

FIRST EDITION

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

SUMMER 2018



STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website:
www.pontiacfumc.org/
Email: pfumcof-
fice219@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 pm AWANA
6:45 pm Sr. High Youth

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, Lynn Vuong
Custodians
Mae Brewer, Organist
Laura Ramsey, Sanctuary
Choir/Bells
Mary Hamilton, Children’s Choir
Ashley Diaz, Nursery Coordinator
Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse



1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Sept-May
9:00-11:00 am

This Year of MOPS was an exciting one! We kicked the year off with a family cookout. We had inflatables, pumpkin carving, a bonfire and of course, food. Each month was just as exciting. Between our usual bimonthly meetings we had regular “Mom’s Night Out.” Our theme this year was “FREE INDEED,” and we embraced how to be free from the negative things in life. We had fun and meaningful meetings. Next year should be even more exciting: **2018-2019 will be our 10th YEAR!** With that in mind, we are planning some big things with lots of fun. We hope to see all of our moms return and many new faces in the Fall when regular meetings resume!

Summer playdates will occur at area parks. That schedule can be found on the Pontiac IL MOPS Facebook group.



For Moms in their
Teens & early 20s
2nd Thurs. of the
Month - 5:00-6:30 pm

Young MOPS wrapped up our 4th year this Spring! We enjoyed a more laid back meeting style this year, with our focus being on time for devotionals, conversation, and support. As always, we are so incredibly thankful for our MOPS Kids volunteers who faithfully watch the children so these young Moms get a good meal and some time for adult conversation. We truly can see God working in the Lives of each young mom – thank you for your continued support!!

We will have evening summer Playdates and will resume meeting in the Fall.



NEEDED:

Please contact Ashley Diaz
abpwdiaz_09@hotmail.com
1-309-824-1277

Nursery is open to babies thru age 5 during 8:15 Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, and 10:45 Worship.

LOOKING BACK! “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses,” Hebrews 12:1

Our church has always been “mission focused”. Methodism was built on the focus of inward piety (growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ) and outward acts of mercy (helping those in need and sharing Christ in the world). I recently found and read a fascinating diary of The Women’s Foreign Missionary Society of our church, from October 5, 1889- September 7, 1893. The diary was kept by Lizzie Blakemore. The period covered by the diary coincides with the presidency of Benjamin Harrison. America had 43 states and 63 million people. Pontiac had just under 3,000 residents but a vibrant Methodist Church. The Women’s Foreign Missionary Society met monthly at members’ homes.



The Society, 1898 at the Murphy home on Howard Street

The Society formed in Boston, Massachusetts. “Ten women braved a driving storm on March 23, 1869 in Tremont Street Church. There they formed a society for the purpose of ‘engaging and uniting the efforts of the women...in sending out and supporting female missionaries, native Christian teachers, and Bible leaders in foreign lands.’” (Frederick Norwood’s [The Story of American Methodism](#))

Among the early leaders were Isabella Thoburn, Clara Swain, and First Lady Lucy Hayes. Thoburn was a missionary. She spent most of her adult life in India. She founded a university there. Swain was a doctor, and founded numerous medical schools in

India focusing especially on the needs of women. Hayes, “lemonade” Lucy as her devout Methodist faith caused her to ban the serving of hard liquor at The White House, was active in supporting the education of former slaves in the American south.

The mission of the Society was three-fold. They raised money for overseas mission. They raised awareness in local congregations about the need for evangelism and mission around the world. And they prayed for missionaries often serving in dangerous places. One of their earliest publications was titled, in all sincerity, the “Heathen Woman’s Friend”! As one would expect in this time, the male leadership of the Methodist church, particularly Dr. John P. Durbin, supported this endeavor but encouraged the Society to turn over any money they raised to his care. The women who led this group gently responded that they thought they could manage!

The Society took a lead role in sharing the Gospel around the world and advocating for the needs of the poor, especially women and children. Missionaries were sent to Japan, India, China, the Korean peninsula and much of Africa during this time. Today the Methodist Church is growing the fastest in these very places.

“February 7, 1891: The Society met at the home of Mrs. A Pinckney. The meeting opened with Scripture lesson, singing and prayer.... A letter was read from Mrs. Dwindle with instruction to send our contribution to the district office. A communication was read urging our Society to observe the 17th day of March as a “thank offering day”. The money was to be appropriated for the Central China Mission and to the Bombay (India) Home. Lizzie Blackmore, secretary.”

“May 5, 1892: Mrs. Luke read a letter from Mrs. Carrol from Bombay which was listened to with great interest. A committee served us having been appointed to arrange for a missionary tea at this time at the close of this program....Owing to the severe rainstorm the attendance was not as large as expected. Collection \$5.50. Lizzie Blakemore, secretary.”

The Society met for many years and raised money that directly impacted many lives in China, India and throughout the world. Today as we support missionaries in Nepal (Dr. Lester Dornan and Deborah Dornan), China, and throughout the world, we stand on their shoulders. Well done ladies!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom Goodell



Who's Who? Meet Your Church Staff!

THE FINANCE OFFICE TEAM:
Vicki Aupperle, Angela Padula & Jean Dunning

What is your specific role in the finance office?

VICKI: "I am the back-up person in the financial office. If Jean is going to be out of the office I fill in for her. I really enjoy filling in at the office. Being a farm wife I tend to spend a lot of time alone. I love the friendly, fun and warm personalities of our staff. We are all very blessed to have the staff we have."

JEAN: "I primarily handle Accounts Payable (pay the bills), produce reports and (with Vicki's help) reconcile our checking accounts."

ANGELA: "I am in charge of working with counters to count each Sunday offerings (and special offerings) make the statement credits and deposit the money in the correct account."

What are your typical office hours (if you have any "set" ones)?

VICKI & JEAN: "No set hours; we stop in the office every couple of days to see if anything needs attention and set aside a couple of mornings at the beginning of the month to do reconciliations."

ANGELA: Monday from about 8:30 am til 11:00 am.

In what other areas of church ministry are you involved or passionate about ?

VICKI: "I am on the Staff Parish committee. Every month or two I'm the liturgist at the 10:45 service. I have also given the message at the 10:45 service a couple times. I serve communion from time to time. I find that to be a great blessing."

JEAN: "I've helped with Awana for a couple years, lead one of the Grow Groups, and serve on Staff Parish Relations."

ANGELA: "Children's Ministry including Awana and Sunday morning Sunday school."

Why do you volunteer and give time to the church?

VICKI: "I volunteer because I feel it is where God wants me to be right now. It is totally out of my comfort zone to help lead in worship but God taught me a long time ago to go the direction He wants me to go. I have to admit He needs to remind me to be obedient to His call a lot. Another thing I have done in the past is lead Bible Studies. I find s meaning I hadn't understood before. That is so exciting to me and I just can't help but share it."

JEAN: "I volunteer for a few reasons. To keep myself busy and my brain stimulated; to be of service in something meaningful, to be involved with and support my church family, and to keep a promise."

ANGELA: "I like to work with the children, especially at risk kids and show them Jesus' love."

Name someone who has been a spiritual mentor or inspiration to you. What influence have they had on you?

VICKI: "I have had so many people influence me. I remember talking with my Grandfather about Jesus and what the cross meant. Without a doubt my parents have always been a major influence. I have also found that my husband and sons keep me on track. They truly keep me accountable. They are not afraid to tell me when I'm getting off track. It's humbling to have one of my sons quote scripture to me that points out something I've done wrong. But...it is also necessary to have that kind of accountability in my life. I also meet with a childhood friend. We share our heartaches, our joys, and our faith with each other."

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JEAN: “Rev. Jack Travelstead, I saw in him what it is to be truly humble while doing work for God.”

ANGELA: “Tim Janiszewski, a pastor at my Chicago church who really made Jesus come alive for me.”

If you could do just one hobby for the rest of your life, what would it be?

VICKI: “I would quilt. I find quilting to be a time when I can think and listen. God reveals himself in those moments and keeps teaching me patience. I’m working with my two older granddaughters on quilts of their own. As we work together we can talk about all kinds of things. Yes, Jesus has come up more times than you would think. The same is true of my friend and me. We have solved a lot of problems over squares of fabric.”

JEAN: “This one’s really, really hard because there are so many things I love to do but I guess it would be reading if I can only choose one.”

ANGELA: “Animal care.”

How can your church family pray for you specifically, or encourage you?

VICKI: “Prayers for more energy, understanding, and open hearts are always appreciated.”

JEAN: “I need prayers on thinking before I speak. I often think I’m being witty or clever but my words end up being unintentionally hurtful or inappropriate. ‘Set a guard over my mouth, LORD, keep watch over the door of my lips!’ Psalms 141:3”

ANGELA: “Just for God to give me patience as I learn all the ins and outs of my position in finance. I will always take calls and try to resolve issues, it just may take longer than either of us wants.”

Congregational News and Notes:

Welcome to Walter and Louis Billington and Gary Garretson who transferred membership to our church recently.

We celebrated the baptisms of Carson Dean and Owen Kenneth, sons of Joey and Emily Bell, in worship on April 22.

We remember in sympathy Rachel Blakeman on the death of her mother, Margaret Riddell; Carolyn Wayman on the death of her brother, John Deffenbaugh, Gary Kipfer on the death of his mother, Bertha, John and Dee Woodburn and Scott and Darcie Woodburn on the death of Creighton Woodburn, and Dean Hamilton on the death of his brother, Elmer “Gene” Hamilton.

Carol Donnell, a member of our congregation, passed away on April 16. Private, family services were held for her.

Betty Jean Voigts a member of our congregation, passed away on April 21. A Memorial Service was held at the church. Memorials may be made to the church in her memory. Our prayers are with Debbie and all of her family as they mourn.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Calling all knitters and crocheters, we invite you to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry by donating your talents to this ministry. Thanks to a generous donor we have yarn available. Please contact the church office (815) 842-1157 if you are interested in this ministry or need yarn. Below are some suggested dimensions:

Prayer Shawls - Approximately 57 – 60” long
(from wrist to wrist); 18 – 21” wide

Lap Blankets - Approximately 32 – 40” square

Baby Blankets - Virtually any size desired

AWANA ends with a bang!

On Sunday, April 29, we celebrated Family Awards Night with a cookout and prizes. Over 100 people were in attendance. This year 80 club members attended Awana. Thank you to our leadership team: Deanna Pratt, Ruth Schlosser, Taylor Brooks and Makinzi Semmens (Cubbies), Angela Padula, Jean Dunning and Vivienne Pratt (Sparks), Courtney Davis, Jody Brooks, Sarah Hartke, Cheryl Hilleary, Billie Semmens, Garrett Pratt and Allison Pratt (T and T), Jamie Fitzsimmons, Leo Ambriz, Marco Ambriz and Meagan Ambriz (Trek). Thanks to Derrick Brooks, Ben and Ashley Diaz for leading games. Special thanks to our fabulous kitchen crew; Margie Brown, Angela Padula, Sharon Arnold, Faith Mund, Carolyn Cremeens, Shirley Wieggers and Karen Viemont. Thanks also to Becky Stilwell and Sheila Geschwind who helped with registration and special thanks to Faith Mund for all the work in creating name tags!

Receiving awards were (Cubbies) Dawson, Zack, Rydell, Jordan, Ismael, Jayden, Maxx, Will, Aubrey, Levi, Miyah, Laney, Jace and Solomon; (Sparks) Connor, Keegan, Susan, Joshua, Tilynn, Iyana, Patrick, Angel, Corbin, Jaliyah, Jaleen, Serenity, Araceli, Azalya and Henry; (T and T) Nene, Seth, Clayton, Kaylee, Wyatt, Kylie, Boden, Treyvonne, Damian, Zaire, Elyse, Jayden, Morgan, Kiale, Addison, Elijah, Joshua, Angelic, Tony, Kash, Rihanna, Rylind, Jeremy, Carlos, Grace, Kody, Reniya, Evan, Kialeha, Krysti, Isaac and Olivia (and Trek) Athena Donnie, Adam, Reese, Raya, Brianna, Abby, Payton, Kayden, Conrad and Harrison.

Awana will be moving to Wednesday nights next fall.



Cubbies class



Sparks class



Truth and Training (T and T) class



Trek class

Pontiac FUMC



Children's Ministries

Children's Church

During the 10:45 Worship Service, children ages PK-3rd Grade are invited to join us after the Children's Message for Children's Church for a time of instruction and worship. Presently we are enjoying the Phil Vischer DVD series *What's in the Bible?* We meet every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month.

Sunday School

What a great time we are having filling out our Passports as we travel through our *Holy Land Tours* unit! Our team of decorators, assisted by Brenda Thompson, has recreated the Garden Tomb, Emmaus Disciples Cleo and Mary's House, the Upper Room and a Sandy Beach. Each week we meet individuals to whom Jesus paid a special visit after His resurrection and gain insights into Jesus' love and care for each of us.

We thank the following volunteers for giving of their dramatic talents (in order of appearance): Laura Leslie (Mary Magdalene), Elaine Immke (Cleopas' wife, Mary), Leo Ambriz, (Thomas), Allison Pratt (*Skeptic's Corner* Show Host) and Ben Diaz (Simon Peter).

Another special thank you to Amber Christiansen, Ashley Diaz, Bailey Melvin, Angela Padula and Connie Snyder for their faithful work in "Navigational & Classroom Assistance"!

5th-6th Grade Fast & Mission Project Day Friday, June 1st, from 9a-5p

**Fasting
Praying
Giving**



Plans are underway for a day-long fast and mission project day for our 5th and 6th grade Sunday School students. We will spend a little time learning about fasting and servanthood and have an opportunity to put our learning to work with some service projects. Pastor Tom will be on hand mid-day for a special Communion Workshop Session. We will work on a special craft project and wrap the day up with a pizza party.

Call the Church Office, 815-842-1157 or email Children & Family Ministries Director, Deanna Pratt to reserve your spot:

prattd708@gmail.com

VBS 2018

JESUS RESCUES!

June 18-22

8:30-11:30 a.m.

**REGISTRATION is OPEN
for PK-5th Grade**



**VOLUNTEERS, 12 & UP
COME ASHORE AND
JOIN OUR TEAM!**

To Register and for
Volunteer Opportunities
visit our event website:

<https://vbspro.events/p/bb7d2c>

An Extra-Special Thank You!!!

To our Children & Family Ministries Team: Angela Padula, Ruth Schlosser and Brenda Thompson for their kindness, patience, faithfulness, and willingness to serve the Children of Pontiac First UMC.



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

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PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



KNOW



GROW



SHOW

From the Parish Nurse

Most of us know the old saying "...laughter is the best medicine."

In spite of all the great advancements in modern medicine, the aforementioned statement could very well be the truth. All "joking" aside, using your sense of humor enables you to release fears, anger, stress and other harmful emotions that are damaging to the body over time.

For this reason alone, humor therapy is used by patients with chronic diseases, as well as caregivers who are more susceptible to disease -- because a healthy prescription of laughs and smiles has been proven to spike the immune system. More specifically, **laughter increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies.**

- Laughter can protect the heart because it **increases blood flow and blood vessel function.**
- Laughter **relaxes muscles** and even **helps to relieve pain.**
- On a social level, laughter can **strengthen relationships** and attract us to others. It can also enhance teamwork and defuse conflict.

For these reasons and countless other benefits, we celebrate April as National Humor Month. (No wonder the month kicks off with April Fool's Day!)

Just like eating a proper diet and being physically fit are important for your health, it is also essential that we nourish the soul with humor and joy.

- Spend quality time each day with people who make you laugh! Watch a funny movie or TV show once or twice each week, and enjoy the company of your children and/or pets.
- Laugh at yourself and embrace your imperfections, rather than being embarrassed or taking yourself too seriously.
- Remember funny things that happened, be spontaneous, and find your "inner child." You can do this by emulating children and doing the fun things you enjoyed as a child.
- Take adverse situations and create funny anecdotes to give you a healthier perspective. *Being able to laugh at the absurdity of life is the best way to develop your sense of humor!*

There is great therapeutic value in humor. Go ahead ... laugh it up and see the world from a more joyful perspective!

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer. If any questions arise that I can help you with, please call me. Remember God loves us all. Mary Lauher

This was copied from CCS medical.

