Dear Friends,

Let me give you an update on our renovation program. As of today, Monday, July 30, 2018, everything is in order. We have had an appraisal, meetings with contractors, and today papers will be signed at the bank for a construction loan. It is planned that the actual construction will begin on August 20. There is always a possibility that this might change, but that is the plan. Soon, there will be extra vehicles here as well as equipment that will remain on site for a time. There will be areas of the building closed off for the asbestos abatement and things will be a little dusty here and there. As we have talked before, there will be inconveniences that we will all have to deal with as the work is going on, but we can manage. The hope is that the work will be completed sometime in the spring. If there are any changes, I’ll try and keep you up-to-date.

It is easy sometimes to not do something because it is just too much work or too much of a disruption in our lives. We have times when we don’t do things because we simply can’t handle the stress of the situation. It may be financial stress or it may be emotional stress that would just be too much for us. There is no shame here, just reality.

But sometimes we don’t do something because we simply don’t want to put in the time or we don’t want to adapt our lives to complete whatever it is. All of us may have walked away from something that fits this category and then wish we had not given up so easily. There is a great sense of reward and accomplishment when we “tackle” a really tough decision we have made and complete the task. We look back and say to ourselves and others around us, “It was worth all of the work.” We try and tell our children that, don’t we? Just like we were at their age, we have to learn this lesson on our own.

Life has many lessons. As people of faith, we know that in the midst of those lessons we have a God we can call on for strength and hope during our tough times. Our faith does not take away the situation, but gives us what we need to make it through the stress and anxiety. We worship and believe in a God who never leaves us, even if we make bad choices. What a great God we have!

See you Sunday,

Alan
In Church This Week

8 Wednesday
9:00-3 Healing Touch (by appt. only), Rm. 308
10:00-11 Children’s Story Time, Diane Neill Dorsey
   Memorial Children’s Library
6:00 Scout Committee Meeting, Rm 410

9 Thursday
10:00 Gentle Toning, Stretch, Yoga, Rm. 404
7:00 CANCELLED Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10 Friday
9:30 Golden Yoga, Room 404

11 Saturday

12 Sunday
8:30 Worship Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship Service

OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

Copies of our new Church Directory will be available to pick up in the Narthex following the first service this Sunday, August 5. You may also come by the church office to pick up your copy.

If you had your photo taken for the directory, your copy is FREE. Thank you!

In Sympathy: Sympathy and prayers for those affected by the wildfires in California.

Saturday Night Live: Join us at Pagliai’s for Saturday Night Live, August 4, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Your hosts for the evening will be Gordon & Carol White.

Call for Volunteer(s): We have a continuing need for new Sanctuary Choir members due to the loss of several singers this past year. Rehearsals will resume Thursday, August 16 at 7 p.m. This would be a good time for new singers to join.

We also have one or two openings in the Handbell Choir. Rehearsals are from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 12. Basic rhythm reading skills and the ability to ignore the conductor seem to be the primary requirements. Give Bob Weiss a call.

Congratulations:
We congratulate Bill Doerr, who was honored by the SIU Alumni Association in its 2018 class of Distinguished Alumni this past April. Bill received this year’s award for Humanitarian Effort.

Congratulations, Bill!

Disciples for Sunday, August 5, 2018
Outdoor Greeter: John & Sally Washburn
Van Drivers: John Graig, Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Carol White; 10:45 Jim & Mari Ann Oberg
Coffee Hosts: 8:15 Karol & John Phelps; 10:45 Dan Anderson
August Nametags: Carolyn Saunders
August Communion Ushers: (10:45) Karl Bartelsmeyer, Captain; George Everingham, Jan Waggoner
August Communion Committee: (8:15) Lyn Christy and Jeff Anderer
   (10:45) Crystal & Steve Mitchell
Morning Circle
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
At the home of Sue Stucky

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) sent thanks for the $1,000 contribution FUMC made from the Easter giving. The thank you said, “God Bless You. You have helped the World by showing God’s love in a practical way.” We have supported MMDC with funding as well as mission workers who visit Chatham to volunteer in various jobs.

Readers may recall that MMDC has been using wood from bleachers to construct school desks that are shipped around the world. In March the desk shop was completely out of wood. Since then wood has been received from five different school districts. Over the Memorial Day weekend, a team of 32 volunteers met at Darlington High School in Darlington, WI to remove its wooden bleachers. MMDC’s Operations Manager, Brad Walton, was on hand to supervise and transport the 13,998 pounds of wood that will receive a second life as MMDC school desks. A second group of volunteers was in nearby Blackhawk, WI to remove bleachers from a school there.

On Thursday, May 10, MMDC delivered 104 school desks to Scott AFB for shipment to Bogota, Columbia. This shipment was a joint operation through the U.S. Southern Command and will provide seating for 384 students. The desks arrived three days later and were assembled by a joint operation of the Columbian and US Military. Check the bulletin boards for the June 2018 MMDC newsletter that details other accomplishments.

Thank you for the support of our various campaigns. Our cooperation with MMDC and other agencies help make a difference across our local area, the state, nation and world.

Missions Committee

Musicians Needed

We have a continuing need for new Sanctuary Choir members due to the loss of several singers this past year. The choir will be on break from July 29 to August 12. Rehearsals will resume Thursday, August 16 at 7 p.m. This would be a good time for new singers to join.

We also have one or two openings in the Handbell Choir. Rehearsals are from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 12. Basic rhythm reading skills and the ability to ignore the conductor seem to be the primary requirements. Give Bob Weiss a call.
**Summer foods**

When we think of summer foods, we think about the grill and maybe having a barbeque. Burgers, ribs, hot dogs, ice cream and potato salad are summer fare. Even though they taste so good, the foods mentioned above may not be so healthy because of high fat and calorie content. Give these a try:

- **Tomatoes and fresh mozzarella** – serve sliced tomatoes (fresh or grilled) topped with cheese and fresh basil. May be eaten alone or on toasted bread.

- **Bean and corn salad** – low in fat and high in filling fiber. Toss beans and corn in a little dressing and any fresh herbs that you like. You may want to add other things such as avocado, peppers and tomato. Any kind of beans will do, but black beans are especially high in fiber.

- **Gazpacho** – Blend tomatoes, your choice of cucumber, garlic, onion and herbs. Add avocado for creaminess. A food processor or blender makes this a breeze to prepare.

- **Grilled fruits and vegetables** – Remove pits from fruits and grill cut side down or make kebobs by threading skewers with fruits or vegetables. Grilling brings out the natural sugars.

- **Guacamole** – avocados are packed with vitamins, fiber and good fats. Use fresh vegetables to scoop up the dip instead of chips!