

September 2021



Upcoming Events:

- Sept 1-30 202 Prayer
- G2 Groups Please see attached calendar
- Sept 4, 8:00 UMM
- Sept 6, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Sept 6, Online Devotion
- Sept 9, 3:30 Finance
- Sept 13, **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Sept 13, Online Devotion
- Sept 14, **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Sept 14, 4:00 Prayer Team
- Sept 14, 6:30 Trustees
- Sept 16, 6:30 Green Team
- Sept 16, 6:30 Worship Comm.
- Sept 20, Online Devotion.
- Sept 21, 1:00 Herald's Angels
- Sept 21, 7:00 Leadership Coun.
- Sept 27, Online Devotion
- Sept 28, 6:00 Staff Parish



Worship Services:

Saturdays:

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

THE HERALD

First United Methodist Church
Dixon, Illinois

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Welcoming St. Anne School

Things are certainly buzzing around the church. St. Anne School has started and I think our building likes hearing all the noise and seeing all that activity that comes with the school. It seems brighter and more alive than I remember. What a wonderful way to move through the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please add St. Anne School and church to your prayers as they continue to work toward repairing their building.

Finalizing Crossroads Survey

I want to thank everyone who participated in any way with the Crossroads Survey. We had good participation and discussion. In a capsule we found out that we are a theologically diverse congregation that leans more toward traditional Methodist theology. We know that because of the COVID-19 pandemic the fate and future of our denomination has been pushed back at least a couple more years. We like each other and hopefully we can find a way to stay together. Not only do we want to stay together we want to be a vital lighthouse for the Good News of Jesus Christ in Dixon and our surrounding area. This means that it is essential for us to continue moving forward with our visioning process.

Introducing CAT Survey

The next step in our visioning process is participating in the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. You may remember the CAT survey. The congregation was just completing the CAT survey when I started my ministry with you in 2015. The CAT survey is an integral part of our visioning process. It is the second step in the process and is a more complete and robust survey than the Crossroads survey.

The first step was implementing Breakthrough Prayer. We have been praying for God's vision to be birthed in the hearts and souls of our congregation. Now the next step, the CAT will help reveal more clearly how the Holy Spirit has been percolating in our congregation.

The CAT is a customizable assessment instrument that can help our leadership:

- *Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation.
- *Identify the critical success factors for improving our organizational climate

- *Pinpoint the strengths of our congregation's culture.
- *Discover where members would like to go in the future. *(This will be influenced through the 202 Breakthrough prayer we have been praying since February 2020.)*
- *Gauge readiness for change.
- *Uncover potential resources we may be missing.

From the results of the CAT we will develop a much deeper understanding of the DNA of our church. Once we have participated in the new CAT we can compare it to our 2015 CAT to see the influences of the changes we implanted after the 2015 CAT. The results of the CAT will help us to answer two critical questions when we move to the final phase of the vision process where we will find God's Beyond the Horizon Vision for our congregation for the next 10 years.

To find God's Beyond the Horizon Vision for our congregation we will be using the visioning tool found in the book God Dreams. The God Dreams visioning process begins with our leadership finding our two basic vision templates from the 12 basic vision templates. To find which of the basic templates that best describe how God is using our church to bring the Good News to Dixon and beyond there are four questions that are answered and scored for each template. The two templates with the highest cumulative scores will be our base templates from which we will then develop our own unique Beyond the Horizon Vision. The four questions are:

1. How closely does this template match **your own vision** for your congregation as a gospel-centered, disciple-making church over the next 10 years? Use a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high) to rate this question. ***(This is where praying our 202 Breakthrough Prayer is so critical. Through the prayer we are asking the Holy Spirit to align our vision with God's vision for our church.)***
2. How would you rate your **key opinion leader's buy-in** at present for this template as the focus of their vision? Use a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high) to rate this question. ***(Again through our 202 BTP we are allowing the Holy Spirit to help us in our discernment. Also this is where the information provided by the CAT survey will provide critical and useful information.)***
3. How would you rate your **entire congregation's buy-in** at present for this vision template? Use a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high) to rate this question. ***(Again, the CAT survey will be invaluable to helping us answer this question.)***
4. How would you rate the level of **momentum and progress to date** your church has made on this particular vision template? Use a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high) to rate this question.

We had started the God Dreams process at our 2020 Leadership Summit. At the Summit we struggled answering questions 2 and 3 because we did not know the leadership's or the congregation's buy-in for a particular template. From the results of the CAT survey we will be better equipped to answer these questions when we start the God Dreams visioning process over at our 2022 Leadership Summit in later January.

You will be hearing a lot about the CAT survey in September. I will talk about it during our weekly announcements in our worship services. We will be sending out email blasts inviting you to participate in the survey. On September 19th the Survey will open so that you can participate. So, mark your calendar and look for the email that will provide you with the link. If you want to do a paper version of the CAT they will be made available Sunday, September 19th.

Relaunching Powerhouse Kids and Youth ministries on September 12

I was hoping to make it through this letter without talking about COVID-19. Unfortunately, one of the biggest casualties of the pandemic has been our Youth Ministries programs. We have been without any in-person youth ministry programs for well over a year. Hopefully that is about to change! Our plan is to re-launch **Powerhouse Kids** on Sunday September 12th. This is all contingent of course with the decision the parents, Pastor Young, and myself make at our Parents meeting Sunday August 29th. But here is the plan for the general format of **Powerhouse Kids**. The format will be a lot like VBS rotation models we have used in the past.

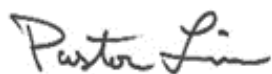
1. We will begin at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary for our opening time. Our hope is to livestream this part to children and families not able to attend so they will be able to either watch live or watch later when it is more convenient. This will help you keep current with what is happening at **Powerhouse Kids**.
2. After our opening time we will break up in our small groups based on age and then move to our classrooms on the third floor. *(We will have to work with the setup of the classrooms that St. Anne School is using. But, we will be able to make it work!)* Our hope is to have a couple of different activities for the children to do each week that will reinforce the biblical lesson they heard during the opening.
3. Please surround our Youth Ministry programs with your prayers. Our hope and dream is to re-launch all of our Youth Ministry in a way that will create an exciting and vibrant experiences for our children. We want them to know the love of God found in a relationship with Jesus! If you can be an adult helper please contact Pastor Young Sun and let her know. Your help will be vital to the success of our Youth Ministries.

Charge Conference 2021

As I bring this letter to a close I want to inform you that the date for our 2021 Charge Conference has been set. It will be Thursday, December 2nd. The SPRC committee will meet at 6:30 pm. And the Charge Conference will start at 7:00 pm. It will be held in person in the sanctuary so we can spread out. Melissa has put the Committee forms in your mailboxes. They are due back to Melissa by November 1st.

As you move throughout you day make sure you ask God through the indwelling Holy Spirit to walk with you keeping your eyes open and your heart alert for the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with someone. I hope to see you around the church and in the community.

God's blessings and love to you all!



Baptism celebration of Molly Marie Schmidt



JULY INCOME	\$ 51,594.96
JULY EXPENSES	<u>\$ 45,436.17</u>
JULY NET	\$ 6,158.79



Financial Notes for JULY 2021

Copies of the full financial report are available upon request.

Green Note:

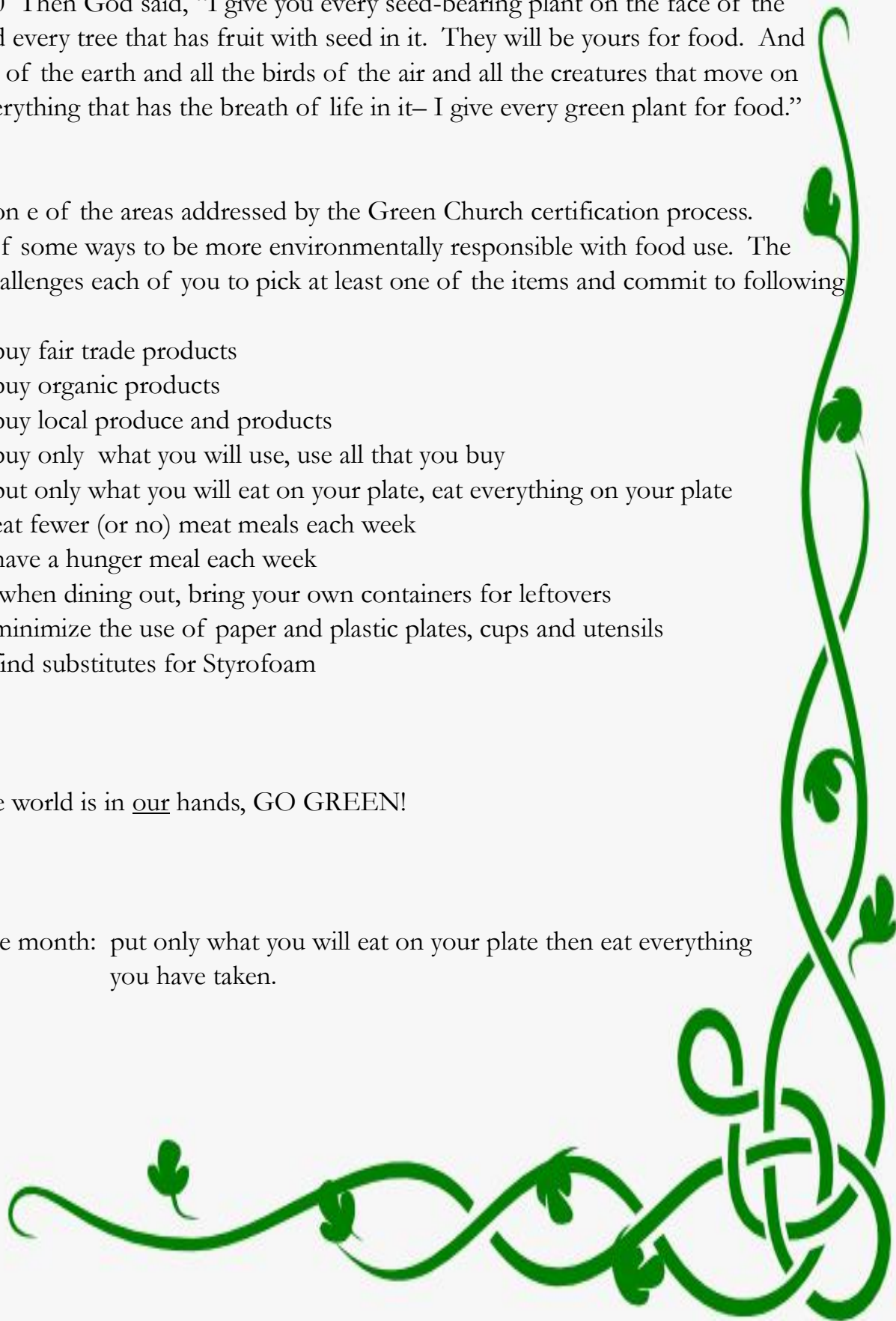
Genesis 1:29-30 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground- everything that has the breath of life in it- I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Food is one of the areas addressed by the Green Church certification process. Below is a list of some ways to be more environmentally responsible with food use. The Green Team challenges each of you to pick at least one of the items and commit to following it permanently.

- buy fair trade products
- buy organic products
- buy local produce and products
- buy only what you will use, use all that you buy
- put only what you will eat on your plate, eat everything on your plate
- eat fewer (or no) meat meals each week
- have a hunger meal each week
- when dining out, bring your own containers for leftovers
- minimize the use of paper and plastic plates, cups and utensils
- find substitutes for Styrofoam

Remember: the world is in our hands, GO GREEN!

Green tip of the month: put only what you will eat on your plate then eat everything you have taken.



Greetings to the loving family in Christ of Dixon First UMC!

It is one year and almost two months since I started my first pastoral ministry here in Dixon First UMC as Associate pastor following my call to the ministry in God's overflowing grace and now I feel so blessed to be allowed to continue to serve this loving community one more year with God's blessings.

Looking back on the days and months that I have been living in and serving this loving community of faith even in a pandemic situation of the COVID-19, I could witness how God's love and grace in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit has been leading and guiding us all into the ministries that God has planned for us as one family in Christ. It should be in unity of our faith in the Triune God that we would be able to continue our worship services and other ministries both in person and online even at the moments of difficulties that we were struggling with under the restrictions and shut-in situation to follow the protocols of COVID-19 for the safety of all the people involved in the ministries of the church.

Now that we are on the process of returning to the normal life using caution against the spread of COVID-19 variants with our phase 5 reopening of Illinois, the worship series of "Geared Up for Life," which we have been working on last seven weeks with reflection on the passages from the Epistle to the Ephesians with seven different focused theme of each passage, has reminded us through the Apostle Paul's exhortation to live a life of discipleship of the resources that we need as "the gear" to be "gearing up for life" in our seeking discipleship through our life as Christians. As the major theme of the Epistle to the Ephesians we have been reflecting on through the worship series of "Geared Up for Life," the Apostle Paul's exhortation on the spiritual battles against the wiles of the devil that he tells us using the form of imperative in Ephesians 6:10-20 brings us a powerful message of God that we need to live on as Jesus' disciples and God's beloved children adopted through the love and grace of Christ Jesus, which the Apostle Paul urges us in Ephesians 6:10-11, as follows,

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11, NRSV)





The whole armor of God, which the Apostle Paul offers us using the metaphors of Roman Soldier's armor, includes "the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes ready to go to proclaim the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit," which the Apostle Paul indicates in Ephesians 6:14-17, as follows,

Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:14-17, NRSV)

As I mentioned in my preaching on the theme of "Armored" as the last part of the worship series, the Apostle Paul urges us to put on the whole armor of God, not just one or several of them, because each piece of spiritual armor of God he lists in the passage is essential to our lives to stand against the spiritual powers of evil without any of which we will be vulnerable in the spiritual battle against the powers of evil in this world. In addition, the armor is not just for our own personal life as a Christian, but more importantly for the whole community of faith to stand firm together as one family in Christ against any attack from any spiritual power of evil that we are confronted with in this world. I pray that our loving community of faith, the family in Christ of Dixon First UMC, and all of Christians may be armored with the whole spiritual armor of God as the gear to be gearing up for life of discipleship, be strengthened in the loving power of Jesus Christ our Lord, and make known the mystery of the gospel through our lives as Jesus' disciples by keeping alert and praying at all times for all creation around us to stand firm against all the powers of evil in this world. Blessings,

Pastor Young Sun

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 9:30am - Lynne 2:30pm - St. Anne's 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel	2	3 8:30am - St. Anne's	4 8am - UMM, Page 5pm - Worship,
5 8:30am - Laura 10am - Worship	6  Labor Day Office  Online Devotions 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	7 1pm - Staff meeting	8 9:30am - Lynne 2:30pm - St. Anne's 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel	9 3:30pm - Finance, cr	10 8:30am - St. Anne's	11 5pm - Worship,
12 8:30am - Laura 10am - Worship	13  Office closed  Online Devotions 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	14  Herald Deadline 1pm - Staff meeting 4pm - Prayer Team 6:30pm - Trustees,	15 9:30am - Lynne 2:30pm - St. Anne's 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel	16 6:30pm - Green 6:30pm - Worship	17 8:30am - St. Anne's	18 5pm - Worship,
19 8:30am - Laura 10am - Worship	20  Online Devotions 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	21 1pm - Herald Angels 1pm - Staff meeting 7pm - Leadership	22 9:30am - Lynne 2:30pm - St. Anne's 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel	23	24 8:30am - St. Anne's	25 5pm - Worship,
26 8:30am - Laura 10am - Worship	27  Online Devotions 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	28 1pm - Staff meeting 6pm - Staff-Parish	29 2:30pm - St. Anne's 6pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Chancel	30	1	2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dixon, IL
Permit No. 230

Conference website: umcnic.org
District Superintendent, Rev Dr. Brian Gilbert
815-561-8285

THE HERALD
September 2021

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.



Newsletter deadline Articles for the next Herald are due in the church office no later than September 14th. Email, bring copy or call me to get your article in! Thanks!

Staff Phone#

Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278
Pastor Young Sun Lee 217-778-7898
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
Laura Anderson, youth, 815-421-3279