



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SPARTA ILLINOIS

THE LAMPLIGHTER

JULY 2023



Just a reminder that July has a Fifth Sunday! Do not forget to save your loose change (although we will not turn down your paper money either!). The money collected on July 30 will go to 'Change for Community Change.' Thanks for your support of this ministry!

The church will be holding the annual Back 2 School Looking Cool event on July 29th from 9-12. Students in the community have the opportunity to receive school supplies, a dental exam, and new this year finger printing in partnership with CARITAS. In order to help make the event a success, we'll need workers that day from 8AM-1PM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jeremy Volkmar via email at jvolkmar@hotmail.com.

Plans are being made for small group meetings with Pastor Leslie. We hope that this will be an opportunity for us to meet our new pastor and for Pastor Leslie to get to know our congregation. Please watch the church bulletins for more information on these informal gatherings.



Volunteers for the Month of July

Liturgist— Brooke Gerlach

Head Usher—Carl Holland

Ushers— 7/02—Carl and Sharon Holland
7/09—Bonnie Bardo and Carol Kilman
7/16—Scott and Wendy Weiner
7/23—Jon and Amy Norton
7/30—Ken and Kathy Robinson

Acolytes—7/02—Jake Greenhill & Lily Norton
7/09—Eva & Theo Sickmeyer
7/16—Jaxon & Layla Miles
7/23—Lucy Yates & Zoe Peck
7/30—Lily Norton & Eva Sickmeyer

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Dear Sparta First Church family,

As the boxes pile up in my new office, furniture is getting rearranged and I search through the building for an extension cord (no worries, I found one!) I wanted to write you a quick e-note to share that I can't wait to meet you all this Sunday! I hope you all plan to come to worship this Sunday at 10am and join us for the potluck after. I have felt so welcomed and my family and I are looking forward to Sunday and making the move to Sparta in August. I am thankful for all the church leadership for making this transition to a new home and community so smooth.

Even as I prepare for my first Sunday with you, the SPPRC is preparing a potluck lunch for after service on Sunday. The main meat dish will be provided, the side items are a potluck, so bring your favorite to share. We can eat, talk and get to know one another. I invite you all to come this Sunday, if you are a regular attender or have been away for a while. Join us at 10am and for lunch after in the fellowship hall. I'm looking forward to getting to know each and everyone of you.

Make sure to check out the information about Pastor Chats in the newsletter. We will be holding Pastor Chats at various times and places over the coming months. These get togethers are a time to get to know one another better and to discuss the 'state of the church'. I want to know what you love about your church and the dreams God has placed on your heart for the future of our church. Make sure to sign up for one of these meetings soon. Watch your email, website and social media for more information.

The best way to reach me is through email at PastorLeslieC@gmail.com. My tentative new schedule will be to have meetings and office hours on Mondays. I will work on my weekly messages on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with time also spent in the community getting to know our neighbors. I plan to take Fridays as my Sabbath day. Please shoot me an email if you would like to go and have coffee sometime.

Thank you for your continued prayers, they are appreciated as my family and I settle into Sparta over the next month and a half. We will be finishing up prepping our house for sale in Waterloo, the kids will be starting new schools, and of course, we need to acclimate Apollo (our black lab) and Cali (our cat) to the new house too! We feel blessed to be called to serve with you in Sparta and looking forward to all God will be doing in our midst.

God bless,

Rev. Leslie Chalupny

Lead Pastor, Sparta First UMC

Family (from left to right): Pastor Leslie, Zech (15), Ethan (15), Noah (13), Madison (22), Joseph (17), Emma (9), Paxton (19), Rob



Administrative Council Meeting

June 13, 2023, 6:00pm

Persons Attending: (11/13)

Leslie Chalupny (Pastor, Lay Leadership Committee), Jeremy Volkmar (Chairperson), Bill Mueller (Trustees Committee), Gary Cox (Music Director, Lay Member to Annual Conf, Kathy Ruhmann (Recording Secretary), Patti Cecil (Treasurer), Linda Bird (Financial Secretary), Linda Mueller (SPPRC), Mary Hauskins (Church Family Meals), Jan Seals (Evangelism, Lay Member to Annual Conf), Brooke Gerlach (Church School Supt, Youth, Missions)

The meeting began at 6:00 pm with a prayer by Jeremy Volkmar.

Minutes from the May 8th meeting were reviewed by all. Linda Mueller moved to accept the minutes. Bill Mueller seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

Church School Superintendent, Missions: Brooke Gerlach

Vacation Bible School is currently underway. This year we have partnered with the Sparta Westminster Church. Brooke Gerlach reported that they have 26 children – 13 from each church. They are operating with lots of volunteers, which are appreciated.

Meal Ministry: Mary Hauskins

A new shut-in list has been compiled. Mary has been unable to get a mailing address for Mary Ruth Bierman. If anyone knows Mary Ruth's address, please call the church office.

NOW Ministry: (Jeremy Volkmar)

There was no meeting last week. This committee still has no chairman. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 5th to finish planning for the "Back to School, Lookin' Cool" event. This year it will pair with Dental Safari as well as Caritas, who provides a fingerprinting program.

Music Director: Gary Cox

Usually the choir takes off July and August, but this year they have taken off in June and plan to come back in July to sing for Pastor Leslie's first worship services. Gary pointed out that he usually does the Facebook page, but will also make Pastor Leslie an administrator for it. Pastor Leslie said she would talk to him privately about music selection.

Lay Leader, Annual Conf: Jan Seals

Jan Seals reported that she had gone to Annual Conference with Dot Heuman this year instead of Gary Cox, who had been designated to go. Gary had a last minute schedule change and was not able to go. Jeremy reminded Jan that there are procedures that should have been followed to change a delegate to Annual Conference. Jan presented Pastor Leslie with a booklet on the history of the Methodist church and a small plaque for her wall.

Trustees: Bill Mueller

The Trustees will meet again soon. There will be updates needed to the parsonage. Carpets have been cleaned and turned out very good.

S/P/PRC: Linda Mueller

A plan for "Pastor Chats" (meet and greets) is being organized. A welcome dinner for Pastor Leslie and her family will be Sunday, July 2nd after worship. Fried chicken, a meat tray and drinks will be provided. The congregation will be asked to bring side dishes and desserts.

Treasurer: Patti Cecil

All bills are paid. All accounts are being funded. The checking account balance at this time is \$2159.19. With the Capital Campaign Fund applied to the building loan, the loan amount is now down to \$40,945.56. Brooke Gerlach moved to accept the Treasurer's report, pending later audit. Linda Mueller seconded the motion. The Treasurer's report was approved, pending later audit.

Pastor's Report:

The "Pastor Chats" (meet and greets) that Pastor Leslie has planned will include questions which will form a foundation for our future. Pastor Leslie is asking the Ad Council members to read "Open Road" by Sue Nilson Kibbey, which is a short book on prayer, asking "What is God doing?" and "What does this mean for where we're going?" Please read for discussion by the July 10th meeting.

A short discussion also followed on social media. Key members involved in our social media may need to get together to improve communication.

The next meeting will be July 10th at 6:00pm.

Linda Mueller moved to adjourn. Brooke Gerlach seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.



- 7/02 Janet Gerlach
- 7/05 Carol Ashley
Tanya Cowan
- 7/10 Klay Greenhill
- 7/12 June Peck
- 7/13 Andru Stine
- 7/17 David Peck
- 7/18 Rhonda Gerlach
- 7/22 Ron Steen
- 7/23 Olivia Oathout
- 7/27 Connie Campbell
- 7/29 Braden Haury
Peyton Oathout
- 7/31 Pat Hillyard



- 7/02 Jonathan & Amy Norton
- 7/12 Bob & Janice Taylor
- 7/22 Clint & Katie Peck

Prayers- Dillon Jacobus, Frank Beckley, Charlie Heuman, Linda Bird, Lori Blackburn, Haddie Mettler, Pastor Leslie and family, Victims of Gun Violence, The people of Ukraine and Russia, Bishop Frank J. Beard, our Church and this period of Transition, our denomination, our country, our world.

Thank You Notes

I want to thank my friends and family at Sparta First United Methodist Church for all the cards and calls since I have been at the Randolph County Care Center. And, especially, I want to thank Bill Mueller, Bob Taylor, Carl Holland, and Virgil Runge for getting my recliner moved from my home into my room here. I also want to thank my neighbor Gary Kloth who helped them at my house. I really appreciate having my chair and it definitely has increased my comfort here so that I don't stay in my bed all the time. Oh, and the nurses really like it, too, that I have someplace to sit. I enjoy visits, calls, and cards, so don't be a stranger.

Thanks to all. Charles Heuman



I want to thank everyone for your beautiful retirement gift and dinner. I was truly blessed by you. Also thanks for all the well wishes and gifts. And finally, a special thank you to the guys and gals who helped me move. I have hung the quilt in my living room to remind me of your love and grace.

Until we meet again! Pastor Randy

Saturday Schedule

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs 12:30-3:30

Wednesday 12:30-4:30

Phone (618) 443-3714

Email: spartafumc600@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Pastor Leslie Welcome Meal	3	4 Happy Fourth of July Office Closed	5 6 pm NOW	6	7	1/8
9	10 6 pm Ad Council	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 9-12 Back to School— Looking Cool
30	31					

Date	General Budget	Capital Campaign	Other	Total For the Week	Sat/Sun/Sunday School
06/04/23	\$4,337.80	\$512.50	\$407.76	\$5,258.06	0/109/29
06/11/23	\$7,321.59	\$420.00	\$210.00	\$7,951.59	9/49/27
06/18/23	\$2,263.59	\$55.00	\$148.00	\$2,466.59	7/68/21
06/25/23	\$3,351.09	\$442.50	\$635.50	\$4,429.09	8/49/31
Total for Year to Date for General Budget: \$91,303.39					