Dear Friends,

Next **Sunday, April 14, is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.** This is the time when we begin to focus on the last days of Jesus life on earth. Our children have their “parade of palms” during the second service at 10:45 next Sunday. The entire worship in both services will focus on the time that leads to the cross. We know that as Jesus enters Jerusalem it is a joyous time, but then in a few hours the mood changes to one of pain and sorrow. This is the time when we look deeply into our own hearts and focus on just what all of this means to us today.

Then on **Thursday, April 18, we will have our Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.** This service helps us look more intently at the actual time Jesus is arrested and is put on trial. It is the time when we note Peter’s and the other disciple’s betrayal of Jesus. We see ourselves in the role of the disciples and wonder what we would have done during this traumatic time. Would we have betrayed or would we have remained a faithful disciple? This makes us do an assessment of our level of faithfulness as we live out our Christian faith today.

Finally, on **Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m., in our sanctuary** with Grace United Methodist Church. Bethel AME will not be a part of this service this year. This is the service where we remember the passion and death of Jesus on the cross. As we leave the sanctuary, we remind ourselves that Jesus has died and we await his resurrection on Easter morning.

All of these services lead us to a more meaningful experience at this time of year. Lent and Easter are an important part of who we are as the Church because the crucifixion and the resurrection are at the heart of who we are as Christians. Without the cross and the resurrection, we lose the power behind our faith. We lose the ability to look beyond the experiences of life and see that the future is under God’s control. When we focus on the resurrected Christ, we come to see life as Paul did where “nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I hope that this Lenten season will lead us all to a higher level of faithfulness and service to the Church and the kingdom of God.

See You Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

11 Thursday
4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
12 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
13 Saturday
14 Sunday Passion/Palm Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Lenten Study, (Renew) Chapel & (Yiwen Bi) 308
10:45 Worship Service
10:45 Kids Sing, Palm Sunday Parade
15 Monday
16 Tuesday
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
10:00 UMW, Morning Circle
10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
1:30 Learning in Retirement, Sanctuary
5:30 Rotary Club, Heritage Room
6:30 Eagle Board, Rm 308
17 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appoint. only), Rm 403
10:00 Children’s Story Time
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal, Rm 418-NOT MEETING
6:00 Grateful Hearts, Room 308
18 Thursday Maundy Thursday
4:00 Chimes Rehearsal, Rm. 415
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga, Rm 404
7:00 Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary
8:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
19 Friday Good Friday
8:30-10:30 SOAR, Upstairs Rooms
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404
7:00 Good Friday Service w/Grace Methodist Church, at FUMC Sanctuary
20 Saturday
21 Sunday Easter Sunday
8:15 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship Service

April 25, 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: $8
Program: The Green Team
Speakers: Jon Gobert/Christina Krost

CALLING ALL 2019 GRADUATES AND PROUD FAMILIES
Congregation members who will have new graduates from middle school, high school, or college-level degrees in their families this year, please place them on the sign-up list in the Narthex, or contact the Church office (457-2416).

PLEASE INCLUDE THE GRADUATE’S FULL NAME, DEGREE LEVEL, SCHOOL, AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP
DEADLINE: Before 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

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!
Palm Sunday, April 14

The children will be singing the anthem with the choir at the 10:45 a.m. service. Rehearsal at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

At 10:40 a.m., the children will meet in the atrium to prepare for the Palm Sunday Parade during the first hymn of the worship service.

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 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.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16—Morning Circle, 10 a.m.
Location: Sunny Street Cafe

April 27—UMW Cache River District Meeting
Location: Grace United Methodist Church

May 2  - Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
May 21 - Morning Circle, 10 a.m.

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, CHS, coffee, ministry, picnic, summer, beach, outdoors, hunting, camping, arts & crafts, chocolate

ITEMS COLLECTED IN THE OLD CHURCH LIBRARY OR CHURCH OFFICE
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 14 Sunday School—“Jesus Enters Jerusalem”

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 started the series The Science of Natural Healing on April 2. Everyone welcome.

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