



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.”

July, 2020
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THE PASTOR PONDERERS...*Hello, United Methodist Church of Antioch!*

I am **Pastor Katie** and I am excited to be settling into the new parsonage and to be learning my new community. I am looking forward to getting to know you and the community that you have formed here. I’ve been hearing for months now about how much you do to reach out to the community – even in a time of a pandemic – and now I will get a chance to see for myself. What a blessing these ministries are to the community. Thank you for finding ways to continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ during this season.

I want to start with a few thank yous. I am grateful for the work of our **ReTurn Team** to begin the work of how we can do the work we need to do to return to using our building for worship. I’ve read their report and it sounds like they are taking their work seriously and with wise intention for the most vulnerable of our community.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the **Trustees** who have spent a considerable amount of time to make sure that the new parsonage was ready for me. There were a few added steps because of our time of the pandemic, and I am grateful for the work that they put in to make sure it was ready for me.

The **Staff/Parish Relations Committee** has been so gracious and welcoming during this time! Thank you to all of you, as well, for your warm welcome and your grace to make me feel welcome, but also for giving me the space that helps us all feel a bit more comfortable during this time.

I’m hoping to work with the **SPRC** to create some sort of **Meet & Greet** gatherings where I can get to know as many of you as I can (in small groups – of course!), but I figured I’d start and help you get to know me a little bit.

I grew up in Portage, Wisconsin. I was baptized as an infant in **The United Methodist Church** – confirmed in junior high (that’s what we called it then...) and was a faithful participant in Sunday school throughout high school, even. I was never overly active in youth group, as I was super active in school activities.

I went to college thinking that I was eventually going to be a high school English teacher, and then eventually the Superintendent of Public Instruction. God, however, had different plans! Shortly after I had started college I

woke from a dream where I was preaching. I wasn’t sure what to do with that because it kind of scared me. I mean, who did that job?! I didn’t even know how one went about getting that job, but as it turned out, I would learn. When a friend encouraged me just to learn about it, the next time I was home for the weekend I asked my pastor about it and the long journey began. I would lean into my call; I would run from my call. I would pray about my dream, and ultimately I came to realize it was not the first time I had had the dream; it was just the first time I had understood what it meant for me.

In **The United Methodist Church** we believe that a call from God will be confirmed by the community that knows us, so as a part of our process into ordained ministry, we have to meet with the **SPRC** in our local church. When it came time for that meeting, one of the members of the committee, after hearing my call story, told a story from my childhood wherein she said she could see evidence of my being called to ministry at that young age. I had no idea!

After college I went straight to seminary, learning and growing as I went. After seminary, rather than return to Wisconsin, I had started to build some relationships in Northern Illinois, so I chose to stay.

Since starting to serve churches in 2003, I have served Cedarville, Ohio, Red Oak, Wyandot, Pecos, Erie, and now Antioch. I was commissioned in 2004 and ordained in 2011.

In the various districts I have served I have served on two **District Committees on Ordained Ministries**, I’ve chaired a **District Board on Church Location and Building**, and I’ve taught **Polity** at multiple **Lay Academies**. At the **Annual Conference** level, I’ve served on the **Nominations Committee**, the **Young Adult Committee** (back when I was one!), and now I am the **Vice Chair** of the **Annual Conference Committee** and the **Chair** of **Daily Proceedings**. At the **General Conference** level, I am on the volunteer staff of the **General Secretary of the General Conference**.

Now that you know a little about me, I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. Please help me with your names – I fear that will take me a while as we grow together. I thank you for your grace and patience as we do the work of Jesus Christ in the community of Antioch and its surrounding areas together.

Pastor Katie Voigt



GOODBYE/HELLO

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Pete Seeger used Ecc.3:1-8 word for word for a song he wrote in 1959. In 1965 the **Byrds** recorded it and **Turn, Turn, Turn** became No. 1 on the charts. It’s a song about there being a time and purpose for all changes.

We are living in historical and unprecedented times of change indeed. Despite what’s happening this summer of 2020, there is much for which we can be thankful. The **Antioch UMC** is truly blessed. We have had great pastoral leadership over the years. Some of us grew up in our church and have gone through six, seven, or maybe even eight changes. Sometimes the system for appointment changes isn’t fully understood; or, we question the need for change. Each appointee has brought unique talents and strengths to Antioch. We have grown spiritually and have become closer because of the men and women who have served here. Ultimately, change is to promote growth. It might be personal growth by a retirement, or spiritual growth of a congregation and pastor by an appointment change.

Pastor Char Hoffmann has been a big part of our growth while serving here. Pandemic circumstances may have dictated an unusual send-off. That doesn’t in any way diminish our hope, our well-wishes, and our love for her and **Glenn**. One could only hope that with the love of God, the direction of the Holy Spirit, and the example of Christ Jesus, we may make a difference. You both have. God Bless!

By the same pandemic constraints, we now welcome **Pastor Katie Voigt**. It adds a new meaning to the term, “historic change.” Regardless of the limitations placed on us, our enthusiasm to turn another page in the storied history of **Antioch UMC** remains high. We are eager to get to know her and her us. We so look forward to the time when we can once again worship and work together face to face. We are especially thankful for the opportunities we and **Pastor Katie** will have to grow together in our faith. How exciting to see where that growth leads us.

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”

Staff Parish Relations Committee

*To Everything
there is a Season,
and a Time
to every Purpose
under Heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

BACK TO NORMAL...REALLY?

Another month of dealing with our new “normal,” and it’s becoming more difficult, for me anyway, to think about all that’s happening in the summer of 2020. COVID-19 is still a prevalent issue. We are still dealing with masks, social distancing, closed restaurants, no sports,



canceled public events, etc. As if that weren’t enough, we now come face to face, once again, with the issue of systemic racism. The massive and global protests make these “winds of change”

seem more like a gale. As our **NIC Bishop**, among others, has consistently and recently said, “Racism is inconsistent with Christian teaching.” The stakes are high. Hope is elevated to a level not felt since **Rosa Parks**, **James Meredith**, the **March from Selma to Montgomery**, and all the events of the 60s that brought about some change. Part of every thought and conversation is, *“When will things get back to normal?”* Let’s pray and do everything in our power so the answer is **NEVER!**

Our 2020 “normal” hasn’t worked the same for everyone in 400 years. “Normal” is drastically different depending on from where we look. What will or will not happen as we trek down roads we’ve traveled before remains to be determined. One thing is certain; this particular time in our country will be tomorrow’s history. Many of us won’t be around to know what history will record, but we are here now to help write it.

“Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!” (Luke 6:31 MSG)

Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant



BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT

Let's all remember to plant something or give away a plant **In Memory of Barbara Goetselman**. This was her wish for her friends and neighbors!



Ann Dickson

MISSIONS

Tree of Life Ministries

This month, we are lifting up our **Yellow (United States/National) Band of our Rainbow Covenant Ministries**. This ministry with **Lakota Native Americans** addresses needs on the **Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations** in South Dakota by "nurturing the body, strengthening culture, and enhancing the spirit." This ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry, makes repairs to substandard homes, and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language.



For more information, visit their website at: www.treeofliferelief.org.

Becky Reckamp

PADS

The summer months usually do not include overnight housing through the **PADS Program**, but due to COVID-19 vulnerable clients are being housed in motels. The motels do not include food, so **PADS** continues to make weekly food deliveries to these clients.



Making lunches is difficult for our church at this time because of social distancing and not being able to meet in the church. However, we can safely gather food/supplies and deliver to the main **PADS** site in

Waukegan. Any or all of the following items are needed. Donations can be placed in plastic bags and left outside your home, and a volunteer will pick them up by appointment. Please call **Carol Cichonski** at 847/265-1214 or email me at ccichonksi@comcast.net with requests for donation pick-ups.

- Cleaning supplies, especially sanitizing wipes
- Large bottles of hand sanitizer, to refill smaller containers
- Bottled water
- Meals that can be microwaved but don't require refrigeration
- Individual cereal boxes
- Healthy snack foods
- Fruit cups
- Canned items are okay, only with a pop top



UMCA PRESCHOOL

May 28th marked what would have been our last day of preschool. Even though we temporarily closed our doors back in March, our dedicated teachers stayed very committed to helping the children and their families that were staying safe at home. The teachers read stories via **Zoom**. They created and delivered activities to each student. They celebrated Easter. They had virtual playdates. They cleaned and sanitized their rooms, and they collected and distributed the items that were left at school. Moreover, many of them were also helping their own children with e-learning at home.

Their dedication did not just end on the last day of school. They wanted to make sure that the children that are moving on to Kindergarten knew how proud we are of what they have accomplished. The teachers organized a parade that went to each of the 22 children's homes. There were signs, singing and even **Pomp and Circumstance**.

The United Methodist Church of Antioch Preschool (UMCAP) has been very blessed with wonderful families, and the church is very blessed to have **Ms. Candice, Ms. Angie, Ms. Lynn, Ms. Jackie, Ms. Nicole, Ms. Carole** and **Ms. Jen**.

It saddens the preschool staff to announce that **Ms. Jen** and **Ms. Carole** will not be returning next fall. **Ms. Jen** will be moving with the Marine Corp and **Ms. Carole** is looking forward to taking care of her new grandchildren. Their dedication, enthusiasm and creativity will be missed. We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

Ms. Carole has graciously offered to help us in the role of substitute. This is greatly appreciated. We are currently looking for more substitutes. If you know of anyone that may be interested, please have them contact **Kim Dodd** at umcapreschool316@gmail.com.



Kim,
CA Preschool Director

Dodd, UM-

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

PRAYER CARDS CONTINUE

Even though we are not yet meeting face-to-face, we can still lift friends and family in prayer. Prayer cards can be sent. Please email your requests with name and address to: carleenandtoto2@att.net. If you do not have email access, call me at 847/395-5617 or text me at 847/707-5617. Privacy will be maintained. Thank you.



Carleen Wurster

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS INVITATION

Hi, Walkers and Potential Walkers! **Wellness Walks** will be on Thursday mornings this year, again at 8:00 am. Now that Illinois will be in COVID-19 **Phase 4**, there will be fewer people at the forest preserves. See the next page for a description of the walks.

Melanie Fuhrmann

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare has started with the first session on June 25 and will meet for 13 weeks. Unfortunately, we are not able to meet at the church in the All Saints Room. We are using **Zoom** to have our sharing and discussion time, and we meet on Thursdays at 12:30 pm.. Attendees can watch the video each week at a time convenient for them. **GriefShare** is for people who have lost a loved one. We use the video, a workbook, sharing and discussion. People who have attended have found it helpful. It is easy to join the group, and you can contact **Barbara Cantrell** at 847/804-0361 or **Ken Graesser** at 847/420-0241 who can assist in registering.



Ken Graesser

UMW DAY OF SIRTUAL RENEWAL

Registration is now open for the “live” online **Day of Spiritual Renewal, Celebrating at the Well!** This is the link for registration: <https://celebrating-at-the-well.cheddarup.com>. When you register you’ll receive an email confirmation and the link you’ll need to access the live event on August 1st. You’ll also be placed on the mailing list for updates and reminders. Registration is open

now through July 31st. Send names of UMW members who have passed away since September, 2019, to **Deborah Nelson** for the **Memorial Service**: deborahnelson2351@yahoo.com. The deadline for names is July 17th. Spread the word about this unique and wonderful online event with your church, your UMW unit, your neighbors, family, and friends! Since this is an online event, it can be viewed from anywhere in the country! Relax and renew on a Saturday morning, participate from home, with no driving; then have the rest of your day to reflect and enjoy the day.



FAREWELL PARADE



CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

Wellness Walks — Thursdays 8:00 am

You can see **Lake County Forest Preserve** maps online at www.lcfpd.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 cancelled if the weather poses a safety risk. During **Phase 4**, walkers are supposed to keep a social distance of six feet. This does make fellowship more difficult, which has usually been our favorite part.



July 2: **Fourth Lake Forest Preserve**, Lindenhurst, 19808 W. Grand Avenue, Lake Villa. Entrance is at **Operations and Public Safety Facility** on Grand Avenue between Highway 45 and Sand Lake Road. (Note: There is a lot of construction on Grand Avenue if you approach from Highway 83.) We will walk north along the **Millennium Trail** up to Sand Lake Road, wave “hello” to **Bonner Farm**, and return, 1.6 miles total.

July 9: **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 (background in photo) and four scenic overlooks. See the restored **North Mill Creek** (foreground in photo), no longer dammed up as the former **Rasmussen Lake**, 1.5 miles total.



July 16: **Grant Woods South Forest Preserve at Long Lake Trailhead**, Round Lake Heights. Parking is south of Rollins Road, west of Fairfield Road, west of an auto repair business, east of Lake Shore Drive. There are no restrooms at this trailhead, no benches on this trail. The **LCFPD** trail is short, only 0.4 miles, but we can walk a bit further along the **Chain O’Lakes Bike**

Path if we like, and then reverse directions, approximately 1.3 miles. We can lengthen this walk by walking north of Rollins Road on the trail, as well.

July 23: **Sun Lake Forest Preserve**, Lindenhurst. Entrance is on the south side of Grass Lake Road, east of Highway 83 and west of Deep Lake Road. We’ll walk the west side of the loop about 25 minutes out, then back, approximately 1.5 miles total.

July 30: **West Lake Shore Drive** along **Long Lake**, Ingleside — Park at **Grant Woods South Forest Preserve at Long Lake Trailhead**, Round Lake Heights. Parking is south of Rollins Road, west of Fairfield Road, west of an auto repair business, east of Lake Shore Drive. There are no restrooms at this trailhead. We can walk eastward for 25 minutes and then reverse directions along Long Lake.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EVELYN!



The United Methodist Church of Antioch
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Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

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

[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**