



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.”

March, 2021
Volume 5, Issue 3

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

Wow. March brings us one full year of pandemic living. I remember the weekend well because I actually came to Antioch to visit! I was excited about seeing *Forever Plaid* and *Pastor Char, Glen* and some *SPRC* members and their spouses and I went to dinner before. Except...I called Pastor Char before I left Erie to ask if everything was still happening.

The conversation over dinner was about the church and Antioch, but also about this virus that was starting to take over the country and we weren’t really sure what we should do about it. We weren’t sure if we should have worship. We weren’t sure if the musical should still be happening. We weren’t sure if the virus had made it to our communities. There was so much we didn’t know and so much we were still learning. Dinner was wonderful, the conversation was great, the performance was fabulous – and all in all probably one of the last “normal” things I did in 2020.

As it turned out worship was cancelled in Antioch to allow the musical to finish its run, and that was the last week I led in person worship in Erie. You started your virtual services the next week. We will surpass the year marker of church in a new way because of a pandemic this month. How does that make you feel? Are you anxious? Tired? Are you relieved that you can go to worship in your PJs?

And all this is happening during *Lent*, a season of reflection and repentance, a season of choosing sacrifice and communal good over self. It sort of feels like we’ve been living in Lent for the last year, doesn’t it?! In the season of Lent we are reminded that in our weakness and vulnerability God draws near to us and God’s power is magnified. Where have you seen God active and present in your life in the last year? Where have you seen God active and present in the larger story in the last year? Where have you found God’s healing presence in your life or in the lives of your friends or neighbors?



We have not been abandoned in this season, even if we are tired or lonely or if we have lost loved ones. God comes alongside us to bring comfort, hope, peace, and new life. Sometimes we are so out of practice looking for this evidence that we just need to start looking again for God’s activity in the world.

The end of our Lenten journey draws us nearer to Jerusalem and the cross. We inch ever closer each week and as we draw nearer to the cross, we are invited to draw nearer to Jesus. We are invited to celebrate as he enters Jerusalem, we are invited to share a meal with him in which he shares his very self, we are invited to follow Jesus into the garden and to stay away while he prays, we are invited to be there when he surrenders himself to the Roman guard, we are invited to stand with the Marys and John while those hours agonize on and he thirsts and he invites the thief hanging next to him into a place in the heavenly kingdom, and we are invited to feel all our feelings as they lay him to rest. Mourning and confusion are honest and real and we can feel them in the context of Lent and Holy Week. Please join as we continue to see how Jesus heals us and our whole lives.



- March 7th 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 *Healing Our Know-It-All Syndrome*
- March 14th Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-21 *Healing Our Lack of Trust, UMCOR Sunday*
- March 21st John 12:20-33 *Healing Our Death*
- March 28th Mark 11:1-11 & Mark 15:1-27 *Healing Too Early, Palm/Passion Sunday*

TIME WILL TELL...

I heard a comment from *Lionel Richie* that he made it to a contestant on *American Idol* last month. His remark was, "When you step into the past, you stumble in the future." Those may not be his exact words, but the sentiment is the same. Initially, the words seemed true enough. We've heard all the sayings about living in the past, live in the moment, or plan ahead for something better in the future. Of all the dimensions in which human life exists, time might be the most difficult to fully comprehend. And so, we often ignore the past, deny the present, and try to manipulate the future. To ignore the past is to forget who we are. To deny the opportunities of these present times is not to care. To try to live the perfect future we've laid out for ourselves is to miss the wonderful "unforeseens" that make life worthwhile. There has been a huge emphasis on time during this pandemic and the quarantines. Each of us has had to deal with "time" in our own fashion. Mostly, the "time" that matters is not in our control. *He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority,"* Acts 1:7



Mike DeBenedetto

CHURCH BUSINESS

Annual Budget 2021

The Church Council approved a budget for the current year projecting revenue of \$257,665 and expenses of a similar amount. No magic here...we are again using the **Payroll Protection Program** by borrowing through the bank with the expectation of forgiveness.



Air Purification

On February 10th *Althoff Industries* installed four air purification systems in the Church furnaces. The *Trustees* want to thank everyone who has made donations to help pay for the system. We negotiated a six week payment schedule with Althoff during which we can raise the funds. As of this writing we have collected \$5,580 of the \$6,516 needed.



Early Spring Cleaning

Jim Menzer initiated an early spring cleaning of the furnaces air ducts. Of a number of bids,

CHURCH BUSINESS, continued

Early Spring Cleaning, continued

that of *Environmental Chimney Builders* was chosen. The job was done on Wednesday, February 17th. The biggest problem faced was reaching the vents in the Sanctuary ceiling. *Mike DeBenedetto* contacted a business associate, *United Canvas*, who supplied a 15 foot, A-frame ladder.



Thanks, *Mike* and *Jim*.

Jerry Topcik, Finance Chair

MISSIONS

Mission Committee to Meet

The Missions Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm. We have decided that our future meetings will be held on Tuesdays in the afternoon.

Becky Reckamp, Missions Chair

UMCOR

There will be an *UMCOR Sunday collection* in March, and UMCOR donation envelopes will be available at the church office. One hundred percent of UMCOR donations are sent to the cause that is designated, while the UMCOR Sunday collection goes to support the administration costs of UMCOR. By taking this separate collection, when something catastrophic happens, 100% of the donations that do come in at that time are directed to that cause.

Becky Reckamp,
Missions Chair



PADS

Let's focus on high protein foods for this coming month's collection, which will be announced on Sunday, March 21st, and March 28th will be our collection target. See below for some suggestions. Please remember, pop tops and nothing that needs refrigeration .

- Oatmeal
- Peanut butter
- Protein bars
- Tuna Fish
- Nuts
- Gift cards for *McDonalds*, *Burger King*, *Wendy's*, etc.



Please call the church office at 847/395-1259 or call/email Carol Cichonski at 847/265-1214/ccichonksi@comcast.net with requests for donation pick-ups, if you are not able to bring your donation to the church.

Carol Cichonski

MORE ON MISSIONS

Letter from PADS



Dear Carol,

It's hard to believe that we have been battling the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. Thanks to committed partners like you, we have been able to continue to provide shelter and other life-saving services to individuals & families experiencing a housing crisis during the outbreak. This has meant changing some of the basic operations of our shelter and other programs while still striving to maintain the same level of service as we have in the past. Much of this is an overview of what has been happening over the past few months, but I wanted to update you again about the current state of some of our key programs.

- Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to convert our rotating overnight shelters to a 24/7 interim housing model through partnerships with three local hotels. This has allowed us to provide stable, individual accommodations for individuals and families to stay safe as they work to find permanent housing. This shelter model also includes:



- o Food boxes and at least 2 meals/day prepared by volunteers—mostly from our friends at CAP and our amazing network of over 15 community congregations;

- o Partnership with a Case Manager in order to create and execute a personalized housing plan; and

- o Connections to other partner agencies in order to provide the best possible resources to support clients as they work to overcome barriers to housing.



- Structured programming, including intake and personalized assessment, holistic wrap-around services, case management, assessments for employment and/or entitlement benefit support, connections to healthcare and health providers, PPE distribution, access to basic needs, and more.

- Preventing homelessness remains a top priority both in our intake process and throughout the agency. Prevention & diversion has become a key part of our COVID-19 response, as we see more individuals and families at risk of losing their current housing as the economic impact of the pandemic continues to unfold. All staff are trained to make every effort to keep people out of the shelter system and in safe housing options (staying with friends or family, advocating with landlords, etc.) while continuing to work with our team to secure more permanent solutions.

Letter from PADS, continued

Our programs and services will continue to change and grow in response to the pandemic and beyond. Currently, **PADS is housing over 200 individuals in hotels across Lake County. This is an over 200% increase in the number of individuals seeking shelter compared to the same time last year.** We are grateful to our many supporters—including government, private foundations, civic groups, and individuals' donors—for providing the support to enable us to provide individual shelter and expanded services during this unprecedented time.



Whether you have made a contribution, packed a lunch, held a supply drive, or simply shared something on your social media pages—we are so grateful to you. You are the only reason we have been able to expand our services to meet the needs of the moment.



Thank you for sticking with us. For your partnership, patience, and understanding as we continue to navigate this new normal.

Thank you and be well!

Meghan Powell-Filler
Executive Director

Rainbow Covenant

The Missions Committee was able to donate \$333. to each of the organizations (six) in the **Rainbow Covenant** bands that were chosen for 2020. **UMCOR** was given \$638 because of the special Sunday donation taken to support them, and we gave \$10 to **Kids Above All** since the congregation donated Christmas gifts for the children. Thank you everyone that made various donations, especially to the non-bake cookie sale and the **Christmas Dog Treat Sale**.



GRIEF SHARE

A new session of GriefShare will be starting on Thursday, April 1st for 13 weeks, 12:30 – 1:30 pm and will meet via **Zoom**. If you or someone you know are grieving a loss, we would welcome you to attend. The program will be led by **Barbara Cantrell** (847/804-0361) and **Ken Graesser** (847/420-0241).

Ken Graesser



MORE ON MISSIONS

Open Arms

The following was a post on **Facebook**:



Eric McCool
30m · 🌐

Sharing wisdom from a food bank volunteer:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. But it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Bonus: CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.

UPDATE ON ALEX!

Thank you to our UMCA family for the prayers, cards, meals, check-ins, **Youth Group** yard signs, and all of the love and support you've provided our family, especially over the past several months. We are grateful that we had so many of you we could rely upon when it was needed. We are thrilled that **Alex** is now free of cancer and can get back to being a normal teenager.



**The Young Family
Dan, Liz, Alex, and Jake**



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ELGIN DISTRICT EVENT

We will be having an online **Spring Spiritual Renewal** event on Saturday March 20th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm via **Zoom**. Our theme is "**Light My Path,**" based on Psalm 119:105. Please join us for a peaceful, uplifting morning, reflecting on God's Light, our path, and lighting the way with and for others. Our event will include time for reflection and for communion.



Our guest speaker that day will be **Reverend Brittany Isaac, Chicago Northwestern District Superintendent**.

The event cost is \$5. Registration and payment may be done using **Cheddar Up** online (preferred) through Wednesday March 17th (<https://spring-spiritual-renewal-3-20.cheddarup.com/>), or by mail using the registration form attached below (mail by March 10th to allow for delivery). An offering will be collected for **United Methodist Women Mission Giving**.

We know that some members are experiencing financial difficulties because of the pandemic and the economic downturn. If you need assistance, please contact our registrar **Cindy Ewert** at 815/355-3904. We want everyone who wishes to attend to join us on the path.

All are welcome!

**DON'T FORGET TO *SPRING* YOUR
CLOCKS *AHEAD* ON MARCH 14th!!!**

A Thank You from Kids Above All



January 22, 2021

Rev. Katie Voight, Antioch UMC
845 Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002

Dear Rev. Katie and the congregation,

On behalf of the children and families in our care, I want to thank you for your gifts valued at \$1500.00 to support the Kids Above All Holiday Gift Drive. Carolyn's coordination has been a blessing especially during a difficult holiday season. Happy New Year!

All donations and gifts help to make our kids' holidays fun and memorable. Your kind outreach helped our young people experience the joy and love of the holidays, so they can achieve their full potential.

Kids Above All is grateful to our community of supporters, like you, for their tremendous kindness and unwavering commitment to our mission. In 2021, we look forward to another year of events that will build better lives for the children and families in our care and hope you will continue to support our kids!

If you have any questions regarding the use of your gift or our services, please contact Zulma Colon, Vice President of Resource Development, at (773) 867-7361 or zcolon@kidsaboveall.org.

Best wishes,

Dan Kotowski
President & CEO
Kids Above All

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Email: info@kidsaboveall.org
Website: www.kidsaboveall.org



WESLEY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Wesley Afternoon Circle will meet at 2:00 pm on Thursday, March 18th in Wesley Hall at our United Methodist Church. Please bring your favorite prayer to share with the group.

UMW ELGIN, continued

Prepare for the Day:

- Register for the event. You'll receive the **Zoom** link, ID, password, and phone-in information after you register. Save this information; you'll need it on Saturday March 20th to join the Zoom event.
- Have communion elements handy: juice, bread
- Create a personal worship space using things that brings you peace (ideas: a candle or lamp, a bible, a cross, a plant, stones, string)



If you have questions about the event, please contact **Bonnie Lill**, 847/987-2541. If you have questions about registration or payment, please contact **Cindy Ewert**, 815/355-3904. Questions about this email should be directed to me: allison.anderson.1804@gmail.com, home 847/870-7053, cell /text 847/525-7518.

Allison Anderson

Elgin District United Methodist Women Communications

COMING BACK SLOWLY



CHRISTIAN WELLNESS

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The current focus at **LCHD** are seniors over 65 years of age who may not have computer access. A **Senior Call Center** (847/377-8130, select option 1) is now open to help them get registered into **AllVAX**. If you are the son or daughter of a senior, please talk with them to confirm that they want the vaccine and then register them on **AllVAX**. AllVax is the place holder for all who register; it is linked to all **PODS** (points of distribution) for scheduling and recording doses received. Please click **YES** to the question about **sharing your data** as this permits AllVax to share your info with the additional vaccination sites (PODS). The webpage to register is www.AllVax@lakecountyil.gov. Try to be patient; nothing is going to change right away. Vaccine supplies will be increasing soon.

If you choose not to wait for the notification from AllVAX, these may help:

- **Walgreens** gets the biggest number of doses in Lake County, but you need to be registered on their webpage before attempting to schedule a dose, so you might want to do that now. www.walgreens.com/.
- **Cancer Treatment Center** in Zion recently was added as a POD. <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/COVID-Vaccination@ctca-hope.com/bookings/>.
- The **YWCA** in Gurnee is a POD, Call (847/406-5695 for an appointment.
- There are several web search sites that have been helpful. Try ILvaccine.org, coronavirus.illinois.gov (go to vaccination locations). **Facebook** groups: **Chicago Vaccine Hunter** or **Midwest Vaccine Hunter**.
- Hospitals such as **Advocate**, **Northwestern Medicine**, etc, — You must be a patient and have an account on **My Chart**. You will receive an email with a code to access their scheduling portal.

Catholic Charities Presentation

- Tuesday, March 2nd 2:00 pm – **Avoiding Tragedy: Navigating Senior Healthcare Resources Before a Crisis Occurs** — This presentation is designed to help the caregiver, or senior themselves, understand what senior healthcare resources are available, how to best use them and how to identify when it is time to seek help.
- Wednesday, March 3rd, 10:00 am – **Investing & Retirement** — **Alan Friedlander** from **Financial Services** will present on how investing comes up, especially during tax season, and retirement.

Call **Kari Pohar**, 847/740-6708, for details.

Carol Frazier, RN, Christian Wellness

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Like us on Facebook:
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us online for worship. Link provided
at www.umcantioch.org or on Facebook

[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**