Pastor’s Letter

Who do people say the Son of Man is? . . . Who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16:13, 15

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Christ who has sent us out in his name.

After leaving the office for the day, I treated myself to a coffee and a haircut. I had just gotten a new book to help with my summer sermon series on Jesus’ parables and I wanted to read the introduction.

While at the coffee shop, I met an acquaintance I hadn’t seen for some time. I wasn’t sure I remembered his name. I sat next to him. Each of us guessed the other’s name. He guessed my name as “Warren.” After the coffee shop, I got a haircut. As the stylist was ringing me up, she asked if I was a professor at the college.

I got a good chuckle from both of these. These incidents also gave me pause to consider the importance of identity in the midst of community. Our identities help us to be known by name and our role in the community.

Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ, son of the living God. Jesus responded by changing Simon’s name to Peter and promising to give the keys of the kingdom to him. Matthew placed this incident at the foot of the mountain range that includes Mount Hermon (9,000’+). So surrounded by rock, Jesus named Simon, the rock. Rocks were dependable. Despite which regime was ruling, rocks remained and Mount Hermon remained. Compared to human striving and human life, a rock seemed eternal and immortal.

Jesus also promised the keys of the kingdom to Peter. Keys grant access to treasure. The image shows Peter with the key(s) and a book. These represent the authority of Peter to teach the church and world about God’s kingdom.

The world needs a people who are dependable and committed to God’s kingdom. Let us continue to remember our identity as Christ’s Church and not forget it when we are misidentified as “Warren, the college professor.”

Christ’s Servant:

The Reverend Joseph A. Johnson
United Methodist Women Assembly May 18-20, 2018, Columbus, Ohio
THE POWER OF BOLD
A Report from Marlene Stratton

Approximately 8,000 women (and some men) from across the U. S. and around the world gathered for 3 days at the Columbus Convention Center. There were 145 from our Northern IL Conference.

WHAT IS ASSEMBLY? Thousands of women in ONE TIME, ONE PLACE, AND ONE SPACE, singing, worshipping, having fellowship, but most of all learning.

We learned about situations, projects, and programs that UMW is supporting or has supported in other states and 100 countries. We learned of issues, skills, programs, our history, and growing the organization in various workshop opportunities. We learned where we’ve been and how we got there; then we learned where we are and where we need to go, but it’s up to us to find out how to get there.

The first Assembly was when our organization was the Woman’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS). It took place May 19-22, 1942, also in Columbus, OH. It’s theme: Methodist Women Facing this Hour. Recall, if you will, that FDR was then president, the US was just 5 months into WW II, and in 1939, just 3 years prior, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church had united to form the Methodist Church. Also in 1939, the segregated Central Jurisdiction for African-American Methodists was created.

This segregation was something that WSCS could not tolerate and could not ignore. They relocated their Assembly to a city where there was a place that ALL women could lodge, meet, and eat together: Columbus, OH, with their headquarters at the Broad Street Methodist Church.

For those gathered in 2018, The Power of Bold had several visions:
- Called to Bold,
- Bold Dreams,
- The Cost of Bold
- Bold Action.

We “met” many people in the Community Gatherings: the local area bishop, Bishop Palmer; 8 of our Regional Missionaries, 84 Directors of our National Mission Institutions, and several young women in the LimitLess group.

Our special presenters included Leymah Gbowee from Liberia, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work that led to the end of the 2nd Civil War in Liberia; Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defense Fund; Michelle Alexander, activist and author; Hanna Bonner, activist; and Clara Esther, National Organization Staff member, who was with Martin Luther King, Jr. when he was assassinated. All shared stories of where they have been, what they have done, sometimes in dangerous situations or at risk, and what still needs to be done.

Each of our times together focused on one of our four priority issues:
- economic inequality,
- climate justice,
- mass incarceration & criminalization of communities of color,
- maternal & child health.

Throughout the weekend, crises being faced nationally and globally by women and children and youth were foremost in our minds.

During our first time together, 30 Deaconesses were consecrated.
- Two are from our own Northern IL Conference: Catherine Inserra and Amy Reimer.

Bible study was also part of the weekend. When we gathered, we followed the story of Mary, Mother of Jesus, through the flight to Egypt. This was told and dramatized in liturgical dance. On the last night, the drama group Friend of the Groom dramatized The Wedding at Cana.
My own experiences at Assembly included:

**Ubuntu Day of Service:** Fleece blankets for *My Very Own Blanket*  
(ask me about this, it was a wonderful experience!)

**Workshop 1:** Bold Worship  
**Workshop 2:** Storytelling in the Midrash Tradition

Made video of what’s important to me in UMW & why I belong  
Added to a banner Graffiti Wall of the Future on my future vision for UMW  
Talked with “Lucy Hayes,” wife of the U.S. president (first president of the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society)

Gathered much information from various UM agencies  
Visited many of the Fair Trade Marketplace booths

During our last time together, 9 of our women bishops participated in the communion liturgy

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**Mission u coming**

United Methodist Women hosting a weekend event and a one-day event this summer

**Weekend Event:** July 12 (dinner) through July 15 (lunch) at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon. Lodging is also available at the Dixon Quality Inn & Suites.

**One-Day Event:** Saturday, July 21 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Gary UMC, Wheaton.  
*(Children & Youth programs are also available in Wheaton)*

**2018 Topics**

**Spiritual Growth**  
Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living

**Social Issue**  
What About Our Money?: A Faith Response  
*(Children’s Study: Money Matters  Youth Study: Is it Just Money?)*

**Geographic Study**  
Missionary Conferences of the United States

Detailed information & registration forms are available at the UMW table in Wesley Hall.  
Questions? See Marlene Stratton,
CELEBRATE SUMMER & VOLUNTEER AT OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN
IT’S TIME TO
WEED~WATER~HARVEST~DELIVER

Come and see how our Garden grows! First Church along with St. Peter’s UCC and a Consortium of other Elmhurst faith communities share the stewardship of this vegetable garden — created to provide fresh produce for the clients of the Yorkfield Food Pantry.

First Church is responsible for the garden upkeep on the SECOND WEEK OF EACH MONTH FROM JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER

For instructions and to sign up for the dates and times you are willing to help, please contact Darlene Van Meir: 630-834-8022; darlene.vanmeir@gmail.com

June 10 - 16
July 8 - 14; August 5 - 11; September 9 - 15; October 7 - 13

The appreciation of your help in this mission is seen on the faces of our neighbors at Yorkfield Food Pantry as they choose the fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, squash… that are NOT in a can!!!

Sign up today!!
First Church & UMC Logos

Our First Church Logo designed by Anita Hindsley appears on the masthead of our Newsletter. Have you ever taken a good look at it? Do you know what it means? You can probably guess at some of the symbolism ~ it is three-fold.

The Triangle is the foundation of the logo and represents the TRINITY and CHANGE. As United Methodists, we profess our belief in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit.

As a progressive congregation, First Church welcomes agents of change, such as questioning and discussion as part of our faith journey.

The holding hands of people represent the COMMUNITY as a whole and their CONNECTION to one another.

The entire logo symbolizes our MISSION and its IDEALS that we strive to attain by forming a greater bond between God ~ People of Faith ~ and Community.

Insignia of the United Methodist Church

This familiar symbol often appears on the cover of our bulletins. How often do we stop to think about what it signifies?

A traditional symbol—the cross—was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire. The resulting insignia is rich in meaning. It relates The United Methodist church to God through Christ (the Cross) and the Holy Spirit (the Flame).

The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

Indeed, the Cross and Flame emblem is a powerful reminder of who and Whose we are as United Methodists.

Protecting and preserving its use and integrity are just as important today as when the insignia was created and registered as No. 917,433 with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

It was adopted shortly after the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968.
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES IN JULY!

*Adult Sunday School will be taking a break in June.*

Sessions for thought and discussion will resume following on July 1 in Aldersgate.

Join us BEFORE Worship from 8:15-9:15 to examine some of the documents that have been guiding the general church’s conversation on the Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality.

Also, the Council of Bishops final recommendation to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference regarding THE WAY FORWARD will be released in July. This will provide additional opportunity for conversation.

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Youth Group Memorial Day Refreshment Stand Raises $501 for Mission Trips & Activities

A HUGE thank you to all who helped make the stand a great success.

Happy Summer!

We welcomed many grateful parade goers into the church to use our restrooms. They were surprised that we were graciously offering our facilities for no charge and seemed so pleased with our hospitality.

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YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

**JULY 13-15.**
10th-12th Grade Youth
LifeFest Christian Rock Festival in OshKosh WI

**AUGUST 3-5.**
All Youth (6th-12th Grades)
Wesley Woods, Williams Bay WI
For environmental work, spiritual growth, and a lot of fun

MORE INFO:
Contact: Lisa Rogers
jrogers204@comcast.net.
First Church is proud to be a long-time partner with the Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network (EWAN), aka the walk-in ministry. This not-for-profit formed in 1997 to respond to emergency needs in Elmhurst, IL.

For the first quarter of 2018, EWAN spent $10,463 serving 254 clients, with 290 services provided (some clients needed assistance in multiple ways).

EWAN is the gatekeeper for the Food Pantry at Immaculate Conception. Pantry vouchers were given 213 times this quarter.

Here is a chart of percent of dollars spent by type of assistance given this quarter.

To learn more about EWAN as a client, volunteer, or donor, please visit the website www.ewanet.org or drop by Monday-Friday, 10 am to noon on the side of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ 125 W. Church Street, Elmhurst. Right across the parking lot from us. Look for the purple door!

MISSION of EWAN: The people of our faith communities, service organizations, businesses, and caring individuals unite in partnership to provide compassionate and effective assistance to people in need within our community.

Thanks to Ruth Zervas for this report.
Small Group Ministries

Join our Dinner & the Arts Group at GreenMan Theatre for David Mamet’s Glengarry Glen Ross Sunday, June 10, 2:00 pm
Dinner afterward
Contact: Mary Hallman 630-279-7578

GreenMan Theatre Troupe is in residence at First United Methodist Church

Glengarry Glen Ross won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Written by Chicago’s own David Mamet, it concerns a group of small-time cut-throat real estate salesmen. “One of his best plays. The playwright makes all-American music - hot jazz and wounding blues. As Mamet's command of dialogue has now reached its most dazzling pitch, so has his mastery of theatrical form. Crackling tension...ferocious comedy and drama. A top American playwright in bristling form.” --- Frank Rich, The New York Times

The production runs June 8-17 and is intended for mature audiences. Friday & Saturday performances are at 7:30 PM and Sunday matinees begin at 2 PM. $17/adults $15/students & seniors

GreenMan's Artistic Director David Soria will direct the production. GreenMan's Box Office voice mail can be reached at 630.464.2646

Meals Ministry Cooking Day
Saturday, June 23
2:00-4:00 in the afternoon, FUMC Kitchen
Come help prepare freezer-friendly meals that can be offered during special times of need — birth of a baby, illness, hospitalization, or loss.
Contact: Kelley Hook khhook1@gmail.com
Looking for a good book to read this summer?
You don’t have to look any further than our own library!!!

Coming up in 2018-2019. Over the summer, the Library Committee will be selecting next year’s discussion books. Got some idea?
Please let us know. Contact Lola Hotchkis at lola@hotchkis.org.

PLUGINS:
Suggested Books for FUMC Summer Programs

Women’s Retreat ~ August 24-26
The 3rd annual Women’s Retreat will once again be held at the summer home of Darlene Van Meir in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Background reading for discussion will be the book Happiness by acclaimed author and lecturer Joan Chittister. Sister Joan is a Benedictine sister and founder of Benetvision, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality in Erie, Pennsylvania.
Sister Joan draws her insights not only from the most profound philosophers and every major religious tradition East and West, but also from her own experience of a life well and consciously lived. Happiness examines the meaning of the word as well as life in general and is a resource for those wishing to deepen their own sense of spirituality and contentment.
The retreat is open to all women of First Church. There are a limited number of spots available. reservations are being accepted now by Sandy Bodie (sanbodie@aol.com), Darlene Van Meir (darlene.vanmeir@gmail.com), or Ruth Zervas (silmaril41@comcast.net). There is no charge for the retreat. Each participant is asked to contribute to the preparation of one meal. Car pooling is available for both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning arrivals.

Colors of Love: Raising children in a racially unjust world
SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 25
AN ANTI-RACISM SYMPOSIUM
Featuring Dr. Jennifer Harvey, author of Raising White Kids, and a panel of NIC youth.
This event is co-sponsored by First Church and United Voices for Children.
Saturday August 25 from 8:30 - 1:00 at First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst
Register on-line at www.unitedvoicesforchildren.org
May Birthdays

June 1  Susan King
June 2  David Stumpf
June 3  Jim Schroeder
June 5  Ellyn Gehrke
June 5  Laurie Provancal
June 9  DJ Cooke
June 9  Arianna Denning
June 10  Fred Hodge
June 10  Donna Lichty
June 12  June Muncy
June 13  Angela Bagdasarian
June 13  Mark Dyer
June 14  Sarah Dyer
June 14  Tom Hams
June 14  Chris Ladd

June 15  Meredith Carbonetti
June 16  Zoe Ejma
June 16  Daniel Stumpf
June 16  Michael Stumpf
June 19  Jill Clark
June 21  Eric Wiese
June 22  Rowan Clark
June 25  Jeffrey Klang
June 25  Chris Squier
June 26  Cheri Bjerkman
June 27  Anne Toohey
June 27  Grace Vincent
June 28  Darlene Van Meir
June 30  Logan Maloney
June 30  Carey Pinkowski

Recent Concerns ~
Becky Gianopoulos (sister of Carolyn Heiney); Shirley Hazelton; Barbara Keeler (mother of Lisa Rogers); Kay Michael, Chris Ladd, Alex Hamilton. Ray Lynn (friend of Jamie Falconer); James Herhold (Jeannie Herhold’s husband); Dan Herhold (Jeannie Herhold’s brother-in-law); Ron Stasell (cousin of Sandy Bodie & Jack Tucker); Doug Peters, Sr. (Doug Peters’ father); Matt Johnson; Rachael (daughter of Kathy Hansen’s friend); Darlene Gee; Tony Sekera (Curlie Engdahl’s son-in-law); Madeleine Rodriguez (Amy Strauss’ daughter).

Ongoing Prayers ~ Russell and Karen Whiles (Susan Boyd’s cousin and his wife); Doug Hotchkis; Sophia Zematis (age 4, friend of the Grisolias); Tricia DePasquale (Kristy Howland’s sister-in-law); Terse Stamos (Richard Norgaard’s sister); Mary Gaiter (Lola Hotchkis’ mother); Cherie Kupcik (Sandy Terrell’s niece); Doree Kaforski (friend of June Muncy); Tom Mitchell (son of Diane Mitchell); Kathleen Gallagher & Anthony Mc Elligott; Juanita Daniels (Steve Strauss’ mother); Marge Farrell (Ed Locke’s aunt); Pat Lind; Eric McMillian (son-in-law of Darlene Van Meir); Erv and Marge Blasius; Philip Williams; Janet H. (friend of Marlene Stratton); Margie Finley (Audrey Klang’s mother); Curlie Engdahl; the homebound; the military; those who are homeless or in shelters; those in nursing homes; and caregivers.

Graduations

CONGRATULATIONS!
Meredith Carbonetti—Graduated May 12, 2018 from Murray State University with a BS in Agriculture—Veterinary Technology

Prayer List

June 1  Susan King
June 2  David Stumpf
June 3  Jim Schroeder
June 5  Ellyn Gehrke
June 5  Laurie Provancal
June 9  DJ Cooke
June 9  Arianna Denning
June 10  Fred Hodge
June 10  Donna Lichty
June 12  June Muncy
June 13  Angela Bagdasarian
June 13  Mark Dyer
June 14  Sarah Dyer
June 14  Tom Hams
June 14  Chris Ladd

June 15  Meredith Carbonetti
June 16  Zoe Ejma
June 16  Daniel Stumpf
June 16  Michael Stumpf
June 19  Jill Clark
June 21  Eric Wiese
June 22  Rowan Clark
June 25  Jeffrey Klang
June 25  Chris Squier
June 26  Cheri Bjerkman
June 27  Anne Toohey
June 27  Grace Vincent
June 28  Darlene Van Meir
June 30  Logan Maloney
June 30  Carey Pinkowski

June 6:  Robert & Adriana Potter (17)
June 6:  Ted & Jan Soltys (58)
June 7:  Tom & Ellyn Gehrke (20)
June 8:  Brett & Jill Clark (21)
June 11: Jeff 7 Audrey Klang (29)
June 12: Eric & Danelle Acheepohl (24)
June 22: Doug & Anita Hindsley (20)
June 23: Jason & Maylynn Dunkirk (5)

Ongoing Prayers ~
Russell and Karen Whiles (Susan Boyd’s cousin and his wife); Doug Hotchkis; Sophia Zematis (age 4, friend of the Grisolias); Tricia DePasquale (Kristy Howland’s sister-in-law); Terse Stamos (Richard Norgaard’s sister); Mary Gaiter (Lola Hotchkis’ mother); Cherie Kupcik (Sandy Terrell’s niece); Doree Kaforski (friend of June Muncy); Tom Mitchell (son of Diane Mitchell); Kathleen Gallagher & Anthony Mc Elligott; Juanita Daniels (Steve Strauss’ mother); Marge Farrell (Ed Locke’s aunt); Pat Lind; Eric McMillian (son-in-law of Darlene Van Meir); Erv and Marge Blasius; Philip Williams; Janet H. (friend of Marlene Stratton); Margie Finley (Audrey Klang’s mother); Curlie Engdahl; the homebound; the military; those who are homeless or in shelters; those in nursing homes; and caregivers.

Renew your Wedding Vows
Pastor Joe offers renewal of wedding vows for couples celebrating their 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 50th anniversaries, and every anniversary year after 50.

Staff Directory

General Office: (630) 834-2440
Rev. Joseph A. Johnson, Pastor, ext 101
mobile: 630-991-6632
joseph.johnson@umcelmhurst.org

Sharon Phillips, Church Administrator ext 100
admin@umcelmhurst.org

Doug Peters, Director of Music Ministry

Lisa Rogers, Dir of Children & Youth Ministries
education@umcelmhurst.org ext 103

Richard Stultz, Organist

Jennifer Jordan, Financial Services
Jordan Daily Money Management
jennifer@jordan-dmm.com

Mike Capra, Custodial Services
Capra Janitorial Services
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**Sunshine**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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**Silent Meditation**

10-10:20am

**Bulletin announcements deadline:**

12 noon each

12 Step Group

7:30pm

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**Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC**

179th Annual Conference

*Navigating Uncharted Waters*

*June 3-5*

Pheasant Run Resort

St. Charles, Illinois

---

**3**

9:30 Worship

Holy Communion

ShopwithScrip forms available

**4**

Weeding Party

7-8:30 pm

**5**

Film Group tba

**6**

**7**

Clothing Center

OPEN 9-11am, 7-9pm

**8**

**9**

**10**

9:30 Worship

ShopwithScrip due

Elmhurst Music Academy

Recital 1pm

**11**

**12**

Staff Meeting

10:30

**13**

Church Council

7pm

**14**

**15**

**16**

Clothing Center

OPEN 9-11am

**17**

FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day

9:30 Worship

ShopwithScrip pickup

*GREENMAN THEATRE 7:30*

Glengarry Glen Ross

**18**

Deadline for VISITOR

**19**

JUNETEENTH

**20**

Worship Team

7pm

**21**

SUMMER SOLSTICE

**22**

**23**

MEALS MINISTRY

2pm

**24**

9:30 Worship

**25**

**26**

Staff Meeting

**27**

Naomi Circle 7:30

**28**

BIRTHDAY of JOHN WESLEY

**29**

**30**

---
The Clothing Center is open to clients three times a month on the first Thursday of the month from 9-11am and 7-9pm, and on the third Saturday of the month from 9-11am. DONATIONS of clothing, shoes, bedding, books, toys and other household goods may be dropped off from 9-5pm Monday-Friday at the main north door. Tax receipts are available at the drop-off area. Our Youth Breakfast Ministry, coordinated by our middle school and high school youth, provides a free breakfast to Clothing Center clients on the third Saturday of every month from October through April.

The Visitor Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions are due to the church office by the 15th of each month via email, admin@umcelmhurst.org.

First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst
is a caring Christian community.
We are a progressive congregation;
embracing thinking, exploring and questioning as part of a
faithful search for a closer relationship with God.
We seek opportunities to
worship, learn, connect and serve
in ways that put Jesus’ life and teachings into action.
As such, we affirm diversity
and welcome all children of God
into full participation in the life and ministries of our church
regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation,
socioeconomic status, race or marital status.

Summer Worship Schedule for 2018

9:30 am  Summer Sunday Worship Service from May 27 through August 12 (No Sunday School)

GRACE GATHERING on Sunday, August 19
Come for Breakfast at 9:15 ~ Find your Classrooms

10:30 am  Sunday Worship Service resumes on August 19 (Sunday School resumes at 9:15 am)

The Visitor wants to know your Newsletter Mailing Preference.
Snail Mail??  Email??  Unsubscribe??
Contact Sharon at (630) 834-2440 or admin@umcelmhurst.org