

THE *Laurel* Leaf

June 2025

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



July 1, 2, 3
9:00-11:45am

(Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
FREE!!

All children Pre School through 5th grade welcome!
Registration Required

We know that God is with us
"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go" —
Joshua 1:9

A Summer Camp adventure with God.

Each day children will participate in a variety of different activity centers: Science Station, Craft Station, Recreation Station, Bible Story Station, a Snack Station plus a Mission and Music Station.

Register online, in person, or by calling Laurel UMC
at 217 525-1866
www.laurelumchurch.org/VBS

Registration deadline is June 24



Taste of Laurel

Celebrating 100 Years of Food & Fellowship

Cookbook

Luncheon | Dessert Contest

July 13th, 12:00-2:00pm

As part of the 100 year celebration of Laurel we will be compiling a cookbook of Laurel family recipes. We invite you to submit your favorite recipe, come sample the entries and vote on the best dessert.

Want to submit a recipe for the cookbook?

1. Sign up in the parlor or online by July 6th
2. Complete the entry form (online preferred)
3. Prepare the recipe to share on July 13th

All types of recipes are encouraged. Only the desserts will be judged. Samples will be tasted by the congregation and winners will be determined by a blind vote. Special recognition will be given to recipes that are 100 (or more) years old.

Sign up and
submit your
recipe online





Dedication to The Reader

By Deb Watts Elliott, Music Coordinator

On Wednesday, May 28, Laurel's combined choir had the honor of being asked to "play an away game" and present music at a ceremony in the Illinois State Library to honor Jim Edgar with the naming after him there of a Reading Room. Governor Edgar has devoted himself in many capacities in Illinois as a public servant, and, along with his wife Brenda, is a member at Laurel. It was certainly our choir's privilege, under the direction of Doug Hahn, to be with the Edgars on this occasion.

The many contributions of Jim Edgar to the people of the State of Illinois (including his service as State Representative and Secretary of State before being elected to be Illinois' 38th Governor) were celebrated at the event during remarks by current Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, former State Library Director Bridget Lamont, Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski, and currently serving Governor JB Pritzker. While Secretary of State (which position automatically doubles as State Librarian), Mr. Edgar successfully promoted the construction of the stand-alone State Library. These speakers noted how the moniker "The Reader" was bestowed

upon Governor Edgar many years ago, and what a true statesman he is--able to bring factions together to accomplish great things. And in his own remarks, Governor Edgar admonished the members of the public to make use of the State Library (it is across Second Street from our State Capitol between Monroe Street and Capitol Avenue). He likewise instructed the powers that be to open the front doors to the Library! (Entrance is currently through the North doors on Monroe.)

The Illinois State Library is a phenomenally beautiful building, and, as the two librarians amongst our choir members will tell you, is a top-notch library. It is likewise a great place to present music--acoustically it is to be highly praised. Kudos to the ringers our choir picked up--several members of the Capital City Men's Chorus, other friends, and our own Mary E. Myers joined our ranks for the occasion. Our thanks also to the staff of the Illinois Secretary of State's Office who arranged the event so skillfully, seeing to every detail. They even provided a "green room" for the choir, as well as a recently-tuned piano. We felt like rock stars!



Van Ministry

Ministry is about giving of ourselves and our time, talents, and resources to bless and help others. Our Van Ministry serves and is a blessing to others each and every Sunday morning. There is a new regular size van in the mix, thus a special license is not required to drive that van. Right now, this ministry needs help!! We are sending out a cry for drivers for both vans - can you help?

"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.

Answer the call and say, Send Me, I can drive! Pray about joining this ministry. If you are interested please contact Arlan Juhl at 217-622-7177 or call the church office at 217-525-1866. Thank you!

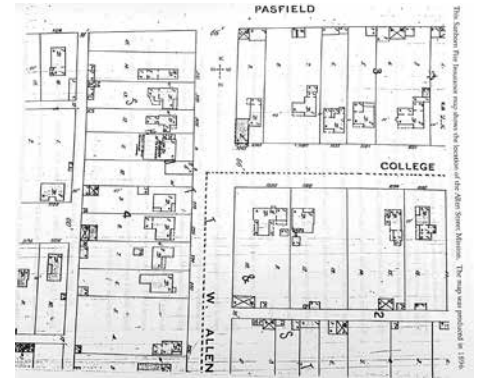
So, What is in the Church History Files?

by Becky Cowan, Church Historian

As I mentioned in the previous article, the church history collection is contained in two fireproof file cabinets Located behind the sanctuary. Previous Church Historian Alice Dyson had saved our history, beginning with a newspaper article describing our very first Sunday School meeting on November 8, 1896. As the centennial anniversary of our founding approached, I put these records in chronological order and placed them in acid free folders within these newly purchased cabinets. Moving through time, the collection contains: newspaper articles from the State-Journal Register; building blueprints; pictures; membership, baptism and marriage records; church bulletins; church directories; the originals to the "Centennial History of Laurel United Methodist Church," which Dr. Frank Nestler and I compiled in

1996; several strands of the orange, red, and gold beads that hung at the altar from 1970-2002; recipes from church members; records of the Women's Society of Christian Service; cassettes of church services; cassettes of interviews in the 1970's with longtime members; pictures on slides; and videos and compact discs of church services and events. I am in the process of putting the videos on flash drives. The slides and cassettes have a very long shelf life, so I have purchased a hand-held slide viewer and a portable cassette player, which will be placed in the files (with instructions on how to use them). I will be checking the compact discs periodically to see if they need to be converted to a modern format. The blueprints date back to 1925. I am having all of them reduced in size, so that they can be stored safely within the file cabi-

nets. As I label files, I am making a conscious effort to refrain from using cursive writing, as it may not be taught in schools in the future.



This Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows the location of the Allen Street Mission. The map was produced in 1896.



We Have a Latte Grande Dream

Do you enjoy visiting with fellow Laurel friends over a cup of coffee, tea, lemonade, or even the occasional goodie? Our church parlor is a happening place on Sunday morning. As you can imagine, that comes with the faithful work of Laurel volunteers. Volunteers faithfully set up the coffee each week before the Sunday service. Howard Hennessey makes sure everything is turned on and ready Sunday morning and Atsuko is ever faithful to help with cleanup and putting items away. Karen Ettinger is the ultimate planner and makes sure all the supplies and directions are readily at hand and will give you explicit instruction. However, we can use more faithful coffee hosts. We have a dream that, if more sets of coffee host volunteers appear, all will enjoy

the fellowship time and only need to do it periodically through the year!

As a Sunday morning host, you **DON'T** have to:

You **don't** have to make the coffee. You don't have to set things up.

If you are in a Sunday School class or attending a service, you **don't** have to miss your class or service.

As a Sunday morning host, you **DO** need to:

1. Before the 1st service: Take the coffee filter baskets and stems out of the three coffee urns, empty grounds into the waste basket, and rinse out the filter baskets. Make sure the hot water carafe water is hot. If needed, replenish water, lemonade, or sugars and creamers.

2. After the 1st and second services: Make sure the hot water carafe water is hot. If needed, replenish water, lemonade, or sugars and creamers.
3. After the 3rd service begins, take everything out of the parlor, empty remaining coffee and rinse out pots, clean any serving dishes and put things away in cabinets. Take home any drying towels or dish cloths that were used and launder and return them to the kitchenette. TADA!! EASY PEASY!

For further information or to volunteer please feel free to talk or text with Bev Bergdolt (217-899-7347) or Linda Galecki (217-793-1121) We would love to hear from you!

Committee Spotlight



LUMC COMMITTEES

Why do we have church committees? Each month we will shed a little light on the role of each committee.

Trustees

Chair: Bill Ettinger

The Trustees together have several legal and administrative functions that are very important to LUMC. They include:

Oversee, maintain and supervise all local church property
Report annually to the charge conference on the state of our church property, equipment, and resources
Be responsible, in conjunction, with our pastor, for all use of church buildings and grounds.
Maintain adequate insurance coverage for our church property
Manage the church van program

Finance Committee Update

Our report from January 2025 through April 2025:

Income	\$243,684.58
Expenses	211,529.02
Excess Income/Expenses	32,155.56
Government Refund*	76,336.47

Total Excess Income/Expenses \$208,492.03

* This refund was applied for several years ago for wages and benefits paid during COVID. Disposition of funds is yet to be determined by church leadership.

May Special Offering Report

May 18th – Contact Ministries- \$1045.00

May 25th – Peace with Justice- \$610.00

Trustees Committee Report

Old buildings require ongoing maintenance, some planned and some unplanned, and our church building is no exception. Current issues and projects are as follows:

- The entryway including the church secretary office need replacement carpeting. Cost is \$9,185 with \$2600 coming from our garage sale proceeds.
- The Sanctuary floor along the outside walls has experienced minor settling over the past couple of years. A structural analysis alone will cost \$10,400 not including any future repairs.
- The countertops along the windows in Fellowship Hall are in need of a “facelift” from past water damage. Estimated replacement cost is up to \$12,000.
- Leaking heating/cooling pipes required repair this spring costing \$8,465.
- Required elevator inspections and testing along with emergency repairs at Easter resulted in a bill of \$10,225.
- A roof leak that is damaging the west Sanctuary wall will require investigation and repair. Investigation estimated at \$2000 with wall repair at \$4000.
- Spotlights in the Sanctuary need replacement to energy efficient LED lighting. The fixtures alone are \$6000 with installation an additional cost.

The Trustees want the congregation to be aware of the costs and challenges of building maintenance.

Gad's Housekeeping

Caring Prayer List

June 15th -- June 21st

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

June 22nd -- June 28th

Bruce & Susann Dubre, Dottie troop, Andy & Deb VanDevoort, Jim & Georgia Luckey and Family, Bob & Bev Westberg

June 29th -- July 5th

Jim & Nancy Berendt, Carolyn Fritz, Sandra Fritz, Mark & Robin Gauss, Patsy Lozosky, Joe & Rosalie McCafferty

July 6th -- July 12th

Mark & Kelli Ford and Family, Rick Gosch & Pat Gallagher, Bradley Hermann, Jeff & Shelley Hermann, Alina Lysohir and Family, Richard Stults

July 13th -- July 19th

Charlotte Wymer, Gail Lehmann, Gary & Lori Maltby, Sharon Poynter, Joanne Riedesel, Richard & Rita Riedesel and Family

Happy Birthday

Donna Grove will celebrate her 91st birthday on June 17th.

Shirley Davison will celebrate her 91st birthday on on June 24th.

Happy Anniversary

Paul & Jackie Carey will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary on June 17th.

Line & Margorie Cochran will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary on June 17th.

John & Ruth Ann Hamilton will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary on June 18th.

Tom & Nancy Wilkinson will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary on June 22nd.

Ron & Sue Riggle will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on June 25th.

Ruth & Stan White will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on June 27th.

Phil & Kathy Daykin will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on June 28th.

Den & Bev Koller will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on June 28th.

Don & Bev Bergdolt will celebrate their 59th anniversary on July 2nd.

Bob & Janie West will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 15th.

Upcoming Events

Diaper Depot

June 21st & July 19th
10am-Noon LUMC Parking Lot
No early arrivals

Stitch 'N Go

June 24th & July 8th
9:30am - 2:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Book Club

July 1st, 6:00pm
Room 201

Vacation Bible School

July 1, 2, 3
9:00am - 11:45am

Scholarship applications are now available. Be sure to pick up one for your graduate.

Thank You!

Your stitching group constantly provides pillowcases, blankets, hearts, and port shirts to our pediatric patients and families and we cannot thank you enough. As a staff we love having these items to normalize their room prior to coming to the floor and it is often the first thing parents and patients notice. So thank you, thank you, thank you. I know hand making all that takes a lot of time and fabric! Jill Gupta, Child Life Specialist, St. John's Children's Hospital



Follow Laurel
on social media

Laurel has three facebook pages:
Laurel United Methodist Church
Laurel United Methodist Church
Youth and Laurel United Methodist Church - Healthy Together

And, we are on Instagram
@laurelunitedmethodistchurch

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

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Stitch N'Go & Kappa Sigma Zeta

Stitch n Go was the recent recipient of a donation from the Kappa Sigma Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority as a project for their International Day of Service.

Sorority members including SnGo participant Deborah Gardner presented Hobby Lobby gift cards as well as t-shirts to leaders Barb Needham and Marty Dahlquist. The gift cards will be used to purchase needed supplies for Stitch n Go. Thank you to Kappa Sigma Zeta!!



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