

FIRST EDITION

**PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
219 N. CHICAGO STREET
PONTIAC, IL 61764**



STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website:

www.pontiacfumc.org

Email:

pfumcoffice219@gmail.com

Church Phone:

(815) 842-1157

Church Office Hours:

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday - Friday

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 am & 10:45 am

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Children's Church

AWANA Wednesdays

4:45 pm Optional Meal

5:15—6:45pm AWANA

JOIN US!

STAFF

Pastor Tom Goodell

Rev. Gretchen Stinebaugh

Ellen Yedinak, Adult Discipleship

Deanna Pratt, Children's Ministry

Vicki Aupperle, Jean Dunning &

Angela Padula, Financials

Faith Mund, Office Manager

Cuong Vuong, Custodians

Lynn Vuong

Mae Brewer, Organist

Laura Ramseyer, Sanctuary

Choir/Bells

Mary Hamilton, Children's Choir

Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse

Amber Christensen, Nursery

Coordinator

FROM THE PASTOR:

"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28: 19, New International Reader's Version)

Where have you assumed you should not share the Good News? At work, at the rec center, at school, at home?

Jesse Walker was born June 9, 1766 to a poor family in Virginia. At the age of 9 he attended a camp meeting, a revival, with his mother and gave his life to Christ. He became active in the Methodist movement, apprenticing himself to Methodist pastors who taught him how to interpret Scripture and refine his preaching style. Walker was a dynamic preacher who stirred the emotions in his audience. He was examined by a local group of Methodist preachers and deemed fit for ministry. He married Susannah Webly and moved with her to North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and eventually the untamed prairie of Illinois. He would establish scores of Methodist Churches in Illinois. In 1828 he was assigned to ride the circuit out of Peoria, in 1832 out of Chicago (though he was based in Ottawa for a while). Susannah died in 1832 but Rev. Walker continued his mission.

Illinois' population boomed in the 1820-1830s as settlers crossed the Wabash and Ohio Rivers and began to move out the Pottawattamie and Kickapoo who largely settled in the state. Among those migrating to Illinois from Indiana were Thomas Lincoln and his son Abraham. The Kickapoo settled in our part of the state, especially around the Vermilion River.

They were led by an enigmatic "prophet" named Keannekeuk. He mixed the spiritual traditions of the Kickapoo with Christianity. For example, the Kickapoo made walnut boards emblazoned with a wigwam which they would pray to each night, asking God for protection and wisdom as they slept. Carved into the walnut board were various Kickapoo and Christian symbols.

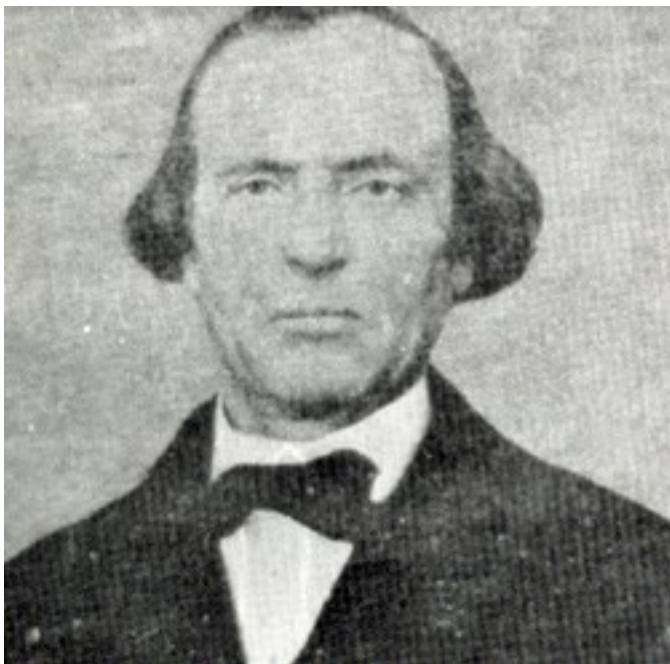
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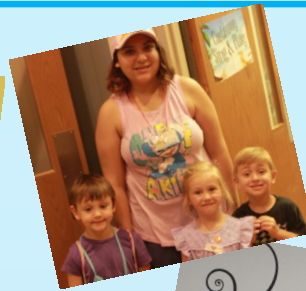
For the most part relationships between white settlers and the Kickapoo were not friendly. The Kickapoo would sadly be driven completely from the state, most settling in Kansas. Keannekeuk ordered his Kickapoo not to use violence to defend their sovereignty, and encouraged temperance from alcohol and trade with white settlers. Rev. Walker heard of Keannekeuk's Christian faith and left Ottawa with S. R. Beggs (who would record the story) to meet Keannekeuk at the Big Vermilion Camp in September 1833. Here is Begg's account. "Long before we reached the camp we heard the prophet preaching. When he finished, we were introduced to him by an "African American" interpreter. After the introduction the prophet shouted, "ho, ho, ho", and all the people came to us in a single file and shook hands with us" (cited in *Workers and Worthies*. A. D. Field, 1896). Beggs reported that over 600 Kickapoo were present. The camp was just south of Pontiac.

The encounter reminds us of the willingness of Walker to meet with a people whom other white derided as "savages", unfit for good company. And the willingness of Keannekeuk to meet with the very people who were so often oppressing them. No assumptions were made, and the Spirit of Christianity guided both, great men. Who do we assume would be unfriendly to an invitation to church? Who do we assume we should not speak to about our faith? What assumptions keep us from sharing the Good News? The story, and the mission of Jesus, reminds us that when we leave these assumptions behind, the Spirit is present and will guide us. May the Spirit and the spirits of Keannekeuk and Jesse Walker guide as us we grow the Kingdom near the sacred ground where they met in 1832.

Jesse Walker died in 1835 in Cook County. Keannekeuk died in 1852 in Kansas, of small pox.



Rev. Jesse Walker www.historyonthefox.com



VBS 2018



THANK YOU TO ALL



OUR AMAZING



VOLUNTEERS



FOR THE AWESOME



ADVENTURE!

Congregation News and Notes:

Welcome to our newest members! Donald Blair, Devin Wunsch, Conrad Skrzypiec, Matthew Bromley, Drew Wayman, Clayton Bahler, Kylee Shaver, Raya Bohm, and Ethan McCabe were confirmed and joined the church on May 20.

We celebrated the baptisms of Orion Leslie and Athena Ann Paulsen on May 20. They are the twin children of Eric Paulson and Lindsey Erschen. We celebrated the baptisms of Kash Allan Holtman and Gentry Robert Durre, sons of Paul and Chelsea Durre on August 12.

We remember in sympathy family members of our congregation who passed away recently. Elmer "Gene" Hamilton died April 23, he was the brother of Dean Hamilton. Jerry Fairley died May 18, he was the husband of Laurel Fairley. H. Robert Kammermann died May 31, he was the brother of Lorraine Kammermann and Rosalind Parsons. Marvin Barger died May 29. He was the brother of Jo Ellen Murphy. Edna Brue died June 22. She was the grandmother of Jess Reilman. Wilma Johnson died June 23. She was the grandmother of John Telford. Sandy Cockream died July 28. She was the mother of Cindy Russell.

David Rosenbaum, a member of our church, passed away May 27. A memorial service was held at the church for David on June 1. He is survived by his wife Paula and children. Memorials may be made to the church.

Mary Carol Jones, a member of our church, passed away August 3. A memorial service was held at the church for Mary Carol on August 9. She is survived by her children and family. Memorials may be made to the church.

Who's Who? Meet Your Church Staff!



Deanna Pratt, Director of Children and Family Ministries

What are your responsibilities as Director of Children and Family Ministries? I serve as a "co-laborer" with an extra-special group of staff and support people here with Pastor Tom as our leader. My work involves the coordination and implementation of the educational programs that involve children and their families. I order curriculum and supplies, oversee classroom set-up and sourcing, recruit and equip volunteers, supervise Safe Sanctuary practices and policies, track participation, evaluate programming, and report to Pastor Tom and the Coordinating Council.

What are your typical office hours (if you have any "set" ones)? I am in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9a-5p; Wednesdays evenings and Sunday mornings are my 'people time', when I get to immerse myself in the programming, plans, and preparations of the previous week.

In what other areas of church ministry are you involved or passionate about? I love to share spontaneous "God Sightings" with others -- times when we discover how God is present in our 'daily' -- in sacred places and every day places. Sometimes that happens in the middle of a Bible Study or during a meeting, as we listen to a sermon, through a hymn or song, around a campfire or enjoying some hot coffee and treats, on the sidewalk, at the front door of the church building, while in prayer, as we come together for a meal, a 'chance' meeting at Walmart, or gathered around the altar for the Lord's Supper.

Why do you feel called to this ministry? The church was the most important facet of my formative years. Both of my parents served as volunteers in various roles: teaching Sunday School, choir directing, leading Bible study groups, participating in mission clubs, serving in whatever capacity was asked of them. They were deeply committed to the work of the church, and in particular, music and Christian education. When I completed my Confirmation class in eighth grade, I felt the 'warmth' of the Holy Spirit directing me to a path in ministry. The journey has had its twists and turns, even a couple dark valleys, but I am grateful for the honor to serve Jesus and His Church.

Name someone who has been a spiritual mentor or inspiration to you. What influence have they had on you? A few days after I asked God to send me an angel to help me through an especially lonely time, I met Roberta. She was better than an angel because she did not try to conceal her own human struggles; she was accepting and compassionate and never seemed shocked when I disclosed my latest temptation. She gushed over my babies, reminded me of my husband's best qualities and unashamedly celebrated each of my tiny victories. Her fierce love for Jesus' children challenged me to a new level of obedience. Her best gift to me was how she would take me by the hand and pray when I wanted to shrink back from my tasks.



Parenting, Grand-parenting, Teaching, Leading, and Nurturing Children are tasks too important to apply a Do-It Yourself approach. We need each other for encouragement, advice, resources and support. The Educational Agencies at PFUMC offer spiritual growth opportunities for children, Pre-Kindergarten through 9th Grade.

Sunday Mornings

9:30-10:30 am Sunday School Hour for PK-5th Grade, Group's *Dig In: Life of Jesus*.

6-9th Grade meets in the Friendship Room to study Group's *Live*

10:45 am Worship: PK through 2nd Grade meet after Children's Message for Children's Church

Wednesday Afternoons

AWANA Clubs, ages PK through 8th Grade, 5:15-6:45 pm, Optional Meal at 4:45 pm.



First United Methodist Church
219 N. Chicago St.
Pontiac, IL. 61764

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Kids are carrying more than ever in their backpacks and the load is getting heavy. Backpack injuries are a real concern. Doctors treat at least 14,000 children each year with injuries related to heavy backpacks. Dr. Anisha Shelly, an Advocate Children's Medical Group pediatrician, offers this advice for keeping your child's back healthy.

Watch: Encourage your child or teenager to tell you about numbness, tingling, or discomfort in the arms or legs, which may indicate poor backpack fit or too much weight being carried.

Ease: Watch your child put on or take off their backpack to see if it is a struggle. If the backpack seems too heavy for the child, have them remove some of the books and carry them in their arms to ease the load on their back.

Act: Do not ignore any back pain in a child or teenager, Seek medical advice and care.

Partner: Talk to the school about lightening the load. Team up with other parents to encourage changes.

Strategize: Encourage your child to stop at his or her locker to drop off heavier books.

Invest: If your child has back pain that does not improve, consider buying a second set of textbooks to keep at home.

Prayer: God, our amazing bodies that you created can bear a lot and sometimes we pile on more than is good for us. Help us teach to care well for their bodies by being gentle with themselves.

If I can help you with anything let me know.

Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse

This is from Advocate Healthcare health Tips.

REMINDER - We have yarn available for anyone wishing to knit or crochet prayer shawls or lapghans for the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the church. Please contact the church for yarn and patterns if needed.

MOPS NEWS

MOPS - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
September - May - 9:00-11:00 a.m.
* a community for moms.

YOUNG MOPS - 2nd Thursday of month
September - May - 5:45-7:00 p.m.
*a community for young moms in their
teens and 20's.