

JUNE 2022

# FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Loving God & Loving Others = worship + missions



## Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

### **Eighth Grade Graduate:**

**Olivia Kramer, daughter of  
Dennis & Corey Kramer.  
Granddaughter of Ed & Sharon  
Kramer.**

### **High School Graduate:**

**Ella Kramer, daughter of  
Dennis & Corey Kramer.  
Granddaughter of Ed & Sharon  
Kramer.**

**Caleb Phelps, son of Wes &  
Denise Phelps. Grandson of Ed  
& Sharon Kramer.**

As I sit down to write this newsletter article, I find myself torn. I am happy and excited to be beginning my retirement, but I am also sad to be leaving all of many wonderful friends and church families. I really did not know what to expect when I came here. I have to admit I was a little nervous. I did not know anything about the Fairview United Methodist Church and the wonderful people that make us this church family. You all made me feel right at home and I have felt that way every since.

I have truly enjoyed my time here and at Virginia and Fairview and have met some of the most wonderful people in the world. The past two years have flown by but I will never forget the love, caring and respect I received here. We made it through a pandemic, the coldest Christmas Eve service I have ever been a part of, and the rigors of everyday life. I know that it helped me to grow and flourish and I hope you all feel that you have also.

God Bless

Pastor Joe Tomich





# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**June 19-25 2022**  
Everyone is Welcome

Join the Virginia Ministerial Alliance for a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity! We encourage you to pray with us every day at noon.

Connect with us in person for a prayer on the Square of Virginia on June 25th at 11:00 a.m. followed by a community cook-out! Please bring a lawn chair. Inclement weather, the cook-out will be held at the New Life Church.

## THANK YOU PASTOR JOE!

It's with reluctance that we announce we're planning a farewell dinner for Pastor Joe. You're invited to Pastor Joe's Farewell Dinner, Sunday, June 26 at 5 p.m. in the Virginia UMC's Fellowship Hall. Meat, beverages, dessert and table service will be provided. Anyone wishing to bring a side dish is welcome to do so. Come show Pastor Joe how much we appreciate all he has done for us the last two years.



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Pastor Joe came to Fairview during the pandemic years. At first, we did not get to know him well as the weeks went on that we could not gather together. His video sermons were fine, but it is just not the same as being in the church with each other.

Once we were allowed back in the sanctuary, we have settled down to a blessed relationship. Most of us believe we have never felt more comfortable with a pastor who allows us to be our imperfect selves in a refreshing, healthy way. Our “sharing joys and concerns time” has become a true sharing of our hearts and there is no shortage of items which come pouring out every week. Sometimes we laugh and sometimes we cry but he nurtures us all with acceptance. These special times have made us feel valued, loved and truly blessed.

Jesus shared his message by example and through the parables. Pastor Joe often shares the gospel through his “this reminds me of a story.” We have enjoyed these stories and his occasional joke. These have made us smile, laugh, and sometimes shed a tear. They have touched our hearts. He has also shared his music with us. He has a beautiful voice and his musical presentations have been special and appreciated.

We are a very small congregation now, diminished by the death of many of our parishioners. This is sad but we retain a strong sense of family and Pastor Joe has always nourished this. He has helped us feel good about who and what we are and hope to be. Students always say they like a teacher who, “gets us.” I think Pastor Joe, “gets us.”

Losing a pastor is kind of like losing a best friend, especially when he has been a special pastor. We will truly miss him but are so glad we got to know him. We wish him well as he pursues his own future. He tends to do things in haste, but we hope he will slow down enough to smell the flowers while riding his motorcycle on his way to the golf course. God speed.

You served us well.

The Fairview Church Family

## VIRGINIA COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

The Virginia Community Senior Center would like to welcome all seniors to participate in our first Game Day! Please join us at the Virginia United Methodist's Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea, soda, and popcorn on Wednesday, June 15th at 2:00 p.m.



## OUR STAFF AND SERVICES AT A GLANCE

### FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3135 N. Cr 800e  
Bath, Illinois 62617

10:00 AM Fairview Sunday School  
10:50 AM Fairview Worship Service

Pastor: Joe Tomich  
Executive Administrative Assistant:  
Jess Miller

Pastor's Phone: (217) 251-8563  
Pastor's E-mail: [pjtomich@yahoo.com](mailto:pjtomich@yahoo.com)  
Church Phone: (217) 452-3534  
Church E-mail:  
[virgrumc@casscomm.com](mailto:virgrumc@casscomm.com)  
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