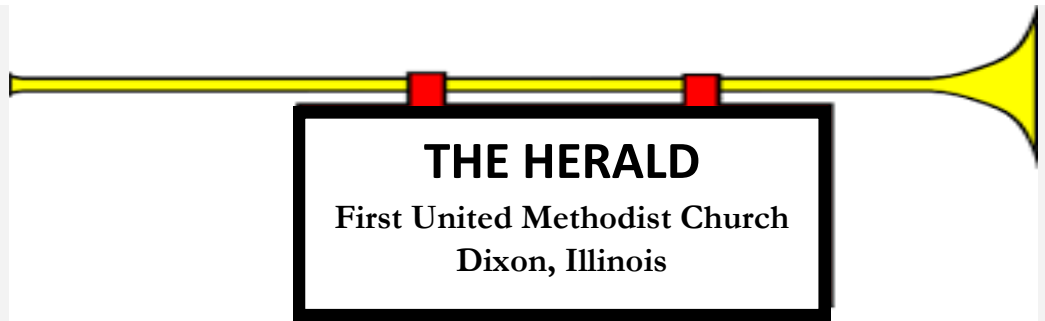


April 2019



Upcoming Events:

- April 3, 9:00 UMW
- April 3, 4:00 Endowment
- April 6, 9:00 UMM
- April 8, 7:00 Priscilla Circle
- April 9, 4:00, Prayer Team
- April 9, 6:30 Trustees
- April 10, 5:30 Missions/Social
- April 11, 6:30 Finance
- April 11, 7:00 Matters Circle
- April 13, 8:00 Church Clean UP
- April 16, **Newsletter Deadline**
- April 16, 7:00 Church Council
- April 16, 7:00 Leadership
- April 18, 9:00 Anna Circle
- April 18, 5:30 Maundy Thurs.
Supper and Worship
- April 18 6:30 Worship Comm.
- April 20, 5:00 Easter Service
- April 21, 7:00 Sunrise Service
@ Riverfront
- April 21, 10:00 Easter Service
- April 23 5:00 Faith Develop
- April 23, 6:00 Staff-Parish
- May 5, 10:00 Confirmation

Worship Services:

Saturdays:

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:

10:00 am in the Sanctuary
2nd Sunday of month, family
day

8:30 Bible Study, Ruth Room

8:30 Adult Sunday School

9:45 Powerhouse Kids

(Except 2nd Sunday of month)

2:00 AGAPE Youth

Greetings to all my sisters and brothers,

I want to review who God is calling our faith community to be. Our mission statement says **FUMC where:** *Our mission is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by Faithfully Uplifting the Message of Christ.* **FUMC** is a place that wants to be known as the “Go-To” church in our community. A place where all are welcome regardless of the commitment or strength of their faith. In our people they will find a welcoming and generous group committed to Gathering, Growing and Going in their relationship with Jesus Christ. By *Faithfully Uplifting the Message of Christ* we are joining with God to make the biggest Kingdom impact possible. The purpose of the “Church” is to share the Good News of Jesus with one person at a time so that all people in our community have the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I want to celebrate a couple of ways that we have been the “Go-To” Church in our Community.

The first way that I want to celebrate us being the “Go-To” church happened on March 2nd when we opened our doors to The Faith Christian School so they could host a Breakfast Fundraiser in our Fellowship Hall. We have a wonderful facility that is in the middle of the action in the downtown area that is a great place to host a fundraising event. What we did as the “Go-To” church has kingdom implications. It is a reminder that as a church full of Christ-followers our responsibility to share the Good News not only happens when we invite individual people into our fellowship but when we allow other churches to use our facility to promote their ministry. By opening our fellowship hall we become a part of the greater mission of the Universal (catholic) church. By the way, you will have another opportunity to support a mission at our church on Saturday, April 7th when the Lost Lake Nazarene church hosts a Pancake Breakfast to raise money for an upcoming mission trip.

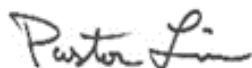
The Other “Go-To” event that happened was opening up our church facility to the family of Ike Mercer as they celebrated his life. I never had the pleasure of meeting Ike but I heard story after story of how his life impacted our community. I also met his family they, impressed me by their deep and abiding spirit, their love of God and their love of their father. Ike’s church, The Second Baptist Church was not big enough to hold all the people who came to pay their respects to Ike and his family so they asked if they could use our facility. It was a privilege to help their church and family out during their time of loss and celebration. Having the attitude and mission to be the “Go-To” church in Dixon

makes it easy to say yes to help others. Again this is a way for our church to make a kingdom impact for Jesus Christ.

Finally, I want to share how we have been a “Go-To” church for over 25 years through the ministry of the ARK Day program by updating you on what has been happening since the end of February. The ARK board and members of the Leadership Council have met and are working together to hire a Director, Assistant Director and 1 part-time teacher to start ARK back up. Once we find these people we will start advertising for babies, 0 to 2 years old. If we can do this before April 15th ARK will reopen. If not ARK will officially close its doors. ARK has been a part of our being a “Go-To” church so pray that God will bless our restart efforts.

If we keep finding ways to be the “Go-To” church God will be glorified and we will be energized to continue God’s work!

Blessings,



WE KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR KID’S CAMPS AND TRIPS FOR THIS SUMMER ALREADY. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE DATES FOR OUR SUMMER MISSION TRIPS.

Summer Mission Trip Registrations will open Feb. 24th at 9:00 am. There will be a brochure in the Welcome Table with more information. This year, our youth decided to go to Mountain T.O.P. mission site in Tennessee. Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project) is an interdenominational, non-profit Christian Mission affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, dedicated to rural life ministry in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. We seek to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual & social needs of people through the love of Christ. This Youth Summer Ministry is for junior and senior high students.

Students have to be rising **7th graders or older**. There must be a ratio of at least 1 adult (25 years & older) for every 5 youth. 15 youth spots available and at least 3 Chaperon spots.

- Registration Fee: \$60 (per person) You can pay it to church office or to Pastor Heewon
- Registration deadline : No later than March 24th. Please register online or you can find the forms at the church welcome table.

30 Hour Famine

Agape Youth Group would like to thank those who donated items and financially to their Hunger Retreat. A special thank you to Amber Dimmig, Jodi Mitchell, Racheal Gehlbach and Faith Development for providing food for our break fast dinner. The youth donated almost \$150 to Save Our Children and came up with ways to encourage the congregation to help the hungry in Dixon, Illinois. March's challenge is for the congregation to clean out their pantry. If you have food that you do not see yourself using, please donate it to the local food pantry. April's challenge is to do something kind for someone else, without recognition (it doesn't have to be food related.) Remember: You won't be able to change everyone, but you can change 1.



***CONNECT *GROW *SERVE *SHARE**

Youth in 6th grade-college age are invited to join us for lesson, games and snacks.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 7 | Agape Youth |
| April 13 | Easter Play
During 5:00 Service |
| April 14 | Easter Play
During 10:00 Service
Help with Outreach
Confirmation Questions
No Agape Youth |
| April 21 | Easter
No Agape Youth |
| April 23 | Subway Lunch at Riverfront
High School Lunch A and B |
| April 28 | Confirmation: Practice/Plan
for Confirmation Sunday
H.S. Musical—Newsies
No Agape Youth |



Service Opportunities

Agape Youth has the following service opportunities
* Adults who will come speak to the youth, help them with service projects, or teach them a skill or just spend time with them

Contact Kendra Wadsworth for more information on these or other opportunities to serve in Agape Youth

PHK and Agape Youth Newsletters are available in the church Narthex and by the PHK sign-in table.

Love Prevails

On February 23-26, 2019, there was a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri. The session was to deal with homosexuality as a denomination. Delegates to General Conference include equal numbers of lay and clergy members elected by annual conferences around the world. Bishops preside and facilitate the work of the delegates, but do not vote. The General Conference is the only body that approves church policy and speaks officially for the denomination. The number of delegates was set at 864 - about 58 percent (504) from the United States and 30 percent (260) from Africa. The remaining delegates (90) are from the Philippines, Europe and Eurasia as well as 10 from "concordat" churches with which The United Methodist Church has formal relationships.

As many of you may know, the General Conference delegates passed by a 438-384 vote the **Traditional Plan**, which retains restrictions against "self-avowed practicing homosexual" clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage ceremonies and requires stricter enforcement for violations of church law. The Traditional Plan was one of the Plans that came out of the work of the special commission. The **One Church Plan**, which would have left questions of marriage up to individual churches and clergy, and ordination requirements up to conferences, was defeated. The Traditional Plan as approved includes:

- *An expanded definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" to include people "living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual."
- *The creation of the council relations committee, as part of the Council of Bishops, to hold bishops accountable to restrictions related to homosexuality.
- *Minimum penalties for clergy convicted at trial of performing a same-sex wedding. Those penalties include one year's suspension without pay for the first offense and loss of credentials for the second.
- *The requirement that Boards of Ordained Ministry examine and not recommend candidates who do not meet standards regarding sexuality. It also empowers bishops to rule a candidate out of order.
- *The requirement that annual conferences certify only Board of Ordained Ministry nominees who will "uphold, enforce, and maintain the Book of Discipline related to ordination and marriage of practicing homosexuals." The General Council on Finance and Administration will withhold funds and use of the cross and flame logo for conferences that fail to do so.
- *Multiple changes to the complaint process under church law. These changes include requiring that bishops not dismiss complaints without reasons given; involving those making complaints in the just resolution process; allowing the church to appeal "errors of church law or administration" of church trials.

This plan, however will be reviewed by the Judicial Council on its church constitutionality. They will be meeting on April 23-25 in Evanston IL.

So, here we are. What does the number 438-384 of vote mean to us? It seems like we are almost tied in two different perspectives on homosexuality. Maybe, half of them heaved a sigh of relief. And half of them might be in great grief and agony over this decision. Moreover, it seems that we are getting to a point where we are no longer going to keep our denomination as **United Methodists** as we get more and more tired of trying to understand each other.

Meanwhile, I happened to read a book entitled "**The Right to Heresy: Castello Against Calvin**". In the book, the author Stefan Zweig approaches John Calvin who is considered as a great reformer and a very influential person among the Presbyterian Church in a different way. Calvin was trying to rule the city Geneva, Switzerland according to his book, "Institutes of the Christian" he wrote it at the age of 26. He wanted every single citizen in Geneva to obey every single rule in his book. No one was allowed to play violin or any instrument on the street. Once a person violated it, they had to leave the city. Drawing about God was prohibited. Women should not wear any fancy jewelry on the outside. Otherwise, they are also expected to be expelled from the city. Freedom was deemed a dangerous thing on our faith. If there's someone who has a different belief in God, which is not in the doctrines in Calvin's book, they should be corrected in jail. Even torture was allowed if needed. Can you imagine such society was ruled and operated by the great Christian reformer, John Calvin as suzerain?

The society depicted in the novel 1984 by George Orwell already happened in the sixteenth century. People spied on each other if they are following all the rules and the religion polices surveil people all the time. Against this tyranny, Sebastian Castellio stood for freedom and spoke about the freedom to have a different opinion. Castellio assembled a wide collection of quotes from various Christian scholars speaking in favor of tolerance for opposing views. For Calvin, it was not okay to have a different view or opinion. He was the only right person to judge. For Castellio, it was not okay. Finally, Castellio was accused by Calvin and lost his job and being enforced religious trial to be sentenced to death because of the reason that he had a

different view.

This book reminds me about who we are as United Methodist. As a Methodist heritage our founder John Wesley always allowed our different views. On his sermon, "Catholic Spirit" in 1750, I summarized it like this, **"To believe Christ Jesus indicates that we can love one another beyond our all kinds of differences while we express our belief differently. Love is above all."** Whether we agree or disagree with this difficult topic, we are meant to remember that there is a higher call that God has called us to do. It is a more genuine and fundamental call as Christians, which is to **"make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"** (Ephesians 4:3). Some people say it is time to get divorced and it might be a better way. However, for me, I would rather see this critical time to be a learning opportunity to learn how to accept our differences and further keep our love and unity while having different views on God's love and humanity.

I am grateful for our Northern Illinois Conference for the fact that they gave a chance to a foreign student to be a pastor. In other annual conferences in other states, it was not the same case at all and it still happens. They only allow a foreign candidate who has at least a permanent resident card or citizenship only to be on the process for ordination. They don't accept a person like me who had a foreign student visa status at the time. Though all conferences are not like the Northern Illinois Conference, I am so proud of my denomination that had the motto, **"Open heart, Open mind, and Open door."** In light of this openness, I hope our church can continue to find ways to keep us in unity and allow those who have a different view of God's love and humanity under our same church, The United Methodist Church.

I deeply grieve with those who are feeling rejected about our denominational decision. And I want to let them know that this is not the end. We will be trying our best to show God's love for everyone while we have different opinion or view on something. Because we will be continuing our highly call to love one another as Jesus did.

Blessings,



¹Most information in my article was quoted from our United Methodist News at <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc-what-happened-at-general-conference>.

The Mission Team is beginning to plan for the Maundy Thursday soup/bread supper. This year, the date for this dinner is April 18th. We will put sign-up sheets both downstairs outside of the Chapel and upstairs in the Narthex near the end of March. Please sign up!! We, the committee will combine the lists. A donation jar will be available. The mission/Social Concerns Committee has decided that these collected funds will be sent to a church in Alabama in the area where tornadoes recently caused much devastation. Please join us for a good supper and fellowship! Please help our committee by signing up! Support our church by showing up! I am sure we will have a soup, come bread and a dessert for you.

What Does A Sign-Up Sheet Do??

1. Tells the committee planning the event that they need to get on the phone and recruit for supper needs in food and drink.
2. Gives an estimate of how many are planning on attending
3. Helps Pastors plan on handouts if applicable
4. Tells members signing up what foods are being planned, save your best salad for another meal.

We want to welcome our new District Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Brian Gilbert. He will begin his new appointment on July 1, 2019. Brian currently serves at Princeton UMC. We are grateful for the 6 years of Faithful service from our current D.S. Rev. Young-Mee Park. Her new appointment will be Hinsdale UMC.

Trustee's Work Day Mark your Calendar for our annual Church Spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 13. We want the church to look its best for Easter Weekend. We will begin at 8:00am.

Maundy Thursday Soup and Worship
April 18, 2019
Fellowship Hall
 5:30 pm Soup Dinner ~ 6:15 pm Worship



I am the resurrection, and the life.
JOHN 11:25

You're Invited to our

Easter Celebration

@ *First UMC Dixon*

You can choose from

Saturday, April 20 - 5pm Dress Casual Chapel Service

Sunday, April 21

7am-Sunrise Service @ Riverfront or 10am-Traditional Service

Our Easter Offering will go to support the ministries of the Dixon Women's PADS Shelter and Habitat for Humanity

www.fumcdixon.org

FEBRUARY INCOME	\$ 25,191.04
FEBRUARY EXPENSES	<u>\$ 32,563.40</u>
FEBRUARY DEFICIT	\$ (7,372.36)
2018 CARRYOVER	\$ 13,073.40
BAL IN GENERAL FUND AS OF 2/28/2019	\$ 14,951.11



Financial Notes for FEBRUARY 2019

YTD Income is \$8,041.30 (+12.8%) less than 2018. YTD expenses are \$2,007.66 (-2.8.0%) more than 2018. Apportionments were paid thru February.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	6:30pm - Boy Scouts	4pm - Solomons 6pm - G2	9am - UMW 10am - G2 4pm - Endowment 6pm - Ladies 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Cub 7:30pm - Chancel	5pm - Girl Scouts	7am - Mens Emmaus	7am - L.L. Nazarene 8am - UMM, R/E 5pm - Worship, C
7	8:30am - Bible 10am - Worship 11am - Easter Egg 2pm - Youth 6pm - Community	4pm - Prayer Team 4pm - Solomons 6pm - G2 6:30pm - Trustees,	10am - G2 5:30pm - Missions/S 6pm - Ladies 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Cub 7:30pm - Chancel	9:30am - Bazaar 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Finance, cr 7pm - Matters Circle	7am - Mens Emmaus	8am - Church Clean- 5pm - Worship, C
14	Palm Sunday 8:30am - Bible 10am - Family 10am - Worship 2pm - Youth	NEWSLETTER 4pm - Solomons 6pm - G2 7pm - Leadership	10am - G2 6pm - Ladies 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Cub 7:30pm - Chancel	9am - Anna Circle 5pm - Girl Scouts 5:30pm - Maundy 6:30pm - Worship	7am - Mens Emmaus	5pm - Worship, C
21	Easter 7am - Sunrise 8:30am - Bible 10am - Worship 2pm - Youth	4pm - Solomons 5pm - Faith 6pm - G2 6pm - Staff-Parish	10am - G2 6pm - Ladies 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Cub 7:30pm - Chancel	9:30am - Bazaar 5pm - Girl Scouts	7am - Mens Emmaus	5pm - Worship, C
28	8:30am - Bible 9:45am - PHK 10am - Worship 2pm - Youth	4pm - Solomons 6pm - G2	10am - G2 6pm - Ladies 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Cub 7:30pm - Chancel	9:30am - Bazaar 5pm - Girl Scouts	7am - Mens Emmaus	5pm - Worship, C
APRIL						

First United Methodist Church
202 S. Peoria Ave
Dixon IL 61021

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www.fumcdixon.org
Facebook: First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL

THE HERALD
April 2019

Conference website: umcnic.org
District Superintendent, Rev Young Mee Park
815-561-8285

Watching Services online If you want to watch the Sunday worship services that we are recording live, they are available to view on the church Facebook page at First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL. You have the option to see them live or anytime during the week! If you are still confused, please talk to the pastors.

There are cd's of the services available to pick up in the church if you don't have a computer, or you can listen on the church website fumcdixon.org

Our After Easter Worship Series

**Journeying
With
Jesus**

*Exploring the Path to becoming
a disciple of Jesus Christ*

April 27-28 Worship

May 4-5 Community

May 11-12 Spiritual Practices

May 18-19 Generosity and Service

May 25-26 Christ-likeness

www.fumcdixon.org



Newsletter deadline Articles for the next Herald are due in the church office no later than April 16th. Email, bring copy or call me to get your article in! Thanks!

Staff Phone#

Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278

Pastor Heewon Kim, 847-912-2808

Pastor Stan Rodabaugh, visitation, 815-973-0307

Melissa Reynolds, office, 815-284-2849

Tommy Whitcombe, music, 815-440-9623

Carla Anderson, organist, 815-590-6698

Jessie Marie Dir, records, 815-288-1326

Sharon Welker, treasurer, 815-652-4384

Keith Gabany, janitor, 815-288-5001