



September, 2020

# *First Edition*

Volume 4 Issue 9

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



**First United Methodist Church of Lockport**

1000 S. Washington St., Lockport  
815-838-1017 - [www.1umclockport.org](http://www.1umclockport.org)





## Parking Lot Communion Starts on Sunday, September 6th

† 10:45 a.m. Worship  
 † 12:00 p.m. Virtual-  
 Choir Rehearsal

Last year at this time, every church was working to prepare for Rally Sunday to welcome the members, especially the children, back to Sunday School. Due to the pandemic, the world has been depending on virtual meetings, even for weekly worship on Sunday. This year, since we will need to do everything we need to do through online, our Sunday school teachers have been carefully planning the best ways to stay safe through virtual.

You have been worshipping faithfully by using your computer or cell phone wherever and whenever you could worship. We are faithfully following one of the United Methodist guidelines: Do No Harm. It is not only for our health, but also out of consideration for the health of others that we continue to wear masks in public and maintain a social distance of at least six feet between us.

As time passes, month after month, we all miss our in-person worship in the sanctuary. People have been wondering when we might be able to come back to the sanctuary to worship. I have heard that a fair number of other congregations have been meeting in person in their sanctuaries to worship.

After sending out a survey to see what our members think about having worship in the sanctuary, the leaders of our congregation decided to continue worshipping online for the safety of our members. They also decided to offer communion in the First Church parking lot on the first Sunday of the month, beginning with September.

**Come and participate in communion on September 6, 2020 at 10:30 am in the First Church parking lot.** This communion will be a wholly different (and holy) experience.

1. Parking Lot Entrance - Please drive into the parking lot by **entering through the Washington St. side.** We will use entrance on 10th St. to exit.
2. Please park in rows **facing the elevator/handicapped entrance.** We will NOT use the markings of parking spaces in the parking lot.
3. Ushers will direct your car as you enter the parking lot. You may want to roll down your window(s) a little as I speak through a loud speaker.
4. **We will have prepackaged and sealed wafers and grape juice,** with the wafer attached to the top of the juice cup. I will consecrate the sacraments and demonstrate how to receive the elements and open your package.
5. The communion servers will wear food service gloves to prevent contamination as they distribute them.
6. Ushers will direct your car as you come and as you leave.

Come and participate in Communion!

*GaHyung*

### Minister: All Members

GaHyung Kim  
 708-638-2868  
 email: gahyungkim0511@gmail.com

### Pastor

John George  
 Lay Leader

Bonnie Johansen-  
 Werner  
 Organist &  
 Choir Director

Megan Hill  
 Amy Visser  
 God Squad

Kay Rothlisberger  
 Circle of Love

Roseanne Wilson  
 Fish Pantry

Sena Scheel  
 Administrative Assist.  
 Office Hours  
 Monday, Tuesday &  
 Thursday  
 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
 815-838-1017

## Sermon Series for September

### **Sunday, September 6**

14th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship

Children's Sermon - Sandy Jacobson

**Scriptures: Romans 13:8-14**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

**For where two or three  
gather in my name,  
there I am with them.**

Mathew 18:20, NIV



### **Sunday, September 13**

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship

Children's Sermon - Carolyn Brauch

**Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-15**

**Matthew 16:21-23**



Jesus Rebukes Peter

### **Sunday, September 20**

16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship

Children's Sermon - Amy Visser

**Scriptures: Philippians 1:21-30**

**Matthew 20:1-16**



*I choose  
to give to this  
last worker the  
same as I give  
to you.*

Matthew 20:16, ESV

### **Sunday, September 27**

17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship

Children's Sermon - Megan Hill

**Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7**

**Matthew 21:23-32**



The Parable of the Two Sons  
Matthew 21:28-32

### **A Small PRAYER GROUP on Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 am**

We are offering a prayer group on Zoom weekday mornings on Wednesday at 9:00 am. Every day begins with the blessings of God no matter what circumstances we face. When we wake up in the morning, it is a good practice to begin the day by saying, "Thank you, God, for this another beautiful day!" No matter what circumstances we face, the day is better when it begins with remembering the blessings of God. Life begins with prayer. We can offer prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for what we need, and prayers for other people. It is important to start the day with prayer. Let us get together and share our prayer life.

Please contact Pastor GaHyung if you are interested in joining this prayer gathering via Zoom.

### **New Telephone Call in Service for Worship**

We are happy to announce, for those who don't have internet capabilities, a new telephone call-in service that we are making available for members and friends of Faith and First church.

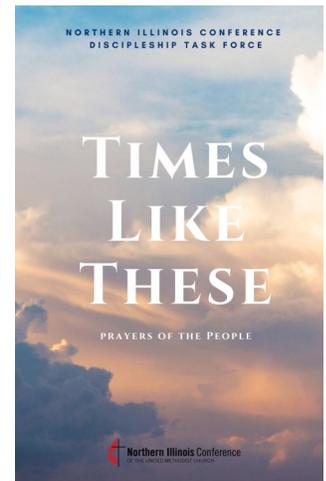
Simply call 815-216-9005 and you will be able to listen to the current week's church service. This service will be accessible 24/7. Each Sunday's service will be updated every week, and you can access the audio version by dialing the same telephone number each week at 815-216-9005.

## Faith Development and Education

### NIC Prayer Booklet

Yet it is when we pray that we are able to pour our hearts and minds out to God. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NIC Discipleship Task Force asked clergy and laity to submit daily prayers, which were shared on the conference social media sites and website. Those prayers have been assembled into an online booklet, "*Times Like These*," for reflection and devotion.

"This collection of prayers is a way to pray for God's peace that surpasses all understanding," said Bishop Sally Dyck. "Use it as a guide to pray when you don't know how or what to pray. Use it as a prayer-starter. Use it as a way to see into the hearts of others in our annual conference. Let it open your heart and mind to God's peace! A paperback can be purchased from Amazon for \$7.50.



As everyone knows, the year 2020 has been different and challenging in many ways. Last year United Methodist Women celebrated 150 years of mission work. Our primary focus is helping women and children all over the world (including here in the USA.) The way this is accomplished is through the pledges of local units combining together and with God's help making these mission projects happen. Whether it is building schools, providing care, education and training, community centers, working toward justice and equality in communities or hundreds of small and large projects, they are funded through the gifts, pledges and support of UMW. How does that pertain to us at First UMC Lockport? All of you (and that includes our male members) help to support our unit so that we can fulfill our yearly pledge. You support our Brunch, You support the Christmas Market, and You support bake sales. Our circles help to support local charities like Circle of Love, The FISH Pantry, Lamb's Fold and local Women's shelters.

This year we are unable to meet and have our normal activities that fund so much of our budget. But, we are asking those of you who have made a pledge to continue to honor it and those of you who normally support our projects to contribute to the cause. You can send your pledge or donation to Betty Becker our UMW Treasurer or to the church (clearly marked for UMW). Thank you for helping to fulfill the Purpose of UMW to be a Community of women whose purpose is to know God, and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Thank You.

Betty's Address is 1059 Mc Kinley St; Lockport, IL 60441

## **Faith in Action**

### **Our Next Contactless Dropoff for Missions**

The Missions Team continues to find ways to support our community in these crazy times. In September we will be supporting the Lockport Resource Center. **We are going to collect supplies that will off-set their operational costs.** We are looking for toilet paper, paper towels, computer paper, hand soap, hand sanitizer, disposable masks, and disinfecting wipes. The center supports our community in many ways. Programs include:

- The Bridge Emergency Relief Loan Program offers help with rent, utilities, prescriptions, or other emergencies.
- The Transformation Scholarship Program offers tuition assistances for those seeking to better themselves through education.
- The LRC Pass It On Thrift Shop offers a variety of items including: clothing, household items, and small appliances.
- Part of their funding supports the FISH Food Pantry in Lockport.

Drop off will be **Wednesday, September 16 between 4 and 6.** If you need an alternate drop off time please contact Peggy George at 815 790 0487 or [mgeorge726@gmail.com](mailto:mgeorge726@gmail.com).



Thank you to everyone who brought donations on August 12th to support the FISH Food Pantry and Circle of Love Missions! We had a great turnout and received many donations and local support! Our church building may be closed, but our mission work is not! God bless you all!!!

### **With Sincere Sympathy...**

Please keep the family and friends of Maxine Smith in your prayers. Maxine passed away on August 13th. Her service was held on August 17th.

### **Prayer List—Please keep the following people in your prayers**

Larry Fessler, Neil Janssen, Chili Mahalik, Scott McQuilkin, Patti Johnson, Deb Chapp's friend Jane Gardner, Karen Marino, Rick Young.

### **Prayers for members that are homebound or in nursing facilities:**

Iris Chapp (Lemont Center); Don Grady (home); and Linda Kriete (home).

## **Survey Results about Worshiping In Person**

Last month, we distributed a survey to get a sense of our congregation's feelings about reopening the church, COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, and current virtual church services.

There were 45 responses with the general consensus (95%) that we should remain on our current course at the present time - providing video and audio access to recorded services that 89% of respondents are viewing. There were also some suggestions to augment our virtual experience that are being reviewed - more to come on these initiatives.

Additionally, the Church Council and the Health Team are meeting regularly (via Zoom) to plan and act on the necessary steps to reopen the sanctuary to in-person Sunday services based on guidelines/recommendations by the State, Conference and You, which will also be shared at a later time.

In the meantime, please continue to regularly tune into the on-line services and pray for the church...that we all are successful at re-imagining our faith journey to face these challenges head on so that we are stronger than ever in body, mind and soul.

## **Finance**

### **From the Finance Team**

Thank you for the offerings you have made and are continuing to make to our church. Many churches are experiencing a turndown in giving, some have had to reduce staffing levels, others are unable to pay their utilities every month. With your support we are and will continue to pay our staff, make all our utility payments on time and still have the funds necessary to purchase all the protective equipment we need to have before we can return to the sanctuary.

You have proven that our faith and our commitment to our church is about more than just being able to gather in a building on Sunday morning. So even if we must be apart from one another physically, we can still connect, inspire, support, care, and love each other. Social distancing does not mean spiritually separate. In time, our doors will open again, and we will reach out in welcome.

## **Community**

### **Support Kiwanis**

We now have a Donate button on our website - separate from the Peanut Day Fundraiser / Membership Dues page. Members and the general public can support the club with a donation by clicking on the DONATE tab on our club's website. AND you can show your support of Kiwanis and encourage others to do the same by sharing this link on your social media: <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=3JV3EMGZWCP4G>

**This year we are selling a case of 100 bags of roasted peanuts from the Terri Lynn company for \$50 and 50 bags of gummy bears from the Albanese company for \$50.**

Let me also add, this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Joliet Kiwanis Club. We have postponed a big celebration, that was to have happened in May, because of COVID. Your donation would be a wonderful way to help us celebrate.

## Music Ministry

### **Music at First Church—God at work in a pandemic**

What a blessing we have in the miracles of technology in a pandemic! While daunting at times, our technology enables our musicians to sing a joyful song and to praise God with strings and pipes, cymbals and timbrel. Both the Chancel Choir and the Chamber Ensemble are very active.

Chancel Choir members began Zoom rehearsals on August 23. Rehearsing on Zoom is quite different from live rehearsing, but everyone who attended handled it with courage and fortitude! In Zoom rehearsals, the singers mute their sound while rehearsing so all they hear is the director. (If we don't mute, the sounds are heard with varying degrees of delay, creating vocal pandemonium.) Most of us found our voices to be rusty, so we are grateful to start getting our voices back in shape. Bonnie is creating some vocal warm-up videos so we can practice daily. While our first rehearsal focused on how to rehearse on Zoom, the second rehearsal will begin learning how to record on Zoom.

Creating a complete choral anthem takes some time. Singers need to each create a recording and send the recordings to Bonnie, who assembles them. That process involves layering each recording one at a time. The process is fun for her as she listens to a choral sound build as each part is added. While not difficult, the process takes some time, so you will not hear the choir every week in worship. But you will hear us and we are excited to raise our voices in praise and adoration to our Lord.

The Chamber Ensemble will continue to contribute on occasion through the fall. School work has slowed down our production for all of us, but many instrumentalists will remain involved. College students will continue to participate IF they have safe places to record (playing instruments in dorms is too dangerous). We are currently working on a piece that features the church didgeridoo with percussion accents. (Did YOU know the church has its own didgeridoo?) Plus working for some highlights for All Saints Day. Ensemble pieces take months to construct from creation to finish and we are excited to be involved in this ministry. There is always room for additional singers and instrumentalists. We welcome participants from outside our church community. If you, or someone you know, wants to participate, please contact Bonnie at [johansenwer-nermusic@me.com](mailto:johansenwer-nermusic@me.com).

Our musicians ask for your prayers as they continue to make music as well as pray for the church when we gather. We are joyful to be able to continue our music ministry.

In love and joy,  
Bonnie

## Community

### **We're Open to Serve you!**



Your TreeMachine is being serviced per regular schedule. The health and safety of our program partners, employees and communities we serve has always been our top priority. To help do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19, our teams are equipped with safety information and tools. We take great pride in our clean and well serviced TreeMachines. We disinfect the chute, doors and around the TreeMachine every time we service.

Our shared goals to fight for PEOPLE and a livable PLANET are more important than ever before, so we will continue to plant a TREE every time you fill a TreeMachine with clothes. With the support of partners like you, we will plant 120,000 trees in 2020. For PEOPLE our goal is to make a difference by clothing more than 800,000 people and creating employment in micro-enterprises around the world. We appreciate your partnership and commitment to creating a better future..



September 4 Phil Rittenhouse  
 September 7 Matt Frayne  
 September 8 Clyde Odle  
 September 9 Jim Koger  
 September 15 Nathan Marino  
                   Alan Cross  
 September 16 Rosemary Thompson  
 September 17 Doug Schehr  
 September 19 Paul Farr  
 September 24 Alana Marino  
                   Soren Moan  
 September 25 Roseanne Wilson  
 September 26 Dick Burnett  
 September 29 Jim Shinn

Tom and Christina Fabek  
 September 6, 2015

Don and Linda Brown  
 September 6, 1980

Brian and Megan Hill  
 September 8, 2006

Glenn and Joyce Volling  
 September 10, 1955

### **New Church Directory Coming**

If you have an android or iphone, would you please take a selfie of your household members and e-mail the photo to the church office at: [lumclockport@ameritech.net](mailto:lumclockport@ameritech.net). In the body of the e-mail, please include the names of those in the picture and current address/phone numbers/e-mail addresses, where applicable.

If you do not have a mobile device or e-mail account, please contact the church office and either Pastor Kim or Sandi Jacobson will come by your house for a quick outside/social-distanced visit and take your photo and update your personal information for the directory.



### **Custodian Position is Open**

We are currently looking for someone to fill the custodian position for First United Methodist Church Lockport. If you know of anyone interested, please have them go to the church website for an application or you may stop in the office. Any questions please call the office at 815-838-1017.

### **Sue Zarek's CD**

Sue Zarek made a CD of herself singing and sold them to those persons who were interested. Unfortunately when I moved to DeKalb, my copy got lost in the shuffle.

If anyone has a copy of her CD, please let me know. My phone number is 815-535-6975 or you may email me at [jmz401@yahoo.com](mailto:jmz401@yahoo.com).

I will compensate anyone that has one.

Thanks. Jill Zarek

# September



# 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9-Noon Circle of Love 7 pm Faith Development Meeting	3	4	5
6 10:45 Sunday Worship/ Holy Communion  <b>FISH Pantry</b>	7  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	8	9 9-Noon Circle of Love 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting	10	11	12
13 10:45 Sunday Worship 12:00 pm Zoom Choir Practice  <b>Adopt a Bill</b>	14	15	16 9-Noon Circle of Love <b>4-6 pm FIA-Lockport Resource Cntr. Drop off</b>	17	18	19
20 10:45 Sunday Worship 12:00 pm Zoom Choir Practice  <b>Circle of Love</b>	21	22	23 9-Noon Circle of Love 7 pm Church Council Meeting	24	25	26
27 10:45 Sunday Worship 12:00 pm Zoom Choir Practice  <b>Change for Missions</b>	28	29	30 9-Noon Circle of Love			



**Please Note:**  
Our office hours are: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday



# First

TO:

**United Methodist Church  
Of Lockport**  
1000 S. Washington Street  
Lockport, IL 60441

Phone: 815-838-1017  
Email: [1umclockport@ameritech.net](mailto:1umclockport@ameritech.net)  
Website: [www.1umclockport.org](http://www.1umclockport.org)



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**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



**Mark Your  
Calendar**



**Wednesday, September 16th 4-6 pm.**

**Contact Less Drop Off for Lockport Resource Center**

**1st UMC of Lockport parking lot.**

### **Mission Statement for First United Methodist Church of Lockport**

“The church is the foundation of Christian life in accordance with the teachings of the Christ. We are people who believe that the love of God was revealed in Jesus and having accepted that love, we are committed to sharing this good news of God’s love by making disciples and teaching and nurturing them. To that end, we will:

- + provide an inclusive environment for Christian worship and learning,
- + strive to be understanding and accepting of other cultures and faiths as we work toward peace and justice for all persons,
- + nurture our children so that they will embrace the Christian life, and
- + support, with our prayers and actions, our brothers and sisters in our local and global communities.”