

FIRST EDITION

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

WINTER 2019



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 Sundays

4:30 pm Optional Meal

5:00 pm AWANA

JOIN US!

STAFF

Pastor Tom Goodell

Pastor 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 Ramseyer, Sanctuary

Choir/YC4JC/Bells

Mary Hamilton, Children's Choir

Mary Lauher, Billie Semmens

Parish Nurses

Amber Christianson,

Nursery Coordinator



IF: GATHERING 2019

5TH ANNUAL IF:PONTIAC

WOMEN & TEENS OF PONTIAC &
LIVINGSTON COUNTY ARE WELCOME TO
JOIN US FOR THIS FREE SIMULCAST EVENT.

“IF GOD IS REAL, WE WANT TO BE A
GENERATION OF WOMEN WHO
LIVE LIKE IT.”

MARCH 2

8:30AM - 5:00 PM

**EAGLE PERFORMING ARTS
& CONFERENCE CENTER
319 N PLUM ST PONTIAC, IL**

REGISTER: PONTIACIL.IFLOCAL.COM

MOPS GARAGE SALE

The 10th Annual MOPS Garage Sale is Coming!

Date To Be Announced Soon!!

Drop off your donations of baby & children's items
anytime to the FRIENDSHIP room on the 2nd floor.
Children's clothing, toys, shoes, maternity and baby items
are all accepted. Thank you for continuing to support
MOPS by donating and shopping!!

It was a joy to celebrate together as a Church on January 20! We rejoice in all the work God accomplished through our Church in 2018. We enjoyed hearing testimonies from Chrystal Wagner & Donna Spenader on behalf of Awana; Ellen Yedinak on behalf of Young MOPS; Angela Padula on behalf of Jean Dunning's Grow Group; and Leo Ambriz on behalf of the Meadowview Tutoring Program. We also enjoyed a slideshow that included some of the pictures & statistics listed below. Following both worship services our hospitality team served delicious Pfaff's cake! Praise God for the work He has done & continues to do through the willing hearts and hands of our church family! Each one of you is indispensable to the Body of Christ!



of Backpack Sacks packed & delivered to Pontiac Schools: **over 3600**

of Moms involved in MOPS: **over 50**
of Kids in MOPS Kids: **over 100**



Grow Group Studies Completed: **Esther, Ruth, Jonah, Daniel, Galatians, Ephesians & The Apostle's Creed**

Easter & Christmas Baskets Delivered to Shut-ins: **92**

Prayer Shawls Consecrated & Delivered: **30**

of Hours Visiting by Pastor & Pastoral Care Team: **4000**

Funeral meal volunteer hours: **over 350**

Senior Drop-in Meals Served: **Over 1000**

Youth in UMYF: **40**

Kids Served each week at Tutoring Program: **approx. 30**

Participants & Volunteers for VBS: **approx. 150**

Kids & Adults in Sunday School each week: **80**

Cookies baked for Sunday mornings: **1200**



Kids participating in Awana: **50**

Children's Messages: **104**

of Birthday Cards sent to Church members: **over 850**

of prayer & encouragement cards sent by staff & wellness team: **over 500**

Total Worship Attendance for 2018: 14,906

Participants in Grow Groups: **100**

Missions \$ spent: **\$43,708**
Missions \$ spent in Pontiac: **\$15,000**

Rehearsal hours for Worship band, Sanctuary Choir, Kids' Choir & YC4JC: **Over 200**

Blood Pressure Readings by Parish Nurse: **over 100**

New members: **40**
Professions of Faith: **15**
of Baptisms: **7**

Food Pantry Clients: **4025**
Fed by Pantry: **10,775**



of anthems sung by YC4JC, Sanctuary Choir & Kids Choir: **over 50**

of MOPS & Young MOPS Kids Volunteer Hours: **54**



“The Summer of 1874”

In times of trial it is good to look back and see how we have persevered in faith and trusted in God’s providence.

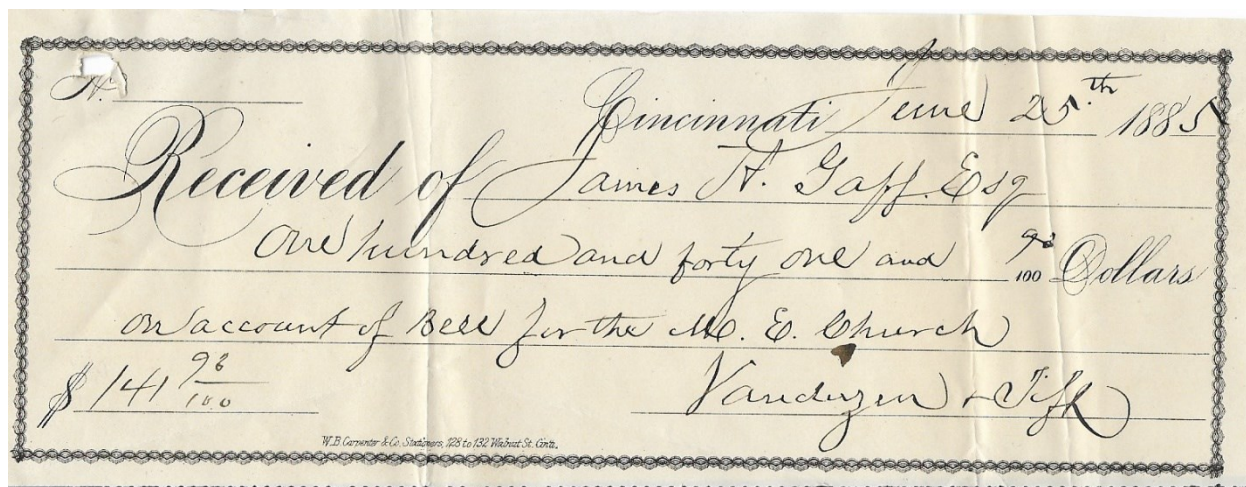
The summer of 1874 was one of the most difficult in the history of Pontiac. The entire country was in the throes of economic depression started by the collapse of the Jay Cooke bank in New York. Cooke’s bank had invested heavily in railroads, and bribed members of Congress in the process; and when speculation and the purchase of lands in the west to run railroads overextended the bank it closed its doors in September of 1873. This had a ripple effect on other banks and financial institutions and by the summer of 1874 this was felt in Pontiac.

Unemployment would rise to 14 percent (and there was no unemployment insurance), 18,000 small businesses would fail and 89 of the nation’s 364 railroad companies declared bankruptcy. Workers struck. An infamous railroad strike would lead to the call up of federal troops to intervene. Some pundits predicted this was the end of American society.

Then on July 4, 1874 a citizen of Pontiac got too enthused and tossed a firecracker near a building on the town square which ignited a fire. When the fire was put out nearly an entire block of the city including the Court House and Phoenix Hotel (which had just been rebuilt from an earlier fire) were reduced to ashes. The Methodist Church was spared but many members had lost everything in the fire.

A new church had been constructed less than ten years before and the mortgage on that building became more than the church could pay off. The Conference was petitioned not to send a pastor. A layperson would serve without pay. Two parishioners, Alice Tindall and Ruth Carlon went door-to-door to collect money for the church. Some of this was used to purchase a church bell in part so that it could be used to warn downtown of any future fires. From our church history, “in the tower it (the bell) rang its tidings of joy and sorrow, and warned the city when the fire-fiend was abroad until it shrieked with terror its last warning in February of 1885 while the flames were climbing its perch on high in the church tower to silence forever its clanging tongue.”

Below is the receipt from a replacement bell purchased in 1885, that bell sits on top of our church roof.



But if the summer of 1874 was a trying one, things only got worse! Within five years the church had to sell its building to satisfy an outstanding debt of \$1,000.00. Ruth Carlon (again) and Mary Culver went door-to-door raising funds and managed to cobble together enough money to redeem the church deed from the man who had purchased it.

It was then that a fortuitous thing happened, Rev. George W. Gue was appointed pastor in 1879. Remembered as an unflappable optimist he convinced the church that God would help them get out debt and create a future for Methodism in Pontiac. Within a year the finances of our church were righted, the building and parsonage completely out of debt, and new members joined. Rev. Gue, who began his ministry as Union Army chaplain during the Civil War, would later go on to serve churches in Oregon.



George Gue, Army Chaplain, (www.findagrave.com/memorial/george-w.-gue)

One hundred forty years ago our church nearly shuttered but for the faith of our spiritual ancestors, the resilience of their pastor, and the providence of God. We live in much better times today but it is always good to look back and be inspired by where we have been!

Pastor Tom

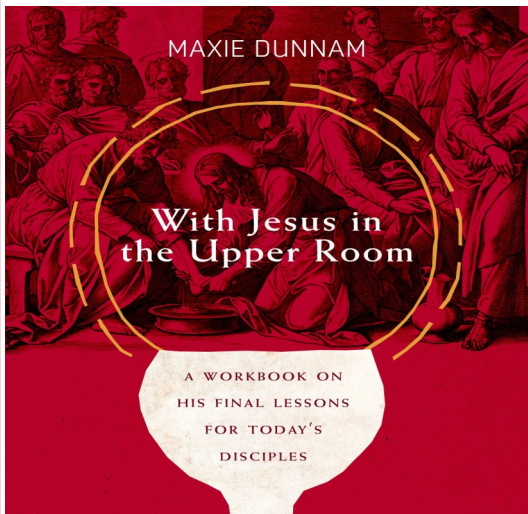
**UPCOMING LENTEN GROW GROUP
STUDY & SERMON SERIES**

“With Jesus in the Upper Room”

John 13-17

—BEGINS MARCH 3—

7 Week Study of Jesus' most precious teaching —
what He really wants us to hear.



Wednesday, March 6

6:30 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday
Passover Service
April 18 - 6:30 p.m.**



Good Friday, April 19

6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 21
8:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Nursery Provided**



Children & Family Ministry at Pontiac

**Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 16, 2018
“What a Wonderful Glorious Thing!”**

A big THANK YOU to all the children, parents and volunteers who made our Children's Christmas Program a wonderful experience. The audience was full of great sports who were willing to don head gear, take on interesting lines (with accents!) and participate with our Narrators and Actors. The message was clear, Jesus' Birth was a 'Wonderful, Glorious Thing'!



First United Methodist Church

**COMING...
in Four Months!**



**Join the Wild Side -
Come ROAR with Us!**

Vacation Bible School 2019
June 17-21
VBS Sunday
June 23



Angels, shepherds and wise ones in the sanctuary audience!

ON-GOING Ministries at Pontiac First United Methodist Church

*Dedicated Volunteers
Engaging Activities
Growing Children*

PK-5th Grade Sunday School

Quarter 2 of Group's Digging Into Life of Jesus.



Circle up in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30, then journey to our classrooms in the Lower Level for Songs, Stories, Games, and Activities that teach about and lead us closer to Jesus.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH
During 10:45 Sunday Morning Service
After Children's Moment in Epworth 2, Lower Level



30 minutes of songs and stories, except the last Sunday of each month.

A NOTE from Our Parish Nurses:

Many of us have lots of stresses in our lives. I would like to share with you some of the stress relievers that might help.

- Pray
- Go to bed on time.
- Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
- Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
- Delegate tasks to capable others.
- Simplify and un-clutter your life.
- Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
- Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
- Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
- Take one day at a time.
- Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it!
- Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
- Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps.
- K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
- Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
- Get enough rest.
- Eat right.
- Get organized so everything has its place.
- Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
- Write down thoughts and inspirations.
- Every day, find time to be alone.
- Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
- Make friends with Godly people.
- Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
- Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
- Laugh.
- Laugh some more!
- Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
- Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
- Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
- Sit on your ego.
- Talk less; listen more.
- Slow down.
- Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
- Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. , you have to worry twice.
- Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before. If you have any concerns that we can help you with, contact one of us.

Mary Lauher and Billie Semmens



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

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PONTIAC FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



KNOW



GROW



SHOW

Your Leadership Team at Pontiac First United Methodist

“Remember your leaders who teach you the word of God. Think of all the good that comes from their lives and follow the example of their faith.” Hebrews 13:7

Chairpersons of the Staff Parish Relations Team: Jean Dunning and Clint Conway - *charged with oversight of pastoral leadership, management of church staff, relationship with The United Methodist Church.*

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees: Harold Frobish - *charged with managing church assets to enable ministries.*

Chairperson of the Committee on Finance: Tom Corcoran - *charged with managing church finances, money handling procedures, annual audit.*

Chairperson of the Coordinating Council: Randy Yedinak - *charged with oversight of ministries, setting of annual budget, approving church initiatives and policies.*

Lay Leaders: Wayne and Lynn Taylor (8:15 am service), Ron and Vicki Aupperle (10:45 am service)
- *congregational representatives to all administrative committees, welcoming of new members, support of the mission of the church.*

Other committee chairpersons:

Worship

Memorials

Missions

Children and Family Ministries

Adult Ministries

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Margie Brown

Virginia Bailey

John Trewartha and Donna Spenader

Deanna Pratt, staff member

Ellen Yedinak, staff member

David Wayman

Angela Padula

