In Church This Sunday
July 14, 2019
8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: “Love Unconditionally”
Rev. Howard White
Anthem: 8:15 Fill This House with Grace
Jeremy Holmes; Robert Weiss, trombone
10:45 Fill This House with Grace
Sanctuary Choir; Joe Watzyk, euphonium
Hymns:
577 God of Grace and God of Glory
432 Jesu, Jesu
560 Help Us Accept Each Other
384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Altar flowers are given by Bill and Carol Cain in honor of their third wedding anniversary.

Acolytes: Paige Hefferman, Olivia Bishop
Indoor Greeters: The Frick Family
Liturgists: 8:15: Ted Pilger; 10:45: Janet Earnest
Sound System Operators: 8:15: Scott Wright;
10:45 Ron Browning

First Thoughts
The First 7 Minutes

If you are attending First Methodist for the First time, you will most likely have made your mind up about whether to come back in the first 7 minutes. It’s possible you won’t have heard a note from the choir or a word out of the preacher’s mouth in those seven minutes. You will make up your mind based on how you are Greeted, Directed, Treated and Seated.

Greeted. A friendly face giving a warm welcome speaks volumes. The best church I know at having first time guests come back a second time has “smile practice” every Sunday morning.

Directed. Step 2 in making a great first impression is quickly and politely showing guests where to go. If someone asks where they can find the nursery, say, “Let me show you,” and walk them there. If they are loaded down, offer to help them carry something. First UMC is a beautiful church, but it’s also a large building with a lot of nooks and crannies. Since the renovation, do you know which restroom you would direct someone to? If they use a wheelchair? If they need a baby changing table?

Treated. Think about how a fancy hotel surprises you with unexpected touches like breath mints in the bathrooms. Research says the cleanliness of restrooms and safety of the nursery are more important to making a first impression for many people than the beauty of the sanctuary.

Seated. Some first time guests get anxious about where to sit. They don’t want to have to crawl over anyone or ask someone to move over. Ushers help with this, but we can all invite someone to sit in our row or make space. People don’t come back to a church if they don’t think there is room for them.

How important are those first seven minutes, really? Maybe an eternal difference! In an average church, less than 5% of first time guests ever become members. Everyone who calls First UMC home wants our church to make a difference in people’s lives. A good, consistent experience before worship even starts makes a guest start to feel good. Their skepticism lowers, and their receptivity increases making it much more likely that the church can make a spiritual impact.

God Bless, Pastor Howard
In Church This Week

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES—July 14 - Aug. 4

Come hear what Jesus has to say about acting on what we believe. It’s important for people of faith to talk about what God has done for us and for our salvation, but we also have to talk about what God requires of us. God asks us to engage in a radically different way of loving, seeing, and doing. Jesus shows us the difference in some of his most famous (and surprising) stories and interactions: The Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, The Persistent Friend, and the Rich Fool.

In Sympathy: Sympathy to Marilyn Mitchener and family on the passing of her mother, Lillian Houdock, who died on June 22, 2019 in Stickney, Illinois.

Volunteer Needed: A volunteer is needed to coordinate the Coffee Hosts for 10:45 a.m. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

Save the Date: Red Cross Blood Drive, August 19, 1:30 to 5:45 p.m., Heritage Room, sign up on-line at www.redcross.org/give-blood. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex closer to the date.

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.

Altar Flowers Needed: August 25 and September 29 are the next dates still open. They are the same price of $49.

Disciples for Sunday, July 14, 2019

Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Jean & Bob Hoagland; 10:45 Evelyn & Ervin Legendre, Betty Hamilton

Parish Nurses: 9:15: Betty Graig; 11:45: Dana Oberg

Outside Greeters: Kathy Hollister

July Nametags: Barb Swinburne

Van Driver: Brian Gorecki

Welcome Center: 8:15 Barb Bedient; 10:45 Tenri Glasser

Children’s Church: Sam Indorante/Carolyn Gibson

Children’s Church: Kayli & Rayna Lucas

Registration: Mari Ann Oberg

Youth Helpers: Pam & Kevin Oberg

July Ushers: Dan Anderson III and Michael Koch, Co-Captains; 8:15 Doug Bedient, Steve Mitchell, Scott Wright 10:45 Donna & Don Bryant, Jr., Gary Hill, Gene Morgan, Adam Delmore

### July

**11 Thursday**
- 5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**12 Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**13 Saturday**
- 5:30 Saturday Night Live, Lake of Egypt, hosted by Sue & Duane Stucky and Debbie & Armen Asaturian, 82 Lake Point, Goreville, IL 62939
(MAPS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE)

**14 Sunday**
- Blood Pressure Sunday
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship Service

**15 Monday**
- 6:30 Open Hearts, Minds, Doors

**16 Tuesday**
- 8:30 Men’s Group, Heritage Room
- 9:00 Daniel Plan, Room 403
- 10:15 Golden Yoga, Room 404
- 5-6:30 Rotary Club, Heritage Room
- 6:30 Eagle Board, Rm. 308

**17 Wednesday**
- 9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appointment), Rm 403

**18 Thursday**
- 5:45 Gentle Toning, Stretch and Yoga
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

**19 Friday**
- 9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

**20 Saturday**
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship Service
- 6-8:00 Vacation Bible School Begins

**21 Sunday**
- 8:15 Worship Service
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship Service

THURSDAY, JULY 25
11:30 A.M. Heritage Room
LUNCHEON & PROGRAM, Cost $8
Program: Youth Presentation of
ASP Mission Trip
(ASP Participants & their Sponsors
Eat for Free)

THURSDAY, JULY 25
11:30 A.M. Heritage Room
LUNCHEON & PROGRAM, Cost $8
Program: Youth Presentation of
ASP Mission Trip
(ASP Participants & their Sponsors
Eat for Free)
Mission News

Africa University sends thanks for a $500 donation from the Easter offering. This contribution assists Africa University in providing access to learning resources and facilities for financially disadvantaged students. With this investment these students can help transform the lives of their families and those in their communities.

The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America sends thanks for a $100 donation from the Easter offering. This gift helps ensure that AFA can respond effectively to the growing need for support services to those impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia-related illnesses.

The American Red Cross sends thanks for a $100 donation from the Easter offering to be used where needed most.

The Marion Medical Mission sends thanks for a $475 donation which will support the installation of one well. In 2018, 3,015 wells were built, providing an estimated 370,845 people with a sustainable source of water.

The Wesley Foundation sends thanks for a $400 donation designated for the ministries of the Wesley Foundation.

Thank You, Missions Committee

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1 - Priscilla Circle, 1 p.m.
August 20 - Morning Circle, 10 a.m.

Count Down of 10 Reasons to Volunteer to Teach...

9. You will become an instant hero to parents & Necia.

BONUS: Along the way, you’ll grow in patience, humility, and selflessness

SKILLS NEEDED: ability to read, sense of humor, caring spirit, love of God growing in your heart.

Contact Necia at 457-2416 or neciaj@fumcdale.org

JULY 21 - 26, 2019

To Mars and Beyond VBS
Explore Where God’s Power Can Take You

6:00-8:00 p.m.
4 years through 6th Grade

NOW REGISTERING!!!!

VBS SALE!!!!

CHURCH T-SHIRTS

Children sizes-$5.00
XS, SM, Med, LG

Adult sizes-$7.00
SM, Med, LG, XL, XXL

VBS SALE!!!!
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.

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

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.

Grateful Hearts meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Room 308. They are studying Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. This class is taking a break for the Summer. Class will resume some time in August.

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.

Open Hearts, Open Minds meets in the Heritage Room. First meeting was July 1. Future meetings to be determined. How can we share the love of Christ with all people? Come share your ideas. Looking forward to seeing you!

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.

Youth Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Chapel. This group is on Summer Break. They will resume meeting in August.

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