Sale will begin on May 1.

Missing something? Come take a look at the FUMCAH lost and found in the church office. Unclaimed items will be donated to the rummage sale.

Repairs to the Resurrection Garden



Our Resurrection Garden was built in 1988 and is maintained by the Board of Trustees with assistance from volunteers who plant flowers in the center section flower bed as seen in this picture and along the sides of the other walls.

The inside walls in the center section of the flower bed are deteriorating and are being replaced. The Trustees have hired Martin & Associates Landscaping to remove the dirt, construct a drainage trench at the bottom of the inside walls, construct new limestone and masonry walls and apply a sealant to the new walls. Once the walls are dried for a few days, the dirt will be mixed with compost from our compost bin and placed in the center section. Garden volunteers will plant flowers this spring in the center section and along the outside walls of the entire garden.

No existing burial plots will be disturbed from this maintenance project.

This work will maintain the structural integrity of the center section of the Resurrection Garden for many years. The cost is \$2,610 and will be paid for using a reserve account funded from the sale of plots.

There are a total of 252 plots in the Resurrection Garden of which 166 have been purchased. Our Business Manager, Melinda Kirby, can assist anyone interested in purchasing and selecting plots.

Summer Suppers Volunteers Needed

Summer Suppers for the homeless and food insecure individuals will be served at FUMCAH on the third Tuesday of each month (May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21 and September 18) from 6:30-8:00 pm.

We Need Your Help! Anyone high school age or older can sign up to help out (we are asking that volunteers age 14 - 16 have a parent sign up with them). We also need volunteers to prepare dinners, salads and desserts and deliver them to FUMCAH. There will be sign-up sheets available before and after church on April 8th. (Sign-ups will also be available online through Sign Up Genius). Please stop by and choose how you would like to help. There will be spots for serving, preparing meals at home, and donating items to be dropped off.

For more information about the Summer Suppers program, please contact Jacqueline Raitano at JacquelineRaitano@yahoo.com or 847-612-8444.

Thank You From Pastor Lynn



I would like to thank everyone for helping me celebrate my 35th anniversary at FUMCAH on Sunday, March 18. The good wishes, balloons, handmade cards and delicious cake all contributed to a festive morning. Serving God with all of you is truly a blessing; it is a "group project." I look forward to the mission and ministry FUMCAH will accomplish in the years ahead!

-In faith, Pastor Lynn.

Congregation News

Baptism

March 11 - Hannah Catherine Heitz, daughter of Lindsay and Rob Heitz, and granddaughter of Cathy Laatsch

Death

March 17 - Elva Witler - 100 years old

Congregational Care

How can the members of a congregation effectively care for one another? How can we support one another in prayer? There are two ways to share your joys and concerns.

You may still list your prayer requests on the tear-off form in the bulletin. If you wish to share your prayer need(s) with the whole congregation, rather than just with staff and the prayer team, you may check the box indicated. The following week, your request will be printed in the bulletin. To preserve privacy, we will only print the names of persons from whom we have permission. If someone asks for prayers for a friend, family member or fellow congregant, we will simply list "Joe Smith's friend, etc."

Space is provided on one of our bulletin boards to post your concerns and joys. The same privacy policy will apply.

We hope these options will help us do even better in surrounding our church family with prayer and care. Please contact the church office (847-255-5112) with questions.

Office Hours

Our church office staff juggle many tasks and responsibilities and want to be as helpful as possible. Please be considerate by asking for their assistance with ample time before deadlines and before the office closes for the day. Our church's office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 am to 4 pm and Friday 9 am to 1 pm.

Hearing Troubles?

Did you know that the Assisted Listening service we have can work with T-Coil equipped hearing Aids?

If you have these and feel you can't hear well during our services, we can help. We currently have a very limited number of "Loop" accessories. This is a simple loop of wire that you wear over your neck that is plugged into one of the Assisted Listening receivers. It sends the signal directly to your T-Coil equipped hearing aids if they are set to the "T" or "MT" setting.

If you feel that you need this service, please call or email Melinda in the church office. We can also arrange for you to use one during a service to see if this works for you. We will be testing this over the next several weeks, so don't delay if you are interested!



Building Care Reminders - Locking Up

Be sure to lock the building if you are the last to leave the building (check the meeting schedule) or if you are leaving at 9:00 pm or after. Be sure interior fire doors are closed and double check that exterior doors are locked and closed. Whenever you leave a room, double check that windows are closed, turn off lights and close fire doors.

Financial Report through February 2018

February Revenue: \$65,364 Year-to-date Revenue: \$184,218

February Expense: \$67,338 Year-to-date Expense: \$134,169

We have paid two months of our 2018 apportionment total of \$85,704: \$14,284

We encourage you to consider Electronic Funds Transfer – no need to worry that you don't have your checkbook or cash with you! And, please let me know if you'd like any help looking at your pledges and contributions on our church database, Access ACS.

With Access ACS, you can also set up contributions through your bank account or credit card. Please consider rounding up your donation to cover the fees for this service, especially on credit card charges (2.25%). We really encourage EFTs; it's great for household and church budgeting!

Contact Melinda in the church office with any financial questions or concerns.

Thank you very much for your good stewardship in 2018!



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