Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday last week was a great day with our Chimers, Youth Choir, Handbells, and Sanctuary Choir. Music is always an important part of worship, especially on special days like Palm Sunday. I want to thank Necia Jannings, Bob Weiss, and their helpers for making all of this fit together. Of course, this Sunday is Easter, and we will have more excellent music with brass and percussion at both 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. At 10:45 a.m. our Sanctuary Choir will join with the brass and percussion. What a way to celebrate the Resurrection!

Before we get to Easter Sunday, I want to remind you of two other very important worship experiences. First, is our Maundy Thursday service, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. here in our Sanctuary. This service is a meditative and thoughtful time to reflect on the events leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion. It is a time to focus our attention on what it means for Christ to die for the sins of all of humanity. It is a time when we realize that “our sins” are forgiven because of the events of Holy Week. It is a personal time when we think on what it means to serve our fellow human beings and not just a time for a special service. I hope it is a time when we look into our heart and recommit ourselves to being a true follower of the Jesus of the cross.

The second special service is Good Friday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. when we share in a combined worship service at Grace United Methodist Church, 220 North Tower Road. We will also be combined with Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in this service. This combined service has been a tradition for the last several years and it brings the three “Methodist” churches together for this holy time. This is always a very meaningful time of worship as we remember “Good Friday” and the actual suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. It is a somber and moving time.

The Lent/Easter season of the church year is a very meaningful part of my own spiritual journey. Each year I find a deeper understanding of what it means for me to say I follow Christ. I hear the scriptures, share in the worship, and find my heart lifted, as I contemplate just how I might better follow the master. Each year I gain a deeper understanding of what God’s love and grace actually mean, and I find myself humbled by the fact that God’s love covers even me. As a pastor, I ask myself what I am doing to help others understand and experience this grace and love for themselves. This is the task of ministry, but more importantly, it is the task of the Church to tell the “Good News of Jesus Christ.”

How we live and what we do as a church is what makes a difference in people’s lives. I pray that as a church, we are always looking for new ways to touch other’s lives and introduce them to the kingdom.

See you Thursday, Friday, and Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

**29 Thursday**  
Maundy Thursday  
2:15 **CANCELED** Chimes Rehearsal  
5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga, Rm. 404  
6:30 Brief Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:00 Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary  
8:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  

**30 Friday**  
Good Friday  
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404  
7:00 Good Friday Service at Grace United Methodist Church  

**31 Saturday**  

**1 Sunday**  
Easter Sunday  
8:15 Worship Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 **CANCELED** Confirmation Class  
10:45 Worship Service  

**2 Monday**  
Office Closed  
6:30 Good News, Atrium  
7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall  

**3 Tuesday**  
8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room

9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403  
10:45 **CANCELED** Golden Yoga

**4 Wednesday**  
10:00 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill  
Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library  
4:45 Handbells Rehearsal  
6:00 Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & 409

**5 Thursday**  
10:00 Trinidad/Tobago Trip Mtg., Heritage Rm  
1:00 Priscilla Circle, Room 210  
3:00-5 Chimes Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall & Bell Room  
6:00 Education Committee, Room 410

**6 Friday**  
9:30 **CANCELED** Golden Yoga  
10:30 Church Women United, Heritage Room

**7 Saturday**  
5:00 **CANCELED** Saturday Night Live, Hunan’s, your hosts are Connie & Alan Rhein

**9 Sunday**  
8:15 Worship Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Confirmation Class, Room 403  
10:45 Worship Service  
12:00-2 Confirmation Class, Room 403

**10:45** Mary Beth Aguilar & Ellen Cotten

**12:00** Mary Lou Goodman

**In Sympathy:**  Sympathy to family and friends of Meredith Mitchell, who passed away on March 6, 2018.  

**In Sympathy:**  Sympathy to Molly Sobery, family, and friends, on the death of her brother, Fred Sobery, who passed away March 26, 2018.

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**How do you get to Carnegie Hall?**  
The clichéd answer is “practice.”  
The First United Methodist Church of Carbondale answer is “sing with the Sanctuary Choir.”  
Based upon recordings of our choir submitted for audition, we have been invited to join a number of other singers from across the country to form a large choir under the direction of composer/conductor Pepper Choplin, for a concert in Carnegie Hall on May 26, 2019 - - Memorial Day weekend of 2019.  
Watch for more information soon on how you can travel to New York City to hear this concert.  

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**Robert Weiss**

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**Parish Pulse**  
As of March 27, 2018

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**Disciples for Sunday, April 1, 2018**  

**Outside Greeters:**  The Bud Koch family, Joyce & Mike Vancil  
**Van Drivers:**  John Craig and Brian Gorecki  
**Welcome Center:**  8:15 Jon Gobert; 10:45 Pam Yarbrough  
**Coffee Hosts:**  8:15 Barb & Doug Bedient, Karol & John Phelps;  
10:45 Mary Beth Aguilar & Ellen Cotten

**April Nametags:**  Mary Lou Goodman

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**Last Chance to Sign Up**  
Easter Sunday, April 1, following each service, is the last day to sign up for pictures for the new Church Directory.  
Pictures will be taken April 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10

**Help is Still Needed** - We need volunteers to Host or Hostess on Photo Dates.  
Please help by volunteering to take a 2-hour session during the photo dates.  
You would be signing people in, answering questions, etc.  
Take this opportunity to volunteer and help an exciting event!  
Call Sally Washburn at 618-534-5720.

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Thank you!! Sally Washburn and Nancy Mitchell
APRIL EVENTS

17 Tuesday
UMW Morning Circle, Heritage Room, 10:00 a.m.
Betty Crippen, Hostess  (PLEASE NOTE THIS UPDATED TIME)

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NEWS

Friendship – taking time to develop and nurture friendships can reduce feelings of isolation and contribute to improved mental health.

Making new friends can be exciting, but there is nothing like the comfort of an old friend. Our friends can be just as important as family. Many families are spread far apart geographically, so turning to a trusted friend may be the first thing we do when faced with a crisis.

Friends play a significant role in promoting overall health. Adults with strong friendships have a reduced risk of depression, high blood pressure, and unhealthy bone mass index. Friends can increase your sense of belonging, boost happiness, reduce stress, improve self-confidence, discourage unhealthy habits, and help in coping with traumas.

One in three American women over age 65 lives alone, as does one in seven men. Older adults living alone especially need to reach out to friends for companionship, support and human contact.

Tune in next month for some “how to” ideas to have good friends and to be a good friend.

April 13 - 14, 2018
Noon - 6:00 p.m. Friday • 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday
Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 400 E. Main, Carbondale, IL
Donations can be dropped off:
Wednesday & Thursday, April 11 & 12 • 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for several types of jobs (pricing, unpacking, etc.)
Please call Laura Depolo at 618-967-8986. Cash donations are also accepted.

Camp Out: Getting S’more of Jesus
Friday, April 20 
Noon - 6 p.m.
Registration: Now thru April 1 in the Narthex

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, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., for a wiener roast and closing time.

PICK UP WILL BE AT THE CAMP ON GIANT CITY ROAD.

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.
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.

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 - 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 - 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
- Grateful Hearts - Grateful Hearts meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Room 308.
- Youth Group meets at 6:00 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
LIFE INSURANCE - Do you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need for your family? Have you considered giving that policy to your church as a legacy gift? You can make your church the beneficiary and the insurance proceeds are exempt from any estate tax. Or, consider buying a policy, making the church owner and beneficiary - receive an immediate charitable tax deduction of the purchase price. What a great way to make a major gift to the church who has nurtured and developed you in your Christian journey! Leave a gift that will make a difference for Christ and his kingdom for the next generations.

A link to the video, which was made for the ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE campaign, can be found on our Facebook page, as well as near the bottom of the Homepage of the church website.
Website: www.tumc-cdale.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistCdale

2018 Annual Conference - IGRC Tornado Tubs
Midwest Mission Distribution Center is asking churches to collect items for Tornado Tubs. Items for the kits include:
- $9 donation for two (2) totes • 2 pairs of work gloves • two boxes of gallon-sized plastic bags • 2 permanent markers (i.e., Sharpie) • one roll of duct tape (prefer colored) (to label household items) • 2 dust masks (no surgical) • 24 heavy duty trash bags rolled (33-45) gallon (for larger, personal items that need containment) • one canister disinfectant wipes.

Please collect supplies and bring to the Annual Conference this June, and/or contribute to Advance Special #6620 and indicate “Tornado Tote” in the memo line. Thank you!!

MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER NEEDS CRAYONS!
With an unexpected number of requests for Student School Bags (4,177 bags sent to Central America and Watseka, IL) MMDC is quickly running out of crayons.

ANY BRAND OF 24-COUNT CRAYONS ARE NEEDED FOR THESE KITS.
To donate by check, please make checks payable to: Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558
FOR BULK SUPPLY DONATIONS: www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist