

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, 2026
Volume 10, Issue 5

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

Many of us have been living in some shock these last few weeks. **Pastor Char’s** passing came out of the blue and we loved her dearly. It is a true reminder that each day is a gift, and as followers of Jesus Christ, we grieve – yes, but we do it as people who have the hope that only Christ provides. Yes, we miss Pastor Char’s smile and laughter because there are actual gaps that our loved ones make. But, we also know that she was welcomed with a warm embrace in heaven. Can you imagine being able to embrace our Risen Lord and Savior – the day after we celebrated Easter? What a beautiful reunion to imagine. Pastor Char had faithfully served God in such loving and welcoming ways throughout her whole ministry. That isn’t to say that she hadn’t made mistakes – we all do – but we saw the fruit of the ministry to which Christ had called her. We continue to pray for her family, and one another, in our grief. If you need to talk, please don’t hesitate to reach out.



We spent April celebrating Easter and looking into the new vision statement that the **Council of Bishops** wrote last Fall. We’ve looked at how we are called to love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously. These are all good things. As we venture into May, we are going to continue to hang out with our United Methodist heritage and theology. On Sunday May 3rd, we will celebrate the **70th anniversary of women’s ordination** in our denomination. (May 4th is the actual anniversary, but Sunday the 3rd seemed close enough!). What a gift for our congregation to have been served by more than one talented female pastor.



The next Sunday in May, we will look at how we offer our lives to serve God. And – this is

probably the most exciting for the day – our handbells will play! You won’t want to miss this Sunday!

On May 17, we will celebrate **Miracle Sunday**. This is an invitation from our Bishops to collect an offering – every UMC around the world is invited to participate. The special offering this day will go toward theological education in the central conferences (those outside of the United States). We understand a seminary degree to be a minimum standard for our US clergy, while other parts of the world cannot afford a standard like that. We’re hoping that worldwide, we can create a scholarship fund that will provide clergy in other parts of the world an opportunity to fund additional education that will not only empower them in their service to Christ, but also empower the people they serve. Please prayerfully consider participating in the special offering on Sunday, May 17.

We will begin our summer of one service of worship on Sunday, May 24 – Memorial Day weekend, so set your calendars! That will last through Labor Day weekend in September.

- May 3 Matthew 28:1-10
Go and Tell
Holy Communion
70th Anniversary of Women’s Ordination
- May 10 Acts 17:22-31
Since We are God’s Offspring
Mother’s Day
Handbells
- May 17 Ephesians 1:15-23 I
Have Heard of Your Faith
Miracle Sunday/
Bishop’s Appeal Offering
- May 24 **Phil Georgia** preaches
Pentecost
- May 31 **Rev. Matthew Mariani** preaches

PREVENT NOT JUST PALLIATE

In a recent article published in *Sojourners* magazine I came upon a word that was unknown to me. The word was *palliative*. It's most commonly used in medical care: *to ease (symptoms) without curing the underlying cause*. While the word often refers to a terminal condition, there are emotional and relational afflictions as well. Webster's had two additional meanings: *to cover by excuses and/or apologies*, and *to moderate the intensity of*. Excuses, apologies, and mediation are afterthoughts and as such are much easier than prevention. Prevention requires forethought, or foresight. Foresight, and here's the tough part, often demands we put others before ourselves. So, from one palliator to another, here we are back to Mathew 22:39; the second part of "The Greatest Commandment," to love our neighbor.

Thank you all for prayers and concern when I was hospitalized last month,

Michael DeBenedetto

MISSIONS

MAY CALENDAR

United Methodist Student Day, May 3rd

This offering helps provide over for 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church.

Bishop's Appeal, May 17th



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 Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences*.

PADS, May 20th

PADS lunch preparation, church kitchen 11:00am. Everyone is invited but a special invitation is extended to the former *United Women of Faith* members. We'll make some extra lunches for you to share and catch up with each other. Lunches will be delivered on May 21st.

5th Sunday Appeal for United Voices for Children Midwest Distribution Collection

This will last the entire month. These items will be taken to *Annual Conference* by *Carol Dunn* and *Robin Kessell*. Look for needed items and delivery box in Wesley Hall.

MORE ON MISSIONS

Midwest Mission also has bulk supply wish lists at:

Dollar Days

Walmart (scroll to the shopping list section for instructions)

Amazon (scroll to the shopping list section for instructions)

Midwest Mission has committed to being a part of the *United Methodist Relief Supply Network*. Would you be interested in spending a few days at Midwest Distribution, building desks, making layettes, filling kits? Let *Carol Cichonski* know; we are exploring dates for this Mission Trip.

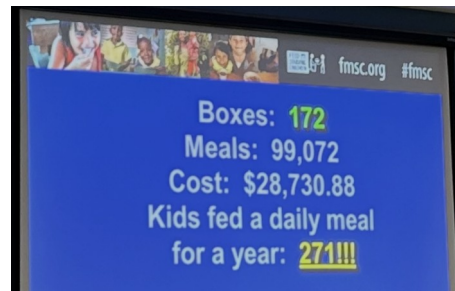
APRIL FOCUS

A Safe Place – Empower Run/Walk 5K on May 2nd, 9:00am.

Thank you all that brought donation items, volunteered to deliver, volunteered at the Empower Run/Walk and participated in the Run/Walk. We continue to share hope with everyone we touch. There will be pics in next month's newsletter. A Safe Place is the only organization in Lake County, Illinois, dedicated exclusively to supporting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Learn more at <https://asafeplaceforhelp.org>

Feed My Starving Children

The next Feed My Starving Children event will be on Saturday, June 20th, 11:30am-1:15pm! Jobs for sitting, standing, carrying!



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

MORE ON MISSIONS

PADS Prep and Housewarming



BISHOP'S APPEAL

Every year, the *Northern Illinois Conference United Methodists* raise funds for a project of the area bishop's choosing and brings the money raised to the *Annual Conference* session in June. Together, we join our resources and bring hope to the world. This year, we will raise money for one fund, to be divided equally between two education-related projects. We'll invest in the futures of young people as they discover their gifts and in equipping leaders to be wise, knowledgeable, and compassionate guides of faith communities. This year's recipients are: High School Construction in Tanzania Led by United Methodist missionary *Rev. Christina Kim*, a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Conference and the Council of Bishops' Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Central Conferences Supporting theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

Carol Dunn and *Robin Kessell* will attend the Northern Illinois Annual Conference and deliver the Bishop's Appeal donation.

EASTER

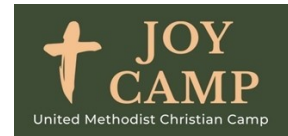


OPPORTUNITIES



Have you ever wanted to feel a bit more prepared to visit a friend from church? This is your opportunity for training, right in our own backyard! Kingswood UMC in Buffalo Grove is hosting the "Caring Congregations Workshop" led by The Caring Congregation Team of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. Rev. Debbie Dellinger is the speaker for the workshop. This seminar covers theological grounding, healthy boundaries, confidentiality, congregational care teams, partnerships with clergy, home visits, death and dying, hospice, hospital visits, and overall pastoral issues. This workshop costs \$30 and takes place at Kingswood UMC on Friday, May 8th from 1pm-7pm and Saturday, May 9th from 9am-3pm.

For more information about this workshop and to register visit: <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/caring-congregations-workshop>
To learn more about The Caring Congregation visit: <https://thecaringcongregation.com/>



Jesus, Others, and Yourself—It's almost time for JOY Camp! JOY Camp is a week-long overnight camp focused on delivering the message of God's love through fun, fellowship, nature, scripture, and worship. Enjoy lots of outdoor activities, deep dive into your faith, and develop life-long friendships. All youth from incoming 5th grade through newly-graduated high school seniors are welcome. JOY Camp 2026 is June 21-27, and located at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL. To learn more and register visit: <https://www.joycamp.org/>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Please check out the flyers for the senior meals at *Maravella's Restaurant* in Ingleside. They will be posted in the hall in the educational wing. Any questions, please talk to *Rebecca Reckamp*.



IN THE GARDEN

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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. 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**