

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.”

May, 2024
Volume 8, Issue 5

SPRING CLEANING

We’re either done with our spring cleaning by now or are in the process. I was taking a break from cleaning our kitchen windows and came across this gem. Its moral is nothing new, but the timing of this coming to my attention was amazing.

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. While eating breakfast the next morning, the young woman noticed her neighbor hanging her wash outside. “That laundry isn’t very clean,” she said. “She doesn’t know how to wash.



Perhaps she needs better soap.” Her husband looked on, but said nothing. Every time the woman hung her wash to dry, the young woman would repeat her comments. About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash being hung to dry and said to her husband, “Look, she finally learned how to launder correctly. I wonder who clued her in.” The husband said, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”



And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the windows through which we are watching. Yes, I did go back and check our windows!

Mike DeBenedetto

MISSIONS

So much to talk about this month! Hope you’re sitting in a cozy chair with your feet up.

ThankYous

The **PADS** collection held in March included microwavable meals, hand-made hats, comfy adult clothes, and gift cards.

MORE ON MISSIONS

See the picture of our delivery.



Next month you will see a picture of our **Open Arms** collection of personal items. This collection isn’t finished yet, but we have emptied the donation cart multiple times already. Each of these organizations is always so thankful that we think about, deliver to, and pray for their missions.

Annual Conference Collection

In May, we will focus on the two appeals that come out of the **Northern Illinois Annual Conference** held in June. Our lay members to annual conference, **Carol Dunn** and **Robin Kessel** will take with them a monetary donation for **United Voices for Children** (Bishop’s Appeal) and the items we collect “**To Fill The Truck**” for **Midwest Mission Distribution Center**.

www.midwestmission.org



United Voices for Children

This is a coalition of congregations, agencies, groups, and individuals in the **Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church** that speaks and acts on behalf of children, youth, and families in need. The coalition includes **Kids Above All** (www.kidsaboveall.org) **Rosecrance** (www.rosecrance.org), and **MYSI** (www.myschicago.org).

MORE ON MISSIONS

Midwest Mission

This agency sends tangible resources to make an intangible difference in lives through hope and empowerment. Look for the donation box in May and fill it with any of the items listed below. Midwest Mission has bulk supply wish lists at: **Dollar Days**, **Walmart** (scroll to the shopping list section for instructions), and **Amazon** (scroll to the shopping list section for instructions).



- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54-80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42-64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid
- Hand Towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (no multipack)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz. (stick, roll on, or pump)
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags



Peace with Justice

Special Sunday Appeal, May 26th: An offering will be taken on this Special Sunday, May 26th, to support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified **Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities**. Last year, UMC generosity delivered **\$144 thousand** to strengthen and foster just, equitable and durable solutions for peaceful efforts worldwide by:

- restoring communities and responding to the disproportionate effect of injustices on racial and ethnic persons;
- helping end conflicts and violent aggression around the world and promote just national and international policies and actions; and
- supporting policies that promote systemic economic justice, the self-development of people and so much more.



May Missions Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 13th at 10:00 am.

Carol Cichonski

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH MISSION

Joy in the Harvest

Here is a ministry overview:

Radio Joy is located in two locations and on the air 24/7.

They have over 7,000 graduates in their computer school.

They have helped churches with new construction, weekly youth meetings, weekly widows' meetings for 1,000 widows.

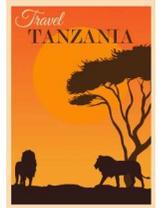
They have helped with a destitute camp and handicap care.

They have a feeding center for hungry children and elderly citizens three days a week.

They have a prison ministry in five prisons, life-saving help for people in crisis, guest house ministry, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

They are sponsoring Bible studies, teaching pastors, ministry to refugees, housing for the poor, 70 staff jobs, and have constructed a **New Apprenticeship Training Building**.

They are quite busy in their mission in Africa.



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, May 1st at 11:45 am. Please bring your own lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. The business meeting will begin at 12:15 pm. As a part of the meeting, one of the members will present an informative program. Come join us for devotions and fellowship! For more information, call **Leta Sathoff** at 847/395-3066.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday School

The last day of Sunday School/ Youth before we break for summer will be Sunday, May 19th.



UMCA Preschool

April was a quiet month for the preschool. The weather kept us inside on many of the days. We did find time to have our second fire drill of the year. The weather cooperated so that we did not have to run outside in the rain. The fire inspector was impressed with how quick the teachers were able to get the children out of the building.



MORE ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

UMCA Preschool, continued

May 30th will be our last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year. We will end our day at noon, but not before having our annual year end family picnic. On May 29th we will celebrate the children who will be going on to kindergarten. Many of the children going to kindergarten have been with us since they were two years old. We will miss these children and their families, but we are excited to see how well they do in school.



This summer there will be some construction being done in an area near one of the preschool classrooms, for this reason the decision was made to cancel summer camp. The teachers will be spending the week of June 3rd clearing out the storage area and some of the classroom in order for the construction to begin. The teachers and I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of the preschool. We hope that you have a wonderful summer and we will see next fall.



Kim Dodd, Director UMCA Preschool

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Handbell Choir will be playing on May 12th for both services. Rehearsals in May will be on Sunday, May 5th at 11:45 in the Music Room and in the Sanctuary on Saturday, May 11th at 9:30. We will be performing an energetic arrangement of the South African hymn, *Siyahamba*.



This summer a few handbell quartets will be forming to practice for some summer special music. As always, new ringers are always welcome!

Debbie Gillette, Director of Music

MORE ON MUSIC

The *UMCA Choir* has had a wonderful musical season. We have been blessed to have added voices to each of our sections and to have had the opportunity to perform a vast variety of styles in our musical offerings. Before the pandemic, the choir was working on a cantata, which has been on our wish list to perform for our UMCA family. I am excited to announce that we will finally be presenting *Pepper Choplin's Our Father, A Journey Through the Lord's Prayer* at the 9:15 am service on June 2nd. The cantata explores the words that Jesus taught us to pray. It offers an opportunity to reflect on these powerful words and experience these words through narration and original music. We hope our presentation will give all who attend a creative worship experience and give them a deeper understanding of God's love. The choir will be meeting for several Saturday special cantata rehearsals. If anyone is interested in performing this special work, you are welcome to join us. The rehearsals will be on May 4th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am and May 12th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. A dress rehearsal will be held on June 1st from 10:30-11:30 am followed by a special celebration afterwards. If you have any questions, please contact *Debbie Gillette* or me.



Nicole Heyl, Choir Director



CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

The *Christian Wellness Ministry (CWM)* will be hosting our first *Golden Gems* luncheon of the year on Thursday, May 16th. This sit-down luncheon prepared by our UMCA team is for those who are at least 80 years of age. The invitations have been mailed; if you don't receive one, please let *Carol Frazier* know! Like everyone, we're trying to make due with the expenses, but if you are able to help a bit, please write "GG" on the collection envelope. Also, if anyone would like to contribute a dessert and/or is able to help serve/clean up please see the sign up sheet in Wesley Hall. We appreciate all help so much! Thank you.



CWM is also hosting a *CPR and First Aid Class* on June 15th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you or anyone you know is interested in obtaining this life preserving skill, please consider signing up for this class. We need a minimum of ten people to take the class. The cost is \$50 per person which is payable the morning of the class in cash or check. We will also be receiving information on the use of Narcan for drug overdoses which are so prevalent in Lake County. There is a sign up sheet in Wesley Hall. Please consider helping your church and community by being ready for an emergency. Be ready. Be there for each other. Seconds save lives. If you have any questions or comments about either of these events, please call Carol at 630-399-0089.



Questions?, please call Carol at 630-399-0089

OUR GUEST PREACHERS



PREK AUCTION WINNER!



MORE ON UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN



KIDS ABOVE ALL

Kids Above All (formerly ChildServ) was founded in 1894 by Lucy Rider Meyer, a physician, educator, song writer and biblical scholar. Since that time, Kids Above All has grown from an orphanage in Lake Bluff into a Methodist-affiliated child serving agency building better lives for 3,012 children and families who have experienced abuse, neglect, and homelessness in Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake counties. Services and programs focus on three important areas that impact kids:

- Early Childhood Education
- Safe, Supportive Housing
- Trauma-Informed counseling

Contact Deaconess Catherine Inserra, Manager of Faith & Community Relations at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org

MYSI

Formerly known as Methodist Youth Services, Inc., MYSI was founded in 1964 by a group of Methodist men with the initial focus of providing shelter and community resources for homeless families and youth with no or limited resources. Today, MYIS continues to embrace its mission to help those in need while promoting our Wesleyan values that uphold respect and compassion for others.

- Housing programs, case management and clinical services for youth involved with DCFS and the Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Teen Pregnancy Primary Prevention Program (TP4) in schools and churches
 - Seniors 2 Success program providing intensive advocacy case management services to seniors who reside in the City of Chicago and its bordering suburbs
 - Twice weekly Emergency Food Pantry
- Visit their website at www.myschicago.org

Rosecrance

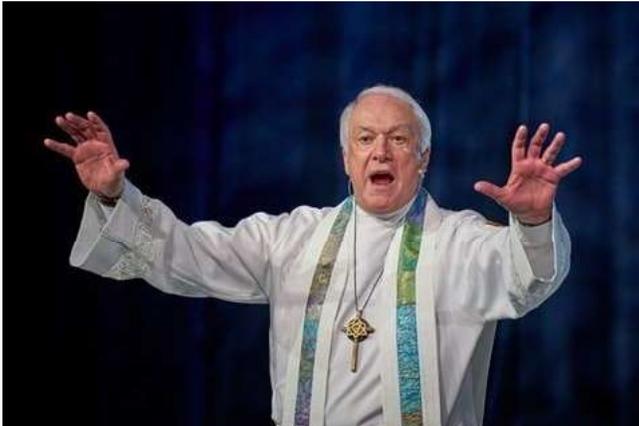
Rosecrance is a leading provider of substance use and mental health treatment programs and services to more than 16,000 for children, teens, adults and families who reside across the Northern Illinois Conference. Services include:

- Substance abuse prevention, early intervention and treatment for children, youth and adults
- Mental health treatment for children, teens and adults
- Family education and support
- Teen outpatient treatment, training and education and Parent Cafes in offices throughout Chicagoland
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FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton opened the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference on April 23 with a bold question: “Do you want to be in this room?”

He was speaking to delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. who are gathering to consider major proposals that could dramatically change the denomination.



“Are you willing to move forward in a spirit of hope and embrace a season of reformation, commit to the revitalization of The United Methodist Church and work for a culture marked by compassion, courage and companionship?” Bickerton asked.

If not, he said, “Maybe you are in the wrong place.”

After opening worship, Kim Simpson, the chair of the Commission on the General Conference, said that 751 out of the 862 allotted delegates were registered and present as of noon on opening day of the lawmaking assembly, which continues through May 3 at the Charlotte Convention Center. That total includes 273 delegates out of 370 from the central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Simpson said registrations are still ongoing.

General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The 2020 General Conference was postponed several times because of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning the last regular session of the lawmaking assembly took place eight years ago.

Since that time, more than 7,600 U.S. churches, about a quarter of the denomination’s U.S. congregations in 2019, left The United Methodist Church under a policy that expired at the end of last year.

“I think it is OK that we have had a delay,” said Bickerton, who leads the New York Episcopal Area. “We are a completely different church than we were just four years ago. A bit of dust has settled, and we can see that there is a future with hope and possibility.”

GENERAL CONFERENCE, continued

However, he warned the delegates not to go back to a narrative of “finger-pointing” that blames others for the state of the denomination.

“Do we really want to go back to a church where words like racism, sexism, restrictive, colonialism, decline and disaffiliation have literally dominated most conversations we have heard in recent years?” he asked.

Referring to past General Conferences, Bickerton reminded delegates that sometimes in the heat of the moment, “humanness steps up to the plate, bringing anger, anxiety and fear.”

PRAYER FOR SPRING

Springtime!

Your message of hope
to a world tiring of winter’s starkness,
longing for that first crocus
to push through snow’s icy blanket
and spread its leaves,
like arms outstretched,
to its creator.

Springtime!

Our yearly reminder, if we needed one,
that to a world that was dark and cold,
a world devoid of love’s sweet warmth,
you sent your Son
to break through sin’s icy blanket,
and, arms outstretched
on a cross,
he brought us
hope.
Thank you.



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United Methodist Church of Antioch

Our regular in-person worship schedule is Sunday mornings at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Beginning on May 26th we will have one combined service at 9:15 am. 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**