IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY
MARCH 11, 2018
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Sermon: “Yes, He Still Loves Us”
Rev. Alan Rhein

Scripture: John 3: 14-21

Anthem:
8:15 Near the Cross
Allison Spiller, soloist

10:45 Jesus, Gentle Lamb
Sanctuary Choir

Hymns:
715 Rejoice, the Lord Is King
191 Jesus Loves Me
298 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Altar flowers this week are given by Judy McNeill, in memory of her mother, Anne Runyon, to honor her birthday, March 7.

Indoor Greeters: Ed & Sue Tresnak

Acolytes: 10:45 Rayna Lucas and Paige Hefferman

Sound System Operators:
8:15 Scott Wright; 10:45 Ron Browning

Liturgists: 8:15 John Phelps; 10:45 Bud Koch

March Ushers:
8:15 Ron Diel, Sue Stucky
10:45 Dan Kimmel, Will Stephens, Bruce Wallace

Lent

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, March 4, was an important date, as we voted to continue with the “Envisioning Our Future” remodeling project. The vote was 122 in favor, 5 against, and 6 people abstained to continue with the project. Now, the real work begins!

In the next several weeks we will be preparing for our Capital Campaign, which will conclude on April 29, with Commitment Sunday. Rev. Ed Weston will be leading us in our process forward. Ed is the Director of Development for the Preacher’s Aid and Benefit Fund of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, our Annual Conference. He has a wide range of experience in helping churches in various types of financial campaigns. You will meet Ed on March 18, as he will be preaching the “kick-off” for our “Envisioning Our Future” Campaign.

As you know, the Church Council decided last fall to not do our Capital Campaign at the same time as our campaign for the General Fund of the Church. The decision was to have the Capital Campaign this spring, whenever a vote was taken on whether to approve the remodel or not. Since the remodel has now been approved, we will move full steam ahead on raising the funds. The Church Council, on a recommendation by the Finance Committee, has set a figure of $750,000 in cash or commitments to begin actual construction. As I shared last week, we presently have over $335,000 in the Building Fund, and that, added with the $750,000, will give us close to one-half of the $2,250,000 we will need to do the whole project. The Church Council felt that this is a good foundation to begin the project on.

In this time between now and April 29, there will be a lot of conversation and sharing on how we might each play a role in meeting the cost of this project. We will be sending out mailings, having small group meetings, sharing a video, and other ways of sharing as we move forward. I trust that each of us will prayerfully look at our finances, and look for ways we might be a part of this exciting time in the life of First Church.

We are “Envisioning Our Future” as we make our facilities more usable for our music department and youth, more functional for other groups to use, and more energy efficient. I look at this project as way forward in our desire to be more effective, as we fulfill the mission and vision of this congregation to reach out in our community, and to strengthen the faith and discipleship of our membership.

I pray daily for the Spirit of God to guide us as we “Envision Our Future.” Will you join me?

See you Sunday,
## In Church This Week

### 7 Wednesday
- 10:00: Children's Story Time, Diane Neill
- 1:00: Memorial Service at Meredith Funeral Home, for Larry Busby, son of Edie & Don Ahrendt
- 1:00: Evergreen Garden Club, Heritage Rm.
- 4:45: Handbells Rehearsal
- 6:00: Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 6:00: Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Rm. 409

### 8 Thursday
- 2:15-5: Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

### 10 Saturday
- 8:30: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00: Daniel Plan, Room 403
- 10:15: Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 11:00: Morning Lenten Study, Room 308
- 6:00: Combined Evening Lenten Study FUMC, Room 410

### 11 Sunday • Fourth Sunday in Lent
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Men's Group, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
- 10:45: Worship Service

### 12 Monday
- 1:30-5:45: American Red Cross Blood Drive, Heritage Room

### 13 Tuesday
- 8:30: Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00: Daniel Plan, Room 403
- 10:15: Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 11:00: Morning Lenten Study, Room 308
- 6:00: Combined Evening Lenten Study FUMC, Room 410

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### 14 Wednesday
- 10:00: Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill
- 4:45: Handbells Rehearsal
- 6:00: Grateful Hearts, Room 308
- 6:00: Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Rm. 409

### 15 Thursday
- 2:15-5: Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
- 5:45: Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Room 404
- 7:00: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

### 17 Saturday
- 8:15: Worship Service
- 9:30: Men's Group, Fellowship Hall and Bell Room
- 10:45: Worship Service

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### Save the Date

**PrimeTimers Luncheon and Program**
- **Thursday, March 22, 2018**
- **11:30 a.m. • Fellowship Hall**

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### Special Events

**Sign-ups for New Church Directory**: We will continue SIGN-UPS for the new Church Directory, this Sunday, March 11, following both services. SIGN-UPS will continue every Sunday through April 1.

**PICTURE DATES WILL BE APRIL 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 AND 10**

**Help Needed - Volunteer as a Host or Hostess on Photo Dates**: We need about 30 volunteers to take 2-hour sessions during the photo dates. You would be signing people in, answering questions, etc. This is an opportunity to volunteer and help with an exciting event! Thank you!! Sally Washburn and Nancy Mitchell

**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

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### Disciples for Sunday, March 11, 2018

**Outside Greeter**: Kathy Hollister

**Van Drivers**: Dan Anderson III, Brian Gorecki

**Welcome Center**: 8:15 Heather & Tom Chandler; 10:45 Judy McNeill

**Coffee Hosts**: 8:15 Heather & Tom Chandler; 10:45 Gail & Phil Gilbert

**Parish Nurse**: (9:15 only) Sharon Meyer

**Children’s Church**: K-2nd Neicia Jannings; 3rd-5th Susan Grotts

**Children’s Church Registration**: Shirley & George Everingham

**March Nametags**: Sue Stucky
**MARCH 2018 CALENDAR**

**March 20   Tuesday**
Morning Circle, 10:00 a.m., Heritage Room
*Please note the meeting time change! We hope to see everyone there. Bring a friend!!*

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**CAMP OUT: Getting S'More of Jesus**

**Get Ready for the Fun!!**

- **When:** Friday, April 20 • Noon - 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Little Grassy United Methodist Camp
- **Who:** Kindergarten - 5th Grades

We will leave the church parking lot at 12:00 noon. Transportation to the camp is provided.

Lunch will be served at the camp followed by an afternoon of “Camp Out” fun as we learn about Jesus as the Light of the World.

Parents and families are invited to join us from 5:00-6:00 p.m. for a wiener roast and closing time.

Pick up will be at the camp on Giant City Road.
www.littlegrassycamp.org/lg-directions
Contact Necia for more information

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**SUMMER CHURCH CAMP**

is just around the corner!

CAMPING BROCHURES AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM TOM BYFORD.
CAMPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR KINDERGARTEN - ADULTS.

Check it out at www.igrc.org/camping

The church will provide a scholarship that pays 1/2 of the registration fee. If you have a friend who would like to attend camp with you, the church will provide 1/2 of the registration fee for your friend.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS & FORMS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

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**Palm Sunday Parade**
Children sing with the choir

Sunday, March 25 at 10:45 a.m.
Rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with the choir

The children will be singing the anthem, “Blessed is He Who Comes,” with the Sanctuary Choir. The children will meet in the Atrium before the worship service begins, to prepare for the palm branch parade. During the first hymn, we will parade around the Sanctuary, waving palm branches. When the song is finished, the children will sit on the front pews in preparation to sing the anthem.

Practice online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VYHDeU7ufo

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**CHECK IT OUT!!...**
in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library

**Early Sunday Morning**
by Denene Millner

“Love and family give a little girl courage to stand up straight and sing her best on Sunday morning.”

Join us for STORYTIME • 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays
Stories, games, music, and crafts with Jane Robertson

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**STORYTIME**
Parents and children are invited to join us

Wedgesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library

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**SAVE THE DATE**
Shipwrecked VBS 2018
July 22-26
Help decorate the Sanctuary with lilies this Year on Easter Sunday, April 1

Easter Lily Order Form

2018

To order a lily and place a memorial/honor listing in the bulletin, return this form to the church office no later than SUNDAY, MARCH 11. (You may order an Easter Lily for $10.00 or you may bring in your own on Good Friday, March 30, but all dedication information must still be in to the office by March 11.)

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

Name__________________________________________________________________________

In Memory / Honor of (circle one) _________________________________________________

Enclosed is $10.00 for each lily. Total $________________

OR

I will bring in a lily on the morning of March 30 (Good Friday).

DEADLINE
SUNDAY, MARCH 11

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.

Sunday School: In the Name of the Lord, “Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus, Mark 10:46-52

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 continues - 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 continues - Who is This Man? by John Ortberg. 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 - Meets at 11:00 a.m. in Room 410. The study, What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art, is led by Pastor Alan. There is no study book required for this class.

Combined Tuesday Evening Lenten Study - FUMC and St. Andrews Church are holding a combined Tuesday Night Lenten Study at 6:00 p.m. (FUMC Rm. 410). Church location for the study alternates each week between FUMC and St. Andrews. Please watch the calendars for the location that week.

Grateful Hearts - Lenten Study, The Women of Easter, by Liz Curtis Higgs, 6:00 p.m., Rm. 308.

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