

THE CRUSADER – JUNE 2022

Christ United Methodist Church

1503 N. Summit Ave., Decatur, IL 62526

217-423-4962

Website: christchurchhome.com

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/decaturchrist

Instagram: cumcdecatur

Pastor Braden Parks

217-720-7932

braden.parks18@gmail.com



Open Hearts. Open Minds.

Open Doors.

Dear Decatur Christ Family,

Greetings in the love of Jesus Christ. I am writing to reflect on my time at Decatur Christ UMC, as I also look to the future of being re-appointed to another church family in our United Methodist Connection, Rochester UMC. It is a church located in Rochester, Illinois. My first official day with Rochester UMC will be July 1st, 2022.

I thank God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) for the opportunity to serve with all of you in ministry these past two years. In my time at Decatur Christ, we have had Neighborhood Picnics, Soup Suppers, Rummage Sales, Hat Days, Cubs and Cards Sundays, and so much more. We have experienced together the mountain highs and valley lows--joys, and sorrows. We have partnered with God in our laughter and our tears. We have worshipped together on Sunday and during special services. In short, we have shared our journey of faith together. You will always have a special place in my heart.

When you read these words, you may be going through many emotions. You may be wondering what is next for the Decatur Christ family. I want you to know that I love you and will always appreciate these last two years of faith, leadership and growing together. I have confidence that the Holy Spirit will lead you to

the presence of God and that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and speak to you. My prayer for Decatur Christ is that this church family listens and discerns God's ways and joyfully decides to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I am praying for wisdom for Reverend Wally Carlson, as he transitions to becoming your next pastor. I am praying and trusting that you will welcome your new pastor with love and hospitality. Please know that although I will no longer have a pastoral role beginning July 1st with Decatur Christ UMC, my family will continue to care about the members of this congregation.

Blessings in Christ,
Rev. Braden

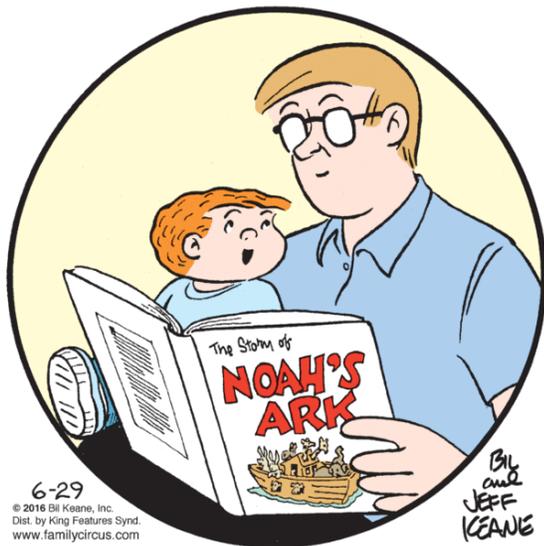


Inside this Issue:

Calendar of Events	2
Church Funny	2
Letter From the Chairman	2
Special Greetings	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Save the Date	3
UMW News	4
Prayer List	4
What's Cooking	4

Calendar of Events

- June 5, 10:30am
Pentecost Sunday
- June 12, 10:30am
Pastor Braden's Last Service
- June 12, after church service (11:30am)
Going Away Potluck for Pastor
Braden & his family in Fellowship
Hall
- June 17, 8am-2pm & June 18, 8am-12pm
UMW Rummage Sale in
Fellowship Hall
- June 28, 6am-7pm
Polling Place for General Election
- July 3, 10:30am
Pastor Wally's First Service
- July 10, after church service (11:30am)
Reception for Pastor Wally & Debby
in the Parlor



6-29
© 2016 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

**"I bet Noah had to keep the dogs
and the cats in different rooms."**

Verse of Encouragement

submitted by Pastor Braden

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

A Letter From the Chairman

As of July 1, we have been assigned Pastor Wally Carlson to Christ United Methodist Church. Let's all do everything we can to welcome him. He is retired and an elder. He has much experience and will do great things for our church. His wife's name is Debby and she will be fun to hang around with and be a great member of our congregation.

With this transition we say goodbye to Pastor Braden Parks. I wrote a letter two years ago telling you that this pastor was a home run. I was not wrong, while he was here he had a great majestic flight over our congregation. But the problem with a homerun is no matter how fun it is and how great, it is eventually leaves the park. I know Braden will do great things in the UMC church. I congratulate him for his appointment to Rochester, it looks like a great church and a great fit for him.

I will miss him terribly just like most of our congregation will. We will keep praying for him and his family and they will be successful beyond their dreams.

Braden, Michelle and boys, we will miss you more than you will ever know. God bless and Godspeed.

Mike Carr
Chairman of the board
Christ United Methodist Church

Special Greetings

Starting July 1, 2022 Christ United Methodist Church will be sharing Rev. Wally Carlson, a retired minister, with Sharon United Methodist Church. Pastor Wally and his wife Debby live in the Sharon UMC parsonage. Sunday services will be held at Sharon UMC at 9am and Christ UMC at 10:30am. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Wally and Debby to our church.

Here are some words from Pastor Wally:

Hi, everyone! I thought it might be a good idea to let you know a little about who I am.

I was born and raised just south of Kankakee. I am married to Debby (born and raised in Peoria), she is a retired teacher. We have five children and three grandchildren. If you have a few hours, ask me about them. Seriously, a few hours.

I was graduated from Clifton Central High School in 1968. I was graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1972 (speech and theatre) and Vanderbilt University in 1975 (M.Div; preaching.) I was ordained a deacon in 1973 and an elder in 1976. I have been a pastor, an associate pastor, and a campus minister. I have also taught speech, comparative religions, and "how to be a college student" as an adjunct at the college level. I retired in 2014 - but the bishop has still had me pastoring ever since. I currently serve as our Conference delegate to the Illinois Conference of Churches where I function as the leadership team co-chair and the executive director. I am also on the Commission on Pastoral Care for our Conference and the District committees on both lay and ordained ministry.

Here's a good metaphor for me. I am a Cub fan. However, I have a lot of good friends who are Cardinal fans. And I have some friends who are not even baseball fans at all. In other words, you don't have to agree with me for us to get along.

I look forward to our new adventure - working, learning, celebrating, living God's life - together.

Questions? (There will not be a quiz.)

Rev. Wally Carlson



Birthdays

June 4	Scott Matthews
June 4	Ryan Sisson
June 5	Lesley Albert
June 10	Mike Morse
June 11	Pastor Braden
June 17	Mikayla Puckett
June 19	Kim Withrow
June 24	Jerry Shepherd
June 29	Barb Boyd
June 29	Lois Murrell
June 30	Bowman Prakel

Anniversaries

June 6	Allen & Lesley Albert
June 27	Jerry & Margaret Shepherd

Save the Date

July 17
Ice Cream Social at Sharon UMC



What's Cooking?

by Jenny Garver

I was digging through grandma Audrey's cookbooks recently. So far, I have found four from Christ UMC. Grandma always wrote notes in her cookbooks when she tried a recipe. I thought it would be fun to share one of those recipes. Grandma noted "very good!!" for this recipe.

Celery Seed Dressing

1-1/4 cup sugar
2 tsp dry mustard
1 tsp salt
1/2 medium onion
5/8 cup vinegar
1 pt salad oil
1/8 cup celery seeds



Combine sugar, dry mustard, salt, onion and 1/2 of the vinegar in blender. Mix until well blended. Add oil gradually and the remaining vinegar in small amounts. Mix until thick emulsion forms. Stir in celery seeds.

Jean Preston
1975 Christ United Methodist Church
Blender - Crockpot Cookbook

UMW News

The UMW is still collecting items to include in the garage sale. No TVs and no exercise equipment, please. Call Lea (home: 217-428-2868; cell: 217-454-0903) for more information, to pick up items, or to arrange a time to drop off donations at church.



Prayer List

Kathy Cox
Malvia Sherwood
Erma & Donovan Lewis
Barbara Boyd
Don Wall
Matthews & Sisson Family
Pastor Braden, Michelle, Luke, & William Parks
Pastor Wally & Debby Carlson
Jean & Murray Preston
Bob, Julie, & Janet Patterson
Jodi Parks
Jon Gilmour
Marjorie Smika & Karen Roppa



Don't mistake
God's patience for
His absence. His timing is
perfect, and His
presence is constant.
He's always with you!

Deuteronomy 31:6

Articles for the July issue of the Crusader will be due on June 20. Please email articles to NewsletterChristUMC@gmail.com or turn in to Jenny Garver. Thank you.