

The United Methodist Church of Antioch

THE MESSENGER

“The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith, worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and be instruments of God’s love, through the Holy Spirit, as we reach out to our community and the world.”

August, 2020
Volume 4, Issue 8

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

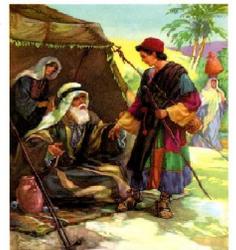
Well, friends of the United Methodist Church of Antioch, we have survived one month together! No, I wasn’t worried, either! I am so grateful to so many people who have worked so hard to continue to make me feel welcome. As I learn new things about the area and make my way around, everyone I encounter has been quite gracious and welcoming in this season that has not made life easy for us. I appreciate your patience as I struggle to learn names and put names with faces because I mostly can’t see your faces! Someday, friends, someday.

I am looking forward to more *Meet & Greets* where I will get to hear more of your stories and hear more of who you all are. As we make our way into this process, I hope you will respond to someone’s invitation or as we get better with the online reservation process, go online and reserve yourself a spot. Getting to meet more of you and your stories will help me feel more at home in Antioch!

August will take us on an adventure into some familiar stories of the *Old Testament*, which some scholars are now calling the *First Testament*, suggesting that it is the first of our two books in Scripture, not a book we can simply set aside because we have the revelation of *Jesus Christ*. As we find our way through continuing to worship online or worshipping in the building, I hope that you will join us as we seek to learn more about the story of *Joseph* and his difficult relationship with his brothers, as well as *Moses’* entry into the scene and what his call story might have to say about ours.



To be honest, I’m not sure how we’ll get all of *Joseph’s* story covered in three weeks, but we’ll try. If *Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *Tim Rice* can get the story with song to an hour and fifteen minutes, I guess we’ll get it covered in three worship services, which is actually longer than the lectionary planned to give us. The lectionary only covers *Joseph’s* story in two weeks, which really didn’t seem long enough to me, so I rearranged some things to give us more time to spend in this very deep story.



The last two weeks of August, then, we’ll turn to what happens next, after *Joseph* passes on, and a new king arises in Egypt, one who doesn’t remember what *Joseph*, the Israelite, has done for them all. Does God abandon them? Does God forget about the Israelites during this time of suffering? Just how exactly does God help them through this difficult time? I thought there might be some connections for us to think about as we move through a time where we might wonder where God is and why isn’t God acting as fast as we would like. I hope you will ponder with me!

- August 2nd Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Resentment Reigns
- August 9th Genesis 40:1-14; 41:1-4, 9-13, 25-36
Never Too Late
- August 16th Genesis 45:1-15
Joy in the Morning
- August 23rd Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Romans 12:1-8
Sacrificial Living
- August 30th Exodus 3:1-15 & Romans 12:9-21
I AM Calls

Pastor Katie Voigt

LORD, GIVE US FAITH

Another month of reinventing our “new normal” has come and gone. Isn’t it ironic that with all the talk of such a thing to come, that in the present, little “new” has actually happened? Expecting something better to happen sooner than

the new normal

later reminds me of *Jack Nicolson* telling the patients awaiting their appointment with the therapist, “Did you ever stop to

think that this is as good as it gets?” A frightening thought in the summer of 2020. There’s the COVID pandemic; the usually peaceful, though sometimes not, protests; the approaching elections; and, of course, the prevailing divisiveness that all

what if this is
as good as it gets

these things seem to be increasing. There are a few who downplay the seriousness of all that’s transpiring now. Most believe that things will return to normal, or things will be better, everyone, that is, except those on the bottom rung of the socio-economic ladder. What are their hopes? What recovery can they expect? Thinking about people’s expectations, I’m haunted by Matthew 7:7, “Ask and it will give you (*Ask whom for what?*);



search and you will find (*Where do I look to find what?*); knock and the door will be opened for you (*Where is this door and will it open for everyone finally?*).

For definitive answers, I believe we must understand the questions and many don’t, including me.

Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

LET’S SEND SOME CHEER

Alex Young, one of our recent confirmands, was diagnosed with cancer in July. *Alex* has a great prognosis for recovery but it will take a long 9 -10 months to get there.

We ask for your help. *Alex* loves to get mail. Every now and then drop him a line or a card if you can. His address is: 8410 Heather Ridge, Spring Grove, Illinois 60081.

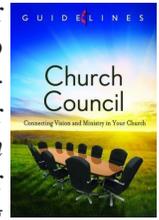


Your prayers and cards for *Alex* and his family will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Dawn Vogel

WANT TO BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

Church Council is a regular meeting of all committee chairs to provide updates on what is happening and what to expect in the near future. There are four *Church Council* meetings per year (one per quarter). In addition to providing updates, we do at times need to vote on certain things that require agreement from our members. These things may include approval of the annual budget, or specific projects like the handicap bathrooms. Voting members of *Church Council* include all committee chairs, and three assigned members at large. *All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.* Our next scheduled *Church Council* meeting is *Tuesday, August 11* at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall.



Bert Kibbler

LET’S MEET PASTOR KATIE!

Pastor Katie is happy to be with us and excited to get to know us. *SPRC* has organized several *Meet and Greets* to help us get acquainted. *Pastor Katie* would like as many people as possible to attend one of these, even if she has already met you.

The get-togethers will be at church, outside if weather permits, or in Wesley Hall. All guidelines of our *ReTurn Team* will be followed, including masks.

We are using the same signup procedure that we use for attending church. You should have received an email with information and a link to sign up. If you have questions, need help signing up, or would prefer to be part of a *Zoom* meeting please contact *Cheryl Collins* at 847/987-6501 or cherylcollins51@gmail.com.

Here are the available dates. We will add more if necessary:

Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30 pm
Sunday, August 16th, 2:00 pm
Monday, August 24th, 3:00 pm
Thursday, September 3rd, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, September 15, 6:30 pm
Sunday, September 20th, 3:30 pm

We hope everyone will choose a date and sign up ASAP to welcome our new pastor! Thank you.

Cheryl Collins, *SPRC* Chair

...FROM PASTOR CHAR

Dear Friends,

Glenn and I felt so appreciated and affirmed by all the care and creativity put into the farewell parade on our last Sunday. What a joy it was to see so many of your faces and to have an opportunity to chat (even briefly) and remember some of the special times we shared together. The set-up and decorations were fantastic! I never knew there were so many colors of balloons. So much thought got put into the logistics and we are grateful for all the efforts of the **SPRC** and friends. We will treasure your kind expressions and your gifts. Thank you for sharing these past three years with us.



God's blessing,
Pastor Char and **Glenn** (aka **Bigfoot**)

MISSIONS

This month, we are lifting up both parts of our **Blue Band (UMC Elgin District)** of our **Rainbow Covenant Ministries**.

Waukegan 2 College

Waukegan 2 College creates brighter futures for students, families, and communities by preparing students to enroll in and graduate from college. **W2C** sends first-generation students to college who, without our intervention, may have dropped out, as one in three **Waukegan High School** students does. They are creating a college-going culture within an at-risk population with high poverty, low literacy, and low college attainment. With the help of volunteers, staff, and the community, **W2C** is putting families on a path to higher education and out of poverty. Through workshops and one-on-one counseling, tutoring, and mentoring, **W2C** helps students achieve academic success.

For more information, see their website at www.waukegantocollege.org.

Carleen Wurster



MORE ON MISSIONS

Journeys, The Road Home

Journeys, The Road Home of Palatine, Illinois, walks alongside residents facing housing crises, helping homeless residents secure housing, and preventing near-homeless residents from losing their housing. The agency accomplishes this through three foundational programs: **The Emergency Shelter Program** consisting of 18 faith-based **PADS** sites (including three hosted at United Methodist churches), the **HOPE Day Center's** case management and counseling resources and services meeting basic human needs, and the **Pathways Housing Readiness Program**, the agency's affordable supportive housing arm. It serves residents from 37 communities of northwest and north suburban Cook County. In 2015, these sites served 347 homeless guests.

For more information, see their website at www.journeystheroadhome.org.



Carleen Wurster

UMCA PRESCHOOL

As of right now the **preschool** is still in the decision making process about what reopening will look like this fall. If everything goes well we will reopen on August 24th, so there is not much more than that to say. If we do, in fact, reopen I will be able to contribute more to the September **Messenger**.

Blessings,
Kim Dodd, Director



WESLEY CIRCLE

Wesley Afternoon Circle will be meeting with **Pastor Katie** on Wednesday, August 12th to familiarize her with the **Circle** and its history and also its present agenda. The **Meet & Greet** will take place in Wesley Hall at 9:30 am.

Anne Dickson.

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS

When the pandemic began we quickly recognized the need to make sure that our most vulnerable church family members were handling the isolation, feeling well, and finding some assistance with appointments and errands. We set up a calling ministry to check in with them on a weekly basis and help with errands when requested. As the shelter in place restrictions are now being lowered, the need for this ministry is coming to an end. Special thanks go to our callers: **Dawn Vogel, Linda Hemsgen, Pat Metz, Carol Cichonski, Laura Weckler, Caroline Adams and Heidi Gilday.** You are a group of special ladies whose patience and compassion are well known! God bless you all.



Carol Frazier

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic Charities will be hosting several online programs during August:

- **Mondays**, August 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th: **Chair Yoga** from 1:00 to 2:00 pm
- **Tuesdays and Fridays** in August: **Bingocize**—play bingo while also doing fall prevention exercises. **Shelby Wais** has attended and told me that it was fun and not too taxing.
- **Wednesday, August 5th: Planning Wisely—End of Life Strategies** at 1:00 pm. Having a solid strategy in place can make things easier for your family after you're gone. Learn what documents you need so your final wishes are known.
- **Thursday, August 6th** at 2:00 pm: **Plant Based Protein Diet**; learn about this diet and it's benefits



All of these programs are conducted via **Go To Meeting**. You can attend via your computer or telephone. There are programs for the rest of August: **Book Club, Cooking Demo** and **Senior Wordsmith Writer's Group**. Call me (**Carol Frazier**) at 630/399-1107 if you are interested!

SAVE the Date: Flu Vaccine Clinic will be held in Wesley Hall on October 11th from 10:00 am to noon.

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS AUGUST WELLNESS WALKS

You can see **Lake County Forest Preserve** maps online at www.lcfdp.org/preserves. This takes you to an interactive mapping system. The old print maps (.pdf) are within the internal menus, but they can more easily be found with a **Google** search. **LCFPD** also has a smartphone app. Questions: Call **Melanie Fuhrmann** at 847/703-0890. Any of these walks may be shortened or canceled if the weather poses a safety risk. During Phase 4, walkers are supposed to keep a social distance of six feet.

August 6th: **Caboose Park**, Lake Villa. Entrance is on Fairfield Road immediately south of Highway 132 Grand Avenue, near the tennis courts. We will see the playground and walk the nearby sidewalks, one mile.

August 13th: **Bonner Heritage Farm**, Lindenhurst, 201 Country Place, off of Sand Lake Road, west of Route 45. We will walk the trails around the Farm, playground and field—great walk for kids! Restrooms and water are located at **Lindenhurst Park District's** adjacent **Millennium Park**, variable length.

August 20th: **Ethel's Woods Forest Preserve**. Antioch entrance and parking are on Miller Road, east of Route 45—a new entrance drive on Miller Road leading to a 25-car parking lot. A 0.7-mile section of the **Millennium Trail** runs along the western edge of the preserve. Other public access improvements to the 500-acre preserve include toilets, a 0.8-mile gravel loop trail and four scenic overlooks. See the restored **North Mill Creek**, 1.5 miles total.

August 27th: **Fourth Lake Forest Preserve**, Lindenhurst, 19808 West Grand Avenue, Lake Villa. Entrance is at the **Operations and Public Safety Facility** on Grand Avenue between Highway 45 and Sand Lake Road. We will walk north along the **Millennium Trail** up to Sand Lake Road, and return, 1.6 miles total.

GRIEFSHARE

We are continuing to provide this ministry using various easy-to-use computer programs. There are many people in our community who are dealing with loss. **GriefShare** is there to help and we hope that you will suggest that they contact us. Contact **Barbara Cantrell** 847/804-0361 or **Ken Graesser** 847/420-0241.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Before Covid...B.C. This was my spring and summer to enjoy travel, one of my favorite pastimes—a trip to NYC in late March to hear my son **Charley** perform live at **Jazz at Lincoln Center**, a national music conference in downtown Chicago, a milestone April birthday celebration for my brother in Detroit, a trip to San Francisco with the grandkids in June, a bridal shower for my stepdaughter in July, and a trip to the Hudson Valley near the Catskill Mountains to visit **Charley's** new home and celebrate my niece's wedding in August. I love to anticipate and look forward to vacations. I never imagined that I would be deleting every one of these events from my iCalendar.



So instead of being the summer of travel I decided that I am going to celebrate the summer of our backyard. Now my backyard is not the average backyard. It is nearly the length of a football field. When I moved to Lombard in August of 2017 this expansive space was only grass. I looked at this endless grass as an artist looks at an empty canvas. I took pictures of the irregular shaped yard to my artist friend, **Melissa Nance** and to our **Diane Franke**, an accomplished gardener. I went to work, carving out new gardens, moving plants from Antioch, improving soil content, and mapping the sunlight at different parts of the day. I've looked at the weather for each week and planned my best hours for digging, moving, and beautifying. It's my thinking, praying time, and today the **Godspell** song, **All Good Gifts** went through my mind on repeat.



Debbie Gillette, Director of Music

RESUMING SLOWLY



IN THE GARDENS

What's more fun than weeding, watering, deadheading, planting, and pruning? Doing all of the above in fellowship with church family members! At their June meeting the **Trustees** approved holding "garden party" work days the last Saturday of the month, April through September at 9:00, to take care of our growing garden areas. You do not need to be on **Trustees** or have any prior gardening experience to participate; all are welcome to attend. A big THANK YOU goes out to **Nikki Georgia, Liz Glenn-Larsen, Jim Menzer, Irv Metz, Sallie Stoner, Jerry Topcik, Pastor Katie Voigt, and Nancy Zitkus** for helping at our first two gatherings this summer, one at church and one at the new parsonage. Our next garden party will be Saturday August 29th at 9:00 am at the church. In the meantime, if you're strolling through the **Memorial Garden** or by the **Butterfly Garden** and notice a weed, feel free to pull it!



CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are back at work on the **Church Directory**. Due to Covid-19 the company closed for several months. They are back with a skeleton crew and are working with us to finish the directory. We don't have a completed-by date yet, but it is in the works! Also, several of you who did not receive your free 8 x 10 photographs can find them at the church in Wesley Hall. Thank you for your patience, and rest assured you will have the directory soon. And THANK YOU, **Diane Franke!**

Barbara Cantrell

The United Methodist Church of Antioch
848 Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002
Office: 847/395-1259
Pastor: Rev. Katie Voigt
Office Email: umc.antioch@att.net
Website: umcantioch.org
Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us online for worship. Link provided
at www.umcantioch.org or on Facebook

In person service, 9:00 am at church, reservation
required via Sign Up Genius or call Office

[Jesus said] “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit embodies the life force of the universe, the power of God, the animating energy present in all things and captured by none. Therefore we pray:

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of God within each of us. May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled [all kinds of people] with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the church with new respect for [all people’s value], power, and presence.

Give us, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within us as we pray for our church, our community, our Christian Education department, and ... *(State the goal in your own life at this time for which you are praying.)* —**Sister Joan Chittister**