

Welcome to Urbana First United Methodist Church!

Feel free to forward this Monthly Joyful News to your friends, family, and neighbors and invite them to our church as we continue in the mission to grow our congregation and family of faith here at Urbana First UMC.



Photo by Kathleen Barry
United Methodist Communications

See You Sundays ...

Worship
8 am & 10:30 am
(except for Easter - 9 am Worship)

Sunday School
9:00 am

Fellowship/Coffee Time
10:00 am

April 2 - Communion Sunday
April 9 - Palm Sunday
April 16 - Easter Sunday

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

By the United Methodist Church
(Lent 2017: March 1st through April 15th)

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring". The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

See online: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

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- APRIL Calendar: Events, Birthdays, & Anniversaries

Easter is almost here!!!

With Jill & Pastor Steve Anderson



Easter is fast approaching and this year's celebration will include getting to know the congregations worshipping at FUMC. And what is the "typical" Methodist way of welcoming fellow believers? Why, it's with food, of course!! And this year's Easter Brunch promises to be wonderful, with all three congregations invited to share worship and fellowship time.

A joint committee has been meeting to organize this event. We've gone to stores to price the items selected, ironed out the details, and have determined the items needed from all three congregations.

So, how can you help? It's easy! FUMC has been asked to purchase 13 containers of 40 count mini muffins (\$7.98 each) and 10 containers of 40 - 50 count donut holes (\$4.98 each). And where can you find these? At Sam's Club! And here's where it gets REALLY easy ... Let Jill Anderson (#377 - 7559) or Anne Brown (#840 - 4863) know what item(s) you wish to purchase (tell us by Palm Sunday, April 9th please), give them the cash and Jill will do the shopping for you! If you'd like to shop yourself, please let Jill or Anne know what you're going to get and bring your goodies to the church on Thursday, April 13th, during office hours (9 am to 3 pm). If that day doesn't work to bring in your items, give Jill or Steve (#737 - 4948) a call and we'll work something out.

Also, for Easter Sunday, we are asking for six people to serve as host/hostess for the brunch. These folks are asked to make sure tables are kept stocked with coffee and goodies. These teams could be husband/wife, mother/daughter, brother/sister, father/son, etc. If you are single and want to help, that would be wonderful. The more, the merrier! Sitting is definitely acceptable and SMILES are always enjoyed. This opportunity starts at 10:15 and runs until noon. Can't do the entire time? ... just let us know! We're all learning to be flexible!

More good news! We will be having a large number of children at this special event and we would like to be sure they have something special. So here's the plan ... Our congregation is going to "stuff" a couple of goodies into about 100 plastic eggs and you are invited to join us on Palm Sunday, April 9th, after church in the Chapel to help.



SET UP is Friday, April 14th at 5:45 pm. As always, there will be CLEANUP afterwards on the 16th for anyone who would like to help.

We are very excited about this event and are really looking forward to the congregations getting to know each other. As members of the family of Christ, celebrating His Resurrection together is a special, joy-filled time!

Yours in Christ,
Jill & Pastor Steve

African Palms USA

African Palms USA

Let's support this life changing project with our Noisy Offering on Easter Sunday, April 16th

Here's a little about the organization's mission: African Palms awards grants for humanitarian aid projects:

- **Clean Water Project** - Communities with poor water sources need assistance to dig wells and build filtration systems. The average cost of one well is \$5,000.
- **Medical Project** - Provides HIV/AIDS education, medical supplies for health clinics, prenatal care for pregnant women, wellness care for children, mosquito netting to protect against malaria

- **Agricultural Project** - The goal is to enhance food production and increase income for communities through agricultural training. Farming helps reduce poverty in rural communities.
- **Life-Saving Food Project** - Help provide food and medical support for African street children. This project helps meet these needs, as well as locating families to adopt these children.

More about African Palms:

- African Palms is a non-profit tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 100% of donations to African Palms USA are used to fund grants. Cost of operations are paid from sales.
- Only the leaves are used, leaving the tree intact and our products environmentally friendly, so the product you receive is wholly organic.
- The crosses are hand-woven by villagers near Masasi, Tanzania. They are made from dried leaves of the dwarf palm, *hyphaena coriacea*, and last a lifetime.

Please remember that Easter Sunday's Noisy Offering will go to support African Palms USA!

Pastor Steve

For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.africanpalmsusa.org/>

Thank You ...

Dear FUMC-U members,

I appreciate your support and prayers for my conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from March 7 to 10. The conference of ACDA (American Choral Director's Association) has been recognized as one of the most well-known choral conferences. I could meet and discuss musical matters with musicians from all over the country. I was involved in conferences of church music, European ensemble, and community ensemble.

This conference has inspired me in my music and life. I will not forget this opportunity and share music with you from the conference.

Have a blessed day.

Sincerely,
Caleb Lee

Margaret Hoffman sends a big THANK YOU for all of your prayers. She is back home now for continued recovery. ♥

Congratulations Pastor Lee ...

Dear Friends,

Very recently we received word that Eunjoo (Angie) Lee, former pastor of our church, had been named to be a District Superintendent of our Annual Conference. Until today, we had not heard which of the 10 districts of approximately 85 churches she would serve. It is now official that she will serve the Iroquois River District (our district) beginning July 1st.

If you wish to congratulate her and wish her well, you can do this at pastoreunjoo@gmail.com. Please keep her in your prayers as she begins this new and difficult part of her ministry.

Pastor Steve

Events ...

Celebrate Youth, Music & Spring!

Sunday, April 2, 2017 | 7:30 pm

McKinley Presbyterian Church, 809 S. Fifth St., Champaign

Winners of the 2017 Young Baroque Artists Competition for high school students will perform their competition pieces, and singers from area high schools, along with the Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana (BACH) Chorus and members of the Choral Union, will perform choral works by Fauré & Mozart. Tickets (by cash or check) at the door: \$10 each

APRIL 9th ---You Are Invited to Caleb Lee's Graduate Recital in Choral Music:

- Featuring ---O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery), Fair Phyllis, Jesu Meine Freude (Jesus My Joy), Slavic Psalms (117 & 131)
- Sunday, April 9th at 4:00 pm
- The Chapel of St. John the Divine, 1011 S. Wright St., Champaign

Easter Sunday, April 16th ---Please join us for a combined worship service with Christ Community CU:

- 9:00 am - Worship (one service only)
- 10:15 am to 12:15 pm - "Come & Go" Breakfast/Brunch

Thoughts & Prayers

Please e-mail or call the Church Office if you would like to add a name to Our Prayer List below. The names will remain on the list for two months unless you notify us otherwise. When you submit a prayer request, please give us the name of the person making the request, as well as your contact information. Knowing who makes the request, helps us follow up to see if the person needs additional congregational care and continued support. Thank you!

Please Pray for:

Elsie Becker & Family (the loss of her son, Don)
 Kailish (help with finances, from our website)
 Margaret Hoffman (health)
 Richard Geese (friend of Steve & Jill)
 Alyssa & Brycen Conley (Steve & Jill's daughter and grandson)
 Kim Van Engelenburg (health issues)
 Ulla Brems (recovering-illness)
 John Segalla (Joyce Smith's son-in-law)
 CW (Judy Krumwiede's friend)
 Rick Frederick (cancer)
 Pat Paul
 Greg Swenson (Leila's son)

JOY: Janet Spencer (Kaley's mom) – is grateful for her new job! ♥

Pastor Steve Anderson's Cell:
 (217) 737 – 4948
 Pastor's E-Mail:
urbanafirstpastor@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Urbana First United Methodist Church ... We're Glad You Are Here! All Are Welcome ... APRIL Events, Birthdays, & Anniversaries						1 Cleo Anderson Jacquie Roland 
2 Communion Dean Carr 	3 6:30 pm - Conv. Eng.	4 Emma Lee 	5 6:30 pm - Choir	6 10:00 am – Conv. Eng. 7:00 pm – UMW Gathering: 1213 W. Park Ave., C. ♥♥ Camille & Dan Harmon	7	8 ♥♥ Mira Hwang & Caleb Lee
9 Palm Sunday Dean Carr 	10 6:30 pm - Conv. Eng. Helen Dueringer 	11	12 6:30 pm - Choir	13 Maundy Thursday Esther Circle 10:00 am – Conv. Eng. 7:00 pm – Dulcimers Elsie Becker 	14 Good Friday	15 Holy Saturday
16 Easter Noisy Offering for African Palms USA 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am to 12:15 pm - Come & Go Brunch Ryan Wade 	17 6:30 pm - Conv. Eng.	18 10:00 am - UMW Board Pastor Steve Anderson  ♥♥ Mary Jane & Jerry Ross	19 6:00 pm - Day Care Board 6:30 pm - Choir Margaret Hoffman Billy Ingram 	20 10:00 am – Conv. Eng. 6:30 pm – Finance	21 Marie Govert 	22 Earth Day
23 11:45 am - SPRC	24 12:00 pm - Wesley Circle: Monical's 6:30 pm - Conv. Eng.	25 ♥♥ Kim Ankrom & Troy Vogel	26 Administrative Professionals 6:30 pm - Choir	27 10:00 am – Conv. Eng. 6:30 pm – Ch. Council 7:00 pm - Dulcimers	28 Arbor Day	29 Marty Morse 
30	Easter Sunday, April 16: 9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am to 12:15 pm - Come & Go Brunch					Sunday Times: 8:00 am & 10:30 am - Worship 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:00 am - Fellowship/Coffee

