



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, 2021
Volume 5, Issue 8

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

August is the month that brings us to a transition again. Are you tired of transitions, yet? We were used to the normal rhythms of life, but nothing has felt normal for so long now. Many of us are tired. Not the physical kind of tired, but the emotional/spiritual exhaustion that goes so much deeper than physicality. We are hoping that this month signals a move to going back to some usual rhythms.



We will be finishing our Leadership sermon series this month. I hope that this has been helpful as we have walked through our summer. I know that my prep has challenged me where I have been stuck and helped me to move forward, and I pray that some of this has happened for

you, as well.

We will spend a couple more Sundays looking at **King David** and who comes next, and then one Sunday asking ourselves who we should imitate. I hope that you will join us as we conclude.

I will be on vacation for the last two Sundays in August, and **Pastor Kathleen** will be our guest preacher, so I know you will be in good hands! And, looking past that, we are planning on a September 12th return to our 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship schedule with Sunday School and choir in the middle hour. Mark your calendar!



August 1

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
& Psalm 51:1-12

Communion

Leadership: Hearing Rebukes & Asking for a New Beginning

August 8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Leadership: Be Imitators of God



August 15

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Leadership: Humility is a Good Place to Start



Pastor Katie Voigt

PLEASE...

I'd like to state that, except for two occasions, no one has ever censured anything I've ever written in our newsletters. The two exceptions were by **Barbara G.**, former editor, my mentor and dear friend. She was correct both times. For most of this year, I've been troubled by my failure to understand Americans' reaction to the COVID-19 and specifically the perception that the vaccine is not what the praying world has been asking for since the pandemic's inception. Several things have put me on the precipice of depression. Yes, depression—because a lot of people that I truly love are being selfish and refusing to look at the bigger picture. How often do any of us, by such a small act, get the chance to do our part to save humanity? The other thing is what I've been hearing and reading—that on state and local levels, people are offered *MONEY* to get vaccinated—money that is not being sought! It's like throwing a drowning person a buoy and having to pay them to put it on. Please, follow the overwhelming evidence and get on the right side of history. We're all tired of losing friends to something preventable.

Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

...AND SPEAKING OF LEADERSHIP

Our own *Pastor Katie* took a leadership role in the Annual Conference held the week of July 18th. Her responsibilities included the following:

- working with people to make sure the legislation they had written said what they wanted it to say and was in proper format;
- receiving and processing all legislative submissions;
- guiding the consent calendar committee in the process, per the conference's standing rules, of creating the preliminary consent calendar;
- passing the legislation on to the conference secretary for processing into the conference Journal;
- working with the conference communications staff to make sure that the legislation, historical reports, and consent calendar were available on the conference website at least 30 days before the conference;



- receiving, processing, and passing on to the conference secretary the historical reports;
- working with the *Bishop* and the *Assistant to the Bishop* on setting the agenda for the conference
- presenting all the legislation and historical reports to the annual conference for their votes.



Pastor Katie has worked with the Bishop and the Assistant to the Bishop over the last couple of years on revising the process for how one would receive time at annual conference, trying to communicate more equitably and fairly with all parties.



REPORT FROM LAY MEMBER

It was my honor and pleasure to serve as the Lay Member to the *Northern Illinois Annual Conference*.

On Thursday, July 15th I attended a *virtual Laity Conference* at which was presented the consent calendar and various documents to be presented at the Annual Conference. We heard from several churches talking about their new and creative ministries. We had a breakout session at the end where each attendee was “sent” to a room designated for each District. Antioch is now in the *Prairie Central District*; our Superintendent is *Pastor Jeffry Bross*.

The *Bishop's Appeal* was for items needed by *UMCOR-COVID 19 relief efforts*. There was also a mission collection for *Midwest Mission Distribution Center*. I delivered donations from UMC of Antioch of three wheelchairs, three walkers, three shower chairs, a handicap toilet, toiletries, cleaning supplies, school supplies, towels, wash clothes, onesies, and diapers, and money to *Fox River Grove church*—our collection site. Kudos, Antioch!

Friday and Saturday were filled with the virtual Annual Conference. Our *Pastor Katie* submitted various pieces of legislation for consideration and voting. The Bible study sermon was presented by *Bishop Trimble* of the *Indiana conference* wearing a Cubs hat!

Interim *Bishop Hopkins'* address to the Conference on Day One was to discuss our many strengths and some realities that needed to be addressed to make us stronger. On Day Two, he talked about how the Church needs to be “unified, empowered and on a Mission to help our communities to know about the God we serve.”

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Dunn, Lay Member



MISSIONS

Epiphany in July Update

On July 11th we celebrated *Epiphany Sunday*, by bringing baby items which were donated to *Open Arms Mission* for local families in need. Thanks to everyone's help, we were able to donate the following much needed items:

- diapers - 1,157 diapers
- baby wipes - 2,376 wipes
- diaper cream - 8 tubes
- baby blankets - 2
- 2-gallon freezer bags - two boxes



Total of 156 pounds.

Donations are always welcome and appreciated. They can be brought to church at any time and placed in the appropriate bin. Diapers in sizes 5 and 6 and baby wipes are always desperately needed.

Thank you all so much for your generosity.

Carleen Wurster



MORE ON MISSIONS

PADS

Summer is winding down and we'll be back to making lunches for the *St. Mark Lutheran Church* in Lindenhurst this fall. Look for more details next month to join the lunch gang.

The PADS coordinator asked that we focus on gift cards and cleaning supplies this month. Additionally, let's add drinks, as we are entering the hottest time of the year. The drive will be announced on Sunday, August 22nd, and August 29th will be our collection target. See below for some suggestions.



- water, Gatorade, juice boxes
- gift cards—gas, Walmart, Jewel, fast food
- cleaning supplies—bleach, disinfectant wipes, laundry soap pods
- PPE—masks, gloves, hand sanitizer
- new undergarments—adult sizes



Please call the church office, 847/395-1259 or call/email *Carol Cichonski*, at 847/265-1214/ ccichonksi@comcast.net with requests for donation pick-ups, if you are not able to bring your donation to the church.

June collection:



Carol Cichonski

WESLEY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Wesley Afternoon Circle will begin to meet again on Thursday, September 16th at 2:00 pm in Wesley Hall...It's not too early to mark your calendars!!! Program will be announced in future bulletins. If anyone needs a ride, contact *Anne Dickson* at 224/818-8725.

Anne Dickson

MORE ON MISSIONS

Joy in the Harvest

The following letter was received from *Lowell* and *Claudia Wertz* of *Joy in the Harvest*.

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

July 2021

Dear Friends,

Several big events have happened at *Joy in the Harvest*. Our 40 foot ocean container shipped on June 28! Claudia and I have inventoried and weighed every item. What's in over 3,000 cubic feet, you might wonder – books, chairs, tools, choir robes, clothing & shoes, eye glasses, yarn, furniture, and plumbing supplies to name a few items.

One of the things in the container is the equipment for a new radio relay station. It will pick up our *Radio JOY* signal and broadcast it into a new area. We have received many requests to get our signal in this area. The engineering work for this project was done by friends at *Sonset Solutions*. Some equipment came from Italy, some had to be specially manufactured, and the tower has been built in Kenya. This has been a big project that took months of planning and work. All the engineers at *Sonset Solutions* are missionaries using their skill to reach the world for Christ.

We could not have done this relay project without the help of *Galcom International*. They provided the funding to purchase the equipment. How can you thank such visionaries with a heart for getting the Good News to Africans? They also supplied hundreds of solar powered, fixed frequency radio receivers, so when the relay station goes on the air, we can give people in that area receivers to hear *Radio Joy*.

While we have been busy in the USA, our staff has been working flat out keeping all the ministries going forward plus working on licenses, permits, and government paper work issues. They also held an eight-day open air evangelism campaign. Guest speakers presented Christ to those crowding to hear. Dozens and dozens made decisions to accept Christ as their personal Savior. Thank you Mwenge and our whole team!

We are waiting on medical clearance to return to Tanzania. We are hopeful that this fall the vaccine that will work on the strain of Covid in Tanzania will be available to us. Our Board of Directors decided we must wait until fall with that hope. Claudia and I look forward to getting back!

God's ways are above our ways. His purposes and plans are the best. As we see all the good things happening with *Joy in the Harvest*, we know God is building His Kingdom, using so many people working even during difficult times.

Love,
Lowell + Claudia

BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH

Many thanks are extended to our custodian *Christina* and her husband *Rich* for magically transforming the floor in our kitchen to looking brand new!



SPECIAL MESSAGE

I am very thankful for the sympathy cards and expressions of sympathy given to me from this congregation upon the passing of my mother. Even for *Pastor Katie* to make the trek to the *Earlville United Methodist Church* for the wake/viewing. Thank you all for your sense of caring.

Becky Reckamp

Thank You

for your Kindness

Please remember to submit articles for *The Messenger* by the 15th of the month!

BEAUTIFUL BAPTISM

On Sunday, July 25th we celebrated the baptism of *Charlotte Anne Greene*, born July 8th, daughter of *Wesley* and *Ashleigh Greene*. It was a lovely ceremony, and we all sang a joyous hymn to Charlotte!



LEADERSHIP IS...

By *Dan Beerens*

Leadership is not about speed, ideas, efficiency, or power...

It is about knowing your own limitations and celebrating the gifts of others,

It is growing in wisdom, understanding the number of our days, and seeking to understand rather than be understood.

It is caring for people, always hoping for, and expecting the best.

It is being brave enough to be vulnerable in front of others.

It is seeing the big picture of where things are, and building a road to the future with limited casualties.

It is helping each person to sing their song from the heart, and leading the band in praise to their Maker.



STEP BY STEP

Coffee!



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United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us in person or online for worship. Starting in June our in-person worship schedule has been 8:30 am & 10:00 am. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at umcantioch.org. The information is also shared on our Facebook page. We continue to follow COVID protocol and evaluate as needed. Please join us in person or online for worship.

[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**