Dear Friends,

I was thinking the other day about how it takes a lot of people to make our church function the way it needs to. There are a lot of unnoticed jobs that get done week after week and on special occasions like Christmas. For example, this morning and afternoon people were here “un-decorating” the large Christmas tree that was in the sanctuary. Then, some folks came, sawed it up, and hauled it away. On Thursday, at 1 p.m., there will be a whole crew of people here to take the rest of the decorations down for another year. This kind of thing happens all of the time. People come in and do a task then leave. Some of them put away name tags from our Sunday services. Others pick-up our green attendance sheets each Sunday. Some go through the sanctuary and put hymnals back in the racks on the back of the pews. The list could go on and on. Let me say I, as pastor, appreciate all of you who do these tasks. When I first came here someone asked me who found persons to be liturgist and who found the greeters for each week. I said, “I don’t really know, all I know is we have them every week and I appreciate it.”

This kind of “work” makes the church run smoothly and certainly is important week after week. These are not jobs someone gets paid to do, they are jobs that people volunteer to do. This applies to those who get the volunteers and those who are the volunteers. This is what “service” is. Service is when we do things for the sole reason that it needs to be done knowing that there isn’t pay involved and often not any recognition other than what we see each week.

What I have noticed over the years, in whatever church I have pastored, that the “busy” people are the ones who volunteer for jobs around the church. This isn’t true always but more times than not. These people don’t complain about what they have to do they just do it. I remember there have been times when someone has been doing something and they have come to me complaining about all they have to do and how no one appreciates what they do. I often apologize because I probably am the one who should tell them I appreciate what they do. Then, I follow that up with, “Would you like for me to find someone else to do this?” I am not trying to be a smarty but I don’t want anyone to do something that they do not want to do. Then I have them every week and I appreciate it.

What I have noticed over the years, in whatever church I have pastored, that the “busy” people are the ones who volunteer for jobs around the church. This isn’t true always but more times than not. These people don’t complain about what they have to do they just do it. I remember there have been times when someone has been doing something and they have come to me complaining about all they have to do and how no one appreciates what they do. I often apologize because I probably am the one who should tell them I appreciate what they do. Then, I follow that up with, “Would you like for me to find someone else to do this?” I am not trying to be a smarty but I don’t want anyone to do something that makes them unhappy. Serving God and the church should be something that brings us joy and a great attitude while serving. There have been very few times when people have been asked to do something that they have said “no” and I seldom hear someone complain. This great spirit of service is what makes this a great church.

See You Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

Altar Flowers Needed
The 2019 flower chart is hanging up in its usual spot for sign-ups.

February 3 and 17 are still open. They are the same price of $49. Rosebuds are $10.

Please call the Church office if you are interested in filling one of these dates.

Thank you:

Thank you for all the prayers and greeting cards that were sent to me.

Paulette Milroy

Call for Volunteers:
We need volunteers to be Usher Captains for May/November 2019. Regular Ushers needed at 8:15 a.m. for February/August and June/December. Call the Church Office to volunteer.

Save the Date:
The first Saturday Night Live for 2019 will be held on February 2, 2019, hosted by Steve and Pam Yarbrough. The location will be announced soon.

Disciples for Sunday, January 13, 2019
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Joe and Kathy Swindell; 10:45 Marianne & Steve Lather
January Nametags: Betty Graig
Outside Greeters: John & Sally Washburn
Van Drivers: Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15 Jon Gobert; 10:45 Matt and Laura Bishop
Children's Church: Tabitha Koch Youth Helpers: Abby and Michael Koch
Children's Church Registration: Doug & Amy Baker
Parish Nurse: 8:15 Sharon Meyer; 10:45 Dana Oberg

CONCERNS

If you would like yourself or a family member removed from or placed on the Concerns List, please notify the office (457-2416). The information on this sheet is printed on Thursday mornings.
Ringers needed. One or two handbell ringers are urgently needed for our handbell choir in the new year. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. All you need are basic rhythm reading skills. Please contact Bob Weiss (rweiss@siu.edu or 618-203-1672) if you are interested.

Join Us

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for undergraduate students during 2019-2020 school year.

Please apply online at www.wesleyfoundationsofillinois.org/scholarships/

Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college or university that the student will be attending during the 2019-2020 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of $500. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2019.

If you have any questions, contact Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org or Amy Shreve at ashreve@igrc.org.

Please note: There is no way to save this application in process. Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to review or edit it. It is recommended that you review the entire application process before beginning.

STORYTIME BEGINS ON JANUARY 9, 2019

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

Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library

Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught us to live and love.

The 2019 Daily Bible Reading Guide is available:

Paper copies are in the Narthex on the Welcome Center counter and in the Church Office

&

On-line at http://www.fumc-cdale.org/current-forms (choose Resources and Forms)

2019 DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

PRISCILLA CIRCLE
Church UN-DECORATING time is here!

Join us Thursday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m.

TO ALL WHO ATTEND THE 8:15 a.m. SERVICE

Do you enjoy a cookie or donut after first service? Perhaps a refreshing glass of orange juice before Sunday School begins?

Providing treats after church service is an easy way to serve, because Methodists are not picky eaters. Whether the treats are store purchased or home made, none are ever left.

Beginning in January, some individuals who have contributed for many years will no longer be available. Volunteers are needed!

If you are willing to help, please contact Kathy Swindell (618-529-5727)
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: “Healing Families” — January 13 Sunday School—“Jesus Heals”
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 Room 414 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 - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. They meet in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.
The Investors Class - The Investors Class will resume THE STORY CONTINUES in Room 404, the Chapel on December 30. Everyone 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
The Daniel Plan Essentials meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Everyone welcome.
Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They are studying Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado.
Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.
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.

GENTLE TONING, STRETCH, AND YOGA TECHNIQUES meets on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 404, the Chapel.
Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Room 404, the Chapel.

Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey.

PARISH NURSE COMMUNITY NEWS

REMEMBER TO DRINK LOTS OF FLUIDS, STAY AT HOME TO REST, AND PRACTICE GOOD HANDWASHING, WHETHER YOU HAVE A COLD OR THE FLU!

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