Dear Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Yes, it is 2019 and a new year is before us. What will this year hold for you? Do you have any plans for this year that are different than last? Have you made any “New Year’s Resolutions?” It is always exciting when a new year comes, isn’t it. Sometimes we have things planned or events coming in a new year that make it exciting. Then, there are things coming in a new year that may cause us anxiety. Sometimes there were happenings that took place in the past year that we are glad to leave behind and get a new start.

I always see a new year as a time that has freshness about it. I often see a new year as a chance to “clean house” so to speak and get rid of some “stuff” that I have carried around in the previous year. I often say to myself that I am not going to pick up so much baggage in the new year. By this I mean I am going to let go of things I can’t change or fix. I tell myself not to worry about things that are not really that important and just enjoy the time and soak in all of the good things that a new year will bring. Of course, I never completely reach this goal but at least I do think about situations and concerns more and make decisions a bit more carefully as well as I find my anxiety level isn’t as high.

I have never been a person that is a “resolution” person, but I do decide to make some changes each year. These changes are often just small things that I can see that need to be addressed. For example, in past years I have decided to not let my desk accumulate stuff, to begin each day with a more in-depth devotion, to listen more to people and talk less, and the list could go on and on. Most of the time these changes I keep and I find myself pleased with the result. For me to make a “big” resolution and keep it is not who I am. If you are that is great, I am just not that kind of person. I like to take “small bites” of things and not try to bite off more than I can realistically accomplish.

However you choose to begin 2019, I hope and pray that you find something grand and special. In this new year, I pray that all you experience will draw you closer to God regardless whether those experiences are good or bad or something you anticipated or something you didn’t. I also pray that, as a congregation, we will all seek God’s guidance to be the church in 2019 that God wants us to be.

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

See You Sunday,

Alan

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.”
In Church This Week

**January**

**Thursday**
- 4:00: Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga — **NOT MEETING**
- 6:00: Education Committee, Atrium
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Friday**
- 9:30: Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Saturday**
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service

**Sunday**
- 8:15: Communion Sunday
- 9:00: Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403
- 10:15: Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Monday**
- 8:30: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00: Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403
- 10:15: Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Tuesday**
- 9:00: Daniel Plan Essentials, Room 403
- 10:15: Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Wednesday**
- 10:00: Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library, Room 413
- 6:00: Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 6:00: Youth Group — **NOT MEETING UNTIL JAN. 16th**

**Thursday**
- 1:00: UN-Decorating of the Church — Everyone Welcome!!
- 4:00: Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415 — **NOT MEETING**
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm. 404 — **NOT MEETING**
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**Friday**
- 9:30: Golden Yoga, Room 404

**Saturday**
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service

**Sunday**
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:00: Sunday School
- 10:45: Worship Service

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**Prime Timers**

**WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY OR MARCH**

We plan to resume in April. Watch the Asburian for News!!!

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**TIME TO DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS**

Recycle your plastic GROCERY and DEPARTMENT store bags! The Murphysboro Food Pantry needs them for their patrons to carry their food home in.

Contact Laura Depolo with any questions at 618/967-4986

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**Altar Flowers Needed**

The 2018 flower chart is hanging up in its usual spot for sign-ups.

January 20 and 27 and 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.

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**In Sympathy:**
Sympathy to Harold Osborn & family on the death of his wife, Doris, who passed away on December 27, 2018.

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**Thank You:**
The Church Office staff would like to thank everyone for the Christmas cards and goodies this year.

**Big Thank You:**
“A big thanks to everyone for buying nuts, helping or supporting the fundraiser for the youth ASP trip in summer 2019. All the nuts are sold out.”

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**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.

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**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.

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**Disciples for Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Sharon & Larry Meyer; 10:45 Sue & Ed Tresnak

**January Nametags:** Betty Graig

**Outside Greeters:** Doug Bedient

**Van Drivers:** Dan Anderson III

**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Kathy Swindell; 10:45 Terri Glasser

**January Ushers:** Dan Anderson III and Michael Koch, Co-Captains; 8:15 Doug Bedient, Steve Mitchell, Scott Wright 10:45 Donna & Don Bryant, Jr., Gary Hill, Gene Morgan
IGRC scholarship application process opened December 1, 2018

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.wesleyfoundationsofflinois.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.

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)

STORYTIME BEGINS ON JANUARY 9, 2019

Parents and children are invited to join us

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

Priscilla Circle

Church UN-DECORATING time is here!

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

BEARY CHRISTMAS THANK YOU! 163 Animals were taken to the Pediatric Ward to be adopted.

Thank you! Priscilla Circle
**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: “Healing Families” — January 6 Sunday School — “Magi Seek a Healer”

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.

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**UMCOR** sent thanks for $200 contributed to UMCOR – Where Most Needed on November 7. This contribution helps fight poverty and hunger, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters. Giving through the Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world.

The Alzheimer’s Association announces that Vicky Patel has agreed to donate an extraordinary $1 million to the Association if it can raise that same amount by **January 15, 2019**. Contributions can be sent to the Alzheimer’s Association, Illinois Chapter, 8430 West Bryn Mawr Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60803. Remember these 10 signs of the disease:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life;
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems;
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure;
4. Confusion with time or place;
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships;
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing;
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps;
8. Decreased or poor judgments;
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities;
10. Changes in mood and personality.

Does September 28, 2018 ring a bell with anyone? Probably not for most of us. But the 110 residents of Shitete, Tanzania will long remember that day. The Marion Medical Mission completed Shitete’s fresh water well at 9:14 a.m. that day. Check out the bulletin board and see a picture of the event. The village had not had a clean water source. Their well was funded by FUMC. Mark 9:41: “Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.” Thank you for your support of the Missions Committee that permits us to serve in many parts of the world.

Thank you for the outstanding support you have provided for our mission activities.

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The last 5th Sunday Loose Change Offering in 2018 will occur on December 30, 2018.

Contributions made to this offering will be included in the March to the Manger Program.

Thank you for your support of this mission effort. Your contributions have helped numerous local agencies serve those in need.

The Missions Committee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date: From October 1, 2018 through, December 31, 2018, the following memorials were received.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Sue Arndt**  
**General Memorials**  
John & Aveniel Cherry |
| **Ethan Baker**  
**Outside Maintenance Fund**  
Harry Schulz Jr. |
| **Ethan Baker**  
**Spirit of Christmas**  
Harry W Schulz, Jr. |
| **Dick Bradley**  
**Music Fund**  
Cynthia Massie  
Dick & Carole Daesch  
Bill & Claudia Broom  
Della Fulk |
| **Dick Bradley**  
**Music Fund-NYC**  
Joe Powers/Duane Cole |
| **Bob Buser**  
**General Memorials**  
Doug & Barb Bedient  
Donald & Shirley Beggs  
Mike & Michell Neill  
Nelda Hinckley  
John Karmos & Cheryl Presley  
Doug & Lareea Bradley  
Margaret & Edward T Simonds  
Nelle M. Everitt  
Jan Wagner |
| **Bob Buser**  
**Music Fund**  
Robert & Jan Weiss  
Anita Hutton  
Sharon Ranmar  
Andrew & Janet Earnst  
Brian & Donna Butler  
Phyllis Joseph  
Ruth Parker |
| **Bob Buser**  
**Pastors Benevolent Fund**  
Joe & Kathy Swindell  
John & Aveniel Cherry  
Bernadette Kelly  
Class of 1957 Pendleton HS, Pendleton, IN  
By Sherry Boram |
| **Fern DesJarnett**  
**General Memorials**  
Betty Hamilton |
| **David L. Gobert**  
**Music Fund-Chairs**  
Sandy Gobert |
| **Conrad Hinckley**  
**General Memorials**  
Doug & Barb Bedient  
John & Aveniel Cherry  
Gordon & Carol White  
Duane & Sue Stucky  
Neil Clausen  
Armen & Deborah Asaturian  
Keith & Susan Krapf  
Carolyn Saunders  
Della Fulk  
Michael & Joanna Christopher  
George & Sue Trammell  
Jared & Maryann Doen  
Harriet Simon  
Paul & Evangeline Chugh  
Bob & Jan Weiss  
Frances Shipllett  
Phil & Michiko Eberle  
George & Ammerhead T Simonds  
Nelle M. Everitt  
Jan Wagner |
| **Conrad Hinckley**  
**Music Fund**  
Andrew & Janet Earnest  
Sharon Ranmar  
Bob & Jan Weiss  
Jane Robertson  
Gail & Linda White  
Cynthia Massie  
Brian & Donna Butler  
John & Carolyn Hooker |
| **Conrad Hinckley**  
**Music Fund-continued**  
Don & Mary Stucky  
Phyllis Joseph  
Betty Buzeb  
Jan Waggoner |
| **Conrad Hinckley**  
**Music Fund - NY Trip**  
Anita Hutton  
Anna Marie Burke |
| **Conrad Hinckley**  
**Pastor's Benevolent Fund**  
Joe & Kathy Swindell |
| **Louise Jeffords**  
**Pastors Benevolent Fund**  
Joan Hart  
Anita Hutton  
Doug & Barb Bedient  
Bill & Joyce Crippen  
Gail & Linda White  
William & Evelyn Bailey  
Phyllis Joseph  
Dan & Barb Kimmel  
Betty Hamilton |
| **Sam Jennings**  
**Music Fund**  
Andrew & Janet Earnest |
| **Charlotte Johnson**  
**Pastor's Benevolent Fund**  
Joe & Kathy Swindell |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**Building Fund**  
Don & Jean Boehne  
Anita Hutton |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**General Memorials**  
John & Laane Watson  
Ron Browning  
The Crain Family, Elaine, Bill & Sharon, Bryan  
Stacey  
Nelda Hinckley  
Dan and Barbara Kimmel  
Judith C. Lewis  
Gail & Linda White  
Gordon & Carol White  
Harriet Simon |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**General Memorials-continued**  
Betty Hamilton  
Doug & Barb Bedient  
Betty Bishop |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**Library Fund**  
Harry W Schulz, Jr. |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**March to the Manager**  
Harry W Schulz, Jr. |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**Music Fund**  
Anna Marie Burke |
| **Sidney Matthews**  
**Pastors Benevolent Fund**  
Joe & Kathy Swindell |
| **Charles Murden**  
**Building Fund**  
Harriet Christy |
| **Robert Reid**  
**General Memorials**  
Betty Hamilton |
| **Robert Reid**  
**Building Fund**  
Mike & Emma Jean Durr |
| **Frank & Imogene Schneur**  
**General Memorials**  
Loren Mason |
| **Bill Warner**  
**General Memorials**  
Doug & Barb Bedient  
John & Aveniel Cherry  
Duane & Sue Stucky  
Betty Bishop  
Betty Hamilton |
| **Bill Warner**  
**Music Fund**  
Cynthia Massie |
| **Bill Warner**  
**Pastor's Benevolent Fund**  
Joe & Kathy Swindell |