Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the Building Committee has been meeting and working on a building proposal for, what some of you know as “Phase II”--remodeling of the older building of our church. If you are new to the church, this was a second “phase” that was to follow the adding of the Atrium and Class Rooms which we currently are using. Once “Phase I” was completed and paid for, then “Phase II” was to be done.

The Building Committee has a proposal to present to the congregation for “Phase II.” This proposal includes a new Music Room and Youth Room in the lower level of the church, as well as a remodeling of the whole downstairs. There is a proposed addition of two showers in the existing restrooms downstairs to accommodate visiting groups when they come and stay at the church while they travel to do mission work or other trips. This remodeling of the downstairs will include a new heating and cooling system. There is also some work proposed to be done, off of the Heritage Room, to create a family friendly restroom and a larger kitchen area. The final piece of the proposal is to replace all of the remaining heating and cooling system in the older structure. This will provide heating and cooling for all of the upstairs classrooms in the old structure, the Sanctuary, and Fellowship Hall.

There are two “Informational Meetings” planned for you to find answers to questions you might have about the project, and share what the anticipated cost of the project will be. Both of these meetings will share the same information and are set for:

- **Sunday, February 25, at 11:45 a.m.**, after our second service
- **Wednesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m.**

Both of these meetings will take place in the Sanctuary.

Then, on **Sunday, March 4, at 11:45 a.m.**, we will have a “Called Charge Conference” to vote on accepting the project. If the project is approved, we will then enter a commitment campaign to fund the project.

This is an important time in the life of First Church, and I hope you can attend one of the “Informational Meetings” and the called “Church Conference.” Also, I trust that you are praying about the vision and mission of our church as we attempt to move forward, by providing a more devoted area for our music and youth, as well as provide heating and cooling that is more dependable and more energy-efficient.

See you Sunday,

Alan

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**In Church This Sunday**

February 25, 2018

8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon:  “Cheap Things Never Last”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: Mark 8:31-38

Anthem:
8:15  Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Handbell Choir

10:45  Calvary’s Mountain
Sanctuary Choir, Paula McNally, soloist

Hymns:
545 The Church’s One Foundation
261 Lord of the Dance
415 Take Up Thy Cross
438 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

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**Second Sunday in Lent**

Altar flowers this week are given by Pastor Angie Kaye Ransom, in honor of the birthday of her husband, Rich Ransom.

**Indoor Greeters:** Lindsey & Darren, Ella and Margaret Bailey

**Acolytes:** 10:45 John and Madison Voss

**Sound System Operators:**
8:15 Joyce Crippen; 10:45 Keven Mitchell

**Liturgists:**
8:15 Nancy Keenan; 10:45 Doug Baker

**February Ushers:**
Mike Neill, Captain; 8:15 Susan and Don Frey
10:45 Krishna Balasubramanian, Ron Browning, Joe Lenzini, Lori Palmer and Will Stephens
22 Thursday
11:30 PrimeTimers Luncheon and Program, Fellowship Hall, Lunch $8
Speaker: Dr. Mary Pohlmann
2:15 Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

23 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
3:00 Gerald Fink Memorial Service, Chapel

11:00 (NOTE UPDATED TIME) Tuesday
Morning Lenten Study, led by Pastor Alan, Heritage Room. No book required for this study.

28 Wednesday
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Group, Fellowship Hall and Room 409
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
The Women of Easter, by Liz Curtis Higgs
7:00 Renovation Project Update
Informational Meeting, Sanctuary

26 Tuesday
11:45 Renovation Project Update,
10:45 Youth Super Church, Chapel
10:45 Worship Service

In Church This Week

MARCH
1 Thursday
1:00 Priscilla Circle, Room 210
2:15-5 Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
6:00 Education Committee, Room 410
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

2 Friday World Day of Prayer
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

3 Saturday
4 Sunday Third Sunday in Lent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Lenten Studies continue
9:30 CANCELED Confirmation Class,
10:45 Worship Service
11:45 Call Church Conference, Sanctuary

TIME TO DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS
Help the Carbondale Mat Makers -
PLEASE DONATE MORE PLASTIC BAGS FOR MAT MAKING.
WE CAN ONLY USE THE GROCERY OR WAL-MART TYPE BAGS.
A DROP BOX FOR YOUR DONATED BAGS IS IN THE ATRIUM.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Don & Edie Ahrendt, family and friends, on the death of their son, Larry Busby, who passed away on February 14, 2018.

New Church Directory:
March sign-up is right around the corner! Please take a moment to check your information on the roster on the table in the Narthex, make any changes on the scratch paper provided, and put it in the white box marked “corrections/updates.” Thank you!

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS! If you don’t think you’ll be back in time to sign up for your picture for the new directory, you can e-mail Nancy Mitchell at NANCYB25@MCHSI.com

Renovation Project Update:
Two informational meetings are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11:45 a.m. (after the second service) and Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7:00 p.m. Both will be held in the Sanctuary and are being offered to answer any questions you might have about the renovation, including the “Phase II” plans and anticipated cost of the project.

Special Call Church Conference: On Sunday, March 4, at 11:45 a.m., a “Called Charge Conference” will be held to vote on accepting the project. If the project is approved, we will then enter a commitment campaign to fund the project.

New Address Notice: Joyce and Bill Crippen have moved. Their new address is 486 Concord Court, Carbondale, IL 62901.

Cheers to 90 Years:
You are invited to a birthday reception in honor of Betty Crippen, this Saturday, February 24, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in the Heritage Room (Parlor).
The only gift requested is your presence! Hope you can join us!

Saturday Night Live: Saturday Night Live will NOT meet in March. See you all in April!

Red Cross Blood Drive:
On Monday, March 12, 2018, 1:30 - 5:45 p.m., in the Heritage Room, FUMC will host a Red Cross Blood Drive. LIFE’S A GIFT. GIVE MORE OF IT. DONATE BLOOD. www.redcrossblood.org

Disciples for Sunday, February 25, 2018
Outside Greeters: Joyce & Mike Vancil
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Don Bryant, Jr.
Welcome Center: 8:15 Kathy Swindell; 10:45 Sara Hindes
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Lyn Christy and Jeff Anderer; 10:45 Lynette & Barry Beaupre
Parish Nurse: (9:15 only) Mary Pohlmann
Children’s Church: K-2nd, Jennifer Woolridge; 3rd - 5th Necia Jannings
Children’s Church Registration: JoVonna Noble
February Nametags: Linda Meredith

Please Note: All church directories have been updated.  If you need more directories, please let us know.

February 25th New Church Directory:
Larry Busby, who passed away on February 14, 2018.
In Sympathy to Don & Edie Ahrendt, family and friends, on the death of their son, Larry Busby, who passed away on February 14, 2018.

TIME TO DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS
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Thank you to everyone for the tremendous help and support in 2017!!!
A WORD ABOUT THE SERVICE MUSIC FOR MARCH by Anita Hutton

Ah! Bach! Here is some interesting background on the upcoming service music for March 4, 11, and 18.

We begin with Johann Sebastian Bach (1684-1750), and continue with composers who revered Bach! Bach is quoted as saying “The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” Although an incredible musician and composer, he never sought “fame and fortune.” In fact, most of his music was quickly forgotten after his death. But, thanks to Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), the music of Bach was recovered, promoted and performed. Mendelssohn led the way for Bach’s work to continue to be heard today.

The service music for March 4 is taken from one of Bach’s English Suites: Prelude, Allemande, and Gigue. The English and French Suites were composed for the harpsichord or clavichord. The movements of both suites are based on dances of the era.

The service music for March 11 is composed by Robert Schumann (1810-1856). He studied the music of Bach and said it enriched his power of insight into how to write music, and insights into the creative powers of the human mind. The Postlude is a Gigue, much in the style of Bach. The Offertory, “Remembrance,” was written on the day of Mendelssohn’s death, Schumann’s close friend.

The service music for March 18 is composed by Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849). He urged his pupils to practice Bach every day to strengthen their fingers and exercise their minds with the mathematical music. Chopin began his practice every day with one or more of the Preludes and Fugues of Bach’s “Well-Tempered Clavier,” a two-volume set of 24 preludes and fugues, composed in every key. Chopin wrote his own set of 24 Preludes, no fugues, and you will hear one during the Offertory. Chopin’s piano music incorporates dance music from his native Poland and other countries. He took the then new genre of the “Nocturne” (invented by John Field) to a deeper level of sophistication. You will hear one of his beautiful Nocturnes at the Prelude, and a Mazurka (a lively Polish dance) at the Postlude.

The service music for March 25 is written on the day of Mendelssohn’s death, 1847, and continues with composers who revered Bach! Here is some interesting facts about Mendelssohn:

- He studied with Robert Schumann (1810-1856), and continued with composers who revered Bach! Bach is quoted as saying “The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” Although an incredible musician and composer, he never sought “fame and fortune.” In fact, most of his music was quickly forgotten after his death. But, thanks to Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), the music of Bach was recovered, promoted and performed. Mendelssohn led the way for Bach’s work to continue to be heard today.

WAYS OF GIVING THAT COULD BE USED FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT OR THE BUILDING FUND

TRUSTS/ENDOWMENTS: Do you have a passion for missions or youth ministry, or...? Consider setting up a trust or endowment to provide for the future ministries of your church. These can be established through a trust; a will that creates a trust or endowment; or just funding an endowment directly. To make sure you maximize your charitable deductions and insure your wishes are carried out, always speak with the Church pastor, as well as your attorney and tax accountant.

“Blessed Is He Who Comes” Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

The children of Sunday School and Children’s Church will be joining the Sanctuary Choir for the singing of the anthem, “Blessed Is He Who Comes,” on Palm Sunday, March 25, at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. The children will be practicing during the first few minutes of Children’s Church at the 10:45 a.m. service. Pick up a copy in the Narthex to practice at home.

On Palm Sunday, March 25, the children will rehearse with the Sanctuary Choir in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. At the 10:45 a.m. worship service, the children will join Necia for Children’s Time and remain for the anthem. They will be dismissed to Children’s church following the anthem.

LENTE FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONS

Each of these 47 devotions for children and their families highlight the saving love and daily guidance we receive from our Good Shepherd, Jesus, who lovingly leads us throughout our lives, past the cross, and toward the promise of life everlasting. The 23rd Psalm and other biblical shepherd stories help children learn of Jesus’ ever-present love.

Palm Sunday Parade

The children will meet in the Atrium before the start of the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 25, to prepare for the annual Palm Parade. Children of all ages are invited to join in this parade, as we wave the palm branches and celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem.

At the end of the first hymn, the children will sit together on the front pews to be ready to sing the anthem with the choir.

God Made the Sun by Mary Manz Simon

“...a celebration of God’s gift of daytime. Beginning with the first rays of sunlight and moving through the day, this book reminds little ones that God’s love shines on us, much like the sun shines on the earth.”

Don’t Forget...

STORY TIME EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 a.m.
Stories, games, music, and crafts with Jane Robertson
**SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Children’s Opportunities**

*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.**

*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 - Lenten Study, beginning Sunday, February 18, *The Women of Easter*, by Liz Curtis Higgs. 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 - Lenten Study, beginning Sunday, February 18, *Who is This Man?* by John Ortberg. Investors Class is 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, 11:00 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. There is no study book required for this class.

**Grateful Hearts - Lenten Study, beginning Wednesday, February 21, *The Women of Easter*, by Liz Curtis Higgs, 6:00 p.m., Room 308.**

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

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**March 2018**

**Birthdays of the Month**

Be sure to wish the following members of our Church family, best wishes for a happy birthday in March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 1 J.D. Caldwell</th>
<th>March 11 Phil Gilbert</th>
<th>March 20 Craig Keller</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Cook</td>
<td>Candee Carbaugh</td>
<td>Sean Henry</td>
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<td>Phoebe Steinmetz</td>
<td>Sidney Smith</td>
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<td>Luke Winters</td>
<td>Meredith Brown</td>
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<td>Vern Koch</td>
<td>Ellen Bell</td>
<td>Susan Grotts</td>
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<td>Barbara Stotler</td>
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<td>Sally Wright</td>
<td>Joyce Hesketh</td>
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<td>Toni Ledbetter</td>
<td>Andrew Young</td>
<td>Debbie Asaturian</td>
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<td>Melva Holbrook</td>
<td>Naomi Miali</td>
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<td>Debra Goodwin</td>
<td>Aubrey Hefferman</td>
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<td>Garrett Rodgers</td>
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<td>Armen Asaturian</td>
<td>Brenden Gallegly</td>
<td>Mike Neil</td>
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<td>Quincy Scott, Jr</td>
<td>Bonnie Lewis</td>
<td>Rachel Wallace-Tsiganos</td>
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<td>Jacob Cook</td>
<td>Cindy Bertsch</td>
<td>Samantha</td>
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<td>Simone Prozesky</td>
<td>Christine Rice</td>
<td>Kara Benyas</td>
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<td>Lorraine Stadt</td>
<td>Phyllis Wallace</td>
<td>Bettye Doerr</td>
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<td>Linda Bivens</td>
<td>Phelps, Mary Jane</td>
<td>Julia Oberg</td>
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<td>Larry Meyer</td>
<td>Sarah Glasser</td>
<td>Don Bryant, Jr</td>
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<td>Kathy Boozietis</td>
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**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.