December 1st
First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

The Sermon:  “The Night Is Far Gone”
Rev. Howard White

Scripture: Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24: 36-44

Anthem:
8:15 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
J. Walczyk, trumpet; R. Weiss, trombone

Hymns:
196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
214 Savior of the Nations; Come
720 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
569 We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations

December 8th
Second Sunday of Advent

The Sermon:  “Be Fruitful”
Rev. Howard White

Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12

Anthem:
8:15 Brightest and Best of the Stars
Handbell Choir

Hymns:
203 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
216 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
178 Hope of the World
211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.”

FIRST Thoughts

Excerpts from the Pastors Report to the 2019 Charge Conference.

Shortly after beginning at FUMC, I began to envision a congregation “sharing the heart of Christ from the heart of Carbondale.” It’s a vision acknowledging FUMC’s commitment to be a downtown church, but also our desire to share through evangelism and service. This vision has been embraced, and a number of members of the congregation have joined me in prayer every day at 2:14 p.m. (FUMC’s street address is 214) that we will be faithful to this calling. I am writing this on the 103rd day since we began praying. We are pleased by the positive attendance numbers this Fall. And my family is excited to experience our first Christmas season here with incredible missions and worship opportunities.

During these first months here I have focused on getting to know the people and systems of the Church. I have focused somewhat in the areas of hospitality and providing consistently high quality worship experiences. Many of our member have been inviting guests to worship with them. We have first time guests almost every Sunday, have been working to give them a good experience before, during and after attending worship. We do this both because it is the great commission and because it is the most effective way to spark growth. Importantly, I have gotten some volunteers to agree to be part of a FIRST Response team to assist in this area. In terms of worship, we have begun using sermon series, weekly sermon run-throughs, and an annual preaching calendar.

First UMC has been a financially healthy congregation for a number of years, but we have not been immune from the effects of the struggling local economy. Without final numbers, it appears that while total giving to First UMC is very high due to the level of support for the current renovation project, the portion pledged to the General Fund will be lower in 2020. In response, the Church Council approved a budget that is lower than 2019. On the positive side, our recent stewardship campaign included 58 new or increased pledges. We are exploring ways to develop the stewardship of our newer and younger members by increasing the number of ways to give and providing more education. Another thing I think will be important for the future funding of FUMC’s ministries will be our individual decisions to include FUMC in estate planning.

I am very excited for the coming year. Like this past year, we will provide significant service and financial support for missions near and far. We will continue to invite and attract new people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ and into a relationship with our church where they will grow as Disciples. I wake up every day excited to share the heart of Christ from the heart of Carbondale.

God Bless, Pastor Howard
In Church This Week

Nov. 28 to Dec. 12

Happy Thanksgiving

5 Thursday
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404 *

7 Saturday
8:30 Hanging of the Greens

8 Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent
March to the Manger
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship Service
NUT Sales (ASP Fundraiser)
5:00 Advent Music Vespers, Dr. Sydney G. Smith, MD - Organ
5:30-7 Scouts Girl Troop 66, Room 410
6:00 Carol Sing/Children’s Program, Fellowship Hall

9 Monday
7:30-8:30 Scouts Boy Troop 66, Fellowship Hall
8-10:00 Serving coffee at SIUC Morris Library

10 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404 *
8-10:00 Serving coffee at SIUC Morris Library

11 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by Appointment), Room 403
4:45 Handbells
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
6-7:00 Youth Group

12 Thursday
2:00 Rhonda Kelley & Volunteers to decorate church with Poinsettias
4:00 Chimes
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

* A fee is charged.

Asburian Notice: This week’s Asburian will cover Sundays, December 1 and 8. No Asburian will be published during the Thanksgiving week.

51st Annual Thanksgiving Day Meal, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, Noon-2 p.m., Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 S. Washington, Carbondale, IL. Call (618)529-331 for information on volunteering.

Saturday Night Live—Will not meet for December 2019 or January 2020.

Jack Whitlock Art Sale—605 W. Walnut, 11/24 and 12/7/19 (1 to 4 p.m.).

Spirit of Christmas Gifts—Gifts are due by or before Nov. 24. Contact Doug or Amy Baker at (618) 457-0630.

Save The Date: SOAR to New Adventures—Classes for Middle/High School & 1st to 5th Grade Students, Friday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m. to Noon. Registration forms will be available soon. Deadline for Registration is Dec. 15.

Save The Date: Coming Late January 2020—Financial Peace University. Contact Necia for more information.

Please Join us for the All Church “Hanging of the Greens” 8:30 a.m. • Saturday, December 7

This event is coordinated by Priscilla Circle.

Your participation is welcome. See you there!

Advent Music Vespers Programs
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December 1
Joe Walczyk-flugelhorn, trumpet;
Robert Weiss-narrator, trombone;
and Anita Hutton-piano

December 8
Dr. Sydney G. Smith, M.D.-organ

December 15
Anita Hutton-piano

December 22
Tammy Kirk-flute; Anita Hutton-piano
**Disciples for Sunday, December 1, 2019—1st Sunday of Advent—Communion Sunday**

Altar flowers are given by the Missions Committee thanking the congregation for their generosity.

- **Acolytes**: Olivia Bishop, Rayna Lucas
- **Indoor Greeters**: Jan Weiss, Carole Daesch
- **Liturgists**: 8:15: Ron Diet, 10:45: Will Stephens
- **Sound System Operators**: 8:15: Joyce Crippen, 10:45: Ron Browning
- **Communion Ushers**: Karl Bartelmseyer, Captain; George Everingham, Jan Waggoner
- **December Ushers**: John Washburn, Captain; 8:15 Bill Tally; 10:45 Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss
- **Coffee Hosts**: 8:15 Jan & Dick Verduin, 10:45 Pam & Steve Yarbrough
- **Outside Greeters**: Mike & Joyce Vancil
- **Van Driver**: Brian Gorecki
- **Welcome Center**: 8:15 Jan Verduin, 10:45 Evelyn Bailey
- **December Nametags**: Sheila Crippen
- **December Communion Committee**: (8:15) Henry & Judy Dillinger; Set Up: Millie Kaiser; Clean Up: Millie Kaiser, Shadi, Karen, Lexi and Logan Frick
- **Childrens Church**: Necia Jannings, Jennifer Woolridge
- **Youth Helpers**: Lily and Olivia Bishop

**Disciples for Sunday, December 8, 2019—2nd Sunday of Advent**

Altar flowers are given by Al and Mary Felthous in memory of our sister, Linda.

- **Acolytes**: Lexi and Logan Frick
- **Indoor Greeters**: Phil and Gail Gilbert
- **Liturgists**: 8:15: Paul McRoy, 10:45: Paul McRoy
- **Sound System Operators**: 8:15: Joe Swindell, 10:45: Kevin Mitchell
- **December Ushers**: John Washburn, Captain; 8:15 Bill Tally; 10:45 Don Bryant, Jr., Paul Chugh, Greg Gibson, John Hinde, Angie Voss
- **Coffee Hosts**: 8:15 Jan & Gary Austin, 10:45 Angie & Neil Voss, Jackie Cox
- **Outside Greeters**: Kathy Hollister
- **Van Driver**: Dan Anderson III
- **Welcome Center**: 8:15 Sara Pilger, 10:45 Judy McNeill
- **December Nametags**: Sheila Crippen
- **Parish Nurses**: (9:15) Betty Graig; (11:45) Dana Oberg

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**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Services

**Lessons & Carols**

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**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NEWS**

**Nov. 24**

UMW, Priscilla Circle Annual Potluck, Beary Christmas Tree Setup, Noon, Heritage Room

**Dec. 7**

Priscilla Circle, 8:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

**Dec. 17**

Morning Circle, Christmas Lunch

Time: 11:30 a.m. Location: Hunan’s

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November** is when we are especially grateful. That reminds us of Thanksgiving. The holiday of Thanksgiving reminds us of all the good food we enjoy. Here are some tasty, nutritious fall foods that you may want to consider for your feast! **Pears** – contain high amounts of fiber, good to help regulate blood sugar and lower cholesterol. **Cauliflower** – contains high amounts of fiber, antioxidants and chemicals called glucosinolates that may have anti-cancer power. **Butternut squash** – contains lots of beta-carotene (which converts to vitamin A) which is good for your vision. **Beets** – are rich in antioxidants and nitrates which help the blood vessels and blood flow. **Walnuts** – provide you with a type of heart healthy omega-3. They are a good way to replace animal protein with plant based protein thus reducing saturated fats.
Almost Christmas—a Weslyan Advent Experience

New 4-week study. Join in for any or all sessions.
Everyone is welcome!

When: 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15
Time/Location: 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School hour in Room 402
Led by: Leah Farrar-White

March to the Manger

Sunday, December 8

The children will be bringing unwrapped gifts to be presented at March to the Manger on Sunday, Dec. 8 during both services. These gifts will be taken to Jesus es el Senor, the Hispanic Ministry at Cobden for distribution to children in their community. Please bring your unwrapped gifts and leave them at the manager during either service.

Sharing Christmas

New Items Only please.
Toy cars & trucks
Dolls
Toy dishes
Soccer balls
Basketballs
Football
Educational toys, puzzles and games
Christian children's books
Christian music CD's
Christian DVD's
Toddler Toys
Building blocks

Toy cars & trucks
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Toy dishes
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Building blocks

“Peace, Peace” anthem with the Sanctuary Choir Sunday, Dec. 8

The children will be singing the anthem during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 8. We will rehearse with the choir at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on Dec. 8. Pick up a CD in the narthex.
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: "Church Communities Celebrate Jesus" - Dec. 1 Sunday School—"Mary's Story" - Dec. 8 Sunday School—"Joseph's Story"

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.

Almost Christmas - A Wesleyan Advent Experience. This is a new four-week study. Join in for any or all sessions. Class will meet on 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, and 12/22. Time and Location are 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour in Room 402. This class will be led by Leah Farrar-White.

Renew Class - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. The group is studying Holy Spirit Here and Now by Trevor Hudson. They meet in the Chapel. Women of all ages are welcome.

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.

The Daniel Plan Essentials meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. They are studying the series The Science of Natural Healing. Everyone welcome.

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.