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, 2023 Volume 7, Issue 7

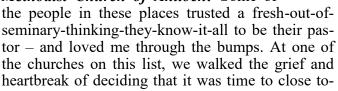
FROM PASTOR KATIE'S KEYBOARD...

Twenty years of ministry has put me in a reflexive moment, Friends. I am so grateful to be here in Antioch to celebrate with you. To be here, in a place where we have some excitement and energy for mission and serving our community, is truly an honor!



I have served in various places throughout our Northern Illinois Annual Conference for these years. So many places of memories: Cedarville United Methodist Church in Cedarville, Illinois: Ohio United Methodist Church in

Ohio, Illinois; Red Oak United Methodist Church in rural Walnut, Illinois; Wyanet United Methodist Church in Wyanet, Illinois; Pecatonica United Methodist Church in Pecatonica, Illinois; Erie United Methodist Church in Erie, Illinois; and the United Methodist Church of Antioch! Some of





gether. In one of these churches we celebrated my commissioning. In two of these churches we celebrated my ordination, because I was serving a twopoint charge at the time. The local population signs of the

villages where I have lived have said things like 750, 550, 1700, 1500, and 15,000. Because of the



generosity of my parishioners and them sharing how they make a living with me, I have driven a combine and I have toured an ice cream factory. I have done 124 funerals for 127 people. I have officiated or co-officiated 28 weddings. I have baptized 54 people – the youngest being 16 days old, and the oldest was 68 years. I have received into membership 75 people – some by transfer of membership,

some at confirmation, and some by profession of faith. As of the last Sunday of June I have preached 925 times, 142 of those being here in Antioch.

The truth is though, each of these numbers represents so much more. They are lives that I have had the privilege to interact with. They are families I've walked with as they have grieved their loved ones. They are people who I could laugh through some of the funniest things that happen in life.



They are people who prayed for me in rough times. They are people who I have continued to keep in prayer, even after I've been appointed to a different church.

I have had the honor to serve places where most people have been able to be in that place for a long time and their roots are deep. While this was



true of my growing-up years, it hasn't been so for my adult life. Moving every five years or fewer has had some challenges – a lot of which are about keeping boundaries well and trying to

ensure that the next pastor has a chance to love the people I have loved. We walk together for a time, and then our journeys part. I'm grateful for all of it.

Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to take a break for this month. I am going to take some down time, and then I'm going on a Wesley Pilgrimage to England. My prayer is



that the flame underlying my faith is strengthened for the next twenty years. I invite you to pray with me while I am gone.

Here in Antioch, you will be in good hands!

PASTOR KATIE, continued

July 2 Rev. Scott McClellan Communion July 9 Phil Georgia July 16 Rev. Matt Mariani

July 23 Deaconess Catherine Inserra,

Kids Above All

July 30 Rev. Martha Schmidt

Pastor Katie Voigt

CELEBRATING WHAT?

July has come around once again. School is out, graduation activities are behind us, and we are looking forward to the "dog days of summer." July



is a month of celebrations. It all begins on Independence Day with parades, picnics, cookouts, and don't forget the fireworks. Our American culture loves to celebrate even for meager reasons. In a secular world, celebrating being free is most likely at the top of the

list. Independence Day was a national holiday from the get-go, 1776. Freedom on that day, July 2nd ac-

tually, meant freedom from England's rule, not personal freedom. But it has come to mean that nowadays. Eighty-nine years later, the military freed black slaves from a JUNETEENTH prison in Galveston, Texas. Two



hundred forty-five years later, 2021, the National Independence Day Act was signed into law designating Juneteenth as a national holiday. Two National Holidays to celebrate freedom, but whose exactly?

Mike DeBenedetto

MISSIONS

Thank you all for committing to *Living the* Mission Links includes financially Beatitudes. supporting the following seven areas:



Special Sundays—Sundays aside and celebrated around the conference and the denomination as a way for your church to join with other congregations across our connection to recognize specific kinds of ministries.

MISSIONS, continued

Global Advance Projects—Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries around the world working to care for the least of these.

Missionary Support—Missionary support provided directly to specific United Methodist missionaries serving in over 60 countries.

Relief **Project**—Projects UMCOR/Emergency providing immediate relief during disasters as well

as ongoing support, and are directly UMCOR related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

US-Based Advances—Mission projects located across the United States and correlate with the ongoing work of justice in the Northern Illinois Conference.

Northern Illinois Conference Projects—Mission projects located within the Northern Illinois Conference that have a far reaching impact. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.

NIC District Projects—Mission projects located within our districts effecting direct communities. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.

The attached photo is our certificate of

recognition and appreciation of our commitment to MissionLinks (formerly Rainbow Covenant).

Carol Cichonski

Clothing & Food Drive for Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago—July 16

Did you know the Midwest Veterans Closet gave out 600,000 pounds of food last year? Yes! Unbelievable and all donated. Clothing: They especially need our help for men's shorts and summer weight clothing—new or gently used, clean and on hangers, if possible. Food: Any canned or packaged food, zip tab opening on

cans since many veterans are homeless and live on the street. A favorite is wa-



Living the LINKS Beatitudes

ter packed tuna and chicken. Other canned foods and non-perishable foods are also needed. Help our Veterans who served our County.

Dan Fluck

Missions Committee

The next Missions meeting will be Sunday, July 16th after church.

EARLY ADOPTERS

We Need Friendly Faces!

When our *Early Adopters* group began its mission to envision our church's future, we decided to focus our attention on the following questions: How do we strengthen the relationship with our preschool? What improvements can we make to our online presence and online service, and how do we leverage that to engage online participants in the life of the church? How do we build relationships with our immediate neighbors?

We've recently devoted attention toward the last question. *Wizards Weekend* was on Saturday, June 24th in Wesley Hall. What a fun event. Enjoy the pictures. This was a great way for us to be present in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make sure that people were comfortable in our building and who helped make sure we were ready for worship in the morning!



Antioch's Taste of Summer, July 13-16 is just around the corner.

We will set up a card table along the west side of Main Street and hand out water bottles (labeled with our church information) and church pamphlets. Thursday - Saturday we will set up from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, and Sunday will be 12:00 noon -3:00 pm. As you can imagine we will need many volunteers to cover the two shifts/day Thursday - Satur-



day, and one shift on Sunday. A sign-up sheet will be out in Wesley Hall. We hope to have two volunteers per shift. We also need bottled water and/or funds to buy the water. You can bring water into the church kitchen or call *Carol Cichonski* at 847/269-2287

for pickup. A *blue donation box* will be near the volunteer signup sheet, if you wish to donate funds to purchase water. We expect to give away 1000 bottles of water. If you have a wagon we can borrow to help move all this heavy stuff from the parking lot to our station, please, again, call Carol or the church office.

All we want to do with this outreach event is to show people that we are friendly people and we

EARLY ADOPTERS, continued

are a part of the community. There isn't an expectation that you need to be able to convert someone on the spot, but we are encouraging people to be able

to talk about what you love about Jesus and the church, if the opportunity arises. No need to force someone into a conversation they don't want to have. And, no matter what, sharing water with our

neighbors is a grace that we can offer on what has the potential to be very hot days. Prayerfully consider joining with this outreach to our community.

Carol Cichonski

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Korean Peace Prayers Inspired Conference Members.

NIC's Korean-American pastors led the Annual Conference members last week in prayers, songs, and personal testimonies for peace on this 70th anniversary of the **Korean Armistice**. The deeply moving service was the highlight of the Annual Conference session. **Watch the video**.

Setting a Table for All: Bishop's State of the Conference Address.

Tables are places where healing and reconciliation can take place. *Bishop Schwerin* shared the hopes and concerns he's heard over the past few

concerns he's heard over the past few months and described plans for building a healthy annual conference.

Bible Study: Come Together to the Table, Connected in Christ.

In his Bible study on the great banquet in Luke 14, *Dr. Rolf Nolasco* reminded Annual Con-

ference members that Jesus's banquet welcomes everyone—and gives places of honor to those who are devalued by society.



Special Giving Achievements.

So far, NIC members have donated \$36,372 to the *Bishop's Appeal for Migrant Needs*. (You can still give!) Churches sent 7,000 pounds of goods to *Midwest Mission*. Over 2,200 pounds were donated by *Prairie Central Churches*

The Annual Conference voted to disaffiliate eight churches that filed the proper paperwork and requested disaffiliation.

Carol Dunn and Robin Kessell thank the United Methodist Church of Antioch for the opportunity to attend this Conference,

Carol Dunn, Lay Member to the Annual Conference

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Special Music by Liam

Handbells

The first time I joined my friend, Pam, for handbell choir, I was a recent college graduate who my Sara played with her Amy at church. I had no idea what fun I was headed into and yes, I had been a musician already for a very long time. But there is something about playing in a handbell choir that surpasses music. The sound of bells speaks to the

soul. When *Tom Kessel* goes to ring our church bell on Sunday morning, the sound stirs my heart and helps prepare me to play the prelude. Through the centuries bell ringing has been an integral part of the Christian tradition.



Ringing bells together redefines collaboration. The joy of making music together, and in my case, for Jesus, always included smiles, laughter, friendship, fellowship, and that satisfaction when we could move bells from hand to hand or person to person or just be able to pick up the right bell at the

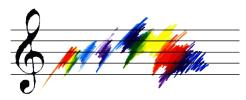


right time! Bell choir is a ministry and a joyous one. I have played in multiple handbell choirs and directed handbell choirs at churches as well as at Trinity, where I taught piano, organ, and piano pedagogy for over two decades. Suffice it to

say, I do love handbells!

Through the years I have been approached by several of you about how great it would be to have handbells at our church. I have been very humbled by the positive response and generosity of so many of you. Many times, it has been in the form of encouraging words and the promise of prayer, or the desire to be part of a bell choir at our church. Whatever the outcome, thank you for your faithful response.

Debbie Gillette, Director of Music



IN THE GARDEN









CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

CWM held a *blood drive* with *Versiti* on June 10th. Our goal was 15 volunteers and with the help of our community we had 13! Blood products are in such short supply that blood banks typically have only enough blood on hand for one day. Although

relatively small, our blood drive helped to save close to <u>21</u> lives. Thank you UMCA!

The *Golden Gems Team* is pleased to announce that we will hold two more luncheons this year! Our next luncheon for seniors 80 yrs and



older will be held on **Thursday**, **August 3rd** in Wesley Hall. The third Golden Gems luncheon will take place close to Halloween in October! If you are in the 80 yrs and over age group and *did not receive an invitation*, please check with *Tekeesha* in the church office that your birthday has been included in your info. We need your date of birth in order to find everyone eligible for GG. Please do RSVP for each luncheon if you can join us. This helps us in planning but if you don't feel well the morning of the luncheon and are unable to attend, we do understand.

Recently the surgeon general told us that fifty percent of Americans are lonely. That is a big number that each of us can help to decrease. We are all busy but as a gentle reminder, please take the time to reach out to family, friends and neighbors that you haven't heard from in awhile. A simple phone call to tell this person that you care about them could make a real difference in their lives. Loneliness not only affects mental well being but also physical health. You can make a difference in their lives!



Our

Celebrating











Pastor





Katie!

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

Our schedule for the summer will have only one service at 9:15 am. We also go live on our *Facebook* page. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at <u>umcantioch.org</u>. 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