



We hope you will join us this  
**ADVENT SEASON 2018**

*Activities, worship, study, and reflection*

*First United Methodist Church,  
214 W. Main St., Carbondale, IL.*

***Poinsettias***

***Memorial Information & Order Deadline Noon, Monday, December 10***

***Poinsettia Decorating, 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 13***

See the Asburian, the Welcome Center in the Narthex, the church office or the church website ([www.fumc-cdale.org](http://www.fumc-cdale.org)) for order forms. 6" plants are \$10.00 each and 8" plants are \$23.00 each. Orders and all memorial information must be in the church office by 12:00 Noon, Monday, December 10. If making your own arrangements, please have the pot wrapped in foil and bring the plant in during office hours on December 11, 12, or by noon on Thursday, December 13, but **your memorial page information must be in to the office by Monday, December 10.** You are invited to join Rhonda Kelley and her volunteers to help decorate the church with poinsettias at 2 p.m. on December 13. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Monday, December 24.

***Thanksgiving Dinner at the Newman Center***

***12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 22***

The 50th Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal, at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 W. Washington Street in Carbondale. Free & all are welcome! To volunteer, make a donation, or have a meal delivered, please call 618-529-3311 by 4 p.m., Wednesday, November 21. Volunteers are needed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

***Spirit of Christmas***

***Spirit of Christmas Gifts are due at the church Sunday, November 25***

Spirit of Christmas is an anonymous gift program. The gifts you will be giving may be the only ones the person will receive. We ask that you include only new, nicely wrapped items. It is not necessary to purchase every item requested. This year, there is an 18% increase in the number of people requesting assistance. ***Even though some dates have passed, financial contributions are also always welcomed.*** (Make checks out to Interfaith Council Spirit of Christmas). If you would like more information on this project contact Spirit of Christmas Coordinators Doug & Amy Baker, 457-0630.

***Advent Study and Daily Devotions topic:***

***Sundays, November 25, December 2, 9, 16, and 23***

***Wednesdays, November 28, December 5, 12, & 19***

***Taste & See (Experiencing The Stories of Advent and Christmas)*** by Jan Johnson

The author "invites you to become part of the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child...to live inside the story for a while, exploring it from the perspectives of its central figures." This study and daily devotional includes questions to consider, daily meditations, and a guide for family devotions and activities during Advent. Books are available in the Narthex. The course is taught by Pastor Alan each Wednesday at 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Room 410 or join in a class on Sunday mornings with the Investors in the Chapel (starting Nov. 25), or the Renew Class in Room 402 (starting Dec. 2).

***Beary Christmas Tree, Stuffed Animals for Pediatric Patients***

***November 29 - December 24***

Everyone is again invited to bring a small (new and clean) teddy bear (or other animal) to decorate the tree in the Narthex. The bears will be donated for use not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. They can be brought to the church any time from November 29 through December 24 and left by the Narthex tree. They will be delivered after church in January. What a great excuse to buy a stuffed animal!

## **Advent A-Z**

**December 1 -31**

“Spend time each day of December praying through the alphabetical Advent poems contained in this thoughtful booklet that helps children connect the sights and sounds of the season to the coming of the Christ Child in a fun and familiar way. From Angels and Eggnog to Stars and Wreaths, these prayers provide a daily guide for children of all ages as they prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birthday! Pick up a devotion book and a sheet to make an Advent prayer chain in the narthex.

### **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Sundays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 and Christmas Eve**

The advent candles will be lit at both worship services. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, we will light the Candle of HOPE; the second Sunday of Advent, December 9, PEACE; the third Sunday of Advent, December 16, LOVE; the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, JOY; and also on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, the CHRIST CANDLE.

### **“Not Around the Table” Carol Sing and Children’s Christmas Program**

**6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 2**

Join the church family for a time of singing familiar carols in the Sanctuary. The children will be presenting “Not Another Christmas Program.” Bring a few cookies to share and enjoy cookies and drinks following the program. The children will have a rehearsal of their program during Children’s Church (10:45 a.m.) on Sunday, December 2 in Room 410.

### **Advent Decorating**

**Saturday, December 8**

Come have a good time decorating the church during Advent! Everyone is invited to come to the church on Saturday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. and join the Priscilla Circle for the traditional **Hanging of the Greens**. Come with your holiday spirit, music, or maybe a plate of cookies to share - shop-vacs are especially welcome on December 8 and then again on January 10 at 1:00 p.m. when we do the UN-decorating!

### **Advent Music Vespers**

**5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 9, 16, & 23**

Special Music will once again be an important part of the Christmas season at FUMC. Each Sunday evening in Advent at 5:00 p.m. a 30-minute program of “Music Vespers” will be presented in the Sanctuary. This year’s presentations include:

**December 9** - Joe Walczyk-trumpet, Bob Weiss-trombone, Anita Hutton-piano

**December 16** - Kara Benyas and Anita Hutton-piano 4-hands

**December 23** - Dr. Sidney G. Smith, M.D.-organ

### **March to the Manger**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services, Sunday, December 9**

During the services on December 9 we celebrate the season of giving by bringing gifts for missions at home and abroad. Adults bring monetary gifts wrapped in small packages which are left at a living manger scene. Be watching your mail for this year’s letter and list of missions. Children should bring unwrapped gifts for Cobden Hispanic Ministries and place them at the manger during either service. (A list of children’s gift items is available. See your Asburian or Necia for details.)

### **A Service of Lessons and Carols**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 16**

Accompanied by a full orchestra, the Choir will lead a music-filled worship service with varied anthems, traditional readings and congregational carols. This inspiring presentation is always one of the highlights of the season.

### **Christmas Sunday Services**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 23**

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**5:00 & 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 24**

A long-standing tradition at FUMC, we will have special candlelight services at both 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Come and be lifted by the familiar carols, moved by the special music, and inspired by the message of Christ’s birth. The 7:00 p.m. service will include special music with the Sanctuary Choir.

### **Un-decorating the Church**

**1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10**

**UN-DECORATING** will begin at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10. Everyone’s help is needed that day! Shop-Vacs will be much appreciated!

