



FUMCAH NEWS

AUGUST 2018

Letter from the Pastor

Taking a Moment to Pause in Youth Ministry

Several months ago, leaders from FUMCAH's student ministry attended a workshop hosted by Ministry Architects on building a sustainable youth ministry. Our leaders learned about the importance of a ministry's vision being owned by the whole congregation and supported by a vast network of people in the church. A helpful example of this type of support can be seen in our ministry with children and families. Many people are involved in vital ways. Some regularly teach Sunday school while others help lead Night OWLS. Some occasionally help with VBS or Breakfast with Santa. Direction and vision is shared between CAFÉ (Children and Family Education Committee) and Pastor Lynn Mikels. It's not a one-person show.

But somehow, we've gotten into the habit of expecting youth ministry to be dependent on one person. We expect the youth director to organize events, teach confirmation, recruit youth to help with the golf outing, and maintain transformative relationships with all of them. Plus, it would be great if they could reach out to the community, too. And we'll pay them a part time salary.

We've also seen in the last decade or more a fall off on regular attendance by youth at Sunday afternoons youth group. That model of youth ministry still works for some but not for all. What are other ways to be in ministry with the youth of our church and our community?

We're going to take a pause to ask what we want from our youth ministry. What do the youth of our community need? What is FUMCAH poised to provide? What is FUMCAH's vision for the youth ministry and how can we position ourselves to succeed?

I confess, when I learned that Anthony Livoti was leaving FUMCAH to take his dream job at a church in Texas (full time youth ministry, working with his mentor, 20 minutes from the beach!), I went into crisis management mode. I started a list of where we could find a new youth director; I called a couple of friends who have hired youth ministry staff recently to see if they had anyone who had come in at a close second; I thought of capable youth ministers I could pinch from another church.

Even if those schemes were successful it's unlikely we'd hire the right person because we're not clear on who that right person is. While we take this pause before hiring a new director of youth ministries, our youth committee and other volunteers will keep our student ministries happening. If you'd like to help in a hands-on way with youth ministry, contact Patrick Bornhorst.

Pastor Melissa Earley

If you'd like to be on the team re-imagining youth ministry at FUMCAH, contact Pastor Melissa Earley (m.earley@fumcah.com).

August Worship Schedule

August 5 - Haiti Mission Trip Celebration

August 12 - No one wants to be called a "Jezebel." Do you know why? Come hear Liz Evans' sermon to find out.

August 19 - Music Camp will perform "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" and Pastor Lynn will preach.

August 26 - Pastor Melissa will preach on the scandal of Tamar and her father-in-law Judah.

August Mission

Faith Community Homes

Did you know?

- The standard for appropriate family housing cost is 30% of income.
- In Illinois, fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,058.
- To afford a modest apartment, renters need to earn \$20.34 per hour.
- So - a person earning our state minimum wage of \$8.25 per hour must work 99 hours per week to make ends meet.



Faith Community Homes helps struggling families in the northwest suburbs gain financial independence through increased skills and education, good budgeting, and family strengthening. All of these families have children and most are headed by a single parent.

FCH provides some rent assistance, while a trained case manager and volunteer mentors work with each family for two years, meeting with them regularly to set and meet goals, find appropriate community resources, eliminate debt, and build good financial habits.

The families and staff of FCH are extremely grateful to FUMCAH for our support over many years. Each year, a family receives needed rent assistance and program support from our funds collected through the Mission Committee. In addition, many FUMCAH families are loyal participants in fund-raising events. Individuals have donated cars and computers. Every year many of our generous folk donate school supplies for every child in FCH. The Fords and the Mikels have each mentored several families!

2018 School Supply Drive for Faith Community Homes

FUMCAH is collecting supplies for the families of Faith Community Homes. We hope to supply the kids with all of the supplies they need for a successful year of school! Please put your donations in the marked bin outside of the parlor. Donations will be accepted now through Sunday, August 5.

For more information about Faith Community Homes, visit www.fchomes.org.



We Make the Road by Walking: Fall Worship Series and Small Group Experience

In writing *We Make the Road by Walking*, noted author, Brian McClaren wanted to help readers explore the difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in the world today. He invites people to “re-imagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today’s world as agents of God’s justice, creativity, and peace. That’s an ambitious goal, you might say, and impossible to achieve on one’s own. That is why we are journeying together. Through worship and small group meetings, we are all encouraged to “venture into new, uncharted territory and discover how we make the road by walking.”

Intrigued? Want to be more involved in small group life? Please talk to Pastor Melissa or Pastor Lynn to find ways you can be part of this fall’s leadership team. We are planning several groups including a multi-generational group and a group for parents with young children.



Staff Transitions

Wish these staff well as they head to new adventures:

Anthony Livoti, Director of Student Ministries, and Becca Livoti, JAM cook, have moved to Lake Jackson, Texas. Anthony has taken a full time position in youth ministry and Becca will teach and manage a dance studio.

Brian Angeliu (A/V intern) graduated in May and will attend University of Dayton and will major in Chemical Engineering this fall.

Maya Durham Rayner, Communications Manager, has been offered a tenure track position teaching graphic design and art at North Park University where she has been adjunct faculty.

Please join us in thanking these staff members and in praying for them in their new endeavors.

Staff Openings - Do you know anyone who might want to work at FUMCAH?

JAM Cook – Cooks dinner on Wednesdays during the school year for the Jesus and Me program. Contact Pastor Lynn for information (l.mikels@fumcah.com).

A/V Intern – assist with the sound and video for Sunday morning worship and other special services. Contact Pastor Melissa for information (m.earley@fumcah.com)

Communications Manager – Coordinates internal and external communications through the weekly e-news, monthly newsletter, banners, social media, web and print media. Knowledge of graphic design and adobe creative suite a must. Contact the church office for more information.

Be a part of our new photo directory!



FUMCAH is partnering with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our families. After being photographed, you will be able to view your photographs immediately and make purchases if you desire. Each family will receive a complimentary 8"x10" photograph and directory just for participating. The dates for scheduling photography sessions are Thursday and Friday, August 2 and 3, Saturday, August 4, and Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 19, 20 and 21, and Saturday, September 22. Times range from 2:00-9:00pm on weekdays and 10:00am-5:00pm on Saturdays. Please register online as soon as possible to get your desired date and time (go.fumcah.com/photo).

Volunteers Needed to help with Photo Sessions

We are looking for volunteers to help check in people on photo session days. Contact the church office to sign up (847-255-5112) or visit go.fumcah.com/photovolunteer.

What's Next?

Visioning Retreat - Saturday, August 11

Now that FUMCAH has successfully finished our Capital Campaign, it's time to ask, "What's next?" FUMCAH leaders will gather for a visioning retreat on Saturday, August 11, to help us answer that question.

It won't be the kind of visioning retreat where we tweak what we already do and look inward for the answers. At this retreat we will imagine how we might engage the world in a whole new way.

Right now FUMCAH is in a great place -- we're financially solid, we continue to receive new members, we have a robust children's ministry and confirmation program, we're active in missions. The temptation is to simply keep doing what we're doing and ignore the trends around us:

- Millennials are less religiously affiliated than ever before - 1 in 3 do not belong to a faith community and most aren't looking for one.
- 3500 churches close each year
- Older generations who are very religiously affiliated are being followed by a younger generation that is increasingly less religious. "If these trends continue, American society is likely to grow less religious even if those who are adults today maintain their current levels of religious commitment." (Pew Research Center)
- But there is good news -- young people are looking for community, purpose, and spiritual connection - but many aren't looking in the church.

FUMCAH is a great church for people looking for a church. But the number of people looking to be part of a church community are shrinking. If we ignore the trends, I'm concerned that in 15 or 20 years we'll be among the ranks of churches looking around and wondering where all the people went.

FUMCAH has a chance to be ahead of the trends. We can try new things, even "fail forward" and engage people in ministry who would never consider stepping into a church building.

Please be in prayer for our visioning retreat.

Trip to Wandering Tree Estate



The Holy Wanderers are wandering again, this time, appropriately, to the Wandering Tree Estate in North Barrington known for the beautiful gardens, greenhouse, and model trains. Tours are by "invitation only" so you will not want to miss out! FUMCAH has arranged a tour for Wednesday, September 12.

We will learn of the amazing life of Elaine Silets who was a pioneer as a woman in a field that usually didn't attract women. After receiving a map of the grounds, showing the different gardens and points of interest, like an extremely rare American Chestnut tree, we are free to wander. Elaine plants thousands of flowers each year and has a greenhouse that houses a lemon and fig tree that she replants each year. The estate is a grounds tour only but does include the museum. Tours typically start with a talk in front of the gazebo by the "Train Lady" herself, Elaine Silets.

This tour is for adults who walk well; those with canes or walkers may find it difficult. Wandering Tree just doesn't want anyone getting hurt.

Cost of the tour is \$25.00 per person. We will meet at FUMCAH at noon to car pool to our destination. After our tour we'll gather at a local restaurant for a snack; cost of food is "on one's own". Reservations and payment are due in the church office by August 25. The tour begins at 1 pm and ends at 2:30 pm. ce by August 25.

Part-time Children's Music Ministries Coordinator

The Mission of First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights is to be a nurturing and inclusive community, actively connecting faith and life, and empowering our congregation to serve in the world. We are seeking your God-given talents as a part-time Children's Music Ministries Coordinator to support and expand our children's music ministry. You will rehearse and direct with children as well as coordinate other choir directors. Visit go.fumcah.com/jobs for more information.

Pop Tab Collection



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES®

Did you know that FUMCAH collects pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House (RMH)? Collecting pop tabs is a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising funds to help children and their families at the same time. Revenue from recycling these little bits of aluminum helps RMH keep families together and close to the care of their ill children when they need it most.

Why not the whole can?

RHM focuses mostly on pop tabs since they are small, clean, and easy to collect. Aluminum in the tabs have a higher recycling value than the aluminum in the rest of the can.

Please collect your tabs and drop them off in the container on the Welcome Desk.

Music Camp August 13-16



Setting the Stage staff will once again lead our amazing Music Camp, Monday through Thursday, August 13-16, 1-3 pm. Children will sing, dance and play

the parts of characters from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", performing in worship on Sunday, August 19. Registration is \$40 per child (\$20 each for additional children in the same family). Invite your friends! Our summer programs present great opportunities to introduce others to FUMCAH.

Visit go.fumcah.com/musiccamp to learn more and register online.

Green Coffee Hour



Help our Green Team care for the earth at our next Green Coffee Hour on August 12! You are encouraged to bring your own reusable cup or mug. Additional mugs, cloth napkins, and composting will also be available.

Thank you to everyone who donated mugs in June! They will now be available for Green Coffee Hours and other church gatherings.

Thank You From the Green Team

We collected over 50 mugs for future Green Coffee Hours! Thank you for doing your part to help the church host greener coffee hours and gatherings!



Also, thank you to everyone who donated used school supplies to SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) during May and June. Thanks to your contributions, the Green

Team was able to donate 12 boxes of supplies that will be repurposed by local students and teachers in need this coming school year.

Come see the Arlingtones Perform



Let's support one of our own, Jerry Reed, and plan on a free evening of music under the stars. On Wednesday evening, August 8 at 7:00 pm, the Arlingtones, Arlington Heights' chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, will provide an evening of fun and great music in the North School Park on Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. The Arlingtones have had the pleasure of entertaining our community and the Northwest suburbs for over 65 years, so don't miss the fun.

This will be a very family-friendly event with a wide range of acapella music - patriotic songs, classic songs, show tunes, old tunes and new tunes - sung by not only a 25+ male chorus but also several quartets. Plus, there'll be a few sing-along numbers.

Plan to arrive early and meet some of the LCC Kare-9 Military Comfort Dogs. They'd love to receive a hug from you and your children.

If you let Mary Ann Laforet know you are coming at Boesels4@me.com, she will try to stake out an area to accommodate our group. Bring chairs or blankets, bug spray, and beverages and nibbles. It promises to be a fun time for all.

Green Corner Tip!

Find creative and artistic ways to reuse and repurpose before throwing something away or recycling.

A recent FUMCAH example: the Art Ministry and Reconciling Ministries Team partnered to create decorated parasols for the Pride Parade with the message: ALL LOVE IS SACRED. The following week, these parasols were reused for the Families Belong Together rally with a new message: FREEDOM. The week after that, the Green Team reused them to encourage recycling at the end of the 4th of July Parade along with other area churches with the message RECYCLE!





Voice Lessons

Starting on August 15th, 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.

Visit go.fumcah.com/studio1903 to learn more about our other fitness and creative classes.



Help us have a "Bountiful Harvest"

"Bountiful Harvest" is a time on Sunday mornings when gardeners in our congregation may bring their garden produce to our table to share with others. Money donated and any produce leftover is contributed to an area food pantry. For more information contact Nancy Duel at 847-259-3793 or nduel@aol.com.

Help an artist, Help FUMCAH Ministries.



For the next two months, if you commission a painting with Thom Frerk, he will donate 50% of the proceeds to the FUMCAH group of your choice. This is a great way to support FUMCAH's artist-in-residence as well as church programs such as the Building Fund, Preschool, ASP, Missions, and more! Minimum commission of \$75. For more information, you can reach Thom at 773-507-5340 or thomfrerk@gmail.com.

*10th Annual FUMCAH
Golf Event & Dinner at Rob Roy*



September 8th



Golf Registration is Open!

FUMCAH's 10th Annual Golf Event & Dinner will take place on Saturday, September 8. Join us for this milestone event, and enjoy a day of golf, folks, food, and fun! Register today at the church office or visit go.fumcah.com/golf. Please contact Lee Saip for additional information (leesaipandassoc@aol.com or 630-715-9160).

Gift Basket Donations

Want to donate a prize for the 10th Annual Golf Event and Dinner? Donating a gift basket is a great way to be a part of this milestone event. Stop by and sign up at the golf registration table on Sunday mornings for some fun gift basket ideas. For other prize donations, please contact Sue Saip or any other member of the Golf Committee.

Volunteers Needed For Coffee Hour



Coffee hour would not be possible without the assistance from our wonderful volunteers. We thank them for their hard work and encourage others to consider volunteering to help out. You can sign up on the board in Fellowship Hall or contact Joyce in the church office. We very much appreciate the help you can give us on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce (j.hawley@fumcah.com, 847-255-5112).

Congregation News

Marriage

July 14 - Kaitlin Hoff and Drew Nielsen

Birth

July 3 - Dominic, son of Rachel and Niki Valerio



A few moments from FUMCAH summer activities: *Watoto concert*, *"Families Belong Together" March*, *Pride Parade*, *FAITH Salad Supper*, and *VBS*.

Financial Report through June 2018

June Revenue: \$53,513

Year-to-date Revenue: \$402,307

June Expense: \$65,500

Year-to-date Expense: \$414,666

We have paid six months of our 2018 apportionment total of \$85,704: \$42,852

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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