

## Letter from The Pastor

I really hate it when someone asks me, “What’s new?” I never know how to reply! Since I visited our son and daughter-in-law in Abu Dhabi last February, I usually mention that, but how long can I keep talking about one trip? So, I often say “not much.” Is my life that boring that I have nothing else to say?

What I think this reveals is my love-hate relationship with superficial conversation. The “what’s new” conversational gambit usually occurs when speaking to an acquaintance that I haven’t seen for a while. There’s a mutual desire to reconnect without becoming emotionally beholden to one another. We’re probably not going to talk about politics, finances, even religion, and definitely not how we really feel about anything. We’re still testing the waters to see if we want to go deeper.

That’s one of the things I appreciate about FUMCAH. There is always the potential to engage in authentic conversation and relationship here. It might be at the weekly gathering of “Sisters,” sharing life experiences around a table in Fellowship Hall, serving together on a mission project, or connecting with God during worship and prayer. We speak of things that matter, large and small. Sometimes this happens naturally, and sometimes we must be more intentional, but the gift of authenticity is here; it’s a FUMCAH value. We create time and spaces where relationships with God and one another can flourish. That’s why we offer our *Anatomy of Peace* small groups, why we care about fellowship space in our new building plan, why we continually nurture one another in discipleship.

In this New Year, I yearn for time and spaces that transform. I’ll probably still be looking for new things to do in my life (another trip perhaps?), but I’ll definitely be giving thanks to God for the rich relationships I already treasure as well as those that are just beginning. Happy New Year!

Pastor Lynn Mikels



## JANUARY WORSHIP AT FUMCAH :

### JANUARY 7 – NEW YEAR, RENEWED YOU

Make a fresh start for the New Year. Let this service of reaffirmation of baptism fill you with the grace of God, and remind you who you truly are.

## New Sermon Series: Be Part of the Solution

### January 14 – February 11

Scandals in high political office. International disputes. Family fights. It’s tempting to throw up our hands in despair. But our faith tells us that God gives us the power to resist evil, oppression, and injustice. So what are we to do? Instructions to the first churches and current thinking on resolving conflict give us some tools to use being part of the solution. During this series, sermons will be based on teachings in Romans and Ephesians, and draw on key teachings from the book, *Anatomy of Peace*.

### JANUARY 14 - CHOREOGRAPHY OF COLLUSION

We tend to behave towards others in ways that elicit the very behavior we wish to change. Romans 12:9-17 gives us some clues on how to change that dance.

### JANUARY 21 - ROOTED IN GRACE

It is a spiritual oxymoron that how we behave is less important than how we are. We can do everything right, but it won’t matter if our hearts are at war. We’ll look at Ephesians 3:16-19.

### JANUARY 28 - SEEING THROUGH THE RIGHT LENSES

Pastor Lynn will preach on how we see others is critical to how we treat them. Her text will be Ephesians 4:1-16

### FEBRUARY 4 - HELPING THINGS RIGHT

What are concrete steps that might help us make things go right instead of correcting them after they go wrong? Ephesians 4:17-32 will be our starting place.

### FEBRUARY 11 - STAYING ENGAGED IN TROUBLED TIMES

It’s tempting to hide our heads in the sand when it seems that the world around us is falling apart. Ephesians 6:10-18 and 1 Corinthians 13 helps us know how we might stay engaged in troubled times.

## January Mission - Mujila Falls



The Lunda people of North-West Zambia have the highest infant mortality rates and lowest life expectancy of all tribes in Zambia. The immediate need is to improve the local diet, but the long-

term goal is to make the Lunda farmers and their families competitive in agricultural pursuits. Those include milk production, fruit production, meat production, gardening, field crop production, etc.

This UMC Ministry founded in 2000, provides education and training in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, animal traction, tree nurseries, fruit culture, gardening and fish culture. The goal is to teach families, who can then provide balanced nutrition for themselves and obtain an income from small scale, family-based production.

Mujila Falls continues to expand egg and milk production. They hope to have electricity soon, which will help with refrigeration, processing, and packaging of our products for better storage and longer shelf life. The center is planting soybeans, which together with corn, can produce concentrates that will permit hogs to grow from day old, to over 100 kg in only 5½ months. Getting farmers to use better genetics, vaccinations, and balanced feeds will greatly increase animal production in the area. Animal manure is essential to higher yields of feed and food crops in the area. The center has demonstration plots to show the efficacy of using animal manures efficiently to increase the productivity of fields.

Rev. Paul L. Webster, the missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving at the Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre in Zambia: "God has provided abundant land, water, plant and animal resources to Africa; it is up to Christ's Church to provide knowledge, faith and hope to its people."

Please give generously to support this mission which seeks to alleviate human suffering through education and training to make the Lunda people self-sufficient.

Visit [go.fumcah.com/mujila](http://go.fumcah.com/mujila) for more information.

## Thank you for your generous Missions giving!

### AUGUST

The Sammool House \$342

### SEPTEMBER

United Methodist Global AIDS Fund  
(2017 Bishop's appeal) \$1,111

### OCTOBER

Tree of Life Ministries \$726

## January Rainbow Circle Worship



Join Rainbow Circle for a monthly, LGBTQ+ focused worship at 4:00 pm on January 2, in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a potluck directly following worship. Straight allies welcome.

## Young Adult Ministry

All young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 are invited to participate in young adult ministry, which will be launching in January. Here are a few upcoming events and programs.

### ANATOMY OF PEACE

We will be kicking off the year with a five-week book study on *The Anatomy of Peace* by the Arbinger Institute, starting at noon on Sunday, January 14. Visit [go.fumcah.com/smallgroups](http://go.fumcah.com/smallgroups) to register.

### SOCIAL OUTINGS

We will begin bi-weekly social outings on Friday, January 20.

### SUNDAY STUDY GROUP

Our next study will begin the Sunday after Ash Wednesday. Stay tuned for more details.

Please contact Liz Evans ([elizabeth.evans@garrett.edu](mailto:elizabeth.evans@garrett.edu)) for additional information.

## Winter Warming 2018 - Call for Volunteers Saturday, January 13

The Reconciling Ministries Team is still recruiting volunteers for Winter Warming, an annual event run by the Northern Illinois Conference chapter of Reconciling Ministries Network. For the third year in a row, FUMCAH will host this gathering of NIC United Methodists who are passionate about full LGBTQIA inclusion in the life of the church. Set-up will begin at 1 pm on Friday, January 12. Registration for the event begins at 10:15 on Saturday morning, and the event will start at 11 and end at 4:00 pm. Please contact Liz Evans ([elizabeth.evans@garrett.edu](mailto:elizabeth.evans@garrett.edu)) to volunteer. Visit [go.fumcah.com/winterwarming](http://go.fumcah.com/winterwarming) to learn more about the event.

## Sending forth of Anna Voinovich



Anna Voinovich, an active young adult, and leader in our church, is now a licensed local pastor serving at Barrington United Methodist Church. Join us in worship on January 14 to send her off with our prayers and blessings.

## Consecration of Leaders – January 21

During worship on January 21, we will give thanks for those who served in leadership in 2017 and pray for those who will serve in leadership in 2018.

## Church Leaders for 2018

The ministry of our church depends on gifts of time and energy given by its members. We are so grateful for those who have agreed to be in leadership positions in 2018. Names in bold indicate someone who will be in a new position in 2018.

### CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS

Doug Leipprandt - Church Council Chairperson

**Beth Williams**, Church Council Vice Chairperson

Kathy Heilig, Secretary

Patrick Nudo, Treasurer

**Jean Wood**, Lay Leader

### LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nancy Duel, Beth Williams, & Mike Mikels

### ALTERNATES

Allison Anderson & Patty Crusius

### AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Jacqueline Raitano, Alisa Leoni, & **Jennifer Jones**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Adult Faith Formation - **Mary Ann Laforet**

Building - Tom Herr

CAFÉ - (*Children and Family Education*) Sharon Nudo

Capital Campaign - Jonathan Nii and Kevin Conlee

Faith in Action - Allison Anderson

DBSA - (*Depression Bipolar Support Alliance*) Joyce Bieritz

Finance- Larry Johnson

Missions - **Jane Madden**

Nominations - Melissa Earley

Outreach - TBD

Preschool - Amanda Lavino

Reconciling Ministries - TBD

Staff Parish Relations - Mary Kay Baldino

Stewardship - **Steve Foutch**

Student Ministry – Patrick Bornhorst

Trustees- to be elected by trustees

United Methodist Women - **Kathy Pollard**

If you feel called to be a lay member of annual conference, chair the Outreach or Reconciling Committees, please contact Pastor Melissa Earley ([m.earley@fumcah.com](mailto:m.earley@fumcah.com)).

## Kaleidoscope

### JANUARY 7

#### MISSION TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Mary Lynn and Dave Asmus will share highlights of their trip to Kenya last year. They participated in a mission trip with a philanthropic group that is building schools in that country.

### JANUARY 14

#### CAPITAL FUND INFO SESSION

This congregational information session will provide an update on the proposed capital fund drive to remodel our building.

### JANUARY 21

#### ARISE CHICAGO

Luke Sullivan, from Arise Chicago, will educate us on the ministry and advocacy provided by that organization. Arise Chicago builds partnerships between faith communities and workers to fight workplace injustice through education, organizing, and advocating for public policy changes. Sponsored by our Faith in Action team.

### JANUARY 28

#### FOSTER FAMILIES

There is a great need for foster families in Illinois and for churches that will support this effort. Hear representatives from ChildServ, our United Methodist agency, share how FUMCAH might support some of our most vulnerable children and families.

*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](mailto:l.mikels@fumcah.com)).*

## Sisters Trip to Chicago History Museum

The women of faith in “Sisters,” the Wednesday evening discussion group which meets at 7:15 pm, have been reading *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. As a complement to that discussion, on Tuesday, January 9, a group of “Sisters” will journey to the Chicago History Museum to experience their exhibit entitled “Race: Are We So Different?” We will carpool from church, leaving at 11:00 am. Lunch will be on one’s own at the museum café. Admission to the museum is free for Illinois residents on (most) Tuesdays from 12:30-7:30; be sure to bring identification. If you would like to join the group, please contact Pastor Lynn ([l.mikels@fumcah.com](mailto:l.mikels@fumcah.com); 847-255-5112); let her know if you are willing to be a driver. Sister’s discussions will resume on January 10. New persons are always welcome.

## Human Trafficking Vigil

Join United Methodist Women for a Human Trafficking Vigil, Friday February 2, 11:45 am at First UMC, Chicago Temple. We'll meet at the Chicago Temple and hold the vigil in Daley Plaza. UMW takes a stand each year against human trafficking, modern-day slavery and exploitation.

## Peace Gathering Hosted by United Methodist Women



Join us on Tuesday, January 16, at 9:30 am in the Wesley Room. Pastor Melissa Earley will speak on the topic of "Peace". Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend. For childcare, please email Sarah Hunter (shunter@hotmail.com).

## Anatomy of Peace - New Small Groups at FUMCAH

"Small groups are a way to connect with others in a meaningful way. A chance to get to know people in the church that you might not otherwise meet. One can learn new perspectives and ideas, thereby growing as a person."

- Tracey Ruder, one of our Anatomy of Peace leaders

The Anatomy of Peace Small Groups begin January 9 and are a complement to our first worship series of the new year. Members and friends of FUMCAH are invited to join a group and grow in relationships as they read and discuss the book, *Anatomy of Peace*. Led by trained leaders from our congregation, groups will meet for five weeks.

### THE ANATOMY OF PEACE



resolving the heart of conflict



- Group 1: Tues. 1/9 -7:00 pm, Group leader: Steve Magnino
- Group 2: Thur. 1/11 - 10:00 am, Group leader: Wendy Dunnington & Ron Reed (childcare by reservation only)
- Group 3: Thur. 1/11 - 7:00 pm, Group leaders: Allie Yoder / Anita Herr (childcare by reservation only)
- Group 4: Sun. 1/14 - 8:00 am, Group leader: Dick May
- Group 5: Sun. 1/14 - at 10:45 am, Group leaders: Tracey Ruder / Jacqueline Raitano (childcare available)
- Group 6: Sun. 1/14 - 12:00 pm, Young Adult Group, Group leader: Liz Evans
- Group 7: Sun. 1/14 - 3:00 pm, Group leader: Jim Abdnor

Participants need to purchase their book (available via Amazon or Cokesbury) or borrow one of the ten copies available in the church library. Childcare is available during group 5. Childcare can be arranged during group 2 and group 3 by reservation only. Please note if childcare is needed on the registration form. Contact Pastor Lynn Mikels (l.mikels@fumcah.com) with questions or visit [www.fumcah.com/adult/#anatomy](http://www.fumcah.com/adult/#anatomy) to register online.

\*Dick May, one of our group leaders, explained why he thinks groups like this are so vital in the letter below.

In January of 2016, Wheaton College began the process of firing a tenured staff member, Professor Hawkins, as she had made an effort to show solidarity with Muslims. She said, "I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book," she posted on Facebook. "And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God."

Wheaton College is a guiding light of the evangelical movement; a movement with very close ties to John Wesley; and the religious home of Billy Graham. I was stunned to think that this institution would take steps to terminate this 42 year old, tenured staff member for suggesting that we all worship the same God. If we don't worship the same God as the Muslims, what is the difference? Which God is better? Which more powerful, more compassionate, more loving?

I am still looking for someone with whom to have this conversation. We seem to have little opportunity anymore to discuss such issues. We come together as a community to see each other, touch one another and to wish others well. We hear messages from the pulpit, sing meaningful hymns and then drive away to attend family activities. Those are important, no doubt. But also important is our conviction that what we believe is of substance and may have some value. Courage is a trait that I find lacking in my own life. Somehow I need to find an opportunity to open myself up to individuals with alternative views and then to provide each with a hearing...to listen and then to weigh their feelings against my own.

Perhaps we can find an opportunity in our own safe space to begin a civil discourse on any number of important matters. Can we afford not to do so?

- Richard May

## Twelfth Night Painting Party

Join us on Saturday, January 6, from 1 - 5:00 pm, to finish painting the Music Room mural and we'll celebrate afterwards with a little fun and fellowship. For more information call artist-in-residence Thom Frerk (773-507-5340).

## J.A.M. Invites You to Share Your Hobby



JAM (Jesus and Me), our Wednesday program for children and their families, includes a segment called “Church Mice.” From 6:15-7:00 pm, a small group of kids, Kindergarteners and older, enjoy a variety of activities – folding tableware for PADS, computer time, art with Mr. Thom, and more. The Church Mice like to try new things. Do you have a hobby that you would be willing to share with them? A hands-on project is always appreciated, but sharing about something you love to do – preferably with pictures or examples - would be great. Please talk to Pastor Lynn Mikels (l.mikels@fumcah.com) to schedule your time with the kids.

## Northern Illinois Conference Summer Camp Positions



Reynoldswood Christian Camp in Dixon, Illinois, and Wesley Woods Retreat Center in Williams Bay, Wisconsin need Christian Summer Associates to fill the following paid positions: Counselors, Lifeguards, Aquatics Directors, Shift Cooks, Kitchen Assistants, and Maintenance Helpers. Candidates will be expected to work all summer long, including holidays-June 1 through August 12. Visit [www.niccamp.org/employment](http://www.niccamp.org/employment) for more information and to apply online.



## Upcoming Student Ministry Events

- 1/6/18 – Orbit Skate Center
- 1/7/18 – Confirmation Class 10:45-11:30 am
- 1/7/18 – Student Fellowship 3:00-4:30 pm
- 1/14/17 – No Confirmation or student fellowship
- 2/25/18 – Gaga ball & games with the northern Illinois conference youth ministry cluster!

## Letter From Student Ministry

I recently attended a class at Garrett on the topic of fun and relaxation. Naturally, I spoke up because I am a big fan of games. I suggested that due to God’s creative nature, that as bearers of God’s image, we should be relaxing and having fun. God rests on the last day of creation and Jesus is regularly shown going to people’s houses for dinner and hanging out at wedding parties. If God is having fun and relaxing, why aren’t we?

Today, Middle and High School students live in a world where “fun” is readily accessible. Smart phones offer the ability to immediately download a game or video and have access to entertainment at the touch of a button. What is most interesting about this is the idea that fun is a separate event from the rest of the activities students participates in. School, homework, and even church are often on the “not fun” list. It seems to me that when given the opportunity, a student will almost always pick the “fun” option. My question is, why is “fun” always a separate category from everything else? Why is work naturally not fun? Why does homework have to be so draining? What are we teaching our teenagers by saying that “fun” is what’s left over after all the real stuff gets taken care of first?

If you look at YouTube stars or young people who are making a lot of money, you’ll see a common trend. They’re doing what they like and thriving because of it. Musicians like Pentatonix, Twitch streamers like Yogscast, and even people who are doing something called “Mukbang” (which is literally just eating a bunch of food and talking while people watch) are doing what they love and enjoying life because of it. They are following the trend of “work-life integration.”

When we step back and look at those examples, perhaps it’s time to rethink the purpose of fun. Fun can be pedagogical, and it can be liberating. It can create stories and heal relationships. It can be a part of or even all of our work. So the next time a teenager is frustrated by something they must do, turn it into something fun. It may take longer, but if efficiency is the purpose rather than learning, I’d argue we’re headed in the wrong direction. So have some fun, okay?

-Anthony Livoti  
*Student Ministry Director*

## FUMCAH Preschool Registration



Do you have a preschool age child? FUMCAH Preschool and We-e Care have an excellent program, and we would love to see you here! Registration for the 2018-2019 preschool program begins on January 8 for preschool and church families. Contact Amy at [fumcps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fumcps@sbcglobal.net) or 847-255-5119 for more information.

## Meals on Wheels - Thank You!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the Wheeling Township Meals on Wheels Program in November. The church will be delivering Meals on Wheels again in April. Thank you for Volunteering!

*Bruce & Sheryl Anderson*  
*Roylene Gallas*  
*Kathy Hellig*

*Betty Hopkins*  
*Dick May*  
*Robert & Gloria Morris*

*Terry Passolt*  
*Ralph & Pat Peterson*  
*Ron Reed*

*Linda Ribble*  
*Bob & Mary Jane Robertson*  
*Frank Scott*

- Russ & Marlys Guilford

## PADS Sign Up on January 7 & 14



PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) is a community organization committed to sheltering and feeding the homeless in the Northwest Suburbs during the cold winter months. At 7:00 pm on Mondays, FUMCAH very literally opens its doors to our homeless neighbors, and figuratively, volunteers open their hearts and minds to the needs of our guests. We provide a warm and welcoming environment where our guests can seek safe shelter for 12 hours of their day, 7:00 pm - 7:00 am. We serve a warm evening meal, breakfast, and prepare a sack lunch for our PADS guests.

When they enter our building, guests pick up sheets and towels and choose a mattress pad where they will sleep. This year, we have had 24-33 people sleeping in the ROC and our basement classrooms.

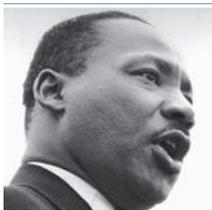
Food and labor are necessary parts of this ministry. There are several volunteer opportunities. We are especially in need of a male volunteer who could work the third shift on the 2nd Monday (early Tuesday morning - 2:45 - 7:00 am) of the month. Dates for 2:45 - 7:00 am shift: Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, April 10.

Also, we are in need of food donations. On Sunday, January 7 and 14, PADS coordinators will be at tables outside the sanctuary seeking food donations. You can help by buying food for our breakfast, lunch, and dinner programs. Weekly, we need to stock items like milk, bread, orange juice, lunchmeat, fruit, cookies, salads, desserts. These purchased items can be brought to the ROC kitchen and placed on the tables or in the refrigerator on Sunday before or after worship service. (No extra trip to the church required!)

In addition to buying items, COOKS are needed! We are given menu suggestions from the PADS organization, and we need cooks who can deliver a hot entree, side dish, or vegetable to the church between 6-7:00 pm on Monday nights. Each week we need 6 - 8 cooks to provide some part of a hot, delicious meal for our cold guests. Cooking skills range from baking potatoes to cooking beef stew.

We thank our congregation for their steadfast commitment to this important ministry. Please stop by the sign-up tables on January 7 and 14 before or after worship.

## MLK Faith in Action Assembly - January 15



Join the Faith in Action Team and other northwest Community Renewal Society churches at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Faith in Action Assembly and Governor's Candidate Forum.

The 2018 Assembly will be held at Old St. Patrick's Church at 700 West Adams in Chicago, on Monday, January 15, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to learn about the candidates for Governor and share our priorities with them. Visit [go.fumcah.com/mlk](http://go.fumcah.com/mlk) for additional information.

## Image No Malaria Valentine's Day Cards

Valentine's Day cards to benefit Imagine No Malaria will be available before and after church Sunday, January 28 through Sunday, February 11.

Your \$10 donation will be a gift of love for someone in need of a bed net. Visit [imaginenomalaria.org](http://imaginenomalaria.org) to learn more about Imagine No Malaria.

## Good News From ComEd

Our Board of Trustees received an Energy Tracking Report from ComEd stating that we are using 12% less energy than last year for the reporting periods from December 5, 2016, through December 5, 2017. Churches our size used 7% more energy for the same reporting period.

Our saving is the result of our solar panels, LED lighting and more efficient fluorescent lights installed this past year. Also, turning off lights in areas not in use, or when leaving the building, help us save energy, reduce CO2 emissions, as well as reduce our electric bills.

## Winter Farmers Market - February 11

Enjoy fall and winter produce, honey, jams, meats, and more while supporting local farmers. If you'd like to help promote our market event or assist with set-up or take-down, contact Allison Anderson on our Faith in Action Team ([allison.anderson.1804@gmail.com](mailto:allison.anderson.1804@gmail.com) or 847-525-7518).

## Taking Down the Greens - January 6

Thank you to all who stayed after church to help decorate for Advent. It was great to have friends of all ages taking part. Now that we are familiar with our new donated trees, the undecorating should go quickly. We will label trees with their ornaments and placements for the next year. Please join us on January 6, at 9:00 am, to take down the greens. Gratefully,  
Geraldyn May

## Congregation News

Joyce Hume, Sharon Nudo's mother and a former member of FUMCAH, died on December 4, 2017.

### 30 Years of Wonderful Memories



The year was 1987, and the church was in need of a professional musician to play our organ and piano during church services, for choir rehearsals, on Sunday mornings and other occasions when

music was needed.

A search committee was appointed consisting of Beverly Palmer, our previous Director of Music, who retired in 1992 but still an active member of our church, Al Hanson, chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Ron Reed. We looked over several resumes and invited a few musicians to come to the church and play a variety of music some of which the musician selected, and a few surprises that Beverly pulled from our hymnal and sheet music chosen for Sunday morning anthems to be sung by the choirs.

At one such audition, a well mannered quiet young lady knocked our socks off when playing the music she selected and the surprise music chosen by Beverly. I recall Beverly turning to Al and say, "She's the one we want," or words to that effect.

Several years later, in 2002, Lynda Elliott, who replaced Beverly, announced her retirement. Beverly recommended that we hire Francy Bearden to be our Music Ministries Coordinator and Jeannie Workman as our Music Director and Organist. Everyone agreed and, with the passing of Francy, Jeannie became our Director of Music Ministries.

Not too long ago, Al Hanson said that "The hiring of Jeannie was the best decision our church has ever made." Jeannie is a wonderfully talented, creative and accomplished musician. But most of all, she is a caring person loved by all of us blessed to be a part of your music ministry.

We, the people of FUMCAH, thank you, Jeannie, for sharing your musical talent with us and hope that you will continue to be a part of our church family for many more wonderful years.

### 2018 Stewardship Update

Happy 2018 to all from your Stewardship Committee! The 2018 total pledge to FUMCAH so far is \$583,860, which is about \$4,500 above last year's total pledged, and the average pledge is up by about \$400! The number of pledging families is 156 (174 in 2017). We are most grateful to those of you who chose to make an up-front commitment and help our church's financial planning. There are pledge cards available in the church office or pews, if you would still like to make a pledge.

Sunday School also participated in our stewardship campaign. We received many pledges and our weekly offering has risen over 700% since October. Thank you to all the generous children!

We want to thank all those, new and old, who have chosen to serve on various committees, groups, and activities in the upcoming year.

And, finally, thank you to all who contribute financially throughout the year.

It's all of you who put the life and vigor into what happens every day at FUMCAH, to God's glory.

Blessings to you and all you do in 2018!

### Financial Report through November 2017

November Revenue: \$62,990 Year-to-date Revenue: \$674,504  
November Expense: \$59,468 Year-to-date Expense: \$676,593

We have paid eleven months (\$83,160) of our \$90,720 apportionment for 2017.

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 ([m.kirby@fumcah.com](mailto:m.kirby@fumcah.com)) with any financial questions or concerns.

Thank you very much for your good stewardship in 2017 and we look forward to 2018!



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