

FIRST EDITION

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

WINTER 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 Sundays
4:30 pm Optional Meal
5:00 pm 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
Ashley Diaz, Nursery Coordinator
Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Holy Week at First United Methodist Church

Thursday, March 29th, 7:00 pm

Maundy (Holy) Thursday celebration with Communion,
Sanctuary Choir to sing

Friday, March 30th, 2:00 pm

Good Friday service at Evenglow Lodge Chapel, Pastor
Tom preaching

Friday, March 30th, 7:00 pm

Good Friday service at church, Pastor Tom preaching

Easter Sunday, April 1st

Resurrection Worship services at 8:15am and 10:45 am

MISSIONS:

NEWSLETTER FROM LES AND DEBBIE DORNAN IN NEPAL

We recently heard from our missionary friends in Nepal, Les and Debbie Dornan. Pontiac First UMC is in a covenant relationship with the Dornans, who serve as medical missionaries at Tansen Hospital. They send their heartfelt thanks for all who have prayed for them, and have provided encouraging cards and emails, and financial support!!

As in the U.S, extreme weather events have been at the forefront in Nepal in recent days also. The monsoon, or wet season, began in Nepal in June, a little earlier than usual. Tansen hospital relies on the monsoon season to refill their water storage tanks which were recently erected. Unfortunately, the 2017 monsoon season turned out to be one of the heaviest monsoons in recent history. Extensive flooding was experienced in many low lying areas across Nepal, India and Bangladesh. 65,000 homes were destroyed as well as 383 schools during this year's flooding. 461,000 people have been displaced.

Tansen hospital continues to work at record levels. The hospital has 169 beds available. The hospital has been seeing 10,000 patients per month—more than ever before!

The Dornans ask for prayers for the pastoral staff of the hospital. Teen suicides are becoming an increasingly worrisome problem in Nepal, as it is here at home. The staff will be going out into the communities and schools to try to educate youth to seek help when they are feeling overwhelmed and unable to handle their problems.

On a personal note, the Dornans report that their lives have been filled with both joy and sadness. They were recently visited by Les's older sister and husband for a few days. They had great fun in showing them their workplace and touring the local area. Also in July and August, the Dornans were able to have a full family reunion in the U.S. for the first time in over 2 years. They especially enjoyed the time they had with their beautiful and bright granddaughter.

On a much sadder note, Les's younger sister Becky passed away suddenly on Sept. 9. Les and Debbie had just visited with her and Les's mother in August of this year. Les was able to return to the U.S. for her memorial service.

Your continued support is so appreciated and mark your calendars now---

UMC Giving Tuesday is November 28,2017

For support for Les or Debbie, or for free care for the poor patients in Tansen, you can give that day (or any other day) and know that 100% of your gifts come to Tansen.

For support for the work at Tansen, go to <http://www.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-For-Projects/13421A>

To support the Dornans go to: <http://umcmision.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-profiles-Dornan-Lester>

Pastor's Perspective:

“You wanna be where everybody knows your name”, theme song to “Cheer”.

“Do not neglect to meet with fellow believers.” Hebrews 10:25

One of the hallmarks of the Wesleyan/Methodist movement was the innovative use of small groups/classes for discipleship. One hundred years ago most adult members of this church were also members of a class, typically a Sunday School class. In fact, for many years attendance in adult Sunday School equaled or exceeded that in worship. The leaders of these classes received prominent mention in bulletins and directories and the classes typically took annual pictures to celebrate their membership.



The “Trumbo” Sunday School Class, all ladies, taken on the steps of the Pontiac Reformatory (now the State Prison) Some familiar last names include Opperman, Husted, Shepherd, Young, Turner, Myers, Knapp, Morris, Johnson and Legg.

The Sunday School classes met weekly, typically studying a topic often supplied by the pastor. In a 1913 church bulletin the pastor, Rev. John Ryan, wrote;

“We urge the Sunday School as one of the helpful agencies for new members. Be identified with one of the classes at once, and we would urge if any of the classes are not organized....that said class recognize the advantage of such a plan and fall in with modern and efficient methods. We will publish in the next issue the names of the classes in which every member is a member of the church.”

(Cont'd on page 5)

(Cont'd from page 4)

Topics which Rev. Ryan encouraged the classes to study included “the church and its mission”, “in the world but not of it”, pleasures and past times”, “the power of habit” and “endless life”. Each class focused on Bible study and its application. Classes often took offerings which were designated for mission work

Classes each had a secretary and often a team of elders who would check on any errant members. Attendance was dutifully checked, and reported to the pastor as well. By the 1960’s Sunday School attendance, especially among adults, had waned and many of the classes discontinued. Attendance at worship became the church focus, and discipleship was almost exclusively learned in this hour.

In the last few years, however, the importance of the Sunday School and small group has been recognized again. Many churches encourage or require members to be part of a small group or Sunday School class. The sense of belonging, of having a place where you can ask questions, of knowing that you will be missed if absent, is integral to the Christian faith. If you want to find that place of belonging please ask your pastor or Ellen Yedinak, director of Adult Discipleship for help finding that place.

2018 Church Officers

Chairperson, Coordinating Council	Randy Yedinak
Secretary, Coordinating Council	Connie McDugle
Lay Leader	Michelle Clark
Treasurer	Dave Wayman
Financial Secretary	Angela Padula
Lay Delegates to Annual Conference	Nancy DiNardi and Tom Corcoran
Chairs, Children/Family Ministries	Angela Padula, Ruth Schlosser and Brenda Thompson
Chairperson, Finance	Tom Corcoran
Chairperson, Hospitality	Becky Stilwell
Chairperson, Memorials	Virginia Bailey
Chairperson, Missions	John Trewartha
Chairperson, Properties	Linda Dionne
Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations	Clint Conway and Jean Dunning
Chairperson, Trustees	Harold Frobish
Chairperson, Worship	Margie Brown
Chairperson, Youth Ministries	Sandy Graham

For a full listing of all committee members and other officers please contact the church office.

2017 Recap

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Full members	865	846	851
Average worship attendance	258	276	285
Number of professions of faith	11	8	19
Number of baptisms	12	10	17
Number of small group participants	55	60	100
Income	\$434,394	\$433,193	\$482,525
Expenses (budgeted)	\$478,621	\$515,500	\$494,085



GROWING TOGETHER in CHRIST

2017 was an exciting year for Discipleship at PFUMC, and we are eager to see what God is going to continue to do in 2018!

MENTORSHIP

During the Spring/Summer of 2017, a class of 10 people (5 pairs) completed a 10 week Mentorship course. These mentors & mentees met weekly to read scripture, share their faith and pray together as they looked at what it meant to live like Jesus. These pairs bonded and created friendships based on discipleship that we pray will last well beyond their mentorship experience! When the time is right, we look forward to having another class of new mentors and mentees.

GROW GROUPS



GROW

One of the visions we have for our church is that every member would be part of an active Grow Group. We currently have approximately 75 people in groups, praise God!

What is a Grow Group? Any group that is meeting to study the Bible, Pray, and do Outreach is considered a Grow Group. In 2017, in conjunction with Pastor Tom's Sermon Series on "Devotional in Life the Wesleyan Tradition," we launched 5 new Grow Groups (in addition to 4 others that were already active and meeting). These groups continued to meet together for the Advent devotional study as well as the current study & sermon series on Galatians. It is our hope

and prayer that these Grow Groups will continue to bond and become small families within our larger family of Christ! Are you in a Grow Group? If not, you don't want to miss this dynamic and unique opportunity to grow in your faith – contact Ellen or the Church office anytime to get yourself and your family plugged in!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

4th Annual IF:Pontiac

March 3rd, 2018

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

The Eagle Theater

RSVP on Facebook: IF:Pontiac 2018 OR with a registration form found in the lobby

*FREE Community-wide retreat experience

*All women and teen girls welcome!

*Materials, snacks and beverages are provided

*Pack a lunch or plan to visit a local restaurant!

MEN'S RETREAT

Featuring Matt Henson,

UMC Conference Evangelist

April 14, 2018

Humiston Woods

RSVP on Facebook:

PFUMC Men's Retreat OR

w/ registration form (lobby)

* Materials and food provided

*No cost!

*All men & teen boys welcome!

As we grow, please be praying for one another, and for your church staff! We believe that we truly need to be rooted in God's Word, in Prayer and in time with one another to effectively fulfill our mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,

Ellen Yedinak

Adult Discipleship Coordinator

****Need to reach Ellen?**

Call the church office (815) 842-1157 or email LN4182@yahoo.com

Children & Family Ministry at Pontiac



First United Methodist Church

After four months of Sunday School lessons, it was time to gather up what we had learned so far and share it in our Sunday School Children's Christmas Program. During our previous rotation we had taken a look at how Angels, Candy Canes, Poinsettias, the Star and Christmas Lights play a significant part in our celebration of Jesus' birth. Not wanting to waste a morsel of information, we combined all five symbols in a specially crafted Christmas surprise story.

In the program, eighth grade student Conrad Skrypiec played the part of a young photographer attempting to capture the essence of Christmas using a 'hired' audience and manger scene characters, only to discover that his final photo was more like a *life-as-it-happens* Rockwell than a *picture perfect* Rembrandt.

Just when things do not make sense, God comes through in unexpected ways to show us His grace.



What better stage than a premier Children's Christmas pageant to demonstrate God's faithful timing and creativity!

Like a birth in a barn, a manger for a crib, or an unannounced visit from a motley crew of shepherds, so goes life; we make our plans with certain expectations, and then real life happens. Just when it seems things do not make sense, God comes through in unexpected ways to show us His grace.

Shepherds carrying Candy Canes?

Wise men bearing Poinsettias??

Where is Christmas in THAT?!

We can be encouraged in the words of the angel to Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men:

“Do not be afraid;
God is with you!”





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

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PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



KNOW



GROW



SHOW



Did someone say "census"?

MEN'S RETREAT
// SAVE THE DATE //

SATURDAY APRIL 14
HUMISTON WOODS
9 am - 5 pm

SPEAKER: Matt Henson
General Evangelist in the UMC

WORSHIP LEADER: Curt Franklin



**First United Methodist Church
Food Pantry Donation Reminder**

January	Macaroni & Cheese
February	Canned Fruit
March	Canned Vegetables
April	Canned Soup
May	Fruit Juice
June	Canned Meats
July	Canned Pasta or Stew
August	Peanut Butter & Jelly
September	Laundry/Dish Soap
October	Cereal
November	Spaghetti & Sauce
December	Paper Towels/T.P.

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17)



4th Annual Women's Retreat
Saturday March 3
8:30 am - 5 pm

IF:GATHERING
2018

The Eagle Performing Arts Center
Pontiac, IL
All women & teen girls are welcome!

IFGATHERING.COM