



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.”*

February, 2020  
Volume 4, Issue 2

## THE PASTOR PONDERES ... *Is the UMC Going to Split?*

The answer to the question that has been on our minds prior to General Conference a year ago and is even more so today, does not yet exist. Contrary to what has been reported on TV and in the papers, no definitive decision has yet been made. While the Traditional Plan was voted in at GC2019 as the way that UMCs are to govern themselves, and was to take effect January 1, 2020, there were too many issues left unresolved to make that a reality. A straw poll (non-binding), taken at the Northern Illinois Annual Conference in June 2019, revealed that an overwhelming majority of members agreed that implementing any part of the Traditional Plan would cause even more harm to a variety of persons and churches, not just LGBTQIA+ persons. As a result, the Bishop, the Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, and others have said that the NIC will continue to ordain persons based solely on their call, gifts, and readiness for ministry and that clergy and lay persons are asked not to bring grievances against clergy or churches who feel called to be in ministry to all persons.

A couple of weeks ago, a new document was made available to the public by a group of UMC persons representing a wide range of interests. It is called *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation*. At this point, it is only a plan, a strategy, for trying to help the church find a way through the impasse that we are facing at this point in history. This plan cannot even begin to be implemented unless it receives approval from General Conference held in May 2020.

**Bishop Sally Dyck** has written a letter and several articles concerning this plan. You may read them at [www.umcnic.org](http://www.umcnic.org). Click on *news* and Bishop Dyck’s column. This article gives some of her thoughts, as well as ideas of what this plan can or cannot do, and actions churches might take based on this plan. I have also listed opportunities for learning more about the issues below.

Last week, I received an email from someone I don’t know asking the question of whether or not our church planned to leave the denomination. I told him that, at this point, it is impossible to give anyone an

answer since no one knows exactly who or what IS the denomination. However, I also told him that it is the United Methodist Church of Antioch’s intention to continue to be in ministry with all kinds of people, offering them God’s gift of grace—acceptance, forgiveness, love, dignity, respect—by our words and by our actions. By the grace of God and the empowering of God’s Holy Spirit, we are committed to growing in faith and in the love and service of God and others. We are saddened that pain and harm is being done to anyone in the name of Jesus Christ and the Church, especially to those on the margins—LGBTQ persons, women, persons of color, children, persons with illnesses, and those in poverty. We are praying for God’s wisdom and discernment.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Char



## ROAD TO GC2020 CONVERSATIONS

Co-hosted by the *NIC Exploration Team*, *NIC General Conference Delegates*, and the *Cabinet*:

- Sunday, February 2nd, 3-5 pm at *River Forest UMC*, 7970 Lake St., River Forest
- Thursday, February 13th, 3-5 pm at *Woodridge UMC*, 2700 75th St., Woodridge
- Thursday, February 13th, 7-9 pm at Schaumburg: *Our Saviour’s*, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg
- Sunday, February 16th, 3-5 pm at *Christ UMC*, 4509 Highcrest Rd., Rockford
- Sunday, February 16th, 7-9 pm at *Sycamore UMC*, 160 Johnson Ave., Sycamore
- Saturday, March 7th, 10-noon at Dolton: *Faith UMC*, 15015 Grant St., Dolton

For registration and more information, go to [umcnic.org/calendar](http://umcnic.org/calendar) and click on the date of your choice.

## A VIEW FROM THE PEW

When I used to look out the bathroom window at the end of fall there was always a single, solitary leaf still attached to the very end of the lowest branch of a tree. It was real close to the pane. It was not the only leaf still on the tree, but the only one seen without looking beyond. The amazing thing was that it had been there for the last six or seven winters. Of course, the burnt orange leaf was not the same one greeting me every winter. Yet, a part of me wants to believe it was. I've come to admire the perseverance, defiance, refusal to follow, and the ability to offer a new way. The leaf made a statement, at least to me. After a few years, I gave it a name. I called it "Emanuel." I could hardly wait till morning this year to see if it would be there another winter. Well, this year there was no leaf, in fact, no branch. There on the ground was the broken branch. There wasn't a single leaf on its tip but a cluster of leaves. What happened? Did the other leaves finally get Emanuel's message? Did the added weight of those joining him cause the established thin branch to give way?



*Mike DeBenedetto*, Lay Servant

## WELCOME!

*Tamara Knodell* joined UMCA on Sunday, January 19th. *Tamara* and her husband, *Richard*, bring with them many gifts for ministry which they had shared with *Trinity UMC* in Lindenhurst. Their children *Katelyn* and *Kyle* are in our current Confirmation Class. We look forward to many fruitful years as we share in ministry together.



## MISSIONS

### *Epiphany Sunday*

Thank you to all who donated baby items for our *Epiphany Mission Project*, in honor of the Wise Men's gifts to Baby Jesus. We were able to donate the following to *Open Arms Mission* to help local families in need:

23 packages of diapers (795 diapers)  
24 packages of baby wipes (1,580 wipes)  
2 tubes of diaper rash cream

If you would still like to donate, please feel free to bring baby items to church any time. Especially needed are the larger sized diapers (5 and 6) and baby wipes. Please place your donations in the cabinet by the bulletin boards near the entrance to Wesley Hall. Thank you so much for your generosity!



*Carleen Wurster*, Missions Committee

## GRATITUDE

The Gratitude campaign, *A Grateful Heart*, was celebrated with our *Consecration Luncheon* on November 17th, 2019. We are thankful that so many people recognize the financial needs of our many ministries. However, we did not meet our goal and would ask that those able to do so please consider contributing additionally to our operating budget. During the recent months we have had various maintenance items that have put a severe strain on our budget. Please help if you can to cover our maintenance expenses. Our needs for our ministries are Time, Talent and Treasures. Our Church is successful because of our caring people. During this year we will keep you updated on our needs for our ministries. We know there are many organizations asking for help financially. Our many ministries mainly help our Church and Community, and with everyone's help we can continue to provide for those needs. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy 2020.

*Ken Graesser*, Gratitude Committee



## MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

On February, 23rd at 9:15 am (**one service only**), UMCA will enthusiastically welcome the *Dixie Dudes* back for an uplifting worship celebration on this last Sunday before Lent. **Again**, there will be only one worship service! What a great opportunity to bring a friend to worship and help them to experience the joy of the Lord and the warmth and friendliness of our congregation!



## KIDS!

### Confirmation 2020

It is a joy to welcome *Quentin Gueffier, Katelyn Knodell, Kyle Knodell, and Emma Monroe, and Alex Young* to Confirmation 2020. February Confirmation classes will meet on February 12th, 5:30-7:00 pm and February 26th, 5:15-6:45. Please keep our confirmands, *Pastor Char*, and *Heather Menzer*, Confirmation Assistant, in prayer.



If you are interested in helping with Confirmation, please contact *Pastor Char* ([charhpastor@att.net](mailto:charhpastor@att.net)).

### The Best Preschool Under the Sun

Our *UMCA Preschool* will hold an open house on Friday, February 7th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet the teachers and learn about the preschool. If you know of anyone interested in preschool please invite them to attend.

*Kim Dodd*, UMCA Preschool Director



## MUSIC!

### Looking Forward to Lent

Just this week as I was giving my granddaughter a piano lesson, we came across a song called *New Orleans Celebration*. I asked her if she had heard of Mardi Gras, and she looked at me quizzingly. So, seizing on a teaching moment, I launched into a brief explanation of Lent, starting with Easter, a celebration that she of course loves, and moving backward. She listened intently how I explained that many like to use the solemn time of Lent that leads up to Good Friday and Easter to be prayerful or even to give up something. Since the “giving up” could be food, the night before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, became known as “Fat Tuesday.” And then I told her about the UMCA tradition of celebrating Mardi Gras before the commencement of Lent. While I love to be part of the Mardi Gras service, I’m also looking forward to “walking to Jerusalem,” reading a Lenten meditation, and taking regular time to be quiet with God.



### Mardi Gras at UMCA

I’m happy to report that *Bill McGee* is bringing his *Dixie Dudes* to UMCA to lead our worship on February 23rd, for a **one-service Sunday** at 9:15 am. It’s the day to bust out your brightest colors, don beads and masks, and put your parade shoes on for *Oh When the Saints*. This is a great service to which to invite your neighbors, friends and family.



*Organ Melodies*—*Phil Specter* will perform on February 8th.

*Debbie Gillette*, Director of Music

## OPPORTUNITIES

*Wesley Afternoon Circle* will meet on Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the UMCA kitchen. In addition to our regular meeting, there will be refreshments and a program.

*Ann Dickson*

### *Grief Share*

The *Grief Share* ministry completed its thirteen week session on December 19th, 2019. Each session of the program consisted of a video, a work book, and a time for sharing. Three facilitators, *Judy Degand, Barbara Cantrell, and Ken Graesser* led the sessions. This program is an outreach effort. Attendees include members of various churches and communities. Membership in any church is not required.



The *Grief Share* program is a part of the *Wellness Committee*, chaired by *Carol Frazier*. It is supported by our three churches.

A new session is starting on Thursday, January 16th and will meet in the All Saints Room from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. It will meet every Thursday for thirteen weeks. If you suffered a loss or are grieving over a loss we would welcome you to attend. A person may start anytime in the program; it is not necessary to wait for the beginning of a session. You may also know someone who could benefit by attending. The next program will be led by *Judy Degand* and *Barbara Cantrell*. For more information contact *Judy* at 847/833-1529, *Barbara* at 847/804-0361 or *Ken* at 847/420-0241. With everyone's support this ministry will continue to be available.

*Ken Graesser*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The parsonage has been sold and the hunt is on for a new one.

*Sallie Stoner*



## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

### *Laity Convocation: Unpacking Racism*

Registration is open for the *2020 Laity Convocation* on February 8th at *Sycamore UMC*. This year's theme is *Unpacking Racism*. This event will focus on one of the adopted strategic goals of our Conference: "To live out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian teaching."

The day will begin with worship, followed by a Bible study led by *NIC Bishop Sally Dyck*. A panel of lay persons and clergy will help us examine the topic of racism through stories, question-and-answer sessions, and brainstorming ideas for how individuals and churches can become leaders in pursuing equity in society. The registration deadline is February 5th at noon. An optional box lunch is available for \$10 if attendees register by January 30th. Contact: <http://www.uncnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation>.

### *Elgin District Leadership Training*

Saturday, February 22nd, at *Epworth UMC*, 37W040 Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL 60124

**Cost: FREE!!!!**

*BEING STRATEGIC: LEADERSHIP DEMANDS IT!*

Workshops:

- SPRC
- Statistical Reporting
- NICUMC Property & Casualty Insurance
- Space Sharing
- Trustees 101
- Discipleship
- Racism
- Heart Math

To register:

<https://forms.gle/Q4USA5YERwB6H4JT7>



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

# Welcome

## UMCA TO WELCOME NEW PASTOR

*Bishop Sally Dyck* and the *Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet* are pleased to make the appointment of *Rev. Katie Voigt* to the UMC of Antioch effective July 1st, 2020 for the following missional reasons:

- She is very passionate about Jesus and connecting people.
- She is dedicated to the community.
- She is a strong administrator.
- She is a strong preacher.

*Pastor Katie* grew up in Portage, Wisconsin, where many of her family members still live. (Yes, she is a Packer and a Badger fan!) She graduated from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin in 2000 and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois in 2003. She has been serving churches in the Rockford and DeKalb Districts since July 2003. *Pastor Katie* is involved in the Conference, District, and community. She enjoys watching sports, running, exploring state and national parks, attending theater, cross-stitching, and photography.

We are all excited to get to know each other and to be in ministry together in the Antioch community.



## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are partnering with *Lifetouch Photography* to take photos for our new Church Directory! Sign up for available time slots will be available in Wesley Hall before and after both worship services on Sundays. The photos will be taken Tuesday, March 3rd through Saturday, March 7th. For more information, contact *Barbara Cantrell* at 847/804-0361.

# SAY CHEESE



# Lifetouch

The United Methodist Church of Antioch  
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Website: [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org)

Like us on Facebook:

United Methodist Church of Antioch

Join us on Sunday:

Worship: 8:00, 10:30 am

Church School 9:15 am

Youth Choir 8:45 am

Chancel Choir 9:15 am

*[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**