

# the HERALD

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PEORIA | JAN/FEB 2020



**GET THE PICTURE:  
GREAT HOPE FOR  
2020**

**CAPTURA LA IMAGEN:  
GRAN ESPERANZA PARA  
2020**

**SPECULATION OVERDRIVE**  
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# Letter *from* the Editor



*My first year here was capped off with a staff meeting visit from DAN-ta Clause. Dan Philips donned the jolly red suit, while Doug Grogan was choked up by such an esteemed presence, and Mary Harvey gave her wishes to good ol' Dan Kringle. Photo by Greg Fish*

It's amazing how a person can change and grow in the span of a year.

As we begin a new year of ministry together, I am celebrating my first year on staff at FUMC. Though I was a newbie in January of 2019, I didn't wear that status alone. Diane Broe, stepping into the role of Director of Administration and Facilities, came on staff exactly one day prior to me. Her title is longer than my title, which I've come to simply refer to as "Communications Guy."

It has been an incredible year serving with the wonderful staff we have here at FUMC, under the excellent and visionary leadership of Pastor Tim Ozment. I am incredibly grateful for the warm, grace-filled reception you've given me. And, I'm excited to see what God will do here next. Though there are always question marks on the road signs (and you'll find one of those addressed in Pastor Tim's article this month), it's encouraging and exciting to be a part of a ministry group that is able to square its view on what is important and vital and God-driven.

This issue is full of visionary ideas for 2020, along with happy celebrations and sad goodbyes.

I'm also quite proud of offering a bilingual article this month, along with the Spanish translation of our cover headline. Our Hispanic ministry work is a powerful part of who we are.

Every page is covered with a prayer and a blessing that God will use the stories here to inspire us to keep moving towards the goal, to never give up, and to take courage.

Blessings to you!

Greg Fish  
Editor

# the HERALD

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DISCLAIMER: The information represented here is for the purpose of informing the FUMC-Peoria congregation of the change of events for a month. They are however subject to change. For more up-to-date information, refer to us online at [www.fumcpeoria.org](http://www.fumcpeoria.org), via social media platforms (@fumcpeoria), or via our weekly email newsletter, eHighlights.

## **ON THE COVER:**

Matt Hawkins captured this wonderful picture from La Posada '19, and it evokes some powerful feelings as we envision for what is ahead in the year to come.

DEADLINES: Articles to be considered for publication in **The Herald** must be submitted to Greg Fish at [gfish@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:gfish@fumcpeoria.org) by 10 AM on the tenth day of the month preceding issue date. In the subject line of your email submission, type, "HERALD." All submissions are subject to editing and style standards, and their use is solely at the discretion of the editor. Picture submissions are encouraged to accompany your submission. Focus on individuals and smaller numbers of people who help tell the story.

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# Speculation Overdrive

## Finding Focus Despite Noisy Rumors

By the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ozment

The United Methodist church has NOT voted to split – at least, not yet. Many recent articles and news reports have covered a few meetings that were held by a small but significant group of UM leaders. This group of around twenty participants has come up with a plan for separation. However, they are only a small voice in an eight-million-member church.



## "Peoria First UMC has a lot of mission and ministry to accomplish in the name of Jesus, and I want to be a part of it."

This proposal offers only one piece of legislation for the May 2020 General Conference (GC) to consider. There are also other plans on the table that either allow or call for separation. There are some recommendations that attempt to work within the current system in order to allow congregations to choose their own path, while remaining one denomination. The GC will have to vote to approve any plan.

Most likely, any plan will be amended before the vote. Once a plan has been approved, there will probably be an appeal to the Judicial Council - the UM's version of the Supreme Court - to determine if the prevailing legislation is in keeping with our constitution. It is within the realm of possibilities that none of these items will be approved. It is also conceivable that some form of change and parting of ways could be coming.

It wouldn't surprise me if we end up with a plan to allow for the separation of churches and conferences that wish to go in different directions. The debate over human sexuality, at least in the U.S., has had us at odds with one another for several years now. The disagreement in our denomination over human sexuality has become so intense that we've often put more energy and thought into winning an argument than in loving or understanding a person and how they think.

As a denomination, we've used so much time and energy on this single issue that we've ignored other important matters like evangelism, discipleship, and outreach.

Unfortunately, this hostility probably won't end anytime soon. On one hand, some are tired of waiting for full inclusion. They are weary of having to defend their understanding that scripture calls us to be inclusive. On the other hand, some are tired of having to defend long-standing biblical interpretations. They are weary of defending what they believe are holy standards of living. Splitting may be the only way forward for either camp.

While I don't know what will happen in May, I do know what I've been called to do right here and right now. Until Jesus returns, the Bishop moves me, or God calls me elsewhere, I plan to remain faithful to the work of God right here on the corner of Main and Perry. Peoria First UMC has a lot of mission and ministry to accomplish in the name of Jesus, and I want to be a part of it.



**PASTOR TIM OZMENT**

*is the Directing Pastor of First United Methodist Church - Peoria.*

# Losing Our Direction

By the Rev. Tanya Edwards-Evans



We, the Church, the body of Christ, have lost our voice, our influence, and our direction.

Church teachings or living out one's faith, was once the compass for how we lived our lives in everything from family life to community expectations. We are now in the 21st century or the Common Era. There is nothing common about our lives except for self-centeredness, a lack of respect and dignity for all persons, and a lack of faithfulness to God.

United Methodists now believe that we must learn to live in love and community with humanity regardless of ethnicity, faith tradition, or economic capabilities. We are all made in the image of God. It is through our social principles that we are encouraged to be in dialogue with others and to work on making a meaningful difference. Some concerns in our society may not affect us personally, but they affect someone, somewhere, and at some time.

As we begin this new decade, let's explore the godly principles we are teaching and those we are living out. Are they being buried because they no longer matter to us or our communities? Let's examine how we are living out the Great Commandment as found in Matthew 22:35-40:

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (KJV)

According to reports, there are now more "nones," or those who are non-religious, than those who regularly attend a worship service. Are we loving God in every aspect of our lives - spiritually, mentally, financially, relationally, and physically - in order that world can see Him? Or, are we merely loving ourselves at the expense of others?



**PASTOR TANYA EDWARDS-EVANS**

*is an associate pastor at FUMC.*



Pastor Evans' Simple Changes for a better overall health in 2020

- ❑ Drink sixteen ounces of water in the morning.
- ❑ Take five minutes of quiet time. Listen to your heart.
- ❑ Read one chapter of Proverbs or 1 Samuel for the first 31 days then, read a different book of the Bible.
- ❑ THINK POSITIVELY!
- ❑ Eat small portions (six-inch plates) at least five times a day. Think finger foods. Stay away from junk food.
- ❑ Drink water during the day.
- ❑ Get enough sleep/rest.
- ❑ Do some type of exercise for thirty minutes.
- ❑ Every week, write a letter to a friend and mail it.

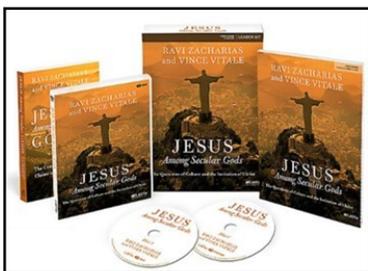
January is Thyroid, Glaucoma and Cervical Health Awareness month.

## A Wealth of DVD Studies In Library

By Lori Herold

New DVD studies are now available in our library. You can find them shelved on the right labeled, "New to the Library."

You can explore Ravi Zacharias' new study, *Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Questions of Culture and the Invitation of Christ*. If your taste centers around food,



check out a unique Bible study called *Taste and See*:

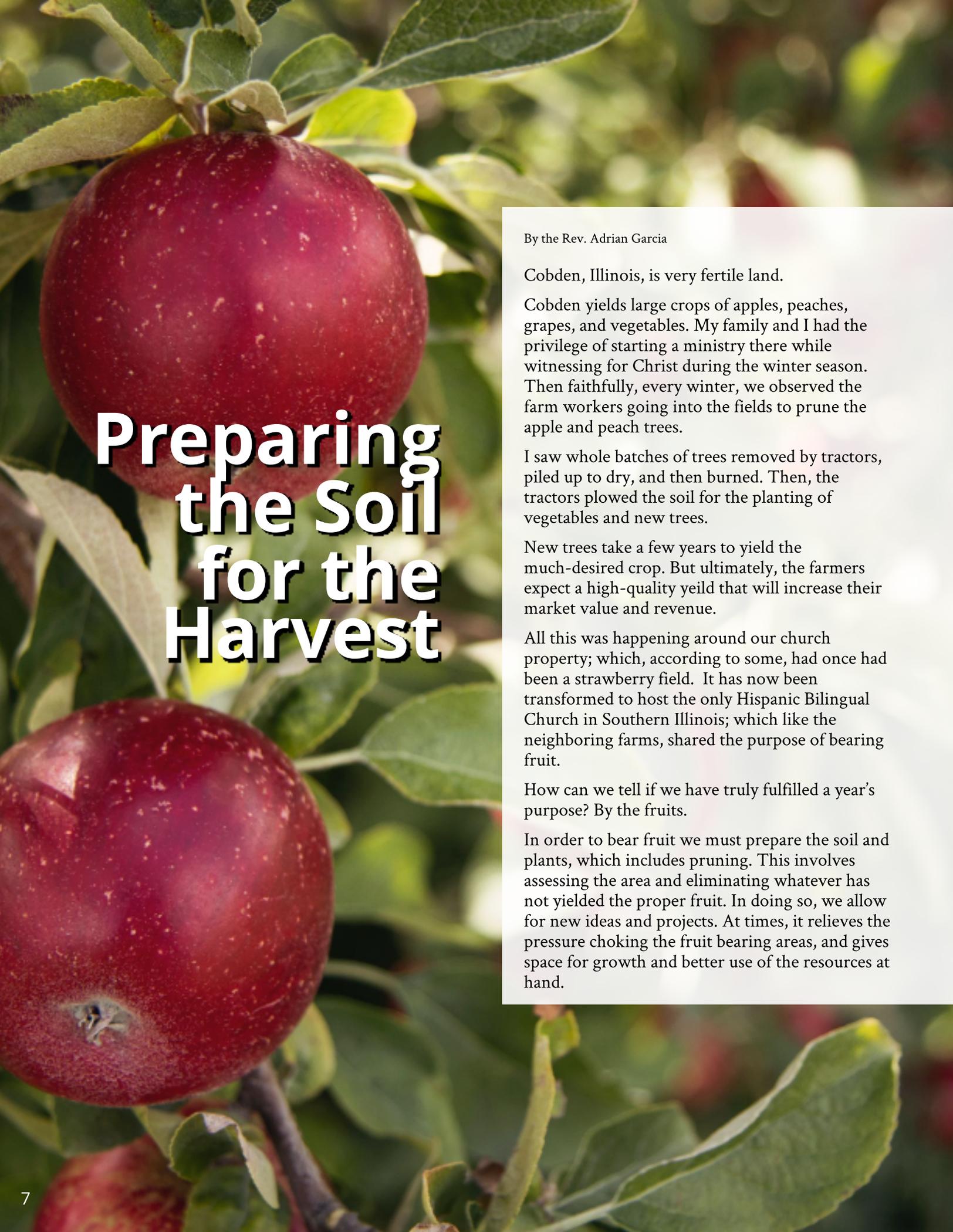
*Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, & Fresh Food Makers* by Margaret Feinberg. Melissa Spoelstra, who was at our church in September

to lead the women's conference, offers up, *Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season*. Discover the biblical response to failure with, *Fail: What to Do When Things Go Wrong* by Matt Miofsky. Get a fresh perspective on our Christian faith with, *Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World* by Andy Stanley.

Other recent DVD studies include: *The Real Heaven: What the Bible Actually Says* by Chip Ingram; *The Invisible War: What Every Believer Needs to Know About Satan, Demons & Spiritual Warfare* also by Chip Ingram; *The Daniel Plan: 40 Days for a Healthier Life* by Rick Warren et-al; and *The Church in Babylon: Heeding the Call to Be a Light in the Darkness* by Erwin Lutzer.

Sometimes, our leaders donate study books after their group completes a course. At times, we can even give away copies of studies to save your group money. These used study materials may be highlighted or contain other marks. Our online book and resource catalog at [www.librarycat.org/lib/FUMCLibrary](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/FUMCLibrary), will have a note in the comments section of a study if there are extra study books. Or, ask me, Lori Herold, by calling the church or emailing [library@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:library@fumcpeoria.org).





# Preparing the Soil for the Harvest

By the Rev. Adrian Garcia

Cobden, Illinois, is very fertile land.

Cobden yields large crops of apples, peaches, grapes, and vegetables. My family and I had the privilege of starting a ministry there while witnessing for Christ during the winter season. Then faithfully, every winter, we observed the farm workers going into the fields to prune the apple and peach trees.

I saw whole batches of trees removed by tractors, piled up to dry, and then burned. Then, the tractors plowed the soil for the planting of vegetables and new trees.

New trees take a few years to yield the much-desired crop. But ultimately, the farmers expect a high-quality yield that will increase their market value and revenue.

All this was happening around our church property; which, according to some, had once had been a strawberry field. It has now been transformed to host the only Hispanic Bilingual Church in Southern Illinois; which like the neighboring farms, shared the purpose of bearing fruit.

How can we tell if we have truly fulfilled a year's purpose? By the fruits.

In order to bear fruit we must prepare the soil and plants, which includes pruning. This involves assessing the area and eliminating whatever has not yielded the proper fruit. In doing so, we allow for new ideas and projects. At times, it relieves the pressure choking the fruit bearing areas, and gives space for growth and better use of the resources at hand.

So, evaluate what is bearing fruit in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit's guidance and power to bear more fruit.

Here are some questions that can help you self-check:

Have you grown spiritually through the Word and in serving others?

Have you shared God's Word with the lost and witnessed some surrender at the feet of Christ?

Have you been a good steward of the resources God has given you, offering tithes, offerings, aiding others, and giving in grace from what you received in grace?

The Holy Spirit is eager to help you if your plan and purpose is to bear fruit to his glory, and to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ.

If you are a Sunday School/small group/ministry leader, take advantage of this season to prepare the soil for a better harvest this year.

January is a good time for a check of the heart and soul. Ask God to point out the things which might need to be pruned, or buried in the past. May he guide you as you make the necessary changes so that you may yield the quality of fruit he expects from you.



**PASTOR ADRIAN GARCIA**

*is the pastor of Latino and Outreach Ministries.*

# NEW LEADERSHIP FOR TEAM THAT SERVES THOSE WHO SERVE

*by Dan Philips*

It is hard to imagine a job more demanding and stressful than that of a police officer. It's a job that everyone wants someone else to do so that our world is safe and secure. When there is a problem, we want an officer to be present.

The FUMC Police Prayer Team focuses on covering our Peoria police officers in prayer. Members of the team are given the name of an officer and are asked to pray for them every day. I have encountered area officers who, when they hear I am from FUMC, express gratitude for our Police Prayer Team. When the going gets tough and they feel alone, it means a lot to them knowing that someone is actively praying.

Officers are also sent monthly cards, notes of encouragement, and birthday cards. The goal is to express Christ's love, to support the officers and their families, and to build positive relationships with these dedicated public servants.

For the past decade, this team has been led by Joan and Howard Williamson. They organized and managed a team that has covered officers in prayer and that supported the police at annual memorial services. They have enjoyed their service to this ministry and are now ready to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Dick and Twila Moore, who have been active in this ministry, have agreed to assume leadership. We look forward to working with them in their new roles.



*Dick and Twila Moore will now give leadership to our Police Prayer Team.  
Photo by Dan Philips*

If you are interested in finding out more about the Police Prayer Team, contact the church office or Dan Philips.

# LOAVES & FISH

## Goodbye, friend

By Dan Philips

I cannot remember when I first met Bob Caughey. From the time I became active in the life of our church, Bob was always there.

When Kim and I became part of the Buddy program at Irving, Bob was there. When the Buddy Ministry moved to Lincoln K8 School, Bob was already there. As an usher, Bob was there. And when Loaves & Fish became a part of my Saturday routine, Bob was there.

Smiling, gracious, truly caring and concerned about those around him, Bob was always there.

His gentle smile, his kind compassionate words, his way of connecting to everyone he encountered, were all part of who Bob Caughey was.

Bob was often one of the first people that our Loaves and Fish guests saw as they entered each Saturday, offering them the "Scripture of the week" as they came to the Alive service.

One Saturday, our police officer shared a concern with me about a guest. This gentleman, who deals with mental health issues, often talked to himself and did not like others to invade his space. He certainly did not like to be touched. I was glad the officer shared this; I didn't want any volunteers to find themselves in a difficult situation.

I looked for Bob to share this information, and found him sitting in the Alive worship room right next to the gentleman the officer had told me about. Bob had his arm around him and was listening to the man share something important. The man had a scripture in his hand and shook Bob's hand as he left.

When I told Bob what the officer said, his reply was something like, "He just needed to talk." My friend gave me that familiar, warm smile of his, and then moved on to greet other guests.

At Lincoln K8 School, Bob might have been mistaken as staff. He was often there four days a week. His impact on the students he worked with will live forever. Bob truly did make a difference in the young lives of so many he lovingly worked with.

I have heard that his impact at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where he spent much of his career, didn't end when he retired. Bob somehow found time to keep connected to the students and faculty, volunteering and mentoring whenever needed.

Bob would be embarrassed about people going on about him. He would rather be asking about how they were doing and how could he help them.



*Bob Caughey (on the left), and Dan Philips.*

*In memory of Robert Caughey, 1949-2019.*



## Wrapped In Love

by Jane Garrett

Here's one of our many shoppers at the Clothing Locker Christmas giveaway. We were blessed with so many gifts this year, that we were able to open two Saturdays in a row before Christmas.

Eleven or so years ago, Christie Philips saw a need and set up a table of clothes in the eating area for our guests at Loaves Fish. The rest, as they say, is history.

The clothing room is open to all on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. It's also available for emergency needs on other weekends.

Each guest is allowed one pair of pants, a top, one pair of underwear, and socks. A sweatshirt, coat, hat, and gloves is provided as well. Shoes are available if we have the size needed. Sheets, blankets, towels, and other household items are also available. Each guest is given a toiletry kit consisting of hotel-size soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, and a toothbrush. Keep in mind that we are always in need of donations of these items.

Our dedicated workers spend hours every Tuesday sorting items and sending unusable pieces to Mission Mart. It's always a time of much laughter and great joy. You are welcome to visit our room anytime.

Thanks for all you have generously provided, and continue to provide for those in need.

## Birthday Buddies Change Lives

It's hard to imagine for some of us, but there are children in this world who are never celebrated.

Our Birthday Buddies program seeks to remedy this by celebrating students, in Kindergarten through grade four, with birthdays at Lincoln School. The child receives some goodies, and is honored in front of other students.

What kind of impact does this ministry make?

Here is a letter we received from Lincoln School teacher, Denise Timberlake:



"I wanted to thank you all again! What an amazing thing you guys are doing! None of us will probably ever realize how much it meant to (our students), but the joy that was on their faces will stay with me for a very long time! I had a parent contact me to tell me how excited her child was to tell her all about it. He told her this birthday was the best birthday ever. She was so thankful! I just wanted you all to know what a huge impact you make. I am literally in tears as I type this because giving them a moment that is completely carefree, where they are nothing but a happy kid, doesn't happen very often."



## ¿QUIERES MEJORAR TU INGLÉS?

Clases de inglés empiezan esta semana. Hay clases por la mañana: martes y jueves 10:00 a 12:00, y la primera clase es 14 enero. Hay clases por la noche: miércoles 6:00 a 8:00, y la primera clase es 15 enero. Los libros cuestan \$30, y cudadad de niños es disponible. Para registrar, llamar a Helen a 643-5560, o visitar [fumcpeoria.wufoo.com/forms/m1ybwrta0z5fq37/](http://fumcpeoria.wufoo.com/forms/m1ybwrta0z5fq37/) ¡Esperamos verte en clase!

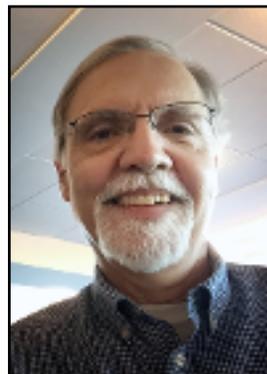
## LOOKING FOR A CLASS ACT TO SERVE

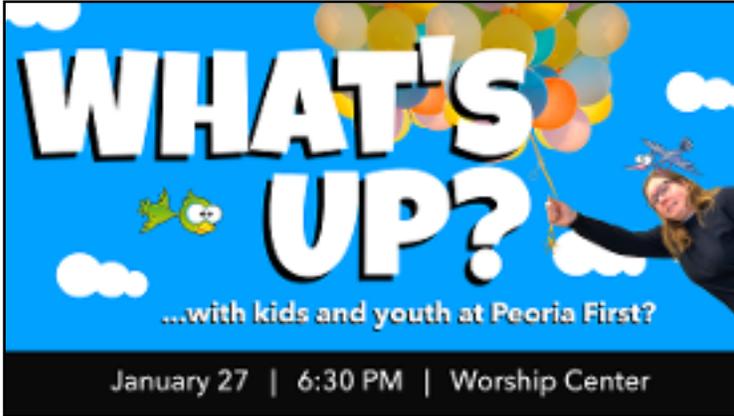
English as a Second Language Classes (ESL) have begun, and they continue to seek one more volunteer to teach on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10-noon. This position could be split so one person could teach Tuesdays and one on Thursdays. If you're interested in helping with this ten-week class session, please contact Helen Potts at 643-5560. Dates are January 14- March 19, and Spanish is not required.



## MEN PREPARE FOR A DOOZY WITH ILLUZZI

Since 1993, Irving Primary School, then Lincoln K-8, along with Mike Illuzzi, have been blessed by amazing acts of faith from FUMC. Join Mike at the Men's Gathering on Monday, Jan. 27, in Wesley Hall. You'll hear incredible stories about how \$1,000 kept appearing in the Irving mail basket at Christmas, the three sisters from Mexico who arrived at Irving speaking no English and are now pre-med college students, the former Irving student who is a Peoria Police Officer and works security at Loaves & Fish, and more.





## THESE ARE TRUSTY TRUSTEES. TRUST ME.

The FUMC Board of Trustees gives excellent leadership to our operation throughout the year. We welcome newly elected trustees Ricardo Bello, Jay Foster, and Jill Booth who will serve through 2022. Also, Ted Krupa was elected to fill a vacated seat through 2021. They join Ben Avery, Dennis Schwarzentraub, and Mark Kiesel who will serve through 2020, and Pam Schoedel who serves through 2021.

## FOUNDATION INFORMATION EXCLAMATION

The FUMC Foundation recently approved nine new grants which, along with 18 other grants from 2019, provided funding for music concerts, a Christmas program, Latino music, handbell repair, Lincoln Children School Choir, Lincoln School Arts, Foster Gallery, computers, signage, video and audio repair, a youth van, and numerous building and parking lot repairs. The Foundation recognizes the contributions of retiring board members Amy Zuehls, Steve Reiss, Rick Alford and Donna Totten. Officers for 2020 are LaVonne Schleeter, President; Jeff Krumpe, Vice President; and Diane Pflederer, Secretary. The FUMC Foundation received gifts this year from the Lois Casson Trust, the Shirley Stanfield Trust, and the Betty Gustin Trust as well as several individuals. They express thanks to all our donors whose gifts make such a difference.

## A MEMORABLE MEMORIAL POLICY

Our new memorial policy is now available for viewing. You may look it over, or download the policy, by going to our website and clicking "forms" ([fumcpeoria.org/forms](http://fumcpeoria.org/forms)). The pdf version is available there.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



## for Loaves & Fish

→ *contact the church office*

# New Beginnings in Honduras

*by Pastor Miguel Rios*

In December, I was honored to be a guest speaker at the National Youth Camp of the United Methodist Church of Honduras.

More than 150 young people, ages 15 to 25, from different cities in Honduras, gathered to seek God. The theme was “New Beginnings.” Campers were invited to be set apart for God, rather than listening to the bad advice of the world that we hear today.

It was really beautiful to see young men and women surrender to Christ by asking Him to renew their lives, families, and churches.

I traveled with three members of my previous praise band from Monterrey, Mexico. We

celebrated with praise, passion and adoration; and, the youth did not stop singing, jumping, and dancing for God. Many of them also knelt in prayer as they recognized Jesus Christ as the one worthy of worship.

By the end of the camp, the youth gave thanks to God for this event. Now, their lives are different, and they will face each situation with a radical faith, and with the trust that God makes all things new.

Thank you for the prayers and support that made this journey possible. And, I continue to ask for your prayers that the young men and women of the United Methodist Church in Honduras continue to be instruments of blessing and change.



*by Pastor Miguel Rios*

Jóvenes con fe radical, Dios hace cosas nuevas.

El pasado diciembre 2019 participe como predicador en el Campamento Nacional de Jóvenes de la Iglesia Metodista de Honduras, fue un tiempo de bendición con mas de 150 jóvenes de diferentes ciudades que se reunieron para buscar a Dios para sus vidas. El tema fue Nuevos Comienzos siendo personas radicales, se invito a los jóvenes a poner a Dios por sobre todas las cosas en sus vidas, sin escuchar o seguir los malos consejos que escuchan en el mundo y que los apartan de Dios. Fue muy bello ver jóvenes rendir sus vidas a Cristo pidiendo que El hiciera las cosas nuevas en sus vidas, familias e Iglesias.

Tuve la oportunidad de viajar con 3

miembros de mi equipo de Monterrey, México con los cuales dirigimos tiempos de alabanza llenos de alegría, pasión y adoración, en estos tiempos los jóvenes no se detuvieron en cantar, brincar y bailar a Dios, así como doblar sus rodillas en adoración reconociendo que Jesucristo es el único digno de recibir toda adoración.

Al final del campamento y durante los últimos días he escuchado testimonios de jóvenes que dan gracias a Dios por este evento, ahora sus vidas son diferentes y hoy enfrentan cada situación con fe radical y con confianza que Dios hace las cosas nuevas.

Agradezco a nuestra Iglesia por su apoyo y oraciones para este viaje y les invito a que sigamos orando por la juventud metodista en Honduras para que sean un instrumento de bendición y cambio en este hermoso país.

# Delivering Love In a Backpack

By Julie & Kevin Nelson



Photo by Kevin Nelson

*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*

*Leviticus 19:34*

200.

We filled nearly that many backpacks for children awaiting immigration at the Mexican border this past Christmastime.

Recent U.S. policy changes require families, applying for immigration, to wait in Mexico before coming to the United States. Caring for these families now falls on a patchwork of Christian churches and non-profit organizations in Mexico.

In mid-December, a team from FUMC visited five different locations in Piedras Negras, Mexico to help distribute backpacks. We met with dozens of men, women, and children from the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

A Salvation Army location in Piedras Negras hosts several families. We joined a hearty evening meal that followed a brief worship service. Afterwards, seven children of immigrant families received backpacks. A young Honduran couple in their mid twenties brought their 2 year old son. After receiving the backpack, the proud father was moved to tears.

At a Catholic relief center (which hosted about 40 men, women and children), our team met with families from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. One young mother was accompanied by a toddler with autism. She shared the difficulty of traveling by boat, bus, and then walking to reach the relief center. Her only hope and prayer was to receive needed medication for her child.

Then there was Fraser, a middle-aged Honduran who was an immigrant staying at a non-denominational Christian shelter. His bed consisted of a mattress resting on plywood laid on a dirt floor. A plastic sheeting above the mattresses barely stopped cold winds in an area where winter temperatures often fall to 30 degrees at night. Despite these hardships, Fraser was quick to give thanks to his Mexican hosts for providing food and a place to sleep. His joy in the midst of personal trials was truly inspiring.

A five year old girl at Aleluya Methodist Church watched with wide eyes as she saw other children getting backpacks. After receiving a pink backpack herself, she found a small stuffed animal inside. With pure joy on her face, she exclaimed, "I've never had one of these before."

Many children and their parents expressed profound gratefulness at the generosity of their Mexican hosts and FUMC in Peoria.

Team members included Pastor Miguel, Rosie Quinones, Julie Nelson, and Kevin Nelson.



# Youth MINISTRIES

## Chili & Soup COOK-OFF



JANUARY 26 • 11-1:30

Think you can bring the heat or scoop the soup? We are looking for you. Those interested in entering the soup and chili cook off should email Christina Koepple at [ckoeppel@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:ckoeppel@fumcpeoria.org), call the church office, or sign up at [fumcpeoria.org/youth](http://fumcpeoria.org/youth). Not a soup or chili maker? We are also looking for baked goods for the bake sale at the same time. And of course, everyone is welcome to join us to taste the goods on January 26. A house soup and chili will also be available. A free will donation will be taken to support the youth as we head out for retreats, trips, and camp.

## TRIVIA Youth ? Fundraiser NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | 6PM  
RSVP TODAY!



Our Trivia Night fundraiser is coming on February 21. Teams of eight are welcome to play. We will also welcome individuals to combine for a team. Cost is \$15 per person. Watch eHighlights and announcements for more information.

# Jesus Has Plenty for the Year



## Plenty of opportunities for us to be His hands and His feet!

As we begin a new year, and decade, let's begin to dream big and create a solid vision for the future of our children's ministry.

I am excited to invite everyone at FUMC to join me, Christina Koepfel, Sue Koepfel, and Melany Garcia for a meeting in the Worship Center, on January 27, at 6:30 PM. You'll learn more about our vision for the children from birth through high school. This will be an opportunity to get to know us, our current plans, our dreams, and find out how you can help. There will be childcare available. School aged children are invited to either sit with their parents or watch a movie in the gathering space. Contact me, Christina, or Sue if you have questions.

Here are a couple of dreams I have for 2020:

- There will be a different mission opportunity for children each month. Some of the things planned include making and serving potato soup to the residents at the Dream Center, making and serving bread at Loaves & Fish, stuffing Easter eggs for our community-invite project, and spending time with people who cannot get out of their homes.
- We will begin a once a month Bible night for kids. They will be able to come and play games such as Bingo, Bible verse swords, Bible jeopardy, etc., to help them learn how to understand the Bible, and learn the

basics in a fun and engaging way.

- We will help adults get plugged in to the children's ministry in enjoyable ways that are not over-taxing. Kids need adult role models, and we are called to be those people for our children.



Photo by Kara Bushong

I look forward to seeing what God does in the lives of our children in 2020, and hope that you will all join us on January 27 to learn more about the children and youth leaders, and to help us dream big!

Blessings,  
Kara Bushong

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
'Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?' And I said, '  
Here am I. Send me!'"*  
Isaiah 6:8

# ARTISTIC ABILITIES



## Artistic Abilities

January 12 – February 16, 2020

The Foster Gallery for Christianity and the Fine Arts is pleased to once again offer Artistic Abilities. We focus on work by artists with intellectual/developmental disabilities, because these individuals are seldom recognized as artists. This year we are featuring the work of artists from EP!Casso and Tazewell County Resource Center.

Many of the artists will attend our First Friday open house on February 7 from 5–8:30 PM. Please come and meet these gifted artists.





### CROSSBONES IN WORSHIP (TROMBONE SUNDAY)

Crossbones will be leading the traditional worship services on January 25. The ensemble, under the direction of Darren Seymour, will lead us in special music selections. Douglas Grogan exclaims, "I am personally excited that one of my favorite hymns, *Be Thou My Vision*, is being arranged for this ensemble and the congregation by John Orfe."

### NEW YEAR = NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Try something new! There are exciting opportunities to lead and participate in worship this season, and each involves various time commitments. We need you to take a step of faith. Email [dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org) to share your area of interest:

- ▶ Acolytes
- ▶ Audio/Visual Ministry
- ▶ Ushers
- ▶ Brass Ensemble
- ▶ Handbells
- ▶ Sanctuary Choir



### FUTURE MUSIC SERIES EVENTS

On March 8, the Bradley Chorale will provide worship leadership in both traditional worship services. Then, that afternoon at 3 PM, the Bradley Chorale, under the direction of Cory Ganschow, and the Illinois Central College Chamber Singers, under the direction of Douglas Grogan, will combine in an afternoon concert of hope.

On March 27 and 28, the Sanctuary Choir, Illinois Central College Chamber Singers, and guest orchestra will combine to offer the historical Requiem by Gabriel Faure'. *The Faure' Requiem* focuses on eternal rest and consolation in death, instead of fear. To learn how you can sing in this special Lenten concert, please contact Douglas Grogan this month.



Music  
at First



# DIGITAL GIVING

Vision, dreams, and resolutions take form in January.

As we begin this year, give giving a place in your plans. In this technological age we're in, digital giving has become a safe and popular option. You too can help support our ministry work in Peoria and beyond with a few taps of your smartphone.

## TEXT TO GIVE

Text "FUMCTXT" to 73256.

Standard text messaging rates may apply.

You will be prompted for information when using for the first time.

## QR CODES ARE PERFECT FOR THE WINTER SOLDIER

Here are the QR codes to take you to just where you need to be in order to give using your smartphone. Scan the appropriate code to get started:



*New user*



*Returning user*

# JAN./FEB. CALENDAR

1/26, 1/13, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17  
MOMMY MOMENTS

1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25  
ESL

2/7  
DATE NIGHT

1/20  
OFFICE CLOSED - MLK

1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26  
PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

1/26  
CHILI & SOUP COOKOFF

1/27  
WHAT'S UP PARENT'S MEETING  
MEN'S GATHERING

1/29-2/1  
IMEA

1/31-2/2  
WINTER XTREME

2/21  
TRIVIA NIGHT

2/26  
ASH WED. SERVICES, LENT & LUNCH

## WORSHIP EVENTS

Saturdays

Alive (Loaves & Fish) | 10:30 AM |  
Rooms L65 & L67

Sundays

Traditional | 8:30 & 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

RENEW | 9:45 AM | Worship Center

Renuevo | 11:15 AM | Worship Center

Wednesdays

Contemporary Worship | 6:30 |  
Worship Center

**Our mission is to make  
disciples of Jesus Christ for  
the transformation of Peoria  
and the World.**



**FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST  
**CHURCH**  
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