

NEWSLETTER

Urbana First Methodist

June & July 2022

A Message from Pastor Bob—

I define growth as: the act of personally developing by constantly improving. One of the reasons we are so serious about growth is that healthy things always grow. As a church, the best thing we can do to help you grow is get off of you that which is causing you to run so slow. The ability to grow is one of the greatest gifts God gives us because none of us wants to stay where we are today, forever. We want to grow. But here, we don't just want to, we are serious about actually doing it.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. —Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

We rely on the Word of God as our true foundation. The Bible clearly states who you and I were created to be: believing in Jesus, belonging to family, becoming a follower, and building God's kingdom. Our mission of the Church is about helping persons fulfill their calling and live out their fullest life in Christ that is beyond their imagination. In doing so we will grow our Church experientially. Here is how you can play a role in helping us to grow.

Belief: in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is a process that ultimately provides the bedrock for your faith. Our desire is to reveal the nature of God and who He created you to be in order to strengthen your faith and surrender to His grace.

Belong: Relationships play an essential role in your spiritual life and in your walk with God, and they're rooted in belonging to a greater community. In fact, Jesus commanded us to love God and love one another. We all have a need to belong, and it's through loving, helping and protecting one another that we have the opportunity to live out these greatest of commandments.

Become: To be Christ-like is to move away from a self-centered existence to a Christ-centered life of doing and loving as He does. But this transformation isn't done on our own – it's begun and completed through God's generous grace and power. Through practical steps in God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and relationship with God and others, our emphasis is to help you become more like Christ in your own personal spiritual growth and development.

(continued on next page)

Build: Discover how God is calling you to give to others what the Lord has already given to you. Acting as his hands and feet by using your gifts and talents, you can help build the kingdom by the giving of yourself in making disciples and helping others move toward spiritual maturity.

Bring: Our goal each week is to have you bring someone to Church, in person or online, with you so they can experience God in new and inviting ways. I know this is an unpredictable pursuit. Unfortunately, for many followers of Jesus, our walk with God becomes repetitiously monotonous rather than romantically miraculous. Jesus did not die for a boringly religious relationship with you, He died for a romantically intimate relationship with you. In this relationship He desires for you to bring others into this relationship. That's why here, you won't see us settle for religion, we will ALWAYS go for the heart of Christ, love.

“When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them.”

—Matthew 6:7-8 (NIV)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

There are some new faces and familiar faces joining as members of Urbana First! We are so excited to have you as part of our church family. Please welcome **Steve and Suellen Fink**, from Saunemin UMC, who have relocated back to this area. We are also happy to welcome **Pat Smith**, who was a long-time member of the former Mayview Church and long time active member of Urbana First United Methodist Church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



June	July
Bill Frederick, 06/05	Valerie Austin, 07/03
Ava Kolakowski, 06/18	Bryce Conrad, 07/04
Paul DuMontale, 06/22	Sarah Fritz, 07/18
Mary Jane Ross, 06/26	Larry Brown, 07/25
Brenda Runyon, 06/26	Jill Evans, 07/25
Gerald Ross, 06/29	Mike Runyon, 07/29
	Tom Gordon, 07/30

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know so we can celebrate you! Email Paige at office@urbanafirstmethodist.org

2022 Annual Conference

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, June 9 to Saturday, June 11 at the Peoria Civic Center. This year's gathering will be a hybrid event with persons having the choice of joining in-person or online.

The theme is *A Time of Love, A Time of Peace*, taken from Ecclesiastes 3:8.

The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church. The annual conference consists of clergy and lay members. Clergy membership consists of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, affiliate members and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge. The lay membership of the annual conference shall consist of professing members elected by the charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference scouting coordinator, the president of the conference young adult organization, the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district and one young person between the ages of 12 and 17 from each district (§601, 602.1, 4, *The Book of Discipline*, 2016).

The annual conference is the basic unit of the connectional system and refers **both** to a yearly meeting of its members as well as the organizational structure that equips local congregations to do its ministries and provide a connection beyond the local church. Pages organized under the Annual Conference will include both information on annual conference sessions. Pages organized under Conference will include those committees and entities that are organized at the conference level.

For more information, please visit www.igrc.org/ac2022



Noisy Offering Coordinator



We would like to welcome Suellen Fink as the new Noisy Offering Coordinator for the Church. On the **third Sunday** of each month, we are asked to bring our loose change from our homes, cars, and office to give to a local mission. Let's welcome Suellen to this new role!

COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

Food Desert Response



A new pilot program to provide food and community resources to Carle patients suffering from food insecurity is underway at Carle Health with hopes of expanding to benefit even more patients.

Inspired by nurses who often learn of a patient's home situation through their care, the program is available in a couple of inpatient areas as well as a specialty care area of Carle Foundation Hospital.

Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks, projected more than 20,000 people would be food insecure in Champaign County by the end of 2020 and even higher by the end of this year. The non-profit hunger relief organization gathers data - including poverty, unemployment rates and costs of a meal - from the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Serving patients with high-quality care is important at Carle Health and this commitment extends beyond the walls of the hospitals and clinics. When patients leave the hospital to continue recovery at home, an important part of the ability to recover is access to adequate and nutritious food.

“Successful recovery from an illness or procedure involves much more than just clinical care,” Pam Bigler, RN, DNP, senior vice president, Clinical Partnerships and Programs at Carle Foundation Hospital, said. “Things like transportation, secure housing and access to nutritious food have a big impact on overall health and wellbeing. Our nurses and care teams see firsthand the need for this type of program, and we are thrilled to help in this small way.”

Food as Medicine is a collaborative partnership across numerous departments at Carle Health, including Nursing, Social Work, Food and Nutrition Services, Patient Transport Services, Volunteer Services and Community Health Initiatives. Funding is provided through generous donations to Carle Health Center for Philanthropy.

Help to a patient begins with a nurse evaluating a patient admitted to the hospital to determine if the patient may not have consistent access to nutritious food options – food insecurity. Patients who meet the requirements are visited by a social worker, who offers the patient a box of food staples from Carle Health upon discharge and information on additional community resources for long-term assistance. A dietitian also meets with the patient to share tips and tricks for preparing the food quickly and easily. Patient Transport Services will help make it all happen, guiding each patient to the food box, packaged by volunteers, upon departure from the hospital.

“Food as Medicine is a true team effort, across Carle Health and across our community,” Bigler said. “We are fortunate to have outstanding philanthropic funding and appreciate the support of our community partners who have been combatting food insecurity for years.



Practical Steps to Engage with Your Community

Our Congregation is wanting to discover new ways of engaging our community through deepening our discipleship and offering the gift of

relationship within our neighborhoods by exploring the Good Neighbor Experiment. This movement, which began in Wichita, Kansas, offers a nine-month training program that provides actionable and practical steps to learning more about neighbors, building relationships, and pursuing spiritual growth. The Neighboring Movement seeks to inspire connection and build trust while using the tools of asset-based community development, partnered with spiritual formation.

We are asking you to sign up and join us in considering entering this network while having the opportunity to experience learning through workshops with other churches throughout the nine months as well as on their own as a team. Through the lens of abundance, joy, and relationship, the opportunity for transformative change is offered for both participants and the community. Along with the training and curriculum are worship and sermon series preparation and outlines, as well as Sunday school lessons that will help the whole church learn and grow. It seeks to get our entire Church on board with this experiment.

If you want to partner with God but are feeling challenged in how to live that out, the Good Neighbor Experiment is worth considering. You can let us know by emailing us at office@urbanafirstmethodist.org or by contacting the Church office at 217-367-8384 (Please leave a message if we do not immediately pick up) so you can learn more about the Good Neighbor Experiment.

If you have any questions about this project you can also, contact Bryan Tener at btener@umcdiscipleship.org



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION & REFLECTION

Freedom Isn't Free

by Kelly Strong

I watched the flag pass by one day
It fluttered in the breeze
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease

 looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?

How many Pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, Freedom isn't free

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives

I thought about a graveyard
at the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom isn't free!

We at Urbana First UMC pause to give thanks to God, for not being red states and blue states, but Americans. We will always be a part of the United States of America due to the sacrifices of so many who fought for our freedoms to simply be Americans. We honor all who served for our freedoms. God bless America!



After many years of helping in smaller rolls the Champaign Urbana Jaycees are partnering with us on this year's Parade. The CU Jaycees are a social, leadership development and community service organization, dedicated to providing opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills, to get involved in the local community and to have fun. To find out more about the CU Jaycees visit their website at cujaycees.com

2022 Grand Marshal: Mike Haile

You may recognize his voice as a longtime radio personality or as an administrator at WDWS/WHM/WKIO. Now semi-retired, Mike is still hosting his morning and afternoon shows that we have all grown to love. Over the years, Mike has been a big supporter of the Freedom Celebration and has become part of Celebration's family. Mike and his daughter have walked in many Champaign County Freedom Celebration Parades together and this year it is our honor to have him as our 2022 Grand Marshal.

2022 Theme: Renewing the Spirit of America

Everyone loves a parade, whether it's for the floats, marching bands, or nostalgia of the red, white, and blue. Parade participants and onlookers can look forward to a great parade lineup and viewing under the shade, all along Kirby / Florida Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy.

The parade begins at 11:05 AM near First & Kirby. It continues east on Florida to Lincoln Avenue then proceeds north on Lincoln Avenue to California. Parade units turn onto Illinois street to disperse and exit area at Goodwin Avenue.



CALENDAR FOR JUNE & JULY 2022

JUNE

Sunday, June 5, Communion Sunday

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

Wednesday, June 8

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic

Thursday, June 9- Saturday, June 11

All Day—Annual Conference (*Peoria, IL*)

Sunday, June 12

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

Tuesday, June 14

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Sunday, June 19, Father's Day & Juneteenth*

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

Wednesday, June 22

5:00 PM—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Saturday, June 25

10:00 am—United Women of Faith (*Contact Felecia Freeman for Address, Final Meeting until September*)

Sunday, June 26

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

12:00 am—All Boards Meeting (*Library*)

Tuesday, June 28

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Weekly Recurring Events

Wednesdays, 10:30 am—Bible Study (*Library*)

Thursdays, 10:00 am—Men's Discipleship (*Study*)

JULY

Sunday, July 3, Communion Sunday

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

2:00 pm—CFC Youth Group (*Fellowship Hall*)

Sunday, July 10

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

Tuesday, July 12

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Wednesday, July 13

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Sunday, July 17*

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

12:00 pm—Trustee/Boards Meeting (*Library*)

2:00 pm—CFC Youth Group (*Fellowship Hall*)

Sunday, July 24

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

Tuesday, July 26

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Wednesday, July 27

5:00 pm—Community Health Clinic (*Parlor*)

Sunday, July 31

9:15 am—Church School & Fellowship

10:30 am—Sunday Service (*In-Person & Online*)

12:00 pm—All Boards Meeting (*Library*)

*Noisy Offering Sundays



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