

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**MATTOON
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

Second Year!



The Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Published Every 2 Months

APRIL / MAY 2022

Worship opportunities:

9 a.m. Traditional

Sunday School offerings
follow Traditional worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary

FEATURED INSIDE:

- **Dora's Delights** bakery featured on calendar Pg 4
- **Lent is a season of forty days.** Learn more Pg 5.
- **Pioneers in Methodism** Pg 6

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Pastor's Article

Easter brings a sense of renewed optimism

Welcome to a special Easter edition of the Circuit Writer!

Let me start by saying that if you or someone you know has not been attending worship because of the pandemic, I lovingly encourage you to return or invite your friends and family back to celebrate the joy of resurrection!

Now is the time to come back to church as we all celebrate the fact that by taking appropriate precautions to love our neighbors as ourselves and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, we can look forward the future with a renewed sense of optimism.

For Holy Week, we will gather at 7 pm on Maundy Thursday for communion and to remember Jesus' command to love each other as Christ loves us. On Good Friday we will gather again at 7 pm to explore the depth of suffering, sacrifice, and love that Jesus' death on the cross represents.

To prepare for the celebration of Resurrection Sunday on April 16, our Lenten journey will take us through five essential Christian practices: worship and prayer, study, service, sharing and giving.

By looking at these essentials ahead of time, our Easter

celebration will be that much more special as the new life

that Jesus brings to our lives pours in to the lives of others and produces fruit within our faith community. And that fruit will be experienced through three big events coming up: an Easter baptism, new member Sunday, and confirmation.

On Easter, Kynlee Kuhl will be baptized! She is the daughter of Jennifer and Greg Kuhl and the granddaughter of Jerie and Roger Brown. There will be one service at 9 am so that we can all be together to witness her special day as we welcome her in to Christ's body.

A new member class has been meeting regularly to get to know each other and more about our church. They have learned about the spiritual roots of Methodism, the significance of the sacraments, the structure and mission of our denomination, and the impact that Mattoon First



Pastor Todd Krost

UMC has on the lives of its members and surrounding community. They will be welcomed in to the congregation on a Sunday morning later in the spring. The new members will be: Tim & Melissa Wheeler, Becky Thurn, Matt Landrus, Jessica & David Zanton, Ambrie Zanton, Christina Krost, and Madeline Krost.

The celebrations continue as plans are being made for several youth to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday June 5th. Through confirmation, youth who have been baptized become full members of the church. In other words, they "confirm" the vows that their family made if they were baptized as babies to dedicate their lives to Christ now that they are old enough and can speak for themselves.

As you can tell, there is much to look forward to in the coming weeks at Mattoon First UMC. Join us for a special season of resurrection!

In Christian Community,

Pastor Todd Krost



NEWS



Notes

- ◆ **If you would like** to add a prayer request, call the church office at 217-235-5676.
- ◆ **Keep up** with the latest events in the denomination with United Methodist News (umnews.org). To keep up with the latest news and events from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, visit www.igrc.org/current.
- ◆ **The new edition** of the Upper Room daily devotional is available in the narthex.
- ◆ **The 9 a.m. Traditional Worship** will be audio recorded and available to listen to on the church website for those worshipping at home at: <https://mattoonumc.com/sermons/>
- ◆ **Winter and spring office hours** are 9-3 Monday & Friday, 9 - noon Wednesdays.
- ◆ **Pastor Todd's Tuesday morning** Bible Study for Lent will discuss Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life". You're invited to join us Tuesdays (except the third Tuesday of the month) at 10 am in the downstairs worship center for an opportunity to grow in your faith through study and fellowship.
- ◆ **Choir rehearses** every Wednesday at 5:30. Join us!
- ◆ **The Youth Group** meets weekly at the church from 4-5:30 every Sunday. Bring a friend!
- ◆ **The church's United Methodist Women** are seeking someone who is already or is willing to be trained to get their food service license from the Coles County Health Department.
- ◆ **UMCOR help for Ukraine:** Gifts to support humanitarian needs for those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries can be made through UMCOR international disaster response by writing a check to the church and writing "Advance #982450" in the memo line or "UKRAINE". Visit umcmmission.org for details.
- ◆ **First Fridays Pizza & Movie nights** are back for students grades K-5. Masks required. Bring a water bottle and blanket/pillow. Drop off at 6 p.m. and pick up at 8 p.m.. Register by email to: Christina.Krost@gmail.com. Coming up is Peter Rabbit 2 on April 1.
- ◆ **United Methodist Women** has a new name, [United Women of Faith!](http://uwfaith.org) Visit its new website, uwfaith.org, to learn more.
- ◆ **For the church to celebrate the baptism** of Kynlee Kuhl together at 9 a.m. Easter Sunday, the 10:30 contemporary service will be cancelled so that those who attend it can witness her baptism.
- ◆ **The Circuit Writer team** will consider the writings of guest columnists for page one of the newsletter. It publishes every two months. See Pastor Todd if you are interested in writing a 500 word article. We can only accept one guest column in each edition.
- ◆ **The One-der Class meets** Sundays at 9:45 in the Worship Area downstairs. Everyone is welcome. This class will be a multigenerational exploration of the Bible and God's teachings.
- ◆ **Men's Bible Study** meets 2nd and 4th Saturday at Denny's, 8:30 a.m.



April and May Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 04/03 Don Hance | 04/25 Courtney Orman |
| 04/03 Wayne Lockett | 04/26 Phyllis Fuqua |
| 04/05 Peggy Dow | 04/27 Bob Montgomery |
| 04/06 Kenneth Corrie | 04/28 Paul Schabbing |
| 04/08 Nancy Loucks | 05/03 Anita Tutt |
| 04/08 Diane Snow | 05/09 Nadine Boyer |
| 04/09 Amber Carrell | 05/09 Connie Lotts |
| 04/11 Myles Carrell | 05/10 Betty Colclasure |
| 04/11 Marlon Patrick | 05/12 Annette Bryant |
| 04/18 Steve Ferguson | 05/12 Ava Krost |
| 04/18 William Thurn | 05/15 Shirley Burton |
| 04/19 Brian Isaacs | 05/16 Kaylee Beals |
| 04/19 Robert Orman | 05/25 Susan Watson |
| 04/22 James Leitch | 05/29 Richard Butler |
| 04/23 Jack Ferguson | 05/31 Donald Perry |
| 04/23 Joyce Lefever | |

Bible studies on the calendar

Men’s Bible Study, meets second and fourth Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. at Mattoon Denny’s

Pastor’s Morning Bible Study, 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Worship Center

Ladies’ Thursday Bible Study, 8 a.m. Room 102, led by Linda Hance.

Sunday School classes offered

Check with your teacher to be certain of time and location your class meets.

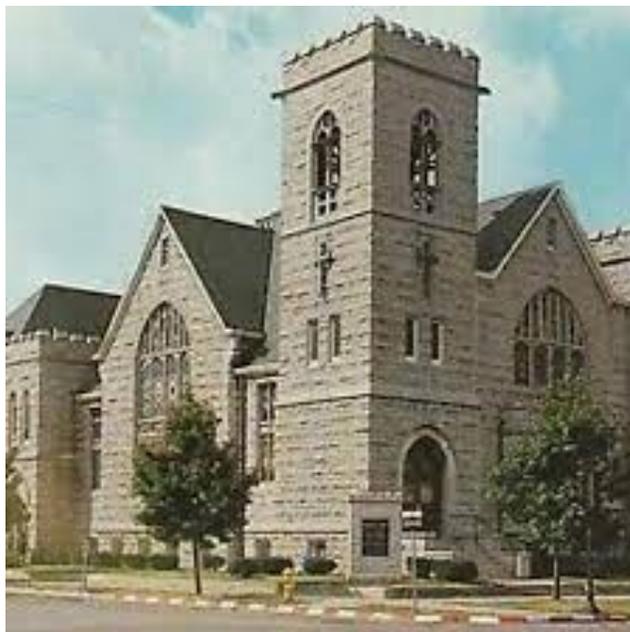
Champion Asbury, Room 308, following 9 a.m. worship

Choice Living, Room 102, following first service

One-der Class, Worship Area downstairs, 9:45 a.m.

April & May Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 04/02 Bryan & Krista Burrell | 05/02 David & Linda Schilling |
| 04/05 Stephen & Marcia Parker | 05/12 Bobby & Madonna Lockett |
| 04/27 Richard & Linda Podeschi | 05/13 Tim & Melissa Wheeler |
| 04/28 Roger & Darlena DeLeon Sr. | 05/21 Ken & Deanne Corrie |
| 05/02 David & Peggy Ropiequet | 05/28 Donald & Jane Perry |
| | 05/29 Walter & Angelica Beltran |



Dora's Delights cake selected for Indie Treasure 2022 calendar



FUMC's Former Administrative Assistant Dora Dallas was notified at the end of 2021 that her work as a cake baker would be featured among images of tasty treats in a 2022 calendar.



Indie Treasure featured Dora's fisherman's birthday cake on a page after December 2022 month. Dozens of images of work, by those who love to bake, appear throughout the calendar labeled exemplary baking.

Dora described the creation: "The cake (features) a fish jumping out of the cake," said Dora. "Everything on the cake including the fish is a edible, and it was one that I

made for my uncle for his 60th birthday. "

When she heard about the contest, she sent it in on a whim. She learned some weeks later it would appear.

"The picture is on the last page right after you flipped December 2022 up," she said.

Other than bragging rights, she didn't earn any prize for her work being selected.

"I started decorating cakes when I was about 12 or 13 years old and I taught myself," said Dora. "Then in 2010, I started decorating again and I have decorated many cakes. I had a cupcake and cake decorating business out of my home

up until 2015, but I still decorated several years after that just for friends and family."

She has a Facebook page called Dora's Delights, which is where my business all went through and all my cakes can be seen.

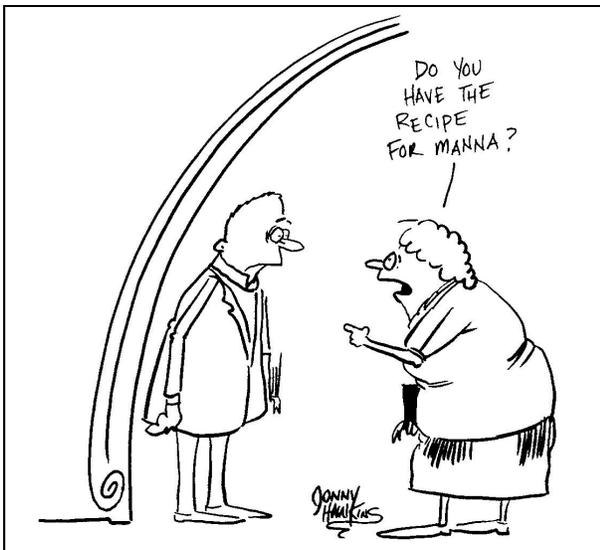
"I don't decorate anymore although on occasion I will make some cupcakes for certain birthdays and sometimes just because. "

Indie Treasure exemplary bakers calendar comes in a book form, at 11 x 8.5 inches, with work by recreational and professional baskers.

"Delight each day in the mouth watering splendors of beautiful desserts in the 12-month 2022 calendar," according to its website.

Calendars might still be available online at : www.indietreasure.com/products/exemplary-baking-2022-calendar

Cost \$19.99.



The 2022 Mattoon Food Center packing dates are:

January 11, 2022	July 12, 2022
February 8, 2022	August 9, 2022
March 8, 2022	September 6, 2022
April 12, 2022	October 11, 2022
May 10, 2022	November 8, 2022
June 7, 2022	December 6, 2022

Please arrive between 5:15-5:30 p.m. on each date.

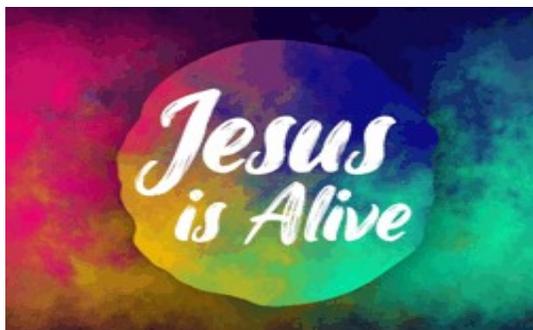
Ask the UMC

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



Family Concert held at FUMMC Feb 27



Mattoon First United Methodist Church Organist and Classical Pianist Dr. Jiafeng Yan and his wife, Jing Hao and their sons Jason and James performed a classical concert Sunday February 27th.

Members of the congregation and neighbors from the community were treated to work from Beethoven, Chopin, Gershwin, Seitz, Hankun Sha, William Henry Squire, Sandy Yu, and Nikolai Medtner.

Mattoon First is familiar with Jiafeng's talent having played for the Traditional Service for many years, but the concert with his family showed the true breadth and depth of his exceptional skill.

'Thank You Church' from Yan family

Dear Todd and the MFUMC folks,

Thank you so much again for hosting the concert. Heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your attendance and support. My family and I truly appreciate the opportunity! Jiafeng

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and vase. Thank you for preparing everything for us! We felt the warmest welcome. Jing

Thank you for having us as your guests. It was a pleasure to perform for you. The desserts were also very delicious. We felt the warmest welcome. James

Thank you for providing this wonderful opportunity (and the cookies)! Jason

Francis Burns, first Black bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church

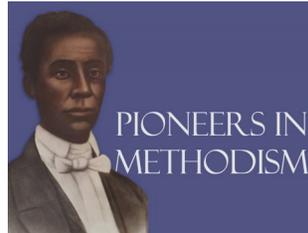
The Rev. Francis Burns was the first Black bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Elected in 1858, he served as a missionary bishop in Liberia.

His early life was spent in Greene County, NY. His family was poor, and at the age of four he was indentured to a farmer. At age eight, he was indentured to the Atwood family. Mrs. Atwood was a Methodist class leader. She permitted Francis to attend school with her children during the winter season.

Francis joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at age 15 and at age 17 showed interest in preaching. However, the term of his indenture prevented him from pursuing his calling at that time. His indenture would not expire until he reached twenty-one.

After the end of his indenture, Francis worked as a teacher and became licensed to preach in the Catskill Hudson District. Others took notice of his preaching skills and encouraged him to study to become a missionary. His opportunity to do this came in 1834, when he accompanied the Rev. John Seys to Liberia.

After 10 years as a missionary teacher and leader in Liberia, he traveled to New York to be ordained by Bishop Edmund Janes. Returning to Liberia, Rev. Burns taught in Monrovia Seminary and in 1845 succeeded Rev. Seys as editor of *Africa's Luminary*, the quarterly publication of the Missionary Society in Liberia. Rev. Burns also served for many of these years as president of the Liberia Conference.



In 1856, the General Conference approved the election of a missionary bishop in Africa. The Liberia Conference elected Rev. Burns as their first bishop in 1858. The importance of this action for Methodism, especially Methodism in Liberia, cannot be overestimated.

When his health declined because of ongoing effects of what was referred to at the time as "the African fever" (possibly malaria), he returned to America in late winter 1863. He died three days after arriving and three months after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. His body was returned to Liberia where he was buried.

The legacy of Liberian-based Methodist ministries started, organized, and led by Bishop Burns continues to flower in many forms today. United Methodists in Liberia number just over 300,000. Though not the largest Christian denomination in Liberia, United Methodists have had a significant influence in public life, including as the nation's last two presidents (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 2006-2018, and George Weah, 2018-present).

Liberian United Methodists are organized in one annual conference with 20 districts and a variety of outreach ministries including agricultural development, health care (clinics and hospitals), and education (pre-K through university).

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Dates to note on your calendar

Upcoming Christian dates to remember:

April 10, Palm Sunday

April 14, Maundy Thursday

April 15, Good Friday

April 17, Easter

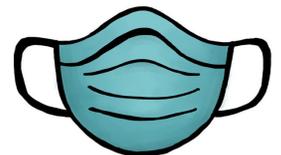
May 26, Ascension Day

June 5, Pentecost



THE CIRCUIT WRITER

Masks Optional!



Update on masks! Due to the fall of the rate of positive COVID-19 cases in Coles County, masks are now optional, while in the church building.

Thank you for loving your neighbor and doing your part to slow the spread of the disease!



One Stop Community

Christmas

December 10, 2022

Donations will be accepted soon!

Rebecca Circle learns about The Haven

By Phyllis Dickinson

Recently, the First United Methodist Church's Rebecca Circle heard from Chris Davis, director of The Haven Homeless Shelter, 1812 Western, in Mattoon. Davis gave an insightful presentation about how The Haven works to help those, primarily in Coles County, who need temporary housing.

His talk was both inspiring and informative. The shelter is run with grace and dignity to those in need and the dedicated staff of seven who keep the shelter operative 24/7 are not highly paid. We should be so proud of the way this man and his staff have brought, through stable and caring management, hope to those in urgent need.



See more about church wide donations that were made to The Haven during the month of March.

See Page 12



At top, pictured are members of The Rebecca Circle who recently heard a presentation about Mattoon's The Haven. Above, Chris Davis, director, and Alicia, program manager, at The Haven. At right are exterior photos of the The Haven located at 1812 Western Ave., Mattoon. The shelter helps provide temporary shelter, food and hope for the homeless in Coles County.

United Methodist church parking lots double as safe spaces

“I don’t know how to be a Christian and not be engaged in things like this,” said Steve Holz-Russell, missions coordinator at Park Hill United Methodist Church in Denver. “I wish it wasn’t as unique as it is.”

From June to December 2021, Park Hill UMC members pitched 40 fishing huts on the church’s parking lot as part of the city’s “Safe Outdoors Spaces” program for people experiencing homelessness. Park Hill UMC is one of a number of United Methodist congregations who have discovered that inviting people without housing to rest and recharge on church property is a cogent way to put their faith into action.

“Park Hill has a long history of trying to do our best to love our neighbors as we can, especially those who are most vulnerable,” said the Rev. Nathan Adams, Park Hill’s lead pastor. “We often ask ourselves, ‘How can we not just say the right things, but actually do the right things?’”

PUTTING MATTHEW 25 INTO ACTION

Aware of rising rates of homelessness and Jesus’ words on inviting in strangers (Matthew 25), church members involved in parking-lot ministries say that offering rest and connection to their neighbors, even if it takes a lot of work, should be a no-brainer.

The congregation was surprised when nearby homeowners filed a lawsuit against the church and pastor for hosting the homeless camp. The lawsuit was dismissed, and Park Hill UMC members were allowed to care for their guests over a six-month period, until the city moved the encampment to another location.

Holz-Russell said it was “stressful yet meaningful” when he was called “un-Christian” by some for supporting the commitment to host un-housed neighbors on church property. “There is a perception that because we are nice and polite Christians, we won’t do these kinds of things,” he said. “The irony is that Jesus wasn’t running around being nice and polite. He was challenging people.”

CREATING SAFE HAVENS

David Lynd was living in his truck in Golden, Colorado, when he saw a pamphlet advertising a parking lot ministry at First United Methodist Church of Golden. He was surprised to read about a church that offered its parking lot as a safe place for people without shelter to park their vehicles and sleep.

“I didn’t even know the Methodist church was doing that,” he said. “I had already been there a couple of times for lunch, so I emailed them.”

For 10 months, Lynd became one of 10 to 12 families relying on the parking lot at FUMC Golden as a temporary home.

“Normally, they would stay in a Wal-Mart or some other public parking lot, get hassled every three or four hours by a security guard or police, and then have to move on,” said Reid Lester, connectional ministries director at Broomfield United Methodist Church in Broomfield, Colorado.

The parking lot ministry at Broomfield gives people living in their cars a safe and welcome place to sleep from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. “We hear stories of how this ministry provides a stable point in their lives where they can get consistent sleep,” Lester said. “They can wake up feeling more refreshed, allowing them to move on to the next thing they need to do.”



Park Hill United Methodist Church used its parking lot as a safe space community for neighbors experiencing homelessness. *Photo courtesy of Colorado Village Collaborative*

INVESTING IN GOD'S PEOPLE

While some churches have recently opened their parking lots as nocturnal home in partnership with city-sanctioned "safe parking" programs, Lake Washington United Methodist Church was a frontrunner that created its ministry for women and families living in their cars, more than 10 years ago.

"We just made it up as we went along," said Karina O'Malley, Lake Washington's Safe Parking coordinator in Kirkland, Washington. "We have been invested with folks who don't have houses a long time."

Dawn Marie Anderson is not a member at FUMC Golden, yet she feels drawn to volunteer there for the safe parking ministry known as "Home in Golden." Her job is to check on and communicate with the 11 current parking lot residents, helping them get their mail at the church and connecting them with other services.

"The church is where you go when you need help," Anderson said. "I'm now aware of how much churches do when they're not just preaching the gospel but living the gospel."

Annette Spence is editor of "The Call," newspaper of the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. This story was originally published January 21, 2022.

Mission Team invitations to serve this spring and summer

The Mission Team wants to work together in fellowship and service to make a difference in our community and beyond. Mark these timelines on your calendar:

- ◆ **One Stop Christmas** December 10, 2022. Seeking donations in **June** for Kleenex and paper towels, in **August** toilet paper.
- ◆ **Operation Shoe Box** goal to is to fill 100 boxes. Fill a box independently or add to the church shoe boxes. Requests for items will begin this **summer**. Come together

to make pillow case dresses to put in the boxes. Helping hands are needed to donate cotton or polyester cotton fabric, cut, press, sew, fold. This fun group work begins late **May**.

- ◆ **Christmas food baskets** collections begin in **September**.



The contact person for any of these opportunities is Sue Warren 217-246-2656.

Mattoon Lions looking for those who want to serve the community

If you are passionate about helping others, join the team with the motto, "We serve." That's what we do in the community and around the world.

We help individuals with glasses and hearing aid assistance, free camping experiences for the vision and hearing impaired, mobile retinal and hearing screening, support low vision clinics, and provide Lakeland scholarships. We support our community by selling sweetcorn to hle the Community Food Center meet local hunger, clean a section of highway, assist with Peace Meals, plant trees, build park pavilions, and play Santa Claus.

Around the world we supply funds for disaster relief, vision clinics, clean water projects, and much more. We need your help collecting funds, selling tickets, and assisting community programs. Membership is easy, fun, and open to both males and females. We will invite you to a meeting where you can learn more about what we do, ask your questions, and even help us on our next project without any obligations.

Feed your passion! Contact us today by calling 217.234.3089 or email mattoonlions@gmail.com.



April 14 at 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service including communion.

April 15 at 7 p.m. Good Friday service. This will be a time of remembrance and preparation for the Easter celebration.

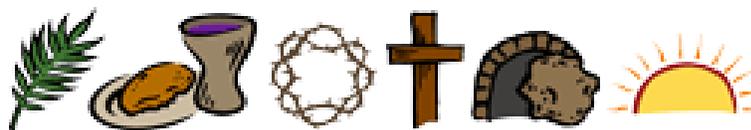
April 17 at 9 a.m. Easter Sunday and Baptism. For the church to celebrate the baptism of Kynlee Kuhl together at 9 a.m. Easter Sunday, the 10:30 contemporary service will be cancelled so that those who attend it, can witness her baptism.



Easter flowers order Deadline was March 20 for ordering your loved one's Easter lilies. Let the office know the message and names that should go in the insert on Easter Sunday.

The Hyacinth and Tulips will be delivered on April 15. They come in 6" pots with a cover. You may take them home with you after Easter Sunday worship or Monday, April 18th.

Cost for the 6" Lilly \$11. Cost for the 6" Hyacinth and Tulips are \$9. Payment can be made by placing a check in the box next to the church office.



Pastor Todd explains break-away denomination option

I just want to offer some highlights from the informational meeting that was held between worship services on Sunday March 13th about the postponed 2020 General Conference and churches wanting to disaffiliate from the UMC:

- The 2020 General Conference has been postponed until 2024 for two reasons: the backlog for acquiring a Visa to enter the United States (the conference will be held in Minneapolis) has an 800 day backlog in some countries and because of the global nature of the conference, hosting the conference via internet is not possible due to a 16-hour time difference between delegates from the Philippines and the US West Coast. It is yet to be determined by the Judicial Council if the originally elected delegates chosen at the 2019 annual conferences will serve in 2024 or if new delegates will need to be elected. Stay tuned for an update on that.

- A theologically conservative break-away denomination,

the Global Methodist Church, has set a launch date of May 1, 2022. I took the opportunity to explain that I was not sent to Mattoon First UMC, or any United Methodist Church for that matter, to lead it out of the denomination. I do not align with the GMC and will not join it. If there are those among the membership of Mattoon First UMC who wish to explore disaffiliating from the UMC and in to the GMC, they are welcome to do so, but without my support.

Since its inception, the body of Christ has been a holy work in progress. God is not done with us people called Methodists and we will continue to strive daily through our discipleship journey to be more like Jesus with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit along the way.

In Connectional Ministry,

Pastor Todd

\$2.2 M comes in donor support for 'Our Conference, Our Kids'

Thank you for being a faithful donor in support of "Our Conference, Our Kids!"

Your generosity, along with that of others across our conference, has helped Our Conference, Our Kids reach 2.2-million-dollars in gifts and commitments!

We are so appreciative of your help in keeping spiritual care as a vital pillar in the healing work of our Illinois Great Rivers Conference's childrens' and families' agencies.

The 2022 Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, June 9-11, will celebrate Our Conference, Our Kids, which began the journey in 2017 to raise 2.5-million-dollars so that The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services could ensure:

"... the continued inclusion of Christ-centered spiritual care in their healing work."

In order to raise the \$300,000 needed to reach the goal prior to Annual Conference, Our Conference, Our Kids is now launching: "SPRINT TO THE FINISH!"

Be ready to help finish out the goal in this journey.

This effort will have two facets: 1) to encourage an offering for Our Conference, Our Kids in every United Methodist Church in the conference on Sunday, April 24, and 2) to contact generous donors, like you.

You can help us SPRINT TO THE FINISH by making a gift through your local church, donating online at: www.embraceocok.org/donate, or by mail.

Gifts to Our Conference, Our Kids, including distributions from an IRA (RMD) or from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), can be made directly to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference treasurer at: IGRC/OCOK Advance Special #6960, PO Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207. Gifts of stock or other securities can be arranged through Ted Frost, Executive Director of the United Methodist Foundation at: tfrost@igrc.org.

Thank you for stepping up for OUR KIDS yet again in helping our conference agencies provide spiritual care for the children and families they serve!

**Rev. Amanda Richards and
Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman, Co-Chairs
Our Conference, Our Kids Steering Team**

Bible Study to discuss Book of Luke

Linda Hance's Thursday morning Bible study meets at 8 a.m. in The Choices classroom to study the Book of Luke.

Please bring your Bible with you. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please bring them with you, they do not need to be a member of our church to join us in fellowship.

Luke has much to tell us about the life of Jesus and Luke includes some stories Jesus taught only in this gospel. Luke is the longest book in the New Testament, and offers a refreshing approach to the Lenten season. Hope you will join us!



UMW Drive concludes in March

The UMW supplies drive for The Haven homeless shelter in Mattoon will conclude at the end of March. However, people are encouraged to continue collecting supplies on their own and donate to the shelter all year long.

The items that are in continual need for the shelter are these:

Bleach, dish soap, laundry soap, 13-gallon trash bags, plastic wrap such as Saran Wrap, quart Ziploc bags, pump hand soap, body wash, paper napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, mens/womens deodorant, hair brushes for women and shampoo.

Donate Hygiene Items





**THE
HAVEN**



After learning more about The Haven shelter in Mattoon the UMW went right to work asking the congregation to donate needed goods for the shelter in March. Donations have already been given to the shelter with more expected, as March rounds out. The shelter is in need of goods year-round and everyone is encouraged to continue giving. Photos submitted by Phyllis Dickinson.

Mattoon FUMC Staff



Pastor Todd Krost
 Contact: todd.krost@garrett.edu
 217-235-5676 office; or 586-549-1820 cell.

Administrative Assistant Jami McConnaha
 Contact: mattoonfumc@gmail.com

**Assistant to the Pastor for Visitation
 Allen Webner**
 217-235-5676 office; or 505-400-2766 cell.

Building Manager: Jim Johns

**Find us at: 1601 Charleston Avenue
 Mattoon, IL 61938
 Telephone: 217-235-5676
 Email: mattoonfumc@gmail.com**



Contact FUMC staff at 217-235-5676

**Sanctuary Organist/Classical Pianist:
 Dr. Jiafeng Yan**

Contemporary Vocalist: Thomas Karunas

Choir Accompanist: Melissa Ferguson

Choir Director: Marilyn Fessel

Bell Choir Director: Phyllis Dickinson

Church Custodian: Jami McConnaha

Winter-Spring Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9 am-3 pm

Wednesday 9 am to noon

Newsletter items can be emailed to:

mattoonfumcnews@gmail.com

Send a card to our church members who can't worship with us today



Let folks know they are loved! Send a card or brief note to some or all listed below.

Here is a list of church family members who reside in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Those with a * denotes his or her birthday.

If corrections or additions are needed to this list or if we don't have their birthday, contact communications at mattoonfumcnews@gmail.com; or the church office at mattoonfumc@gmail.com.

Brookstone North: 1920 Brookstone Lane, Mattoon 61938

◆ Pat Campbell, Room 22 * 9/16

- ◆ Merle Lowry, Room 17 *7/10
- ◆ Dodie VanGundy, Room 44
- ◆ Phyllis Strong, Room 23

Mattoon Healthcare: 2121 S. 9th Street, Mattoon, 61938

- ◆ John Zachow, Room 102 *4/1
- ◆ Joan Beals, Room 231 *7/12

Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home: 201 Lafayette Ave. East, Mattoon 61938

- ◆ Betty Eisner *3/10
- ◆ Sabra Culp *9/3

Copper Creek, 920 Country Club Road, Mattoon 61938

Mabelle Wooddell *7/8

Palm Terrace, 1000 Palm Ave.,

Mattoon 61938

◆ Lone Hill *2/28

Hilltop Nursing Home, 910 West Polk Ave., Charleston 61920

◆ Lela Holderfield *5/31

Heritage Woods, 480 W. Polk Ave., Charleston 61920

◆ Mary Lou Malmberg *9/16

Villas of Hollybrook, 738 Eighteenth Street, Charleston 61920

Clark-Lindsey Village, 101 W. Windsor Road Urbana 61820

◆ Jean Johnston, Apt. 4313

Heritage Woods, 701 Heritage Woods Drive, Minooka IL 60447

R. Gennell Hankins, Room 211