United Methodist Women in 2014
MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Iroquois River District UMW
Spring Meeting
Saturday, March 15, 2014
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
First United Methodist Church of Champaign
210 W. Church Street
Champaign, Illinois

Featured Speakers:
Bernice Dallas, Annual Fund Specialist at Cunningham
Children’s Home
and
Cecil Billingsley, Home Maintenance Coordinator at empty tomb, inc.
(Biographies of the speakers can be found on page 10)

Child care will be provided by reservation. Donations for services are welcomed. Please provide the name and age of the child/children. Send a sack lunch and drink with your child. Due to an increase in allergies please do not include any peanut butter or other nut products.

Love gifts for Cunningham Children’s Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House are listed on page 7. Love gifts for empty tomb are listed on page 10.

Iroquois River District UMW Spring Meeting Registration Form
Local Unit Name: _____________________________ # Attending: __________
Contact Person: _____________________________ Phone: _______________
# of Lunch Reservations @ $10: _____________ Amount Enclosed: $__________

Reservations and childcare requests are due by Friday, March 7, 2014
Childcare Reservation: # of children _______ Age(s) ______________
Name(s) ____________________________________

Please make checks payable to FUMC United Methodist Women and send by March 7 to the attention of Sharon Johnson at First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church Street, Champaign, IL 61820.
Phone: 217-356-9078
“Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.” Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!” Psalm 66:1-3

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women... (from the Purpose). In the Iroquois River District we thank God for all of you who are praising His Name. I finished my report for the Conference United Methodist Women. I found out we have 30 Love Units (last year we had 22), 7 Joy Units and 5 Hope Units for the Iroquois River District. WOW! I had 98% of you reporting. Fantastic! I want to thank you for your helpfulness, cooperation and being a ‘community of women’ who want to help women, youth and children. Also, we increased in our membership according to your reports.

A thank you goes to Judy Hudgens, Nina Holt, Pam Socie and Jacque Eicher for your time and effort during your time on the Executive Board. We welcome Mary Ann Matthews, Mary-Bess Gordon, Roberta Sterrenberg and Louella Pence to the Executive Board/Leadership Team as we continue to grow in our work for the United Methodist Women in our district as a ‘community of women’.

Is your suitcase packed? Mine is not yet but I am planning to be ready for the Assembly 2014 in Louisville, Kentucky April 24-27. This is a great opportunity to be with a ‘community of women’ who want to be inspired, motivated and challenged in our mission work. Last count I received we had 17 going from our district. If you would like to go and have not registered let me know. Our Spring Meeting will be March 15, 2014 at Champaign First UMC. Registration is necessary to help the Champaign United Methodist Women plan the day. Our theme for the day will be “Making It Happen!” Certificates will be awarded. I will have certificates for the Love, Joy and Hope Units. You are making the impossible, possible through your giving and helping around the world.

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up”.

Galatians 6:9
“ But the path of the righteous is like the dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day”.

Proverbs 4:18

Becky Fox, President
203 Misty Cove
Savoy, Illinois 61874
Telephone: 217-352-3759
e-mail: fox_rebeccab@att.net

Our Retiring Officers - Thank You!

Jacque Eicher
served as Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Nina Holt
served as Treasurer but is now a member of the Conference Nominating Committee

Judy Hudgens
served as Secretary

Pam Socie
served as Representative to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
Goings with Towne

PURPOSEFUL WORK

Genesis 2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.
Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
Deuteronomy 28:1-14 And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.
Ecclesiastes 3:13 Also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

“What a great opportunity to think about everything we do in view of the PURPOSE in which United Methodist Women is organized for Mission. What an awesome possibility that more women would be engaged in more of the work that binds us together as a community of women with our particular assignment as an expression of the Global Ministries of the Church. PURPOSEFUL WORK INDEED.” Harriet Jane Olson, Chief Executive Officer United Methodist Women

PURPOSEFUL WORK INDEED –
United Methodist Women and Global Ministry Examples
Bolivia: Purpose equips women through vocational training, leadership, business, agriculture.
Brazil: Purpose advocacy program teaching self-determination.
Cameroon: Purpose development of women’s fellowship, spirituality, organization solidarity and training empowerment.
Columbia: Purpose promotion of women’s emancipation through biblical gender and leadership training.
Costa Rica: Purpose equips women with Women’s Economic Development Network for gaining knowledge of sustainable enterprise.
Republic of Georgia: Purpose equips with educational and vocational skills in business.
Grenada: Purpose equips youth with educational and developmental skills training for positive lifestyle choices and basics of employment.
Israel/Palestine: Purpose quality preschool in a safe and peaceful environment.
Jordan: Purpose computer training/education.
Laos: Purpose healthcare education for Lao women, youth and children.
Liberia: Purpose equip women and youth with secondary school and university scholarships.
Mozambique: Purpose develops financial and business skills so women are able to develop business in agriculture for family sustenance.
Pakistan: Purpose teaches young women income generation opportunities.
Portugal: Purpose support women to meet full leadership capacity through educational and professional scholarships.
Sierra Leone: Purpose skills training in food preparation, basic computer use, sewing.
South Africa: Purpose prepares children for school through readiness programs.
South India: Purpose literacy education.
Switzerland: Purpose gender training.
United States: Purpose beekeeping industry opportunities for women.

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.
1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Thessalonians 4:11 And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,
2 Thessalonians 2:17 Comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.


Cheryl Towne, Vice President
1109 Lake Ridge Road
Danville, IL 61832-1611
217-391-6609 (home)
Cheryl.luann.towne@gmail.com
Hello everyone!
Turquoise. Today turquoise is my favorite color, much nicer than white snow. It makes me think of pools and warm climates. Growing up in Michigan I should be used to winter and I don’t really mind it most of the time. I even go running in the winter, but not today. I call it my bowling injury. I organized a bowling party with some friends after Christmas and strained the muscles around my left ischial tuberosity. I re-injured it yesterday while on a run. Medical professionals call it a PITA, that is a Pain in The…..I think you get the picture.

Today I am enjoying the 11 degree temperature from the warmth of my home in Mahomet where I live with my husband, Jim. He is in Bloomington at Illinois Wesleyan University teaching French today. He has been at IWU for almost 30 years. We met at the University of Michigan when we both worked at Logos Bookstore. He studied French Literature and I studied Fine Art. My choice of study has made my career path less straight forward than my husband’s. I stayed home with 3 kids and did a variety of part-time jobs. I am currently providing respite care for people with special needs and doing volunteer work at church and in the community. I do still draw and am taking an oil painting class. I met Becky Fox at a book sale for Cunningham Children’s Home and now I am the Secretary of Iroquois River District UMW. I am pleased to help but will cherish all prayers for me, the newbie.

So how will I work off energy without hurting myself today? I’m getting out my old How to Do the Hula DVDs! Lots of turquoise in them. Hope you are finding ways to have fun and stay warm.

Mary Ann Matthews, Secretary
504 W. Dunbar Street
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-766-5918
heiryann6@gmail.com

The Secretary’s Pen

Treasury Notes

Greetings ladies!
I am MaryBess Gordon, the new Iroquois River District Treasurer. I’d like to take a moment to introduce myself and tell you how excited I am to be working alongside all of you. I am the Assistant Business Manager at First United Methodist Church in Champaign. I’ve been at FUMC for 4 1/2 years and love the work I do. I am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and Parkland College. My husband Jason and I have been married for 5 years and we have two very energetic dogs. This year I helped form a new young women’s circle (Esther Circle) at FUMC. It’s been great getting more involved in the UMW organization and I am thrilled to be helping out at the district level. In addition to UMW I also volunteer at my church, the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Austin’s Place, empty tomb, and the Champaign Urbana Theater Company. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with all of you. Please take note of my contact information and send all remittances to me as of January 2014.

MaryBess Gordon
300 S. Jacobsen Drive
Thomasboro, IL 61878
217-377-3800
marybessgordon@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth

I hope to see some of you at the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat at Chatham United Methodist Church Feb. 21 and 22nd. At a conference, district, or local group we gather for various purposes but throughout a good reason is fellowship. As we increase our participation in various UMW events it is fun to see someone you’ve met previously and before long seeing that person is like greeting an old friend. By reaching out we learn and can share more deeply which means we can care more deeply.

Ask yourself how well you are working at widening your circle of acquaintance. If you come to a district or conference event with others from your local unit do you try to stick closely together? Do you work at talking – really talking with someone new? If your answer is no or maybe sometimes, at the next event I challenge you to purposely sit with someone you have not yet met. Introduce yourself, share about your UMW group, ask about theirs, and listen --- really listen. As you part say you look forward to seeing them again. Who knows—you may be entertaining angels or brightening the day of someone who just needed a personal greeting.

On March 15 UMW women will gather at First UMC in Champaign for our spring meeting. One of the day’s events will be a memorial service for women from our local churches who have died since March of 2013. Presidents, please mail or email me the names you wish to have honored and the name of your church before March 10. When you come remember to greet someone new!!

Pat Davis
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
3204 Ridge Park Rd.
Urbana, IL 61802
217-344-2075
pat@bnpdavis.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Hello to all the units and members of Iroquois River District UMW!

I do pray you all made it through the season of high winds and low temps, but now to move on.... I am trying to finish up my membership report but it still doesn’t add up right. So back to the drawing board. Our district is a big one and I must say thank you to all the commitments of being a UMW. Our job is big but look what we get in the end—serving our LORD in many ways of mission, fellowship and helping one another. Always remember to meet and greet new faces with encouragement to join our units and help one another always. Keep March 15 open for our spring meeting and hope to see you all then. Love, Dicksie

Dicksie Blankenship
999 Route 10 West, Apt. 14
Clinton, IL 61727-2198
217-357-4940
d.blankenship@mchsi.com
Social Action

Domestic Violence: Nationally, nearly half of all women and children experiencing homelessness are fleeing domestic violence. Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between abusive relationships and homelessness. 45% of education support personnel have witnessed school violence and 85% have intervened or tried to stop it. This violence has often been learned at home. One man’s compassion and vision has helped 3,000 orphans who came from abuse and poverty in Uganda. Rev. Mbuga, son of a minister, orphaned at 22, left to raise his 13 younger siblings, founded Imani Milele Children, a Christian ministry for orphans. Imani Milele is Swahili for believe always or faith everlasting. Each of us can do something to help a fight against abuse, domestic violence, and poverty.

Immigration: UMW has worked for immigrant rights since 2002. Some groups have organized a rally, march, or vigil calling for an end to raids, detentions, and deportation of immigrants. Locate a detention center in your area and protest. “Profit from pain is inhumane.” Outdated immigration laws affect all of us. Hopefully, very soon, new laws will be passed, so that undocumented immigrants, and other immigrants who have worked here many years can have the kind of life that our ancestors dreamed of when they made the journey to America.

UMW wants these new laws to: 1. Guarantee human rights and individual security for immigrants 2. Allow equality and due process before the law 3. Keep families together. 4. Address racial justice, especially in enforcement policies. 5. Suspend raids, detention and deportation of migrants. 6. Make the federal government responsible for immigration policymaking and enforcement.

Human Trafficking: Super Bowl Sunday, the largest human trafficking day of the year in the U.S., may be over, but the plight of the victims who were in New Jersey by force, fraud, or coercion did not end there. They will continue to clean hotel rooms, wash dishes, tidy nail salons, deliver dry cleaning, and wash windows. Others will be trafficked as sex workers, or work as “escorts” in men-only clubs. Regular folks can take steps to help end this disregard for human life. Let’s prevent trafficking, protect those who are vulnerable and prosecute those who commit this crime. www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/trafficking

Environment: Leases sold to Shell oil, Conoco Phillips, and Statoil to drill in Alaska’s Arctic Ocean threaten destruction of land and wildlife. Shell Oil has rigs in place ready to start drilling off the northern coast of Alaska. Our taxes went up to help cut the nation’s deficit, but massive tax subsidies for oil and gas companies were not touched! This comes from The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. wilderness.org

Pacific coast redwoods are Earth’s tallest living things, taller than a 30 story building. Living as long as 2,000 years and resisting wind, fire, insects, and drought, redwoods are threatened by unsustainable logging and development. SaveTheRedwoods.org

Nominations

Just wanting to introduce myself as the Chair of Nominations for the district. After graduating from high school I worked and have 2 years of college. I live in Savoy with my husband, Don, attend Savoy United Methodist Church, enjoy belonging to UMW and appreciate the mission work they do. After working 31 years for the Postal Service I’m donating time to church and community. I pray all of you will have a Blessed, Happy, Healthy New Year!

Charlotte Pritchard
P. O. Box 43
Savoy, IL 61874
217-359-5406

Don’t forget to send the names of the United Methodist Women who have graduated to Heaven since March of 2013 for the memorial service at the spring meeting. Please send to Pat Davis before March 10. Her address is found on Page 5.
Cunningham Children’s Home

Thanks to all of you out there in UMW land the Cunningham Kids had a great Christmas. Several volunteers went and helped wrap gifts. There were three ladies that made the trip from Wisconsin to help wrap and visit Cunningham Home. Seeing the gifts and being innovative in how to wrap some of the oddly shaped ones made for a fun time while being helpful. Thanks to the staff it was a good experience for all involved. And the Kids say thank you to all UMW ladies.

Put April 4 and 5, 2014 on your calendars and get a carload to visit the 10th Annual Festival of Quilts at Cunningham. The Patchwork Café will be open again this year so what a good time to go out for lunch while enjoying the show. Volunteers are needed to help on the days of the show and to quilt, bake (for the bake sale) and to hand craft items for the gift shop. If you have a new and unique idea now is the time to produce some for the shop. And of course quilts for the boutique and the silent auction are always welcome. If you have a quilt—new or old—you would like to show, be sure to get it entered in the show only part of the Festival of Quilts. As you can see there is something for everyone. Hope to see you all at the show.

Love gifts for spring meeting: towel sets (bath towel, hand towel, washcloth), gift cards to Walmart, Amazon and fast food restaurants.

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

Greetings!

I am Susan Connor and I’m excited about representing Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Our first representatives meeting will be in March. I am retiring from working with Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center this year and am eager to spend time with each of your units once I have gotten current facts and activities reports from LBDNH. Let’s have a great year serving Christ and His children.

Thank you Iroquois River District United Methodist Women for all the beautiful baskets you donated for the annual dinner and auction in November. The proceeds for the event were around $10,000 with $7,000 of that coming from the sales of the baskets.

Love gifts for the spring meeting are:
- gift cards (Walmart, Kmart, Subway, McDonalds, Dollar General, Target, etc.)

Education & Interpretation

Greetings,

I want to introduce myself as the new Education & Interpretation Coordinator. This is a new role for me so we will learn together. I have worked with United Methodist Women all my life. Previously I was in the Vermilion River District and held several different offices. I have served as a Cunningham Representative and helped with the Festival of Quilts since its beginning. I’m looking forward to working with all of you again.

Linda Grose
1189 Country Club Road
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-728-4697
mikelindagrose@gmail.com

Susan Connor
1431 CR 800N
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-259-1649

Roberta Sterrenberg
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
P. O. Box 486
Piper City, IL 60959
815-686-2771

Betty Kmoch
2908 Springhill Lane
Champaign, IL 61822
217-356-5870
bettylouisek@sbcglobal.net

Bobby Walker
406 W. Diller
Broadlands, IL 61816
217-840-3617
bwalker42@gmail.com
Lazy? When it comes to reading, I am one of the laziest ladies you’ll ever meet! It’s SO much easier to read a review or listen to one of my buddies talk about the fantastic books they have read. However, when I do force myself to open even a pamphlet and glance over it I learn something. Perhaps my greatest achievement in reading for this past year was to actually read through all the materials necessary for this position, and other tasks that required more than a little light reading.

March is rapidly approaching, which means it’s our turn as a district to recognize and appreciate units for the ways they share God’s love. Shepherdess visits and invitations to special events spent with those units gave such insight to what our district has done. We were overwhelmed to learn of the endless projects you ladies accomplish each year. Please think about writing down a couple ways in which your unit brings hope and love to the marginalized. We will share those ideas with everyone at the district meeting. Nothing formal or perfectly formatted is necessary, although a dirty napkin might be a little hard for me to read! Why reinvent the wheel when you can use R & D? That’s rip off and duplicate of course. We share ideas just like we share taking care of each other. What works so well for your unit might be just the project needed by another. You can send them to me in email or the U.S.P.S. I will make copies to have for folks at registration.

In the meantime, get your reading program reports to me as soon as possible. Don’t forget to include the folks who participated, but did not complete a plan. They have worked just as hard as the rest of you plan readers. Email is awesome, but I do not mind if you throw them in the mail box. Also, it is time to take inventory of your resources so you will be ready to fill your bags at the district meeting in March.

Together we make an awesome team. Fill your hearts with joy from the work you do and continue to share your money, time, and talents with those who are less fortunate than we can ever imagine. Be well and get plenty of rest before March 15th!

Barb Rascher
rascher@illinoise.edu
802 E. Larmon St.
Tolono, IL 61880-9445
217-485-5566 (home)

Mission Resources Center Website: www.umwmissionresources.org
Iroquois River District UMW Officers - 2014

President
Becky Fox
203 Misty Cove
Savoy, IL 61874
217-352-3759
fox_rebecca@att.net

Vice President
Cheryl Towne
1109 Lake Ridge Road
Danville, IL 61832-1611
217-391-6609
cheryl.luann.towne@gmail.com

Secretary
Mary Ann Matthews
504 W. Dunbar Street
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-766-5918
heiryann6@gmail.com

Treasurer
MaryBess Gordon
300 S. Jacobsen
Thomasboro, IL 61878
217-351-5604
marybessgordon@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth
Pat Davis
3204 Ridge Park Road
Urbana, IL 61802
217-344-2075
pat@bnpdavis.com

Education & Interpretation
Roberta Sterrenberg
P. O. Box 486
Piper City, IL 60959
815-686-2771

Program Resources
Barb Rascher
802 E. Larmon Street
Tolono, IL 61880-9445
217-485-5566
217-766-3578 (cell)
rascher@illinois.edu

Vice President
Cheryl Towne
1109 Lake Ridge Road
Danville, IL 61832
217-391-6609
cheryl.luann.towne@gmail.com

Secretary
Mary Ann Matthews
504 W. Dunbar Street
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-766-5918
heiryann6@gmail.com

Treasurer
MaryBess Gordon
300 S. Jacobsen
Thomasboro, IL 61878
217-351-5604
marybessgordon@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth
Pat Davis
3204 Ridge Park Road
Urbana, IL 61802
217-344-2075
pat@bnpdavis.com

Education & Interpretation
Roberta Sterrenberg
P. O. Box 486
Piper City, IL 60959
815-686-2771

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Barb Rascher
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Tolono, IL 61880-9445
217-485-5566
217-766-3578 (cell)
rascher@illinois.edu

Membership/Nurture/Outreach
Dickie Blankenship
999 Rt. 10W, Apt. 14
Clinton, IL 61727-2198
217-357-4940
217-935-0765 (cell)
dblankenship@mchsi.com

Social Action
Patty Russell
1801 N. Prairie
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-521-0425
prussell61953@yahoo.com

Communications
Kay McCoy
18 Lange Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874-9705
217-351-9106
217-722-1613 (cell)
mccoy18@comcast.net

Nominations
Chair of Nominations
Charlotte Pritchard
P. O. Box 43
Savoy, IL 61874-0043
217-359-5604

Committee on Nominations 2014
Ruth Sattazahn
405 Floral Park Drive
Savoy, IL 61874
217-351-5107
ruthanne@pdnt.com

Committee on Nominations 2015
Roberta Benschneider
205 East Fourth Street
Broadlands, IL 61816
217-834-3575
rbenschneider@juno.com

Committee on Nominations 2016
Louella Pence
Box 22
Bellflower, IL 61724-0022
309-722-3413
louella@wirelessdatanet.net

Betty Knoc
2908 Springfield Lane
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-5870
bettylouise@sbglobal.net

and
Bobby Walker
406 W. Diller
Broadlands, IL 61816
217-834-3617
217-840-3617 (cell)
bswalker42@gmail.com

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Representatives
Linda Grose
1189 Country Club Road
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-728-4697
217-855-9189 (cell)
mikelindagrose@gmail.com

and
Susan Connor
1431 CR 800N
Sullivan, IL 61951
217-259-1649
radtech20032003@yahoo.com

Have you invited your Shepherdess to one of your unit meetings or functions? We welcome invitations and are anxious to meet all of you. Got questions? We will do our best to answer them.

Installing your new officers? We can and do help with that, too.

Just give us a call or drop us a line and we will come.
Bernice Dallas is the Annual Fund Specialist for Cunningham Children’s Home. She will be working closely with Illinois children’s strongest advocates at Cunningham Children’s Home - members of the Guardian Parent Program who support the mission with their regular giving. Bernice lives in Urbana with her teenage son Joshua. In 2010 she became a foster parent in Cunningham’s Specialized Foster program and joined the Advancement staff in 2013. She considers it a privilege to serve in her role as part of the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference.

Cecil Billingsley
Coordinator of Home Maintenance
empty tomb, inc.

Cecil was born in Wickenburg, Arizona 63 years ago. During his lifetime he worked on the family ranches in Arizona and Colorado, was active in professional rodeo, studied business law and political science at the University of Colorado, initiated several small businesses and designed and built custom homes for 20 years. In 1986 Cecil and his wife, Joelle, were married and have 3 children, Jordan, Carter and Claire. Fifteen years ago the family migrated to Illinois and Cecil became part of the empty tomb, inc. staff as Coordinator for empty tomb’s Home Maintenance Work (one of the nine ministry opportunities offered through empty tomb). Cecil continues to coordinate the efforts of Christian volunteers as they repair the homes of lower-income families “Free in the Name of Jesus”.

Love gifts will be accepted for empty tomb: children’s clothes for all ages; children’s shoes for all ages; Pampers (sizes newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); men’s and women’s shoes for work; large size adult clothes.
SAVE THE DATE!

10TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Patchwork Café and Bake Shoppe
Relax with friends over a snack or lunch!

QUILT SHOW • SILENT AUCTION • QUILT BOUTIQUE • GIFT SHOP • BAKE SALE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
APRIL 4 & 5, 2014
9:00 AM—5:00 PM
1301 N. CUNNINGHAM AVENUE
URBANA, IL

All Proceeds Benefit
Cunningham Children’s Home

Find us on Facebook

www.cunninghamhome.org/quilts
Directions to First United Methodist Church of Champaign
210 W. Church Street (corner of Church and State Streets)

From I-74
Take the Neil Street south exit
Proceed south on Neil Street
After crossing Bradley Avenue the 5th cross street on the right will be Hill Street
Turn right onto Hill Street
Cross Randolph Street
FUMC parking lot will be on the left (There is also a Champaign city parking lot at the southeast corner of Randolph & Hill Streets.)

From I-57
Take University Avenue east exit
Follow the directions from I-72

From I-72
I-72 ends and becomes University Avenue just east of I-57
Continue on University Avenue
Cross major intersections at Mattis Avenue and Prospect Avenue
After crossing Prospect Avenue the 5th cross street on the left will be Randolph Street
Turn left onto Randolph Street
Turn left again onto Hill Street
FUMC parking lot will be on the left