Dear Friends,

Easter Sunday was a great day of celebration and worship, as usual. Sometimes, in preparing for Easter worship and trying to put the things in the service that will be meaningful, I can get weary trying to make it all work. The reality is that it always works. And rest assured, there is a lot of prayer and work that goes into the music, the worship itself, and the message. What makes it work, is that the spirit and meaning of Easter has a power all its own that comes through the prayer and effort. The whole meaning of the day adds a character and flavor to whatever we do, because the Spirit of the risen Christ is in our worship.

This causes us, as worshipers, to have an open mind and heart as we come together on Easter Sunday. We are all looking for reinforcement of what we believe about the resurrection and the promise of eternal life. We often think about those we love and those who have died, and we think about ourselves and our own mortality. It is a powerful reminder to us that we are promised life in eternity with Christ, and with all those “saints” (those who believed in the risen Christ as we do) that have gone on before us. When we come on Easter Sunday, there is something “in the air” that is beyond our control or manipulation. Again, this is the very presence of the risen Christ!

We are “Easter people,” and what that means is that our hope in the risen Christ is what keeps us motivated to be the followers of Christ in our daily living. Life has ups and downs, victories and losses, and this is true for all of us. No one is immune. This hope of Easter that we hold on to, is what enables us to keep moving forward when it seems we have lost our “way,” or we are not sure which “way” we need to go. But if we keep pressing forward with faith, we know that the love of God in Christ will find us and lead us through whatever it is we are facing. Easter is our reminder of that!

This is what makes us say over and over, whether it is on Easter Sunday, or when we feel the presence of Christ as we face those challenges and hard times of life, -- Christ is risen…..Christ is risen indeed!

See you Sunday,

Alan
**In Church This Week**

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

**Disciples for Sunday, April 8, 2018**

Outside Greeter: Don Frey
Van Drivers: Dan Anderson III, Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Susan & Don Frey; 10:45 Laura Bishop
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Susan & Don Frey; 10:45 Brenda Goodman, Jennifer Woolridge
Parish Nurse: 9:15 Betty Graig
April Nametags: Mary Lou Goodman
Communion Preparation Committee: 8:15 Anita Hutton
10:45 Jan Weiss, Team Lead; Carole Daesch, Sally Washburn, Tracy Gibson, Keven & Nancy Mitchell

**Join Us For**

**Saturday Night Live**
Saturday, April 7
5:00 p.m.
Hunan’s Restaurant

Alan & Connie Rhein will be your hosts for the evening

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**WORLD HUNGER SALE**
April 13-14, 2018
12:00-6 p.m. Friday
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturday
Hopewell Missionary Baptist

Drop off donations: Wednesday & Thursday
April 11 & 12, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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**In Sympathy:** Sympathy to family and friends of Vivienne Hertz, who passed away on March 27, 2018.

**Health Concerns:**
Betty Crippen is recovering at home.

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**Thank you for signing up to have your photo taken for the new church directory.**

The photographer is here April 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10

If you did not have the opportunity to sign up, please call Nancy Mitchell, 618-303-3127.

Thank you!!
APRIL EVENTS

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

Check it out!!!... in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children's Library
When God Made Light
by Matthew Paul Turner
"...encourages young readers to revel in creation's awe-inspiring light and to ignite the world with the God-given spark found within."

STORY TIME EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 a.m.
Stories, games, music, and crafts with Jane Robertson

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.
www.littlegrassycamp.org/lg-directions
Contact Necia for more information

Join us for a Unique Rock & Roll Fundraiser for MARION MEDICAL MISSION
Join Us for a Music Trivia Night
Friday, April 6
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
Game Begins at 6:30 p.m.
Guess the song titles and artists from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's
Sign up a team of 8 today - Or we'll seat you with fun people!
Tickets only $20.00 per person (admission includes snacks and soft drinks)
The Cross Community Church
1505 E. Boyton Street
Marion, IL 62959

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MARION MEDICAL MISSION
www.mmmwater.org
Reserve seats: Kimberly@mmmwater.org

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES
CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES: CGA’s are a great way to make a significant gift to your church AND receive an annual income for life. For example, a donor makes a $50,000 CGA. The owners are 78 and 76. They will receive a life income for both at a return rate of approx. 5%; receive a one time charitable tax contribution of about $12,000; receive annual tax free income of about $1,840; and insure your church has funds to use in ministry. Most institutions set the minimum donation at $10,000. Contact your pastor to set up this secured life income. (NOTE: The federal government sets this interest and tax deductible amounts monthly. Every charitable organization will have the same rates!)

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.fumccdale.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistCdale

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.