

# The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

July 2017

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## Annual Conference Wrap-up

*By Paul Black, IGRC Director of Communication Ministries  
Edited for The Courier by Dave Schultz*

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered around the theme, “Let’s Get Fired Up...for Kids,” on June 8-10 at the Peoria Civic Center.

This year’s conference officially launched a \$2.5 million Our Conference, Our Kids campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies in the conference — The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children’s Home).

The campaign already has received \$75,000 in gifts prior to the official launch, including \$798 which was given by Orion UMC, thanks to our March Mission of the Month.

The five agencies have had to rely upon benevolent giving as the Illinois General Assembly has yet to pass a state budget since July 2014. The conference comes on the heels of an announcement by The Baby Fold that it will close its residential treatment center June 30, displacing 14 clients. The agency serves more than 1,000 clients in its various programs.

The conference also centered on prayer as the conference welcomed its new bishop, Frank J. Beard, who was elected and assigned to the Illinois Area last year. Bishop Beard expressed his gratitude for the welcome he has received, and conferees responded with a standing ovation to his leadership.

The conference spent a great deal of time wrestling with a proposal from the conference’s Board of Pensions to enlist Wespah (formerly the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits) for a private exchange in which to provide clergy health insurance for 2018. The plan would have been mandatory for clergy but optional for spouse and dependent coverage.

Instead of paying a taxable health insurance allowance of \$13,200 to the pastor, the plan would have allowed the allowance to be paid directly from the local church to the conference tax-free. And pastors who opted out of the plan would not receive the allowance and the church would still pay into the plan.

Several noted that while such a plan was workable for

singles and perhaps, older members of the group (the average age is 57 years old), the costs were difficult for clergy with children and stay-at-home spouses where a second insurance plan was not available. In the end, the proposal was referred to the Conference Board of Pensions for further work on assisting those clergy who are in crisis under the current plan.

In related legislation, the health insurance allowance was increased to \$15,000 for 2018 — up from the current \$13,200. In addition, the Commission on Equitable Compensation recommended a 2 percent raise for those at minimum salary — \$42,448 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$38,952 for full-time local pastors.

The 2018 budget was approved at \$12,202,213, an increase of 0.50 percent over 2017 levels.

The conference laity collected \$5,645 for the John Kofi Asmah School in Liberia. Illinois Great Rivers Conference laity built the school, located in West Point section of Monrovia. Annual offerings have been taken to furnish the building since its opening in 2011.

Other special offerings included \$8,504 for the 2018 Wesley Pilgrimage for this year’s newly ordained pastors and \$8,195 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College, one of the church’s historically black colleges.

Orion UMC contributed \$100 to each of the three special offerings as proceeds from our May Mission of the Month.

Conferees also brought 2,129 pounds of supplies and \$3,024 in monetary gifts, as well as underwear, onesies and socks for Fair Hope Children’s Ministry in Danville.

Eight elders and a deacon were ordained and joined two whose elders’ orders were previously recognized as full-connectional members. Six provisional elders and a provisional deacon were commissioned.

A total of 31 pastors, with a combined 894.75 years of service, retired.

Membership stands at 123,810 in 2016, down 3,282 from 2015. Worship attendance stands at 53,560, down 4,114. Church school attendance stands at 2,632, down 78. Attendance in other small groups and ongoing classes are at 2,202, up 177. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2016 is 1,897, down 183.

I’ll see you in Church, *Pastor Dave*

## Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

Our worship experience on Sunday, July 2 will include prayers for our nation as we draw nigh to America's 241<sup>st</sup> Independence Day. Scriptures will include Deuteronomy 4:1-9; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23 and Matthew 10:40-42. I will be preaching and Holy Communion will be served.

As you will see, I will be away a couple of Sundays this month. Please honor our guests by making an extra effort to be in church while I am out of the pulpit. Also, please lift them up in your prayers as they prepare to minister among us. While you're at it, please remember me in your prayers as well.

On Sunday, July 9, I will be leading a group of youth missionaries on a trip to Toronto. Our guest preacher will be K Krewer, a deacon at Christ Anglican Church, Moline. Those of you who worship at our 8 am service have likely met her; she is married to our own Tom Flaig. Scriptures include Genesis 24:34-67; Psalm 45; Romans 7:15-25 and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

I return to the pulpit on Sunday, July 16 and will continue my series of sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit. Scriptures include Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Our special guest on Sunday, July 23 will be Jeff Rasche of Chaddock in Quincy. He's blessed us several times in the past as our Consecration Sunday speaker; however, this time he's coming just to preach. Scriptures include Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139; Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

I will be leading a youth mission trip to Louisville beginning on Sunday, July 30. Rev. Craig Miller, one of our former pastors, will be our guest preacher. Scriptures include Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105; Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Yours for the Mission,  
*Pastor Dave*

## Annual Cancer Awareness Salad Luncheon Saturday, July 15, Noon at OUMC

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling Kathy Anderson (526-3400). Reservations required by July 8.

Guest speaker is Martha Garcia a columnist for the Dispatch and Rock Island Argus papers.

There will be door prizes. Tickets may be purchased for giveaways which include gift baskets, gift certificates, and various other prizes. *Wear pink to support the cause!*

## Thank you...

...To the Orion Volunteer Fire Department for your speed in putting out the fire at the parsonage on Sunday, April 9. Damage was minimal; were it not for your efficiency, there's no telling how serious it would've been.

...To the Board of Trustees and Administrative Council for your support in the wake of the fire and for making improvements to the air handling system and attic.

...To the congregation for your continued prayers and support.

--Pastor Dave and Candice

## Mission of the Month

When you became a United Methodist, you had to learn some new words and one of the most important new words you had to learn was "UMCOR." It's important because when disaster strikes, UMCOR will almost certainly be there.

UMCOR stands for "United Methodist Committee On Relief." It is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

UMCOR is our July Mission of the Month. The Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois, is an arm of UMCOR and is included in our July Mission of the Month.

This July, Don and Marilyn Berns will be taking flood bucket supplies as well as school supplies and sewn items to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. They would love to take your donated relief supplies with them to Chatham. Lists of items which may be donated are available in the lower narthex and may be dropped off at the church by Sunday, July 9.

The goal of UMCOR is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. They believe—as does the United Methodist Church believes—that all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. It provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach, its most important partners are the people they serve. Consequently, UMCOR provides survivors not only temporary relief but with long-term education, training, and support.

UMCOR has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. Every dollar you give will go directly to relief efforts and follow-up ministry. Overhead costs are covered by our apportionments so they do not come out of your special gifts. Please remember that your mission giving should be above your regular support of Orion UMC.

Thank you to everyone who provided cookies and helped with our Cookie Sunday fellowship throughout the year. The children and adults enjoy this time of fellowship before our late worship service.

Cookie Sunday is held September through May at 10 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month.

## Thank you...

...to the ladies of the church for taking care of our flower gardens during the summer.

If you get a chance, come and enjoy some quiet time in our prayer garden and enjoy the view. It's very pretty and relaxing!

## Summer Sunday School

We'll focus on building relationships with one another and with God this summer during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday school hour. We won't study out of a book, but we'll have discussions around tables in Fellowship Hall.

Come, be a part of the "table talk", and let's learn about building relationships. As always, you are welcome to bring a friend. We hope to see you this summer!

## PRAYER BEARS

We have a wonderful ministry that involves teddy bears, and we want to spread the word. There is a basket filled with bears on the information table that have been prayed over by our church members, and they are waiting for a good home.

The bears would like to go to someone who needs cheering up or comfort. They would also like to celebrate a special occasion like a new baby, a birthday, a wedding, or a graduation. They could also be a friend to a child.

There are many occasions to share these special bears with others. Please take them whenever you like!

## MAY PERFECT SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Dylan Manning	Svea Carlson
Peggy Crayne	Derek Nelson
Xander Carlson	Tara Miller
Noelle Carlson	Devin Nelson
Leah Manning	Faith Catour
Amaya Versluis	Jane Meyer
Rob Manning	Barb Cooper

We are happy to provide the Upper Room daily devotional books to our congregation. They are in the information rack in the lower narthex. Large print copies are also available. Please take one!

**Rally Day** will be August 27 at 9:15 a.m. with children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade receiving Bibles. All children will receive promotion certificates.

**The All-Church Potluck** will be held in Fellowship Hall following the late service on August 27. Education will provide the meat, drinks, and table service. Please bring a dish or two to pass.

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### Coming in September

Be sure and mark your calendar for Orion's Fall Festival weekend especially its activities on Sunday, Sept. 3.

Plan to begin your day with the **Orion Area Church's community worship in Central Park**. The service begins at 8:00 a.m., and *The Chosen Ones* will be our special guests. Rain location is the Orion United Methodist Church.

Our annual **Fall Fiesta** will begin at 5:30 p.m. in our **Methodist Activity Center** with walking tacos on the menu. This meal is sponsored by our youth with proceeds from the meal going to help fund their mission trips next summer.

Closing out the Orion Fall Festival is **Guys with Ties** at 6:30 p.m. in our MAC. This comedy/improv show is always a huge hit! Their act is for families of all ages, and there is no charge. The show is our gift to the community.

Please come and spend some time with us this upcoming Labor Day weekend!

### Blessings on Your Birthday!

- |      |                 |      |               |
|------|-----------------|------|---------------|
| 7/1  | Sue DeDecker    | 7/25 | Adam Bohland  |
| 7/4  | Amy Green       | 7/26 | Ty Dykeman    |
| 7/6  | Sharon Cashman  | 7/27 | Cindy Walker  |
|      | Dorothy Manecke | 7/28 | Ty Bingham    |
| 7/8  | Toni Carlson    | 7/30 | Erika Beeks   |
|      | Ty Gainey       |      | Thad Bielema  |
|      | Leah Manning    |      | Diane Edmund  |
|      | Pam Schroeder   | 7/31 | Colton Kausal |
| 7/9  | Charles Wigant  |      |               |
| 7/11 | Nathan Atkinson |      |               |
| 7/14 | Autumn Manning  |      |               |
| 7/15 | Sharon Shinn    |      |               |
| 7/17 | Abigail Downing |      |               |
|      | Scott Faulkner  |      |               |
| 7/21 | Brian Magee     |      |               |
| 7/23 | Shelley Ditzman |      |               |

*Contact the church office  
if your name should be added.*



The **OHS Alumni Banquet** is July 22 at the Rock in Coal Valley. Social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at BankORION or by calling Janet Marshall at 526-8901.

The church office will be closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

