

# THE *Laurel* Leaf

APRIL 2024

The monthly newsletter from Laurel United Methodist Church, Springfield, Illinois



## Mother's Day Carnations

Some of you may remember the beautiful arrangement of hundreds of carnations which in years past graced the parlor on Mother's Day. The tradition was started many years ago and sponsored by Laurel's Lights, with inspiration by Cindy Nagle and arrangements by Doug Hahn.

Because we wish to honor the women in our lives once again, Stitch 'n Go is bringing back the tradition this Mother's Day, May 12. It is a great way to recognize mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, special friends, anyone you'd like to remember, both living and those who have passed. Carnations will be \$3 each, and you can place your order on Sunday mornings or during the week at the church office, up until April 28. You may take your carnations from the bouquet as you leave church on Mother's Day.

## Caring Ministry Sunday is April 28

Sunday April 28 is Caring Ministry Sunday at Laurel featuring the Caregiver Volunteers (including providing rides) and Stephen Ministry.

### LAUREL'S CARING MINISTRY

I'd first like to back up to 1995 when Caregivers Interfaith Volunteer Services, better known as CIVS became a reality through St. John's HSHS. Laurel became one of about 30 churches in Springfield and the surrounding communities to partner with them. Our volunteers were driving many seniors who did not drive & lived alone to appointments, grocery stores, and helping in a variety of ways.

Step forward to 2020 when Covid hit & a lot of things changed. As we all know, masks were required, self-distancing encouraged & our volunteers weren't comfortable with taking ones we didn't know. As a result, the number of churches fell to about 17. They are now trying to rebuild that number.

At that time we decided to stay with our own church family. We have a few very faithful drivers helping several every week, and would gladly welcome others to join us. If you are interested in doing this or, on the other hand, need assistance with transportation, or even minor home repairs, please let us know. Notify Tiffany, our church secretary, (217)525-1866 [tleveque@laurelumchurch.org](mailto:tleveque@laurelumchurch.org)

—Karen Barr

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a lay person caring ministry system designed to help congregations organize, train, and supervise a team of lay caregivers to provide high-quality, one-on-one Christian care to people who are hurting. Laurel has had an active Stephen Ministry Program for over 30 years. Stephen Ministers are assigned to a confidential relationship with a care receiver of the same sex.

### Who may consider requesting a Stephen Minister?

- Those grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Terminally ill or chronically ill people and/or their family members.
- People who are going through separation or a divorce.
- People who are homebound or feel isolated.
- Those in a job crisis.
- People facing a major life transition.

### Who to contact regarding Laurel's Stephen Minister Program?

To learn more about this quiet, quality program, please contact the church office, Gail Lehmann at 217-652-8628, or Gary Galecki at 217-691-1120.



**Ezra Allen Gray** (Child Baptism 2023)

Ezra, son of Stephanie and Richard Gray was baptized on September 10, 2023 by Rev. Dr. Kent Lolling. Welcome to the Laurel family, Ezra



**Laverne Powell** (Joined 2023)

Originally from Green county, Laverne began attending Laurel with Nicholas Murphy. They have been together for 12 years and have 7 children collectively!

Laverne works at Chatham Middle School and enjoys spending time with family, reading and crocheting. She has put this to great use crocheting blankets for Stitch 'N Go.



**Patricia Heidenreich & Aiden Heidenreich** (Joined 2023)

Patricia has been in Springfield for 40 years where she started attending Laurel with her mother years ago. Her grandson, Aiden, a senior in high school, was raised at Laurel. After a hiatus from church, it was Aiden that suggested they return! They did and have been in the pews every week since.

In addition to their shared interest in Laurel, they also have a fantastic bond between grandmother and grandson with their shared passion for Formula 1 racing!



**Joan Smith** (Joined 2023)

Joan has lived in Central Illinois since childhood, but moved to Springfield 9 years ago and transferred her church membership from the Athens UMC. From her first visit, the friendly greetings assured her she had made the right decision in choosing her new church family. She enjoyed being a part of the Clara Swain Circle of United Women in Faith and Stitch 'N Go as well as Midwest Missions. She is a resident of Lewis Memorial Christian Village where she helps provide Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches to the homeless monthly.



**Janet Shupe** (Joined 2024)

In addition to being a part of Stitch N Go, Janet is also active in the Bright & Early Band of Women Covenant Group and attends the Sunday morning Centering Prayer class lead by Jerry King.

**Erik Bauman** (Joined 2024)

You may see Erik walking to Laurel in most any weather as he lives in the neighborhood and enjoys being able to walk to worship. He was a corporate pilot before moving to Springfield 11 years ago. He has two children, the youngest of whom is still in in high school.



**Tim, Rhonda, Kathryn & Matthew Loyd** (Joined 2024)

While church shopping last fall they heard about Laurel from a former pastor and his wife (Craig and Kathy Sweet) who also attend Laurel. They started attending and have been going ever since. You may have seen them helping with Diaper Depot or the rummage sale. They live in Sherman Kathryn is a freshman at Lincoln Land, and Matthew is a freshman at Williamsville High School. They all enjoy being outside working in their yard, garden and flower beds, and taking walks in the neighborhood, as well as watching St. Louis Cardinal baseball, and spending time with their two cats.



## Camping this summer!!

The summer camping schedule is out. There are camps with a wide range of interests and age groups. There are choices at East Bay, Little Grassy and Epworth. Pick up a list of camps in the parlor or ask JoAnn Overholt for the listings. When the number of youth going to camp is established, the camping funds money will be distributed equally between those planning to attend a camp.



## Baby Fold is July 13-18

For this camp you must have completed your freshman year. If you want to know more about this camp, talk to JoAnn Overholt or Gary Bacon.

## Scholarships Available

Scholarship Applications Available starting April 7. Anyone in our Laurel family having a year left of education to reach their career goals can apply. Pick up an Application in Laurel's office or from JoAnn Overholt. Completed forms are due back by May 12, 2024

# TGIF

(Teens Gather In Faith)

Take Time to Text:

Exodus 12; Matthew 8:1-3; John 13:4-15; 1 Peter 2:24a, Luke 22:41-44, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:12-14, 19-23; Mark 14:53-65; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:6-12, Mark 15:6-24; Luke 23:44-46 John 19:31-37; John 20:1-18

**Remember youth group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday from 5:00-7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.**

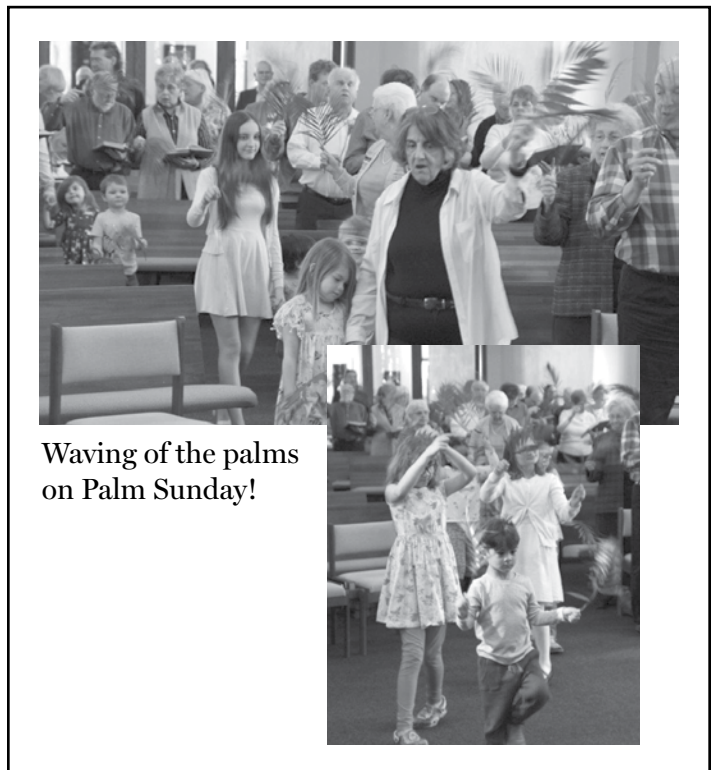
A snack supper is served when the groups activity is at Laurel. Visit Laurel Youth facebook page. You are always encouraged to contact JoAnn at 525-1866 (Laurel) or e-mail at [joverholt@laurelumchurch.org](mailto:joverholt@laurelumchurch.org) with any Questions, ideas and/or suggestions.

**Yes, friends are always welcome!!!**



## Bible Presentation

On Sunday March 17, we presented Bibles to Mavis Rhea Volpert, Casey Lynn Small, Jackson Matthias Ferdina, Brooklynn Nicole Ferdina and Kayden Ryan Ezekiel Murphy. We hope that each child will work on developing Bible skills and learn that it is a book to be used. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet."



Waving of the palms on Palm Sunday!

Is your contact information up to date in our online directory?  
Are you sure?

We want to be sure we can communicate with you! Please take a moment to log on to the Online Directory to check your information. — Thank you!

Instruction handouts can be found in the parlor on our website: <https://laurelumchurch.org/Events>



## Welcome Sheila Campbell!

You know her from Sunday mornings greeting everyone and as a care giver for our little ones, but we are pleased to announce that Sheila will now be taking on a new role in Visitor Engagement.

*Come join this new group!*

## Cornerstone of Faith

**Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Bride's Room** This new class is lead by Rev.s Craig and Kathy Sweet. They plan to travel through the New Testament starting with the book of Mark. Mark is the earliest gospel recorded and to a great extent, the other gospels pull on and add to the information found in Mark. All are invited!



**The next Diaper Giveaway is April 20th, 10am-Noon LUMC Parking Lot No early arrivals, please.**

Illinois families have access to subsidies for formula, childcare and food through a variety of government and community programs. Surprisingly, subsidies for diapers and wipes do not exist. Laurel is stepping into this void. At each Diaper Depot, LUMC distributes diapers, wipes and a book until supplies run out. During a recent give away, an out-of-town driver pulled in and donated \$40. They just wanted to help!

Donate money at any time, online at [www.laurelumchurch.org/Ministry/Give](http://www.laurelumchurch.org/Ministry/Give) or go to the Target registry for LUMC Diaper Depot. And yes, of course you can just donate at Laurel.

## Rummage Sale Thank You!

The 2024 Laurel Rummage Sale will go down in the record books with a total of \$16,000 raised for the church!! The amazing success of the sale is thanks to YOU: the donors of sale items; the 100+ volunteers who worked tirelessly leading up to and during the sale as well as cleaning up after the sale; the community of shoppers; the prayer partners who lifted us up; and to the Laurel church family who did all those things. A special thank you goes out to those individuals and groups that provided meals and snacks throughout the week to feed the volunteers. The sale became a reality because the members of Laurel's Lights once again made the huge commitment to make it happen. Joined by the Stitch 'n Go team, planning began months in advance. We thank them all for their time, hard work, and dedication.

The Fellowship Hall was opened up from the kitchen to the north outside wall and filled with treasures. The Fireplace Room was our linen show-room, Room 106 is where the kids headed for a great selection of toys and children's items, and the Library was our jewelry boutique. The work room (where the copier is) was transformed into a Holding Room during the sale where shoppers trusted their finds with our attendants so they could continue to shop and add to their stash.

By 4:00 PM on Friday, anxious shoppers were lined up from the main entrance door down to the street and along the sidewalk on South Grand to the traffic signal. More than 220 people came through that evening, followed by another large crowd of shoppers on Saturday.

Although thousands of items went out the door, there are inevitably some things left. This year, those have been shared with Douglas Avenue UMC for their sale in July, Hope Thrift Store, Habitat Restore, and Computer Banc, as well as Gifts of Giving, the Springfield Senior Center, and the Jacksonville Senior Center.

God certainly blessed our endeavors, and It's time to celebrate--not only the money raised, but just as importantly the friendships and bonds made or renewed during the sale, the fun and laughter that filled the church, and the outreach that brings people through the doors of Laurel.



# God's Housekeeping

## Caring Prayer List

### April 14th -- April 20th

Brenda Allen, Thomas Lambly & Barbara Huttman, Carolyn Leach, Merlene Mundhenk, Cheryl Neff, Tim & Rhonda, Kathryn, Matthew Loyd

### April 21st -- April 27th

Joe & Betsy Goulet, Tim & Lib Granzeau, Heather Langley, Audrey Langum, David Langum, Fran Langum & Bill McMahon, Rachel & Zachary, Parker, Mia Rambach

### April 28th -- May 4th

Lori Ackerman, Gerald Aldrich, Carol Dyson & Andrew Asher, Tracey, Deacon Bauman, Caroline Patterson, Emma & Logan Judd, Joseph Santhuff, Rob Elbersen

### May 5th -- May 11th

Steve & Lisa, Garrett Beebe, Roger & Christy Blickensderfer, Kelsey Cour, Bill & Lori Cour, Ryan Cour, Robert & Lori Cox, Carissa & Jason, Violet Filipiak

### May 12th -- May 18th

Kenneth Crutcher, Shirley Distlehorst, Howard Hennessey, Gene & Lisa Kamp, Tom & Lacy, Izabella, Lauren Michael, Sandy Jurgens

### May 19th -- May 25th

Jayne Bertoglio, David & April, Jessica, Peyton Cook, Jacob & Devyn Davidson, John & Kelley Davidson, Patrick & Vera O'Donnell, Jeff & Robin Small, Patrick & Stephanie, Casey Small

## Happy Birthday

Lucille Foster will celebrate her 95th birthday on April 21st

Thelma Hauger will celebrate her 92nd birthday on May 18th

## Happy Anniversary

Jim & Brenda Edgar will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on April 21st.

## Special Offering Sundays

April 21st Diaper Depot

May 19th Contact Ministries

## Special Offerings from March

UMCOR Sunday - \$765.00

Easter Offering - \$7,472.75

Dr.'s Without Borders - \$558.00

## Upcoming Events

### Diaper Depot Giveaway

April 20th, 10:00am, Laurel UMC

"Dear Stitch N' Go mission group, I wanted to thank you for the beautiful blankets. I received mine at Sunrise Nursing and Rehab in Virden, IL. My blanket is themed with my favorite "go to" in life and that is dogs! I love all animals and my blanket keeps me warm at night. I can't get to sleep, thinking about my puppy, my daughter takes good care of her for me. Thank you for caring about us. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. God Bless, Sue Oldenburg"

To our Laurel United Methodist Family we would like to send a "big" thank you for the many Valentine Day cards, wishes, cookies and candy. Hoping to see you again soon. Blessings, Jim & Becky Hill"

"To Laurel Friends, Thank you for such a lovely Valentine surprise! I was overwhelmed with many lovely cards. And I loved the candies and animal cookies! Thank you for your thoughtfulness. It takes much time and work to honor older people. Sincerely, Donna Grove"

"I'm home now... I am so thankful for all the prayers! Thank you, Shirley (Davison)"

# Thank you!



Grateful thanks to Joann Overholt, Tom Croft, Atsko Lolling, Bill Ettinger, Deb Neathery, Stephanie Churchill, Cathy Hauger, Sarah Lopinski and Don and Bev Bergdolt for their help setting up, decorating, preparing serving trays, and serving the coffee buffet on Easter Sunday. I appreciate those kind hearted volunteers who brought the wonderful assortment of cookies, coffee cakes and other tasty treats. I heard many compliments, much laughter and expressions of Easter joy as I mingled with the Laurel family and visitors who joined our coffee fellowship and celebrated together in Christ's name. "Where two or more are gathered "... Laurel volunteers are there.

With gratitude, Karen Ettinger

Laurel United Methodist Church  
631 South Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62704

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Springfield, IL  
PERMIT NO. 96



## Tree of Life

Thanks to Doug Hahn and a small group of Laurel members for selecting the copper Tree of Life which now hangs in the entryway of the church. It was purchased through funds acquired from several donors and other memorial gifts. The Tree of Life provides a lovely and welcoming message to all those who enter Laurel.

## Laurel United Methodist Church

631 South Grand Avenue West,  
Springfield, IL 62704

217-525-1866

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

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sundays at 8:30am**

*Worship with God's House Band*

**Sundays at 9:30am**

*Blended Worship with Choirs and  
Asbury Bells*

**Sundays at 9:30am**

*Faith Formation  
(Sunday school for adults and  
children)*

**Sundays at 10:45am**

*Traditional Worship with Chancel  
Choir and Asbury Bells*

At Laurel you'll find a welcoming  
community that cares about