



Newsletter of:
The First United Methodist Church
214 W. Main St.
Carbondale, IL 62901

Our Mission Statement: "Called together by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim God's presence and love in the world through prayer, worship, education and service. We invite children, youth and adults to become disciples of Jesus Christ, live fully in the Holy Spirit, and embrace God's love."

Pastor: The Rev. Alan R. Rhein
Associate: Tom Byford
Dir. of Christian Education: Necia Jannings
Prayer Chain: Sue Hall (457-8283) or email Sara Hinde at sjhinde04@gmail.com
Broadcast:
10:45 service is heard live on WCIL-AM (1020)
For van rides: Call the church office (457-2416)
Email: fumc@fumc-cdale.org
Website: www.fumc-cdale.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistCdale
Twitter: @FUMCCarbondale

IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2017

8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon: *Sharing the Promises of God*

Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Anthem:

8:15 *The Work of Christmas*
Allison Spiller, soloist

10:45 *The Work of Christmas*
Sanctuary Choir

Hymns:

157 *Jesus Shall Reign*

249 *There's a Song in the Air*

245 *The First Noel*

181 *Ye Servants of God*



Altar flowers this week are given in memory of Marge Cralley.

Inside Greeters: Sharon & John Sims

Acolytes: 10:45 Kayli and Rayna Lucas

Sound System Operators:

8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Ron Browning

Liturgists: 8:15 Deanna Diel; 10:45 Della Fulk

January Ushers: Dan Anderson III, Captain;

8:15 Doug Bedient, Bill Crippen, Steve Mitchell,
Scott Wright

10:45 Donna Bryant, Gary Hill, and Gene Morgan



Musings

Dear Friends,

Our celebration of the Christmas season was, in many ways, a very meaningful experience this year. We had some concern about the weather on our "Lessons and Carols" Sunday, but that didn't materialize, and the service was powerful as usual. Both of our Christmas Eve services were well attended, with our children leading us in worship in the first service, and our Sanctuary Choir providing excellent music in the later service. Having an infant baptism on Christmas Day, Gabrielle Prozesky, daughter of Corne and Laura Prozesky, added a very special moment to a very special day! As I shared with Corne and Laura, I have never had a baptism on Christmas Sunday before. It is truly a special time when Christmas is on Sunday and an infant baptism takes place! I pray God's continued blessings on Gabrielle and her family. Also, our "March to the Manger" offering continues to grow. Our latest total is \$26,071.03, with more still coming in. Christmas is always a special time of year and as we give to others, it reminds us of the "special" gift that came to us at Christmas, as we celebrate the Christ Child being born.

The anticipation of Advent and the events surrounding Christmas Day make for a rich time of sharing and worship. The scriptures tell us that after Jesus was born and the shepherds had come and told Mary what the angels told them, "Mary treasured all of these words and pondered them in her heart." I have always taken that to mean that Mary didn't fully understand all that had taken place, but she was trusting God to lead her and guide her into whatever the future had in store for her and her Son. She was not going to forget this day, but rather "treasure" all that had gone on, knowing that it truly was from God, as the angel Gabriel had said to her. She was simply going to trust and hold on to it in her heart as one would a treasure of gold.

What faith it is to see a young person as young as Mary, some say sixteen or even younger, trust in such a way as this. I don't know about you, but it causes me to think about all the events in my life that challenge my trust in God. And, when I do, I realize that perhaps I shouldn't try and always figure those events out or fix them, but rather to simply "ponder" them in my heart, knowing and trusting that God is with me in them. This is really the only path to true peace and joy in this life. It is challenging, but nothing compared to the challenge that faced Mary. May we all find the time to "ponder" everything that we have experienced these past weeks and days, and that in our "pondering," may we find a new path to trust, and a peace in the God who sent the Christ whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Finally, I want to say "thank you" for your expressions of kindness this Christmas. The cards and gifts added a great deal to this season for Connie and me. It may add a few pounds as well!

See you Sunday,

Alan

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

JANUARY

5 Thursday

5:45 CANCELED THIS WEEK Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga
6:00 Education Committee, Room 410
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6 Friday

7 Saturday

8 Sunday *Blood Pressure Checks following each service*

8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service

9 Monday

12:30 Women's Club of Carbondale, Heritage Rm.
6:30 Good News, Atrium

10 Tuesday

9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 402
6:00 Board of Trustees, Heritage Room

11 Wednesday

10:00 Children's Storytime, Diane Neill Dorsey
Memorial Children's Library, Room 413

12 Thursday

5:45 CANCELED THIS WEEK Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

13 Friday

14 Saturday

15 Sunday

8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:45 Worship Service

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

2017 MASTER CALENDAR
REMINDER

If you have not already done so, this is a reminder to please come in to the church office and add your 2017 activities and events to the calendar.

Thank you . . .

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS NEEDED

for the 8:15 a.m. service

If you can help, please call the Church office - 457-2416

Thank you



The 2017 Flower Chart

is now available for sign-ups.

We need flowers for the following dates in January -- 15 & 29

The cost is still \$49; rosebuds \$10.

PARISH
pulse
As of January 3, 2017

In Sympathy: Sympathy to the family and friends of Earl Dickey, who died on January 3, 2017.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Brad & Valeri Bleyer, family, and friends, on the death of his father, Bill Bleyer, who died on December 26, 2016.

Congratulations: To parents, Bailey & Anthony Budka on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Page Budka, on December 27, 2016. Proud grandparents are Valerie & Allan Brittin.

New Address: "After a great deal of soul-searching, we gradually came to the realization that we are essentially city boys. We've made the decision to return to our roots in St. Louis, where we spent the first eight years of our lives together many years ago, before we moved to Chicago. We were drawn to Carbondale seven years ago by its slower pace, which we enjoyed initially compared to the hustle and bustle of Chicago, but after awhile, we realized that we really missed the frantic pace of city life. We'll be living in University City in the Delmar Loop neighborhood, just north of the Washington University campus and a stone's throw from Forest Park. We will miss our friends at FUMC and look forward to seeing any of you who are brave enough to come to the big city. Drop us a line or give us a call beforehand, so we can clean house."

Duane Cole & Joe Power, 849 Westgate Avenue, Unit 205, St. Louis, MO 64130
314-553-9112 • 314-202-2824



Fundraiser Nut Sale

STILL A FEW
BAGS LEFT!



CHOOSE FROM DELUXE MIXED NUTS, GIANT SALTED WHOLE CASHEWS, COLOSSAL SALTED PISTACHIOS, OR WHOLE SALTED ALMONDS

See Tom to make a purchase!

Your donations help fund our ASP mission trip

Disciples for Sunday, January 8, 2017

Outside Greeters: Jan & Gary Austin

Van Drivers: John Graig, Brian Gorecki

Welcome Center: 8:15 Jon Gobert; 10:45 Lavina Thomas

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Marianne & Steve Lather

Parish Nurses: 8:15 Sharon Meyer; 10:45 Dana Oberg

Nursery: Heather Criswell - Info; Grace Oberg - Youth

Children's Church: K-2nd Susan Watson; 3rd - 5th Rob & Linda Lucas

Children's Church Registration: Eric & Heidi Jung



PLEASE JOIN US



Children's Story Time

Parents and children are invited to join us each
Wednesday • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

in the Diane Dorsey Memorial Children's Library

Jane Robertson shares stories, craft activities, music, and lots of activities for preschool & early elementary children!!!

MISSION UPDATE - HOLIDAY BLESSINGS



MARION MEDICAL MISSION

We were informed that FUMC funds provided three wells this year. The shallow wells were installed on September 24 in the village of Mukule, Zambia; on September 26, in the village of Mdawila, Malawi; and on September 27, in the village of Walenga, Zambia. The wells will serve 225 people, 240 people, and 300 people respectively. Watch our bulletin board for the cards that include pictures of the installations.

Tom Logan, MMM President, reported 2016 construction of wells started on September 1. By October 30, thirty-six US volunteers, working hand-in-hand with their African partners, completed 2,578 wells in an area covering roughly 57,000 square miles in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia. Another 153 wells are waiting for the pumps to be installed, giving a total of 2,731 wells built in 2016. These wells mean an estimated 386,000 of the extreme poor (232,000 children) now have a sustainable source of safe drinking water. Only together can we be who God created us to be. Together the impossible is possible.

A MMM volunteer wrote of her trip to Malawi. At one village, a proud mother presented volunteers with her newborn twins and they were honored to be able to hold their tiny bodies all wrapped up in chitenje cloth. Another volunteer later told her that twins are a mixed blessing. Often, due to the hardship of raising two infants at a time, the twins do not survive infancy. The Malawi government once offered subsidies to families with twins, but the government is no longer able to do this due to financial reasons.

The fact that the mother now has access to clean, safe drinking water at just the right time for these newborns, seemed to be a gift straight from the Creator! You can read these testaments in the MMM newsletter that will be posted on our bulletin boards, and also learn how you can support this work.

Missions Committee



SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Opportunities

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School - (K - 5th grade) uses *Deep Blue* from Cokesbury. The morning begins with music at 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 415.

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children's Church - (K - 5th grade). All children are invited to Children's Church following the Children's Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

July - Lost and Found Bible Story: Luke 15

Bible Verse: There is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to. *Luke 15:7*

Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.

Faith development through Bible lessons, emphasizing a relationship with God through Jesus.

Middle School meets in Room 410 and uses *On the Go*.

High School Class meets in Room 409 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today's youth.

Adult Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.

Renew Class - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection, and prayer. Class is held in Room 201. Women of all ages are welcome.

HomeBuilders' Class has started Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths*. The study is being led by Pastor Rhein and continues through August 14. The class meets in Room 402. Everyone welcome.

The Investors Class is an intergenerational class for all adults. They are studying J. Ellsworth Kalas' *A Hop, Skip and a Jump Through the Bible*, in Room 404 (The Chapel). Everyone welcome.

The Electives Class - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room.

The Challengers Class - a class for special needs adults, meets in Room 212, second level. They use the current scripture each week. This class is led by Susan Watson and Dan Anderson III.

Small Group Opportunities

The Daniel Plan meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar.

Grateful Hearts has recessed for the summer. It meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Room 308.

Jr. High Youth has recessed for the summer. It meets during the regular school year on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.