



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."*

May, 2021  
Volume 5, Issue 5

## FROM PASTOR KATIE'S KEYBOARD...

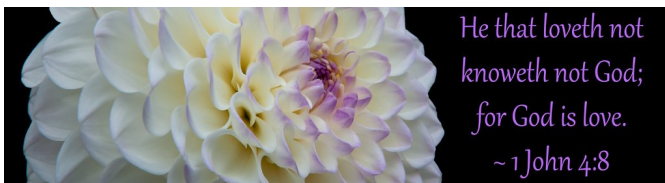
We don't always talk much about the Holy Spirit because we have a challenging time describing what this part of the Trinity looks like, or how



we experience a Spirit. Thus, we shy away from doing it altogether. However, since this is the part of the Trinity that we have with us now,

I think it is an important occasion for us to celebrate, and to help us start the conversation about how the Spirit moves us and how we have to keep moving with the Spirit. We can never stand still in the Spirit's presence!

We also are continuing our walk through the book of 1 John as an exploration of love. God's love comes to earth in Jesus Christ, and we are given an example of how to live in that love and how to share that love with others. This doesn't mean we understand love or that we love well, however! Sometimes we boil love down to an ooey-gooey feeling only reserved for romantic relationships, but God proves that wrong from the very begin-



*He that loveth not  
knoweth not God;  
for God is love.  
~ 1 John 4:8*

ning. God loves us all and shows us that love is a verb, a noun, and a choice. We have so much to learn – always! That Holy Spirit keeps us on our toes!

I pray you will join us for worship as we continue to make strides to return to a fuller in-person worship experience, little step by little step. I also pray that as many of you as possible are getting the COVID-19 vaccine, as eligibility has now



opened up to everyone 16 years and older in Illinois. Moving us closer to herd immunity will help us all be able to do some of our favorite things while not putting others at risk as we gather. Please, prayerfully consider the opportunity.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| May 2nd  | 1 John 4:7-21 <b><i>Love is Casting Out Fear</i></b>                                |
| May 9th  | <b><i>Mike DeBenedetto</i></b><br>preaches  |
| May 16th | 1 John 5:9-13 <b><i>Love is Testimony</i></b>                                       |
| May 23rd | Acts 2:1-21 <b><i>Love is the Spirit's Presence Pentecost</i></b>                   |
| May 30th | Romans 8:12-17 <b><i>We Are Family Trinity Sunday/Peace with Justice Sunday</i></b> |

***Pastor Katie Voigt***



## BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

There was an article in the *Chicago Tribune* dated Sunday, April 18, 2021 by **Heidi Stevens**. It was entitled *Symbol of Inclusion*. The story is about Pride and Black Lives Matter flags that three teachers

A TEACHER  
OPENS MINDS  
AND TOUCHES  
HEARTS ♥

hung in their classrooms. The school removed them. Students and parents met with the school board to express their desire for the board to look beyond the flags and see what their displaying represents, i.e., love, allies, safety, inclusion, and equal treatment under the laws that are supposed to protect. **Kelly Hennings**, a lifelong resident of Chesterton, Indiana, commented to the article's author. "Ask anyone from the USA about their favorite teacher," Hennings wrote. "Not one person will mention a teacher who stayed strictly within the curriculum." "Exactly," wrote Miss Stevens. "Teachers can show kids so much more than facts, equations, and dates. They show kids what to value, where they fit in, how to find their voice, how to use their power, who they can be and how to shape the world." Teachers have been a major influence in my formative years, and I know we have many educators in Antioch UMC. This is a self-serving opportunity for me to acknowledge teachers everywhere and to say thank you. The entire article is available online at [hstevens@chicago.com](mailto:hstevens@chicago.com) or Twitter@heidistevens13.

**Mike DeBenedetto**, Lay Servant

## SPEAKING OF WHICH...

### *HS Students: Take a Journey toward Racial Justice This Summer*

Registration is now open for a unique camp experience for United Methodist high school students (incoming freshmen through graduating high school students). **Justice Camp** dates are June 13th (in-person and **Zoom**), June 27th (**Zoom**), July 11th (**Zoom**), and August 8th (**Zoom**). Campers will take a journey toward racial justice by exploring the **DuSable Museum** and the **Obama Presidential Library** site in Chicago, engaging with representatives from the **Southern Poverty Law Center** and the **Equal Justice Initiative**, and experiencing a panel discussion and engagement with the **Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference**, the **1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission** and the **John Hope Franklin Center**. Registration fee: \$25. Space is limited. [Click here to download the flyer.](#)

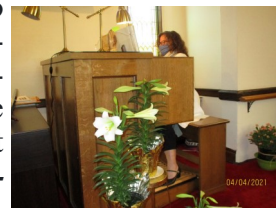


JUSTICE CAMP  
2021 VIRTUAL TOUR  
"A Journey Toward Racial Justice for High School Students"

Justice Camp is organized in partnership with **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)** and **Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP)**. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

## RETURN TO WORSHIP

The **Return to Worship Team** would like to share the following updates to operations at the church during the week and during Sunday worship services. These updates are based on current stable COVID results in **Region 9**, and the rapidly expanding rollout of the vaccines.



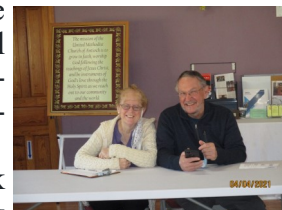
**Basic safety guidelines such as wearing your mask indoors, and social distancing remain in place.**

1) Committees or church groups may meet at the church up to two times per day. Previously, this was limited to one meeting per day. Please continue to schedule meetings with the church secretary and use the space in Wesley Hall to meet.

2) We will record the entire Sunday services via **Facebook Live** for those members who wish to worship at home. We will then copy the Facebook Live video to **YouTube** for those who may not use Facebook. This will allow us to phase out the current **Zoom** video service over the next 30 days. **Many thanks to Debbie and the Zoom worship team for all their efforts to provide this virtual worship option for the past year!**

3) We are going to restart the **yellow prayer cards** for **Joys and Concerns** during Sunday worship. Since we are recording the service via Facebook Live, you will have the option of checking a box on the yellow card if you do not want your prayer request recorded on the video.

Note: The **online reservation process** will continue for now with one service at 9:00 am. We will continue to monitor attendance and expand to two services as needed.



As always, we thank you for your patience during this pandemic. There is light at the end of the tunnel...**Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."**

**Bert Kibbler**



## STAFF UPDATES

### *Happy Retirement to our extra special Administrative Assistant, Diane Franke!*

Please join us in showering Diane with cards, letters, phone calls, emails or whatever way you want to show her how much we appreciate her and all her service to our church. We are hoping by the middle of May or so that Diane will be able to start on that new road of retirement, so there is still time to get your card to her for her **Card Shower**. Remember, Diane didn't want any special going away celebration, so it is very important she doesn't leave without your own personal send off. Thanks for taking the time to honor her and this milestone.



### *Happy Retirement to our Custodian!*

**Terri Beachem** is retiring this month after more than five years serving our church. Terri's attention to detail has been evident by the pleasing appearance of our building. UMCA has been blessed by her ministry to us. Please join us in showering Terri with well wishes, cards, and expressions of gratitude. These can be left in the church drop off slot and will be delivered to Terri. So often we don't see Terri in person, but her work is valued every time we walk into the building. Heartfelt thanks and praise from our congregation to Terri for a job well done.



**Dawn Vogel**, Staff Parish

## HELP NEEDED

**Mike Steiner**, the owner of **Right at Home**, needs caregivers. No prior training or education are needed, just the desire to help the elderly. He hopes to find candidates at churches. In return, when the employee has worked 100 hours, he will donate \$100 to the church.



He will provide all training and PPE. If the applicant has not been vaccinated against COVID, he will make arrangements.

We have used this agency in the past, and two ladies from our churches are currently receiving their help. Call Right at Home at 847/984-0103.

**Gloria Stevens**

## MISSIONS

### **PADS**

Thank you to the **Wurster Clan** for working together to donate many, many items this month, and thank you to all of you who faithfully donate each month. We are always thrilled when the back of the Tahoe fills up.



Let's focus on lunch items for this coming month's drive, which will be announced on Sunday, May 16th; May 23rd will be our collection target. See below for some suggestions. Please remember pop tops on the cans/bowls and nothing that needs refrigeration.

- Soup or noodle cups
- Raisins, fruit cups
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers
- **Spaghettios**, mac and cheese
- Tuna, chicken lunch pouches
- Individually packaged snacks, cookies
- Juice boxes
- Water
- Gift cards for fast food chains



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

**Carol Cichonski**

### **Epiphany in July**

Coming soon! We will once again be collecting diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream for **Open Arms Missions**. Stay tuned to the June **Messenger** for more information.

**Carleen Wurster**



## EARLY ADOPTERS UPDATE

The *Early Adopters Program* is in full swing. We have completed the first leg of the program which is a ten-year collection of data on attendance, giving, mission outreach, and other important information with regard to our church. This document couldn't have been completed without a lot of folks helping to gather the information. The second data piece is the *online survey* our congregation was invited to complete a few weeks ago. The EA team is still meeting about this tool and will share the results with the congregation soon. The last data piece is *Mission Insite* where they go out in a three-mile radius of Antioch to look at potential areas that could help us know more about how we could better connect with our neighbors. We haven't had a chance to look at this data much as a team, but will alert you when we have. The team has met several times with one of the authors, *Paul Nixon*, of the Early Adopters program via *Zoom*. We also are meeting to direct our research toward ways to help bring new disciples to Christ and strengthen our church family in outreach and possible new programs.



*Dawn Vogel*

## WESLEY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

*Wesley Afternoon Circle* will meet on Thursday May 20th at 2:00 pm in Wesley Hall. Please bring your favorite hymn or song and something about its composer/artist to share.



*Anne Dickson*

## 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](mailto: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*

## IN THE GARDEN

To all of you who helped at our *April Garden Party*  
THANK YOU!

We got a lot done in the *Memorial Garden* and in the area in front of the church. Next time we'll focus on the *Pollinator Garden*, the area around the back entrance, and the parsonage. *Our next garden party is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th at 9:00 am.* At that time we'll divide up, with some of us working on the back area at church and some at the parsonage. If you can help that day, please email me at [heidianette@att.net](mailto:heidianette@att.net) with your preference – church or parsonage. Thanks for helping to keep our gardens looking good!

*Heidi Gilday*





## CHRISTIAN WELLNESS COMMITTEE

### COVID 19 Vaccine Update

Just this week, LCHD received 47,000 doses of the **Pfizer** and **Moderna** vaccines which means they can give between 2500 to 3000 doses per day! Due to the pause, the **J&J** vaccine is in short supply, though this will improve.



All residents 16 years of age and older may now make their own appointments in **AllVax!** Go into your allvax account; the gray button will now be blue for you to make your appointment at the **fairgrounds** or the **Waukegan Water Street** sites. There will be a separate button for 16 and 17 year olds as they may only register for the Pfizer vaccine. Emails will be going out to all Lake County residents to inform them of this change. The LCHD sites are now also accepting appointments for those who received their first dose elsewhere and need the second dose. Also, the fairgrounds will be open from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm Wednesdays beginning May 5th.

The Call Center for help number is: 847/377-8130 and AllVax, <https://allvax.lakecohealth.org>.

Please use the LCHD vaccine locator to find alternate vaccination sites. If you need help with COVID vaccines or have any healthcare questions, please call me at 630/399-0089.

**Carol Frazier, RN**, Christian Wellness Chair

Home is where you put one foot on the porch  
and before your other foot touches the landing  
the door dances open  
and the first thing you see is a huge smile  
and the first thing you feel is a huge hug  
and the first thing you hear is your own name  
spoken with excitement and  
elation and jubilation  
and so much love.

Home is where you don't have to be anybody but you.  
You don't have to be good enough  
or clean enough, or smart enough  
or strong or pretty enough  
or think only the right thoughts  
or believe only the right beliefs  
or guard your heart  
or deny your mistakes  
or hide your wounds  
or silence your needs  
or measure your hopes and dreams.  
You don't have to pretend to be somebody you're not  
so you can belong  
because at home  
you belong already.  
You are a child of God.

So, we say to you:  
Come on in.  
Come on in, as you are.  
Come on in, child of God.

Welcome home!



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United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us online or in person for worship. The link for the recorded service or to reserve your spot for in person service can be found on our website at [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org). The information is also shared on our Facebook page. We continue to follow COVID protocol and evaluate as needed.

*[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**