Dear Friends,

As you know, there is a lot of construction going on around the Church with the remodeling happening. Well, we had an interesting thing this past weekend. The offices, on Sunday morning were as cold as ice. I know the sanctuary for some of you has been “chilly” as well and we are working to get the new unit regulated. But my office and the outer office were not even warm nor was the heat blowing anything. We made it through Sunday by just wearing a little extra clothing. I have been asked many times whether during worship I am cold or hot. Well, I wear a robe and I am hot natured so I never am cold during worship and ALWAYS hot. But, even for me, the offices were very cold. I tried everything I could, but couldn’t do anything to get heat. I often have people stop in on Sunday and visit a bit, but not this Sunday. Folks would come in and make a comment about how cold it was and then make a quick exit.

Now, here it is Monday morning and the workers are here. The heating and air conditioning repairman was here at my computer when I arrived. The temperatures in all of the new part are controlled by computer, as the temperatures in the remodeled part of the older building will be when the work is done. Anyway, I could feel heat and asked how did they get the heat to come on and the comment was that in doing some work last week a circuit breaker was turned off and the workers forgot to turn the breaker back on. The man discovering the problem humorously told me that it just won’t run without electricity. I thanked him for his wise bit of information. We just laughed it off. Everybody makes mistakes.

There is a message here about sure. The message is that without “power” things just don’t work. This applies to electrical equipment as well as to our faith. Unless we take the time to commune with God, then the things that are a part of our faith often lack the strength we need to deal with the stresses of life. We may have the right intentions and know what needs to happen, but the “power” to fulfill those intentions may not be there. The inner strength that comes through the Holy Spirit may be weaker because we have not cultivated our relationship with God. It doesn’t move through life we have the inner strength we need. One thing I want to share with you is that Lent is a good season to make certain we take time to keep the “power” strong in us so that as we move through life we have the inner strength we need. One thing I want to share with you is that on Good Friday, April 19, we will be offering two opportunities to connect with the “power” that comes during Lent and Easter. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the sanctuary will be open for persons to come and pray. There will be soft music, a lot like what we have at the Advent Vespers, to help you as you meditate. Then, at 7 p.m., we will have our combined Good Friday Service with Grace Church, here at First Church. Bethel AME is not going to be able to share this time with us this year. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities to connect with God in a deeper way. I pray that the “power” of God’s love and grace is turned on in your life during this season of the Christian year.

See You Sunday, Alan
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.

Volunteer Needed: A volunteer is needed for May 26 Coffee Host at 10:45 a.m.

Thank You: A great big thank you and true appreciation to the following group of people that gave up a Saturday morning to distribute five truck loads of mulch to our Church landscape: Gary, Mary, Ian, and Aubrey Kinsel, Jason Morris, Doug and Barb Bedient, Yiwen Bi, Victor Basse, Mike and Charlena Biting, Betty Graig, Brian Gorecki, and Don and Jean Boehne.

Altar Flowers Needed
The 2019 flower chart is hanging up in its usual spot for sign-ups. May 5 is the next date still open. They are the same price of $49. Rosebuds are $10. Please call the Church office if you are interested in filling one of these dates. Thank you

WORLD HUNGER SALE April 12 (12-6) & 13 (8-1) at Hopewell Baptist Church, 400 East Main
Baked goods can be purchased. The kitchen is run on Saturday by volunteers from our church. Kudos!! You may ask, “What happens to the items that don’t sell?” Any item that can be used by The Thrift Shop at 215 N Illinois is transported there. Again trucks, muscle, and trailers are needed. Church Women United in Carbondale have had The Thrift Shop as a project since 1966. The Thrift Shop has given nearly $20,000 since 1990 to community projects. The Thrift Shop also, through the years, has provided thousands of dollars’ worth of clothing and household items to the needy. Funds raised from the WORLD HUNGER SALE are dispersed to global and local agencies. Last year’s sale raised $14,000. KUDOS!! Remember: Treasure is in the eye of the beholder!

Treasure Hunt at Camp Out 2019
Friday, April 5 12-6 pm
For those registered, we will leave the church at noon.
**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 an 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.
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.

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**2019 Spring Blooms Order Form**

Help decorate the Sanctuary with a 6” pot of Tulips or Daffodils this Year on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

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.

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Name_______________________________________________________________________

In Memory / Honor of (circle one) _____________________________________________

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

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**DEADLINE - MONDAY, APRIL 8**
From January 1, 2019, through March 31, 2019, the following memorials were received.

Bob Buser
General Memorials
Helen Downey
Della Fulk
Duane & Sue Stucky
Ron & Lorraine Stadt
Greg & Linda Meredith
Rhonda Black
Michael & Joanna Christopher
Beth A. Buser

Bob Buser
Music Fund
Betty Bishop
Gail & Linda White
Nelda Hinckley
Patsy Parker

Bob Buser
Music Fund - NYC Trip
Jan Waggoner

Bob Buser
Pastors Benevolent Fund
Beth Arthur

David Conrad
General Memorials
Andrew & Janet Earnest
William Bruce Ashby
Richard & Carole Duesch
Nelda Hinckley
Harriet Simon
George, Maria, Ryan & Caitlin Claffey
Sarah Matthews
Gail & Linda White

David Conrad
Building Fund
Betty Bishop
Steve & Pam Yarbrough
Alan & Connie Rhein

Dr. Clifford Neill
General Memorials
Naomi Miali
Bill & Bettye Doerr
Gail & Linda White
E.T. Simonds Construction Co.
James Jr. & Katherine Smith
Patricia Koprucki
Thomas & Dorel Canty
Dr. Donald Darling
Joe & Kathy Swindell
First Mid Bank & Trust
Mike & Michelle Neill
Wildred Wiatrolik,
Georgia Rose, Laura Bolta
Nada Palmer
Mary F. Jackson
Jane (Dudenhostel) Gary &
Bobby Dudenhostel
Dan & Barbara Kimmel
Bill & Claudia Broom
Harriet Simon
Sarah Matthews
Jeri & Julie Walker
Carol Darnall
Joseph & Gretchen Buser
Meg Buser
Christian & Carolyn Moe
Kathryn Schwartz Balsano
Diane & Robert Davis
Jacob & Carolyn Rendleman
Joan Hart
Robert Graham
Judith & Larry Mittendorf
Jared & Maryann Dorn
Gary & Sarah Meredith
Kevin & Stacy Holloway
Don & Ann Barrett
Carolyn Saunders
Curt & Sharon Hays
Marybelle Trieb & family
Shirley Bergner
James & Amy Mallott
Ron & Cheryl Browning
Mary Ellen Searcy & Linda McCowen
Judy McNeill

-from Dr. Clifford Neill
Dr. Clifford Neill
General Memorials (Continued)
Duane & Sue Stucky
William Bruce Ashby
Roger & Sharon Medlen
Jeff & Barbara Doherty
Thomas & Nancy Schneider
Ken & Marsha Hughes
John & Betty Graig
Karl & Lisa Conley
Jim & Kathy Booziotis
Cindy Nolen Allen
Dorothy Beyley & Neal Folland
Linda & Greg Meredith
John Lenzini
Keith & Paula Feigenbaum
Mike & Rhonda Kelley
Mike & Emma Jean Durr
Phil & Gail Gilbert
Pam & Larry Hunter
Bill & Joyce Crippen
Beth A. Buser
Margaret & Edward Simonds
John & Sally McCarthy
Samuel & Carole Utz
John & Aveniel Cherry
Dr. Virgil Beadle, Jr.
Oakland Dental Care, Doug & Amy Baker
Andrew & Janet Earnest
William & Evelyn Bailey
Joe & Bobbe Lenzini
John S. Phelp D.D.S. & Karol Phelps
Susan & Richard Sullivan, Jr.

-from Dr. Clifford Neill
Dr. Clifford Neill
Pastors Benevolent Fund
Beth Arthur

Dr. Clifford Neill
Choir Chair
Hudgins Orthodontics, Joseph Hudgins

Doris Osborn
General Memorials
Helen Downey
Betty Hamilton

Doris Osborn
Pastors Benevolent Fund
James & Sue Legacy

Doris Osborn
Music
Lyn Christy
Bob & Jan Weiss
Andy & Janet Earnest
Sharon Ranmar
Phyllis Joseph
Nelda Hinckley
Don & Jean Boehne
Dan & Barbara Kimmel
Anita Hutton
Joyce Morris
Duane & Sue Stucky
John & Rosemary Hopson
Laura B Ventetoulo
Wilma Lampman
Betty Bishop
Norbert Dettmann (By Harold Osborn)

Doris Osborn
Building Fund
Mike & Emma Jean Durr

Bill Warner
General Memorials
Helen Downey

Mary Landreth Winn
Choir Room Chair
Debra Finch
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” - April 7 Sunday School—“Peter Pretends”

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.

Get Connected...to great opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship on your Christian journey.