



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.”*

November, 2020  
Volume 4, Issue 11

## FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

First, I want to thank everyone for the generous gift for **Pastor Appreciation Month**. On your behalf, the **Staff-Parish Relations Committee** was kind enough to gift me with a gift card to **Amazon** (what can’t you find there?!), and I am so grateful. It has been such a pleasure to be in Antioch and start to feel like this is my home already. Thank you for helping make my transition into your community a gracious one.

November is a time when our minds turn to Thanksgiving. Normally, that includes a turkey, pumpkin pies, sweet potatoes, and whatever family we can muster together. This year, due to COVID-19, however, we can still figure out the food, but the ‘where will the family sit’ part has gotten a bit more complicated. We’re being warned that Illinois is moving backwards with regard to our positivity rates and our hospital admissions, and our region within Illinois is no exception to this.

Still, though, we can think about things that we are thankful for and find a way to express that, even if it is different this year. I want to encourage you to find ways to share your gratitude with one another. Write a letter, email, message (something!) to someone you haven’t seen in a while, sharing why you miss them and what makes them a special part of your life. Have your children draw pictures and send them to the people in your life you appreciate as a way for your whole family to say thank you. Arrange a video chat where you can still visit and see each other’s faces. Our God has provided us with so much, even to this day, and we can find a way to be thankful. I don’t even remember when it was – it might have been last fall even! – my counselor suggested I start a gratitude list. Each day I write down a few things I’m thankful for that happened, people I ran into, whatever it is. Somedays I have a lot and the list is long. Somedays I struggle to get to three things, but I always try to have three things to be grateful for each day. Three seemed, I don’t know, Trinitarian...church nerd alert! But also, on a hard day, a challenge to get to three would help me stay focused on the good.

Out of our gratitude, we are still called to share what God gives us, even in these difficult times. I pray that



you are finding ways to share your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, just as our membership vows call us to do. Worship in the month of November will help us to focus on this discipline of sharing – what we have to share, how we can share even when it feels like we have nothing, and our ongoing need to share. I pray you will join us for worship as we learn from Jesus.



Also, the first Sunday of November we will remember those members of the church by name (and others in our hearts) who have gone before us and taught us the faith. **All Saints Sunday** each year helps us to remember the past and then call us into the future.

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of **Advent** and **United Methodist Student Sunday**. This is another one of the six special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. I pray that you will consider sharing even a small amount in addition to your regular offering to go to support scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. (See the article about this elsewhere in our newsletter.)

As we continue to watch the numbers and try to act in ways that protect all of us, please join us for worship either in-person (if that is available to us) or online. We will continue to find ways to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ no matter what.

- November 1st      **Matthew 5:1-12 *Sharing the Upside-Down World of Jesus (All Saints Sunday)***
- November 8th      **Matthew 25:1-13 *Sharing Your Preparation Skills***
- November 15th      **Matthew 25:14-30 *Sharing Your Abundance***
- November 22nd      **Matthew 25:31-46 *Sharing Your Blessings***
- November 29th      **Luke 1:5-25 *Fear Not, Zechariah!* (First Sunday of Advent)**

I look forward to seeing you in worship personally or virtually!

**Pastor Katie Voigt**

## FINANCE UPDATE

November is the month that reminds us to be grateful for everything in our lives. As a church we have to remind ourselves of all things for which our church body is grateful. We are grateful for all the ministries we are able to provide, despite the COVID challenges. Of course, we would not be able to accomplish what we do without the financial support of our congregation. You have been committed to the church obligations and have continued to support the church, even if you have not been attending Sunday services in person. Our financial position is sound, for which we should all be grateful.



*Linda Hensgen*

## THE GRATITUDE PATH

This year of 2020 has been a challenge for all of us in many ways, and it is difficult to visualize what we will be facing in the months ahead. I still get excited when we talk about *The Gratitude Path* and the many ministries we have at the Antioch United Methodist Church. Dreams of important ministries continue to grow. A big THANK YOU to all of our church family for helping during these difficult times to make our many ministries so successful. They are important to our congregation as we reach out to our community. We hope our efforts acquaint people with Jesus Christ — what an exciting thought when Christian values are lacking in many aspects of life. I hope everyone is as excited as I am and wants to support with *Time, Talents and Treasures*. You will be receiving a letter from



**God's Work  
OUR HANDS**

*Pastor Katie* and me describing the efforts for this fall, Please return your green *Gratitude Card* to the church office by November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you want to take advantage of electronic deposit, give that form to the office, as well. Thank you all for your support as we want to “Honor the Past by Building the Future.” Thank you everyone for making *The Gratitude Path* successful.

*Ken Graesser*

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our *Church Conference* is Sunday, November 22nd via *Zoom*. *SPRC* will meet at 2:30 pm and the whole church is invited to join at 3:00 pm. The link will be shared in an all church email. If you aren't receiving the email updates about worship each week, please let the office know so we can get your email added to the list before it is sent out.

## MISSIONS

### *PADS*

Thank you all for the great October collection of food and personal items that *Walt* and I will deliver the first week of November. Everything was perfect! *St. Ignatius* partnered with us as part of the *Christian Wellness Ministry*, and both churches collected lots of items in October.



In November let's focus on lunch items — fast food gift cards and travel-size personal hygiene products (mouth wash not containing alcohol). This drive will be announced on Sunday, November 15th, with November 22nd as the collection date. The hotels provide microwaves in the rooms but no refrigeration or cook tops. Please shop with those restrictions in mind. Some suggestions are listed below.

- Gift cards for fast food
- Soups with pop-top lids, ramen noodles in a bowl
- Chicken or tuna, premixed with seasonings, often in a foil pouch
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling
- Healthy snacks, baked chips, pretzels, nuts, granola bars, individually packaged raisins
- Bottled water



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

*Carol Cichonski*

### *PADS Thanks You*

On behalf of *PADS Lake County*, THANK YOU for supporting our work with your donation. Your generous giving will help us in our mission to provide trauma-informed support, resources, and shelter to individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis in Lake County. *PADS* envisions a community in which homelessness is rare.

## **PADS Thank You**, continued

Our goal is that anyone who may experience a housing crisis has timely access to the proper resources and services based on their individual need. For over 30 years, we have been helping individuals and families reach their full potential by providing a comprehensive approach to reducing homelessness. We seek to help our neighbors create sturdy foundations in stable homes so that they can build brighter futures for themselves and contribute to our community.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of a caring community. Thank you again for your thoughtful gift.

Most sincerely, **Nicole Hunt**



## **Cookie Walk**

This year because of the COVID-19 pandemic we will have to try a different approach to our **Cookie Sale** fundraiser. All proceeds from the cookie/stocking stuffer sale and the **Christmas Resale Shoppe** go to the **Rainbow Covenant** for the year. Because we can't bake this year the missions committee is asking to please consider donating what you would normally spend on ingredients making the cookies or what you would have spent buying the cookies and **Resale Shoppe** items. On December 12th from 9:00 am-12:00 noon, outside of the church (in a tent) we will have a stocking stuffer/dog treat sale. Masks and social distancing will be required. **Pastor Katie** will make announcements regarding this during church services.



Any questions please call the church office at 847/395-1259 or call **Lou Ann Holmes** at 815/675-6552.

**Christina Swanson**

## **Kids Above All**

We will be participating in **Kids Above All** (formerly **ChildServ**) for Christmas giving this year. More details will follow. Contact **Carolyn Keller** at (847)409-7346.



## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

### **Seeking families to participate in UMCA's virtual Advent services!**

Hello, Sunday School Families! We hope this finds you well...hard to believe, but **Advent** is on its way! We'd like to invite you to join us for UMCA's virtual services this coming season.



First, we'd love to send your family a special **Advent** care package. It will include supplies to make a beautiful paper **Advent** "candle" craft and a book called **It Looks a Lot Like Christmas**.

Then, we're seeking families who would like to take part in the church's **Advent services**. It's easy to do! All you'd need is to gather your family during the recording of the service (usually on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons), or take a video yourselves and send it to us — we'll work out the details. During the recording, your family can hold up that Sunday's paper **Advent candle** and read a short prayer that we'll provide. You can read the prayer together, or take turns reading a line, whatever works!

The Sundays of **Advent** this year are November 29th, December 6th, 13th, and 20th.

Please let us know by November 13th how many copies of the craft you'd like, as well as the address you'd like them sent to. Also, please let us know by November 13th if you are interested in having your family participate in an **Advent service**. Simply call/text **Elisa Gueffier** at 847/946-3410 or email [elisagueffier@gmail.com](mailto:elisagueffier@gmail.com).

## **GRIEF SHARE**

We are continuing to provide this ministry utilizing easy-to-use computer programs. As Christians, we in our congregation who are grieving can find hope in our relationship with Christ and the promise of eternity in heaven. There are many people in our community who are dealing with grief. We will be starting a new 13 week session on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We have three people already registered and have room for others. **GriefShare** is there to help, and we hope that you will refer grieving friends or neighbors to us. Contact **Barbara Cantrell** at 847/804-0361 or **Ken Graesser** at 847/420-0241.

## **ANOTHER THANK YOU**

A group of 32 **Brownies** and **Daisies** from McHenry and Wauconda wish to thank UMCA for collecting bottle caps for them. They collected over 300 pounds of plastic bottle tops to make two benches, one four feet long and the other six.

**Kelly Bays**, Troop Leader

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Ministry wears many different clothes. To name a few: there are faithful weed pullers, card writers, phone callers, food and goods donators, drivers to take folks to vote, and even the thirtysomething guy who becomes an election judge to spare a senior from possible coronavirus exposure. Let me take a moment to highlight one of the behind the scenes music volunteers who has worked faithfully to give both our in-person and virtual worship a more polished, streamlined look. Meet **Ben**. **Ben Georgia** is an **ACHS** sophomore and member of our youth group. You may have seen him on Easter or Christmas playing his trumpet or helping out with **VBS** or the children's musicals. When our church first started recording worship on **Zoom**, **Ben**, worshiping at home with his family, saw a way that he could help improve the look of the online worship. He has a passion for video editing and with his dad, **Phil**, had already enjoyed doing projects.

**Zoom** software favors speaking, although in the last several months, the software developers have improved its music capabilities. Its effectiveness is always dependent on the quality of the user's **Internet** connection. Ben's family acquired a professional editing software to work on our service. Each week **Ben** takes our raw **Zoom** recording and works his magic. **Nicole** and I record our music separately for better sound and video than the **Zoom** software will afford. **Ben** listens to the sermon, tightens up transitions between service elements to take out excess pauses, edits out our "mute" errors (when the participants forget to unmute before speaking), cuts out the **Zoom** music and replaces it with the recorded music, adds scenery pictures over the piano music, and more recently makes "Video Shorts" of music and the Scripture reading for the in-person service. This process, including the editing and waiting for video to upload and process, easily takes hours.

**Ben** is a busy high school athlete and musician with a lawn mowing business on the side. He runs cross-country, plays club volleyball, is in both band and choir, and academically a standout. While other high schoolers may treasure sleeping away a Saturday, **Ben's** day has often included mowing many customer's lawns before starting in to edit our service. A humble guy, Ben isn't looking for accolades, but he is a great reminder that behind the scenes service is what service is all about. **Bravo, Ben!**

*Debbie Gillette, Director of Music*



## BOOK DISCUSSION

**Mike DeBenedetto** is starting a small group book study on the topic of racism. The book they will be reading together is **How To Be An Antiracist** by **Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**. Please let **Mike** know you are interested in participating in this study by calling or texting his cell phone: 847/254-6767, as he will be finding a day/time for the study that works for those who are interested. Please purchase the book in whatever format is easiest for you to read.



## SPECIAL MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of the birthday cards. It was a joy reading them and thinking of them. I am well and as of now we are eating one meal a day in the dining room. We move at a snail's pace here, but no one in assisted living had the virus.

Love to all,  
**Ruth Bemis**



## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Marjorie Schneider 1923 – 2020**

**Marjorie**, a member of UMCA for her whole life, passed away on May 23rd, 2020. One of **Marjorie's** last wishes was to have a Memorial Service at her church, UMCA. Due to COVID this wish must be delayed. More information will be given when the service can be safely held. To contact **Marjorie's** daughter, **Mary Jo**, her address is 15091 Colony Court, Strongsville, OH 44136.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Good news! The church directory is back in production. *LifeTouch* closed its doors for several months due to COVID-19, but we are back in production with them. We are submitting the materials we have to them within the next week or so. They will send a proof directory for approval and will start producing the directories in a few weeks. You will be notified when the directories are ready. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these days of COVID. And thank you to *Diane Franke, Nancy Rae* and *Carleen Wurster* for your help in moving this project forward.

*Barbara Cantrell*

## EDUCATION MATTERS

*Please give generously on November 29th*

The United Methodist Church believes that every person has the right to education and that the responsibility of educating young people rests with the family, faith communities, and the government. On *United Methodist Student Day*, we have the opportunity to support scholarships and low-interest loans that help young leaders achieve their dreams.

*Morgan Murdock*, a 2018 graduate of North Carolina State University, was a *Gift of Hope* scholar. According to her, when we give on *United Methodist Student Day*, “You are reminding and encouraging students of all majors and walks of life to remain constant in their faith and to continue to uphold the great qualities that the United Methodist Church has instilled in us. The church has shown me so much unconditional love over the years in many forms, and this was a very meaningful form of that love. I was encouraged to pursue more in my community and remember the church that helped make me who I am.”



As a child who experienced being bullied, *Benjamin Carlson* found refuge in his church. As a college student, the *Gift of Hope* scholarship offset some of his college expenses and he says it “reinforced my understanding that the United Methodist Church supports [its] students.”

As a community of faith, let’s make this *United Methodist Student Day* the most successful yet. We have the opportunity to contribute to the development of young people like *Morgan* and *Benjamin*. Together, we can help propel the next generation toward success.

## CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

### *Heartfelt Loss*

*Melanie Fuhrmann*, who led *CWM Wellness Walks*, has passed away. *Melanie* had been hospitalized for over 50 days; she entered the hospital with a diagnosis of pneumonia. Unfortunately, she had a sudden heart attack on the evening of October 8th. *Melanie*, who had a Master’s Degree in Music, was a member and musical director of *St. Stephen Church*, a professional singer, a teacher, and a supporter of the community. She arranged the *Wellness Walks* announced in the *Messenger*. Donations in her name may be made to and further information may be obtained from *St. Stephen’s*.



### *November Classes*

The following presentations are offered through *Catholic Charities: Bingocize, Tai Chi, Flu & COVID-19, Thanksgiving Crafts, Virtual Book Club, Explore Africam, Isolation in a Pandemic, Legal Presentation: You’re Dead, Popcorn Worthy Movies, Writers’ Group*, and *Fireside with the Author*.

Here are the *Zoom* link and phone number for all programs. If you have any problems or would like assistance, please reach out to me at 630/399-0089. I’d be happy to help!

<https://zoom.us/j/7342152035?pwd=L25oZENFYzNrdmF4aDIKVjJxbkVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 734 215 2035

Passcode: 7c2nME

Dial in: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 734 215 2035

*Carol Frazier, RN*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**TO ALL OUR  
UMCA FAMILIES!**



The United Methodist Church of Antioch  
848 Main Street  
Antioch, IL 60002  
Office: 847/395-1259  
Pastor: Rev. Katie Voigt  
Office Email: [umc.antioch@att.net](mailto:umc.antioch@att.net)  
Website: [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org)  
Like us on Facebook:  
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us online for worship. Link provided  
at [www.umcantioch.org](http://www.umcantioch.org) or on Facebook

In person service, 9:00 am at church, reservation  
required via Sign Up Genius or call Office

*[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**