

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



Dana's First Mission Trip

by Dana Saal

In February I responded to an invitation to participate in a mission trip to the Philippines. It was an unexpected opportunity to fulfill a desire that I had, but hadn't even voiced. On April 6, the Monday after Easter, I was on my way to the province of Bohol to serve the Sagbayan United Methodist Church.



The Volunteers In Mission International is a non-profit connected with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. VIMI's 2026 mission is to help Sagbayan UMC and its pastor, the Rev. Lyster Patigdas, launch the soon-to-be Santa Cruz UMC, making it only the second UMC in this large island of 1.5 million people.

Our team — eight from IGRC and four from the UMC Philippines — partnered with mem-

bers of the Sagbayan (pron: sag-by-yun) UMC to teach new skills, check wellness, distribute supplies, and show that we are Christians who care enough to be present in addition to supporting it financially.



From top to bottom: Sky, Dana, and LoveLove — my new friends with fun English nicknames.

Sagbayan UMC entrance, in Bohol, Philippines, rebuilt after by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in 2013, which was followed one month later by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

Sagbayan UMC in Bohol, Philippines, with staging for a cinder block-and-chain-link fence to secure the property.

The huge banner that hung on the church, welcoming us.


THANK YOU!

Thanks to my Laurel family for your generous donations to this ongoing mission. The Sagbayan UMC is a vibrant, growing congregation that relies on technology for communications, material development, and worship. They do a fabulous job, but I overheard a worship leader say that it will be even better when they can afford a new computer. Your contributions will fund that and Pastor Lyster Patidgas is thrilled; he's shopping for his preferred model on his monthly trips to a city with an Apple store.

Are You Receiving This Newsletter?



If you are currently are downloading the newsletter from the website and would like to receive it via email, or if you are receiving a paper copy and would like to receive it electronically then please contact Tiffany at tleveque@laurelumchurch.org and please specify if you want to receive it by paper or electronically. The electronic newsletter comes out before the paper copy so if you desire to receive it in a timelier manner than you may want to consider the electronic version.



Donate Your Bud Vases

We are need of bud vases for Blooms in June. If you have any tall thin bud vases and would like to donate them, please bring them to the workroom next to the main office by May 31st.

Updating Membership Records

We are in the process of updating our membership records so if you have a family member who has changed address or has joined another congregation, please let us know by emailing tleveque@laurelumchurch.org. Also, if someone wants to join our congregation but has not gotten to it, please let us know that as well.

Laurel Directory Update

We're also updating our church directory this summer to help us stay connected and care for one another well. Please take 3-5 minutes to complete the form on the back of your attendance sheet, or [Click Here](#) to do it online.



Father's Day Fishing

Join us for the day before Father's Day Fishing at Tom Madonia Park East on Lake Springfield. No license needed, and we will provide tackle and bait if you need. **Fishing will be from 9am until 12 noon on June 20th.** Snack and drinks will be provided. Please **RSVP** to the main office or email your reservation to tleveque@laurelumchurch.org.



Stitch and Go members have shared their time and talents to make Soap Sacks for the Homeless. **We are in need of bars of soap for these Soap Sacks.** If you would like to donate, there will be a box for you to place your donations in the Church Atrium.



PBJ

The next Fifth Sunday Mission Peanut Butter and Jam sandwiches will be held **Sunday, May 31.** We will be in Fellowship Hall from 8:00 until 11:00 that morning.

PBJ Springfield is requesting 350 sandwiches from us for May 31. We are accepting donations of jam at this time. We will also take donations of bread on May 31. Additionally, we will be accepting bottled water donations for PBJ Springfield to share with the Homeless in Springfield.



End of School Celebration!!

June 7, 2026

Plan on grilling out and having fun with food. It's a family event so bring your family. We will also celebrate our high school grads that morning.

Camping this summer!!

The summer camping schedule is out and there are camps with a wide range of interests and age groups. Pick up a list of camps in the parlor or ask JoAnn Overholt. The list includes camps at Eastbay, Little Grassy and Epworth.

Baby Fold

July 11 - 17

For this camp you must have completed your freshman year. For more information about this camp, ask John Hamilton, Gary Bacon or JoAnn Overholt. Remember that Laurel will pay part of your registration fee.

Volunteer at VBS

Plan to help with our Mini Camp VBS Snowball Mountain Challenge June 16-18, 9:00am-11:45am. Please come be a part of the team!!!

Scholarship Applications Available starting May 10

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. Turn in your application by June 7.

TGIF

(Teens Gather In Faith)

May, 2026

Take time to Text:

Matthew 8:1-4; John 13:4-15;

John 21: 4-14; John 21:15-17;

Mark 16:1-7; Matthew 28:16-20; John 20:24-29; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 8:37-39; Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalms 19:14

Let Your Light Shine and Let Your Life Speak

The book of Hebrews contains a list of great champions of faith who came before us. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, and more. It's like the Hall of Fame of Bible people. These ancestors set examples for generations. They had no idea that they were going to be role models—they were just living their lives trying to make decisions and do their best to follow God. They would not have been able to imagine that hundreds and hundreds of years later people would be reading their life stories and that those stories would be part of Scripture. They were just ordinary people—just like you. You, an ordinary person can be a role model for those around you and for those that come after you. Your life impacts others. Your actions influence and inspire someone every day. As you go through your day, remember that you have the power to set a good example and show others what love and kindness looks like. You will make mistakes – we all make mistakes. Mistakes help us learn. Each person in Hebrews made mistakes. Some really big mistakes. The important thing is to learn from our mistakes, continue to grow and let your life tells the world about God's goodness and love.



Read Hebrews 11:4-31

Listen and find strength for each day with these videos:

Where Ever I Go by Dan Bremnes

You Raise Me Up by Josh Groban and 200 kids (A Cappella)



Laurel's New Health Care Guide

I am Denise Piper, your guide when you need help interpreting medical terminology and navigating health care decisions.

A physician's office visit or hospital stay can be intimidating and confusing, especially when you are expected to make decisions about something you are unfamiliar with. Your best defense is being well-informed.

By interpreting and explaining what medical professionals are telling you, I can guide you to be the best advocate for you or your family member.

I can meet (in person, phone, Zoom) with you or your family to interpret the medical terminology, explain its implications, identify the pertinent questions to ask your medical providers, and explain what you can likely anticipate as your health care progresses.

I am an RN, BSN, with 42 years of experience. My clinical specialty is cardiac and intensive care nursing, but am familiar with all aspects of health care. I've worked at two hospitals in central Illinois and three in the Chicago suburbs. I have also been a staff educator and am currently working on the tech side healthcare with electronic medical record programming.

Ready for a guide?

I am happy to help before, during or after your health care situation — to talk, to read charts, to help you understand what you are reading, to be with you if needed. It's all in strictest confidence. Call me at 847-977-3972 or email dpiperrn84@gmail.com

Welcome New Members



Please join us in welcoming new members Catherine L. Grant (left) and Dorothy Heuman (right).



Congratulations, Ralph!



Follow Laurel on Social Media

God's Housekeeping

Caring Prayer List

May 17th -- May 23rd

John & Kelley Davidson, Patrick & Vera O'Donnell, Jeff & Robin Small, Meghann & Danny Olkonen and Family, Patrick & Stephanie Small and Casey

May 24th -- May 30th

Bradley Livingston, Donna Means, Tom & Barb Needham, Ken & Vickie M Smith, Jane Bradley, Stephen Bradley II

May 31st -- June 6th

Charles A McCaffery, Linda McCaffery, Carol Callarman, Kyle Richards, Bethany Snelson

June 7th -- June 13th

Michael & Cozette Knight, Connie Magee, Angie & Keith Miller, Elise, Raegan, Marty Milligan, Pamela Molitoris

June 14th -- June 20th

Elmina Carroll, Henry Hagen, Marilyn Hindson, Dick & Cindy Nagle, Terry & Debbie Neatherly, Carla & Grady Peavy

Happy Anniversary

Arlan & Susan Juhl will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on June 7th.

John & Linda Main will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on June 8th.

Bill & Karen Ettinger will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 9th.

Paul & Jackie Carey will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on June 17th.

Linc & Gean Cochran will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on June 17th.

John & Ruth Ann Hamilton will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on June 18th.

Terry & Debbie Neatherly will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19th.

Happy Birthday

Thelma Hauger will celebrate her 94th birthday on May 18th.

Marilyn Hindson will celebrate her 96th birthday on June 6th.

Donna Grove will celebrate her 92nd birthday on June 17th.

Upcoming Events

Diaper Depot

May 16th & June 20

10am-Noon LUMC Parking Lot

No early arrivals

Stitch 'N Go

May 26th & June 9th

9:30am - 2:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Book Club

June 2nd, 6:00pm

Room 201

Father's Day Fishing

June 20th

9:00am-Noon

Tom Madonia East Park

Lake Springfield

Thank You

I would like to give a very sincere thank you to everyone who expressed condolences to me upon the death of my mother. The support that I have received is extremely encouraging during this difficult time. Special appreciation goes to Connie Magee for all of the assistance she has given to my mother. Tim Carroll and Megan Carroll

Dear Laurel United Methodist Church, thank you for your gift to Ronald McDonald house charities in Central Illinois. We sincerely thank you for your gift of 4 1/2 pounds of pop tabs. Thank you for helping the families we serve. Sincerely, Amber D Kaylor Chief Executive Director Ronald McDonald House Charities

Dear Reverend Lolling in Springfield Laurel LUMC, Thank you for your incredible and continued support and partnership in the shared admission of helping the children and families of Cunningham. We are so blessed to walk beside you in this mission. Thank you! Kaitlyn Floyd development officer, Cunningham Children's Home

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

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Snowball Mountain Challenge

FREE! VBS Mini Camp

June 16, 17 and 18

(Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Registration is required. Deadline is June 7th.

Sign up in person in the church office or online

www.laurelumchurch.org/VBS

Everyone is welcome!

Laurel United Methodist Church

631 South Grand Avenue West,
Springfield, IL 62704

217-525-1866

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 others, including YOU.