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.”

Learning to trust God is one of the hardest lessons for Christians to learn. We want to rely on ourselves. I appreciated a passage I read in preparation for last Sunday’s sermon about God’s Faithfulness. It’s by Katherin Willis Pershey, a pastor in Western Springs, Illinois and frequent contributor to the Christian Century. She reminds us about a character in fiction who gives us a glimpse of how we sometimes feel about having to rely on God.

“Miss Cornelia is one of the characters who vividly populates the Anne of Green Gables novels. She is a churchgoing lady, a devout Christian. One morning she asks Miss Susan about the health of a mutual friend. Miss Susan replies, “Oh, I’m afraid she’s going to have to rely on the Lord now.” Miss Cornelia responds with horror. “Oh no! Surely it isn’t as bad as all that! To be sure, to believe God is faithful is not to believe that our every prayer will be answered just so. But for all her piety, entrusting her friend to God feels like a lost cause, a last resort.”

We must remember the biblical promise: God is faithful. The first time I encountered the concept of God’s faithfulness, I didn’t have the foggiest idea what it meant. Faithfulness was something I ascribed to humans, not God. God was the object of faithfulness, not its subject. Yet the Scriptures bear witness, implicitly and explicitly, to the faithfulness of God. God remembers the covenant. God does not abandon God’s people. God does not break God’s word. God does not withhold forgiveness. God does not hide God’s face. God is profoundly faithful.

All this—despite the fact that we do often forget the covenant. We abandon God. We break our word. We withhold confession. We turn our faces away from God. In a word, we are often faithless. But God? Never.” (A Preacher’s Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series, Page 14)

We know God is trustworthy, but too often we wait until our strength fails before we turn to God’s strength. But the scripture testifies: “The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?” ~ Psalms 27:1 Let’s walk in God’s strength everyday. “Too often we trust our own wisdom until we run up against a situation where none of our answers is adequate. Scripture reminds us “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” ~ Proverbs 1:7 We can walk in God’s wisdom every day.”

God Bless, Pastor Howard
In Church This Week

**January**

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Sharon & John Sims & family on the death of her Uncle, Harold Gee, who passed away on January 10, 2020.

Calendar Dates for 2020: Please come in to the Church Office and write in or call in your church-related events held in February 2020 on the Office Calendar as soon as possible.

Volunteer Opportunity: A volunteer is needed for Nametags for the month of August. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

Altar Flowers: The next available dates for Altar Flowers are February 2, 16 and April 26. Altar Flowers cost $49. Flowers should be paid for in the Church Office prior to the designated Sunday.

Late Service Communion Committee Coordinator opportunity—Coordinator will find volunteer leaders and assistants to set up and clean up for the 10:45 communion service for each month of this year (2020).

**February**

### 23 Thursday
- 4:00: Chimes
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal

### 24 Friday
- 9:30: Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 7:8:30: Youth Group, Roller Skating, Marion

### 25 Saturday
- 10:30: Lois Payne, Visitation, FUMC
- 11:00: Lois Payne, Memorial Service, FUMC

### 26 Sunday - Third Sunday after Epiphany
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service
- 12:00-2:00: Confirmation Class, Room 409
- 3:00-5:00: Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410, Fellowship Hall

### 27 Monday
- 6:00: Finance Committee, Room 308
- 6:30-8:00: Making Sense of the Bible Class, Heritage Room
- 7:00: Church Council, Heritage Room
- 7:30-8:30: Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall

### 28 Tuesday
- 9:00: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00-11:30: Making Sense of the Bible Class, Heritage Room
- 8:10 pm: Serving Coffee, SIU Morris Library

### 29 Wednesday
- 9:00: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00: Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 10:11:30: Making Sense of the Bible Class, Heritage Room
- 8:10 pm: Serving Coffee, SIU Morris Library

### 30 Thursday
- 4:00: Chimes
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 6:00: Financial Peace University, Heritage Room
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### 31 Friday
- 9:30: Golden Yoga, Room 404

### 1 Saturday
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service
- 12:00-2:00: Confirmation Class, Room 409
- 3:00-5:00: Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410, Fellowship Hall

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - AFTER SERVICES**

### 2 Sunday - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service
- 12:00-2:00: Confirmation Class, Room 409
- 3:00-5:00: Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410, Fellowship Hall

### 3 Monday
- 6:30-8:00: Making Sense of the Bible Class, Heritage Room
- 7:30-8:30: Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall

### 4 Tuesday
- 8:30: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00: Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 10:11:30: Making Sense of the Bible Class, Heritage Room

### 5 Wednesday
- 4:45: Handbells
- 6:00: Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 6:30: FUMC Next Video-Heritage Room

### 6 Thursday
- 1:00: Priscilla Circle
- 4:00: Chimes
- 5:00-6:00: College Student/Young Adult Group, Youth Room
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 6:00: Financial Peace University, Heritage Room
- 6:00: Education Committee
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**February 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Golden Yoga, Room 404</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Confirmation Class, Room 409</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410, Fellowship Hall</td>
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* A fee is charged.
Disciples for Sunday, January 26, 2020

Altar Flowers are given by Barb and Doug Bedient in memory of our parents and in honor of Margo and John and their families.

Acolytes: 8:15: Paige Hefferman
          10:45: Steve Mitchell
Indoor Greeters: The Matzenbacher Family
Liturgists: 8:15: Bill Crippen
           10:45: Linda White
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Scott Wright
                          10:45: Ron Browning
January Ushers: Dan Anderson III and Michael Koch,
               Co-Captains: 8:15 Doug Bedient, Steve Mitchell, Scott Wright; 10:45 Donna & Don Bryant, Jr., Gene Morgan,
Children’s Church: Necia Jannings

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Joe & Kathy Swindell
              10:45: Sara & John Hinde
Outside Greeters: Jon & Sandy Gobert
Van Driver: Dan Anderson, III
Welcome Center: 8:15: Kathy Swindell
               10:45: Angie Voss
January Nametags: Betty Graig
Parish Nurses: 9:15 Sharon Meyer; 11:45 Dana Oberg
Children’s Church Regis.: George & Shirley Everingham
Youth Helper: Super Church

Disciples for Sunday, February 2, 2020—Communion Sunday

Acolytes: 8:15: Madison Voss, Rayna Lucas
Indoor Greeters: Alison & Trent Funk & Family
Liturgists: 8:15: Steve Mitchell
            10:45: Debbie Asaturian
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Joe Swindell
                           10:45: Keven Mitchell
February Communion Ushers (10:45) George Everingham,
Jan Waggoner, Bill Shanks
February Communion Committee: 8:15: Sue Stucky;
Kathy Hollister; 10:45: Setup-Jan Weiss; Cleanup-Jan Weiss

Coffee Hosts: 8:15: Deanna & Ron Diel
              10:45: 
Outside Greeters: John & Sally Washburn
Van Driver: Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15: Barb Bedient
               10:45: Elaine Crain
February Nametags: Linda Meredith
February Ushers: 8:15: Sue & Duane Stucky; 10:45: Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Krishna Balasubramanian,
                   Lori Palmer, Will Stephens
New Year, Same Promises

Our new sermon series started on January 12th!
"New Year, new you!" This is the message we get from pop culture,
year after year. We vow to make changes to our diet, exercise habits
or lifestyle, but instead of those resolutions, most things stay the same. This may be cause
for disappointment, but there is some consistency we can celebrate. God’s promises to us
do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. Rather than focusing our energy
and attention on making (an in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, come to Cross-
roads for our "New Year, Same Promises" series, and let’s spend the first part of the new
year learning about and appreciating God’s unbreakable promises.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
Begins THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Join us as we learn about the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more.
This 9 week course includes workbook, lessons, access to website and online com-
munity, budgeting tools and much more.
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12—no class, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2
Childcare will be available if needed.
Cost is $80/family
To register or for more information, contact Necia 457-2416

A New Young Adults And College Students Group

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING 2/6, 5-6PM, FUMC CARBONDALE

Relax and share spiritual life and experiences in the week
Seek rich fellowship and mutual accountability
Scriptural conversation and prayer!
Other fun activities

Please help spread the news and pray for it, and contact Yiwen for any
question/concern/interest: yiwenb@fumc-cdale.org, 618-457-2416
SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children’s Opportunities, Sundays

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (K-5th grade) uses the Deep Blue from Cokesbury. Main Topic: “Jesus Leads the Community” - - Jan. 26 Sunday School—“Jesus Sends the Disciples” Main Topic: “Leaders of the Community” - Feb. 2 Sunday School—“Deborah”

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.

Youth Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Junior/Senior High Class meets in the Youth Room and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Renew Class - Renew is a multi-generational Women’s Study Group that focuses both on the Bible and devotional books enhancing scriptural study. All women are welcome!! We meet in the Chapel, Room 404. On January 12th, we will begin a six-session study using Adam Hamilton’s book: The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life. This is a 6-week study focusing on “five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is a part of our daily walk with Christ and an essential part of growing together in the church.”

The Electives Class - Scripture studies following the lectionary led by Rev. John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities

FUMCNext-Carbondale meets in the Heritage Room. Help us explore ways we can share the love of Christ with all people? Come share your ideas. Looking forward to seeing you!

Gentle Toning, Stretch, and Yoga Techniques meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Rm 404, the Chapel.

Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Rm 404, the Chapel. A fee is charged for this class.

Grateful Hearts is a group of women who meet to strengthen their faith through Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. The group is studying How Happiness Happens by Max Lucado on Wednesdays, at 6 p.m. in room 308. All women are welcome.

Men’s Group All men of the church are invited to coffee and refreshments on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. We discuss anything and everything from the perspective of our relationship with God.

Saturday Night Live is a group of “mature” or “maturing” adults who meet monthly for dinner and fellowship. The group usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Watch the Asburian calendar for dates and location information. Everyone is welcome.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. Time and location to be determined each week.

2020 Birthdays

Best wishes to these church members and friends.

February 2
Judy Cunningham
Nancy Mitchell
Matthew Mitchener
Maddie Poshard
Amanda Shelby

February 3
Matteo Bongiorno
Patti Simon
Lisa Washburn-Owens
Ron Diel
Natalie Nickerson
Phillip Ripley
Joe Bryant
Baleigh Koester
Tevin Taylor

February 4
Meghan Hagedorn
Luan Neal

February 5
Joey Bryant
Laura Depolo
JoAnn Rice

February 6
Joanna Durr-Gil
Carlise Hinde
Cayden Hinde

February 7
John Bedient
Callie Scott
Gayle Stearns
Ed Tresnak

February 8
Drew Hudgins
Maggie Mandell
Mollie Mandell
Beth Arthur
Doug Ellis
Nicholas Harfst
Peter Huh
John Verduin, III
Karen Graham
Nancy Sheeley-Mendoza
Gary Austin
Joan Erickson
Jay Crippen
Jefferson Wright

February 9
Laura Depolo
JoAnn Rice

February 10
February 11
John Bedient

February 12
Molly Bishop
Harper Cook
Emily Jung
Natalie Walker
Becky Baker
Celia Butler
Amani Joi Roberts
Adelyn Tallman
Joseph Toe
Mattia Bongiorno
Patti Simon
Lisa Washburn-Owens
Ron Diel
Natalie Nickerson
Phillip Ripley
Joe Bryant
Baleigh Koester
Tevin Taylor
Meghan Hagedorn
Luan Neal

February 13
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Joey Bryant
Laura Depolo
JoAnn Rice

February 5
Joanna Durr-Gil
Carlise Hinde
Cayden Hinde

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John Bedient
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Gary Austin
Joan Erickson
Jay Crippen
Jefferson Wright

February 8
Violet Fager
Maryl Meeboer
JoAnn Rice

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Laura Depolo
JoAnn Rice

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Joanna Durr-Gil
Carlise Hinde
Cayden Hinde

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John Bedient
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