



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.”

June, 2024
Volume 8, Issue 6

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

First, I want to thank you for your understanding when I arrived home from **General Conference** with Covid. A week in quarantine was not really how I wanted to spend my first days back, but I am grateful for a congregation who understands and gave me space to heal.

Now, on to the important stuff – an update about what happened at General Conference.



While I didn’t vote or have any voice in the decisions that were made, I was in the room helping to facilitate the changes that were made – and make sure what was recorded was

accurate. Here’s some information on some of the more significant changes that were made:

-The move toward a more regional church passed. This move would make each area of the world more agile in being able to focus on ministry needs that are crucial to each context. It would mean that there are things that we, in the United States, could focus on while others could make strategic decisions for their region. This legislation passing was just a first step. This would be a constitutional change and now needs to be ratified in the annual conferences around the world. This was not the only constitutional change that will require ratification by the annual conferences. Additionally, there were changes approved to Paragraph 4, adding gender and ability to the categories we don’t discriminate over. Those votes will likely come up in 2025.



-General Conference passed legislation that would make us full Communion partners with the **Episcopal Church**. This vote will need to be affirmed by the Episcopal Church before it actually takes effect.



-The **overall budget** was reduced drastically. Most of the programmatic areas of the church had budgets reduced 40-50%. These numbers were reached by looking at the trends of apportionments being paid and the large numbers of churches who left the denomination. The base rate for apportionments was also reduced – 2.6% for 2025 and 2026. If apportionments are paid at a rate of 90% or better then the base rate will increase to 2.9%, both of which are less than the current rate of 3.29%.



-The first **Native American Bishop** presided over a session of General Conference. **Bishop David Wilson**, resident bishop of the **Great Plains Annual Conference** was elected the first Native American bishop in an historic 2022 election.



-With a 93% vote in the affirmative, The United Methodist Church eliminated the ban on clergy who are “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” that had been in place since 1972. Additionally, delegates voted that neither clergy nor churches are to be punished for holding or for not holding same sex weddings.

-The **Social Principles** were revised to delete the language that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

-**Deacons** were granted **Sacramental Privilege**. Now both Elders and Deacons are able to consecrate the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

MORE FROM PASTOR KATIE

- The gavel representing the President of the Council of Bishops was passed from **Bishop Thomas Bickerton** to **Bishop Tracy Smith Malone**. She becomes the first Black female President of the Council of Bishops. (Also, she was elected out of the **Northern Illinois Annual Conference**, so you might know United Methodists who had her as their pastor!)

If you have questions about any of this – or more – please, feel free to reach out to me. I think it is important that we continue to talk about all of these things and try to understand the changes that were made, any confusion that exists because of them, or any disagreement that you might have. Let's continue the conversation. Just let me know you want to talk!

Pastor Katie

HAVE IT YOUR WAY

A wise old man was sitting at the river bank. He saw a cat fall into the river struggling to save itself from drowning. The man decided to save the cat. He reached his hand towards the cat, but the



cat scratched him. He pulled his hand back in pain; however, a few minutes later he tried again. It scratched him again, and again he pulled back in pain. A few minutes later, he tried a third time! A man,

who was watching, yelled, "Old man, have you not learned your lesson the first or second time? Now you're trying to save the cat a third time." The wise man paid no heed to that man's scolding and kept on trying until he finally saved the cat. He went over to the man and said, "My son, it is in the cat's nature to scratch, and it is in my nature to love and have sympathy. Why do you want me to let the cat's nature overcome mine?" So, treat people according to your nature, not according to theirs, no matter what they are like and no matter how often their actions sometimes harm you and cause you pain. And pay no heed to all the voices that loudly call out to you to leave behind your good qualities merely because the other party is not deserving of your noble actions. So never regret the moments you gave happiness to someone, even if that person did not deserve it. That's why God treats us according to God's nature. Where would we be if God were to treat us as per our nature.

Mike DeBenedetto

MISSIONS

Thank you for your support for the **Bishop's Appeal, Midwest Distribution's "Fill the Truck" Collection**, and for the **Peace with Justice Special Sunday Appeal**. It's early to report monetary totals and include pictures of the Midwest collection. We'll get those in next month's **Messenger**. The pictures included this month show the large Personal Hygiene/Paper Products collection that was delivered to **Open Arms Mission**, this was our April focus.



Our **Resale Table** needs some restocking. If you have some decorations/collections that you would like to donate, please contact **Carol Cichon-ski**.

Mission Links: Global Advance - Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti (#418520):

To become a Mission Links 100% supporter, apportionments (conference and general church) need to be paid 100% and at least one project (Advance) in each of the giving areas need to be supported. The **Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance)** is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving. Each year the **Missions Committee** selects an Advance to support in six areas of giving. Monies collected from the **Cookie Walk, Resale Table** and the **loose coins** dropped in the collection plate are divided among these six areas to fulfill our Mission Links Support. The six areas are: **Global Advance, Missionary Support, UMCOR, US-Based Advances, Northern Illinois Conference Projects, NIC District Projects.**

Our Global Advance - Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti Care for and create hope for children and families suffering from TB, HIV/AIDS, chronic illness is the focus of **Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince**. The goal of this project is to provide hospital and out-patient care for children and families with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and respiratory infections and follow up with clinical healthcare for patients discharged from Grace Children's Hospital and their families. Long-term, the project hopes to expand its reach to more families and to educate the community about healthcare and nutrition.



MORE ON MISSIONS

Learn more at *International Child Care* @ internationalchildcare.org thao@internationalchildcare.org

Next Mission Focus: *Veteran's Collection* - July
Next Mission Meeting: Monday, July 8th, 10:00 am

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH MISSION

News from "Joy in the Harvest," Lowell & Claudia Wertz, missionaries

Their plan is to come to the USA during July of this year! They will get the camping trailer ready to begin visits to churches in Illinois during August. In September they plan to start in Michigan, travel to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In December they will visit Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Then in February through May they will be in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Carolina, Virginia and to see anyone else they missed or whoever wants to meet with them. During June, 2025, they will pack and close up the camper to return to Tanzania, Lord willing.

If any church or group wants them to visit, please email *Claudia* at wertz@joyintheharvest.com. They will be making a special effort to visit as many individual supporters as possible.

Rebecca Reckamp

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The next meeting of *United Women In Faith of the United Methodist Church of Antioch* will be on Wednesday, September 4th, in Wesley Hall at 11:45 am. (Bring your own lunch.) The meeting will begin at 12:15 pm. Have a blessed and wonderful summer!



UMCA PRESCHOOL

Registration for the fall is underway. Anyone interested can reach *Kim* at Umcapre-school316@gmail.com or 847/395-1362. Registration forms are available on the church's website umcantioch.org. All you need to do is go to the menu and click on the link to the preschool.

Kim Dodd, Director



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

June 2nd will be a wonderful day to usher in summer. The *Chancel Choir* has been preparing a beautiful, inspiring cantata that will walk us through the Lord's Prayer in a deeper, more meaningful way. The choir will perform *Our Father: A Journey Through the Lord's Prayer* during the 9:15 June 2nd service before taking a well-deserved summer break. Choir practices will resume on September 8th. A big thank-you to *Nicole Heyl* for her fun, motivating, and musical leadership of our choir.



Also a big thank-you to the hard working *Handbell Choir* in our inaugural year. This multi-age group has grown in friendships, faith, and ministry as well as musical skill. I can't overstate their dedication and amazing learning curve. Handbell Choir practices for the full group will resume on September 15th.



Look to see some smaller handbell groups share in summer worship as well as soloists from the choir and instrumentalists. We are truly blessed at UMCA with an abundance of musical talent.

Debbi Gillette, Director of Music

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

We held our first Golden Gems luncheon for the year on May 16th. Thirty-two golden gems had a fun afternoon feasting on a brunch menu of fruit salad, mini-frittatas, cinnamon-raisin French toast, cheesy potatoes, and mini-muffins. **Daniel Holmes** shared his beautiful music with us and the pre-school kiddos! Good food, lively conversation, and cheerful music are a a great combination. None of this would be possible without the dedicated help of our wonderful team members! If you were unable to join us, we hope to see you this summer at our picnic lunch.



CWM will be holding a CPR certification class on Saturday, June 15th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Wesley Hall is being taken over that day by the **Antioch Chamber of Commerce Wizarding Weekend** as are most of the other public buildings. Our class will be held at the **Lake Villa District Library** (just down the road) at. 140 N. Munn St., Lindenhurst.



MORE ON CWM

The cost is \$50 for UMCA members. Upon completion of the course, you will receive a certificate from the **American Heart Association** which lasts for two years. You will learn **Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation** as well as correct use of the **AED** (automated external defibrillator), basic first aid and the use of **Narcan** for accidental drug overdoses. You will be helping those in need at our church and community. We never know when an emergency will happen. Be prepared to save a life!

Please call Carol if you have any questions at 630/399-0089.

Carol Frazier, RN

GUEST PREACHER



Rev. Scott McClellan



“ May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means walking with honesty and courage and walking with love, respect, and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer—every day and in every situation. Talking with God means praying words of praise for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times, asking God’s help in all your decisions, and expressing sorrow when you have failed. May you walk and talk with God every day. Amen.”

UNKNOWN

In the Gardens

We have made some changes this season in order to practice gardening ‘smarter not harder’:

- First, **Trustees** approved hiring the pruning done all at once early in the season, except for a few spring flowering shrubs. This promotes optimal plant health throughout the growing season.
- Trustees also approved the mulching of the **Memorial Garden** – a big area. Mulch conserves water, hinders weed growth, and improves the soil as it decomposes.

The **Pollinator Pocket** is now registered with the **University of Illinois Extension**, which encourages the planting of native plants for our pollinators – bees, butterflies and moths, hummingbirds, and other insects. They prefer native plants over others because they evolved together and provide their favorite food and overwintering places. Pollinators are responsible for a large percentage of our food, so we want to support them.

I want to thank **Jane** and **Wayne Buck**, **Carol** and **Walt Cichonski**, **Nancy Colby**, **Jim Menzer**, and **Vicky Walker** for their help in the gardens so far this season. You’re welcome to join us the third Saturday of each month to help keep our gardens healthy and attractive. Those dates are June 14th, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, and October 18th at 9:00 am. Any help is appreciated, and no experience is necessary.

Heidi Gilday



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United Methodist Church of Antioch

On May 26th we will begin our summer worship schedule. There will be one combined service at 9:15 am. We also go live on **YouTube**. 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**