

June Messenger 2023

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

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♥ *Loving God* ♥ *Loving Others* ♥ *Living Our Faith*



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Pastor's Chat June 2023

Hello, June! Steve and I are nearing our 2nd full year here at EPFUMC in August. One of the things that takes place in transition is conversations that might or might not have happened in respect to our denomination. June is our normal time for the Annual Conference. We have 1 or more delegates that attend with the pastor/pastors of the church. There are many highlights such as: Celebration of Ordination and Retirements, the ministries that are supported beyond the local church that we often have special offerings for on certain Sundays. Some of the sad things that we still celebrate and acknowledge are those who have died (clergy and spouses), and local congregations from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference that have closed. There is conference business that takes place on the floor of the annual conference, and we celebrate Holy Communion every day as congregations of all the churches that are a part of IGRC.

I want to address the news that has been crossing our conference along with many other United Methodist Conferences in the United States. The news of disaffiliation has blown up and been the focus of many hearts in our denomination. Some of the information is misinformation and some is opinion, and some is just plain gossip. We have decided as a church to do what has been asked by our Bishop, to wait until August of 2024 when the General Conference happens. This is a conference that happens every four years but, due to Covid, was pushed back. May 6th, we had a preconference of clergy and laity delegates to annual conference who voted to confirm 28 churches in our conference who have decided to disaffiliate.

Geneseo 1st UMC, who was one of the 28 churches, has a great explanation on their website if interested in the process of what their timeline was for their discernment process and the outcome. Disaffiliation is a process that has been a way forward for many churches to help them decide where they want to go before and possibly after the vote at the General conference in August of 2024.

Some of the churches who have disaffiliated from the UMC have joined a new church that was launched on May 1, 2022, the Global Methodist Church. The GMC is a denomination plant by former UMC members and others who feel the need to separate from the United Methodist Church over the Book of Discipline & over the primacy of Scripture. Some of the churches are choosing to be non-denominational.

In 1968, the Methodist church and the Evangelical United Brethren formed the United Methodist Church. We have been a people who have had differences and have tried different ways to do the same thing.

The biggest thing we should all be doing is discerning (praying) where God is calling us as a people. God places people at certain locations for a reason & the main reason is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to help bring others into a relationship with Jesus. Those who have disaffiliated are helping those who want to remain UM to find a church home. The old saying that "Home is where the heart is" should be true in this case. It is not the building or the material things but in the relationships along the way that should be of importance. We all should be discerning and praying regardless. The question then is how we continue with God's work for the Kingdom of God.

I believe Bishop Beard and Mike Potts handled the process on May 6th very well. All the churches involved, disaffiliated & those who remain UMC all have the same common goal, to bring people to Jesus! **We too, need to keep our focus on Jesus and less on the cultural pressures of the world!** Here are 2 things you can do: 1) Pray for God's direction for EPFUMC 2) Decide how you will support this congregation & listen for God to lead! We too can be salt and light to a world in need!

With you on the Way! Pastor Krista

See Website: [Ask The UMC Series: Is The United Methodist Church really...?](#)

Committee Meetings

Finance Committee - Tuesday, June 13
@ 2:00 pm on Zoom
Day Care Board - Thursday, June 15
@ 6:00 pm in Sanctuary
Ad Council Committee - Tuesday, June 20
@ 6:30 pm in B1

UM WOMEN

June 27 - 6:00 pm Ruth Fellowship
Hostess - Carol Leach
Program - Lynn Heisel

Altar Flower Dedications

June 4 - In memory of Punkie Staley.
Love, The Hill Family
June 4 - Celebrating 51 wonderful years of
marriage! Jay & Sally Whitfield
June 11 - Celebrating 49 wonderful years of
marriage! John & Rose Rock
June 18 - Celebrating 45 wonderful years of
marriage! Dave & Jill Harlow
June 18 - Celebrating 53 wonderful years of
marriage! Les & Carol Leach
June 25 - In memory of Larry Avery &
Marguerite Sutton. From the Avery,
Sutton & Newnam Families

Friends for Mission Breakfast

The Friends for Mission Breakfast is usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month, but this month it is on the 1st Sunday, **June 4th**. Come have a delicious breakfast, support this important mission and help us pray over our Church Members who will be going on the Red Bird Mission trip!

Thank You

Thank you for all of the thoughtful gifts and words of praise I received for Admin Assistant Day. I am truly blessed! Terri Bridges

Sympathy

Our sincerest sympathies go to Les and Carol Leach and family due to the passing of Les's mom this past May.

Pew Friends

Beginning Sunday, June 4th, there will be forms in each pew. If someone that normally sits near you has missed two weeks or more please fill out the form with their name and drop it in the offering plate. We would like to reach out to them and let them know they are missed. Thank you for being part of our team.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

For June, we are featuring
FRIENDS FOR MISSION!

The Red Bird Mission was founded in 1921 and is based on the deep faith in God. Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Southeast Kentucky. The area is populated by some of the poorest people in the US. The Red Bird Mission is an official "Mission Conference" of the United Methodist Church. Since 1995, our church has been blessed to help serve the Red Bird Mission yearly. It started as a mission for our youth group with adult chaperones and has changed into a mission for all ages. There are other churches from all over the US that do their mission trips to Red Bird each year as well. Our missionaries love to reconnect with groups from previous years and they say that it is like a family reunion every summer!

Over the years, our church has sent groups as large as 20, and that has now dwindled to 3 faithful servants. The Friends for Mission try to serve in October as well, to help before winter sets in, but with the smaller numbers of those who can go, it might not be feasible in the future.

Jim Vogel, Jamie Webb and Melissa Earle will be departing on Saturday, June 10th at 6:30 am and will return on Friday, June 16th. They would LOVE to have more people join the mission team! Please reach out to Jim or Jamie, if you are able to join!

If you are not able to join the Mission trip, any monetary donations are always welcome! While the monthly breakfasts help greatly with the expenses and generate the funds for items requested by Red Bird, there is always more of a need than what is raised by the breakfasts.

We would also LOVE to bless our missionaries with gift cards for their trips to and from KY to help offset their personal expenses. Consider purchasing a gift card from the church for restaurants, gas stations or home improvements stores! This would be a great help to our missionaries!

As Jamie said, "We go to Redbird to bless the people in the community with what we have to offer...being the hands and feet of Jesus. But, WE inevitably return home...being doubly blessed ourselves."

Shirley Diveley 90th Birthday!!

Saturday, June 17th

Open House 2:00-4:00 pm

Everyone is invited for cake and ice cream.

Shirley requests no gifts please, but greeting cards and notes of thoughts and love are encouraged. Please RSVP by June 10th to Gregg Diveley at 309-256-7718.

Worship on the Green

Join us for a special service outside on September 17, 2023. Our Youth will bring us the message that morning. The Worship Service is at 10:30 am (note the time is later than our regular service). After service stay for a Community Picnic. Bring your lawn chair, bring a friend, and enjoy the fellowship!

Gift Cards**Help us raise money!**

Gift cards are not just for gifts. You can use them for your everyday spending; groceries, gas, clothing, eating out, **FATHER'S DAY** and so much more. You can even use them for hotels, airlines, cruises, movie theaters, etc. There are over 1,000 retailers to choose from with various dollar values as low as \$10 and as high as \$500 but varies by retailer. We keep several common gift cards on hand for you to purchase on Sunday mornings or in the church office during office hours. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: Jennie Reeves at 309-256-7893.

Small Adult Group Bible Study

We are not meeting in June, but will resume class in July.

Women of the Bible

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:00 pm

Led by Jennie Reeves

This class is for men and women.

You can join the class anytime!**Happy Father's Day**

We want to wish a very special Happy Father's Day to all of our 90+ gentlemen!

Rob Snoke 90

Alan Astle 91

Don Meyer 94

Dean Smith 96

VBS - "Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light"**Save the date:****Pre-K - 5th Grade****VBS is Saturday, July 29****8:30 am to 3:00 pm**

This year's theme is "Stellar" and will focus on helping the kids to discover what it means to shine Jesus' light. They will explore how Jesus shined hope, love, forgiveness, and joy to the world. In this one-day format, students will spend time in the Imagination Station, Bible Adventure room, playing All-star games, and learning Blast Off music. Use the URL below to pre-register:

<https://forms.gle/AiCBbrA8P7FLcrt2A>**or****Go to our website epfumc.com**

We need tons of adult help, so if you are willing to help out, let Trish Renken or Julie Powers know.

Join Leap of Faith for an End of Year Celebration

Leap of Faith is having a private end of year celebration. They are extending the invite to all church member families, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Kid's Club. It will be held outside on our playground.

Saturday, June 3rd**11:30 am- 3:30 pm.**

There will be bounce houses, slides, face painting, and more. Admission is \$8 per child and \$5 per adult (if they're jumping/sliding), adults not jumping are free. Lunch will be served for \$5 a plate, snow cones for \$1, popcorn and cotton candy for .50¢ each, and carnival games will be .25¢ per game. Waivers will be available that day for all jumpers.

Operation Christmas Child

Even though the shoeboxes won't be handed out until late September, it is not too early to start shopping for items you would like to put in your box. You can buy for a girl or boy, and the ages are as follows: 2-4 year old, 5-9 year old or 10-14 year old. For gift suggestions go to SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC. If you have any questions please contact Ginny Halverson at 309-256-5018.

Theresa Tracy Trot Fundraiser

Friday, June 16 & Saturday, June 17
11:00 am - 2:00 pm @ Metamora IGA

Monday, June 19

5:00 - 8:00 pm @ Pizza Ranch, Morton

Sunday Worship Services

Are you unable to attend our Sunday Worship Service in person but would love to be able to watch it every week? Did you attend and would like to see it again?

Our weekly Worship Service is broadcast live to our Facebook page and remains there even after the Worship Service ends. The service is also available on YouTube and our website. We even create DVD copies of the service if you can't access it online.

If you have any questions about how to access these various platforms, please contact the Church office.

Church Info via Facebook

We are promoting the church and some church-wide events on our Facebook Page and in our Facebook Group. The name of our page and group is the same: East Peoria First United Methodist Church. If you have not yet "liked" our Facebook page, please do so and "follow" us also. This will assure that you will be notified of our various posts and events. **Also, please "share" our posts and events with your friends and help promote the great happenings of our church.** If you are not yet a member of our Facebook group, please "join" our group.

Reporting a New Address

Have you moved? Please call the office at 309-699-5417 and let us know your new address.

Giving Made Easy

Did you know you can setup your giving to be an automatic withdrawal, either monthly or semi-monthly? Withdrawals occur on the 3rd and/or the 17th each month. Sign-up is easy! Stop by the church office and ask for an Electronic Giving form.

Joys & Concerns

If you have a Joy or Concern that you would like read during a Worship service. Please let the office know by the Wednesday before the Sunday service. We will still pass the green cards on Sunday, but if we get the information before hand it will help to stay organized.

The Wired Word

A great study/growth opportunity is the Wired Word. This is a self-study that is emailed to you every week (usually on Thursdays) addressing current issues from a Biblical perspective. Email the Church office at Office@epfumc.org and you will be added to the list.

If you are in the Hospital

We call the hospitals every morning, but even if you specify that we be informed of your hospitalization are not always told. **Please call us** or have a relative or friend notify the Church. We want to know when you are ill. We want to be praying for you as you are hospitalized.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

The lost and found is in the office. Stop in and pick up your belongings. We keep lost & found items for 3 months and if not claimed, we give away through the Food Pantry.

*Gold horseshoe necklace
Gray sweatshirt with snaps
Silver rim prescription glasses
Brown rim reading glasses*

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday from
9:30 am - 4:00 pm and
Friday from 9:30 am - noon.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Krista Price, Directing Pastor
(217) 549-4544

Terri Bridges, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org

Marlene Klaus, Interim Choir Director

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Page for kids
of all ages

Pond Fishing Word Search

Common
Freshwater
Fish of
Illinois



bluegill/sunfish



crappie



muskellunge



northern pike



yellow perch



channel catfish



rainbow trout



largemouth bass



walleye



smallmouth bass

B	R	I	M	L	I	C	E	R	P	L	R
L	A	K	E	E	L	Y	E	W	B	U	E
F	I	S	H	E	I	T	R	O	U	T	L
U	K	V	H	C	N	T	A	R	U	C	A
P	O	N	D	H	E	R	U	M	F	A	X
O	M	G	M	O	T	O	R	I	O	R	O
A	M	A	P	S	W	I	V	E	L	P	I
B	O	A	T	Z	P	G	H	O	O	K	U

Boat

Carp

Hook

Lake

Pond

Relax

Swivel

Worm

Map

Ice

Leech

Motor

Line

Trout

Brim

Fish

Net



FISHING LURE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

- MATTHEW 4:19 NIV

START





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Roger Cothrell
Fred Darrah

Fighting Cancer

Halle Bloom, Julie Jenkins,
Pam Riley, Mark Gill,
Sherry Throckmorton, Mary Mallory,
Lynne Barker, Brian Engles,
Rob Calder II, Katie Bishop,
Sandy Crawford, Larry Purfield,
Joette Blakesley, Gary Fargher,
Norman Clark (asbestosis), Merry Eccles,
Nancy Brooks, Len Brockman,
Judy Preston, Paul Minear

Needing Prayer

Please pray for Our Dear Church Family
who are struggling, the lonely, all who are
unemployed, shut-in, those who are
struggling with flu/colds, those who are
grieving, all governmental leaders,
those who are serving in our military,
the youth and all caregivers.

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,
Betty Rabold, Margaret Johnston,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Gail Morger, Beth Ball,
Jim Spicher, Fred Darrah, Steve Smith,
Byran Gullett, Ralph Linder,
Butch Hackett, Marie Richie,
Steve Wetterauer, Jim Hayden,
Jeff Briggs, Roger Williams

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm,
Marge Wakeman, Julie Story

Military Service Members

Joe Rizzo (Air National Guard),
Brad Wheeler (Air Force),
Ryan Webb (Army),
Jared Koch (Air Force),
Nate Hill (Air National Guard)

June Birthdays

Jun 4	John Dickerson
Jun 7	Gail Morger 91
Jun 9	Jeff Brooks
Jun 12	Rob Snoke 91
Jun 14	Grace Wheeler
Jun 15	Ron Meischner
Jun 16	Steve Price
Jun 17	Mark Hill
Jun 18	Shirley Diveley 90
Jun 18	Lynda Gustafson
Jun 19	Steve Hoskins
Jun 19	Kurt Jamison
Jun 20	Lucas Vogel
Jun 21	Avery Saddoris
Jun 21	Dee Tucker
Jun 21	Vern Wilfinger
Jun 22	Rev. Randy Shepard
Jun 23	Makena Schmitt
Jun 24	Terri Bridges
Jun 24	Jean Derry
Jun 25	Bonnie Wilfinger
Jun 26	Brody Andrus
Jun 28	Lynn Heisel

Happy Birthday

A birthday is one of the
most important
days of the year.

May yours be filled with
the light of living
and the

brightness of laughter!
God Bless each moment!

Is this your birth month?

If you have a birthday this month, and your
name is missing from our list, we do not
have your birthdate in our database.
Please provide the office with your
birthdate; month, day and year. We want to
celebrate you!

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2023

[illegible]

Congratulations Class of 2023



MARY KLAUS

Granddaughter of Marlene Klaus
8th grade Graduate of Liberty Leadership

Accomplishments: Student Council,
Robotics (FLL), Top Reader, Kid's
Club helper, VBS helper

Future: On to High School to join JROTC
and the International Baccalaureate
Program.



KATHRYN RENKEN

Daughter of Trisha Renken
Graduate of EPCHS

Accomplishments: Chess Club
Link Crew, Honor Roll,
Marching Band, Section Lead
in front Ensemble

Future: Will attend ICC and
work at Apostolic Christian
Restmor



JACOB MATTHEW BOND

Son of Tim & Jennifer Bond
8th grade Graduate of EP
Central Junior High School

Accomplishments: Baseball,
Track & Band

Future: On to High School



ELIZABETH MOEHLE CHURCH

Daughter of Paula and the late Tim Church
Granddaughter of Barbara and the late
Gary Church
Honors Graduate of Wheaton College

Accomplishments:

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Bachelor of Arts in History



KELSEY LEE KOCH

Granddaughter of Janet Koch
Graduate of Parkland College

Future: Transferring to U of I
and studying to become a
Conservation Biologist

Worship Schedule & Bible Study

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

Or Current Resident

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