April 1, 2020 Issue
NOT IN Church On Sunday
Listen to FM 107.9—April 5 & 12, 2020
Or AM 1020 at 10:45 A.M.

FIRST Thoughts

Have you been praying that FUMC will Double on Easter? I asked us to do that over a month ago. That request didn’t come out of the blue. I very much felt led to make that invitation. My plan was that we would have doubled our average Sunday attendance worshiping in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. That is clearly not going to happen. This has left me wondering if God has a plan for doubling that was different from my plan.

What if we were to Double our Mission Giving this Easter? All the ministries we support on our Easter Offering list are in uncertain financial territory. They need our help more now than ever. Some of us will be in a great position to help because of checks from the stimulus package. Those checks, which will make a huge difference if you have lost your income during this crisis, will be extra money for many of us who continue to get paid. Of course, we should make sure we have paid down our debts and have an emergency fund and all the wise advice we should take about handling our money, but can we give God the First Fruits of this unplanned money. Can we give an offering to the church or to the Easter Offering before we buy that new widget for ourselves?

What if we were to Double our Attendance on Easter, but do it online? Actually, this is very likely. From what we can track, we’ve now had over 600 views of the March 29th worship service. Many of those “views” can represent several people in a household. Easter could be multiples of that.

COVID-19 CLOSING UPDATE

First United Methodist Church will NOT be observing in person Easter Sunday Worship in our churches, or any other gatherings, until further notice. Our worship services will continue on the radio and online.

We encourage ministry teams, Sunday School classes, and other small groups to be creative in finding ways to support and encourage each other. In addition to email and text groups, we can suggest “freeconferencecall.com” which can be accessed with a phone and doesn’t require an internet connection. Zoom meetings are proving effective for many people. They can also be joined by phone, smartphone or computer.

Covid-19 has affected our church in other ways. The United Methodist General Conference scheduled to take place in May has been postponed to a time to be arranged in 2021. We have not had final word about whether the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference scheduled for early June in Peoria will be adjusted in some way.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped us get this update mailed out. We will continue to provide Covid-19 updates on our website and on Facebook. This may be the last Asburian we send by mail for awhile. That will depend on how long our political and church leadership instructs us to stay closed. We will make every effort to get word out about when we will begin holding worship services again. But we do know that many of our members do not receive email, so please do your best to keep each other informed in the meantime.

God Bless, Pastor Howard

GREAT RIVERS CONFERENCE

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. Dr. Howard L. White
Associate Pastor: Yiwen Bi
Dir of Christian Education: Necia Jannings
Prayer Chain:
   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
Website: www.fumc-carbondale.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistCdale
Twitter: @FUMC_Cdale
Instagram: FUMC_Carbondale

What if we were to Double our Evangelism? Again, this seems very likely for two reasons. First, because it is so easy to invite someone to church when it is happening online. You can set up a Facebook Live watch party. You can send a link. We are going to create an eVite that you can send to friends. The second reason we will double our evangelism is because people are most receptive at times of Transition, Tension and Trouble. And we know people have plenty of this.

What if we were to Double our Congregational Care? Many of you have discovered that spending 30 minutes or an hour each day making phone calls to check in on friends, family and fellow church members can do a lot to lower your anxiety and boost your joy.

We will Double our Joy whenever we return to the sanctuary. That first Sunday will feel like Easter.

Double our Congregational Care

Double our Joy

Double our Evangelism
On-line Worship at First United Methodist Church

Attending worship online is a new experience for most of us. What can we do to make the most of this time? Here are 5 suggestions:

1. Set up a little worship space. This might include a candle, a cross, or other items that have spiritual significance for you. It could be a space you set up especially for Sunday worship, or it might be a space that you leave up and use for daily devotions.

2. Print a bulletin out ahead of time. So far, we have been able to post a worship bulletin on our website each week. It has responsive readings and even hymn lyrics. You may also want to bring a Bible, a Journal, or even breakfast with you. This is a worship service you can definitely bring a cup of coffee to.

3. Plan for the technology you will use. Options include Radio, Streaming directly from our website, Facebook Live, Youtube. Will you use a desktop computer, laptop, phone or tablet. Some smart tv’s or connecting devices (like Roku or apple tv) will let you connect.

4. Consider gathering with the faith community. There is something to be said for knowing that others are praying with you and singing with you. For the next few Sundays, at least, we will be streaming the worship on our website at 8:15, 9:30, and 10:45 a.m. Many people last Sunday attended at their usual time. Facebook Live will be set to begin at 10:45 a.m.

5. Interact. Be sure to say Hi and let others know you are there on Facebook or the “chat” box on our website (change your name using the settings “gear”). There is even a connection card on our website, where you can register your attendance and submit prayer concerns. Pastors are trying to monitor the comments and read the prayer requests.

[And a bonus]

Thank the participants. Everyone involved has probably had to adapt to new technologies and overcome other hurdles to participate. Everything takes longer to get done than it did before.

SAVE THE DATE
July 26—30, 2020

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Volunteers Needed!
Contact Necia at neciaj@fumc-cdale.org

We will still accept prepaid order ($30) and will contact all purchasers to determine a future delivery date
Please contact: yiwenbi@yahoo.com Thank you for your support!

SMOKED PORK BUTT
Spring Blooms have been placed in the church.

In honor of . . .
Our Special Friend, Dorothy Rudoni by Henry and Judy Dillinger
Luke, Dylan and Ethan by Bob & Jan Weiss
Kathy Doerr Bertsche by Naomi Miali
Lavina Thomas by Laura & C.W. “T” Thomas III

In loving memory of . . .
Family Members by Dan & Barbara Kimmel
Our Parents; JC and Helen Dillinger by Henry and Judy Dillinger
Our Parents; Gene and Arlene Heisler by Henry and Judy Dillinger
My Parents; Sidney and Elizabeth Matthews by Sarah Matthews
Conrad Hinckley and Galen Joanne Hinckley by Nelda Hinckley
Our Parents by John and Aveniel Cherry
Capt. Don Lee Taylor by Donelle Wessel
Anna Lee & George Davis; Florence & Vincent Washburn by John and Sally Washburn
John, Margel, and David Crawford by Neil, Angie, John, Madison & Crawford Voss
Marvin Nedrart, Jim Johnson, Betty Leonard and Don Begget by Kathy Johnson
Verl & Lawrence Walden by Ottolini and Stultz Families
Bong-Won Hwang & Tucksung Park by Bong-Choul & In-Sook Hwang
Our Mothers, Besse and Julia by Ed and Sue Tresnak
Our Parents by Gail and Linda White
C.W. “Tommy” Thomas Jr. by Laura and C.W. “T” Thomas III

Easter Flowers: May be picked up at the church on Tuesday, April 14th between 8 a.m. and Noon. Only outer doors will be unlocked. If you would like to have your Spring Blooms delivered, please call the Church Office at 457-2416 and leave a message or e-mail Joy at fumc@fumc-cdale.org. We can leave them by your front door.

Most Carbondale First United Methodist Church events scheduled for the Time Period April 1 to 30, 2020 have been canceled to ensure the health and welfare of our parishioners (confirm with your group leaders whether your meeting/event is happening)
Please watch the FUMC Website for updates to the Schedule http://www.fumc-cdale.org/

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP is still on the schedule!
Camps are available for Kindergarten to Adults.
Please check out www.igrc.org/camping to see this year’s full camping guide. Little Grassy Camp has extended early bird discount until May 20th extended payment plan options, and is offering a full refund should they have to cancel.
If you have any questions on camping information or registration, please contact yiwenbi@yahoo.com, 618-457-2416.
Carbondale First UMC will pay half of the registration cost for students from our church who attend an IGRC camp and half for one friend who attends with them.

Activities for Young People
Youth
Join us for Wednesday night youth group https://us04web.zoom.us/j/638413585
Check-In, conversation, game, prayer, music
Youth iMessage group
Here we share our joy, encouragements, acts of kindness, crazy tasks, silly photo/video... If you haven’t been in, please contact 979-472-0108 to join
College students/young adults
Join us for a Thursday night Zoom group https://us04web.zoom.us/j/259402845
Thursdays, 5pm-5:40pm
Easter is one of the most poignant displays of God’s giving to us. We have a tremendous opportunity to respond to this gift by offering ourselves — our prayers, presence, gifts, witness, and service — back to God.

Please consider what your gift to this year’s Easter Offering will be. Every gift bears witness to God’s action and activity all around us and deepens our own sense of living gratitude for the grace of God poured out into each of our lives. If you wish to give, you can simply write “Easter Offering” on the memo line of your check and mail it to the church or you may give to the Easter Offering through our new online giving feature http://www.fumccdale.org/.

Holy Week Worship services:

Palm Sunday - Join us online at 8:15, 9:30 or 10:45 a.m. on the church website (www.fumccdale.org) - Facebook Live and on the radio station AM1020 at 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - I am planning to share a Maundy Thursday worship service online at 7 p.m.

Good Friday - We will “virtually” join Grace UMC and Bethel AME churches at 7 p.m. through a Carbondale Grace Facebook Live event.

Easter Sunday - 8:15, 9:30 or 10:45 am. On the radio and facebook live at 10:45 a.m. Posted on YouTube by Sunday Morning. Though our Easter Worship is moving online, we are planning for it to be truly special. Plan to participate yourself and invite friends to join in online. Interestingly, the Sermon series we planned to launch on Easter is called “Closer and Closer!” At a time when we are isolating for the sake of others, there couldn’t be better news than the resurrection. Jesus returns in the flesh to be close once again with his friends and to bring them (and us) closer with one another.

Virtual Food Drive

The City of Carbondale has teamed up with the St. Louis Area Foodbank to host a Virtual Food Drive in response to COVID-19. The online food drive allows participants to shop for food pantries’ most needed items such as canned goods, beef stew, and macaroni and cheese. The virtual drive also allows for cash donations. The St. Louis Area Foodbank provides food to two pantries in Carbondale; the Good Samaritan House and the Victory Dream Center.

To donate to our virtual drive, follow this link. https://vad.techbridge.org/vfdhtml.cfm?driveid=49369 For more information, contact Public Relations Officer Roni LeForge at 618-559-1939.