

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.”

September, 2023
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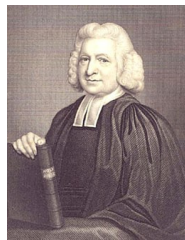
FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

This is not the article I expected to be writing in September! Oh my goodness! What a first few weeks of being home...

Thank you to everyone who covered and made things happen while I was on renewal leave. I learned so much and I conquered big fears of my own and you will find things about **John and Charles Wesley** and basic **Wesleyan theology** to make appearances in worship. I hope to be able to share a lot of my learnings in small doses so that we all can remember them better!



Also, thank you to **Phil Georgia** and the **SPRC** for their help and understanding as I have dealt with my kidney stone. As I said in worship the following week, while normally a kidney stone on a Sunday morning is not a thing pastors are grateful for, but in my case...I was scheduled to have a colonoscopy prep on Tuesday, and my urologist told me that if I had started the colonoscopy prep on Monday, I would have, in all likelihood, sent myself into renal failure. I was immediately grateful for the timing of this pain. It hadn’t interrupted my trip to England at all. (Can I imagine having that pain on an eight hour flight... um, no!) I got to do all the walking to all the places, I got to see all the things, I got to learn all the information. I am so thankful to God for working the timing out in such a way that all things were covered and we can still move forward with excitement and energy...at least I’m hoping the energy returns soon!



In September we will start to venture into some **Wesley**. We’re going to start with a few **Charles Wesley** hymns and we’ll think a bit about how we sing our faith. Music is such a part of the rich tradition of this congregation and so

much of what we find that we know about our faith is because we’ve sung it. **Amazing Grace, Because He Lives, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, For All the Saints**, are just a few examples of hymns that, for most of us, tell us something just by the title. I hope you will join us as we venture into the hymnody of Charles Wesley and how that can still teach us today.



Also, remember that September 10th we return to our Fall Schedule:

8:00 am	Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School, Choir, Church Chat
10:30 am	Worship
September 3	Psalm 150 Singing our Faith: Compelled Communion
September 10	Romans 7:15-20 Singing our Faith: God’s Mercy
September 17	Genesis 32:22-32 Singing our Faith: On the Journey
September 24	Luke 22:14-20 This Holy Mystery: Communion Communion

Pastor Katie Voigt

RIGHT/WRONG

There is a song, *If Loving You Is Wrong, I Don't Want To Be Right*. In the original lyrics, singer/songwriter **Luther Ingram** has deliberately made a wrong choice. The song asks the question, how can it be so wrong if it feels so right (good)?



Feelings don't decide right from wrong. Of course, we feel good when a decision or action turns out well and suffer the consequences when it doesn't. A fear of these consequences oftentimes prevents us from making a decision. So much of what I've learned in my life has come from wrong, or poor, decisions. Even so, they were invaluable to the growing up adventure. In one way, *right* and *wrong* are the same if we choose them to be, *i.e.*, a positive learning experience.

Mike DeBenedetto

TRUSTEES REPORT

Boiler Update: Yay! As I write this the new boiler installation is underway. *But...*by the time you read this the long-awaited new boiler will be completely installed. The first picture is the before; the second is "out with the old" and rearranging for the new. The goal is to have the installation finished by the time our preschool opens.



Walt Cichonski

MISSIONS

Veterans

Janet and I, on behalf of the *Missions Committee*, would like to thank everyone that donated to the *Missions Food & Clothing Drive* for the *Midwest Veterans' Closet in North Chicago*. We were happy to gather up a lot of food and clothing for our veterans in need. A special *thank you* goes to *Dick Paddock* who made a huge donation in UMCA's name to *Midwest Veterans' Closet*.



Dan Fluck

MORE ON MISSIONS

Pictures are worth a thousand words. The two attached are of the *UMC in Lahaina* before and after—destroyed except for stairs and sign. Wind-driven wildfires on *Maui* have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. **UMCOR** is coordinating with the *California-Pacific Annual Conference* to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. Gifts can be made in the following ways:



- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1888/252-6174
- By check made out to *Global Ministries/UMCOR* with "*Advance #901670-Hawaii*" written on the memo line and mailed to *Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068*.
- By check made out to *Global Ministries/UMCOR* with "*Advance #901670-Hawaii*" written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.



Carol Cichonski

MORE ON MISSIONS

Kids Above All:

Pastor Katie and I attended a *Mission Partners: Day of Service & Celebration* on August 12th at the *Kids Above All Distribution Center* in Des Plaines. *Deaconess Catherine Inserra*, hosted the event that highlighted the Mission and Goals of *Kids Above All*, honored their supporters, and encouraged us to help prepare backpacks for distribution. *"Their 129-year-old mission to build better lives for our clients remains at the core of our work to ensure all kids have every opportunity to become independent adults who lead meaningful, productive lives."*



Read more at www.kidsaboveall.org. UMC of Antioch supports Kids Above All with our *Annual Christmas Gift Collection* that is taken to Waukegan. We will hear more about this soon. Hope you can find us in the picture.



Carol Cichonski

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

On Wednesday, September 6th at 1:15 pm, the *United Women of Faith of Antioch United Methodist Church* will be presenting a program/seminar from *AAHAA*.

What is AAHAA? *Antioch Area Healthcare Accessibility Alliance!* It is a referral source and assistive non-for-profit organization for the public

HELPING HAND



judgemental help with addictions and many other applications.

that includes the following: local food pantries, doctors, Medicare questions, school physical information, in-home help, network nurse, medical insurance information, problems paying utilities/rent, senior assistance, non-

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH, continued

The representatives/presenters of the seminar are *Colleen Lennon*, Executive Director and *Stephanie Young*, Program Director of AAHAA. Please join us in Wesley Hall at 1:15 pm on September 6th for an informative, helpful means of finding appropriate and needed resources.



Additionally, at this meeting we will select our *Nominating Committee* for our October officer elections.



Ann Dickson

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday School

Sunday School for kids and youth starts September 10th! Join us at 9:15 am in the Sunday School wing for a kickoff celebration featuring treats and more as we look to the year ahead. Come and help us make great plans for the year ahead! If you have questions, please contact *Elisa Gueffier* at elisagueffier@gmail.com.



Elisa Gueffier

OPPORTUNITY

Antioch Theater, September 25th: *The Sound of Music* Sing-Along Movie Mania

These events are usually free to senior citizens.

The cost for the meal at *Oliverti North* is \$11 if the senior would like to eat there after the movie. You have to sign up for *The Sound of Music*. The cost is \$5.00 for Antioch residents and \$10.00 for non-residents. Doors open at 9:30 and movies start at 10:00 am. We get free popcorn!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Special Music



Update

September is here and that means that our beloved **Choir** is resuming practice on September 10th at 9:15 am. **Nicole** is a treasure at UMCA and her talent in leading us in song is unmeasurable! New members floated in throughout the year last year, and the invitation goes out to one and all, high school and above, to join any week, any-time. This year the choir plans to present a cantata about **The Lord's Prayer**. Work began on this beautiful work before the pandemic and has periodically come into our practice time. Please consider joining in song with us!

Many of you have heard that in an amazing miracle of generous giving, the handbells from **Trinity International University** are now the handbells of UMCA and onsite. We are so thankful beyond words! We will be starting up a **bell choir** this fall; many of you have already expressed interest and we have a fair amount of experience in bell ringing in the church, so that will help our learning curve. Besides bell ringers, I need bell polishers and bell skirt seamstresses. No musical talent needed. Any talents you would like to share with the music department, just let Debbie or Nicole know.

Debbie Gillette, Director of Music

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

Golden Gems

Our luncheon was held on August 3rd when we had a **Summer Celebration**. It was clear that everyone had a good time! Thirty-nine were in attendance where hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips, watermelon, ice cream and desserts were served. We had a wonderful performance from **Jack Lullo** who gave us a fine rendition of **Elvis Presley** tunes! Laughter, dancing and grand conversation were enjoyed! Please see the pictures! The next **Golden Gems** meal will be held on October 26th when we will celebrate Fall! Hope that all of our Golden Gems will join us!



Flu and Covid Vaccine Clinic

This event will be held on Saturday, October 7th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in Wesley Hall. Registration will begin September 10th. Look for a sign up sheet as well as a link to **Sign Up Genius**. We need a minimum of 20 to be able to hold the clinic.

RSV Vaccine

You may remember that last fall/winter, we were exposed to the triple threat of flu, Covid and RSV. RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) can be quite serious in vulnerable people (infants and older adults) causing inflammation of the small airways in the lungs and pneumonia. Please check with your physician to see if they recommend one of the new RSV vaccines for you.

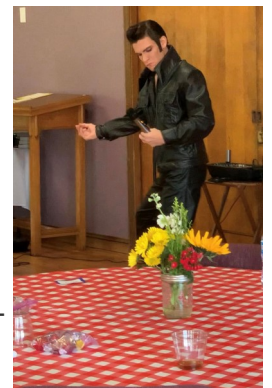


Some have asked if it would be possible to get all three of these vaccines at the clinic on October 7th. The pharmacist at **Walgreens** suggests getting the RSV vaccine in September at least two weeks before the flu and Covid vaccines, The RSV vaccine takes extra time to prepare which she feels would make it difficult to administer given the time constraints of the clinic. Both the flu and Covid



vaccines have been updated to give us

protection against the most recent strains of these two viruses.



CHRISTIAN WELLNESS, continued



OPPORTUNITY

The *United Methodist Men* will get together for the **2023 United Methodist Men's Spiritual Congress** September 15th to 17th. It will be held at the **Conference Point Center in Wilimans Bay, Wisconsin**. The three days will cover topics of what we can do to get men more involved in church activities. Highlight speaker on Saturday will be **Retired Major General John Borling USAF, and Vietnam POW**. Cost for the three days including lodging, meals, and materials is \$200. Other registration options are available. I will be attending all three days, and if you want any more information please contact me, **Ken Graesser** at 847/420-0241.



PRAYER FOR THE START OF SCHOOL

Gracious and Eternal God,
At this start of a new year of education and ministry, we give thanks for the many ways that you are a loving teacher of us all. Your love reminds us that we are all your children, and students under your tutelage. You guide us toward a life of wholeness and decency, instruct us with the principles of holy living, and correct our missteps with grace and forgiveness. We are grateful for the lessons you teach us, which in turn guide the children who learn from our example.

We pray for our area schools and all our teachers, who have the noble task of educating the most impressionable among us. Grant them patience in the classroom, wisdom in their counsel and endurance for the year ahead. May they receive from us the affirmation they richly deserve but not always receive.

We pray for school administrators and staff. Lead them through the challenges of underfunding, understaffing, and rapidly changing technology. We pray for the school board members. Guide our leaders in providing the courage, wisdom, and resources our schools need.

We pray for the families of our community. Call them to a deeper level of involvement in the education of their kids and in support of their schools. Help them find a balance between busyness and family time. We pray for those facing financial hardship during these unsteady economic times, especially those experiencing poverty. Guide this church in ministering to them.

We pray that all our school campuses will be secure and healthy. Stem the tide of gun violence and reduce the presence of bullying. Surround our children with role models that encourage decent behavior and healthy choices. May our children flourish in an environment that is safe, fun, and intellectually energizing.

We pray for the ministries to children and youth in our church. Thank you for the faithful work of our ministry staff and volunteers, and grant them the wisdom and love that will make a deep and lasting impact. We pray for all our children and youth, including our preschoolers that they would each find their truest identity in the grand, ongoing story of your love.

God, you have placed a sense of eternity in our hearts, that we cannot fully see all that you have done from the beginning to the end. Help us rise to the great responsibility of being faithful stewards *of* our children. May they forge ahead into the bright future you have envisioned for them.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Rabbi, teacher, and Lord,
Amen.



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 September 3rd will have only one service at 9:15 am. Beginning on September 10th we will revert to our normal schedule: 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. We also go live on our **Facebook** page. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at umcantioch.org. 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**