Dear Friends,

I was listening to the radio this morning and the temperature in Anchorage, Alaska was 43° when our temperature was 4°. The newscaster recommended that we all move to Alaska! I thought that was interesting, but not enough to cause me to move to Alaska. Yes, it is cold here, but it won’t stay this way forever, and Alaska has long and dark winters that I don’t think I would get used to.

I was thinking the other day about how we change our daily pattern of life when we have something such as cold weather, like what we have had this past week. I notice that when I get home from work, I really don’t want to get out again. I know of a couple of nights when Connie and I really didn’t have anything for dinner that we wanted, so we just made toast, put some peanut butter on it, and called it dinner. That was good enough. There are times when peanut butter on toast just would not work, but this time it did. There may have even been times when I have worried about not having something else to eat; but not this time.

Yes, the weather will change back to what we call “normal” for our area, but until then, we have to deal with what we have - - and it is cold. Change can be good, can’t it? That is one of the reasons I like where I live. Here the seasons change and we are not hot all of the time or cold all the time. I like to watch the trees and flowers bloom (even though they do not bloom in winter). I like the fact that there comes a time when we don’t have to mow every week, even though I like to work outside.

I guess for me, change can be good and is not necessarily something I worry about or dread. Now, it isn’t always easy to go through change, but I keep reminding myself that change usually is not as bad as I thought it would be. This is true of most things we worry about, and dread isn’t it. We can get all worked up over something we know is coming and then, when it gets here, we realize that we worried about something we didn’t need to worry about. Whatever it was didn’t turn out like we feared it would. Now, this isn’t always true but it often is. Maybe that is why Jesus tried to impress on his listeners to worry is a waste of time. You remember that passage where Jesus admonishes the listeners to not worry about tomorrow and consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. He says that God takes care of them and makes them beautiful. And how much more God loves us, and surely God will take care of us. Read Matthew 6:25 for the whole message Jesus offers about worry. The last verse says a lot to me, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” I think the point here is to not let outside things rob us of enjoying life as a whole, and not let worry rob us of seeing and experiencing things in life. This can apply to change, to the cold weather, as well as any other event we have to face in life. So, the bottom line is that “yes” it is cold and “yes” it has been for a while, but “no” it won’t last forever and we don’t need to worry about it, even though it is warmer in Alaska than it is here. Just remember that we have a God who is trustworthy and true, and all will be well.

See you Sunday,

Alan
In Sympathy: Sympathy to family and friends of Beulah Guard, who passed away on November 24, 2017 in Springfield, IL.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Connie & Alan Rhein and family, on the death of her uncle, Neal Brasel, who passed away on January 7, 2018 in Peoria, IL.

Altar Flowers are needed: Altar flowers each Sunday help beautify the Sanctuary. Sign up to provide altar flowers on March 11. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

The right wardrobe can make all the difference in helping change the lives of others.

Vienna Correctional Center is seeking new as well as gently-used men’s clothing for their clothing closet.

Please help make a difference! Drop off your men’s clothing donations here in the Atrium and they will be delivered to the Vienna Correctional Center Clothing Closet.

Ways of giving that could be used for your stewardship commitment or the building fund

Have you updated your beneficiary list?

Have you had life changes? Divorce? Divorce of a child, grandchild or parent? Death of loved ones? Favorite charity closed? Every January, every person should review their beneficiaries for their wills; life insurance policies; IRA/retirement plan; trusts; and similar instruments. Be sure the names are correct; addresses are updated; statuses are current.

Be sure your intentions are up to date!

Disciples for Sunday, January 21, 2018

Outside Greeter: Don Frey
Van Drivers: John Graig and Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Sara & Ted Pilger; 10:45 Sara Hinde
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Kathy & Joe Swindell; 10:45 Lane & Joe Hudgins
Children’s Church: K-2nd Jennifer Woolridge; 3rd - 5th Necia Jannings
Children’s Church Registration: Amy & Doug Baker
January Nametags: Betty Graig
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.

CHECK IT OUT!!!!...

in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Tell Me About Baptism
by Stephen Elkins
“...teaches children what happens to us when we are baptized and why baptism is so important.” Part of the Train ‘Em Up interactive, fun-filled series of books about Christian beliefs and principles.

TIME TO DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS

Learn How You Can Help the Carbondale Mat Makers - Carbondale Mat Makers makes waterproof sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless. They meet on Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, at St. Andrews Episcopal. Anyone interested in helping is welcome! If you have any questions, please call Laura Depolo at 618-967-8986.

PLEASE DONATE MORE PLASTIC BAGS FOR MAT MAKING.
WE CAN ONLY USE THE GROCERY OR WAL-MART TYPE BAGS.

UMCOR acknowledged receipt of two donations in November 2017. Faith-based Advocacy to End Hunger received $199, and Disaster Response, United States received $250. These gifts help UMCOR to provide comfort to those impacted by disasters like earthquakes and storms, food for the hungry, and healthcare to those who otherwise would have none.

Thanks for the outstanding support of our mission activities.
Missions Committee

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Children’s Opportunities

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School - (K - 5th grade) uses Deep Blue from Cokesbury. The morning begins with music at 9:30 a.m. in Room 415.

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.

January Children’s Church - Jesus, in the Temple

Bible Story: Luke 2:41-52
Bible Verse: “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49)
Main Idea: God’s “house” is a comfortable place to learn, ask questions, and discover God’s plan for us.

Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.

Faith development through Bible lessons, emphasizing a relationship with God through Jesus.

Middle School meets in Room 410 and uses On the Go.

High School Class meets in Room 409 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

Adult Opportunities, 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 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.

The Investors Class - Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404 (the Chapel). Everyone welcome!

The Electives Class - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

Small Group Opportunities

The Daniel Plan meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 308.

Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH SUPER CHURCH, SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, AT 10:45 A.M.