



FUMCAH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Letter from the Pastor

Summer can be a time of vacations, stay-cations, or no 'cations. But, however far you may – or may not – have journeyed, I hope you “found God” this summer. I had an opportunity to travel with part of our family to Norway. The vistas were amazing. It was impossible for me not to admire God’s handiwork in the awe-inspiring mountains, lakes, and fjords. I have never experienced anything like it!

But I didn’t have to travel to find God; I saw God in the children and leaders at Vacation Bible School, Art Camp, and Music Camp. The creativity was boundless as adults guided children on their spiritual journeys. I heard stories of God’s presence and power from those who participated in ASP and the mission trip to Haiti. Lives were transformed. I heard the voice of God in our worship and in our talks about race. These are just some of my sacred summer encounters.

When we intentionally live our United Methodist “motto” of having open hearts and minds, God will open doors to mission, ministry, and transformation – not only in the lives of those we serve but in our lives as well. Where did you experience God this summer? Where will you find God this fall?

Pastor Lynn
Pastor Lynn Mikels



September Worship Schedule

Ancient Stories – Current Questions

Our ancestors used stories to explore the same questions that we ask: Why are we here? What’s wrong with the world? What’s our purpose? What is a good life? This fall we will listen to these ancient stories with the intention of being “more fully alive in our time” (*We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren). The texts are the same ones that small groups will be exploring through Brian McLaren’s book.

September 9 Why is there something and not nothing? The Story of Creation and Blessing of the Backpacks

September 16 What does it mean to be human? The Story of Adam and Eve

September 23 Could it all mean something? The Creation Hymn of John

We will celebrate the 10th anniversary of FUMCAH being a Reconciling United Methodist Church

September 30 Where did it all go wrong? Adam, Eve and the Snake and Presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders.

“Faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, a holding tank, or a warehouse. Instead, it was to be a road, a path, a way out of destructive patterns into new and creative ones,” writes Brian McLaren. Join us as we journey together this fall.

September Mission

Global Migration - 2018 Bishop's Appeal



You have five minutes. What would you grab? Who would you grab to bring with you? If you had to flee your home, perhaps never to return, what would you do? Where would you go? In the five minutes you take to plan your escape, 100 other people (20 people every minute) in some place in the world will also face the desperate and unthinkable reality of running for their lives. For some it's violence and war; for others it's regular and systematic persecution; and for some nature's wrath leaves them no alternative.

Not since the ravages of World War II have we seen so many people displaced from their homes and their countries. Our present reality of over 65 million people living this way means we are truly dealing with a Global Migration Crisis. Some of the images we see on television or social media are heartbreaking -- a baby boy lying lifeless on a beach; packed boats swamped by waves; tent cities crowded with families. Our first inclination is to cry or turn away so we don't have to see it.

Our second may be to think, "There are so many, we can't really make a difference." Beyond the overwhelming numbers are real people with real stories, all children of God simply seeking to survive and start over.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are exhorted repeatedly in the Scriptures to "welcome the stranger," to "care for the orphan and widow," to "love your neighbor as you love yourself," and to "do to others as you would have them do to you." And we remember the plight of Jesus himself, as Joseph takes Mary and the infant Jesus to Egypt to flee the wrath of King Herod. Who offered this refugee family shelter and care?

In 2018, we, who make up the Northern Illinois Conference, have a unique opportunity to combine our resources to care for some of the families affected by the Global Migration Crisis. Bishop Sally Dyck invites us to learn about the plight of migrants locally and globally and to donate to our 2018 Bishop's Appeal for the denomination's Global Migration Advance (#3022144). This fund was set up in 2014 for donors to designate gifts specifically to support work that alleviates the suffering of migrants. Last year's Bishop's Appeal raised over \$70,000 to help alleviate and prevent global HIV/AIDS!

Small Group Life this Fall:

We Make the Road by Walking

What we all want is pretty simple, really. We want to be alive. To feel alive. Not just to exist but to thrive, to live out loud, walk tall, breathe free. We want to be less lonely, less exhausted, less conflicted or afraid . . . more awake, more grateful, more energized and purposeful.

Thus begins Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. Our first fall worship series and small group experience is based on his book. McLaren encourages us to engage the Living God in the Bible, worship, and in conversation with one another. For our small groups, each week's reading will include scripture selections, a brief reflection, and discussion questions. We will be offering multiple small group meetings at different times, including a multi-generational group for 7th graders through adults. Watch the enews and Sunday morning bulletin for dates, times, and registration information. McLaren dares us to "venture off old maps into new, uncharted territory and discover how we make the road by walking."

Sisters

As "sisters in Christ," it is a blessing for women of the church and community to gather for Bible study and discussion. In Sisters, a spiritual discussion group for women of the church and community, we explore our relationship with the Holy One while building relationships with one another.

Meetings are on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:30pm in the Church Parlor. This season's gatherings will begin on Wednesday, September 26. In the past, we have read such books as *Waking Up White*, *Braving the Wilderness*, and *A Faithful Heart*. Newcomers to the group are always warmly welcomed.

We traditionally end our summer and begin our fall with a salad potluck supper. This year the event will be on Wednesday, September 5, 6:00pm, at Mary Ann Laforet's. Please RSVP to Mary Ann - Boesels4@me.com. She will provide beverages and place settings; let her know what dish you will bring. Also, bring suggestions of what you might like to read and discuss this year.

Kaleidoscope Kaleidoscope is our multi-faceted Sunday morning program for 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. Whether you come occasionally or every Sunday, you are welcome; youth are invited, too. Kaleidoscope meets after worship, about 10:40, in the Wesley Room on the lower level. The schedule for this month is:



September 16

Participants from the July mission trip to Haiti will share their experiences and respond to your questions. This Kaleidoscope is co-sponsored by United Methodist Women and the Mission Commission.



September 23

We celebrate ten years as a Reconciling Congregation in the United Methodist Church! Our Kaleidoscope presenter is Brent Holman-Gomez. As an advocate of the organizations, Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) and Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Partners (CLASP), Brent works to eliminate barriers to the free movement of people. Brent's work with Gay Liberation Network has advanced international solidarity of LGBT people, particularly from Iran, Russia, Honduras, and Nigeria, while calling attention to scapegoating and those that would deny LGBT people's very existence. As part of the Planning Team for Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, Brent has promoted African organizations that work to make religious groups inclusive of LGBT people. Personal experience with deportation in the U.S. immigration conspiracy informs and inspires his work.



September 30

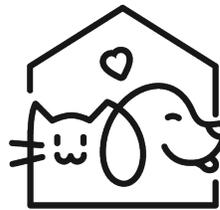
We welcome Rev. Eric Doolittle, the chaplain at North Central College, a United Methodist affiliated institution of higher learning in Naperville, Illinois. Maybe some of our Bible-receiving third graders (reminder that the 30th is Bible Sunday) will be students there one day.

**Blessing of the Backpacks
September 9**



It's a new school year/work year for people of all ages! Bring your backpacks and briefcases to worship on Sunday, September 9 for a blessing! We'll pray for God's guidance, presence, and direction in the adventures ahead.

**Blessing of the Animals
September 23, 4:00pm**



Bring your furry, feathered, four footed, creepy, crawling friends for a special blessing on Sunday, September 23 at 4:00pm.

Creatures should be appropriately leashed or caged. Unruly participants will be asked to leave and take their pets with them.

FUMCAH Chancel Choir

The world-renowned (maybe not) FUMCAH Chancel Choir will resume singing each week in worship on Sunday, September 9. If you have an interest in singing with us, please contact Jeannie Workman at j.workman@fumcah.com. We'd be delighted to have you join us! Rehearsals begin on Thursday, August 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room, below the Sanctuary. I hope you'll consider joining us!

Upcoming United Methodist Women Events

Kaleidoscope - Sunday, September 16

10:45am in the Wesley Room

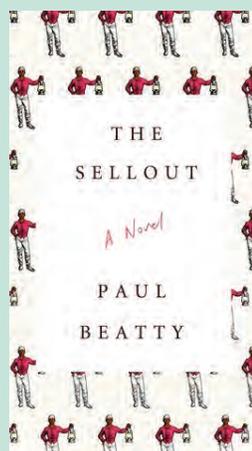
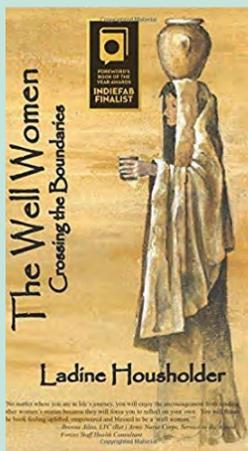
United Methodist Women is excited to host Kaleidoscope featuring our Haiti Mission Team from this summer! Please grab a cup of coffee in Fellowship Hall, come to the Wesley Room for refreshments, and learn about their amazing trip!

Book Discussions - Tuesday, October 16

7:00pm in the Wesley Room

Please join the United Methodist Women for refreshments, thought provoking insights, and deeper connections at our book discussions! First, a 10-15 minute introduction to each novel, then a specific amount of time for discussion with randomly assigned people. For childcare reservations, contact Sarah Hunter at shunter26@hotmail.com.

You are encouraged to read one or all three books.



A Wrinkle in Time, 1962, by Madeleine L'Engle, a science fiction book by a Christian author. Presented by Stephanie Sutton, with a brief commentary on how Christianity can be appreciated within the science fiction genre.

The Well Woman: Crossing Boundaries, 2013, by Ladine Housholder, a journey of spiritual healing and recovery. Presented by Sheelagh Tittle, United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Leader.

The Sellout, 2015, by Paul Beatty, a satirical look at contemporary American society, and an amazing work of satire that is redefining the role of American literature.

Make a Difference



Are you looking for a local volunteer opportunity to get involved with a neighbor in need? Faith Community Homes provides rent assistance and mentoring to working, low-income families who want to achieve financial stability. Working in pairs, volunteer mentors assist their family in making and following a realistic budget and developing reachable goals. Most of all, mentors develop a relationship with their family over 2

years and provide support and guidance as they get back on their feet. Training is provided. If you want to learn more about this opportunity to shine a little more light in our community, please contact Sarah Harte, FCH Program Manager, at (847) 342-0846 or sarah.harte@fchomes.org

Reception Volunteers Needed



United Methodist Women offers to host a reception immediately following funeral and memorial services held at FUMCAH. Families— are always so appreciative of this during a difficult time. Our volunteer staff has diminished and we would like to continue this offering to families. We are updating our volunteer list so we have enough rotation of men, women, and teens to help in the 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 have questions, please contact Barb Donahue at 847-392-1471 or jbd77@comcast.net.

Confirmation



Confirmation is the process that 7th and 8th graders go through in our church to prepare them to “confirm the vows made at their baptisms.” It’s an important time in the lives of students, their families, and the adult mentors that accompany the students through the process. Another year of Confirmation is about to begin! This year, Jennifer Kaempfe will take the lead in teaching the Confirmation class. Pastor Melissa Earley, Pastor Lynn Mikels, and Liz Evans, Director of Justice, Reconciling, and Young Adults Ministries will occasionally teach. Liz is coordinating mentors and Marilyn Wegner is coordinating acolytes, and Mike Mikels is organizing fieldtrips.

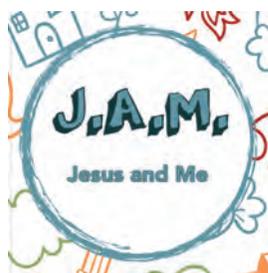
- September 9 after worship – Acolyte Orientation for 7th graders
- September 16 after worship – Confirmation Kick-Off for 7th and 8th graders, their parents and mentors.
- May 19, 2019 – Confirmation Sunday

Thank You from VBS!



Heartfelt thanks to all our Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School leaders! Your energy and enthusiasm made the week exciting; your calm spirits made sure that no one “fell overboard.” Whether you helped decorate, led an activity, guided our rafters, served every day or filled in at the last minute – you were essential to our VBS and made the week unforgettable. Thanks for helping all the kids get to know Jesus better.

JAM: Jesus And Me



If it’s September, October is right around the corner. That means JAM will be starting soon! From preschoolers through eighth graders, we have something for you every Wednesday from 5:00-7:00. Choices include vocal choirs, puppetry, handbells and more! While some program options are open to only certain grade levels, everyone is invited to the fellowship dinner at 5:45 with meals planned by our new cook, Thom Frerk! This program is free, but pre-registration is required. Look for detailed registration information in mid-September.

Night Owls



We are excited to begin the 2018-2019 season of our special parent’s night out, Night OWLS (Night Out With Loving Sitters). Special needs children and their siblings are invited to FUMCAH on the third Saturday of each month from 6-9 pm for dinner and a variety of activities. Each special friend has a teen or adult “buddy” (must be age 18 or older) who stays with him/her all evening. Younger volunteers work with siblings and assist with activities.

This year, we hope to involve more families in Night OWLS. Please feel free to share information with those who might enjoy it. We also welcome more adult and youth volunteers. Contact Pastor Lynn if you would like to help or if you know a family that might like to attend. We believe that ALL children are special!

Bible Presentation for Third Graders



Third Graders and their families will not want to miss our 9:30 worship celebration on September 30; that’s when FUMCAH offers the gift of a Bible to each Third Grader. Parents - come to the sanctuary and sit with your child. Both parents and children will be invited to come forward during the “Children’s Moment” for the Bible presentation. Afterwards, children may participate in church school or remain with their families in worship. We celebrate that these children are growing in faith and in their ability to be independent readers.

STUDIO 1903

Studio 1903 is a series of fun and enriching classes housed at FUMCAH and open to all in the church and community. Current offerings include art, Zumba, voice lessons and Yoga. Teachers are all part of our FUMCAH family.

Yoga

Yoga Fridays are back with a new instructor, Christine Pellum! Classes are for all Yoga experience levels and modifications will be offered! Christine hopes to have you join the group for the physical and mental benefits of Yoga each Friday in the chapel from 9:30-10:30am, \$10/class. Please bring a mat and a smile!

Voice Lessons

Voice lessons are offered on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Scholarships are available. Contact Lorena (lorenacory@gmail.com) for more information about pricing and scheduling.

Come help Veronica celebrate 4 years of teaching Zumba® at FUMCAH!

In honor of another wonderful year of teaching Zumba® dance fitness to both church and community members, Veronica Biazio will be sponsoring coffee hour on Sunday, September 2. Please stop by and say "Hello!" She will also be offering her 9:30am class on Wednesday, September 5 and her 6:30pm class on Thursday, September 6 for FREE. Come celebrate and dance!

Veronica also offers Zumba® and Zumba® Toning at Twin Lakes Recreation Area in Palatine, and Zumba® Gold classes at Grace Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect and at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. If you have never tried Zumba® before and would like more info, please contact Veronica at veronica.biazio@gmail.com or check out her full class schedule at <http://veronicabiazio.zumba.com>.

Help an Artist, Help FUMCAH Ministries



For the next month, 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.

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).

2019 Stewardship Campaign



The Stewardship Committee is hard at work laying the groundwork for the upcoming 2019 Stewardship campaign. This year's theme is Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money.

The three-week campaign will start on Sunday, October 28 and conclude with a Celebration Sunday luncheon on November 11. Stay tuned for details on Pastor Earley's sermon series, youth and children's activities, special speakers and more!

Building for All Pledges Begin September 1



Just a reminder that, for many of you, your pledges for the Building for All Campaign will begin in September. Statements will be sent out early this month. Please check them to be sure that the pledge and giving information is correct.

And, for those of you who elected to use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), most withdrawals will begin on September 1, or the date you designated.

Please contact Melinda in the church office with any pledge, giving, or EFT questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Communion Stewards Needed

Communion Stewards prepare for Communion services by providing breads and then preparing them by putting them in baskets with cloths. They also prepare the chalices of grape juice and clean up the Communion items after worship. Communion Stewards serve one Sunday a month and one to three months a year. If you are interested, please contact Linda Bettenhausen at 847-705-7241.

Congregation News

Birth

Caroline Compagno, daughter of Kate and Katie Compagno, on August 3

Death

Vera Valentine on August 11

Financial Report through July 2018

July Revenue: \$53,807 Year-to-date Revenue: \$456,064

July Expense: \$52,855 Year-to-date Expense: \$467,521

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!



FUMCAH

First United Methodist Church
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

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