

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.”*

October, 2021  
Volume 5, Issue 10

## FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

Friends, what a joy Rally Sunday was! It was wonderful to sing with a choir again (um, how long had it been since I’d taken a good, deep choir breath?!), fabulous to hear that our children were starting to explore their faith together once again, and to fellowship over a meal together. Thank you to the **Early Adopters group** for pulling together that picnic and helping us find a way, with COVID precautions in place, to allow us to gather and eat, in as safe a way as possible. I have even heard someone say how wonderful it felt to do dishes in the kitchen because it felt “normal.” Did we ever imagine a day we’d say we’d give thanks for dish duty?!



And, we have made our first notification that someone who attended worship tested positive for the novel coronavirus. We had managed all these months navigating this pandemic without having to make that notification, and it was only just a matter of time anymore. We know that the variants are changing the way the virus is spreading and how easily it can be caught, even by vaccinated people. We are still trusting the science, though, that those vaccinations are keeping people out of the most severe of harm’s way. As scientists continue to learn more, we will continue to listen to their guidance through the fall and winter months to come.

As we enter October, we will be finishing up our worship series on discernment. I hope and pray that there has been something in this for you to think about – I know it has made me uncomfortable at times and the Holy Spirit has been convicting me about where I’m too comfortable with my own personal preferences and where I need to put others ahead of myself. In the middle of

SCIENCE



the month is **Laity Sunday**, which will feature a few lay people serving on that Sunday, but a very special preacher. This particular Sunday is always special for me. It is an important opportunity for me to be able to support our lay people who work so hard each and every week to make the ministries of the church happen, but don’t always get the visible credit on Sundays. We do ministry together, and I’m very proud of how well we work together here. As to our guest preacher on Laity Sunday, we have prayed for this young man almost continuously since I arrived at UMCA. I hope you will join us in worship to support **Alex Young** bring the word on October 17th. After that we will shift



our attention to all that we have to be thankful for and start our gratitude campaign.

I pray that you will continue to join us for worship at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. When we praise the Lord together we follow God’s command and we are changed in the process. The blessings abound!

- October 3 Acts 10:1-48  
**Discernment Series**  
**Co-Creating with the Holy Spirit**  
World Communion Sunday
- October 10 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
- October 17 **Alex Young** preaches  
Laity Sunday
- October 24 Mark 10:46-52  
**Thankful for Healing**
- October 31 Mark 12:28-34  
**Thankful for Teaching**

**Pastor Katie Voigt**

# REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the August meeting of the *Finance Committee*, the members approved a number of changes and passed resolutions required by the *Book of Discipline* which have also been approved by the *Church Council*. The biggest item was the revision

## ACCOUNTS



of the various funds tracked by the church. Funds received by the church fall into three categories: unrestricted, temporary restricted and permanently restricted. Unrestricted are the general Sunday offerings. Temporary restricted are donations for a specific project or mission of the church. Permanently restricted donations legally require establishing a separate fund and only spending funds as designated by the donor.

Over the years it had been often said we have no outside debt as we borrow internally. This has led to over 24 different fund (temporary restricted) accounts recorded, many of which the purpose was accomplished (i.e., window restoration), but had unexpended dollars carried in the account for years. In other cases, funds given had no direction as to how the donations were to be used, i.e., capital improvement. The balances in these funds were not backed up with dollars, as bills were paid to maintain other activities.



Activity in all the accounts for the last ten years was reviewed and the balances were adjusted to reflect current activity. The various accounts were whittled down to 14 accounts reflecting current activities of the congregation, in addition to the *General Operating Account*.

In addition, some procedural changes were made. Offerings marked *capital improvement* or *building*, unless designated for an approved project shall be recorded in the *operating account*.

The *“Special Projects Fund”* will continue to be used for approved large projects that may require funding over a period of time. Each project shall remain open for at least six months after its completion. At that time any funds left will be transferred to the general operating account.

It was suggested and accepted that special wording be placed in the weekly bulletin explaining the church’s philosophy on offerings and special donations. The exact wording has yet to be determined.

## List of Current Activity Funds

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Backpack Program       | Special Projects Fund |
| Christian Wellness     | Telecare              |
| Good Shepherd Missions | Theater Ministry      |
| Mission Fund           | UNCAP                 |
| Organ Maintenance      | Youth Group accounts  |
| PADS Luncheons         | Youth Missions        |
| Prayer Card Ministry   | Memorial Fund         |

*Jerry Topcik*



## ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARD

The *UMCA Trustees* have elected to replace the old message board, which is in need of some costly repairs. The old board has also proven very difficult and time consuming to change, particularly in bad weather. Over the years, the board went unchanged many times due to its limitations. The old manual board will be replaced by a two-sided, *electronic message board (EMB)* by *North Shore Sign Co.* at a total cost of \$21,700.

The Trustees have selected a relatively inexpensive EMB model that will enable church personnel to change messages as frequently as desired from inside the church. The new EMB will allow better communication with the public and our church members regarding programs and activities provided by UMCA. Our track record in communicating using the old board was inadequate.



We are asking everyone to support the EMB as your financial ability permits. Please, clearly mark any donations given for the new board *EMB*. We are hoping to have it operational by Thanksgiving!

If you have any questions about the EMB, or the need for it, feel free to speak with any trustee.

## DID YOU KNOW.....

There are several ways to pay your contributions to the church.

- You can bring your contribution each Sunday.
- You can mail your contribution any time.
- You can have your contribution taken right out of your checking account by signing up for *EFT (Electronic Fees Transfer)*. Contact *TeKeesha* in the office for the paperwork for this option.
- You can pay by credit card also through EFT with TeKeesha in the office. We get charged a percentage for using the credit card so you can add a few extra dollars to help offset the charges, if you wish.

**NOW YOU KNOW!!!**

*Robin Kessell*



*umca memo*  
Seventeenth Su  
Septeml  
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**PRELUDE** Holy Spirit  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Today	Worship, 8am Sunday Schoc
Tues, Sept. 21	UMCAP, 9-2j
Wed, Sept. 22	Nominations   Wesley Hall
Thurs, Sept.23	UMCAP, 9-2j
Sunday, Sept. 26	Worship, 8am Sunday Schoc

*~Please note, one of the worship service the internet. It is usually the 10:30am se.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## MISSIONS

### *Housewarming Project*

Thank you all for your amazing generosity for the Housewarming Project. I am sure there will be multiple trips to deliver everything we have and continue to collect.

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

*Carol Cichonski*



### *PADS*

**Lunches**—Sadly, again the pandemic is affecting PADS site reopenings. There will only be one site open per night during the winter and that will house fewer clients than in the past. **St. Mark Lutheran**, our normal lunch site, will not open this season. The majority of the PADS clients will continue to be housed in hotels. The decision to change the reopening plans this close to the start of the winter season (October 1st) has many details yet to be finalized. We are waiting for more details to determine how best to help PADS with lunch or food needs. We will take the month of October off, and most likely go back to food drives in November.



*Carol Cichonski*

### *Resale Tables*

The **Missions Committee** would like to thank you for your donations to the Church Resale Tables. We would also like to thank those of you who have shopped at our tables.

If you are dropping off donations, we would like them to be taken to the Sunday School hallway and placed outside the choir room. If possible, could you send me email to let me know; it would be greatly appreciated, [judydegand@gmail.com](mailto:judydegand@gmail.com).

*Judy Degand*

## MORE ON MISSIONS

### *CROP Walk 2021*

This annual event will take place on October 24th. **"The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world."**

Twenty-five percent of our walk proceeds go to **Open Arms Food Pantry** here in Antioch. The rest will be used nationally and/or globally. To learn more visit [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org).



The pandemic continues to affect our walk. We hope to walk together after second service on October 24th, but COVID may

force us to walk in smaller groups. There are several ways to participate: become a captain and create a team of walkers; join a team already formed; and/or donate electronically. Go to [events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/events/antiochil](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/events/antiochil) where you can form, join or donate with a credit card. For the personal touch, sign up to walk or donate at the CROP Walk table in Wesley Hall in October. Contact **Walt Cichonski** at [wcichon-ski@comcast.net](mailto:wcichon-ski@comcast.net) or 847/265-1214 for more details.



*Walt Cichonski*



### *Missions Committee*

The Missions Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, October 5th at 1:00 pm in Wesley Hall.

*Becky Reckamp*

### *PADS Collection for August*



## STEP BY STEP

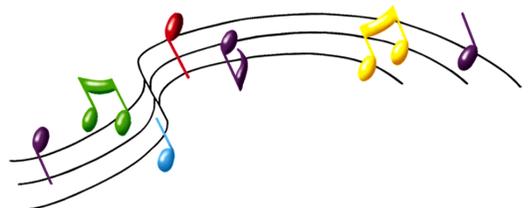
### Sunday School

*Ms. Debbie* leads the Sunday School kids in performing *Jesus Loves Me* on the handbells! Join us for music, Bible stories, crafts and fun at Sunday School! We meet from 9:15-10:15 am.

*Elisa*



### Choir



## UMCA Preschool

The preschool staff and families are so happy to be back. We currently have 27 children enrolled in the program. We are very excited to welcome **Ms. Kate** and **Ms. Melissa** to our four year old classroom. Kate and Melissa have both had children in our preschool program, and they come to us with many years of experience.

COVID has had a big impact on the way in which we will be doing things. Keeping everyone safe is our main concern. We will no longer have large group celebrations for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; instead each classroom will have its own separate celebration. The teachers are dedicated to making this a great year for all of the children.



**Kim Dodd**, UMCAP Director

## THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY

The primary agents of God's mission in today's world are the lay people or laity of the United Methodist Church, you and me. The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment of Christ's out-reaching love. Lay members of the United Methodist Church are called to be active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every lay person is called to be in mission. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living, and their sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and the way the United Methodist Church can fulfill its mission to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

We are called to serve in our homes, our work, our local community and the world. The laity role is that of a servant who models the love of Christ by example, and the local church is where our labor is constant in witnessing and sharing our faith experiences of the gospel in many different ways.

*United Methodists of Greater New Jersey*

## OPPORTUNITY

### **Prairie Central District Lay Academy**

This event will take place November 6th and 13th, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at the **Plainfield United Methodist Church**, 15114 S. Illinois St., Plainfield, Illinois. The cost is \$40.00.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION** or mail a check payable to **Prairie Central Lay Academy** to 717 N. Washington St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Questions call 630/709-3953 or email [mary.mecker@gmail.com](mailto:mary.mecker@gmail.com)  
[Download Flyer.](#)

Courses:

- **Devotional Life in the John Wesley Tradition:** Focused on Wesley's "means of grace," this study includes topics such as prayer, Scripture, and the Lord's Supper. Learn how to apply Wesley's ministry to your own life. Instructor: **John Wietlispach**
- **United Methodist Heritage:** Explore the theology, witness, and organization that Methodists bring to the church universal and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st century church. Instructor: **Rev. Terry Clark**
- **Leading Public Prayer:** Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course helps Lay Servants grow in confidence while enriching their personal prayer life. Instructor: **Rev. Norval Brown**
- **Discovering & Using Spiritual Gifts** Understand your spiritual gifts and learn as a spiritual leader how to use them in fulfilling the church's mission and ministry. Instructors: **Tom and Pat Price**



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Like us on Facebook:  
United Methodist Church of Antioch

Please join us in person or online for worship. Starting in June our in-person worship schedule has been 8:30 am & 10:00 am. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at [umcantioch.org](http://umcantioch.org). The information is also shared on our Facebook page. We continue to follow COVID protocol and evaluate as needed. 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**