Dear Friends,

This is Monday morning and I have been thinking about and praying about the General Conference that began on Saturday. As you know this conference, meeting in St. Louis, is making decisions on the United Methodist Church’s stance on human sexuality. This is a very important time in the life or our United Methodist tradition. As I write this there has not been any clear decisions made, but that should come on Tuesday. The important thing to remember in all of this is that we will still be the First United Methodist Church in Carbondale and we will reach out and welcome everyone into this church family. This has been the personality of this congregation and that is not going to change. Just continue to pray that God will lead the decisions made. Our Bishop, Frank J. Beard, Jr. will conduct a “Post-General Conference Briefing” on Thursday, March 14, at Harrisburg First UMC, at 6:30 p.m. Persons are asked to register to make certain there is adequate space for everyone. You may register on our conference website: igrc.org. If you need any further information, feel free to call the church office.

We will be entering the Lenten season very soon and we will be offering learning opportunities to guide us as we journey through this important season of our church calendar. Many will be studying a book this year by Adam Hamilton entitled “Simon Peter.” In this study we will take an in-depth study of the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. Peter was not rich or well educated. He knew what it was to work and have to earn a living. We know he was a rather impetuous person and that impetuousness was transformed into a passion to follow the resurrected Jesus and change the world. Join us in one of the several opportunities of study. You can register for one of the studies in the narthex. We also have a Lenten devotional book that you may take with you to read throughout this season entitled, “Sanctuary for Lent.” There are also materials for our children and youth entitled “Love Life, Live Lent.”

Finally, I want to share with you that the “March to the Manger” offering of $24,433 is being sent to each of the projects either you designated or the Missions Committee designated, if you didn’t choose a project. This offering will impact the lives of men, women, and children here in Carbondale, in our Annual Conference, and around the world. I know God will bless these gifts as well as those who gave them.

See You Sunday,

Alan
28 Thursday
4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

1 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404 - NOT MEETING

2 Saturday
10:00 Memorial Service for Bob Buser
5:30 Saturday Night Live, Hunan’s: Hosts: Don & Jean Boehne
7:30 Graduate Trumpet Recital: Joe Walczyk

3 Sunday Transfiguration Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship Service

4 Monday
1:30-5:45 Red Cross Blood Drive, Narthex
5:00-8 Good News Sing

5 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403 - NOT MEETING
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404 - NOT MEETING
10:30 The Way Forward Review, Rm 410

6 Wednesday Ash Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint, only), Rm 403
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Children’s Library
10:00 Lenten Study, Rm 410
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Rm 418
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel
7:00 Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
8:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7 Thursday
1:00 Priscilla Circle
4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
6:00 Education Committee

8 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

9 Saturday
10 Sunday 1st Sunday in Lent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Lenten Study, (Renew) Chapel & (Yiwen Bi) 308
10:45 Worship Service

Disciples for Sunday, March 3, 2019
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Jean & Bob Hoagland
10:45 Shelby Seegers

March Nametags: Sue Stucky
Outside Greeters: Sally & John Washburn
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson, Ill
Welcome Center: 8:15 Judy Dillinger; 10:45 Sara Hinde

Children’s Church: Laura Bishop
March Ushers: 8:15 Ron Diehl, Sue Stucky, Co-Captains, Jean Hoagland; 10:45 Dan Kimmel, Will Stephens, Bruce Wallace

First United Methodist Church welcomes you to Ash Wednesday Service
March 6, 2019 • 7:00 P.M.

Blood Drive
American Red Cross
SIGN UP TODAY!
American Red Cross Blood Drive at FUMC
Monday, March 4
1:30 - 5:45 p.m., Narthex

Please sign up in the Narthex for an appointment or plan to drop in that day to give. Blood supplies are also low and your help is needed. You can also register online prior to the event.

www.redcrossblood.org

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

Saturday Night Live: Join us at Hunan’s for Saturday Night Live, March 2, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. Your hosts for the evening will be Don and Jean Boehne.

Help the Sanctuary Choir Sit Down: When we move back into the renovated choir room, we need new chairs which better support good posture for singing. The choir members (and a few other friends) have contributed enough money for about three-fourths of what we need. If you would like to buy a chair, or part of a chair, the cost is $80 per chair. Donations in any amount would be welcome.

Memorial Service for Bob Buser: Meg Buser and family wish to invite everyone to a memorial service for Bob Buser on March 2 at 10:00 a.m.

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SUMMER CHURCH CAMP
is just around the corner!
Camps are available for Kindergarten—Adults.
Check it out at www.igrc.org/camping
Carbondale First UMC will pay half of the registration cost for students from our church who wish to attend a IGRC camp and half for one friend who attends with them.
Please, register through the church office.
Camping brochures, camping information, and registration information are available from Yiwen Bi.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
March 7—Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
March 19—Morning Circle, 10 a.m.,
Location: Public Library Meeting Room
Program: Southern Illinois Eagle Watching
April 4—Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
April 16—Morning Circle, 10 a.m.
April 27—UMW Cache River District Meeting
Location: Grace United Methodist Church

SIMON PETER

Lenten Study
"An ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear."

Wednesdays beginning March 6
10:00 a.m. led by Pastor Alan, Rm 410
6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Alan, Heritage Rm
6:00 p.m. Kids@First, K-5th grades

Sundays beginning March 10
9:30 a.m. Renew Class - Chapel
9:30 a.m. Rm 308 led by Yiwen Bi

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.

LOVE LIFE, LIVE LENT
A unique booklet that helps children change the world for the better during Lent by undertaking one small action at a time. Youth version also available.
HELP WANTED AT LITTLE GRASSY CAMP

Little Grassy United Methodist Camp is looking for help this summer.

We need experienced cooks, kitchen help and dish room people. If anyone works in a school cafeteria and is looking for summer work, we need you. We are willing to look at part time people, maybe retired people looking for part time work. We will be very competitive in wage rate.

We also need a head lifeguard (meaning lifeguard experience) who either has or is willing to get certified in Waterfront also. We are looking for lifeguards, either part time or we can offer full time lifeguard/maintenance positions. We have positions that can include housing and meals too.

We prefer people of faith, but not necessary.

We are a drug free facility and will require background checks for all employees. The camp email is: littlegrassy@igrc.org, or the camp phone # is: 618-457-6030.

Ed Hoke, Site Manager

CAMP OUT 2019: Getting Smore of Jesus

An afternoon outdoorsy 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.

When: Friday, April 5 Noon-6:00 pm
Where: Little Grassy United Methodist Camp
Who: Kindergarten—5th Grades

A number of the local schools will be dismissing on that afternoon. Transportation to the camp is provided, leaving the church parking lot at noon. We will have lunch and a fun afternoon of activities. Parents and families are asked to join us at the camp, 5:00-6:00 p.m. for a wiener roast and a closing family time.

Pick up is at the camp. Watch the mail for registration information.

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: “Observing Lent with Your Family” — March 3 Sunday School—“The Stories of the Lost”
- 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 Class - Lenten Study, beginning Sunday, March 10, Simon Peter--Flawed But Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton in the Chapel

Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. Currently, they are studying Unshakable Hope, Building Our Lives on the Promises of God by Max Lucado. They meet in the Chapel. Women of all ages are welcome.

- The Electives Class - Scripture studies following the lectionary led by Rev. John Sims. They meet in the Heritage Room. All are welcome!

- Yiwen Bi Class - Small Group Opportunities

Lenten Study, beginning Wednesday, March 6, Simon Peter--Flawed But Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton in Rm. 308

Small Group Opportunities

- The Daniel Plan Essentials meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. The group will not meet on Feb. 26. Everyone welcome.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They are studying Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Youth 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.

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., Rm 404, the Chapel.

Golden Yoga meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. and on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Rm 404, the Chapel.

Lenten Study, beginning Wednesday, March 6, Simon Peter--Flawed But Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton in the Chapel