

# FIRST EDITION

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

**SPRING 2020**



**STAY CONNECTED**

Visit our website:  
www.pontiacfumc.org

Email:  
office@pontiacfumc.org

Church Phone:  
(815) 842-1157

Church Office Hours:  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday - Friday

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am & 10:30 am

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Children's Church

AWANA Wednesday  
4:50 pm Optional Meal  
5:10 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

Sarah Hartke,

Nursery Coordinator



**IT'S PICTURE TIME!!**

We will be taking pictures for a new pictorial directory on the following dates:

Thursday, May 28 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.

Friday, May 29 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:40 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.

Wednesday, June 3 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.

Thursday, June 4 - 2:00 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.

Please highlight these dates on your calendar. Further information regarding signup will be forthcoming.

**MOPS GARAGE SALE**

**The 11th Annual MOPS Garage Sale is Coming!**

**March 28, 2020**

Drop off your donations of **baby & children's** items anytime **now** to the back of the McCoy Chapel 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!!

## PASTOR'S CORNER:

<sup>13</sup> "Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him, <sup>14</sup>if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, <sup>15</sup>then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear. Job 11:13-15

In 1833 railroads had not yet reached Illinois, our state capitol was still in Vandalia, and the population of the state had just reached 150,000 (roughly the size of Springfield today). Our area of the state had just emerged from the deadly Black Hawk wars and many native Americans had been forced from the area, many to Oklahoma.

In 1824 the Illinois Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and staffed largely by Kentucky preachers. These preachers were assigned a circuit of communities (hence the name "circuit rider") to preach out, visiting via horseback each community ten-twelve times per year. They would preach, serve communion, baptize and help resolve any issues in the local, lay led congregations. William Royal was assigned as pastor to the circuit that operated out of Fort Peoria and included Tazewell, Woodford and Livingston Counties. Royal was originally from West Virginia and was reputed to be a fiery preacher and devout Sabbatarian (he would do no work on Sundays). He later served as a circuit rider in LaSalle and Bureau counties. Shortly before the Civil War he traveled with caravan west to Oregon (still refusing to ride on Sundays) where he died in 1870.

### *A Methodist Circuit rider in the rain!*

One of the homesteads Royal routinely visited was that of Sarah Dever McDowell, or "Widow McDowell" as she was commonly known. She was the mother of Woodford G. McDowell a prominent lawyer and judge.

Here is the history on Preacher good weather he made the He organized the first Avoca, in Widow McDowell's that his mother, though blind death, never failed to have her appointed time, and for more church building in the church history from 1957).

This meant, no doubt, dust out of carpets, and No small task for anyone, let McDowell looked forward to be in her house.

What are you doing this Lent to spiritual house? Are you sweeping away old hurts and anger, beating the dust out of long-ago shortcomings and mistakes, and working on unforgiveness? Is there room in your spiritual house for the presence of God? If not, make that room. And rejoice that this spiritual housecleaning is the work of welcoming God into your life! Amen.



Royal's visits to the area in 1833. "In round of the circuit every four weeks. Methodist society in the county at log cabin. Judge McDowell relates for nearly twenty years before her house ready for preaching at the than twenty years there was not a county" ("A Century of Service",

sweeping wooden floors, beating the securing chairs for 20 persons to sit in. alone someone blind. But Mother the work because it meant God would

prepare for God to come into your

*Pastor Tom*

## METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) has had a great year! We have enjoyed outings to Grady's, Pleasant Lanes bowling, the trampoline park, roller skating, rock climbing and a scavenger hunt in Pontiac. We have also gone to the Bishop's Retreat, Beautiful You Conference in Troy, and a district rally. Weekly we meet on the third floor for devotions and small group. Currently 30 youth and adults are attending MYF.



*Bowling at Pleasant Lanes*

We will be going to Wisconsin and the Midwest Indian Mission this summer to run Vacation Bible School for the children there. **Our primary fundraiser will be the Easter breakfast Sunday at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.** Please support our youth.



**Maundy Thursday  
Passover Service  
April 9 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 10  
6:30 p.m.**



**Sunday, April 12  
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery Provided**

**MYF fundraiser for Mission Trip will be the Easter breakfast Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**



### **MAX ON LIFE Bible Study By MAX LUCADO**

Open to all adults. Nothing to buy. Just bring yourself, your Bible and a friend.

**Location:**

The Cup and the Scone  
213 W Madison St, Pontiac, IL

**Start Date:** April 16 at 1:30PM

**Contact:** Troy Williamson at  
[troy@williamson5.com](mailto:troy@williamson5.com) or 815-674-5086

**Join us for a coffee, scones and fellowship**

## Fourth Quarter 2019 and First Quarter 2020 Memorials

Memorials were dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Office renovation	Rev. George and Rubye Russell
Christmas and Easter basket ministry	Betty Voigts
Kitchen renovation	Keith Immke
Kitchen renovation	Mary Carol Jones
Kitchen renovation	Donovan Gardner
Bell choir	Al Meng
Library	Gary Garretson
Nursery	Michael "Mick" Fordyce
Nursery	Lois Earing
Library furnishings	Harold Carstens
Library furnishings	Joe Mehrkens
Library furnishings	Ray Pettit

### Memorials were received in loving memory of:

Chuck Cochran, Paul Dearth, Steve Finkenbinder, Rollie Gagnon, Dean Hamilton, Ron Hardy, Kay Hunter and Ethel Melton.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES (January -March 2020)

Our church family remembers the following members who have passed away.

Ron Hardy, January 9, friend of the church.

Steve Finkenbinder, January 13, member, Steve is survived by his wife Kathy.

Dean Hamilton, February 29, member, Dean is survived by his wife Mary.

Jean Ruff, March 10, member.

### We also send condolences to:

Julie Vial (Dan) on the death of her mother, Catherine Smith, January 15.

Ron and Donna Zarwell on the death of their granddaughter, Emily Greenberg, January 17.

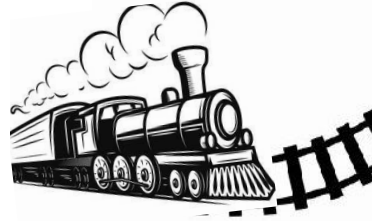
Jeff Semmens and Ruth Schlosser, on the death of their step-mother, Jennifer Semmens, husband of Robert Semmens, on February 6.

Nancy DiNardi on the death of her father-in-law, John DiNardi, February 6.

Gary Dearth (Carol) on the death of his brother, Paul Dearth, February 8.

## Staying **ON TRACK** takes Vision, Partnership and Power.

There are so many options and too many distractions that can easily lead us from what is best to what is less than best. In **Children's Ministry** at Pontiac FUMC, we focus on what we can do to share Jesus' love effectively with as many children as possible through **Vision, Partnership** and the **Power** of the Holy Spirit.



The **VISION** provides Bible-Based children's programming, year-round and seasonally, in large and small-group settings, in same-age and mixed groups. We minister to over 100 children per year between PK and 5th Grade, utilizing the talents and dedication of over 60 volunteer teachers and youth helpers.

### Sunday School Hour

We "Dig In" to an experiential curriculum with age-based classrooms on Sunday mornings for our **Sunday School Hour** from 9:30-10:30 am.



**PARTNERSHIP** wears many hats. Because ministry to children is not the wind-up variety, it takes cooperation and a willingness to remain flexible. We move forward, addressing the challenges of a changing culture, offering the unchanging and faithful message of Jesus' saving grace and all-encompassing love. Those who choose to serve alongside Children's Ministry provide fresh energy coupled with lasting commitment.

**Volunteers** procure supplies, prepare lessons, lead singing, fix meals, and lovingly nurture, guide and encourage the children we serve. **Donors** bring in items needed for special events and projects.

**Prayer Warriors** lift up our leaders and families with fervent, faith-filled prayers.

As the Vision provides the track to follow, the Volunteers are like freely moving wheels, willing to "roll" in whatever direction our commitment to the Great Commission leads.

### Children's Moment & Worship Bags

At 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday Morning Worship, families are encouraged to pick up a **Worship Bag** packed with seasonal quiet activities for each child in attendance.

Early in each service the children are invited to the front of the sanctuary for the **Children's Moment**, a time of sharing with Pastor Tom or one of our Children's Ministry volunteers.

### Sunday Morning Children's Church

Nestled in the last half of Sunday morning 10:30 Worship, **Children's Church** offers a 30-minute children's Christian media experience and a brief time of discussion, purposefully selected to enrich the lesson from Sunday School.

### AWANA Clubs & Children's Choir

Wednesday evenings during the school year ramp up with our **AWANA Clubs** as we extend our efforts in outreach to children of the community. Thanks to our crew of wonderful cooks, we are able to provide a dinner at 4:40, then we spend the next hour and a half teaching Bible stories, leading activities, facilitating handbook time with Bible verse memorization, engaging teams in games, and sharing the gift of music in song. The **Children's Choir** sings each month, alternating between 8:30 and 10:30 morning worship services.



On our own we would surely derail, but with the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit, we can face the challenges of the twists and turns that our culture presents. We look to Jesus for wisdom and the words to speak to a people broken and disjointed who think God is angry or unreachable.

### After-School Tutoring

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Meadowview Court, our team of **Tutoring** volunteers meet with children from the community, Kindergarten through 8th Grade, to assist and encourage them with homework and life skills. From 3:30-5:30, children receive a snack and participate in Bible lessons, educational goals, play time, crafts and activities.



Through **Vision, Partnerships** with staff and volunteers, and the **Power** and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the journey of serving in Children's Ministry is endowed, mobilized, and energized by the driving force of Jesus' command to love 'the least of these.'

### Vacation Bible School is on the way:

As the Summer months approach, our Children's Ministry Team will prepare for a week of **Vacation Bible School**, another way we reach out to the children of the community.



This year's theme is *Rocky Railway*. We will be chugging along with lessons about how Jesus empowers us to do hard things, to have hope, to choose to be bold, to embrace the gift of eternal life, and to support others in friendship.

It is our privilege to listen for the call of the Master Conductor. I am grateful to so many who give of their time, resources and abilities, and pray that many others will hear Him shout: 'All Aboard' and step up to the platform to join the great adventure!

Blessed in His Service,

Deanna Pratt

Director, Children's Ministry—PFUMC

### From the Missions Team:

The **Mission Trip to Red Bird** is September 26-October 3, 2020! If you are interested, please reach out to the church, let Pastor Tom, Donna Spenader or anyone on your Mission Team know. Be on the look-out for more information to come regarding this trip!

**Helping Hands Project:** The Lord said, "...take care of my people!" Your Mission Team is in the process of starting a project called "Helping Hands." We hope to provide a helping hand to anyone within our church that has a need for help with household or outdoor chores. Helping Hands will be Kicking Off in May 2020! The team is looking for volunteers who can help in any way once a month to work on the listed chores—info will be coming out on how you can contribute! Watch for how you can sign up to get the help needed.

**Food Pantry Volunteers:** Be on the lookout for information on how you can assist and the steps to take to volunteer at the local Livingston County Food Pantry.

On behalf of your Mission Team, we pray that we can serve the Lord as He would want us to serve!

Donna Spenader



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

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**PARISH NURSE NOTES:**

The news has been full of reports on the Coronavirus. What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19? Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.? Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. How does COVID-19 spread? The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19? Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of • fever • cough • shortness of breath What are severe complications from this virus? Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself? People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions. • Avoid close contact with people who are sick. • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should • Stay home when you are sick. • Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. • Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19? If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others. Is there a vaccine? There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often. Is there a treatment? There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

We need to be praying for anyone affected with the disease.

*submitted by Mary Lauher, Parish Nurse*