ASBURIAN

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."

Pastor: The Rev. Alan R. Rhein
Associate: Tom Byford
Dir. of Christian Education: Necia Jannings
Prayer Chain: Email Sara Hinde at sjhinde04@gmail.com
Broadcast: 10:45 service is heard live on WCIL-AM (1020)
For van rides: Call the church office (457-2416)
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Dear Friends,

We are quickly approaching the season of Lent. It seems as though we just celebrated Christmas and now Lent is upon us. Lent does come early this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We will have our usual Ash Wednesday service, on February 14, at 7:00 p.m. Of course, that is Valentine’s Day as well. It seems a bit strange to have these two events on the same day, doesn’t it? I am sure it has happened before, but I can’t remember when. Anyway, both of these special days are about “love.”

First, on Valentine’s Day, we find a way to let those we love know that they are special to us. I can remember in grade school how we would make a “mail box,” then we would go to a store and buy a little package of Valentine’s Day cards; one for each student in our class, and put them in the “mail boxes” we had made. We often gave one to our teacher as well. It was exciting to see how many cards we got in our own box. I can also remember that there were some children in my class who couldn’t afford to buy valentines, and some others who didn’t get very many cards in their “mail box” because they were not popular. I can also remember feeling sad for them. There were times when some of my teachers bought cards and made sure those students, who would not receive many cards, found some in their box.

Second, Ash Wednesday is a day in the calendar of the church that has “love” behind it as well. Ash Wednesday is the day when we begin the season of Lent, and we start to focus on the suffering and death of Christ on the cross. The forty days that make up Lent, bring the teachings of Jesus to our attention, and how these lead to the cross and his death. His sacrifice on the cross is the act that brings us the forgiveness of our sins. It is a time when we look at “love” again, but in a different way. We look at the love of God in sending Jesus into the world and how, because of that love, we do have forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life. The great thing about this love is that there is no one left out, and it is the very foundation of our Christian faith.

So, as we approach Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday this year, may we remember those we love in a special way. May we also meditate on the love that God has for us, realize just how powerful that love is, and remember how no one is left out of that love because they cannot afford it, or because they are not popular enough.

May we focus more intently on the message of John 3:16, “For God so loved the world….”

See you Sunday,

Alan

Musings
**CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!**

No matter what part you sing, we can use you. There are many health benefits to singing, but the very best benefit is knowing that you are providing a special service to the church.

**IF YOU LIKE TO SING, PLEASE COME AND GIVE THE CHOIR A TRY**

7:00 P.M. ON THURSDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY

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**February Events**

**8 Thursday**
- 2:30: Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall & Bell Room
- 6:00: Finance Committee, Room 308
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

**10 Saturday**
- Transfiguration Sunday
- Boy Scout Sunday
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30: Confirmation Class, Room 403
- 10:45: Worship Service
- 12:00: Confirmation Class, Room 403

**12 Monday**
- 6:00: Board of Trustees, Room 308
- 7:00: Finance Committee, Room 308
- 7:00: Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

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

**14 Wednesday**
- Ash Wednesday
- 10:00: Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill
- Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library & Room 413
- 6:00: Scout Committee, Room 410
- 6:00: YOUTH GROUP CANCELED
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 8:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**15 Thursday**
- 2:15: Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
- 5:00: Memorials Committee, Heritage Room
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

**17 Saturday**

**18 Sunday**
- *First Sunday of Lent*
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30: Confirmation Class, Room 403
- 10:45: Worship Service

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**Health Concerns:**

Paul Cline and Fred Sobrey are in Memorial Hospital. Conrad Hinckley is at Manor Court.

**Save the Date:**

In the upcoming weeks, FUMC will be taking photos and gathering information for a **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**! Sign-up will begin in early March, and pictures will be taken in early April. Keep watching your Asburian and Sunday bulletin for more information. Thank you. Sally Washburn and Nancy Mitchell

**Save the Date:**

Mark your calendar and join us on Thursday, February 22, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for **PrimeTimers Luncheon and Program**. Our speaker, Dr. Mary Pohlmann, will give a talk on, **Good Stewards of our Bodies**. She will discuss preventive health screenings and immunizations. Luncheon $8.

**Save the Date:**

You are invited to a birthday reception to honor **Betty Crippen on her 90th birthday**, Saturday, February 24, 2018, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. We hope you will join us!

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

welcomes you to

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

February 14, 2018 • 7:00 P.M.
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
306 W. Monroe St.
Carbondale, IL
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch
12:15 p.m. Celebration
(Host Country: Suriname)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018
Boy Scout Sunday marks the founding of the Scouts in the United States. February 8, 1910 was the founding of the Boy Scouts of America by W.D. Boyce. The first Scout Sunday was in 1914. The Scout Law says that a “Scout is Reverent” and Scouts of all ages promise to do their “Duty to God.” These values strengthen youth character in their family, community, and faith. FUMC recognizes the value of scouting today, and throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE
Shipwrecked VBS 2018
July 22 - 26

CHECK IT OUT!!!... in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
An Easter Carol, by Cindy Kenney
“...Ebenezer Nezzer is confused about what Easter really means, and he’s determined to turn a little town in London into Easter Land. When he receives a visit from a tiny angel, Ebenezer gets a glimpse at what life might be like without the hope of a real Easter! With the help of his Veggie friends, Ebenezer discovers that Jesus is the hope of Easter and life everlasting.”

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS FOR CHILDREN
are now available in the Narthex

BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB 14

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
Get Ready for the Fun!!!
At “Camp Out”, kids will discover that Jesus is the light of the world in an afternoon outdoor camping adventure! Bible learning experiences, team-building games, cool camping songs, and Bible adventures are just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life.

This is a special afternoon event, noon - 6 p.m., for Carbondale First UMC. Come spend the afternoon with a great group of kids, as they experience Jesus at “Camp Out”. If you can sing a song, lead a hike, tell a story, play a game, or teach a craft, then your time and “FIRE” for Christ is needed. Help us make this a GREAT CAMP OUT for our kids.

When: Friday, April 20, 2018 - Noon - 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Methodist Camp at Little Grassy on Giant City Road
Who: Enthusiastic adults and youth are needed!!

CONTACT NECIA TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.
**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.

**February Children’s Church - Who Then Is This?**

**Bible Verse:** "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” (Mark 4:41)

**Main Idea:** Jesus shows God’s power.

**Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.**

**Grade 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 Class** - 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.

**Investors Class** - Investors Class are currently studying The Story of Heaven, by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. 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**

**Tuesday Morning Lenten Study** begins February 27, 10:00 a.m., in the Heritage Room. The study, “What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art,” is led by Pastor Alan. Sign up in the Narthex.

**Grateful Hearts** - Lenten Study, beginning Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 p.m., Room 308

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