Dear Friends,

Let me begin by saying “thank you” to our Chime Choir for their playing in our service last Sunday. They did a great job! It is always a joy to have our young people put in the time and energy to practice each week and then share their music with us in worship. I also want to say a special “thank you” to Necia Jannings and Rhonda Kelley for directing the choir.

Each year at this time I watch a lot of college basketball. “March Madness” is what we call it and it does get maddening sometimes. Each year I see young men and women who have put in a lot of time and practice to get ready for the tournament in March. We know that each and every year some team will be called “Number One” because they win the championship game. I see some of these men and women so overwhelmed with the tension of the whole tournament that if they lose they break down and sob bitterly. For the last several years of their lives, they have made sacrifice after sacrifice to get to that one game that will win the crown of champion. But the reality we all know, and they do too, is that there will only be one champion. I can’t even imagine the anguish they feel if they come up short and lose the championship game or don’t even make it to the championship game.

It’s all about winning isn’t it. Nobody likes to lose, especially if you have put in the kind of work that these young men and women put in. In that big game, one will win and one will lose. Regardless of all the accomplishments and victories throughout the year, people will remember whether their team won or lost this last game. What pressure!

It would be nice, I suppose, if everyone was a winner. But, not everybody can be “numero uno” or the champion and players and coaches have to understand that going in. They do, but it is still painful to lose; you can hear it in their voices and see it in their faces. What these players know, and the coaches too, is that to just have the chance to participate, even if they lose, is remarkable and something that they never forget. This gives them the desire to try again next year.

Here is my point. Just like the teams that are caught up in the “madness of March” our lives are not always “winning.” There are times when life is rough and we feel as though we just can’t go on anymore, we feel that we are “losing.” There are times in life when we feel like a failure, and what the end result will be. What we have to remember is that we can go on and keep playing the “game” realizing the strength of Christ will give us what we need to make it through. We have the support and encouragement of the rest of the “team” which we call the “church” and that is the heart of who we are as the church. As the church we need to make sure that we do all we can to make others feel that the church is a place to find support and encouragement whether they are “winners” or “losers.” As we watch all of the basketball this year, I hope we see that the “team” shares in the winning and also in the losing—that is what it means to be a “team.” As the church may we be the kind of “team” where people know that we celebrate their “wins” with them and that they are still on the “team” in their “losses.”

See You Sunday.

Alan
**In Church This Week**

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

29 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

30 Saturday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

31 Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Lenten Study, (Renew) Chapel & (Yiwen Bi) 308
10:45 Worship Service

**“Hosanna and Hallelujah!”**

Palm Sunday, April 14

The children of Sunday School and Children’s Church will be joining the Sanctuary Choir for the singing of the anthem, “Hosanna and Hallelujah!” on Palm Sunday, April 14, 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, April 14, the children will rehearse with the sanctuary choir in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. At the 10:45 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.

1 Monday
5-8:00 Good News Sing, Atrium

2 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
1-3:30 Learning in Retirement, Sanctuary

3 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00 Lenten Study, Rm 410
10:00 Children’s Story Time, NOT SCHEDULED
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Rm 418
6:00 Lenten Study, Heritage Room
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
6:00 Youth Group, Chapel

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

5 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
12-6:00 Camp Out, Little Grassy

6 Saturday
5:30 Saturday Night Live, Pagliai’s, Hosts: Charlena & Mike Bitting
10:45 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Lenten Study, (Renew) Chapel & (Yiwen Bi) 308

7 Sunday
5th Sunday of Lent
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Lenten Study, (Renew) Chapel & (Yiwen Bi) 308

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

**Fifth Sunday Loose Change Offering**

The Mission Committee will have a 5th Sunday loose change offering. Your generous offering will be added to the Easter mission offering.

**Reminder:**

**Treasure Hunt at Camp Out 2019**

**on Friday, April 5**
12-6 pm

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

**Saturday Night Live:** Join us at Pagliai’s Pizza for Saturday Night Live, Date: April 6, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. Your hosts for the evening will be Charlena & Mike Bitting.

**WORLD HUNGER SALE April 12 (12-6) & 13 (8-1) at Hopewell Baptist Church 400 East Main Volunteers are needed. If you can't lift, you can price items or monitor check-in at the door. Any amount of time is appreciated. No experience necessary. There is an auction of Sat at ten. If you have an item you feel is for the auction, please let the door monitor know when you arrive. Evergreen Garden Club has beautiful potted plants to purchase. Any questions please call Laura Depolo 618-967-8986.

Thank You: “Thank you for all the support, prayers and cards for our daughter, Sarah as she recovers from an accident that occurred last summer while on vacation with her family. She is doing well and the caring messages and prayers have been appreciated. Sid and Alice Smith and Family”

**Disciples for Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**Coffee Hosts:** 8:15 Jan & Gary Austin
10:45 Mary Beth Aguilar, Ellen Cotten

**Outside Greeters:** The Hinde Family

**Van Driver:** Dan Anderson, III

**Welcome Center:** 8:15 Kathy Swindell; 10:45 Jung and Dr. Amy Oden. For more information, visit www.igrc.org/ffiveday.

The Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, is a program of Upper Room® Faculty speakers are Bishop Hae-Soo Jung and Dr. Amy Oden. For more information, visit www.igrc.org/ffiveday.

The Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be April 25-30 at King’s House Retreat and Renewal Center in Bellevue.

The theme for the 2019 Academy is “Peace”-ing Together a Brown World Faculty speakers are Bishop Hae-Soo Jung and Dr. Amy Oden. For more information, visit www.igrc.org/ffiveday.

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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.

SOAR on Friday, April 19
1st grade through 6th grade 8:30-10:30 a.m.
“With God all things are possible” Matthew 19:26
A new adventure in learning at FUMC for 1st grade through 6th grade students. We are offering a variety of classes, using the skills and talents of our own membership, to share their knowledge with our children and for the children to learn that with God, we can face our “Giants” with faith even when others say it is impossible.
Registration forms, due by March 31, and class descriptions are available in the Atrium.
$10 registration fee covers the cost of supplies for the 2 hour class.
See Necia for more information.

Lenten Studies
"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 at 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Alan Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Renew Class in the Chapel and in Room 308 led by Yiwen Bi

Please Donate items to fund youth ASP trip!
These items are welcome (before they are sorted in baskets and sold in a silent auction):
Movies, sports items (i.e., St. Louis Cardinals), nuts, popcorns, SIU saluki, CCHS, coffee, ministry, picnic, summer, beach, outdoors, hunting, camping, arts & crafts, chocolate

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
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

News from the Green Team
The Green Team seeks your feedback and has made a short survey available in paper form in the church office and electronically on the church website. The electronic version can be accessed in the Resource tab drop down menu on the church website. The Green Team is appreciative of your feedback! The survey is open through April 8, 2019.

Thank you, FUMC Green Team
**April 2019**

BE SURE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO WISH THE FOLLOWING CHURCH MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>April 1</td>
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**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 31 Sunday School—”In the Garden”

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** - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection and prayer. 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!

**Small Group Opportunities**

**The Daniel Plan Essentials** meets in Room 403 at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. **They will start the series The Science of Natural Healing on April 2.** 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** 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., 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.
To order spring blooms and place a memorial/honor listing in the bulletin, return this form to the church office no later than MONDAY, April 8. (You may order a pot of Spring blossoms for $10.00. All dedication information must be turned in to the office by April 8.)

There are several plants in each pot. The tulips will be in pink, orange, purple, yellow and red. No choice of color or flower will be given.

Please take the flower home on Easter morning after the late service.

Name_________________________________________________________

In Memory / Honor of (circle one) ________________________________

Enclosed is $10.00 for each flower arrangement. Total $______________