



May 2016

April showers bring May flowers - and Mother's Day and weddings and graduations and retirement parties and more! For our FUMCAH family, it also means the celebration of Confirmation. I, too, was confirmed in May, at our family's church in Minnesota. Our three year Confirmation program was very involved (I'll spare you my experience of sermon outlines) and ended with interviews by church board members. There were questions on the Bible, church history, and the structure of our local church. I was SO nervous, but I passed the interview.

When Confirmation weekend arrived I was understandably thrilled about the big day, especially since my aunt, uncle, and six cousins were coming to visit. Members of a country Lutheran church, I had attended their Confirmation services and was excited to share my tradition with them. Then a crisis – sick turkeys! Yes, my uncle was a turkey farmer and a few sick birds could turn into an epidemic with substantial loss of income. They were carefully monitoring the flock, thinking they could come but were forced to stay home and care for the turkeys. We got the news the morning of the Confirmation service; no cousins.

I was (don't judge) very disappointed. The "party" went from really special to non-existent. Sensing my disappointment, and probably with last-minute invitations from my mom, my church family stepped in. Not only did they congratulate and celebrate, a few even brought small gifts. I still cherish the praying hands necklace I received and will wear it again this Confirmation Sunday.

I learned more from my Confirmation experience than just church history. I felt the support of Christian community. I discovered that church people are there to share sadness as well as joy – and that sharing can make things better. During that three-year program, so many adults at my childhood church lived the vows they had made at our infant baptisms years before - to guide and support us as we claimed our own faith, becoming full members of the church. Thus, I knew that church folk would step in and help things work – even when it was last-minute. Serving at FUMCAH, I continually see these gifts among our members and friends. What a blessing!

I hope you will enjoy all the celebrations this month – and especially Confirmation as we welcome these new members of our church and celebrate the joy of a faith community.

Pastor Lynn

Lynn Mikels

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30AM

- May 1: "Becoming the Beloved"
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- May 8: "Living as the Beloved"
John 21:15-19
- May 15: "Spirit-Filled"
Acts 2:1-21
- May 22: Confirmation Celebration
- May 29: "What Memorials?"
Joshua 4:19-13



Join us for a special Kaleidoscope on May 15, "Spiritual Formation For Leaders." Barbara Miller, who has a professional certificate in spiritual formation in the United Methodist Church, will lead us in considering ways we infuse spirituality into all we do. This Kaleidoscope is for all youth and adults as we want everyone to claim their shared leadership in our life together at FUMCAH.

A stylized logo for "Bountiful Harvest" with the words in a bubbly, green font with a white outline.



Plan Ahead for a "Bountiful Harvest"

May is planting time, so why not plant a little extra this year to bring to the "Bountiful Harvest" table at church? "Bountiful Harvest" is a time on Sunday mornings when gardeners in our church bring their garden produce to share with others. When your produce is shared, the money donated is contributed to area food pantries. Contact Nancy Duel for more information (847-259-3793 or n.duel@aol.com).

Summer Sisters

Our school-year "Sisters" group is on hiatus but we still want to get together – at least occasionally. We will be meeting monthly on the first Wednesday of June, July, and August, at 7:15 pm, in the church parlor. We'll touch base with one another and discuss a short story or two. The stories will all be available online and be discussion-worthy from a faith standpoint. Since God is in practically everything in all creation, that should not be too limiting. Suggestions welcome! Summer schedules can be crazy; join us when you can. Not already a member of Sisters? This is your chance to experience the fellowship and fine, faith-filled conversation that defines this group of women.

In June, we will discuss *Everything that Rises Must Converge* by Flannery O'Connor, and *The Griffin and the Minor Canon* by Frank Stockton.

FUMCAH Has PRIDE!

Join members of our congregation and Prince of Peace United Methodist Church as we participate in a witness of welcoming congregations in the 2016 Chicago Pride Parade. We will be marching, along with members of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, in witness to the wide welcome of God lived out in our congregations in the northwest suburbs. We will meet at FUMCAH at 9:00am, on Sunday, June 26, carpool into the city, and return to FUMCAH no later than 3:30pm. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact David Rich (davr8683@gmail.com or text/call 801-540-0001), or Pastor Will (will.ed.green@gmail.com).

Solar Panel Project Update

In September 2014, the Solar Panel Task Force was established to explore solar energy alternatives for our church. It was agreed to pursue constructing an array of 60 solar panels on the backside of the rear pitched roof of the church facing south. This 16.5 Kw array will produce approximately 20,602 kWh per year. Its warranty will be 25 years. The panels have an expected life of 40 years.

We want FUMCAH to be a beacon to our congregation and local community by producing, distributing, and consuming FUMCAH renewable energy, by establishing an ongoing sustainability program, and by establishing a sustainability education program.

The installation takes about four months, with the final payment due upon completion. The project must be completed by November 12, 2016, as a condition of our accepted Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) bid. The estimated value of these RECs is \$18,000 to be realized over a five-year period commencing with going live.

Our fundraising campaign continues and the deadline for submitting contributions is May 31. The installation process is scheduled to begin June 13.

May Mission Faith Community Homes

Faith Community Homes is dedicated to supporting financially disadvantaged families in our local community with housing assistance and strong mentoring from trained volunteers and case managers. The goal for each family is to develop good financial management skills, as well as other life skills for improving their employment, education, or personal needs. Faith Community Homes also offers programs to enrich the lives of the children in these families and provides resources to their parents for counseling, education, and training. The families in the Faith Community Homes program could be your neighbors. Most are single moms – and some single dads – who are struggling to learn new skills, and get a better job, while providing for their children in a safe home. Guidance and support from Faith Community Homes helps them stay strong and on track to meeting their goals.

Since 2003, FUMCAH sponsorship has helped to provide rental assistance for Faith Community Homes families, and church members have given their time and talent to mentoring families. In the service on May 8, you will hear from Mike Mikels, who has mentored several families.

You can support Faith Community Homes through your offerings in May, and by buying Mother's Day cards from the Mission Committee on April 24 and May 1. Please give generously.



Saturday Art Class

Art Instructor, Thom Frerk, will be adding a Saturday Art Class to the schedule. It will be held at 9:30 am and available for both youth (9 and up) and adults. The class will be a drop-in format. Suggested donation is \$6 per class or a punch card of four classes available for \$20. Work at your own pace in a variety of mediums - painting, drawing, printing and more. Supplies are provided.



PADS PIZZA PARTY

Plan to attend our kick-off Pizza Party on September 12, to sign up for next season. Please plan to attend if you would like to learn more about our PADS program. New volunteers must attend a training session at the Journeys office. For more information, please contact Nancy Dorsey (njdorsey@comcast.net or 847-956-4392).



The PADS leaders wish to thank the members of our congregation who have so generously supported the mission of the church to help the homeless in our community. Your contributions of time, food, and money have made this possible. Special thanks to those of you who cooked the wonderful meals. Our guests often tell us how much they appreciate all we do and the great food we provide for them.



FUMCAH Golf Event

Make sure to "Save the Date" for FUMCAH's 8th Annual Golf Event and Dinner. Join us on Sunday, September 11, for a day of Folks, Food & Fun!!

Summer Suppers

Summer Suppers for the homeless and food insecure individuals will be served this summer at FUMCAH on the second Tuesday of each month (May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13) from 6:30-8:00pm. We Need Your Help! Anyone high school age or older can sign up. For more information, contact Jacqueline Raitano (847-749-3233 or JacquelineRaitano@yahoo.com).



DBSA Wins National Service Award

DBSA Arlington Heights, FUMCAH's mental health ministry, was awarded the 2015 Small Chapter Service Award by the national DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance) organization. We were chosen for this award from about 700 chapters, including some in Canada and a new one in China. It feels great to be recognized by our peers to be among the best.

We were recognized for our contributions in the areas of support, community outreach, education, and advocacy. We are providing support groups in four distinct areas of need – teen and young adults, parents, people with dual diagnosis (mood disorder and substance use), and adults aged 18 and older. In 2015, members of our support group talked about mental health in church, in community networking groups, and at national and international conferences. In the area of education, we offered a presentation on how to recognize discrimination against mental health services by insurance programs, and provided scholarships to members to attend local and national conferences. Our members form the core of DBSA's Illinois Grassroots Organization, and were chosen as one of the featured speakers in front of over 300 people at a mental health rally in Springfield.

If you know of anybody who could benefit from our confidential services, please do not hesitate to encourage them to contact Leah at 847-541-7754 or mrsn@comcast.net. Thanks for your support.

Spring Rummage Sale—Get Ready, Get Set, SELL!

- Friday, May 6, 9:00am-3:00pm
- Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-1:00pm
- Bake sale on Friday and Saturday also

For more information, contact Jacqueline Raitano (847-749-3233 or JacquelineRaitano@yahoo.com).



Preschool/We-e Care

Preschool/We-e Care Registration

The First United Methodist Church Preschool/We-e Care Program (DCFS licensed and NAEYC Accredited) is accepting registrations for the 2016/2017 school year. Preschool classes are offered for children ages 2-1/2 to 4/5 years. Preschool hours are 9:00-11:30am beginning in September, days in session depending on the age of the child. (Monthly tuition rates for preschool: 2 days per week - \$150; 3 days per week - \$185; 4 days per week - \$230; non-refundable registration fee is \$75 per child.) We-e Care classes are offered for children ages 16 months to 2-1/2 years. We-e Care hours are 9:30am-1:00pm on Wednesdays or Thursdays beginning in October. (Monthly tuition for We-e Care: \$90; non-refundable registration fee is \$75 per child.) For more information or to schedule a tour, call 847-255-5119 or send an email to fumcps@sbcglobal.net.

Nursery Renovation

Have you visited our Nursery lately?

One of our church families recently sponsored the nursery renovation in memory of a loved one – and it is beautifully updated. Even if you do not have a little one in your family, consider stopping in to see this welcoming space. FUMCAH has a heart for children – and it shows!

Preschool Teacher Openings

The First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights Preschool (DCFS Licensed and NAEYC Accredited) has openings for Preschool Teachers. Two years of college with a minimum of six hours of early childhood education is required. Hours are 8:15am to 12:00pm. Depending on the age group, days would be Tuesdays/Thursdays; Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays; or Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays.



Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT SM

ASP Needs You

Are you a youth in the 7th-12th grades who is interested in going on this year's ASP service trip? Do you know a youth who you think would enjoy and learn from a week of service in Appalachia? ASP departs FUMCAH this year on June 18 and returns June 25. The cost for participation is \$315, and scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Pastor Lynn at l.mikels@fumcah.com.

Support Your ASP Team!

For over 40 years FUMCAH has participated in ASP. And every year it would be impossible without help from you. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ASP by writing a check (memo line ASP) or by calling the church office at 847-255-5112. We currently need to raise \$3500 to reach our goal. For more information, please contact Pastor Lynn at l.mikels@fumcah.com.

Dads and Grads Gift Card Sale

Our annual Dads and Grads gift card sale begins on Sunday, May 15, and concludes with a final pick-up on June 19. Buy a gift card for your favorite graduate, father, or both, and help support our annual youth mission trip to Appalachia in the process! No one to buy a gift card for? Never fear! You can also purchase gift cards (Shell only, please) to help get our vans to and from Appalachia. For more information, please contact the church office at 847-255-5112.

Summer Fun for Everyone!

You can register now for Vacation Bible School, Art Camp, and Music Camp. Invite your friends! These programs are a great opportunity to introduce others to FUMCAH.



Vacation Bible School – Monday through Thursday, July 11-14, 3:00-5:30pm, Preschool through 4th graders (2015-16), no fee. Youth and adults, contact Pastor Lynn (847-255-5112 or l.mikels@fumcah.com) to help! Registration forms are available at the Registration Station and the Welcome Center.

Art Camp – Monday through Friday mornings, July 25-29, current 2nd graders through adults; registration fee and theme will be announced soon.

Music Camp – Setting the Stage staff will lead our amazing Music Camp from August 1-4. Children will sing, dance, and play the parts of characters from Guys and Dolls, performing in worship on Sunday, August 7. Registration is \$40 per child (\$20 each for additional children in the same family); please sign up by July 24.

Crossroads Zoo Trip

Lions, tigers, bears and so many more animals await us at Lincoln Park Zoo! All 4th, 5th and 6th graders are invited to meet at church on Sunday, May 15, at 12:30pm, for our adventure. Wear your Fisher's Club t-shirt, if you have one! Zoo admission is free but bring some money for a snack.

Pick-up time will be back at the church at 5:00pm. Driver/chaperones are needed; let Pastor Lynn know if you can help (847-255-5112 or l.mikels@fumcah.com).

Block Party

Join us on August 20, for our third annual FUMCAH family Block Party. Celebrate the fellowship of our faith family alongside magicians, karaoke, dunk tanks, and more! Then be sure to stick around for a special screening of the Pixar classic, "Inside Out." More information to come.



FUMCAH Member Co-Authors Book

Robert Boesel, son of Robert Boesel and Mary Ann Laforet, has co-authored a book that was just released.



The following is the write-up that was published by the Red-Eye Edition for Chicago on the top 25 books to read. The book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

"We're all adultish here, trying and failing and succeeding to live like an actual real person. This book is a down-to-earth guide to all the stuff you'll encounter between graduating from college and being a legit grown-up ... if we ever reach that point. It's divided into sections for employment (first internship to quitting), domesticity (first apartment to getting a dog), cuisine (grocery shopping to trendy restaurants), style, romance, leisure and nightlife."

Adult Stuff: Things You Need to Know to Win at Real Life
By Robert Boesel and Matt Moore (April 5, Sourcebooks, \$12.99)



Congregation News

Births

Briar Dawn on April 7, daughter of Ryan and April Berry, sister of Bradley, and great-granddaughter of Steve and Beverly Berry

Baptisms

Dylan and Bennett on April 10, sons of Cory and Heather Wooden

Cash Michael and Ava Elizabeth on April 16, son and daughter of Andy and Courtney Waller

Brandon Alexander on April 17, son of Christopher and Keri Kalamaras

Confirmation Celebration

The FUMCAH Youth Commission invites you to celebrate this year's Confirmation Class with us on May 22, during our worship service. Then, be sure to join us for a time of celebration and thanksgiving over cake and coffee during the Fellowship Hour. We'll see you there!

Baccalaureate Sunday is Coming

Our annual celebration and blessing of our high school and college graduates will take place as a part of worship on Sunday, June 5. In addition to joining us in worship, we invite anyone with names of persons who are graduating (including the institution from which they are graduating), to share those with the church office by calling 847-255-5112 or emailing friends@fumcah.com. Names must be received by May 25 to be printed.

Receiving New Members

New members will be received on Sunday, May 15. A new member orientation will be held at 10:45am, on Sunday, May 1. If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Pastor Ouk-Yean (847-255-5112 or o.jueng@fumcah.com).

Financial Report through February 2016

February Revenue: \$58,993 Year-to-date Revenue: \$139,253

February Expense: \$60,068 Year-to-date Expense: \$130,955

We have paid \$21,480 (3 months) of our \$85,920 apportionment for 2016.

Electronic Funds Transfer is available – a great way to give regularly!

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

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