



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SPARTA ILLINOIS

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

JULY 2022



## THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST MAILED NEWSLETTER!!!

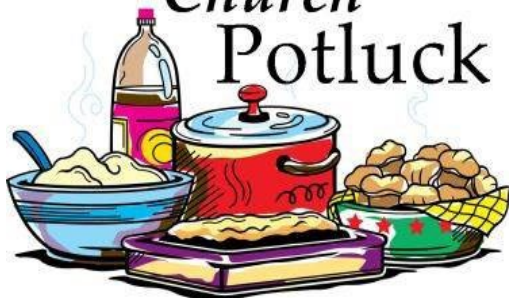
At the June Administrative Council meeting, the decision was made, that due to the rising costs of mailing the newsletter we will no longer mail one to every member. We will now only mail the newsletter to those on our shut-in list. You will receive the newsletter by email (please check with office that we have your current one on file) and by picking up it up at the church. We know that this is a change that many will find difficult. Thank you for understanding as we strive to become as cost effective as we can be. Change is always difficult.

Remember, **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST MAILED NEWSLETTER!!!**

We will be saying Goodbye and recognizing Rhonda's 12 years of service as our church secretary with a **Fish Fry/Potluck on Sunday July 24, 2022**. Rhonda will be joining us in Worship that morning. (there will be **NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE**). Potluck will immediately follow worship. You will need to bring as dish to share. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided.



## Church Potluck



We are collecting a **Love Offering for Rhonda** to be given to her on that day. If you wish to contribute towards this please mark your envelope or Check memo Rhonda!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR LETTER	2
AD COUNCIL MINUTES	3
INSERT	
BIRTHDAY & ANNIV.	
CALENDAR	



*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33*

With these words, Jesus told his disciples to take courage, in spite of the inevitable struggles they would face, they would not be alone. As I was contemplating things the other day, this verse popped into my head. Why? Maybe because at the time I was struggling to find and praying for solutions to the world's problems.

The War in Ukraine, Global food shortages, health concerns such as Covid-19, not to mention our own countries division and strife. The world we find ourselves in today is chaotic and troublesome. I struggle daily as I search for God in the midst of it all. My heart and mind tell me that He is always with me, but my humanness forgets to look for him in the middle of a whirlwind of troubles. I have experienced Him being there many times, but I'm ashamed to admit God has not always been the place I turn to. When I do remember that God is walking through each day good or bad, my worries subside.

My friends, the next time you are facing trials and tribulations, I pray you remember the scripture above. Jesus does not abandon us to our struggles either. If we remember that his ultimate victory has already been won, we can claim the peace of Christ in the most troublesome times. Praise be to God!!

As Rhonda leaves and we look at new ways to maintain the office, I would like to remind people of a few items. If you need something copied, feel free to come in and do it yourself. We are willing to provide assistance if so needed. Committee Chairpersons will need to start reminding their committees of meeting themselves, If you need a task done, please give us a couple of days' notice and we will try our best to complete it when you need it. The office will not be running as you are accustomed to, but if we all work together we can achieve harmony and stability.

We are facing new challenges as we move forward with our mission. God will be there with us as we do so. Change is hard. Change is uncomfortable. Change is necessary for growth. Let us praise God in all we do!



Blessings -

Pastor Randy

Cell: 217-520-5267

Email: Rmcgeehon@gmail.com

*“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to give you a future and a hope”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

## Administrative Council Meeting

June 13, 2022, 6:00pm (*Minutes not yet approved*)

Persons Attending: Randy McGeehon, Jeremy Volkmar, Carl Holland, Linda Bird, Kathy Ruhmann, Gary Cox, Jan Seals, Autumn Peck

The meeting began at 6:00 pm with a prayer by Pastor Randy.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed by those present. Carl Holland moved to approve the minutes. Autumn Peck seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

**Lay Leader, Annual Conf: Jan Seals** and Gary Cox have recently been to Annual Conference. They enjoyed their time and Jan specifically commented on the excellent speakers that they had heard. "The Chosen" video continues on Tuesday evenings and has been well attended. Thanks to those who mounted the TV on the wall. It made a big difference in the sound quality. It will be decided later if season 2 will be shown.

Although the Ad Council had previously voted to change the Sunday worship service time to 10:00am instead of 10:30am, Pam Seals feels most members would rather change the time back to 10:30am. She also feels that members would prefer that the offering plates be passed around again. The Ad Council generally feels that this should be discussed by the worship committee. As the person in charge of getting ushers, Carl Holland offered his feelings about changing back to passing the offering plate around. It would require having four ushers again instead of two. About a third of those attending are paying online. Everyone seems to have gotten used to the offering being collected as you enter or as you leave. This is a more sanitary method of collecting offering. The worship committee will do some surveying and bring a recommendation back to the Ad Council as to the general feeling of the members on these issues.

**Worship Committee: Autumn Peck** will be meeting with the Worship Committee, surveying members on the previously discussed topics, and bring a recommendation back to the Ad Council.

**Finance, Carl Holland**-The Finance Committee will meet again next Monday, June 20.

**Lay Leader: Carl Holland** - Some have noticed that a big truck and trailer have been parking at the east entrance to our parking lot. This is perfectly legal considering this is not our property, but controlled by the city of Sparta. However, it is a safety concern. Carl Holland spoke to the owner of the truck and offered to him that he could park his truck on the east end of our parking lot to be safer. The truck owner was appreciative and this should make this

area a safer entrance to our parking lot.

**Financial Secretary: Linda Bird** prepared reports comparing giving in 2021 to 2022. We continue to pay monthly bills. There have been some very generous donations to the capital campaign recently. This has brought the building loan down to about \$57,000.

**Trustees: Carl Holland (for Bill Mueller)** We have a contractual agreement for thirty lights to be updated – inside, in the storage area, and dusk-to-dawn lights outside. In this agreement with Ameren, the church will pay about half of the cost. The payment will come from the Trustee's fund.

**NOW Comm: Jeremy Volkmar (for Dot Heuman)** Although the local school mentioned that Dental Safari no longer offered their services for free, Jeremy Volkmar called Dental Safari and found that they do still offer their services for free. Apparently the school's report was in error. Therefore Dental Safari will be available July 30 to help at "Back to School, Lookin' Cool."

**Music Director: Gary Cox**- was happy with the Karaoke night and would like to do it again sometime. The choir has ended for the summer, but will begin again in the fall.

**S/PPRC: Kathy Ruhmann** -We have put ads for a new church secretary in the newspaper and online two different times. We meet again next Monday to discuss what our plan of action will be. The month of July will be Rhonda's last month to work. We wanted a new hire to shadow Rhonda during July to be ready when Rhonda leaves. We will be following up this week on applications. We may need more suggestions and volunteers to keep the office going until we can find a replacement secretary. Also, we will have a going-away potluck for Rhonda on July 24. She'll come to church that Sunday and the potluck will be after the church service. The SPPRC Committee will meet again on Monday, June 20 at 7:00pm, after the Finance Committee meeting.

**Pastor's Report: Randy McGeehon** - The bulk mail prices are going up again the end of July. Bulk mail requires at least 200 items be mailed. We have been maintaining our bulk mail status by sometimes mailing ten or more *Lamplighter* newsletters to the church address and others. As we try to be responsible in our spending, bulk mail pricing is no longer our best decision. After some discussion about other options, Jan Seals moved to not renew our bulk mail status. Autumn Peck seconded the motion. The motion passed. Beginning in August, the *Lamplighter* will be mailed only to our shut-ins. Printed *Lamplighter* newsletters will be available in the church foyer to be picked up anytime during the month. In addition, the *Lamplighter* will be emailed to those with email addresses on file in our church office. The church website also has the *Lamplighter* available online at [www.spartafumc.org](http://www.spartafumc.org).

Reflecting  
The  
Light of God!

First United Methodist Church  
600 W. University  
Sparta, IL 62286

Nonprofit Organization

US Postage Paid

Sparta, IL 62286

PERMIT #37

**Return Service Requested**

---

WERE ON THE WEB!

[www.spartafumc.org](http://www.spartafumc.org)

---

On Facebook:

Sparta First United Methodist Church

Phone: (618) 443-3714

Church Email: [spartafumc@yahoo.com](mailto:spartafumc@yahoo.com)

Dated Material - Mailed Out on June 30, 2022



## **Volunteers Needed--**

The SPPRC committee is looking for volunteers for the summer (at least) to manage the church office. Some of the time would be mainly answering phones, greeting people, and doing minor jobs. If you have the time, interest, and feel you could be a person to manage the church office for one or two days a week or do specific jobs required, please talk to Pastor Randy or Kathy Ruhmann as soon as possible.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 07/02 Janet Gerlach
- 07/04 Claire Baue
- 07/05 Carol Ashley  
Tanya Cowan
- 07/10 Klay Greenhill
- 07/12 Michael Howell  
June Peck
- 07/13 Beth Birchler  
Evelyn Schupbach  
Andru Stine
- 07/17 David Peck
- 07/18 Rhonda Gerlach
- 07/22 Ron Steen
- 07/23 Olivia Oathout
- 07/27 Connie Campbell
- 07/29 Braden Haury  
Peyton Oathout
- 07/30 Mary Klein
- 07/31 Patsy Hillyard



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 07/01 Jonathan & Amy Norton
- 07/12 Bob & Janice Taylor
- 07/17 Virgil & Sharon Runge
- 07/18 Travis & Regina Heller
- 07/22 Clint & Katie Peck



### Prayer Chain -

*If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain please call Elaine Hargis at 443-3205 or email her at [hargis4@gmail.com](mailto:hargis4@gmail.com). Always remember to update us with any email changes.*

**Joys**— The Holy Spirit leads and guides us in the power of God’s ways, that we may grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**Prayers**- The Family of Jim Coop, The Family of Clyde Zanders, Leslie Sauzek, Alma Wyatt, Bertha Becker, Janice Taylor, Family of Jocleta Cantrell, The people of Ukraine and Russia, Bishop Frank J. Beard, our Church, our denomination, our country and our world.

### Words of Gratitude-

I would like to thank the VBS crew for the wonderful flowers and card that they gave me for helping with VBS during my time here at FUMC. I would also like to say thank you for all the calls and visits, here in my office, this past month to say Goodbye. Everyone here seems like family and I will miss them very much. Working here has not only been an experience, but has created a world filled of new friends and lasting memories. Twelve years and four pastors later seems to have flown by. Thank you for the opportunity to work here and enjoy this issue/my last Lamplighter. :) ~ Rhonda Smith, FUMC Secretary

Continuation from Pg. 3  
Ad Council Minutes

Our church Vacation Bible School will be June 20-24, 2022. Volunteers are still needed. If you can help, please call Brooke Gerlach.

Carl Holland moved to adjourn. Linda Bird seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** July 11 at 6:00 pm

Date	General Budget	Capital Campaign	Other	Total For the Week	Sat/Sun/Online/ Sunday School
06.05.22	\$5,180.58	\$410.00	\$24.00	\$5,614.58	16/67/11/28
06.12.22	\$4,304.93	\$614.01	\$517.75	\$5,436.69	13/41/19/22
06.19.22	\$2,406.27	\$272.50	\$67.00	\$2,745.77	16/56/21/24
06.26.22	\$3,021.27	\$137.50	\$27.00	\$3,186.07	19/63/18/31

**Total for Year to Date for General Budget: \$897,517.17**

Offering envelopes are in the office. Please contact Linda Bird to get

**Saturday Schedule**

5:00 pm Worship

**Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

**Office Hours:**

Mon, Wed, Friday 8:30 - 1:30 pm

Phone (618) 443-3714

Email: spartafumc@yahoo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Fourth of July Office Closed 	5	6 6 pm NOW Comm	7	8	9
10	11 8 am Garden Club 6 pm Ad Council	12	13	14	15	16
17 8 pm Men's Breakfast Praise Kids Sing	18	19	20 6 pm NOW Comm	21 Lamplighter Information Deadline	22	23
24  Rhonda's Goodbye After worship	25	26	27	28 Lamplighter Publication	29	30 Back to School Looking Cool
31						

**Volunteers for the Month of July**

**Liturgist** Brooke Gerlach

**Head Usher** Carl Holland

**Ushers**

07/03 Carl and Sharon Holland

07/10 Bonnie Bardo and Carol Kilman

07/17 Scott and Wendy Weiner

07/24 Jon and Amy Norton

07/31 Ken and Cathy Robinson

**Acolytes**

7/03 Jaxon & Layla Miles

07/10 Leah Coop & Eva Sickmeyer

07/17 Jake Greenhill

07/24 Zoe Peck & Andru Stine

07/31 Eva Sickmeyer



