

# THE *Laurel* Leaf

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

## We Walk Because They Walk

by Deb Watts Elliott

Try to imagine balancing a stone jug on your head and walking a few miles so you can fill it with water, then walking several miles back to your home with it. Or, even though groceries are expensive for us, try to envision having to walk miles to purchase what limited items are available and which you can afford.

In 1969-70, Church World Service came up with a plan to do something about these struggles in the world. The Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) came to life. The plan devised to fund it was to have volunteers walk, and to collect monetary pledges from others for their efforts. "We walk because they walk" was, and is, the mantra. The CROP Walk was one of the first, if not the first, fundraiser in the form of a walk. The CROP Walk eventually turned into the Crop Walk, eliminating the acronym and focusing on crops—food.

Some members of your Laurel family have participated in this event almost every year since the very first walk. It is held each year on the first Sunday in October, which is also World Communion Day. The choice of this date commemorates that we all are fed together on that day. In Springfield, the walks in the early 1970s were 10 miles in length, which

definitely gave walkers a taste of what some folks endure every day in order to be fed. The walks were then reduced to 10 kilometers, and now are approximately 3 miles. The route in Springfield takes us past many of the local food pantries to remind us why we walk.

A generous sponsor each year has provided Crop Walk t-shirts to participants. You may have noticed the lovely banner on display in Laurel's parlor over the last several months. This banner was created by Virginia Hosking, a member of Hope Presbyterian Church, from several of the t-shirts we have all worn through the years. At the annual walk, walkers throw our names into a hat, a name is drawn, and the fortunate congregation gets to take the banner to their church for a year. In 2023, Laurel was finally able to bring home this treasure.

Several Springfield churches are known for their consistent presence at the walks, and Laurel is one. The hope is always to have a good enthusiastic group from our LUMC family there. The walk will take place on Sunday, October 6, 2024. We gather at Third Presbyterian Church, 1030 North Seventh Street, at 1:00 p.m. to sign in, have a prayer, and start the walk with bagpipers leading the way.



Sign-up sheets for walkers are available from Deb Elliott, or you can sign up to walk or donate online at [www.events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/accept?rejoin=true#confirm](http://www.events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/accept?rejoin=true#confirm)

Your donations are much appreciated, in Springfield and world-wide. If you have questions, please contact Deb Watts Elliott at [dwatts@laurelumchurch.org](mailto:dwatts@laurelumchurch.org) or 217-971-6737.



## Gingerbread Cookies for Butler

Making gingerbread cookies for Butler School's winter event has become an annual tradition at Laurel. Help is needed to mix and bake 400 cookies. There are two opportunities to get involved with this project and we hope you will join us—we guarantee it will be a fun morning. **Volunteers are needed at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 3 to mix the dough and at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 7 to roll, cut and bake the cookies.** There is a job for everyone! Sign up on the back of the attendance sheet or call the church office. Barb Needham and Karen Ettinger are ready to answer any questions.

## Adult Sunday School Classes are Starting Up Again

### Centering Prayer

Led by Rev. Jerry King  
Wednesdays at 5:30pm  
in the Chapel

### Cornerstone of Faith

Led by Rev.s Craig & Kathy Sweet  
Sundays at 9:30am  
in the Bride's Room

### Discovery

Led by Walt Lynn  
9:30am on Sundays

### Pastor's Bible Study

Led by  
Rev. Dr. Kent Lolling  
Tuesdays at 6:45am on  
Zoom, and Wednesdays at  
6:00pm in person

### Pathfinders

Led by Rev. Jerry King  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm

### Questions of Faith

Led by Burma Jones  
10:00am on Sundays on  
Zoom

### Seekers

Led by Arlan Juhl  
9:30am on Sundays in  
person & on Zoom



## Youth Group

Youth Group is starting up again after the summer break. We will again plan to meet on the **2nd and 4th Sundays from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** unless otherwise notified. What do we do? A variety of activities, some at Laurel and some out in the community...we cook for Ronald McDonald house, we bake cookies, we make blankets, we decorate pumpkins, play games and sometimes just have fun. If you have ideas of activities you would like for us to include throughout the year, let us know.

Our goal and purpose is to know the good news of God's love, fellowship and care for each other, reach out into the community, share in God's word and to offer ourselves in service to God.

Invite friends!! Invite friends!! Invite friends!!

## Back in School — Come Back to Faith Formation

**Come on Sunday Morning at 9:30am to Faith Formation (Sunday School) in room 303**

Discuss, debate learn together and find ways to step out into the world to make a difference. Bring topics ideas that you would like to discuss. Invite friends!! We want to see each and every one of you Sunday morning!!!



## Fall Confirmation Class

**All 7th and 8th grade Youth are invited to participate in Laurel's Fall Confirmation Class.** Any High School youth who have not had the opportunity to take part in a Confirmation class, are also invited to join this year's group. The first meeting is September 22 at 4:00pm in the Library. It is informal and is for youth and parents, and will give an overview of the class. It is an opportunity to ask questions. Classes will then continue to meet on Sunday evenings from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. This year the class will be team taught by Rev. Dr. Kent Lolling and JoAnn Overholt. Feel free to contact them with any questions.



# Fall Festival

*and*

*Fun for the  
entire family!*

**Food, Games  
and Activities!**

**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**

**Sunday, October 27th**

**4:00-6:00pm**

**Laurel United Methodist Church**

*Everyone is welcome!*

# Thank you!

Laurel United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for the scholarship money! I appreciate your generosity, as it will help me with my academic endeavors.

Thanks, Maggie Gleckler

Thank you for the scholarship and your endless support for me! I am grateful for what this scholarship will do for me academically.

Thanks, Samantha Gleckler

Thank you so much for supporting the girls; this gift is appreciated more than you know.

Sara & Bryan Gleckler

Dear Laurel United Methodist Church, Thank you for your donation made in August of 2024. Every act of generosity helps us further our mission to assist those experiencing homelessness in our community. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Patti Crouch, Interim Executive Director,  
Helping hands of Springfield.

Laurel Stitch 'N Go, Thank you for you for the beautiful fleece blankets for our Compass Kids. The generosity of your team never ceases to amaze me.

Sincerely, Shelly Rinner, Program Specialist

Marty/Stitch 'n Go, THANK YOU!! Our techs are very happy when the patients have the port shirts to wear. It really makes their job easier when the catheter is easily accessible. Thank your group again! They are making a difference in people's lives!

Debbie Stinson, Shelbyville Community Dialysis

A Great Cookout Thank you!! Thank you to the Hamilton's for inviting us to enjoy a cookout gathering in their beautiful garden. Thank you to all who worked to make it a great event. Thank you Ron Estabrook, Jack Shook, Jacob Shook and laughter and Arlan Juhl who helped transport the tables, grill and supplies. Thank you to the grill masters Kerry McMahan and Andy Miller who grilled the meat to perfection. Thank you to all who brought wonderful dishes to share!!! It was a great evening and a great time was had by all. Even the predicted rain stayed away!! Thank you to all!

Thank you for putting your love into action with your generous gift. The work of The Baby Fold moves children and families towards a brighter future that affects all of us. Loving through giving makes it all possible.

Gratefully, Sam & Team

Dear Laurel, Thank you for the scholarship, it will be used to further my education as I enter college. Thank you for your endless support throughout my life.

Love, Elise

I would like to belatedly thank Laurel for the scholarship for Nathaniel. What an amazing surprise! It will come in handy this year as Nathaniel transfers to Beloit College. Again, thank you. It means so much.

Melissa Hostetter

Hello, I want to thank Laurel for the scholarship. My family and I really appreciate the money which will be put to good use.

Thank You, Nathaniel Hostetter

The lovely ladies of Stitch 'N Go, I would like to thank you for the blankets sent to my mother and myself on the passing of my brother. A special thank you for the 3 "bibs" given to my mom and I try to keep her in her home. Your thoughtfulness, prayers and gifts are appreciated.

Sandra Fritz

To whom it may concern, My name is Barry, I am one of the recipients of a wonderful port t-shirt that a very kind Margie hand stitched. I would like to thank the church and the reverend for putting the Stitch 'N Go mission together. I am sure the mission has helped several cancer patients like myself.

Yours truly, Barry & family

# God's Housekeeping

## Caring Prayer List

### September 15th -- September 21st

Sara & Sadie Radunzel, Payton, Preston Waldron, Michelle, Matthew, Jayde, Jocelyn, & Jensen Koster, Karen & Kerry McMahan, Richard & Deborah Moldenhauer, Doris Rawlings, Sondra, Eric, & Shannon Brown

### September 22nd -- September 28th

Paul & Jackie Carey, Curtis & Sankalpi, Sonara, Alanka Carey, Steve & Jane Chard, Cheryl Coontz & Randy Fix, Craig & Marty Dahlquist, Phil & Kathy Daykin

### September 29th -- October 5th

Arlene Dittberner, Gary & Sue Bacon, Ralph & Karen Barr, Jim & Brenda Edgar, Dianne Hardwick, Tracy Scott

### October 6th -- October 12th

Joanna & Matthew Hermes, Charles & Ella Klughart, Ken & Diane Ray, Doug Rothe, Gary & Linda Galecki, John & Ruth Ann Hamilton

### October 13 -- October 19th

Jon Crozier, Gary Davis, Marilyn Kyes, Lila Ruth Long, Pamela Long, Rosemarie Stoelting

## Happy Anniversary

Dana & Pat Kuster will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on September 29th.

Bob & Carol Dyson will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary on October 10th.

Jon & Marilyn Osgood will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on October 21st.

## Happy Birthday

Howard Hennessey will celebrate his 90th birthday on September 30th.

Margaret Ackerman will celebrate her 97th birthday on October 7th.

Karen Heintzelman will celebrate her 90th birthday on October 12th.

Jacqueline Harmon will celebrate her 90th birthday on October 23rd.

## Special Offering Sundays

September 15th Butler School

## Upcoming Events

### Diaper Depot Giveaway

September 21st, 10:00am  
Laurel UMC Parking Lot

### Stitch 'N Go

August 27th & September 10th  
9:30am - 2:00pm  
Fellowship Hall

### Laurel UMC Blood Drive

September 29th  
9:30am-1:00pm

### Stitch 'N Go

September 24th & October 8th  
9:30am - 2:00pm  
Fellowship Hall

### Book Club

October 1st  
6:00pm, Room 201

### Cards of Caring

October 15th  
6:00pm  
Fellowship Hall



## New Hymnals and Pew Bibles

In case you haven't noticed, we have new pew bibles and hymnals! They were consecrated on Sunday, September 8th in the first service in honor and memory of Steve Bradley. Our thanks to the Bradley family on this wonderful gift.

The new pew bibles and hymnals are blue instead of red to match the colors of our sanctuary with matching cross and flame logos. The new pew bibles are also a large print edition making it easier to read than the previous ones.

Some of the old red hymnals that are in good condition will be used in the chapel and saved for overflow for big Sundays such as Christmas and Easter. Old red pew bibles are being distributed into our classrooms for continual use. Hymnals and Bibles that are in a more tattered condition we will give to any church member that may like to have them before they are sent on a mission for further use. A display of older hymnals and bibles that we will be giving away will be in the parlor soon once the sorting is complete.

We are so grateful for this beautiful and wonderful addition to our church. Thanks be to God!

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

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## Follow Laurel on Social Media

Laurel has 3 Facebook pages:

[Laurel United Methodist Church](#)

[Laurel United Methodist Church Youth](#)

[Laurel United Methodist Church - Healthy Together](#)

And, we are now on Instagram

[@laurelunitedmethodistchurch](#)



## Mobile Blood Drive

**Sunday, September 29th, 9:30am-1:00pm.**

Only a few time slots left.

Sign up now for the blood drive.

[https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/132344](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/132344)

## 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