



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.”*

April, 2026  
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## FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

As April opens, the week finds us in the depths of *Holy Week*. We journey together with some sister churches through the stories of the *Last Supper, the foot washing, the Crucifixion*, and then we wait through Saturday, ready to celebrate at first light on *Easter* morning. Such a challenging story, with such a great ending! I hope you’ll join us for worship as we tell the story. *Pastor Buzz* and folks from the *Lake Villa United Methodist Church* will join us for worship on Thursday, and *Pastor Irene* and *Joyful Spirit United Methodist Church* will join us on Friday. The choir will sing and the handbell choir will play at Friday’s worship service.

Moving into the rest of April, we will spend some time looking at the new vision statement our *Bishops* have given us. “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” It is frequently summed up as “*Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*,” so those will be the emphases for the last three Sundays in April.



When you think about loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously, what comes to your mind? Where do you think this should happen, in terms of geography – should this be in our neighborhoods, or around the world? Should this just be for clergy, or clergy and laity both? What picture comes to your mind when imagine someone doing these things well? What does it look like when *we* do them well? I just want to encourage you to start thinking about these things.

I pray you join us for worship!

- April 2      John 13:1-17, 31-35  
***Humility***  
Holy Thursday;  
Holy Communion
- April 3      John 18:1-19:42  
***Famous Last Words***  
Good Friday
- April 5      John 20:1-18  
***Believing***  
Easter Sunday  
Holy Communion
- April 12     Matthew 22:37-39 & John 13:34-35  
***Love Boldly***
- April 19     John 13:14-15 & 1 Peter 4:10  
***Serve Joyfully***
- April 26     Joshua 1:9 & Ephesians 6:10  
***Lead Courageously***



## RE-SET REMINDER



We reset our clocks last month. It has been said that although we lose an hour, the trade-off is that we gain more daylight. When we do this twice a year, we are told that we should also replace batteries in our smoke detectors, change furnace filters, etc. It's good to have a scheduled reoccurring task to remind us of what else needs attending. This cartoon appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* the weekend after we reset our clocks. Isn't it amazing what we can learn from children by seeing the world as they do. Let's add a reminder every time we reset our clocks. Let's adjust our priorities to include something in a relationship that needs to be "re-set," someone who needs a little of our time, someone or something toxic that needs removal.

*Michael DeBenedetto*

## MISSIONS

### *April Mission Focus: A Safe Place – Empower Run/Walk 5K*

On *May 2<sup>nd</sup>* at 9:00am come out and join our team of runners and walkers, led by *Pastor Katie*. We will have missions volunteers helping the day of the event, as well. If running or walking isn't your thing, but you'd still like to help, please contact Carol Cichonski and she will get you the information needed for the volunteer training meeting.

We will also collect items that can help with moving into emergency or transitional housing. The *Amazon* link takes you to a specific list and we'll get that published via poster and weekly bulletins. Gift cards from *Target*, *Walmart*, *Aldi* and gas stations are also appreciated.



[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CHX0SKAR88SL/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1CHX0SKAR88SL/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

*A Safe Place* is the only organization in Lake County, Illinois, dedicated exclusively to supporting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Through their comprehensive programs, they provide survivors with the resources they need to rebuild their lives, prevent future abuse through targeted abuser intervention, and educate the community on how we can all work together to end these pervasive issues. Learn more at <https://asafeplaceforhelp.org>

## MORE ON MISSIONS

### *Native American Ministries Sunday, April 16th*

This Special Sunday Appeal offering helps fund *Native American ministries*, provide scholarships for Native American students pursuing the ministry, and support impactful outreach programs. It's a tangible way for us to acknowledge and honor the sacred traditions, wisdom, and leadership of Indigenous peoples in our church and beyond.



### *Looking Ahead, May Mission Focus: Bishop's Appeal and Midwest Distribution Collection for Annual Conference*

The 2026 Bishop's Appeal will benefit *Education for Central Conferences*, supporting two key initiatives: construction of a high school in *Tanzania*, led by NIC missionary *Rev. Young Seon Kim* (known as *Christina*), and the *Endowment for Theological Education in the Central Conferences*. *Special Bishop's Appeal* collection will be on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### *Veteran's Closet*

Thank you one and all, *Dick Paddock* delivered 381 pounds of food, household items, and clothing to *Midwest Veteran's Closet* on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. See the pictures below.



## MORE ON MISSIONS

### *Feed My Starving Children*

Sign up at church to serve on Saturday, April 18th, 11:00am-1:15pm! Jobs for sitting, standing, carrying! Turn hunger into hope! To learn more see <https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved>

Check out the pictures from February 28<sup>th</sup> below, and if you would like to plan ahead, Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, will be the next FMSC serving date.



Boxes: 161  
Meals: 34,776  
Cost: \$10,085.04  
Kids fed a daily meal for a year: 95!!



**PADS** See pictures of our March collection and lunch preparations in the May *Messenger*.

**Next Mission Meeting** will be on **May 11th**, at 10:00am in Wesley Hall.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### *United Methodist Church of Antioch Preschool*

March is always an interesting time in preschool. The weather fluctuates between 30 and 70 degrees, which allows us to play outside on some days. The children get a taste of spring and then cabin fever really sets in. We are very grateful for all of the mystery readers that have joined us the last few weeks. The children are always excited to see if they know who the mystery reader is or if it is someone new to them.



## MORE ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



March brought us many fun filled days as we set leprechaun traps and looked for gold coins. Those tricky leprechauns made a mess of our rooms and left our toilets looking a little green. April 2nd we will have fun looking for Easter eggs and hearing about the Easter story. Pictures will be included in the May *Messenger*. The teachers and I would like to thank everyone that supported our *Butterbraid/cookie dough fundraiser*. We truly appreciate all the support that you give the preschool. We have a wonderful program and your support is a large reason why we do. The preschool still has a few openings for next fall. If you or someone you know may be interested please have them contact the preschool at [umcapreschool316@gmail.com](mailto:umcapreschool316@gmail.com) or 847/395-1362.



**Kim Dodd**, Director

## MUSIC



## CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

## MARCH SERMON SERIES

### *Golden Gems (80+years old)*

Luncheon will be held on April 23rd from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Please do call in your RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan appropriately. The invitations will be mailed the week of March 23rd. If you have any questions, please call Carol at 630/399-0089.

### *Dementia Friendly Training*

Thank you to all who completed the survey. Saturdays from 10:00am to 12 noon was the winner! We will post the exact date in May when the trainer is available.

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

To our dear UMCA Church family,

Thank you all for your prayers, love, and delicious meals you shared with us during our recent hospitalizations and recoveries. We've always known how special and caring our congregation is. Having now witnessed the ministering of our Pastor Katie over multiple visits and calls to the hospital and nursing home; received multiple get well cards, calls, and acts of kindness; plus having the congregation pray for us over many Sundays, all we can say is "Thank you, dear UMCA family, for being the folks you are. We are blessed to call you sisters and brothers in Christ." With our humble thanks and praise,

Dave and Dawn Vogel



## OPPORTUNITY

Please check the flyers in Wesley Hall for information on Wednesday meals at *Maravellas*, sponsored by *Catholic Charities*. Suggested donation of \$7 per person, 60 years of age or better. Special meals for *Cinco de Mayo* and *Mother's Day* will be coming. You do need to call in your reservations (847/782-4170) the Friday before the date you want to attend.

## MARCH SERMON SERIES





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](mailto:umc.antioch@att.net)  
Website: [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org)  
Like us on Facebook:  
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Our Spring/Summer schedule will begin on Sunday, May 24. We offer one services at 9:15am. We also go live on **YouTube**. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at [umcantioch.org](http://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**